

## Illegal hotel demolition leads to park land restoration in Madhapur

Hyderabad, Aug.21 The Roads and Buildings department of Hyderabad, in conjunction with the Hyderabad Revenue and Anti-Encroachment Authorities (HYDRAA), successfully reclaimed government property valued at approximately ₹400 crore located at Jubilee Enclave in Madhapur. During the operation, officials cleared roughly 16,000 square yards of valuable land that had been illegally occupied for commercial purposes. An unauthorised hotel built on this site was also demolished. Additionally, authorities restored public areas, such as parks and access roads, that had been obstructed by the encroachment.

## Telangana High Court adjourns hearing on KCR's petition Kaleshwaram project report



GNS News Agency, August 21  
In a significant development regarding the Kaleshwaram Project Commission report, the High Court has postponed the hearing on a petition filed by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and former Minister Harish Rao. During the proceedings, the High Court inquired of the government's Advocate General whether action would be initiated only after the commission's report is presented and debated in the Assembly. The Advocate General requested additional time to clarify the government's stance, prompting the court to adjourn the hearing until Friday. Amid a heated political climate surrounding the Kaleshwaram project, anticipation is high across the state regarding the outcome of this case.

## Bhatti emphasises importance of safeguarding state revenues



Hyderabad, Aug.21 Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has welcomed the proposal for tax rate rationalisation and reduction but stressed the need to protect state revenues. He warned that without this balance, welfare schemes for the poor and middle class, as well as infrastructure projects, would be negatively impacted. Bhatti Vikramarka attended a meeting of Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST rate rationalization at New Delhi on Thursday. The GoM is constituted by GST Council to examine and make recommendations on rationalisation of GST tax slabs and change in tax rates. Speaking on the occasion, he said that while introducing GST, the states were growing at 14 percent and therefore were assured an annual growth of 14 percent. To compensate losses, if any, GST compensation was introduced for a period of 5 years to stabilise the growth rate of 14 percent. However, the 14 percent growth rate has not stabilised and at present, the states remain at an annual growth of around 8 to 9 percent only, he said. Further, Bhatti Vikramarka added that, leaving the ideal growth of 14 percent apart, and leaving the current growth rate of 8 to 9 percent apart, the proposals in isolation could lead towards negative revenue growth. Besides, southern states like Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu etc. are getting a far lower share in the form of devolution than their contribution to the national revenues, he said. The Deputy Chief Minister supported the proposed rate rationalisation as a part of GST reforms, but with a proper compensation mechanism. In order to achieve the same, he proposed that either the present compensation cess may be continued and the amount so collected may be given fully to the respective states. Alternatively, while dispensing with compensation cess, the GST rates on sin or luxury goods may be increased to their present levels and the additional amount so collected may be given to the respective states. This will reduce the tax burden on ordinary taxpayers while enabling the states to continue with the welfare of poorer sections and middle class as well as development and infrastructure projects for the people of the state, Bhatti Vikramarka said.

## Five members of same family found dead in Miyapur

Hyderabad, Aug.21 : A shocking tragedy struck at the Maktha locality of Miyapur, Serilingampally municipality here on Thursday, where five members of the same family were found dead under suspicious circumstances. According to the police, the deceased hailed from Sedam in Gulbarga district of Karnataka and have been living in the city i.e. at Maktha Mahabubpet area, Miyapur.

The exact cause of death is yet to be ascertained. Police teams rushed to the spot and have launched a detailed investigation. The case is being treated with utmost seriousness and further details will emerge after inquiry.

## Lt Gen Harpal Singh appointed as advisor to Telangana govt

Hyderabad, Aug.21 The Government of Telangana has appointed Lieutenant general Harpal Singh (ret'd), former Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army and Director General of Border roads organisation, as its Advisor by recognizing his outstanding contributions to infrastructure and engineering in India. With over 40 years of distinguished service, Harpal Singh has got the distinction of executing several landmark infrastructure projects, including the Atal Tunnel under Rohtang pass" and other critical tunnels in extremely challenging Himalayan geology. A civil engineer with advanced training in the USA, he has also guided major civil infrastructure projects. He has served as the President of International Road Federation, Vice Chairman of Institution of Civil Engineers (India) and Chairman of Indian Institute of Bridge Engineers, and Vice President, Construction Industry Development Council. He has guided several mega civil and defence infrastructure projects and continues to contribute to the field through leadership roles in professional bodies.

## Ahead of Bengal visit, PM Modi says Centre committed to development of Kolkata



GNS News Agency, August 21

Kolkata: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to inaugurate three new metro services in Kolkata on Friday and take a metro ride from Jessore Road Metro station to Jai Hind Bimanbandar (Airport) Metro station. The Prime Minister is also scheduled to attend a government programme in this regard, along with a public meeting in Dum Dum Central Jail Ground. Taking to his X account, PM Modi on Thursday said, "It is always a delight to be among the people of Kolkata, a city whose development we are greatly committed to. Tomorrow's programmes in the city are mainly focussed on connectivity. The metro services, which will be flagged off, include Noapara-Jai Hind Bimanbandar, Sealdah-Esplanade and Belegghata-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay routes. Connectivity to and from the airport as well as

the IT hub areas will be enhanced."

PM Modi also said that public anger against the Trinamool Congress-led Bengal government is increasing with each passing day. "I am eager to be among @BJP4Bengal Karyakartas at a rally in Kolkata. With each passing day, public anger against the TMC is increasing. West Bengal is eagerly looking towards the BJP with hope because of our development agenda," he said in an X post. This will be the second time the Prime Minister will take a

metro ride in Kolkata. In March 2024, PM Modi had inaugurated the country's first underwater metro in Kolkata and took the first ride under Hooghly river. On Friday, PM Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation of projects worth Rs 5,200 crore, including three new stretches of the Kolkata Metro, and an elevated corridor in adjacent Howrah. According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Modi will visit the Jessore Road Metro Station, where he will flag off the

Noapara-Jai Hind Bimanbandar metro service from Jessore Road. In addition, through video conferencing, he will also flag off the Sealdah-Esplanade metro service and the Belegghata-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay metro service. He will also undertake a metro ride from Jessore Road Metro Station to Jai Hind Bimanbandar and back.

At the public event, the Prime Minister will inaugurate these metro sections and a newly constructed subway at Howrah Metro Station. The Noapara-Jai Hind Bimanbandar metro service will significantly improve the access to the airport. The Sealdah-Esplanade metro will reduce the travel time between the two points from nearly 40 minutes to only 11 minutes. The Belegghata-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay metro section will play a crucial role in enhancing connectivity with the IT hub.

## Jaishankar meets Russian President Putin, discusses India-Russia ties

GNS News Agency, August 21

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday (August 21, 2025) met Russian President Vladimir Putin and is understood to have discussed ways to further expand India-Russia ties. The meeting came hours after Mr. Jaishankar held wide-ranging talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that largely focused on expanding the trade ties between the two countries. "We believe that relations between India and Russia have been among the steadiest of the major relationships in the world after the Second World War," Mr. Jaishankar said at a joint media briefing with Mr. Lavrov. "Geo-political convergence, leadership contacts and popular sentiment remain its key drivers," he said. The External Affairs Minister landed in Mos-



cow on Tuesday (August 19, 2025) to fine tune various elements of President Putin's visit to India either in November or December.

## Congress inflating Musi River project cost for massive scam, says KTR



GNS News Agency, August 21

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday alleged that the Congress government was preparing to plunder public funds under the guise of the Musi River purification and beautification project. He said the estimates had been deliberately inflated from Rs 16,000 crore, proposed by the previous K Chandrashekhara Rao government, to Rs 1.5 lakh crore for a massive scam. In a statement, Rama Rao said this was a pretext to divert funds in the name of urban development. "The government is rushing this project only to send money bags to Delhi. This project is a plunder of

public money, not a development initiative," he said, recalling that the previous BRS government had prepared a comprehensive master plan and laid the groundwork.

Rama Rao said Hyderabad first received Godavari River water through the Kaleshwaram project under BRS rule. In 2022, the BRS government approved a proposal with a budget of Rs 1,100 crore to bring water from Kondapochamma Sagar to Gandipet Lake as part of long-term planning for Hyderabad's water needs. He pointed out that the BRS government had also taken concrete measures for Musi River rejuvenation. "We constructed 36 Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) to treat 2,000 MLD of sewage flowing into Musi River. We completed a 5 km beautification stretch near Nagole and even set up a Shilparamam on the Musi banks at Uppal Bagayat," he said. Accusing the Congress government of rushing the project to consolidate its position by sending money bags to Delhi under the guise of urban development, he warned that the BRS would not remain silent. Calling out the Congress leadership, Rama Rao said the same leaders who claimed that the Kaleshwaram project had collapsed were now planning to use water from Kondapochamma Sagar, one of its integral components. He said people of Telangana were noticing this double standard, which exposed the Congress leaders' deceit.

## Seethakka announces sanction of 5 new observation homes

Hyderabad, Aug.21 Minister for Panchayat Raj Seethakka has announced the sanction of five new observation homes in Telangana. During her visit to the observation home in Saidabad, Hyderabad, on Thursday, she engaged with the inmates and asked about the facilities and services provided by the government. In her remarks, the Minister stated that the state government is diligently supplying all necessary support for the children in the observation homes and has allocated an additional Rs. 25 crore for another facility. She encouraged the children to view the observation home not as a form of punishment, but as a place for personal growth and transformation. Seethakka emphasised that the goal is for them to emerge as changed

individuals. "You may have made mistakes, whether intentionally or unintentionally, but it's essential to move past the past and strive to become responsible citizens," she advised. Subsequently, the Minister officially opened a library for the children of the Observation Home. This library was created by Akarshana, a ninth-grade student at Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet. During the event, the Minister recognised Akarshana's efforts by presenting her with a shawl for her initiative in establishing the library to promote learning. Seethakka encouraged the children to make use of the newly created library, which offers a collection of 700 books. She emphasised, "Do not feel disheartened by your situation in the observation home. Immerse yourselves in books and strive to be responsible members of society."

## Reaching Space Station was mission of 140 crore Indians: Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla



GNS News Agency, August 21

New Delhi: Reaching the International Space Station (ISS) was a mission of the 140 crore Indians, astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla -- the first from the country to reach the orbiting lab -- said on Thursday. IAF Group Captain Shukla, who achieved the feat on June 26, called it the "mission of an entire nation".

After spending 18 days on the ISS, as part of the US-based Axiom Space's Mission 4 along with astronauts from the US, Poland, and Hungary, he returned to Earth on July 15. Following a month-long rehabilitation in the US, Shukla returned to India on August 17. "I would like to thank every citizen of this country who behaved in a way that made it feel like they actually owned this mission. I truly felt that this was a mission for the entire nation," Group Captain Shukla said at a press briefing. He also thanked the government and ISRO for making the mission possible. "I would like to start by thanking the people who have made this mission possible. There are multiple layers to this, not just one person. I will start by thanking the Government of India for conceiving the mission and finally making it happen. I would like to thank ISRO for enabling this entire mission. The people, my colleagues at ISRO, who have worked so hard for successfully executing this mission," he added. Sharing his experience, Shukla noted that being on the space station "is very different from what you learn on the ground. It was an unbelievable experience." His 18-day stay aboard the ISS was packed with several experiments led by ISRO and other activities on the orbital lab. Crew Dragon is one of the three vehicles that can currently take humans to space. We were also fortunate to have training on the Soyuz, which launches from Russia, as well as on Crew Dragon. The ISS, as you know, is an orbiting laboratory that has been operational since 2000. It has been conducting cutting-edge science and is actually a perfect example of international collaboration," he added.

## Conspirators continue to harass me in various forms : MLC Kavitha

Hyderabad, Aug.21 Once again, MLC Kavitha's letter is making waves within the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). In her fresh letter, Kavitha questioned her removal as the honorary president of the Telangana Boggu Ghani Karmika Sangham (TBGKS) and the selection of Koppala Eshwar for that position. This issue has rapidly become a significant subject of discussion in Telangana's political landscape. In the letter on Thursday, Kavitha mentioned that the TBGKS meeting took place while she was on a tour in the United States. She claimed that the election for the TBGKS president was conducted at the party office against the labour laws, asserting that there was a plot to oust her and undermine the solidarity of the workers. Kavitha also alleged that those behind the leak of the letter were subjecting her to harassment, indicating that the TBGKS election was motivated by political agendas. Following the Congress's rise to power in Telangana, as I advocated for the well-being of Singareni workers, I found that some individuals were plotting against me. While these plots do not affect me personally, it is evident that their goal is to eliminate my presence and undermine the solidarity of those striving for the workers' welfare," she stated. After the party's Silver Jubilee meeting, I expressed the opinions of various sections of people in the form of a letter to party President KCR. In fact, I had written many such letters to my father in the past too. But during my visit to America, one such letter written to KCR garu was leaked.

## KTR WILL BE EXPOSED SOON - KOMATIREDDY WARNS

Hyderabad, Aug.21 Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Thursday launched a scathing attack on BRS working president and MLA KT Rama Rao for calling the Congress a "dirty party" despite the fact that the party had fought for India's independence and delivered Telangana. "Is the party that gave Telangana a third-grade party in your eyes? Ask your father KCR, who once stood with Sonia Gandhi, the very leader who made Telangana a reality", Komatireddy questioned KTR. Referring to the Congress party's Vice-Presidential nominee Justice Sudarshan Reddy who is a jurist from Telangana, the minister claimed that the nominee has been receiving nationwide acclaim. He had earlier supported the statehood cause even while serving in the Supreme Court. "



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Multipolarity is what states make of it!

The quest for multipolarity in the international system is a curious one. Do the great powers of the day really seek multipolarity, or is it the call of the weaker powers in the international system who would like to deflate the dominance of great powers? Particularly since the end of the Cold War and the rise of American unipolarity, a multipolar world order has been emerging and continues to evolve. But has it really emerged or dissipated even before being realised? Or is it going through what many would call an "unbalanced multipolarity" or "asymmetric multipolarity" wherein power is more diffused but not evenly distributed across different poles?

The relative decline of American power and its ability to shape global outcomes has been a recurring theme in international relations, particularly with the rise of China and other emerging powers, lending more currency to the idea of stronger multipolarity. But after a promising preface and introduction, before the chapters to a multipolar world could be written, the growing tension between the US and China, plus the glaring gap between their material power and the rest, continues to raise doubts. Moreover, the advent of the Trump era and the diverse trade wars, erupting between the US and other major economic powers, have disrupted world affairs beyond anyone's imagination and have proverbially thrown the nascent multipolar world order into the water. The second Trump administration has been in place for merely eight months, but it has shown a new mirror to the world. That mirror is showing many countries what they perhaps do not like: ignore or hate it, the most powerful economy and military in the world still comparatively wields a much outsized role in the international system, albeit an undesirable one.

## People in low-lying areas should be alert:Tahsildar Dhaniyala Venkateswarlu



Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, August 21, Indian Chronicle: Bhadrachalam Tahsildar Dhaniyala Venkateswarlu

Venkateswarlu visited the Godavari catchment areas on Thursday as the Godavari became violent. He asked the people in low-lying areas to be alert. He advised the people to cooperate with the authorities and follow their instructions and advice and to use the emergency services set up by the government as per the orders of the District Collector. He said that due to the rains in the upper reaches, the authorities of all departments are always alert about the rising floodwaters and that the people should not be discouraged. The Tahsildar warned against crossing canals and streams, taking selfies on bridges as they please, and trying to take videos up close. He asked the people to stay away from such actions, as there is a possibility of accidents. Bhadrachalam Tahsildar Dhaniyala Venkateswarlu said that his office staff is available and working around the clock to meet the needs of the urban people as per the instructions of Collector Jitesh V Patil and Bhadrachalam Sub-Collector Mrinal Shrestha.

## Rice distributed under the auspices of Chetana Meeseva



Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, August 21, Indian Chronicle: Chetana Meeseva center owner Bhukya Ranjit Nayak once again showed his generosity by providing rice

to Hindi Pandit A.V. Rao of Bhadrachalam town, who is suffering from financial difficulties and illness. Knowing about Pandit A.V. Rao's financial situation, Ranjit Nayak, international photographer Classic Sharif, and Congress leader Bollineni Dharma Rao handed over 25 kg of rice. Speaking on the occasion, Classic Sharif and Dharma Rao reminded everyone that Hindi Pandit A.V. Rao had previously conducted free Hindi and spoken English classes in the town. He recently fell ill and was undergoing treatment in the hospital and was facing financial difficulties, and he asked donors to come forward to help him. Chetana Meeseva center owner Bhukya Ranjit Nayak and staff Vijay and Prem participated in this program.

## Make KTR's Bhadrachalam visit a success: District Party President and Former MLA Rega Kantha Rao



Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, August 21, Indian Chronicle: Bharat Rashtra Samithi Working President and Former Minister Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR)'s visit to Bhadrachalam will be in the first week of September. District Party President and former MLA Rega Kantha Rao has called on the party ranks to make KTR's visit a success. On Thursday, a large-scale meeting of the Mandal Party was held at the local Haritha Hotel under the chairmanship of Bhadrachalam Mandal Party Convener Aakoju Sunil Kumar. Speaking at the meeting, he said that the pink flag should be flown in Bhadrachalam in any election held. The activists should move forward with the aim of winning the local body elections. They said that they want KCR to become the Chief Minister again in every village in Telangana and hoped that with the blessings of the people, the pink flag would be brought to power in the state again.



They said that Bhadrachalam should be transformed into pink during KTR's visit.

They asked to take the party forward unitedly with collective decisions and form committees in all wards in Bhadrachalam mandal. In this meeting, BRS constituency leaders Ravulapalli Ramprasad, former constituency in-charge Mane Ramakrishna, senior leaders Tandra Venkata Rama Rao, constituency leaders, former Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Bodeboyana Buchaiah, Mandal Party Co-convenor Repaka Poornachandra Rao, women's wing president secretaries Kavuri Seetamahalakshmi and Poojala Lakshmi, senior leaders Kotagiri Prabodh Kumar, Kollam Jaya Prema Kumar, and Kola Raju, president secretaries of mandal party affiliated sectors, senior leaders, and student youth auto union sector leaders participated.

## Better medical services should be provided to those coming to government hospitals, doctors and staff should be available 24 hours. District Collector Jitesh V. Patil.



Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadrachalam, August 21, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has ordered the medical department officials to provide better medical assistance to those coming to government hospitals. On Thursday, the Collector made a surprise inspection of the Kothagudem Government Hospital. On this occasion, he inspected the medicine dispensing room, blood testing center, inpatient ward, pregnant women's ward, and the storeroom where medicines are stored in the hospital. He spoke to the patients in the inpatient ward and inquired about the medical services being provided to them. He inquired about the outpatient details, staff details, medicines, and services being provided to the public. He checked the staff attendance register. He inquired about the details of dog bite vaccinations. Speaking on this occasion, the Collector ordered the medical staff to provide better treatment to patients, doctors and staff to be available 24 hours, and the hospital to be kept clean continuously. He wanted to stock up on medicines. He advised that the patients in the hospital should be given hygienic

## Task Force Police Catch Five People Playing Poker



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter. Jade Srinivas. "Indian Chronicle August, 21." "Task Force Police catch five people playing poker Task Force Inspector Rana Pratap said that the task force team caught five people playing poker in Talodi village of Kautala mandal and seized 52 playing cards worth Rs. 5,10,980/- from them." Details of those arrested: "1. Nitturi Sathaiah S% Ramaiah, Rudrapur Village, Chinthalamane Pally "2. Errola Venkatesh S% Swamy, Talodi, Kautala "3. Durgam Ganesh S% Roshayya, Kautala "4.4. Borkut Vital S% Laxman, Kautala "5. Bodduravi S% Shankar, Lonavelli, Sirpur-(T) Later, a case was registered against them at Kautala Police Station. Task Force Inspector Rana Pratap warned that strict action will be taken against those who engage in anti-social activities in the district. SI Raju, Head Constable Mahmood, Constables Vijay, Madhu, Ramesh and Special Party personnel Ghaus, Sai Teja, Ravi Sai and Prakash participated in this task.

## Minister Jupally Angry Over Teachers' Behavior



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter. Jade Srinivas. "Indian Chronicle" August, 21. "District in-charge Minister Jupally Krishna Rao lamented that despite the government implementing many welfare schemes in the education system, teaching in schools is not going well. He stayed at the Jainur Marlavai school on Tuesday night. He asked the students several questions related to Maths and English. He expressed his anger at the school teachers' work as the children did not give the correct answers.

## Snake Bite In Sleep.. 11- Year- Old Student Dies



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter. Jade Srinivas. "Indian Chronicle" August, 21. "An 11-year-old boy named Kodupa Navdeep, a resident of Elluru village in Penchikalpet mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, was bitten by a snake while sleeping at home on Wednesday night. After first aid at Kagaznagar Government Hospital, the boy died while being shifted to Mancherial Hospital Komaram Bheem: Snake bite in sleep.. 11-year-old student dies An 11-year-old boy named Kodupa Navdeep, a resident of Elluru village in Penchikalpet mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, was bitten by a snake while sleeping at home on Wednesday night. After first aid at Kagaznagar Government Hospital, the boy died while being shifted to Mancherial Hospital.

## Woman Delivering In Ambulance

"Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter. Jade Srinivas. "Indian Chronicle" August, 21. "Woman delivering in ambulance. A pregnant woman from Kiridi village in Wankidi mandal was in labor and her family members informed 108 ambulances. While the pregnant woman was being taken to the PHC in Wankidi mandal center, Santosh, who was near Tejapur, experienced severe labor pains on the way and delivered a baby girl. The mother took the baby to the government hospital from the mandal hospital. The family members congratulated EMT Santosh and pi-



lot Bheemrao for delivering the baby in the ambulance.

## CARE hospitals and Emoha Eldercare join hands to build elder care ecosystem in Hyd

Hyderabad, Aug. 21 (NSS): On the occasion of "World Senior Citizens Day", the CARE Hospitals and Emoha Eldercare announced a first-of-its-kind partnership to build a "holistic elder care ecosystem in Hyderabad". The alliance will combine CARE Hospitals' clinical excellence with Emoha's expertise in home-based and community care to ensure seniors are supported both medically and emotionally.



## ATC stands as a milestone for youth skill development District Collector Jitesh V. Patil. “



“Bhukya Ranjith naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau, August 21, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil inspected the Advanced Training Center (ATC) set up at ITI Krishnasagar in Burgampadu mandal on Thursday. On this occasion, the Collector inspected the modern equipment, training laboratories, workshop sections, and classrooms. The Collector interacted with the students in the classroom and got their views. He asked the students for their feedback on the training and facilities they are re-



ceiving and advised them to work harder and achieve better opportunities. He encouraged the students by asking them questions about the curriculum they are learning, practical training methods, and future plans. Speaking, the Collector said modern training centers like ATC are very useful in developing skills among the youth and expanding employment opportunities in the future. He said that students are getting training in line with the needs of the industries through the facilities available in the classrooms, smart boards, and digital learning systems, and called upon them to take advantage of this opportunity and rise to a level where they can compete at the national and international level. The Collector said that the government is paying special attention to skill development, self-employment, and employment opportunities for the youth. He said that training centers like ATC will stand as a milestone in this direction. Officials explained that modern courses like Manufacturing Process Control and Automation, Industrial Robotics and Digital Manufacturing, Artisan Using Advanced Tool, Basic Designer and Virtual Verifier, Advanced CNC Machining Technician, and Mechanic Electric Vehicle are available at this center. He said that 20 to 40 seats have been provided for each course and the duration is from one to two years. He said that the minimum qualification should be a 10th-class pass. The Collector was accompanied by the ITI College Principal, staff, students, and concerned officials.

## District Veterinary Officers in training on goat rearing and goat milk product processing in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh“



“Bhukya Ranjith naik, Bhadradi kothagudem Bureau, August 21, Indian Chronicle: To further strengthen the goat rearing widely carried out by the tribals, as well as to learn and implement the methods of goat milk and its products in the district, District Collector Jitesh V. Patil, with the instructions, three veterinary officers from the district are undergoing special training at the Center for Research on Goats (CIRG), Makhdom, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, from August 18 to 22, 2025. Modern technological methods in goat rearing methods to be followed to increase high milk production in goats. Artificial insemination technology for goat breed improvement. Use of animal feed, preparation of feed mixtures. Processing methods of goat milk and goat milk products. They are being trained on topics such as. On this occasion, Collector Jitesh V. Patil said that the Bhadradi Kothagudem district has a large forest area, which makes it very suitable for goat farming. He said that this will provide good opportunities for the tribals to earn a sustainable livelihood. Also, in the context of the central government's recognition of Bhadradi Kothagudem district as an "aspirational district" through NITI Aayog, the Collector be-



lieved that this training would further contribute to the economic development of the tribals. He also said that goat farming in this district, which is rich in natural resources and forest areas, will improve the living standards of the tribals. He reminded them that a goat milk sales center has already been set up in the food court in Kothagudem to create awareness about goat milk in the district.

## “A tribute To The Teacher



Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter. Jade Srinivas. "Indian Chronicle" August, 21 Wankidi, Vadluri Rajesh, a teacher from Wankidi Mandal Kendra, was recently awarded a doctorate and was felicitated on Wednesday under the auspices of Jetwan Buddha Vihar Bharatiya Buddhist Mahasabha,

Ambedkar Sangam, and Siddhartha Vedana Mandal. Vadluri Rajesh, a biology teacher at Jankapur ZP High School in Asifabad, was recognized by the Magic Book of Records and University of Faridabad in Haryana for his creative and understandable teaching of students and his efforts for their educational development. The program was attended by the President of the Indian Buddhist Mahasabha and Ambedkar Society, Durgam Durgaji, General Secretary Vijay Upre, Honorary President Jayaram Upre, Joint Secretary Roshan Upre, Society President Shyamrao Lahuji Durge, Rajeshwar Upre and others.

## Journalists Unite to Safeguard Declining Media Values



“TUWJ (IJU) Ranga Reddy District President MD Saleem” “INDIAN CHRONICLE” “SHADNAGAR, August 21” “There is an need for all journalists to unite and work towards protecting the declining media values in society, said TUWJ (IJU) Ranga Reddy District President MD Saleem. “On Thursday, an intimate gathering was organized under the auspices of the TUWJ IJU Shadnagar branch at a function hall near Shadnagar town. TUWJ IJU State Official Committee Chairman Gudupalli Srinivas and Ranga Reddy District President MD Saleem attended as chief guests. “Speaking on the occasion, District President MD Saleem stated that every journalist has the responsibility to safeguard the falling media values. He explained that the increase in social media usage in society is leading to a decline in media values. He suggested that efforts should be made to protect journalism, which is the fourth pillar of society. He noted that the media sector has gained special importance and that revolutionary changes are currently occurring in the media. He mentioned that the government is committed to the welfare of journalists. He urged journalists to enhance their understanding of media laws. He said that the Press Academy of India functions as a tribunal for journalists' laws and operates under the authority of the Supreme Court. He commented that the media should not only gather information but also provide entertainment and joy while fulfilling people's needs. He advised that news should not hurt anyone's sentiments in society. He suggested that journalists should work in a way that addresses public needs. He stated that in the coming days, the Media Academy will strive for the welfare of journalists. He added that it will also work for the security of journalists. He said that public support and recognition serve as a protective shield for journalists. He emphasized that the media should always stand on the side of the people and work towards resolving their issues. He stated that news should reflect public problems and realities. He reiterated that no one's sentiments in society should be hurt. He said that self-regulation must be established by ourselves. He noted that social media is expanding rapidly and sometimes crosses boundaries. He mentioned that social media has no recognition from the government. He explained that the central government is considering bringing in some laws to regulate social media. He said that telling the truth is protection for journalists and beneficial for the public. He stated that new guidelines for issuing health cards to journalists are being formulated and will soon take shape. He mentioned that the Media Academy will always strive for the welfare and protection of journalists. “Eligible Journalists Will Get Health Cards and House Sites” “TUWJ (IJU) Official Committee Convener G. Srinivas” “Official Committee Convener G. Srinivas explained that all eligible journalists will soon receive health cards along with house sites. He stated that there are possibilities of the government announcing procedures for issuing health cards soon. He explained that the Media Academy has already exerted pressure on the government multiple times. He mentioned that everyone should work to protect media values. He said that with the

advent of social media, it is a fact that genuine journalists are losing recognition. He noted that some people are using the media as a shield for their selfish purposes and behaving arbitrarily, and that their days are numbered, which they should realize. He suggested that the media should act as a bridge between the people and the government, but should never give room for criticism. He said that by staying united and fighting, there is an opportunity to achieve the desired goals. “The Largest Union in the Country: TUWJ (IJU) “Electronic Media District President Chekkala Srisailam” “Electronic Media Ranga Reddy District President Chekkala Srisailam suggested that every journalist should remember that TUWJ (IJU) is the largest union in the country. He reminded that many unions have come and gone before such a union, but none have stood the test of time. He suggested remembering that TUWJ (IJU) is the only union fighting the problems faced by reporters from rural level to district level. He reminded that it is the union that not only strives for the advancement of journalists but also brings issues to the attention of governments and explores solutions. “Shadnagar Division Committee Election” “The Shadnagar Print Media Constituency Committee was unanimously elected. Burgula Phanindra (Metro Evening) was elected as Print Media Division President; Mallikarjun (Praja Darbar), Bangaru Mallesh (Andhra Jyothi Chowdarguda), and Santosh (Mana Telangana Nandigama) as Vice Presidents; Neerati Shivakumar (ANS India Shadnagar) as General Secretary; Shekhar Yadav (Andhra Jyothi Keshampet) as Publicity Secretary; Alwala Darshan Goud (Neti Prabhat Surya), M. Anil Kumar (Praja Paksham Kothur), and Jagan (Jai Bharat News Shadnagar) as Joint Secretaries; Srinivas (Neti Prabhat Surya) as Treasurer; and Yadagiri, Sami, Ravi, Karthik, Nooruddin, along with other members, as Executive Committee members. “The program was attended by Print Media Ranga Reddy District Vice President Koniya Bhaskar, Joint Secretary Dannaram Ramesh, EC Member Elias, Electronic Media District Vice President Raghavender Yadav, Electronic Media Shadnagar Division President Narasimha, General Secretary Fayaz, Vice President Srinivas, journalists Vishnu, Raju, Kaja Soyal, Riyaz, Sabir, Shekhar, Srikant, Santosh Kumar, Shankar, Sampath Kumar, Mallikarjun, Shivakumar, Razak, Shravan Kumar Goud, Nagaraju, MD Saleem, Srinivas, Ramesh, Kiran Kumar, Venkatesh Goud, Ratnam, and Ganesh.

## Laws to the elderly“

Judge Devarapalli fame Chandrika Reddy“

Yellandu August 22, Indian Chronicle: “Principal Junior Will Judge Keerthi Chandrika Reddy said that special laws have been drafted in the Constitution for the protection of the elderly. In honor of International Old Age Day on Thursday, the Pension Bhavan at the Govind Center, which was held under the auspices of the Zonal Judicial Service Agency, was held. Speaking at the event, Judge Devarapalli Keerthi Chandrika Reddy was the chief guest at the event and said that the elderly parents are not providing their sons, daughters and care for their sons, daughters and care.

The district collector and sub-collector who have



filed an inquiry if they have filed an inquiry and take action against those responsible, as well as the district legal service organization or

zonal service organization, if it is a fee, there is no fee. Along with Gary, Bar Association Presidents Kampelli Umamaheswara Rao, Gen-

eral Secretary Keerthi Karthik, Senior, Junior Lawyers, Pensioners Association President Dasari Swamy Dasu and others

## GHMC AND HYDRAA DISCUSS FLOOD PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Hyderabad, Aug. 21 : In order to mitigate flood intensity around Ameerpet metro station, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) have initiated joint consultations to devise long-term flood prevention measures for Ameerpet metro station and Maitrivanam localities. Earlier, both agencies have conducted independent field inspections and reviewed existing preventive steps.

On Thursday, GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan and HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath accompanied by Zonal Commissioner Anuraag Jayanti, Chief Engineer Sahadev Ratnakar and technical consultants, have carried out a joint visit to flood-prone stretches. During the inspection, the teams identified major obstacles to the natural flow of drainage channels in Ameerpet and Maitrivanam. The officials also examined field-level options to permanently mitigate

flood intensity around Ameerpet Metro Station. The review highlighted that the drainage channel carrying stormwater from Jubilee Hills, Venkatagiri, Rahmat Nagar and Yousufguda via Krishna Kanth Park - merges with the nala at Gayatri Nagar. In recent heavy rains, excess flow from Madhuranagar and Srinivas Nagar West had caused severe flooding, submerging the main roads and paralysing traffic near Ameerpet Metro and Maitrivanam. Preliminary findings revealed that sections of the drainage channel, originally designed at 40 feet width, constricted to as little as 10 feet while crossing Ameerpet and SR Nagar main roads. This bottleneck has been identified as the primary cause of backflow and inundation. Both GHMC and HYDRAA, in order to resolve the problem, are preparing plans for nala remodeling and widening of the constricted stretches, aimed at creating a sustainable drainage system and ensuring flood prevention in the years ahead.

## Medaram Maha Jatara to showcase cultural splendor: Seethakka

Hyderabad, Aug. 21 Minister for Panchayat Raj Seethakka announced that the Medaram Sammakka Saralamma Jatara for next year is scheduled to take place from January 22 to 31 in a highly esteemed manner. She disclosed that the State government has allocated a remarkable sum of Rs. 150 crore for the festival's organisation.

On Thursday, Minister Seethakka, alongside Social Welfare Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar, addressed the media at the Secretariat. She emphasised that the State government is prioritising tribal culture and traditions, committing an unprecedented Rs. 150 crore for this year's Sammakka Saralamma Maha Jatara. Seethakka detailed

that permanent infrastructure developments are underway for the festival, including the construction of double roads, widening of existing roads, installation of dividers, and the creation of a memorial park spanning 29 acres of land from Jampanna Vagu to the Medaram site, managed by the Endowment department. The Minister stated, "All arrangements will be made for the devotees smoothly, and 12,000 police officers will be assigned for security measures. We aim to host this historical fair from the 13th century with great dignity, ensuring it is preserved for future generations." On the occasion, she unveiled the 'Panula Jatara 2025 poster' on behalf of the Panchayat Raj department. Seethakka mentioned, "Starting Friday,



## .““Project Flood Water Causes Crop Damage““



Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter.Jade Srinivas. "Indian Chronicle" August,21.CPM district leaders""CPM district leaders have demanded that up to 50 acres of crops in Jaitpur and Borda villages have been damaged due to flood water after the gates of the Komaram

Bheem project in Wankidi mandal were lifted.

District secretary Dinakar said that 7 gates were lifted after the project was flooded due to the recent heavy rains. He demanded that compensation be paid to the victims.

## Entire Country welcomes the bill to punish PM, CMs and Ministers - Kishan Reddy Claims

Hyderabad, Aug.21 Union minister G. Kishan Reddy today said that the Bill is being welcomed across the country by intellectuals and the public, Union minister G Kishan Reddy asked that "If a government employee is suspended after being jailed for just 48 hours, should there be no minimum action against the ministers and others who have taken oath under the Constitution?" The Central government has introduced an ambitious constitutional amendment bill in the Lok Sabha which is aimed at ensuring accountability of the highest offices, he added.

Through the "130th Constitutional Amendment", various provisions have been proposed under which the Prime Minister, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and State Ministers would be removed from their office if they are arrested and imprisoned for 30 days on serious criminal charges, he explained and criticized the Congress for opposing the Bill in Parliament. In fact, the Bill applies to all parties and was not targeted at any one group. Precedents of moral accountability such as LK Advani stepping down during the

Hawala case in 1990s and Amit Shah resigning in 2005 during the Sohrabuddin encounter case, and both resumed their offices only after being cleared by the courts, he noted. Citing other examples, Kishan Reddy said the Jharkhand's CM had resigned when jailed, but former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal continued to run the government from jail for six months. "Can such corrupt politics exist anywhere? Even the IAS officers went to brief him inside prison. Tamil Nadu Minister Senthil Balaji refused to resign despite being in jail, he pointed out. Architects of the Constitution had never imagined that the CMs and Ministers would rule from jail in a wicked manner. The BJP respects the spirit of the Constitution and brought this reform to uphold moral values, he explained. Attacking the UPA regime, the minister alleged scams Rs 12 lakh crore, including coal, 2G and Commonwealth Games scam, had taken place during the previous regime, and the opposition parties were resisting the reform only because they "want to come to power with stolen and illegal votes.", and asserted that the government will take forward the ideas that are good for the country".

