

Early diagnosis can prevent heart-related deaths: Dr Surya Prakasa Rao

Kothagudem: Early diagnosis could help prevent sudden deaths caused by heart diseases, said noted interventional cardiologist Dr Surya Prakasa Rao Vithala of CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.He coordinated a free mega cardiac health camp organised by CARE Hospitals in association with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Kothagudem chapter at the KCOA Club here. The camp marked Dr Surya Prakasa Rao's 30 years of service in the Kothagudem area. The camp aimed to screen patients showing symptoms of heart ailments so they could be treated in the early stages, as many patients were dying before reaching hospitals. "There is a high incidence of heart ailments in the Kothagudem area," he said.

Five bedrooms, two offices, a family lounge & more: Inside the new MP houses in Delhi

GNS News Agency, August 11

Members of Parliament will soon be getting new accommodation as Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated a new apartment complex on Baba Kharak Singh Marg in Delhi.A change from the existing sprawling bungalows and lush green lawns in Lutyens' Delhi, the new housing for 184 MPs will be in the form of flats, which Modi pointed out will improve the "ease of living" for them.The complex has four residential towers, with 23 floors each, and comprises 184 flats. Each tower has two basement levels, a stilt floor, and a fire refuge floor.The MPs allotted flats in the complex will have a unit spanning 461.5 square metres.The flat will also have an MP office and an office for their personal assistant; both of these offices will have attached toilets.Each unit will also consist of a drawing and dining room, a family lounge, a puja room, and five bedrooms with attached dressing areas and toilets. The wardrobes are modular.

Other amenities in each unit include double-glazed UPVC windows, wooden flooring in the office and master bedroom, vitrified flooring in other rooms, and air conditioning with a VRV system.Provisions include a video door phone, WiFi, centralised cable TV, EPABX telephone, piped natural gas, RO water system, refrigerator, and kitchen geyser.The complex will also have an six-storey amenity block housing shops, a service centre, dispensary, community hall, canteen, club, gym/yoga facilities, and guest



rooms.Green and technology features include a monolithic concrete construction with aluminium shuttering, rooftop solar panels with a 400 KWp capacity, rainwater harvesting, sewage treatment and water recycling, dual plumbing, low-flow fixtures, energy-efficient lighting and fans, and garbage chutes.Two basement levels, stilt, and surface parking can together accommodate 612 vehicles.The campus will also have concrete roads and walkways with lighting, CCTV and boom barriers, DG sets for power backup, landscaped lawns, public toilets, an ATM, and art installations on building exteriors and in reception areas.The apartment complex was completed at a sanctioned cost of Rs 646.53 crore. The project was approved by the Lok Sabha Secretariat in January 2022, and was scheduled for completion by May 2025.

7 dead as van carrying devotees crashes 30 feet down in Khed

GNS News Agency, August 11

bus crashA pickup van carrying devotees lost balance on a slope and fell about 30 feet down, causing the death of seven people, mostly women, in the Pune district Monday afternoon.A pickup van carrying devotees lost balance on a slope and fell about 30 feet down, causing the death of seven people, mostly women, in the Pune district Monday afternoon.According to the police, the accident victims belonged to the Papalwadi village in Khed, and were going to the Kundeshwar Temple on the occasion of Shrivani Somwar.They said the van's driver is suspected to have lost control of the steering on a slope, and the vehicle veered off course, slipped about 30 feet down, and then overturned.After receiving information, a team from the Mhalunge MIDC Police Station rushed to the accident spot. The police said the injured were taken to a hospital, where seven people were pronounced dead.Shivaji Pawar, Deputy Commissioner of Police,



Pimpri Chinchwad, said the accident took place around 1.30 pm. "Attempts are on to identify the victims," said Pawar.Shree Kshetra Kundeshwar Devsthan Temple in Khed is a well-known religious place where people visit in the month of Shravan.

Lok Sabha passes Bills on sports governance, doping amid Opposition din



GNS News Agency, August 11

The Lok Sabha Monday passed the National Sports Governance Bill 2025 and the National Anti-Doping Amendment Bill 2025 by a voice vote amid Opposition protests in the House on the 16th day of its functioning in the Monsoon Session.The Opposition wanted the Bills to be referred to a Parliamentary committee for a detailed study.

In his initial address on the National Sports Governance Bill, when the Opposition was not present in the House, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the idea was to promote sports in the country and win medals for India. "In 10 years, we have to reach the top 10 in sports in the world and in the top five in 2047," the minister said, underlining that 65 per cent of India's population was below 35 years of age, and the youth needed to be trained and encouraged to win medals for the country.

"India is about to bid for the Olympics. So we need a robust and transparent sports system. We will have to align ourselves to the Olympics Charter," Mandaviya said. "In 1975, the first sports guidelines were made, but success wasn't achieved. In 1985, a Bill was planned. In 2011, a sports code came up and a Bill was drafted. It was to reach the Cabinet, but nothing could be achieved because of politics. In 2013, Ajay Maken as Sports Minister tried to bring a Sports Governance Bill. It came to the Cabinet but could not reach Parliament."The Sports Federations lack transparency. Our female athletes should get a chance transparently to take part in sports. We need women members in the sports federations," he added. "We have had detailed discussions for one year on this. A robust Bill has been prepared. I have brought this Bill before the House today. The National Anti-Doping Bill has also been brought. We have to align with global rules on doping."Mandaviya said

that after Independence, the sports sector was not given due importance and India could not perform well internationally, but added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi kickstarted reforms in the sector, and this Bill was part of it.

High Court dismisses election violation case against CM Revanth



Hyderabad, Aug.11 The Telangana High Court on Monday dismissed the case against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy related to an alleged violation of the Election Code. The case had been lodged in October 2019 at Garidepalli police station in the Suryapet district. Revanth Reddy subsequently submitted a petition seeking the dismissal of the charges. Justice K. Laxman, who examined the matter, ruled in favour of dismissing the case.In a separate issue, the Supreme Court admonished petitioner Peddiraju for filing an SC and ST atrocity case against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The bench, led by Chief Justice BR Gavai, instructed him to submit an affidavit of apology to Justice Mousami Bhattacharya of the High Court.

Previously, the Telangana High Court had dismissed Peddiraju's case against Revanth Reddy. Peddiraju later sought to transfer the matter to the Supreme Court's Nagura bench through a transfer petition.The petitioner made inappropriate remarks about the High Court judge.

Workshop on eco-friendly Ganesha making

Hyderabad, Aug.11 A workshop on crafting clay Ganesha idols was held at Sri Chaitanya Junior College, near JNTU Kukatpally on Monday, aimed at encouraging the use of natural materials and sustainable practices for the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

Around 50 girl students of the college have enthusiastically participated in the workshop where they were guided step-by-step by experienced artisans. The hands-on experience was both exciting and educational as the students have learnt about the importance of eco-friendly practices while having fun and a sense of accomplishment from creating the idols with their own hands.The workshop has also raised awareness about the environmental consequences of POP idol immersion, particularly the harm to aquatic life caused by POP and chemical paints and encouraged the students to immerse the clay idols in flower pots, buckets or water drums, or in garden soil, at the end of the celebrations.

PM Modi speaks to Ukraine President Zelenskyy, asserts need for early resolution of conflict

GNS News Agency, August 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (August 11, 2025) conveyed to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that India remains committed to making every possible contribution for a peaceful solution to the Ukraine conflict.The two leaders held a phone conversation that came ahead of a summit meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the conflict.In a social media post, Mr. Modi said he conveyed India's consistent position on the need for an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict. I had a long conversation with the Prime Minister of India @narendramodi. We discussed in detail all important issues – both of our bilateral cooperation and the overall diplomatic situation. I am grateful to the Prime Minister for his warm words of support for our people.

"Glad to speak with President Zelenskyy and hear his perspectives on recent developments. I conveyed India's consistent position on the need for an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict," Mr. Modi said."India remains committed to making every possible contribution in this regard, as well as to further strengthening bilateral ties with Ukraine," he said.On his part, the Ukrainian President said he discussed "in detail" all important issues with Modi that included both "bilateral cooperation and the overall diplomatic situation". "I am grateful to the Prime



Minister for his warm words of support for our people," he said.Mr. Zelenskyy also noted that it is necessary to "limit the export of Russian energy", particularly oil."It is important that India is supporting our peace efforts and shares the position that everything concerning Ukraine must be decided with Ukraine's participation. Other formats will not deliver results," he said."We also discussed in detail the sanctions against Russia. I noted that it is necessary to limit the export of Russian energy, particularly oil, to reduce its potential and ability to finance the continuation of this war. It is important that every leader who has tangible leverage over Russia sends the corresponding signals to Moscow," he said.

Actor Rana Daggubati appears before ED in betting app case

Hyderabad, Aug.11 Telugu film actor Rana Daggubati on Monday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to give his statement regarding the betting app case. Recently, the ED has issued notices to various film personalities involved in promoting betting apps, including Rana, who was summoned to appear before the investigation team at the ED's zonal office in Basheerbagh. During the questioning, ED officials inquired about the actor's financial transactions and banking information. It is important to highlight that Rana, who previously featured in an advertisement for a betting app, has been charged by the Cyberabad police along with several other well-known actors for their involvement in promoting betting. The ED initiated a separate investigation into the situation following the FIR. Allegations have surfaced indicating that the promotion of betting apps by these film personalities enticed many individuals, leading to significant financial losses, with some tragically ending their lives The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued notices to a total of 36 figures from the film



industry up to this point. Rana Daggubati was called to appear on July 23, but he requested to be allowed to come back on August 11 instead. Additionally, notices have been sent to Manchu Lakshmi, requiring her to appear for questioning on August 13. Meanwhile, actors Prakash Raj and Vijay Deverakonda have already met with ED officials and provided their statements regarding the case.

Bhatti defends HYDRAA's inaction against Owaisi's college, says communal colour being added to issue

GNS News Agency, August 11

Hyderabad: Defending HYDRAA's inaction against the Fatima Owaisi Educational Campus built in Salkam Cheruvu, Chandrayangutta, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that in certain cases, the government needed to act on humanitarian grounds.The Fatima Educational Institute, run by the family of AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi in the old city, has become the centre of a political storm after HYDRAA demolished several houses of poor and middle-class families but refrained from taking similar action against the campus, justifying its decision by saying it was acting in the best interests of students.

In an interview with a vernacular news channel, Bhatti said some vested interests were attempting to create unnecessary controversy over the issue. "A few people are trying to make the Fatima Educational Institute episode into a communal issue. In a few cases, where the poor and needy are being served, the government needs to act on humanitarian grounds," he said.When asked about the implementation of the Congress government's six guarantees, the Deputy Chief Minister claimed that, except for one, all had been fulfilled. This was even as the Congress government is yet to roll out the monthly allowance of Rs 2,500 to each woman in the State, the Rythu Bharosa scheme for tenant farmers and farm labourers, the monthly pension of



Rs 4,000 to senior citizens, Rs 5 lakh credit cards to students, and several other promises.On Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy's recent criticism of the Chief Minister and the party, Bhatti said, "I am a witness to the promise made to Rajgopal Reddy. However, at times, in accommodating MLAs into the cabinet, the party high command makes a few decisions."Regarding the phone-tapping controversy involving some Congress Ministers, the Deputy Chief Minister asserted that the State government was not engaged in such activities. "