## BJP govt is trying to weaken constitutional institutions : CPI Narayana

Hyderabad, Aug.21 CPI National Secretary Dr. K. Narayana on Thursday expressed his anger that the BJP government at the Center was trying to completely weaken the autonomous constitutional institutions and centralize power. He criticized that the CBI, ED, judiciary, NITI Aayog and other institutions were not allowed to function independently. He said that the situation had finally deteriorated to the point , where Rashtrapati Bhavan does whatever the Prime Minister's Office says. He criticized that Prime Minister Modi had failed miserably in protecting India's reputation and interests at the international level. He was addressing the delegates' meeting on the second day of the 4th CPI State Congress being held at 'Comrade Potluri Nageswara Rao Nagar' (Gajula Ramaram) and 'Comrade N. Balamallesh Hall' in Medchal district.Speaking on the occasion, Narayana said that the BJP government was trying to rule the country as a dictatorship by reducing and destroying the Indian parliamentary system. "As the central government says, the country is not developing, there is a conspiracy for the development of corporate companies and those who oppose the BJP are being imprisoned and forest and tribal wealth is being tied up with the corporates in the name of ending Naxalites. Efforts are being made to enact a law to abolish the posts of legislators if they are in jail for a long time, and if such a law is brought, the post of Amit Shah, who has been in jail for almost two years, should be abolished first," he said. Narayana questioned as to why the central government was afraid to announce the share of the common people and the wealthy paying out of the Rs. 22 lakh crore collected in the country. He expressed anger that the US was adopting a policy of intimidation and blackmail at the international level and added

that US President Trump was doing politics of collecting popcorn on his corpse. Dr. Narayana questioned as to why India, which is the most democratic country, needs to fear America. He said that the BJP government supports Israel and other countries against India's non-aligned policy. He mocked that it was the first time in the history of India that a person of the rank of Vice President had disappeared overnight from the Parliament . He said that ED and IT raids were being carried out by using the loopholes of MPs to support the government in the Legislative bodies and added if they surrender, they were being given amnesty while noting that if they do not surrender, they are being sent to jail. He alleged that threats were being made against public representatives even in the Vice Presidential election, and predicted that if AP Chandrababu Naidu and YSRCP members in AP do not vote for the BJP candidate, they would be in jail the next day. He said that the CPI should fight against TDP and YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh, which is acting in favor of BJP. He said that despite having an understanding with the Congress party in Telangana state, there was no need for them to support whatever policies the Congress government adopts. Transgenders should be given membership Dr. Narayana suggested that transgenders, who are in large numbers in the society, should also be given membership in the Communist Party and added that attention should be paid to their problems. He emphasized that it would be difficult for public organizations to survive if they did not fight on public issues and added that public struggles should continue. He said that youth, students and women should be encouraged in the party. He also said that the Communist Party should fully support the BCs' struggle to provide 42 percent reservation and constitutional rights. (

## 3 fake call centres operating in Panchkula’s IT Park busted, 85 held



GNS News Agency, August 21

Panchkula fake call centre raid, Haryana cyber crime bust, 85 arrested in Panchkula IT Park, international cyber fraud network Haryana,During the raid, the police found that the call centre employees, fluent in English, posed as customer service executives and duped victims through fake offers and schemes.

The Cyber Crime, Haryana, and Panchkula police in a joint operation have busted three fake call centres operating in Panchkula’s IT Park and arrested 85 people, including owners and employees.According to the police, the accused were running an international cyber fraud network that targeted citizens not only across India but also in the United States and Europe.During the raid, the police found that the call centre employees, fluent in English, posed as

customer service executives and duped victims through fake offers and schemes.One of these was the so-called "Obama Welfare Initiative", which they falsely linked to India's Below Poverty Line programme to win people's trust. Once victims were convinced, the accused extracted sensitive banking and personal details that were later sold to organised crime networks, said the police.

## .““Former MLA Koneru Konappa joins BRS““

“Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter.Jade Srinivas. "Indian Chronicle" August,21. "Telangana Former Sirpur MLA Koneru Konappa is reported to be joining BRS. Konappa contested from BRS party in the last election and lost. However,Konappa was unhappy that the votes were split because RS Praveen contested there. When RS Praveen also joined BRS,



he said goodbye to the party and joined Congress. There are strong rumors in political circles that he will leave Congress and join BRS as he was not in favor there too.

## Man held for trying to take control of Baba Siddique’s mobile number gets bail

GNS News Agency, August 21

baba siddiqueThe court said that the investigating officer has gathered evidence including documents from the telecom service provider company as well as witnesses' statements. (Source: File)A man who had been arrested for trying to take control of the late NCP leader Baba Siddique's mobile number was granted bail by a sessions court on Thursday.Vivek alias Amit Sabharwal, a 48-year-old man, was arrested on July 14 by Bandra police on a complaint by Siddique's daughter, Arshia.

The court said that the investigating officer had gathered evidence, including documents from the telecom service provider company as well as witnesses' statements. "The applicant is ready to cooperate with the investigating agency. No ground is made out for further detention of the applicant/accused," the court said, granting bail to Sabharwal, with conditions including that he will not induce any person acquainted with the facts of the case nor threaten them.

The FIR had claimed that on June 25, Siddique's wife received an email from the telecom company regarding the



cell number, which was used by the leader before his death. The number was kept active by his family as it was linked to his business. The service provider's email revealed an attempt was made by an individual to take over Baba Siddique's mobile number by submitting fake documents, which included a forged letterhead of the company and a GST certificate that belonged to the late NCP leader's wife.The investigating officer told the court that the police had seized six cell phones and five SIM cards from the accused.

## Phase-1 cow hospital lands in fresh trouble: GMADA asks district magistrate to clear encroachment

GNS News Agency, August 21

The legal status of the cow hospital had already come under question after a tragic incident on August 18, when Amandeep Kaur, a resident of Kharar, lost her life while feeding fodder.The legal status of the cow hospital had already come under question after a tragic incident on August 18, when Amandeep Kaur, a resident of Kharar, lost her life while feeding fodder.

The unauthorised cow hospital being run by Gau Grass Sewa Samiti in Phase-1 (Sector 55), Mohali, is facing a fresh trouble. The Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) has written a new letter to the District Magistrate, directing that the illegal encroachment on the site be cleared.According to GMADA's communication, the Samiti has illegally occupied land in Sector 55. The authority reminded that it had earlier written several times to the district administration, asking for the encroachment to be removed with the help of police force. However, due to unavailability of police personnel, the action was stalled.Now, GMADA has fixed 11 am on August 28 as the deadline for the demolition drive. Citing the possibility of law-and-order issues, GMADA has requested deployment of one Duty Magistrate, along with 30 male and 10 female police officials during the operation.The legal status of the cow hospital had already



come under question after a tragic incident on August 18, when Amandeep Kaur, a resident of Kharar, lost her life while feeding fodder. Her scarf got entangled in the belt of a fodder-cutting machine.Following the incident, advocate Jasbir Singh sought information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, asking under whose approval the hospital was operating. GMADA, in its reply, stated that no permission had ever been granted to the Samiti to run a cow hospital at the site.With the latest letter, GMADA has made it clear that the unauthorised occupation will be removed and the land reclaimed. This move could prove to be the biggest setback so far for the Phase-1 cow hospital.

## ‘Your CM, at your doorstep’: Rekha Gupta announces public hearings in all Delhi constituencies

GNS News Agency, August 21

delhi cm rekha guptaTaking to X, she posted a picture of her signing files, and wrote in Hindi, "When I was in college, my father gave me a car to drive. One day, an accident occurred. I was afraid to touch the car again. Then my father said that accidents happen in life, one should not stop out of fear.

A day after being attacked at her Camp Office, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Thursday announced that the 'Jan Sunwayi (public hearing)' meetings will not only be held at her home, but in every Assembly constituency too.Gupta was attacked on Wednesday during one such public hearing at the office, adjacent to her official residence in Civil Lines, by a man from Gujarat.Taking to X, she posted a picture of her signing files, and wrote in Hindi, "When I was in college, my father gave me a car to drive. One day, an accident occurred. I was afraid to touch the car again. Then my father said that accidents happen in life, one should not stop out of fear."

Saying that she was reminded of his teachings, the CM added, "Yesterday, another accident happened, but I can never stop fighting for the interests of Delhiites. Every moment of my life and every particle of my body is dedicated to Delhi. I will never leave Delhi despite all these unexpected attacks."The CM also said that women have double the strength to fight troubles: "They have to go through countless tests to prove themselves. I am also ready. Now public hearing will not be held only at my house but in every assembly constituency of Delhi. Your Chief Minister, at your



doorstep."According to officials, the days and timings of these meetings will be decided soon. "It will also be decided whether it will be a weekly or a monthly meeting in each constituency," they added.The CM has been holding public hearings at her Camp Office, called Jan Sewa Sadan, every Wednesday, where she meets the public and listens to their grievances.Yesterday, the accused, Rajeshbhai Khimjibhai Sakriya (41) from Gujarat's Rajkot, allegedly entered the office posing as a complainant. Those present in the office at the time said Sakriya approached her with some papers in hand and then attacked her around 8.30 am, barely 30 minutes after the meeting began.In Rajkot, Sakriya's mother, Bhanu Khimji Sakriya, had told reporters that her son was a dog lover and was upset over the Supreme Court order directing authorities in Delhi-NCR to pick up all strays and put them in shelters.

## Culpable homicide charge pressed: Telecom infra provider held for death of 3 workers inside BSNL optical cable duct

GNS News Agency, August 21

Five days after three workers died of suffocation inside a BSNL optical cable duct, the Pimpri Chinchwad police arrested a telecom infrastructure provider and booked concerned officers of BSNL on the charges of culpable homicide. Police said they were in the process of identifying the BSNL officials who were responsible for the project.

Around 3pm on August 15, some workers had entered an optical cable duct in Nigdi's Pradhikaran area to install a new interconnection point for fibre optic cable—called an Optical Line Terminal Equipment (OLTE). Three workers—Lakhan Ashruba Dhavare (32), Sahebrao Sambhaji Girshet (35) and Datta Vijaykumar Vhanale (32)—became unconscious the moment they entered the duct. They were taken to a hospital where they were pronounced dead."Investigation revealed that this duct was closed for a long period and at least two feet deep water had accumulated inside the duct chamber. As soon as the workers entered the duct, they complained of suffocation and fell unconscious," said an officer from Nigdi police station.

"Considering the situation at the site, the workers should have been provided safety equipment such as gumboots, masks or breathing apparatus, hand gloves, among other things. Considering the nature of the work, the contractor referred to as BSNL Telecom Infrastructure Provider (TIP) should have hired services of skilled manpower. However, our investigation has revealed that unskilled workers were hired for the job. A case was registered on Wednesday and culpable homicide has been invoked for the offence," said the officer."It is still not completely clear whether



Five days after three workers died of suffocation inside a BSNL optical cable duct, the Pimpri Chinchwad police arrested a telecom infrastructure provider and booked concerned officers of BSNL on the charges of culpable homicide.

The suffocation was caused by the presence of toxic gases or due to overall lack of breathable air in the duct. The primary autopsy report is inconclusive on this. However, the viscera has been preserved and has been sent for chemical analysis. The results are awaited," said another officer."We have arrested the BSNL telecom infrastructure provider identified as Ramesh Shivaji Patil on Wednesday. The FIR also names unidentified BSNL officials as accused. We are in the process of determining which officers were responsible for the project and their roles in the incident," said a senior police officer.



# Merely possessing Aadhaar, PAN card or voter ID doesn’t make person Indian citizen: Bomaby HC



GNS News Agency, August 21

A person does not become a citizen of India merely by possessing documents like Aadhaar card, PAN card or a voter ID, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday said while refusing bail to a man, allegedly from Bangladesh, for entering India illegally. The man is accused of staying in India for more than a decade with forged and fabricated documents.

A bench of Justice Amit Borkar said provisions of the Citizenship Act lay down who can be a citizen of India and how citizenship can be acquired and documents such as the Aadhaar card, PAN card and voter ID are only meant for identification or availing services. The court refused bail to Babu Abdul Ruf Sardar, alleged to be a Bangladeshi national, who entered India illegally without a valid passport or travel documents. He allegedly procured forged Indian documents such as Aadhaar card, PAN card, voter ID and also an Indian passport. In 1955, Parliament passed the Citizenship Act which created a permanent and complete system for acquiring citizenship, Justice Borkar noted.

“In my opinion, the Citizenship Act of 1955 is the main and controlling law for deciding questions about nationality in India today. This is the statute that lays down who can be a citizen, how citizenship can be acquired and in what situations it can be lost,” he said. “Merely having documents such as Aadhaar card, PAN card or voter ID does not, by itself, make someone a citizen of India. These documents are meant for identification or availing services, but they do not override the basic legal requirements of citizenship as prescribed in the Citizenship Act,” the HC said. The law draws a clear line between lawful citizens and illegal migrants, the bench said. People falling in the category of illegal migrants are barred from obtaining citizenship through

most of the legal routes mentioned in the Citizenship Act, it added.

“This distinction is important because it protects the sovereignty of the country and ensures that benefits and rights meant for citizens are not wrongfully taken by those who have no legal status to stay in India,” the court said. The bench, while refusing bail to Sardar, noted that verification of his documents was still on and the investigation was also still continuing, and the police’s fear that he may abscond if granted bail is a genuine apprehension. The allegations in the case are not small and it is not just about staying in India without permission or overstaying, but it is about making and using fake and forged identity documents with the aim of pretending to be an Indian citizen, the HC said. Sardar was booked under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Passport (Entry to India) Act and the Foreigners Order. The court noted the investigation in the case is still going on with regard to genuineness of the Aadhaar card, which is being verified by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Sardar in his bail plea said he was a bona fide citizen of India and that there was no conclusive or reliable evidence to prove he is a national of Bangladesh. He further claimed his documents are linked with his income tax records and business registration and that he has been residing in Mumbai’s neighbouring Thane district since 2013. The prosecution opposed the plea, claiming if the accused was released on bail, he may abscond. The police further said a probe was on to ascertain if there was a larger organised network involving illegal immigration and identity fraud. The court in its order noted the allegations against Sardar are not limited to a mere technical violation of immigration norms, but indicate a case of deliberate concealment of identity and creation of forged documents for obtaining the Indian citizenship benefits. When the Constitution of India was being drafted, the country had just gone through a historic transformation and the partition at the time caused a massive movement of people across borders, creating a need to decide who would be accepted as citizens of the new nation, it noted. Keeping this in mind, framers of the Constitution decided to make an arrangement for deciding citizenship, the high court said. The Constitution laid down provisions which gave immediate clarity on who would be considered a citizen at the very beginning of the Republic and it gave the elected Parliament the powers to make laws on citizenship in future, the court noted.

# My loyalty to Mamata Banerjeee unquestionable: TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee

GNS News Agency, August 21

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Kalyan Banerjee, who recently had to step down from the position of the party’s chief whip in the Lok Sabha, said on Tuesday that his loyalty to Mamata Banerjee is unquestionable and it will remain the same, as he took to X to clarify why he was not present at the opposition’s protest against the SIR the previous day. In a post on X, Banerjee said he could not join the “dharna” against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar on Monday as he had to attend important matters in the Supreme Court, including a hearing on a petition filed by the TMC against the SIR.

Besides, he also attended the inauguration of new MP flats by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he is a member of the Parliamentary House Committee. “I have been a member of the Parliamentary House Committee since 2014. Under our direct supervision and vision — most of the proposals coming from me — we worked tirelessly to build 184 flats at Baba Kharak Singh Marg for Members of Parliament, to tackle the severe shortage of bungalows for newly elected MPs,” Banerjee said. “This was no small task, but we got it done. Yesterday at 10 am, the Hon’ble Prime Minister inaugurated the complex, and by 10:30 am, I had left for the Supreme Court to attend to two important matters — our party’s challenge to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list, which was heard yesterday and again today, and a crucial matter on OBC issues,” he said. “Because of this, I could not join the Dharna in front of



the Election Commission,” the TMC leader added. Without naming anyone, he said, “I don’t owe an explanation for my absence, but I know there are people who are always looking for a chance to attack me.” “Let them try — last election, even with all their plotting, I won by a margin of 1,75,000 votes. Brother, I have my own conviction, honesty, and sincerity. My loyalty to Mamata Banerjee is unquestionable and it will remain the same,” Banerjee said. The TMC on Tuesday accepted Banerjee’s resignation as the party’s Lok Sabha chief whip and swiftly named Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar as his successor. Banerjee had earlier publicly questioned the attendance of fellow TMC MPs in Parliament and wondered whether Mamata Banerjee was aware of how the parliamentary party was functioning, after he was blamed for lack of coordination among the party MPs.

# Digital detective who is fighting cybercrime for police, corporates and schools

GNS News Agency, August 21

A large map of the world dominates the main wall of Yogesh Thanage’s office. The planet is also present as paper weights near his desk. Thanage is a globetrotter, but not of the touristy sort. Founder of ShellStrong Technologies, he is a detective of the virtual world. Competing for space in his workplace at Senapati Bapat Marg are countless awards and citations from India’s law enforcement agencies, such as the Pune Police and Uttarakhand Police, and revenue departments, for whom Thanage renders essential services. “Earlier, the police, income tax department, revenue departments or customs departments would conduct only physical searches. Today, those searches extend to the digital world because everybody, now, lives in two different worlds, online and offline,” he says. His job as an investigator and forensic expert is to acquire artefacts present in the digital world, such as electronic records from mobile phones, computers, and internet, extract them and analyse them for understanding. “We check the relevance of those facts with the actual deeds of the suspect revealed through forensic investigation before submitting them to the authorities with a certificate as per the law,” says Thanage. Pointing to the map, he adds, “Wherever we have clients, we place a flag on the map. There’s the UAE, the US, Australia, Germany, Canada, and India. We have a lot of space to cover.” The company, set up in 2018, ensures preparedness and resilience to private clients as well, with a long list of corporates as well as social media influencers.