KTR slams govt over CAG Report

Hyderabad, Aug.11 : BRS party Working President KTR has once again hit out at the ruling Congress government in power in the state. He has reacted strongly to the CAG quarterly report. KTR said that according to the CAG quarterly report, the state's income had decreased significantly and added that the decrease in state's income was ringing alarm bells. "The economic sector is being damaged due to the failure of the Congress government. The government should reveal what it is doing with its debts without implementing a single welfare scheme, without building a single project, without providing good food to students. It may be about the implementation of six guarantees, but the Congress government has ruined the state's economy as a guarantee, KTR alleged.Referring to the points in the latest report given by the CAG, he claimed that the eco-

nomie situation of Telangana had completely deteriorated after Revanth Reddy became the Chief Minister. He also claimed that the state's economic situation had turned upside down within three months of the formation of the Congress government. "While the state's income is decreasing, the debts are increasing. The budget showed a surplus of Rs 2,738 crore, but there was a revenue deficit of Rs 10,583 crore in the first quarter alone. In three months, Rs 20,266 crore was borrowed. Non-tax revenue has also fallen drastically and only 3.37 percent of what was estimated in the budget was collected. Not a single road has been laid. Not a single new project has been built. What will the Congress economic experts say about this situation, who boasted that the Telangana economy is on auto pilot mode," he said.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Centre's take on age of consent issue is bang on

The BJP-led NDA government at the Centre has done exceedingly well while reiterating its objections to reducing the age of consent from 18 years to 16 years to help protect children from exploitation and abuse' in a more authoritative manner. Its contention is quite right in that any further lowering of the existing age would open the floodgates to trafficking and other sordid forms of child abuse apart from diluting the statutory presumption of vulnerability that lies at the heart of child protection law. A grim reality and the country's bane are that many victims don't open or approach higherups because the perpetrators happen to be people known to them, including from within the family, neighbourhood or school. They bear the trauma and anguish in silence because of fear that they would be subject to more harrowing times up ahead. However, there are contrasting opinions as regards consensual sex between adolescents aged 16 to 18 years. The Centre relies on the fact that deep-rooted Indian laws offer an unambiguous intent to provide a "robust, non-negotiable shield" to minors against any form of sexual exploitation. This issue has shot to prominence following the contentions of eminent lawyer and amicus curiae Indira Jaising, who argued that consensual sexual activity between adolescents aged 16 to 18 should not be classified as "abuse" or criminalised under the POCSO Act. Incidentally, the Law Commission of India has cautioned against lowering the age of consent. Instead, it suggested a guided judicial discretion in cases involving tacit approval of children in the 16-18 age group. Handling a case related to a similar issue, the Supreme Court had ruled that consensual sexual activity between minors, where there is no coercion or deception, does not automatically constitute rape under Indian law.

Dr. Munisekhar and Dr. Shireesha Seek Blessings at Tiruchanur Temple on Wedding Anniversary“



“August 11 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator”“Dr. Munisekhar, a renowned physician and the head of Vaishnavi Hospital, and Dr. Shireesha, the Mayor of Tirupati, celebrated their wedding anniversary by seeking blessings at the Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple in Tiruchanur. The couple has made significant contributions to the medical field, helping numerous families achieve parenthood and ensuring the health of many children. They have demonstrated through their dedicated work that the medical profession is not merely a business but a service to society.”Dr. Shireesha, in her role as the first woman mayor of Tirupati from the YSRCP, has garnered immense recognition in public service. She is actively working for the development of the city and the well-being of its citizens. The couple serves as an inspiration, bringing global recognition to Tirupati not only through their medical services but also through their commitment to public service.”On the occasion of their anniversary, many prominent figures from the political, medical, and social sectors, along with well-wishers, extended their congratulations and expressed their hope that the couple would continue to serve society in the same spirit.

115th Foundation Course for Agricultural Research Service

Hyderabad, Aug.11 115th Foundation Course for Agricultural Research Service (FOCARS) was inaugurated at ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAAARM) on Monday. This flagship programme of ICAR is designed to orient and train newly recruited scientists of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), equipping them with the professional skills, perspectives, and collaborative mind set necessary to address India's agricultural challenges. In total, 108 newly recruited scientists joined the course to be organized during August 11 to November 25, 2025. A total of 108 probationers, of which 73 men and 35 women, are from across the country represent 22 States and 35 agricultural disciplines.

Dr. Chhabilendra Roul, Member, Central Administrative Tribunal; Former Secretary, DoF, MoCF, & Former Special Secretary, DARE & Secretary, ICAR, New Delhi, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He traced India's journey from food scarcity during 1960s to till achieving self-sufficiency and food security. He emphasized the present need to shift focus towards nutritional security, quality improvement while addressing climate change impacts, conserving natural resources, and understanding the socio-economic implications of mechanization. He urged the probationary scientists to pursue fundamental and applied research that delivers tangible benefits to farmers and society at large. Dr. Joykrushna Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science & Agricultural Education), ICAR, New Delhi, who was the guest of honour, shared insights into the challenges and opportunities in modern agricultural systems. He stressed the importance of diversification, quality enhancement, sustainability, and multi-disciplinary approaches.

Center fresh and YouGov “India Overthinking Report” finds a nation caught thinking more about Pizza than Politics



Hyderabad;A new nationwide study by Center fresh and YouGov reveals the extent to which overthinking has become a part of daily life in India - not just in moments of crisis, but in the smallest, most routine decisions. A first of its kind, the 'Center fresh India Overthinking' report finds 81% of Indians spend over three hours a day overthinking, with one in four admitting it's a constant habit. Whether it's replying to a message, choosing what to eat, or posting on Instagram, the data highlights a widespread culture of second-guessing that cut across generations and geographies. The report surveyed students, working professionals

and those self-employed across Tier 1, 2 and 3 towns in India, deep dives into four key areas – Food and Lifestyle habits, Digital and Social Life, Dating and Relationships and Career and Professional Life. The findings throw light on the perplexities of modern life shaped by technology, social expectations, and constant connection, making overthinking a universal habit. One word replies from the boss are full blown red alerts 42% of Indians immediately assume the worst scenario when their boss replies “Ok” – the most common reaction across all demographics. Women (42%) and men (41%) are equally likely to jump to worst-case scenarios. Menu stress is real: Indians spend more time deciding their food order than the political leader they wish to vote for! Decision plays out in the most routine choices. 63% of respondents say choosing a dish at a restaurant is more stressful than picking a political leader. This number rises to 69% in South of India.

The quiet pressure behind uploading social media stories Uploading a story on social media is not hassle free, especially for Gen Z and females. 61% of Indians admit overthinking at least five hours—mainly about whether the photo or video is worth sharing (59%). Many also stress over music, filters, and views. When viewing stories of friends and peers on social media, over 60% feel anxious or delay viewing others' stories to avoid seeming eager. Millennials admit to pretending to be casual or waiting to seem chill, revealing how deeply social media fuels self-consciousness. “Through the Center Fresh India Overthinking Report, our aim was to decode how overthinking manifests in today's hyper-connected world—and the insights are eye-opening. Whether it's second-guessing a message or overanalysing a dinner choice, overthinking has quietly become an everyday habit, cutting across ages and regions. By spotlighting this mental clutter, the report sparks a much-needed conversation about the importance of everyday mental clarity. Center Fresh, with its refreshing minty gel core, helps break that loop—reminding you to trust your instincts. So go ahead—say what you feel, wear what you love, post what you believe—and when in doubt, Dimaag Pe Rakho Lagaaam,” said Gunjan Khetan, Director – Marketing, Perfetti Van Melle India.

Aurora University Signs MoU with Quality Thought Info Systems to Enhance B.Tech Opportunities for Students



Hyderabad:Aurora University proudly announces its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Quality Thought Info Systems India Pvt. Ltd., officially establishing Quality Thought as its technology partner. The MoU ceremony took place today at Aurora University, Parvathapur, Uppal, Hyderabad, featuring keynotes from Mr. Venkata Ramana Bhupathi, Founder of Quality Thought, Dr. Sriatha Chepure, Vice Chancellor of Aurora University, and Prof. Chandrasekar K., Registrar of Aurora University.

“This partnership represents a significant step towards enhancing the educational prospects for students,” said Dr. Sriatha Chepure. “By aligning with Quality Thought, we are dedicated to providing innovative, merit-based opportunities that empower our students to thrive in the evolving landscape of technology.” The event marked the launch of a unique one-day B.Tech Career Event aimed at students who completed their Intermediate studies in 2025. The day offered valuable insights into B.Tech programs, particularly in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), and was complemented by a Scholarship Test designed for eligible candidates.

Mr. Venkata Ramana Bhupathi remarked, “Our collaboration with Aurora University is not just about education; it's about building a foundation for future innovators. We are excited to conduct a second phase of the Scholarship Test on August 17 for those who couldn't participate today.” The B.Tech Career Event featured expert-led sessions focusing on vital topics, including selecting the right B.Tech branch and the implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on future job markets. The schedule included a Career Guidance session from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, followed by the Scholarship Test designed to recognize and assist talented students. The program concluded with an AI seminar that explored various career paths available through a B.Tech degree.

Harassment at Manuguru ICDS... LDC Goes Missing“

“Manuguru, August 11, (Indian Chronicle)“Information has emerged that lower-level employees at the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) office in Manuguru are facing harassment. Chiranjeevi, an LDC (Lower Division Clerk) working in the Manuguru CDPO office, has been missing for the past week. His family lodged a complaint at the Kothagudem One Town Police Station on August 6. However, since there is still no trace of him, his family members are deeply worried. “His elderly father, unable to bear the pain of his son's disappearance, has been weeping inconsolably. According to his relatives, Chiranjeevi went missing due to harassment by the CDPO and another employee working in the Poshan Abhiyan sector, who had been targeting him. “Chiranjeevi's sister, who had worked in the department for some time, stated that whenever her brother signed the office register, the officer would strike out his signature claiming it was invalid. She also alleged that lower-level staff were being humiliated by being forced to seek permission before signing. “Salary Withheld Without Bribes“She further alleged that the CDPO demanded money to release salary payments. Moreover, the officer would instruct that the money be deposited into someone else's account instead of Chiranjeevi's, and would only then process the payment. “A few months ago, Chiranjeevi had separated from his wife due to disputes and approached the court to have half of his salary allocated to her. Following court orders to issue a salary certificate, the CDPO allegedly began harassing him over both the certificate and salary payments—demanding money to process them. “Mental Stress Led to Disappearance?“His sister said that when her brother tried to go on deputation to another area to escape the harassment, permission was denied. Unable to tolerate the mental pressure, he reportedly left without informing anyone. “She demanded strict action against the CDPO and other staff members who had subjected her brother to such harassment. Police are currently investigating the missing case. “Manuguru CDPO's

Manisha Rahul's Artistic Talent Creates a Stunning Painting of the Tribal Museum



““Shaik Sharief, August 10, Indian Chronicle: Manisha Rahul, wife of Bhadrachalam ITDA Project Officer Rahul, has showcased her artistic talent. She has created a painting of the Tribal Museum building, a physically magnificent creation. This beautiful painting reflects a natural aesthetic



and uniquely proves her artistic skill. Manisha Rahul's Versatility Manisha Rahul, a government teacher by profession, is also interested in writing and reading poems and stories. She is also an expert in the art of painting. She enjoys spending time and sharing happiness with women during festivals. She has great affection for orphaned children and frequently meets with students from the school for the deaf and mute in Bhadrachalam, providing them with snacks and meals. Like her husband, ITDA Project Officer Rahul, she contributes to the development of tribal communities and stands as an inspiration to women. Manisha Rahul deserves to be commended.