Thanage has had corporate clients who are losing regular customers. Someone is leaking data from their company and giving it to competitors. Then, a lot of schools and colleges come to him to help them investigate certain cases in which the students have created fake profiles of many teachers and professors. According to DataLEADS, which released a report around two weeks ago, cybercrime is draining the nation. Indians became victims of Rs 22,842 crore to online fraudsters in 2024, a three-time surge from the Rs 7,465 crore lost in 2023 and 10 times higher than the Rs 2,306 crore from 2022. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) estimates that cybercrime losses could cross Rs 1.2 lakh crore in 2025 if unchecked. “As we become more digitised and enjoy the convenience of accessing data, the threat is going to increase. Digitalisation is coming to our personal spaces like home, through IoT devices.



Soon, we will have robots to clean our floors in almost every household. Cars are becoming nothing more than moving computers,” says Thanage. “People feel, ‘If I go to the internet, I can create fake profiles, fake email, fake Instagram and Facebook pages, and can do anything’. They forget that these are more monitored than the real world.” A computer science grad from 2008, Thanage was a wiz at programming. Soon enough, he was hacking to improve his skills. At a Cybersecurity Conference in Pune in 2007, Thanage was discussing his hacking skills unaware that the person sitting next to him in the audience, in plainclothes, was a cyber cell police officer. “When he introduced himself during the tea break, I was apprehensive. Instead, he told me to apply to Nasscom, which was setting up a Pune Cyber Lab. I was selected during the interview as a volunteer,” says Thanage. He rose to be the Senior Project Manager by 2017, gaining levels of experience as he helped the police solve several important crimes. ShellStrong, which he set up by cleaning out his savings, has taken him on the entrepreneurial journey of hope, errors, debts, bankruptcy, and bounce-back. In 2018-2019, the company had three private clients. In 2020, when Covid hit, the number reached almost 20. At present, the company has 75 clients, with almost 100 per cent retention. “I still believe in word-of-mouth reputation because, in security, that gives more assurance. Hence, the new tagline for ShellStrong,

# Bengal BJP forms committee to focus on voters in high-rise buildings in Kolkata, its suburbs



GNS News Agency, August 21

With less than a year left for the Bengal Assembly elections, all political parties are busy preparing for the upcoming polls. For the first time in the state, the state BJP has formed a new committee called the “High Rise Committee” to focus on residents of high-rise buildings in Kolkata and its suburbs. According to a senior BJP leader, “This committee’s core team will have 7-8 members who will be mainly responsible for the planning and execution. Others will also be involved. The Yuva of our party will also be included in this team.”

BJP sources said high-rises are mainly concentrated in Kolkata, its suburbs, and Durgapur, and these will be the areas of focus for votes. The committee will assign leaders to specific constituencies within the city that have high-rises, with the main aim of ensuring residents of these complexes come out and vote. A senior party leader said the BJP has already conducted a survey for the 2026 Assembly elections, which found “a lot of anti-ruling party sentiment among the affluent and upper middle class in these high-rises.” For the BJP, this represents a potential vote bank. However, the problem, the leader said, is that while these residents are not supporters of the ruling party, they often do not turn

up to vote. The committee has been formed to change that.

Such a committee currently exists only in Mumbai. In Bengal, it was formed after analysing class structure, socio-economic conditions, and demography. A senior BJP leader told The Indian Express: “We are focusing on every strata of society this time. We are leaving no stone unturned — every vote counts. The affluent do not come out to vote; we will reach out to them and encourage them to vote.” BJP sources said only party leaders who regularly visit well-known or landmark high-rise buildings in the city will be part of the committee. According to a top Bengal BJP leader: “There is now a proliferation of high-rise housing in Kolkata and the adjacent New Town. However, a section of the residents there are apathetic to politics. Another section believes that it is possible to build a new India by following the path shown by Narendra Modi. The number of Trinamool, Congress or Left supporters is very low in those high-rises. We have got all this information from various surveys. That is why we have paid special attention to the high-rises before the assembly elections.”

The BJP said its focus sharpened after reviewing the 2021 Assembly election results. Booth-wise analysis showed most voters living in Kolkata’s high-rises did not go to the polls. The party claims that had they voted, the results could have been different in constituencies such as Rash Behari, Tollygunge, Jadavpur, Rajarhat-Gopalpur, and Rajarhat-New Town. According to a BJP insider: “The members of this committee will start communicating with the residents of Kolkata’s high-rise buildings on a regular basis. Our only aim is to get the residents of high-rises to the booths on election day. We have seen that many residents do not wish to leave the AC flats and stand in queues, but we will be appealing to them and making them realise the importance of their vote.” With the elections approaching, several other committees are also being formed to reach out to people of different professions in the city. A party leader described the main job of a political party as building close relationships with all sections of society.

# ‘Over 4.25 lakh vacancies in Haryana,’ Centre tells Lok Sabha; ‘why are these jobs not reaching the youth?’ asks Sirsa MP Kumari Selja

GNS News Agency, August 21

Union Minister of State of Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje on Monday said that 4.25 lakh job vacancies were reported from Haryana as on July 10, 2025, according to the National Career Service (NCS) portal. “The government has approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme named as the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector,” the minister told the Lok Sabha.

She was replying to a question by Congress’s Sirsa MP Kumari Selja whether the government has formulated any scheme to provide employment opportunities to the youth in Haryana. Selja had also sought details of the schemes and their implementation. Reacting to the reply, Selja said, “When the government itself admits that there are lakhs of vacancies, then why are these jobs not reaching the youth of Haryana? Unemployment has pushed the state’s youth toward despair, and this despair is fueling drug abuse and crime.” Selja highlighted that due to unemployment, the graph of drug addiction and crime is continuously rising in the state. The government is promoting schemes only on paper but has failed to provide employment at the ground level, she criticised. “The government should immediately begin the recruitment process for all pending vacancies, ensure transparency and timeliness in recruitment, and launch special employment and skill development campaigns in areas affected by drug abuse and crime. I would like to warn that if the government does not take concrete steps soon, the future of Haryana’s youth will be in serious jeopardy,” she said.

In her response, the union minister stated that employment generation, coupled with improving the employability of youth, is a priority of the government. “Accordingly, the government is implementing various employment generation schemes/programmes in the country, including in the State of Haryana. These inter-alia include Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- Na-



tional Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs), Deen Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), PM Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), Start Up India, etc. The details of various employment generation schemes/programmes being implemented by the government may be seen at [https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes\\_programmes](https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes_programmes),” Minister Shobha Karandlaje said.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment is running the National Career Service (NCS) portal which is a one-stop solution for providing career related services, including information on jobs from private and government sectors, information on online and offline job fairs, job search and matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, skill/training programmes etc. through a digital platform [www.ncs.gov.in](http://www.ncs.gov.in), the minister stated. “One of the objectives of the NCS scheme is the setting up of Model Career Centres (MCCs). The ministry had approved 4 MCCs in Haryana. These centres connect local youth and other job-seekers with job opportunities through the use of technology as well as career counselling and training. As such, these MCCs act as a hub for organising job fairs, mobilising the employers, providing career counselling at the local level etc, in collaboration with states and other institutions for the jobseekers and employers through outreach activities”, the MoS said in the reply.

# Will allow CPI(M) to hold ‘peaceful assembly’ against Gaza ‘genocide’ on August 20: Mumbai police to HC

Protesters chant anti Israel slogans and carry posters with pictures of Palestinian journalists Anas al-Sharif and Mohamed Qreiqeh that Israel’s military targeted and killed with an airstrike late Sunday in Gaza, during a protest in the West Bank city of Ramallah Monday, Aug. 11, 2025. (AP Photo/Nasser Nasser) Protesters chant anti-Israel slogans and carry posters with pictures of Palestinian journalists Anas al-Sharif and Mohamed Qreiqeh that Israel’s military targeted and killed with an airstrike late Sunday in Gaza, during a protest in the West Bank city of Ramallah Monday, August 11, 2025.

The Mumbai police Tuesday informed the Bombay High Court that they have granted permission to the Communist Party of India (Marxist) to hold a “peaceful assembly” at Azad Maidan against the “genocide” in Gaza. Appearing for the CPI(M), Senior Advocate Mihir Desai submitted that as the police have granted permission to hold the assembly, it would be organised between 3 and 6 pm on August 20. Desai also submitted that the CPI-M will “strictly” follow the prohibitions and responsibilities prescribed for organisers under the draft regulations of Public Meetings, Agitations and Processions Rules, 2025, proposed under the Maharashtra Police Act, 1951. On July 25, a division bench of Justices Ravindra V Ghuge and Gautam Ankhad dismissed a plea by the CPI (M) seeking direction from the court to allow peaceful protest at Azad Maidan on the Gaza issue. The bench noted that the petitioner had no locus standi (legal standing) to challenge the decision of the police, as it was not an applicant seeking permission for protest. The Mumbai police on July 17 rejected the application of All India Peace and Solidarity Foundation (AIPSF) to stage a protest on the Gaza issue. Justice Ghuge orally

remarked that instead of being “short-sighted”, the petitioner should focus on issues in India. “Look at your own country. Be patriots. This is not patriotism.. Speak up for the causes in our own country.” However, after filing the earlier petition on July 10, the CPI (M) made an application on July 19 to the Mumbai police seeking permission to hold a protest meeting, and it was pending when the HC passed an order on July 25. Justice Ghuge-led bench noted that the Mumbai police should decide upon the pending application by the CPI (M) on merits, and the same be communicated to the party. After the police rejected the CPI(M)’s application, the party filed a fresh petition before the High Court challenging the refusal. On Tuesday, Additional Public Prosecutor S V Gaand, on specific instructions, submitted before a bench led by Justice Ghuge that statutory authority would allow the CPI (M) to hold a peaceful assembly on August 20, and it will have to follow the prescribed rules. After Desai, for the petitioner, said it will strictly follow the rules for such assemblies, the HC disposed of the plea. Another bench of HC led by Chief Justice Alok Aradhe in March this year directed the state government to notify rules to regulate public meetings, agitations, and processions in Mumbai, and implement them in “letter and spirit.” Mumbai police commissioner prepared the draft rules as per court directives under Section 33 (power to make rules for regulation of traffic and for preservation of order in a public place) of the 1951 Act, and provided for peaceful protests without affecting law and order to be held at the designated area of Azad Maidan. As per draft regulations, part of Azad Maidan opposite the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters has been identified for conducting sit-ins, agitations, gatherings, meetings, protests, and morchas, and no such activity will be allowed in the South Mumbai area.



# Himachal govt hospital performs maiden robotic surgery, CM Sukhu hails it ‘historic milestone’



GNS News Agency, August 21

Himachal govt hospital performs maiden robotic surgery, CM Sukhu hails it 'historic milestone'

Hospital authorities said the surgery lasted nearly three hours, significantly shorter than the five hours typically required for conventional surgery, and was completed without any blood loss. In a first in Himachal Pradesh's government health sector, surgeons at the Atal Institute of Medical Super Specialties (AIMSS), Chamiyana, on Tuesday successfully performed a high-end robotic surgery, which Chief Minister Sukhvinder

Singh Sukhu described as "a historic milestone".

The procedure was conducted on a resident of Khalini suffering from a prostate-related ailment, and it was carried out by a team comprising Dr Anant Kumar, Dr Pamposh Raina, and Dr Pawan Kaundal. Hospital authorities said the robotic surgery lasted nearly three hours, significantly shorter than the five hours typically required for conventional surgery, and was completed without any blood loss, compared to the four units usually needed in traditional procedures. "The patient is expected to be discharged within three to four days, as against the usual eight to ten," the doctors said, crediting robotic technology for faster recovery, minimal blood loss, and greater precision. The patient's family called the surgery "world-class" and thanked the state government for introducing advanced surgical capabilities in a government hospital, saying it would eliminate the need to travel outside Himachal for such treatment. Dr Kailash Bharwal, consultant in the Urology department, said the achievement marked the beginning of a new era in the state's medical history. He explained that robotic arms filter out natural hand tremors, enabling surgeons to operate with microscopic precision, especially near delicate structures like nerves and blood vessels, while smaller incisions mean less scarring and better outcomes.

# Maharashtra govt approves proposal to hire additional security personnel, install CCTV cameras at Yerawada mental hospital

At least eight posts of psychiatrists continue to remain vacant at the hospital, besides two posts of clinical psychologists. At least eight posts of psychiatrists continue to remain vacant at Regional Mental Hospital in Yerawada, besides two posts of clinical psychologists. The Maharashtra Government has approved a proposal to recruit nearly 40 personnel and install 132 CCTV cameras on the premises of the Regional Mental Hospital in Yerawada where four patients recently went missing.

Superintendent of the hospital, Dr Shrinivas Kolod, said the government recently approved an administrative proposal to ramp up security measures at the hospital. "At present, we have 15 security personnel. We had submitted a proposal for recruiting more personnel and the overall strength will be expanded to 53," Dr Kolod said, adding that the CCTV cameras will be set up soon. According to Vijay Thakar, Inspector (Crime), Yerawada police station, four missing-person cases have been registered this year in connection with the disappearance of patients at the Regional Mental Hospital. "The probe is currently on in the cases registered on July 29 and August 1. In the two other cases, registered on January 6 and June 5, the patients have been traced," he said.

Following the incidents, hospital authorities suspended six attendants and issued show-cause notices seeking to know why action should not be initiated against them. According to Dr Kolod, a 37-year-old man from Nanded, diagnosed with schizophrenia, went missing on July 29 after being admitted to the hospital the previous day.



On August 1, three people from Solapur who had undergone behavioural therapy and counselling for alcohol dependency syndrome and substance abuse in the de-addiction ward were reported missing. "We were informed that the three reached their homes in Solapur. We have instructed the family to bring them back to the institution," Dr Kolod said. Of the 951 patients on the campus, 317 are women. Hospital authorities said that following state Health Minister Prakash Abitkar's visit earlier this year, they had revised the timings of the Out Patient Department (OPD) and submitted a proposal for additional staff and security personnel at the hospital that is spread across 86 acres. Meanwhile, at least eight posts of psychiatrists continue to remain vacant at the hospital, besides two posts of clinical psychologists. Additionally, while the facility employs 480 attendants, at least 92 attendant positions are still open.

# ‘People need to know’: Former Pune corporator who lost daughter to pigeon-borne infection aims to spread awareness

GNS News Agency, August 21

Sheetal Vijay Shinde was looking forward to returning home, recovered, from the hospital on January 19, when she breathed her last. She left behind a grieving family that included two young daughters. Sheetal's father, former Pune corporator Sham Mankar, is now on a quest to spread awareness about why she died—lung fibrosis caused by pigeon droppings. "She began to fall ill in 2017. It was an incessant cough, for which we consulted a local doctor and Ayurvedic practitioners. When it did not stop, we visited a doctor in Camp who asked us, 'Are there pigeons where you stay?' It turned out to be true. On the floors above where Sheetal lived, people used to place grains for pigeons. As a result, the pigeons began to nest there. The doctor said that pigeons were causing this cough," says Mankar.

The family's long experience with doctors began on this note. They went to major hospitals and doctors in Pune as well as Mumbai's Lilawati Hospital. Everywhere, after two to three months of tests, the diagnosis was the same. In a couple of years, Sheetal's health began to seriously deteriorate. Soon, she started having problems walking and found it difficult to breathe. At night, she could not sleep. Eventually, she needed oxygen and carried a small oxygen box when she went out on family events. After a year of that, she needed oxygen 24 hours. At night, she would struggle in vain to sleep but end up coughing. At DY Patil Hospital & Research Centre in Pune, she was put up as a candidate for lung donation. "We got lungs twice. The first time, it did not match. The second time, the doctor said that the lungs were damaged and could not be used on Sheetal," says Mankar. It was with back pain that Sheetal went to the hospital on January 19. "The doctor said that she needed to be admitted. She was fine with that. She was a fighter who had built a gym at home because doctors had told her to exercise. She said 'I will come back home'," says Mankar.



After her death, Mankar, who has educated himself on the health dangers of pigeons, is determined to spread awareness among the public. "Pigeon droppings, after two or three days, dry and turn into powder that is carried by the air. The air comes into the house and infects us. Once a person's immunity weakens, the symptoms will arise, and this can happen years later," he says. Sheetal and her family had changed houses twice, but the infection had caught on. "Pigeons have been a part of nature since before human settlements. They are capable of looking for food. The practice of feeding pigeons is interfering with their ability to look for food. The congestion of pigeons in crowded urban areas is also harming our health," says Mankar.

# ECI summons Bengal Chief Secretary to Delhi over ‘not filing FIRs against poll officers who prepared fake voter lists’

ECI summons Bengal Chief Secretary to Delhi over 'not filing FIRs against poll officers who prepared fake voter lists'

Pant met Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, where it was decided that Pant will go to Delhi in the early morning of Wednesday to appear before the ECI, sources said. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has summoned West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant to appear in Delhi by Wednesday evening to explain why FIRs have not been filed against poll officials accused of preparing fake voter lists, despite the ECI's directives. After this, Pant met Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, where it was decided that Pant will go to Delhi in the early morning of Wednesday to appear before the ECI, sources said. On Monday, Pant had submitted a compliance report stating

that two of the five officials named by the ECI—Sudipta Das, PAO of Tamluk Block and AERO (Assistant Electoral Registration Officer) of 206-Moyna AC, and Surojit Halder, Data Entry Operator of 137-Baruipur Purba AC—had been withdrawn from election duties. "Further action taken report will be submitted post completion of enquiry," he wrote. Pant's letter to the ECI added that an internal inquiry and a review of existing procedures were underway. He argued that immediate proceedings could "have a demoralising impact" on officers "who have consistently demonstrated sincerity and competence" and noted that district-level officials often delegate work "in good faith." The ECI had set an August 11, 3 pm deadline for the suspension of four officials—Debottam Dutta Choudhury (ERO, 137-Baruipur Purba AC), Tathagata Mondal (AERO

# Pune police challenge JJB order rejecting their plea to try minor driver in Porsche crash as adult



GNS News Agency, August 21

The Pune City Police have appealed against the Juvenile Justice Board's (JJB) July 15 order that rejected their plea to try the minor accused as an adult in last year's Porsche crash case, in which two software engineers were killed in the city. Nikhil Pingle, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime), Pune, said, "On July 31, the Pune district collector granted permission to file an appeal. Subsequent to that, the prosecution submitted the appeal before the sessions court on August 4."