Telangana farmers poised to meet national oil palm demand: Tummala

Hyderabad, Aug.11 Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao stated that farmers in Telangana have the potential to produce sufficient oil palm for the nation. He emphasized that there are many capable individuals in the region who can accomplish great things if given the right opportunities. Tummala Nageswara Rao, along with Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka, laid the foundation stone for the KS Bio Sciences oil palm venture in Incharla village, located in the Mulugu district on Monday. During the event, Minister Tummala noted that oil palm cultivation is presently taking place on 5,000 acres in the district, and he urged the necessity to expand this cultivation

LOST PASSPORT
I Shaik Saddam Hussien S/o Shaik Khurshid Hussien residing at H.No. 1-67/1, R/o MC Colony ,Danthanpalle, Uttoor Mandal, of Dist Adilabad of state telangana solemnly affirm as follows:
I am declared to I lost my **Original Passport emergency certificate with No X0801336** which is issued on **23/01/2019** while traveling from danthanpalle to uttoor by bike.

Political parties need cooperation for the preparation of a clean voters list:



District Collector Jitesh V. Patil, Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau, August 11, Indian Chronicle: District Election Officer and District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has asked representatives of political parties to cooperate in the preparation of a cleaner voters list and establishment of necessary polling stations. On Monday, he held a meeting with representatives of recognized political parties along with Additional Collector D. Veenagopal at the IDOC office conference hall on election issues. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the Election Commission of India has directed that appropriate suggestions and recommendations be taken not only during the elections but also before them on issues such as amendments to the voters list, resolution of claims, objections, tabishment and change of additional polling stations,, and action be taken accordingly. To this end, a meeting will be held with representatives of various recognized parties every month,, and necessary action will be taken after taking their views. He urged political party representatives to engage actively and bring up any election-related



issues during the meeting. He said that a clean voters list will be prepared by correcting the voters list from time to time. The Collector suggested that a booth-level agent should be appointed for each BLO (Booth Level Officer) and that political parties should appoint booth-level agents. He said that instead of rushing, issues like the creation of infrastructure in polling stations and the establishment of new polling stations should be communicated in writing in advance so that they can be resolved. The Collector asked political parties to create awareness in this direction that young men and women who have completed 18 years of age can get the right to vote, and for this, they can also apply online. Trainee Collector Saurabh Sharma, Election Cell Superintendents Mujahid and Ranga Prasad, Bharatiya Janata Party representative Nomula Ramesh, Indian National Congress Party representative Laxman Agarwal, Communist Party of India representative Annavarapu Satyanarayana, Communist Party of India representative Srinivas, Aam Aadmi Party representative Rambabu, Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi Party representative Anudeep, and others participated in the program.

Good health is also very important for students along with education: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil



Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau, August 11, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil said that physical and mental health are crucial for the educational progress of students. On the occasion of International Deworming Day, local legislators, along with Koonamneni Sambasiva Rao, participated as the chief guest and addressed the National Deworming Program organized at the Bollarigudem Minority School in Palvancha on Monday. The Collector said that children can focus fully on their studies only if they are healthy, which is why the deworming program is a priority. He explained that the presence of worms in the body causes health problems like malnutrition, anemia, loss of appetite, fatigue, stomach pain, nausea, diarrhea, and weight loss in children, which have a negative impact on their physical growth, concentration in studies, and mental development. He said that the central and state governments are successfully conducting the National Deworming Program every year to prevent these problems. He said that Albendazole tablets play a key role in completely eradicating deworming and boosting immunity. The Collector announced that these tablets will be provided to 336,136 children and youth in the age group of 1 to 19 years across the district. He directed that all the



relevant government departments, private schools, and college managements, along with the medical and health department, should work in coordination to make this program successful. He suggested that steps should be taken to ensure that these tablets are available in every school, hostel, Anganwadi center, and college. Kothagudem MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao said, "He urged the public and parents to be aware that deworming tablets do not cause any health problems and that they should not have any misconceptions."

He suggested that the tablets should be given after the midday meal and that children aged 1-2 years should chew and swallow half a tablet and children aged 2-19 years should chew and swallow the whole tablet. The MLA asked the relevant departments to work in coordination to provide pills to everyone under the age of 19 in the district in this program, which will be held until August 18. He said that pinworms are the main cause of harm to children's health and that by preventing them, children will be healthy and excel in their studies. District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Jayalakshmi, CPO Sanjeeva Rao, school principals, teaching staff, officials of relevant departments, students, and parents participated in the program.

Elaborate arrangements should be made for Independence Day celebrations— District Collector Jitesh V. Patil.



Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau, August 11, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has ordered that all department officials should make elaborate arrangements in coordination with the officials of all departments to organize the 79th Independence Day celebrations to be held at Pragati Maidan in Kothagudem in a patriotic and festive atmosphere. A preparatory review meeting was held with all district-level department officials at the IDOC office conference hall on Monday. The Collector suggested that advance measures be taken to ensure that the main stage, seating, and guest accommodations at Pragati Maidan are in order and that waterproof tents be set up in view of the rainy season. He directed the Health Department to keep 108 ambulances and medical teams ready at the ceremony premises and to make necessary medicines and first aid facilities available. He suggested that a district progress report should be prepared to reflect the welfare and development programs being implemented by the government, and stalls should be set up to reflect the performance of departments such as agriculture, horticulture,



ture, animal husbandry, forestry, education, medicine, Panchayat Raj, RTC, etc. He clarified that in addition to sending invitations to official guests as per protocol, precautions should be taken in all arrangements so as not to disturb the dignity of the national flag. The Collector suggested that patriotic songs, dances, and plays should be performed by students to promote national sentiment. He asked that the names of employees who have provided the best services in each department be submitted within the stipulated time for the presentation of certificates of appreciation. The Collector directed the officers of all departments to effectively carry out the responsibilities assigned to them and work to ensure the successful conduct of the Independence Day celebrations and to organize celebrations to instill national sentiment among the people of the district. In this preparatory meeting, Additional Collector D. Venugopal, Trainee Collector Saurabh Sharma, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Vidya Chandana, Kothagudem RDO Madhu, and officers of all district-level departments participated.