Adv Sarthi Pansare, who is assisting Special Public Prosecutor Shishir Hiray, said, "We have challenged the JJB order under section 101 of the Juvenile Justice Act, which pertains to appeals under the law." The prosecution had argued that the accused in the Pune Porsche case had committed a "heinous offence", was driving the car after consuming liquor despite knowing its consequences, he was also part of a blood-swap cover-up conspiracy in which the minor's blood was replaced with his mother's. The defence had opposed the application, arguing that the offence

cannot be legally termed "heinous" and that the object of the Juvenile Justice Act was "reformatory" and not "punitive".

In the early hours of May 19 last year, the then 17-year-old boy was allegedly driving a Porsche Taycan at a very high speed while being intoxicated, and the car crashed into a motorbike, killing two software engineers—Aneesh Awadhiya and Ashwini Koshta. What police investigation unravelled was alleged cover-ups, bribery, abuse of power, and tampering with blood samples at the government-run Sassoon General Hospital. It can be recalled that after the accident, the minor driver was detained and produced before the JJB the same afternoon. The police sought his custody in an observation home and requested he be tried as an adult, but the JJB rejected both pleas and granted him bail with conditions, including writing an essay, studying traffic norms, and undergoing de-addiction counselling. Amid public outcry, the police challenged the order in the district court, which sent the matter back to the JJB. On May 22 last year, the JJB remanded the minor to an observation home until June, with psychological and de-addiction counselling included in his rehabilitation. His initial remand ended on June 5 and was extended to June 12. The police then sought another 14-day extension, while the defence requested his release. After hearing both sides, the JJB extended the remand to June 25. However, the Bombay High Court, responding to a habeas corpus plea from his aunt, ruled the remand illegal and ordered the minor's release into her care. After the July 15 ruling of the JJB, Special Public Prosecutor Hiray has said there is a need for a national-level debate on what constitutes a heinous crime under the provisions of the JJ Act and provisions surrounding this aspect.

# BJP MLA Ashok Dinda says ‘yet to receive summons’ as Kolkata Police summons him in Nabanna Abhijan case; FIRs filed against other BJP leaders

GNS News Agency, August 21

The Kolkata Police has summoned BJP MLA from Moyna, Ashok Dinda, for allegedly threatening policemen during the Nabanna Abhijan on August 9, held to mark the first death anniversary of the RG Kar victim doctor. According to police sources, Dinda has been asked to appear before New Market Police Station on August 17 at 11 am. A police officer claimed CCTV footage shows the MLA threatening policemen and instigating others to assault them.

Dinda claimed he has not yet received the notice and would comply if he does. Speaking to The Indian Express, he said, "I have not received any notice till now. If the police send a notice, I will comply. They must know why they called me. We are the Opposition party in the state so they will attack us, assault us, we know that. But if anyone disrespects the National Flag, I will not spare that person... I did not say a word when they assaulted us, but when they disrespected the national flag, I stood up and protested." Cases have also been filed against BJP Kolkata Municipal councillor Sajal Ghosh and former BJP MP Arjun Singh. Ghosh said, "I am yet to receive any notice. If I do, I will comply... They should keep all the CCTV footage before me and then put forth the allegations." Singh also told mediapersons he has not received any notice. Police said five cases were lodged in relation to the protest and a "competent court is being moved for registration of two more cases" against leaders and supporters of the BJP. Four of the lodged FIRs



were registered in New Market police station and one in Hare Street police station under the jurisdiction of Kolkata Police. The FIRs were lodged for violating High Court orders by not going to R R Avenue and taking a procession towards Park Street, for allegedly creating a ruckus at the "Rakhi" stall of another political party, allegedly assaulting a police constable and causing head injuries, allegedly vandalizing the office of the hawkers' union, and allegedly damaging the camera of a mediaperson and "confining" him. Five policemen were injured and admitted to SSKM Hospital on Saturday. Four of them were discharged after first aid; one remains hospitalised with scalp injuries. On Sunday, Commissioner Manoj Verma met the hospitalised constable, identified as Prasanta Poddar, 36.

# Travel vlogger Amrik Singh ‘unreachable’ after ‘Jalandhar cops summoned him’ over Pakistan trip, alleges wife

GNS News Agency, August 21

The family of travel vlogger Amrik Singh has alleged that he has been in custody for over 18 hours after being called to a Jalandhar police station on Monday evening to provide information about his channel 'Walk With Turna' and his trip to Pakistan last year. The police, meanwhile, are yet to confirm that he was taken into custody. Amrik runs the YouTube channel along with his wife Manpreet Kaur. According to Manpreet, he was summoned in connection with their December 2024 trip to Pakistan during which they filmed videos covering Sikh religious sites and other soft stories. Manpreet added that on Tuesday morning, the police informed the family that no First Information Report (FIR) had been registered against Amrik, and he was only questioned. Since Operation Sindoor, several YouTubers who have travelled to Pakistan or have any links with the country have reportedly been under the scrutiny of investigating agencies.

Asked about Amrik's whereabouts, Harvinder Singh Virk, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Jalandhar Rural, did not confirm whether he was in police custody but said he would provide an update if any action was taken against the vlogger. The couple, both former journalists with experience in print and electronic media, have been actively running their channel since 2022. They have previously produced travel content from Iran, Afghanistan, Dubai, and other West Asian destinations. Phone got switched off after he reached police station. Manpreet said Amrik left for the police station around 5.30 pm on Monday and called her to confirm that he had reached and was recording his statement. "After that, his phone got switched off," she added. "It was switched on again at 8.30 pm, and the messages I had sent to him got delivered."

However, Manpreet alleges that later in the evening, about 10 policemen — one in uniform and the others in civilian clothes — arrived at their home in Turna village and began asking about Amrik and the YouTube channel. "We told them that he had already gone to Lohian police station," she said. She further claimed that around 10.30 pm, two policemen from Lohia station, one of them allegedly drunk, came to their residence. "They kept knocking and demanded that we open the door. We were scared because we did not know if they were really the police," she said. "When we finally opened it, they entered and asked for our laptop. I told them we did not have one and that we do all the work on the phone. Then they took our official mobile phone used for work." Since then, Manpreet said, there has been no information about her husband's whereabouts. "Our family members even went to the police station, but they were



told Amrik was not there and had been taken to some other place for questioning," she said. "We are not criminals — we are simple people who travel across India and abroad to shoot videos for our work. The purpose of visiting Pakistan was to cover historical places related to Sikhism."

# How pigeon feeding is posing a major public health crisis in Hyd

Hyderabad: Sometimes, even kindness can have unintended negative consequences. Just like in Mumbai, people in Hyderabad have a soft corner for pigeons, a sentiment that has fueled numerous unofficial feeding spots across the city. However, the general public is largely unaware of the significant public health crisis that this open, widespread feeding could create.

The major reason for the recent decision by Mumbai High Court to intervene and put a stop to the practice of feeding pigeons in public spaces was a report by experts that presented scientific and medical evidence and raised public health concerns. The report provided evidence suggesting that pigeon droppings and feathers were causing irreversible damage to lungs, causing hypersensitivity pneumonitis, allergies that are leading to respiratory failures. "Dry pigeon droppings and minute particles from their feathers are known to travel in the air for long distances. There is a need to create awareness on the irreversible damage to health that pigeon droppings, feathers and dried fecal dust cause," says Dr Vyakaranam Nageshwar, senior immunologist and founder of World Allergy Foundation. Pigeon droppings, when dried, release fungal spores such as Histoplasmosis, Candidiasis, and Cryptococcosis.











# ‘In Gaza, we’re witnessing a man-made crisis, intended to maximise suffering’



As the humanitarian crisis in Gaza deepens, medical professionals and aid organisations continue to raise alarms over widespread starvation, severe malnutrition among children, and limited access to critical healthcare. Since the escalation of conflict in October 2023, the Gaza strip has faced prolonged restrictions on food, water, and medical supplies, prompting international concern about the deliberate obstruction of aid and the long-term public health consequences. In this interview, British emergency physician Dr. James Smith shares his insights based on first-hand experience working in Gaza’s hospitals and his recent attempts to return. He discusses the challenges faced by healthcare workers, the medical implications of prolonged starvation, and the complexities involved in reintroducing nutrition to malnourished populations. Dr. Smith also addresses the professional and institutional consequences faced by medical practitioners who speak out about the situation in Gaza, and reflects on the broader role of the global health community in responding to such crises.

Dr. Smith, thank you for joining us. I understand you recently tried to return to Gaza. Can you describe what happened?

Yes, I attempted to return twice — in May and June of this year — and on both occasions, the Israeli military denied me entry. This isn’t unusual. Over half of medical professionals trying to access Gaza are rejected, often without explanation. These denials usually come the day before travel from Jordan, making it extremely difficult for small humanitarian teams to operate. Many convoys end up traveling with empty seats.

From your previous time working in Gaza’s hospitals, what stands out most to you?

The conditions were unlike anything I’ve experienced. Even with strong media coverage, the reality on the ground was far worse — constant bombardment, widespread shortages, and attacks on medical infrastructure. Every protected category — civilians, healthcare workers, journalists — was impacted. I spoke with seasoned humanitarian professionals who said they had never seen such sustained violence at this scale.

Let’s discuss the current starvation crisis. How serious is the situation?

Extremely serious. We saw early signs of malnutrition in January 2024. A month prior, Human Rights Watch warned that Israel was using starvation as a method of warfare. The intentionality is clear — Israeli officials publicly stated within days of the October 2023 escalation that aid, including food and water, would be blocked. Throughout 2024, the situation deteriorated. The IPC — an international food security monitoring body — issued repeated warnings about the risk of famine, particularly in northern Gaza. Yet access to aid remained tightly restricted. It appears to be a calculated strategy: enough aid to avoid a technical famine declaration, but insufficient to prevent mass suffering.

What are the longer-term health consequences of this for children?

The first 1,000 days of a child’s life are critical. Malnutrition during this window can result in long-term stunting, cognitive delays, and increased vulnerability to chronic diseases later in life. In the immediate term, a malnourished

child has a weakened immune system and is highly susceptible to infections. It’s not usually malnutrition alone that causes death — it’s malnutrition combined with illnesses like diarrhoea or respiratory infections.

What are the medical considerations when reintroducing food to individuals after prolonged periods of malnutrition or starvation?

Refeeding must be done cautiously. Severely malnourished individuals can’t just return to eating normal meals — it puts them at risk of refeeding syndrome, a dangerous condition where sudden nutrient intake causes electrolyte imbalances, which can lead to cardiac issues or even death. Proper treatment involves medically supervised nutritional rehabilitation: gradual caloric reintroduction, electrolyte monitoring, and specific micronutrient supplementation. Without these, refeeding can do more harm than good.

Can these effects—especially in children—be reversed with treatment?

Some effects can be reversed, particularly if intervention comes early. But many of the developmental and physiological impacts of prolonged malnutrition can be permanent. There’s also evidence of intergenerational consequences—the health of future children can be affected by a parent’s malnutrition. So yes, we’re looking at damage that could extend well beyond this generation.

There have been reports of professional repercussions for doctors who speak publicly about Gaza. Have you faced this personally?

I have. After publishing in a medical journal, I was temporarily suspended from clinical practice. I’ve been the subject of misleading press coverage and formal complaints, usually accusing me of antisemitism or condoning terrorism—both completely unfounded. Even when dismissed, these complaints are exhausting and disruptive. But more troubling is the broader culture of silence in the medical community. Many healthcare workers have faced retaliation for simply speaking out or showing solidarity.

Do you think UK medical institutions have failed in their responsibilities?

Absolutely. Palestinian doctors trained in the U.K. have been killed while applying their skills in Gaza, and their institutions have remained silent. That silence is not neutral—it reflects systemic anti-Palestinian bias and an unwillingness to confront the political realities of this crisis.

We have to ask what it means to be a healthcare professional during a time of mass atrocity. Our institutions are expected to speak out in moments of injustice — yet many have failed to do so.

What role should the global health community and international agencies be playing right now?

Humanitarian aid is essential in the short term, but it’s not the solution. As former UN High Commissioner Sadako Ogata once said, “There are no humanitarian solutions to humanitarian problems.” What we’re seeing in Gaza is not a natural disaster — it’s a man-made political crisis, and it requires a political response. The global health community claims to stand for equity and justice, but its response to Gaza has largely been silence. A few individuals have spoken out, but institutions have failed to meet this moment with the urgency and moral clarity it demands.

Finally, what do you think the public and policymakers most misunderstand about the humanitarian conditions in Gaza?

That this is not a natural or accidental crisis. Famine and starvation today are always man-made. In Gaza, we are witnessing deliberate deprivation—manufactured scarcity—intended to maximize suffering. This is not just a humanitarian emergency in the present. It’s a multi-generational crisis that will have long-lasting effects on physical and mental health, social structures, and the future of an entire population. And that’s what makes it so deeply unjust.

# Why can’t Army deploy women to fight terror, asks Supreme Court

The Supreme Court on Monday (August 11, 2025) asked why the Army cannot deploy women officers to counter terror and insurgency in an emergency if other Armed Forces like the Air Force sent women behind enemy lines in jets, choppers and parachutes. The question came in a judgment pronounced by a Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan, which struck down a policy of the Army restricting the appointment of women officers to the Judge Advocate General (JAG) branch. The women candidates were represented by Senior Advocate G o p a l Sankaranarayanan. The Bench said a policy bifurcating candidates on the basis of gender and reserving more posts for men did not meet the standards of law.

The judgment authored by Justice Manmohan clarified that the court was not imposing its views on the Army, but implementing the Constitution and the mandate of law. “No nation can be secure when half of its population [i.e. its women force] is held back,” Justice Manmohan observed. It directed the Union government to publish a common merit list for all JAG candidates, men and women, and make the marks public. The apex court dismissed the Union government’s argument that the JAG branch consisted of “exclusively combatant personnel” as they were a reserve for mobilisation. The court said



this contention ran contrary to the right of women to form part of all combat support arms services. It further violated the right of women to be treated as equals in all aspects of their employment in the Army. Besides, the court noted that with a strength of over 1.4 million active, 2.1 million reserve and 1.3 million paramilitary personnel compared to just 285 JAG officers, it would be an extreme stretch to claim that women ought to be excluded, as there may be JAG deployment in times of war. The court said the Centre’s argument that women officers were not deployed for counterinsurgency or in counter-terror forces as they were “not expected to discharge the role of combatants in case of armed conflicts” had no legislative sanction or basis. Justice Manmohan said there was no restriction in other Armed

Forces on the appointment of women in combat posts. The Air Force has continually opened new combat air force roles for women as fighter pilots, helicopter pilots, etc.

“When women officers like Captain Ojaswita Shree of the elite Parachute Air Defence Unit, Major Dwipannita Kalita of highly specialised airborne medical unit of the Army and Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh (pilot of Rafale jet) of the Air Force can operate behind enemy lines with all expected risks, why women officers in times of emergency cannot be deployed for counter-insurgency or in counter-terror forces or attached to infantry/artillery units,” the apex court questioned. The court reasoned that if women officers could be entrusted with complex tasks such as transporting convoys of 30 to 50

vehicles through militant-prone areas in Leh, Srinagar, Udhampur and the North-East, why cannot they be relied on in operational areas. “For instance, Major Gopika Bhatti commanded a convoy from Leh to Pathankot in 2010, overseeing junior commissioned officers and jawans, managing logistics, arms, and ammunition. Women officers like Colonel Anshu Jamwal have been actively involved in UN Peacekeeping missions since 2004, serving in combat zones like Syria, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Congo and Israel, further illustrating their capability to perform in high-risk, operational environments,” Justice Manmohan observed. “This court understands that people always fear change. But as Bill Gates, Microsoft co-founder, famously said, ‘People feared electricity when it was invented. Didn’t they?’” Justice Manmohan wrote.

# Tamil Nadu’s new education policy mirrors NEP 2020, lacks state-specific vision and inclusivity



Amidst widespread expectation and hope, the much-hyped Tamil Nadu State Education Policy 2025 has been unveiled by the government, only for school education, and in a piecemeal manner. Being the first of its kind in terms of its inferior content and structure, the policy document lacks the body of knowledge that constitutes a public policy, as well as the universally accepted conventions, customs, and norms that are historically followed in policy formulation.

Amidst widespread expectation and hope, the much-hyped Tamil Nadu State Education Policy 2025 has been unveiled by the government, only for school education, and in a piecemeal manner. Being the first of its kind in terms of its inferior content and structure, the policy document lacks the body of knowledge that constitutes a public policy, as well as the universally accepted conventions, customs, and norms that are historically followed in policy formulation. The irony is that, in a transparent digital world, the policymakers boldly claim that this policy does not reflect NEP 2020, even though the themes and ideas on which its recommendations are based are truly the essence of NEP 2020. Both are similar in their emphasis on the centralisation of curriculum, teaching, and learning, and end-to-end control of educational functions, right from curriculum design through instruction to examination.

There is little to no scope for localising or diversifying curricular content and pedagogical approaches. Centralised systems like EMIS, Palli Paarvai, and Payirchi Paarvai reflect the NEP’s emphasis on centralised repositories and monitoring agencies. Like NEP 2020, the state policy promotes skills-based development through schemes such as TN-SPARK, Manarkeni App, and Naan Mudhalvan. It’s model schools and block-wise Vetri Palligal resembles the PM Shri Schools. Illam Thedi Kalvi can be seen as equivalent to the ‘education by local champions’ approach advocated in NEP 2020. Therefore, in both letter and spirit, the state policy aligns closely with NEP 2020, with the exception of a Vedic value system, which sets it apart.

Where is Tamil Nadu’s distinctness?

Firstly, it has reasonably failed to meet the Terms of Reference mandated by the Government of Tamil Nadu, GO No. 98, dated June 1, 2022. It calls for the “formation of a distinct State education policy for Tamil Nadu in keeping with the historical legacy, present situation, and future aspirations of the state.” The unveiled document does not reflect even an iota of understanding of what Tamil Nadu’s distinct features, problems, conditions, and challenges are, nor how its recommendations can serve as genuine solutions to address these issues. As education is a social function, an education policy cannot be limited to merely suggesting technical ideas related to educational functions such as curriculum, teaching, learning, and examinations. The policy must also be connected to and underpinned by broader constructs that influence education, including social structure, culture, psychological perspectives, human development, human relationships, human production, economic endeavors, livelihood, and political factors. The policy should pursue these constructs in relation to the state’s unique features when envisioning education for the future.