SPMVV Faculty Launch Sanvika, A Startup to Preserve Indian Arts

"August 11 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator" Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (SPMVV) today announced the launch of a new startup, Sanvika Divine Silks and Crafts Private Limited. Founded by a collaborative team of faculty members from the university's Departments of Bioscience and Sericulture, Home Science, and Women's Studies, the startup is dedicated to preserving traditional Indian art forms and fostering creative entrepreneurship. The official launch and an accompanying exhibition were inaugurated by the university's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. V. Uma. "During the launch, Prof. Uma praised the initiative, stating that innovative ventures like Sanvika are crucial for inspiring students to explore self-employment opportunities while safeguarding our rich cultural heritage. She highlighted the products' eco-friendly nature and aesthetic appeal, noting they would serve as memorable gifts. Prof. Uma congratulated the founders and assured them of the university's full support for their growth, encouraging a focus on promoting handloom textiles. "The startup's directors—Prof. Sujatha, Prof. Savitri, Prof. Rajani, Prof. Vijayakumari, and Dr. P. Neeraja—described Sanvika as a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity. They emphasized that their mission extends beyond profit, aiming to revitalize traditional Indian arts. Their goal is to earn customer trust and satisfaction by offering unique, customizable, and budget-friendly products. "Sanvika's product line, de-

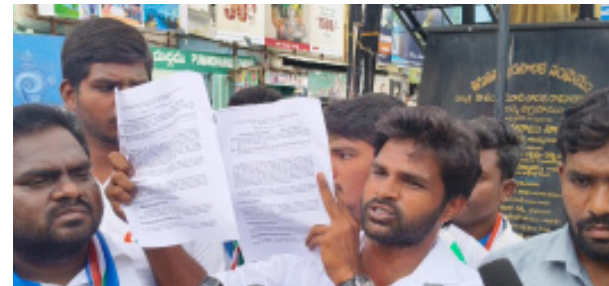


signed by women entrepreneurs, includes a diverse range of handcrafted items: "Pure silk and Kalamkari fabrics sourced from across India" Intricately designed Kalamkari photo frames "Flower vases and bouquets crafted from silk cocoons and threads" These distinctive products are created to suit various events and will be available for purchase both online and offline. The founders expressed confidence that Sanvika's commitment to affordability, durability, quality, and uniqueness will attract a broad customer base. "The launch event saw participation from university faculty, staff, and students.

Student Leaders Accuse Government of Betraying Promises, Protest Campus Entry Ban



"August 11 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator" SFI, AISF, NSUI, PDSO, and other student organizations held a protest in Tirupati on Monday, August 11, against the state government's order restricting student unions from entering educational institutions. The protest, which took place in front of the NTR statue at Town Club, involved an attempt to burn an effigy of the Education Minister, which was stopped by the police. "Student leaders, including Bhagat Ravi of SFI, Praveen of AISF, Mallikarjuna of NSUI, and Sravanthi of PDSO, criticized the Education Minister for allegedly going back on his promise to hold student union elections. They claimed that during his "Yuva Galam" campaign, the minister had assured them that he would address student issues and ensure elections were held. "The leaders expressed outrage over the new government order, calling it "shameful." They argued that the order is a direct attempt to curb the activities of left-wing and democratic student organizations that are fighting against problems in government educational institutions and the exploitation of students through exorbitant fees by corporate and private colleges. "The student representatives condemned the police for using force to stop their democratic



protest. They warned that if the government does not immediately withdraw the order, they will organize a more intense and widespread agitation, mobilizing students on a larger scale.

The protest was also attended by SFI district president Akbar, Vinod, Ashok, AISF district president Uday Kumar, Vishnu, Vinay, NSUI district secretary Shiv Balaji, Kumar, Nalsa state president Sundar, and other student leaders.

Rs 22 Lakh Worth of Ganja Seized in Bhadrachalam



"Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, August 11, Indian Chronicle: The Khammam Excise Enforcement Team has made a significant bust, seizing 43 kilograms of ganja with an estimated value of Rs 22 lakh. The contraband was being smuggled from Odisha to Hyderabad, and a man from Rajasthan was arrested in the operation. "Acting on a spe-

cific tip, a team led by Sub-Inspector Sridhar Rao conducted a vehicle inspection near the Bhadrachalam sand stand. During the check, they intercepted a rented car from Hyderabad driven by Surender Singh (23). Upon searching the vehicle, the team discovered the large quantity of ganja. Surender Singh, originally from Rajkot, Rajasthan, had been living in Hyderabad for a considerable time. According to the investigation, he rented a car and traveled to Odisha, where he purchased the illicit substance. He was en route back to Hyderabad when he was apprehended. Police officials revealed that Singh has a history of involvement in ganja trafficking. "The enforcement team, which included Head Constables M.A. Khareem and G. Balu, along with Constables Venkat, Sudheer, Harish, Veera Babu, and Upender, was praised for their successful operation. The seized ganja and the arrested individual were handed over to the Bhadrachalam Excise Station for further investigation. "Enforcement Director Shanwaz Qasim and Assistant Commissioner G. Ganesh commended the team for their vigilance and swift action in curbing the drug trade.

Tipper stuck in Etapaka road causes huge traffic jam Dr. Jamal Khan repairs with JCB



"Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, August 11, Indian Chronicle: Vehicular traffic was paralyzed after a metal-tipped tipper going from Bhadrachalam to Gauravram lost control and fell into a ditch in a pothole formed on the main road from Bhadrachalam to Charla. Heavy vehicles, RTC buses and private vehicles were stuck on both sides for hours. Upon learning of the matter, JK City Trust Chairman MD Jamal Khan immediately went to the traffic police station and learned about the incident. He immediately brought a JCB and filled the ditches and made the road comfortable, thus clearing the traffic on both sides. Noticing this, Etapaka police personnel controlled the vehicles and controlled the heavy vehicles and eliminated the traffic problem. When it was learned that the incident occurred because the tipper driver was suffering from fever due to illness, Jamal Khan took the driver to his hospital, fed him and also provided treatment. The road was destroyed due to the massive collision of sand lorries going from Cherla towards Telangana via Etapaka mandal. In the past, locals had also raised concerns that motorists and villagers were facing



many problems due to the dust generated by the sand vehicles moving around day and night. The locals and motorists expressed their joy as the problem was resolved today with the help of Jamal Khan. JKC Trust members Nataraj, Aziz, Javed and Shahjahan participated in this program.

Placement opportunity in Mancheril on August 13

Mancheril: A day-long placement drive will be organized at the Integrated District Officers Complex college premises in Mancheril on August 13. District Employment Officer Ravikrishna said in a statement that Shriram Life Insurance branch in Mancheril town will fill 20 vacancies. Various positions at the insurance company will be recruited during the drive. Interested candidates are advised to attend.

SPMVV Hosts Workshop to Boost Handloom Sector, Promotes Cultural Heritage““



August 11 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator““In celebration of National Handloom Day, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (SPMVV) today hosted a workshop titled "Venkatagiri Handloom Weaves." The event, supported by the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), was organized by the Department of Bioscience and Sericulture.“The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Uma, who attended as the chief guest, emphasized the importance of preserving the tradition of the handloom sector and supporting weavers by using their products. She proposed that all university staff wear handloom clothes ev-



ery 7th of the month. She also promised to encourage and support higher education for girls from weaving families at the university.“Another chief guest, Sriramadasu Gangadhar, Director of the Andhra Pradesh State Padmashali Corporation, highlighted the challenges faced by weavers. He noted that despite various forms of support, weavers struggle with fierce market competition and the dominance of modern designs and machinery.“Professor Rajani, the university’s Registrar, described handloom as an integral part of India’s cultural heritage and a creative art form. The special invitee, Ramesh, District Handloom and Textiles Officer of Tirupati, called upon everyone to support the handloom sector and protect its traditions. Giridhar, a lecturer from the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology in Venkatagiri, spoke about the unique place Venkatagiri handlooms hold in India.“The program also featured a discussion on weaver support and marketing linkages by Mastan from the Tata Trust. The event was chaired by PM-USHA Coordinator Prof. Vani, while Workshop Coordinator Prof. Savitri explained the significance of Handloom Day.“As part of the celebrations, Sant Kabir and other national award-winning weavers from Venkatagiri were felicitated for their distinguished service to the handloom sector. The event was attended by Professor Sujatha, other faculty, staff, and students.

Are you going on vacations? Those who lock their houses and travel long distances should inform the police: SP Rohit Raju

“Bhukya Ranjith Naik,Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau,Indian Chronicle:With the arrival of consecutive holidays, many people travel long distances. This is also the reason why thieves show their sleight of hand. District SP Rohit Raju said that those who leave their homes and travel long distances should be vigilant and take appropriate precautions in advance. In view of the consecutive holidays on the 15th, 16th, and 17th of this month, all measures have been taken to control thefts, and the people of the district are being alerted. He said that the police have received information that a gang of interstate thieves is roaming in the surrounding areas of our district. He said that this gang of thieves is committing thefts in locked houses. He said that the police department is intensifying patrolling on the streets at night. He also advised the people in the district to take precautions in this regard. He said that those going to distant places should inform the authorities of the concerned police station about their home address and phone number. He said that their details will be registered in the register and surveillance will be set up in the areas around the houses of those who have gone to villages. He said that it is good to tell your trusted neighbors near your house to keep an eye on your house when you are not at home. He advised not to share information about valuables and personal financial matters with others. He said that if you have gold jewelry and cash at home, it is better to store them in bank lockers. Those who go to villages for long periods of time should carry valuables with them. He advised that they should keep the bags with them while traveling with gold jewelry and money in their bags.



He said that if people constantly cooperate with the police, it will be very easy to control thefts. He suggested that CCTV cameras should be installed voluntarily to prevent theft. Especially, the owners of Singareni, KTPS, Navabharat, ITC, BTPS, and other government and private companies in our district should install CCTV cameras in the residential colonies and gated communities of their employees and make strong security arrangements. He asked them to call the District Command Control Number 8712682128 or dial 100 to provide information on the movements of suspicious and new people.

*Congress Government is the Government of the Poor: MLA Veerlapalli Shankar



““INDIAN CHRONICLE ““Shadnagar, August 11, 2025 ““In a significant milestone for the Indiramma housing scheme, the first housewarming ceremony was held in Hajipalli village, Farooq Nagar mandal, Ranga Reddy district, within the Shadnagar constituency. The event marked a step forward in the Telangana government’s commitment to providing housing for the underprivileged.““The ceremony celebrated the completion of a new home for beneficiary Swaroopa under the Indiramma housing scheme. MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, who attended as the chief guest, presented new clothes to the beneficiary’s family and participated in the traditional pooja rituals, symbolizing the auspicious beginning of their new chapter.““Addressing the gathering, MLA Shankar lauded the Congress-led state government, describing it as a “government for the poor.” He highlighted the Indiramma housing scheme as a transformative initiative that fulfills the long-standing dream of homeownership for economically disadvantaged families across Telangana. “This scheme is a testament to our com-

mitment to uplifting the poor,” Shankar stated, underscoring the government’s focus on inclusive development.““The MLA announced that the state government plans to construct 405,000 houses under the scheme across Telangana, with 3,500 allocated specifically for the Shadnagar constituency. He expressed confidence that the initiative would significantly improve living conditions for thousands of families in the region.““Shankar also conveyed his gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for championing the welfare of the poor through such initiatives. He assured attendees that the blessings of the beneficiaries would continue to strengthen the government’s resolve. Additionally, the MLA committed to addressing any constituency-related issues brought to his attention within a month, reinforcing his dedication to public service.““The housewarming ceremony was attended by local leaders, community members, and officials, who joined in celebrating the occasion as a symbol of hope and progress for the region’s underprivileged families.