Historically, Tamil Nadu is known for its commitment to the Two-Language Formula, the State’s rights on education, the no-detention policy up to Class 8, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act, 2009), and the 10+2 pattern of secondary school education. These practices are already in place in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, this policy cannot claim credit for them merely because they are mentioned. What is required is a strategic perspective that emphasizes the role of education in balancing human experience and desirable human development, particularly in the context of the changing dimensions of all relevant human perspectives, through comprehensive educational measures. These measures should be conceived within the unique conditions, challenges, and problems faced by Tamil Nadu and Tamil society, alongside global perspectives. The focus of education should be on developing necessary skills, including critical thinking, resilience, creativity, problem-solving, and personality development—encompassing emotional capacity, attitudes, and behavior. Education should dynamically conceive and continuously update subject matter that integrates both native and global perspectives, drawing from real-world issues without being mediated or controlled solely by the State. Learning should be both pedagogically and personally driven, taking into account the psychosocial conditions students carry from their diverse socio-demographic backgrounds. Assessment practices should primarily aim at enhancing learning, rather than penalising students through detentions (especially in higher classes), comparative rankings, or certifications. These educational challenges cannot be effectively addressed through nominal slogans or populist schemes, as previously mentioned, instead, they require thoughtful, well-planned educational measures and remedies.

Centralising education function through centralised apps and systems The policy, like NEP 2020, consolidates all remedies and recommendations under the notion that only through centralised control by the Department of School Education can the lofty claims and goals outlined in the document be achieved. It assumes that existing schemes — such as Paalraasair monitoring systems and apps like EMIS, Palli Paarvai, the State Level Achievement Survey, Payirchi Paarvai, Manarkeni, TN-SPARK, and Kalvi TV — will suffice to realise its intended vision. More than doing good, these systems have paralysed teaching and learning at the grassroots level—i.e., classrooms—by forcing teachers to customarily follow a highly regulated, standardised, prescriptive system of teaching and learning as real-time data processors. This has resulted in a loss of effective teaching and learning in classrooms, and teachers are overloaded with the associated secretarial work involved.

At the core of the policy lies a clear reaffirmation of the prevailing status quo in the education sector. It appears to be preparing manpower for a life that conforms to the triangular collusion among the ruling state establishment, market forces, and social elites. The policy has effectively sidelined both students and teachers from the core functions of education, instead centralising all authority within the School Education Department to remotely control educational processes. Systems like EMIS, Palli Paarvai, Payirchi

Paarvai, along with other centralised schemes such as Ennum Ezhuthum, aim to shift the educational function away from teachers and students and into the hands of state bureaucracies.

The policy is a private good — not a public good No one would disagree if it is claimed that Dravidian Model governance should focus on social justice and social transformation in all its efforts to achieve equality, equity, liberty, diversity, and inclusivity in both society and education. Unless these features are realised in educational delivery, education will remain a private good, as it is now. Transforming education into a common good should be the primary goal for those claiming to champion social justice. It is unfortunate for the people of Tamil Nadu that the policy is disinclined to uphold minimum standards for educational inputs, particularly in areas such as teacher-student ratios, teacher appointments at all levels of government schooling, school campus facilities and infrastructure, and twenty-first-century learning materials. The policy has completely ignored early childhood development. It makes no mention or measures regarding all these aspects, even as it claims to promote inclusivity and equity in its vision.

Nowhere in the policy does one find constructive strategies or recommendations for fostering inclusivity, diversity, or preventing the proliferation of commercialisation and privatisation of education. There is no outlook or provision for the expansion of public education or neighbourhood public schools. To truly liberate education and realise its character as a common good, adequate financial resources are essential. However, the policy offers no clear direction in this regard. Instead of categorically prescribing a specific percentage of the State Gross Domestic Product (SGDP) for educational expenditure, it delegates developmental funding to private initiatives such as Namma School, Namma Ooru Palli, and Corporate Social Responsibility programs. Education of Socially and Educationally Backward Communities, Including SC/ST, is at Stake The rising incidents of honor killings, the widening caste segregation in society, and casteism and caste-based violence on school campuses all indicate that education has so far failed to prepare students holistically in all respects. Reports suggest that education itself reproduces caste inequality through its curricular framework, teaching practices, and subject matter. The same applies to gender inequality. There is little evidence of any targeted educational interventions in the policy aimed at ensuring quality education for socially and educationally backward communities such as SC/STs, MBCs—especially when their education, careers, and livelihoods face the challenges posed by advanced technologies, artificial intelligence, new consumption patterns, modern supply chain mechanisms, and the changing dimensions of human production and skills required for the 21st century. While elites have access to resources and the means to adapt to these changes, the question remains: how can the socially and educationally backward communities be prepared? Does the policy have any ideas about this? Unfortunately, the policy lacks the wisdom to recognise that social inequality, gender inequality, hatred, divisive social behaviors, and the absence of shared experiences and community living are fundamental barriers to developing the critical skills and knowledge needed in the 21st century. Another alarming issue is how casteism within schools—perpetrated by both peers and teachers—undermines and hampers the learning and performance of SC/ST children. A study by the World Bank (2016), authored by Karla Hoff and Priyanka Pandey, found that publicly revealing the caste identity of SC/ST students negatively influences their self-image and academic performance. The study also observed that their performance suffers because teachers and peers often treat them as inferior.

Numerous studies have demonstrated that disadvantaged castes face many challenges in accessing educational institutions and pursuing education, including inaccessibility, discrimination, unfair treatment in classrooms, undue peer pressure related to caste identities, societal pressures, and commercialisation. The entire educational ecosystem—school campuses, pedagogy, and extracurricular activities—must incorporate measures to address the psychosocial conditions of socially and educationally backward children. However, the policy fails to offer concrete ideas or solutions to these issues. Instead, it presents vague slogans such as “Harmony Circles,” “Team Building,” “Makizh Manram,” and “Kalaithiruvizha” as ways to make schools more inclusive.

No scope for grooming SC/ST students towards 21st century occupational mobility

The Institute for the Study of Labour (Bonn, Germany) in its 2012 report identified the direct effect of caste and tribe identities on occupational segregation over time. This impact is distinct from other indirect pathways through which caste status influences occupational structure, as well as from other determinants of occupational choice such as education, land ownership, and demographic characteristics. A World Bank report (2021) observed that “occupational identity and caste hierarchy have major effects on career choices. Certain occupations in India are still predominantly composed of individuals ‘born’ into those occupations, and the average person is more than three times as likely to enter their traditional occupation than any other.” Given these deeply entrenched patterns, does the recent policy include any strategies or interventions to prepare disadvantaged children—especially for future occupations and jobs shaped by technological advancements? In the context of education, does the policy propose any constructive mechanisms or preparatory measures to help these children navigate occupational mobility beyond their traditional or descent-based occupations?

Protection of minority education? The policy does not include any references to secular education. Secularism in education does not simply mean making education ‘blind to religiosity,’ but rather enabling learners to critically understand and be aware of religious diversity. It also involves protecting the rights of minorities to practice their aspirations and values within educational settings, free from indoctrination or domination by the majority. While the NEP 2020 appears to strengthen its stance against these principles enshrined in the Constitution, what does the State Policy have to say about the expectations of minorities regarding secular education?

Conclusion and appeal

Essentially, the policy appears to be a road map that allows education to fall into the hands of commercial private agencies. It is rooted in principles of centralisation, commercialisation, privatisation, and elitism (e.g., Model School = PM Shree School). It also exhibits anti-social and anti-democratic tendencies. In its current form, the policy is nothing more than an antipeople replica of NEP 2020. Therefore, I urge the Government of Tamil Nadu and the State Legislature to withdraw this policy and instead commission a new education policy committee composed of genuinely people-centred educational experts. Such a committee should draft a just, inclusive, and contextually relevant education policy for all.



# IndiGo plane’s nose damage incident: DGCA probe reveals severe weather, non-timely action in rerouting as probable causes



indigo plane noseThe pilots successfully navigated the storm by flying manually amid wide speed variations and rapid altitude changes, and landed safely at the Srinagar airport.Aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation’s investigation into the May 21 incident in which an IndiGo Airbus A321 aircraft suffered a damaged nose after flying through a severe hailstorm has identified severe weather and “non-timely action” in rerouting the aircraft to keep it clear of inclement weather as the probable causes, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol informed the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

The Airbus A321 aircraft operating the flight 6E 2142 with over 220 people on board—including a five-member Trinamool Congress delegation—had hit a severe hailstorm on its way to Srinagar from Delhi, which led to a turbulent few minutes for those on board. The pilots successfully navigated the storm by flying manually amid wide speed variations and rapid altitude changes, and landed safely at the Srinagar airport. While no one on board the aircraft was injured, the plane’s nose, which houses the radome, suffered visible significant damage. The radome is an aerodynamic weatherproof fairing that protects the plane’s radar antenna. It is manufactured with materials that allow transmission and reception of the radar radio waves with minimal interference.“IndiGo A321 neo aircraft VT-IMD while operating flight 6E-2142 from Delhi to Srinagar encountered severe weather, including hail during cruise. After landing at Srinagar, the aircraft radome was found damaged. The incident has been investigated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The investigation has revealed that severe weather existing en-route and non-timely action in re-routing the aircraft clear of weather was the probable cause of the occurrence,” Mohol stated in a written response to a question in the Upper House. No further information was provided by Mohol on the DGCA investigation into the incident.

Two days after the incident, the DGCA had said that the pilots flying operating that flight had requested the Indian Air Force Northern Area Control for deviation towards

the India-Pakistan international border to avoid inclement weather, and later contacted the Lahore air traffic control (ATC) to briefly enter Pakistani airspace—a no-go zone for Indian aircraft—to circumvent the storm. Both these requests were denied, and the flight crew decided to go through the inclement weather and continue the journey to Srinagar, the DGCA had said then based on the pilots’ statement.“While cruising at FL360 (36,000 feet), aircraft entered hailstorm and severe turbulence near Pathankot. As per crew statement, they requested Northern control (IAF) for deviation towards left (International Border) due to weather on the route, however it was not approved. Later crew contacted Lahore to enter into their airspace to avoid the weather but the same was refused too. Crew initially attempted to return back but as they were close to the thunderstorm cloud, they decided to penetrate the weather. Subsequently, they encountered hailstorm and severe turbulence. Crew chose to continue at same heading to exit the weather by the shortest route towards Srinagar (sic),” the DGCA had said on May 23.At the time, sources in the Indian Air Force had said that the Northern Area Control’s advice to the pilots was within the frame of the ban on Indian aircraft in Pakistani airspace, adding that the flight was assisted immediately in coordinating its route diversion.“The aircraft was immediately assisted in coordinating their route diversion by contacting Delhi Area and passing requisite contact frequencies of Lahore control for overflight weather diversion request. Once Lahore refused overflight clearance, and the aircraft proceeded towards Srinagar, the flight was subsequently professionally assisted till a safe-landing at Srinagar airfield by giving control vectors and groundspeed readouts,” the IAF sources said. Air traffic services at the Srinagar airport are also under the control of the IAF.

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, as diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan deteriorated, Pakistan shut its airspace to Indian aircraft and airlines, banning them from overflying its airspace. In the case of the IndiGo Delhi-Srinagar flight, Lahore ATC did not allow the use of its airspace despite the urgent weather situation that the aircraft was grappling with in view of the airspace closure.The aircraft departed from Delhi at 5:13 pm on May 21, according to flight tracking data. Around 45 minutes into the flight, when the aircraft was passing over the Pathankot area, the seat belt signs were switched on by the flight crew, which was followed by severe turbulence for a few minutes and a hailstorm hitting the aircraft’s fuselage. The aircraft landed at the Srinagar airport at around 6:30 pm. Given the damage to the nose of the aircraft, it was grounded in Srinagar for necessary maintenance and inspections.According to the pilots’ statement to the aviation safety regulator, the aircraft sounded various technical warnings while navigating the thunderstorm.

# International use of UPI surges, 6 lakh transactions in first 4 months of FY26

GNS News Agency, August 21

The use of India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for cross-border payments has continued to rise sharply, with more than six lakh transactions being conducted in the first four months of the current fiscal, just 1.5 lakh fewer than the number of such transactions done in all of 2024-25.According to data provided by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in response to a written question in the Lok Sabha on Monday, the total number of cross-border UPI transactions performed so far in this fiscal till July is 6.01 lakh. In all of 2024-25, the number of these transactions stood at 7.55 lakh.In value terms, cross-border UPI transactions worth Rs 169.29 crore have been performed so far in this fiscal compared to Rs 258.53 crore last year, data provided by Chaudhary showed. Should the current monthly rate hold, the number and value of cross-border UPI transactions could rise to 18 lakh and Rs 508 crore, respectively, for the full year.

The use of UPI for international payments had sharply increased in 2024-25, when the number of transactions had jumped 20-fold and their value by 13 times compared to 2023-24, when a total of 37,060 transactions worth Rs 19.7 crore were performed.“The Government, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) have been working towards linking UPI with the FPSs of other countries to facilitate cross-border payments. Presently, UPI is live in 7 countries i.e. UAE, Nepal, Bhutan, Singapore, Mauritius, France and Sri Lanka,” Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.Back in February 2023, Singapore became the first country with which Indians could make cross-border person-to-person payments following the linking of UPI with Singapore’s own fast-payment system PayNow.



Since then, UPI has become operational in six other countries.

Linking of fast-payment systems is a key way of cutting down on time and cost inefficiencies in cross-border payments. Towards this, the RBI last year joined Project Nexus of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), a global organisation of central banks. Project Nexus looks to standardise the manner in which fast-payment systems connect to each other. This, according to the BIS, could “significantly accelerate the growth of instant cross-border payments”.In addition to linking the UPI with other countries’ fast-payment systems, India is also helping nations without such systems build their own. These include Namibia, Trinidad & Tobago, and Peru.To be sure, use of the UPI for cross-border payments is still at a fairly nascent stage and is dwarfed by its use domestically. As per latest RBI data, just in the first 10 days of August, as many as 678 crore UPI transactions have been made worth a total of Rs 9.04 lakh crore.

# India’s retail inflation drops to 1.55 per cent, lowest since 2017

New Delhi: India’s inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) eased further to 1.55 per cent in July this year, compared to the same month of the previous year, as prices of food declined during the month. This is the lowest level of year-on-year retail inflation since June 2017, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Statistics on Tuesday.The retail inflation in July was also lower by 55 basis points than the 2.1 per cent for the previous month of June this year which was the lowest level of retail inflation since January, 2019.

Food Inflation in July this year fell into the negative zone at -1.76 per cent as prices declined compared to the same month of the previous year. There was also decline of 75 basis points in food inflation in



July, in comparison to June. This is the lowest level of food inflation since January 2019.

The significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during July, 2025 is mainly attributed to favourable base effect and to decline in inflation of

pulses, vegetables, cereals, egg and sugar. The inflation rate also fell due to the decline in cost of transport and communication and education. Besides, there was a mild drop in housing inflation during the month.Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank (RBI) has

pegged India’s CPI inflation at 3.1 per cent for 2025-26 as the steady progress of the monsoon and robust kharif sowing are expected to keep food prices in check.RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra recently said, “The inflation outlook for 2025-26 has become more benign than expected in June.

# Elon Musk alleges Apple favours OpenAI over xAi, threatens legal action



New Delhi: Tesla and SpaceX owner Elon Musk on Tuesday threatened legal action against tech giant Apple, alleging that the company is unjustly favouring the OpenAI application in its App Store. Musk’s own AI startup, xAI, was not able to claim the number one spot on the App Store due to this favouritism, he alleged.

Musk wrote on X, “Apple is behaving in a manner that makes it impossible for any AI company besides OpenAI

to reach #1 in the App Store, which is an unequivocal anti-trust violation. xAI will take immediate legal action.” “Unfortunately, what choice do we have? Apple didn’t just put their thumb on the scale, they put their whole body!” he said in an another post.The accusation came as competition intensified between Grok, xAI’s large language model, and OpenAI’s ChatGPT. xAI launched Grok 4 last month and claimed notable performance improvements over competitors.

The AI firm has since added features like Grok Imagine for image and video generation and personalised companion chatbots. Grok rose from the 60th rank to second place in Apple’s Productivity category. The free tier allows only a limited number of queries per day, after which it requires a subscription. ChatGPT has consistently been ranked in first or second position in Apple’s overall charts for much of the past year.

Musk had alleged that Apple’s support for ChatGPT is not driven by organic popularity. Apple has highlighted ChatGPT in App Store editorial content and incorporated OpenAI’s technology into its Apple Intelligence rollout, integrating it directly into Siri and writing tools.Last week, on the eve of GPT-5’s launch, ChatGPT maker OpenAI announced massive bonus payouts for about 1,000 employees, which is approximately one-third of its full-time workforce. GPT-5 is available to all users, with Plus subscribers getting more usage and Pro subscribers getting access to GPT-5 Pro, a version with extended reasoning for even more comprehensive and accurate answers.

# Health officials identify 82 hotspots with high incidence of viral fevers in Khammam

Khammam: The district medical and health department has identified 82 hotspots with a high incidence of viral fevers, dengue, malaria and chikungunya cases.The hotspots were identified based on data from the past four years. Over 200 dengue cases were reported from these areas, according to officials. Sixteen dengue cases have been recorded in government hospitals so far this year, with numbers expected to rise once private hospital cases are included. Official records show more than 40,000 viral fever cases this year, half of them in the past two months alone.

Two persons have died in the district due to dengue after failing to receive timely treatment. Pandiri Appi Reddy (24) of Kusumanchi mandal died at a private hospital, while yoga teacher K. Sridevi of Tallada died on July 24; a medical officer was suspended for alleged negligence in her case.In another case, K. Haritha of Tanikella, who was found to be suffering from viral fever during a fever survey, was advised to get admitted at the local PHC but instead went to a private hospital and died as her condition worsened, Pedagogathi PHC health officer Dr. Ramakrishna said.

District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Kalavathi Bai and DTCO Dr. Subba Rao visited Bonakal and Tirumalayapalem mandals, where dengue cases were recently reported, to raise awareness among locals on pre-



ventive measures against mosquitoes.Dr. Kalavathi Bai said a door-to-door fever survey was under way, with focus on sanitation and dropping oil balls in drainages. District Collector Anudeep Durisetty stated that steps were being taken to control the spread of seasonal diseases such as malaria and dengue.Residents in both villages and towns have complained of poor sanitation, which they said was contributing to mosquito breeding. They alleged that gram panchayat and municipal officials were failing to carry out cleaning activities regularly.

# Reviving civic engagement in health governance

The ‘Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (Medicine at people’s doorstep)’ scheme, introduced in Tamil Nadu in August 2021, and the Karnataka’s Gruha Arogya scheme, launched in October 2024 and expanded to all districts in June 2025, aim to deliver health care at doorsteps for persons with non-communicable diseases.Several other States are implementing similar programmes. While such initiatives represent significant strides toward proactive health care, they also prompt a profound question: as the system strives to reach people’s doorsteps, to what extent are citizens themselves able to reach, engage with, and influence health governance at different levels formally?The subject of citizen engagementHealth governance, once a government-led function, now includes diverse actors such as civil society, professional bodies, hospital associations and trade unions. It operates through formal and informal social processes, with power dynamics shaping participation and influence. Public engagement in health policy processes is essential because it affirms self-respect, counters epistemic injustice and upholds democratic values by enabling people to shape decisions affecting their health and health-care services.

Inclusive participation strengthens accountability, challenges elite dominance and reduces corruption. Without it, health governance risks becoming oppressive and unjust. Moreover, engaging communities fosters collaboration with frontline workers, improves service uptake, and supports better health outcomes. It also builds mutual understanding and trust between communities and providers.The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched in 2005, institutionalised public engagement in India’s health governance through platforms such as Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs) and Rogi Kalyan Samitis. These were designed to be inclusive, particularly of women and marginalised groups, and supported by untied funds for local initiatives. In urban areas, key platforms for civic participation include Mahila Arogya Samitis, Ward Committees, and non-government organisation-led committees. Despite their potential, in some areas these committees have not been established, while in others where they do exist, they face persistent challenges such as ambiguous roles, infrequent meetings, underutilisation of funds, poor intersectoral coordination, and deeply rooted social hierarchies.

Where the problem liesA major challenge in India’s health system lies in the prevailing mindset toward public engagement. Policymakers, health administrators and providers often view communities as passive recipients of care rather than as active participants in shaping health systems. Programme performance is typically measured through target-based metrics, such as the number of “beneficiaries” reached, with little reflection on how programmes are implemented or experienced on the ground.

The use of the term “beneficiaries” itself signals a deeper issue: it frames citizens as objects of intervention, not as rights-holders or co-creators of health systems. Although the National Health Mission promotes bottom-up planning, including community participation in Programme Implementation Plans, such engagement is rare in practice.Health governance spaces remain dominated by medical professionals, predominantly trained in western biomedical models. Health administrative leadership, across national, State, district, and sub-district levels, is typically



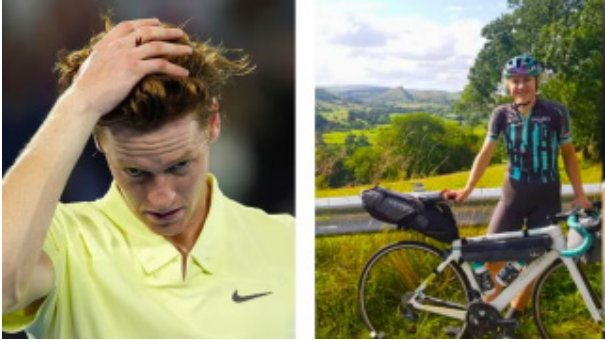
As States begin to bring health care directly to doorsteps, steps must be taken to engage communities as active participants in shaping health systems

held by doctors who are expected to learn public health administration on the job. Promotions are often based on seniority rather than public health expertise, reinforcing a medicalised and hierarchical system that remains disconnected from community realities.Scholarly work on health policy suggests that resistance to public engagement often stems from concerns over increased workload, greater accountability pressures, regulatory capture by dominant medical and capitalist interests, and the absence of a level playing field in governance processes.In the absence of functional or inclusive engagement platforms, citizens often resort to alternative channels, such as protests, media campaigns, and legal action to make their voices heard. These responses reflect a deep and unmet need for participation, voice and accountability in health governance in India.The need for a shift

A fundamental mindset shift is needed among governance actors. Community engagement must no longer be seen as merely to achieve programme targets. Treating people as instrumental to health outcomes is not only reductive but also deeply disrespectful to their agency and dignity. Participatory processes are as important as the outcomes they seek to achieve.To enable meaningful community engagement in health governance, we must adopt a two-pronged approach. First, this involves actively empowering communities: disseminating information about health rights and governance platforms; fostering civic awareness early; making intentional efforts to reach marginalised groups; and equipping citizens with knowledge, tools, and resources needed to participate effectively in health care decision-making processes.Second, we must sensitise health system actors to move beyond framing poor awareness as the sole reason for low health-seeking behaviour and health-care utilisation among people.This narrow approach risks individualising blame, further victimising already vulnerable populations, and ignoring the structural determinants of health inequities. True transformation requires that health professionals view communities as partners, not passive recipients, and that they work collaboratively to address root causes. Establishing platforms for public engagement is a necessary starting point, but these platforms must be activated, strengthened, and made meaningful.



## Why did a professional cyclist struggle to watch Jannik Sinner win Wimbledon?



GNS News Agency, August 21

Lizzy Banks, a professional women's cyclist who had failed a drugs test and was eventually given a two-year ban, says she struggled to watch Jannik Sinner play the Wimbledon final. "I can't tell you how difficult it was to watch Wimbledon this year. I watched the men's final and I didn't expect it to hit me like that, I was so upset. I want to make it clear that I don't think Jannik Sinner purposely took anything. He was given his zero-month sanction, like I was. It was appealed to CAS, like mine was. And then he got the most handy time, a three-month sanction, and then he was able to just go straight back to it," Banks told The Times. "I was never even offered a deal, but I wouldn't have taken it anyway."

Her reaction was because of how her own career played out because of that ban. Initially, she was given no ban as UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) had agreed that there had been contamination and it was no fault of hers. But WADA

refused to accept the opinion of UKAD's expert witness, professor David Cowan, and instead fought for and secured a two-year ban later. Her ordeal began in May 2023 when she took a routine urine test that led to a positive finding for a diuretic called Chrotraldione, which she claims she had not even heard of before. Her conclusion, and which was supported by the professor Cowan after his investigations, was that one of medications she took to treat asthma or a pill she took after a dental treatment perhaps had been contaminated in the manufacturing process.

But CAS panel didn't agree to her version and though they described her as a "person of integrity", said that she was unable to prove the source of the contamination and hence warranted a ban, which was back-dated and is now served. It's for this reason that she struggled to watch Sinner play and win Wimbledon. "Then they came out and said this case [Sinner's] is a million miles from doping. Well, how does that make me feel? Just because I'm little old me and nobody cares about me I have to go through hell, and he gets to go and win Wimbledon." She told The Times newspaper about how her life was completely upset after the ban. "I was an athlete of integrity who took the utmost care in her anti-doping responsibilities, who was unknowingly exposed to a contaminant-sized dose of an obsolete diuretic with an impossibility of tracing the source because of a 79-day delay. And so is that really proportional to my career being completely lost, my identity being lost, my health being destroyed for two years, my husband's health being destroyed for two years, loss of earnings for two years, the impact that will have on other earnings in the future. Is that proportional?"

## IPL teams missed out on a 'golden opportunity,' says AB de Villiers as Dewald Brevis' 41-ball ton heaps misery on Australia

GNS News Agency, August 21

Dewald Brevis became the youngest South African to hit a T20I century during 2nd T20I against Australia in Darwin. (Cricket Australia) Dewald Brevis became the youngest South African to hit a T20I century during 2nd T20I against Australia in Darwin. South African batter Dewald Brevis decimated the Australian bowling attack to hit a 41-ball century during the second T20I between both sides at the Marrara Cricket Ground in Darwin on Tuesday, becoming the youngest centurion from his country in this format. Known as Baby AB (on South African great AB de Villiers) for his range-hitting abilities and playing style, Brevis set the stage on fire with his 56-ball 125-run innings.

The 22-year-old hit 12 fours and eight sixes and ended up scoring the highest individual total by a South African in this format. His blitzkrieg knock helped South Africa post a massive target of 219 runs. Brevis' 41-ball ton is also the second fastest T20I century by a South African. De Villiers heaped praises on Brevis and said Indian Premier League teams missed a 'golden opportunity' to pick this young hitter. de Villiers wrote on X, "There was such a golden opportunity for IPL teams to pick up Dewald Brevis at the auction! Missed out badly. CSK either got very lucky, or maybe



the biggest master stroke ever. The boy can play." He added: "Mind boggling that he wasn't picked up at all! To think that he came in as an injury sub." Brevis' arrival in IPL 2025 is a story in itself. Drafted in mid-season as an injury replacement by Chennai Super Kings, Brevis' impact was immediate on CSK's otherwise poor season. In the three-match T20I series, Australia are leading 1-0 after winning the first match by 17 runs where Tim David shone with the bat and scored 83 while South African opener Ryan Rickelton's half-century went in vain.

## MS Dhoni's 100-crore defamation suit: Madras HC orders commencement of trial

GNS News Agency, August 21

The Madras High Court on Monday ordered that a trial commence in what is now a 10-year-old defamation suit which was filed by former Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Dhoni is seeking Rs 100 crore in damages from Zee Media Corporation, journalist Sudhir Chaudhary, retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer G Sampath Kumar, and News Nation Network for having dragged his name in the Indian Premier League betting scam.

Dhoni has told the court that he would be available for examination as well as cross-examination between October 20 and December 10 this year, according to a report in The Hindu. The report added that Justice CV Karthikeyan had appointed an advocate commissioner to record evidence from Dhoni on a "mutually convenient" premises in Chennai. The court said this was being done because the court wanted to avoid chaos on the court premises if Dhoni was to make an appearance. Senior counsel PR Raman submitted an sworn affidavit from Dhoni, where he has shown his intent to proceed with the trial in the defamation suit.

While Dhoni filed the suit in 2014, the trial has been pending for 11 years because of multiple applications taken out by the defending parties seeking relief. Back in 2014, it was reported that Dhoni, in his suit, had submitted that the defendants had run defamatory and scandalous false reports since February 11, 2014. Dhoni's suit had mentioned how Zee Media Corporation Limited, known as Zee News,



and Sudhir Chaudhary, Editor and Business Head of Zee News Channel (known as the first and second defendants) in collusion with IPS officer G Sampath Kumar (the third defendant) have been telecasting and broadcasting and posting in their websites false reports insinuating that Dhoni was involved in illegal activities of betting, match fixing and spot fixing. Similarly, News Nation (defendant no 4) had joined the tirade against Dhoni and later on went to the extent of stating that Dhoni was summoned by the Tamil Nadu police, which was also utterly false, the affidavit had stated.

## Italian athlete Mattia Debertolis dies at World Games in China, cause of death unknown

GNS News Agency, August 21

An Italian athlete, Mattia Debertolis, has passed away after collapsing during the World Games in China last week. The 29-year-old, who competes in a sport called orienteering, was found unconscious by organisers during a competition last Friday in Chengdu. It must be noted that the cause of death for Debertolis remains unknown at this stage.

Four days after his collapse, Debertolis passed away on Tuesday. Debertolis was found unconscious during the Men's Middle Distance competition of orienteering on Friday morning. Despite receiving immediate expert medical care at one of China's leading medical institutions, he passed away. "I am not able to adequately describe in words the unfathomable depth of sadness in this tragic loss of life. Our thoughts are with all who mourn Mattia. I encourage the global orienteering community to honor his memory," International Orienteering Federation (IOF) President Tom Hollowell said in a statement.

What is orienteering?

Orienteering is an outdoor adventure sport where ath-

letes navigate between checkpoints or controls marked on a special orienteering map. There is no set route. The challenge is to complete the course in the quickest time.

Who was Mattia Debertolis?

Debertolis was part of the Italian Orienteering Federation's team at the World Games 2025. He was a member of the Italian national team and participated in several World Championships and World Cups. He ended 5th with the Italian team in the World Cup Final 2022 Relay. The IOF in a statement added: "In his childhood and youth years, Mattia was active both in orienteering, cross-country skiing and football. His love for navigating and finding the control points made him prioritize orienteering and pursue a career within elite orienteering." Mattia was not only an elite athlete, but also a highly skilled civil engineer, with studies in progress for a PhD at the university in Stockholm, where he lived and was part of the orienteering club IFK Lidingö. In addition to this impressive combination with his athlete career, he supported his family with their local hotel in his home valley Primiero.

## Why Magnus Carlsen loves chess, but cannot stand preparing for games



GNS News Agency, August 21

It's been a few weeks since the wantaway king of chess, Magnus Carlsen, won his seventh title of 2025. Most events that Carlsen has won so far this year have been snowflake-like unique: a classical tournament at Stavanger in the form of Norway Chess, a rapid and blitz event in Zagreb with the SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz Croatia, the Grenke Freestyle Chess event, and finally, the chess event at the Esports World Cup in Saudi Arabia at the start of the month.

It's been an interesting year for Carlsen, who, despite having abdicated the world champion's throne a few years back, still sits pretty on top of the world rankings after getting there more than a decade back. He's grumbled multiple times — at Norway Chess and then during the rapid section of the SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz at Croatia — about not feeling at his best or not being motivated enough. The year has also brought defeats for Carlsen at the hands of young Indian challengers: Gukesh at Norway Chess and the Croatia rapid event, Praggnanandhaa at Freestyle Chess and a much-talked about draw that must have felt like a defeat at the hands of a nine-year-old Delhi boy, Aarit Kapil, in an online Titled Tuesday tournament. Last month, after Gukesh defeated Carlsen in a rapid game at the SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz event, Garry Kasparov, a man who Carlsen still considers the greatest player in chess history and who briefly coached the Norwegian, raised a few eyebrows when he declared: "Now we can question Magnus' domination. It's a convincing loss, not a miracle... or that Gukesh benefitted from Magnus' mistake. It was a big fight. And Magnus lost." Carlsen responded by going on a tear in the blitz portion and leaving the rest of the field in his slipstream, gasping for air, as he won the title. The Esports World Cup title in Saudi Arabia came shortly after. After his victory in Riyadh he was asked if he would play again at the Esports World Cup next year. Or would he move on, looking for a new challenge?

"As long as I know how the pieces move, I will try (to play) and do my very best in the Esports World Cup for years to come," Carlsen said with a smile on his face. It's a paradox that the chess world is still grappling with. Some days, like after winning the Esports World Cup, Carlsen looks like a hopeless romantic, in love with the act of marshalling a wooden army across the battlefield of 64 squares. On other days, like during Norway Chess after the defeat to Gukesh, Carlsen looks like he's trapped in a bad relationship with the sport. "It's not that I cannot play classical chess. But in situations like that (the loss to Gukesh), I was wondering, 'why am I doing this? What's the point?'"

This might come across like a lament of a man who's had a bad day at the job. But it's more than that. It's almost an act of soul searching. Plenty has been made about Carlsen's disaffection for classical chess — the longest and the most prestigious format of the sport. But the format itself is just one part of it. Carlsen is a man who loves playing chess. But, he doesn't enjoy the act of preparing to play it, which is why he loves the Freestyle Chess events. At the Grenke Freestyle Open with no prep needed, Carlsen won

all nine of his games to claim the title.

At Norway Chess, it wasn't uncommon to see Carlsen head off for long rounds of golf with his long-time second Peter Heine-Nielsen and return less than an hour before the start of a game. It also isn't uncommon to see him play online Titled Tuesday tournaments in the middle of over-the-board events that he's playing in. Meanwhile, players like Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi would not even be seen at the hotel for breakfasts or lunches as they trained like an UPSC aspirant to crack the most difficult exam of their lives. Last year during Norway Chess, Heine-Nielsen had spoken about what it was like being Carlsen's second since his pre-teenage years. He started off with a tale about what Magnus' father Henrik told him in one of their first conversations together when he formally started working as a coach. "His father said, 'I have to explain the principles of working with Magnus. If he wants to do chess, he can do it. But if he doesn't want to play, you are not allowed to push him,'" Heine-Nielsen told Heine-Nielsen had gone on to explain what training with Carlsen looked like. "At the age of 15, he used to come for training camps. We would play blitz, we would analyse chess, and we would talk about things. He would always look at chess anyway! But that push to make him play chess has not existed. He generally likes playing chess. That he does not want to play in the world championship is because the ratio between preparing to actually playing is too big. That's why he likes playing shorter time control games. You get more games, different opponents." With Magnus, he might not always check the files properly (the opening preparation ideas prepared by his team of seconds), and neglect the opening phase. That's his choice. But when he's at the board, he's giving his absolute best. There, he is extremely professional. He might have a bad day, and that's absolutely human," Heine-Nielsen added. Carlsen gave a peek into his mindset in February on the Joe Rogan Experience podcast, when he went as far as calling chess as a "little bit of a hobby" for him. "I'm known in the chess world for being a little bit lazy," he admitted to Rogan. "I've never been the kind of person who wakes up in the morning and works six-seven hours on chess like a normal job. It's a little bit of a hobby for me, once it feels like work, it's harder for me. I think about chess all the time."

He goes on to explain how his way of training was not like the Soviet Union's famed chess school, where there would be a lot of discipline, and regimented work when the players trained. "The most important thing that I have done is that I haven't really listened to people who want me to do things a certain way because that's the way things have always been done, like with the Soviet Chess School. I've gone my own way. I've tried to have as much fun as I can. Everything has to be about enjoyment," he said.

So what does Carlsen still enjoy about chess?

"He's a chess fan. He loves the game, he loves playing it, the history of chess, the environment. Chess is basically everything to him as an identity. He has his legacy in chess. He makes his money from chess, even though it's still kind of a hobby, which turned out to be lucrative and something he could live off," Magnus' father Henrik told The Indian Express earlier this year during Norway Chess. Henrik, who probably understands Magnus' psyche best, does not get into the specifics of how many hours his son trains for during tournaments. But he says that Magnus does "think" a lot about an upcoming tournament as part of preparing for it even if he does not train for as many hours as the Soviet Union's champions back in the day or the Indian prodigies do now. "He likes golf a lot these days. He follows football and the NBA very closely. But chess is his life, basically. He's grateful for it as a sport. You can see he goes online to play, even during a tournament like Norway Chess. Sometimes he will go at night and play Titled Tuesday or something, just play games. Because he's a chess player!"

## Harry Maguire: 'Everyone dislikes Manchester United' and says 'physicality of our squad wasn't good enough' last season

GNS News Agency, August 21

Manchester United's Harry Maguire walks off the pitch after the Europa League first leg quarterfinal soccer match between Manchester United and Sevilla at the Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, Thursday, April 13, 2023. (AP Photo/Dave Thompson) Manchester United's Harry Maguire walks off the pitch after the Europa League first leg quarterfinal soccer match between Manchester United and Sevilla at the Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, Thursday, April 13, 2023. (Manchester United's 32-year old centre-back player Harry Maguire has urged his team-mates to be mentally prepared to be "hated" and that they have to "thrive off the pressure".

"There's more scrutiny on Manchester United, just because more people in the country hate them. And that's just a fact. Everyone in the Premier League dislikes Man United and they don't want to see them do well. So there is more scrutiny on Manchester United, whereas England, everyone gets together. And England's another story. What happens with England is when you get over 30, the fans start to think 'get out'. They want to play these young guys who are coming through who have amazing highlights on Twitter and things," Maguire said in Rio Ferdinand Presents podcast.

He urged this club teammates to start the new season with the motivation to feed off pressure. "Mental strength definitely has a big part to play. You've got to thrive off the pressure and you've got to play like you're playing in a playground — and that's what we've struggled to find over the last ten years. There has been a transition period, obviously. When Alex Ferguson was here, we had the best team by far and won all the trophies. But in the transition period at the moment, the reality is that we're not the best team." He said that he has noted that many players are unable to handle the pressure of playing for the club and don't last long. "I see a lot of players at Manchester United break through in one or two years. And then, after the second year, you start getting questioned and the form dips a little bit. It happens so much. It's really important to have good support around you, good family around you. But obviously, some players come from different countries and don't have that. So the main thing I always say is that you can only do what you can do. And on the football pitch, you get judged." Maguire cited the example of Bruno Fernandes as the model player on how to handle pressure and perform. "It's how people and how the lads can adapt to that level of scrutiny and to keep going through that scrutiny. Bruno Fernandes is a perfect example. He doesn't care what anyone thinks and he believes in his ability — and shows it on the pitch." The undue scrutiny and pressure is an inevi-



Manchester United's 32-year old centre-back player Harry Maguire has urged his team-mates to be mentally prepared to be "hated" and that they have to "thrive off the pressure". "There's more scrutiny on Manchester United, just because more people in the country hate them. And that's just a fact. Everyone in the Premier League dislikes Man

table part of playing for Manchester United, he says. "And when you play for this club, everything gets analysed. Every goal that goes in the back of the net is someone's fault. You do become used to it. But for a young boy coming into it, when you're a young boy, you have no fear. And then, once you make a couple of mistakes, after a couple of seasons, people then start expecting things from you. And then that is when the real test comes." Maguire believes that the Manchester United players weren't fit enough last season.

"And it's really good that we've had a full pre-season to work under this manager [Ruben Amorim]. He spoke about it a lot last season that we just didn't have a chance to train." When he first took over, I think the physicality of our squad wasn't good enough for the Premier League. We couldn't run hard enough. We didn't win enough duels. He's realised that now we have got a full pre-season and I think the lads are looking leaner and sharper. We now have good competition for places and I'm sure they'll bring in a couple more. But it's looking a lot brighter."



# 'Rekha asked to meet me in the same studio where they shoot Amitabh Bachchan's Kaun Banega Crorepati': Parineeta's breakout talent recalls life-changing interaction

While Parineeta remains seminal part of Hindi cinema history for having introduced actor Vidya Balan to the industry, it also launched the career of musician Shantanu Moitra. The musical drama completes 20 years in 2025, and several of those involved have been recalling fond memories of the project in recent weeks, and paying tribute to the film's late director, Pradeep Sarkar. In a new interview, Shantanu recalled an anecdote from the film's shoot, which involved his first meeting with the legendary star Rekha. She performed a cameo in the song "Kaisi Paheli Zindaagani."He told Radio Nasha, "When I found out that Rekha ji was doing 'Kaisi Paheli', I was like, 'Wow'. But let me tell you a story about that. I got a call from Pradeep Sarkar. He called me to the set for the song's shoot. But I was working on some other songs at the time, so I told him that I was busy. He said that Rekha ji wanted to meet me. I was stunned. They took me to her makeup room. They were shooting the song in the same set where they shoot Kaun Banega Crorepati these days. This was the first time I'd been inside a makeup room, and it had those light bulbs around the mirror. Back to camera, the diva was sitting."

Shantanu continued, "She looked around and asked, 'You've made the song? It's amazing, I hope I can do justice to it. I have a small request. I would like you to stay for the shoot.' She was talking to a first-timer, I will never forget it. She would occasionally make eye-contact with me, as if to ask if it was going alright." He praised the director painstakingly crafted storyboards, and said that every single shot was designed in advance.

Despite Amitabh Bachchan and Rekha consistently denying involvement with each other, it's doubtful if any other relationship rumour in Bollywood has endured as long or as intensely. Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan and Rekha in director Yash Chopra's Silsila. In a recent interview, Vidya opened about Sarkar, and said that she owes her career to him. But they had a falling out after Parineeta's success, after she refused to work with him on a couple of

# Abused by mother, Bollywood's biggest child star would be denied food after slaving all day, danced for money on stage; no one from Bollywood attended her funeral

Born Salma Baig in Mumbai in 1944, she didn't take long to become Bollywood's highest-paid child actor. The early success came with its own setbacks, and her life story remains one of the most tragic in Hindi cinema history. Salma was abused and exploited by her stage mother, who kicked her invalid husband out of their house and shackled up with married man who funded his own life with Naaz's earnings. By the age of 10, Naaz had reached the end of the rope and didn't want to live. She was 'saved' twice by her nanny. Her mother's reaction to watching her in such despair? More beatings, more emotionally abusive tirades. Like so many other child stars, Naaz didn't make it as an adult. She took to dubbing for South Indian actresses in Hindi movies. The most famous person she dubbed for was Sridevi, but when she started lending her voice to other actresses, Sridevi severed ties with her in a huff.Over the course of her career, Naaz worked with everyone from Dilip Kumar and Raj Kapoor to Nargis and Asha Parekh. Raj Kapoor even offered to send her to school in Switzerland, but her mother refused. In an interview with Stardust, Naaz bared her soul, and said that she squarely blames her mother for her tragic childhood. She also didn't mince words as she expressed the hate she felt for the man her mother had an affair with, the man who married off all three of his daughters with her money. She said that she'd slog for four shifts a day, and would return home to an indifferent mother who wouldn't even feed her. "I can't count the number of times I've gone to bed hungry," she said.

Baby Naaz, Nargis and Ritu (daughter of Raj Kapoor) at the muhurat of film Boot Polish. Express archive photo Baby Naaz, Nargis and Ritu (daughter of Raj Kapoor) at the muhurat of film Boot Polish. Express archive photo

Narrating her life story, Naaz began, "My father, Mirza Dawood Baig, was a story-writer who was not doing well in his profession. Our family had no other source of income and we were hard up for money. It was very difficult to make ends meet and so, I was made to dance on the stage for money. I used to get about a hundred rupees per show and somehow, we managed. Since I loved dancing I enjoyed it in the beginning, but I was too young to realise, that slowly and steadily the whole responsibility of earning a living was being put on my little shoulders. I never realised how and when I was trapped into being the only earning member in the family."Naaz began working at the age of four, and realised not long afterwards that hers was not a regular childhood. "I will never be able to for-give my mother nor forget her greed for money," she said. Naaz was desperate to study and make something of herself. But her mother wouldn't hear of it. She even rejected Raj Kapoor's offer to send Naaz to school in Switzerland. Not only did she make Naaz slog like a workhorse, she accepted every offer that came their way.Baby Naaz with Dilip Kumar. Express archive photo Baby Naaz with Dilip Kumar.

Naaz continued in the Stardust interview, "I left studies, for my mother didn't stop accepting films on my behalf and my father stopped working. My mother was too used to making money out of me and didn't want to forgo this easy life. She wanted me to work for her comforts and I was both too young and in awe of my parents to refuse. There were no games, no friends, no proper sleep or food for me. Whenever I came back tired from a shooting, my parents were busy with their own problems and had no time for me. They fought with each other all the time. They didn't even realise that I had come back home and gone off to sleep without food. Even if they did, none of them even bothered to give me a glass of milk. I cannot count the times I have slept without food."Naaz didn't blame her unwell father; she blamed her mother for becoming 'overambitious'. When Naaz became an established face in the industry, her mother began an affair with a cameraman and kicked Naaz's father out of their house. For two years, Naaz didn't see her father, and had no idea where he was. It was during this time that she starred in acclaimed films such as Boot Polish and Devdas. Her performance as a street child in



projects she didn't believe in. They remained on sour terms until his death, and Vidya said that she regrets not patching things up with him. "Saying no to Dada was very tough, and I used to call him every day to know how he was. It's so sad that someone who I feel so much gratitude towards, I didn't manage to keep in touch with. I felt misunderstood, and someone told me that 'don't let gratitude become a noose.' But when he passed away, I was so broken. I wanted to tell him that whatever I am is because of Parineeta," she told Filmfare.Rekha and Amitabh Bachchan worked together on several films, and have long been subjected to salacious rumours even though they haven't collaborated in over four decades. In a 2006 interview with Filmfare for Bachchan's 64th birthday, she said, "Whatever I am as an actor, I owe 100 per cent to him. I just soaked in whatever he had to offer just observing him... When fans write to me and question why we haven't worked together after Silsila, the only rational answer that I can think of is that the wait to be able to co-star with Amitji is worth it. That everything happens for the right reason at the right time."



# Made to slave away for four shifts daily, Bollywood's highest-paid child star was sent to bed hungry. She couldn't make it as an adult, and made a living dubbing for Sridevi in Hindi films before her death at the age of 51.

Boot Polish, produced by RK Studios, even earned her a special award at the Cannes Film Festival.Baby Naaz with her mother and Raj Kapoor. Express archive photo on 04.10.1954 Baby Naaz with her mother and Raj Kapoor. Express archive photo on 04.10.1954

"I felt choked. I wanted breathing space. I couldn't take it any more and that is when I first tried to end my life. My ayah used to tell me stories about how people ended their lives by jumping into a well. So, one day when I was all alone at home, I ran to the well. Somehow, my ayah who spotted me, ran after me and brought me home. She was the only one who cared for me. Do you know what my mother did when she heard about my attempted suicide? No, she didn't take me in her arms and cry, nor did she plead with me not to do it again. She never shed a tear, instead, that woman slapped me hard and screamed at me. I couldn't believe her reaction and it shattered me. I was more miserable than ever. Things didn't change with time. They went from bad to worse and I tried to run away from home and jump into the well again. But my ayah saved me a second time too."Naaz lamented that even after working for three decades, she was right back where she'd started. Her parents were both dead at the time of the Stardust interview, but her career had basically ended. She found happiness after she married Subbiraj, an actor who was distantly related to the Kapoors. She started working as a dubbing artist. "I have started compering Kalyanji-Anandji Nites here and abroad. I do occasional programmes for the Bombay Doordarshan and a lot of dubbing for some South Indian heroines like Sridevi. So does my husband. Somehow, at the back of my mind there always lingers a feeling that one day a break will come. I'll get a chance again, when I will be able to prove that I was not just a fluke. I don't know when I'll get the name and fame again, but I'll keep trying..." she trailed off.But it was not to be. Naaz died at the age of 51, after suffering from a chronic liver ailment. Her husband said that she would chew tobacco constantly. She fell into a coma in her final days, and passed away peacefully. Filmmaker and journalist Khalid Mohammed wrote in an article for the Daily Eye that no one from the film industry attended her funeral.

# Param Sundari trailer: Sidharth Malhotra-Janhvi Kapoor-starrer is another fun North-meets-South rom-com drama, fans have high expectations: 'Saiyaara and now this'

Param Sundari trailer: The trailer for Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor's upcoming rom-com drama Param Sundari was released on Tuesday. The two-minute-forty-second video offers a glimpse of a sweet, lighthearted North-meets-South love story. Showcasing cultural diversity in a vibrant manner, the film features Sidharth as Punjabi boy Param and Janhvi as South Indian girl Sundari. Directed by Tushar Jalota, Param Sundari promises to bring back the charm of old-school Bollywood romance.

The clip opens with Param and Sundari playfully flirting in a church. She's a dancer from Kerala, while he hails from Delhi. Their lively bond is sprinkled with filmy references—until she accuses him of toying with everyone's emotions, forcing him to prove otherwise. Sundari even gives a special shout-out to South Indian stars Rajinikanth, Mohanlal, Allu Arjun, and Yash.Netizens took to social media to share their excitement for Param Sundari, with many comparing it to Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda's recent blockbuster romantic film Saiyaara. "Bollywoods old rom com era is back. Saiyaara and now this. looks promising," a fan wrote. "Thank god a good romcom! Will watch," another person commented. "Janhvi's dialogue at the end was too funny, such a fun romantic movie after a long time. Old Bollywood is back!" a comment read.

In a statement, Janhvi Kapoor said, "Sundari is deeply personal to me. Her grace, quiet strength, and love for her roots resonate with my own South Indian heritage. Shooting in Kerala, surrounded by such beauty, I felt an emotional connection to her world that I hope the audience will feel too."Sidharth added, "With Param Sundari, I feel like I'm revisiting the kind of romance I



grew up loving, but telling it in a way that feels fresh and relatable. Param has that Delhi boy charm, with a love story that makes you cross worlds. We wanted it to look as beautiful as it feels, and Kerala's magic really made that happen. I hope the audience feels the same warmth and joy we felt while making it."Besides Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor, Param Sundari also features Rajeev Khandelwal and Aakash Dahiya in key roles. The makers have already released two songs from the film's music album – "Pardesiya" and "Bheegi Saree". Produced by Dinesh Vijan, the movie is set to hit the big screen on August 29.

# CM Punk accepts Paul Heyman's challenge, only to be ambushed by a 'pinked-out' Seth Rollins; their fate for Clash In Paris has been decided

The wheels are moving, and the WWE is trying to gain some serious momentum post the release of their new documentary Unreal on Netflix. The company's next PLE is Clash In Paris, and during this week's episode of Raw, the fans were informed about probably the most important match on the card, for the heavyweight championship. Currently the title is held by Seth Rollins, who won it after he cashed in his MITB contract during Summerslam. CM Punk had just gone through a grueling match and was in no condition to play it back one more time. Rollins made quick work of him and snatched the title, making it his sixth world championship.

During Raw, Punk came out to the ring and demanded his title shot, only to be interrupted by LA Knight, whose match against Rollins ended in no contest because Punk attacked the champion. As both men continued the argument, Paul Heyman came out to set up a match between the teams of Bronson Reed-Bron Breaker and CM Punk-LA Knight. The duo accepted the challenge, and they almost got a victory out of it when Seth showed up to the ring and attacked Punk, forcing the referee to call off the match. But as Seth and his crew started walking away from the ring, Raw manager Adam Pearce walked out and announced that Seth will now have to defend his title against Punk, Knight and Jey Uso at the Clash In Paris.

With this development, WWE has now announced three matches for their PLE in Paris, including Naomi vs Stephanie Vaquer for the Women's Championship and John Cena vs Logan Paul. The latter of the three matches will presumably serve as a bridge in Cena's ongoing feud with Brock Lesnar, who attacked him after SummerSlam ended. Cena shocked fans before the event when he turned to the good side once again and became a babyface (good guy). Even though Cena lost the championship to Cody Rhodes during SummerSlam, the support from the fans only grew,



as the entire WWE Universe slowly realized they were witnessing the final matches of the 17-time world champion.John Cena has been on his farewell tour this year and will officially retire from in-ring performances come December. Since announcing his retirement, Cena has wrestled several of his marquee opponents, such as CM Punk, Randy Orton, and Cody Rhodes, and he even won the Elimination Chamber. The Trainwreck actor made history during Wrestlemania 41, as he broke legend Ric Flair's record of holding 16 world championships. With only a handful of events left in the year, the story of Brock Lesnar vs Cena makes sense, and beating Logan Paul on his way could prove to be the right strategy for the company and Cena himself.

# Jennifer Aniston opens up about her divorce from Brad Pitt: 'It was such juicy reading for people'

Actors Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt were introduced to each other by their managers in 1994, and the couple got married at the turn of the century. Pitt became the 'it' guy of Hollywood, while Aniston started coming into her own as a bonafide television star with Friends, but they weren't destined to ride off into the sunset together, and they split in 2005. In a recent interview, Aniston pulled back the curtains a bit and talked about her divorce and how she coped with being under the spotlight during that difficult time.

While talking to Vanity Fair, Jennifer Aniston recalled a feature interview she had given to the same organisation just after her divorce. She called it a "jarring experience" and pointed out that it was a very vulnerable time for her. She said, "I haven't looked at that article in forever. I just remember the experience of doing it, which was kind of jarring. It was also such a vulnerable time. But yeah, that was one for the memoirs."Back in 2006, while Jennifer Aniston was dealing with her divorce, she was offered the role of



Brooke Meyers in the movie The Break-Up. The actor admitted that the producers weren't very confident while pitching the movie to her because of all that was happening in her personal life.

She said, "It was kind of cathartic to go right from that. So when they came to me, they were a little nervous about making the offer because they thought, 'Oh, is that insensitive? Is it inap-

propriate?' But I actually thought, 'What a great opportunity.' I knew it would actually kind of benefit me emotionally, just as a human being, and also serve the script and the character pretty well."The Friends also star admitted that the media coverage of her divorce really got to her and said that she didn't have the strength to not let it all affect her. "It was such juicy reading for people. If they

didn't have their soap operas, they had their tabloids. It's a shame that it had to happen, but it happened. And boy did I take it personally. We're human beings, even though some people don't want to believe we are. They think, 'You signed up for it, so you take it.' But we really didn't sign up for that," said the actor.Jennifer Aniston will next be seen in season 4 of The Morning Show, which will be available for stream