AP Coalition MPs Delegation Meets with Prime Minister Narendra Modi““

“August 11 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator““A delegation of Andhra Pradesh coalition MPs, led by Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Parliament House in Delhi on Monday. The MPs expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for allocating substantial funds and contributing to the development of the state.“During the meeting, Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao, along with his fellow MPs, honored Prime Minister Narendra Modi and presented him with an idol of Lord Sriwari of Tirumala. They congratulated the Prime Minister on the resounding success of "Operation Sindoor" and affirmed their commitment to stand with him in enhancing India's global prestige. MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao declared that under the leadership of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, they would dedicate themselves to the service of the nation.



Bhatti calls for maximum civil services selections from Telangana

Hyderabad, Aug.11 Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the highest number of candidates from Telangana should be selected in the civil services. Bhatti Vikramarka attended as the chief guest at the programme held at Praja Bhavan on Monday, organised by Singareni, to provide financial assistance of ?1 lakh each to 178 candidates who have qualified for the Mains examination. He said human resources are the most important and strongest investments, and if they are polished into diamonds, they can be of immense benefit to society. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the People’s government thought it fit to extend some support to candidates preparing for the Civil Services, believing it would help them achieve their goals, he said.

The State government is ready to extend all kinds of cooperation to those aspiring for Civil Services. This programme is being conducted for the second consecutive

year to encourage and instil confidence in the candidates,” Bhatti said. The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that 178 mains-qualified candidates are being given ?1 lakh each, and those shortlisted for the interview will also be provided ?1 lakh along with accommodation in Delhi.He informed that last year, 148 candidates were given financial assistance, out of which 10 were selected for the civil services. The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that the role of bureaucracy is crucial in upholding democracy and that civil services provide the opportunity to change the living conditions of the people.

Bhatti Vikramarka noted that among the thousands of officers who have served in the State, only a few names like S.R. Shankaran, Parthasarathy, and Madhav Rao have remained etched in people’s hearts. He said that if one serves with dedication, they can be remembered permanently in the hearts of the people.

Hydra marshals boycott their duties demanding salary hike

Hyderabad, Aug.11 The Marshals of Hydra today took a Key Decision over their salary cuts. Angered by the salary cut, the marshals boycotted their duties today. With this, emergency services have completely stopped across Hyderabad city. Along with the emergency services, 51 Hydra vehicles have also stopped functioning. The Hydra services have been completely disrupted in 150 divisions of the city. The marshals responded on the boycott of duties. They said that as per the orders of their Director General, they should be given a salary of Rs. 45 thousand, but they were being given a very low salary. The marshals made it clear that they would work only if they are given a sufficient salary.

“We received a GO from the Hydra saying that the pay scale is Rs. 22500. Till the other day, we were getting a salary of Rs. 29000. We came to meet the Hydra commissioner Ranganath to discuss it. Since we have retired from the army, we will get pension. But some are talking about our pension as they like. They are recognizing the service we have done to the country and giving us the pension. The salary of those, who work as labourers will also increase.. They have reduced our salary. We should be given proper respect. They are not giving us at least a week off due to the monsoon emergency. Moreover, they are not giving us respect,” they said .

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay chairs holds review on Samanvay platform

New Delhi, Aug.11 Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday chaired a review meeting on the Samanvay Platform and the Cyber Commando Program launched by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs. The Samanvay Platform addresses the coordination needs of various State Police agencies. Its Pratibimb module provides police stations across the country with accurate locations of crime suspects and details of banking and telecom resources used by cybercriminals. The Cybercrime Interstate Assistance Requests module enables direct Police Station-to-Police Station cooperation in cybercrime cases. The platform also empowers District SPs to promptly block SIM cards and devices used for criminal purposes. Its Banking module allows Investigating Officers to request and obtain CCTV footage and bank statements swiftly. The Techno-Legal Support service offers investigative tools and expert guidance for handling complex cases.

The Cyber Commando Program, conceived by Prime Minister Narendra Modi , aims to develop a highly skilled cadre of police officers across States/UTs and Central Police Organisations capable of defending IT infrastructure, responding to cyber incidents, and conducting advanced digital forensics. The first batch of 407 cyber commandos, trained at NFSU, IITs, IIITs, DIAT, and RRU, are already deployed. A larger batch is scheduled to begin training later this year. An Operational Manual and an online platform for ongoing tasking, feedback, training, and coordination are currently under development. Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay appreciated I4C’s initiatives and directed that citizens remain at the centre of all efforts. He stressed the importance of taking forward the organisation’s work under the visionary leadership of the union Home Minister Amit Shah to the public and enhancing preventive measures through large-scale awareness campaigns, especially in local languages, while engaging closely with grassroots functionaries.

Actor Lakshmi manchu’s Teach for Change NGO transforms educational Landscape

Hyderabad, Aug.11 Teach for Change, founded by actor philanthropist Lakshmi Manchu, in collaboration with the Veni Rao Foundation led by philanthropist Ratna Reddy, continues to transform the educational landscape and improve health outcomes for adolescent girls in government schools across Telangana. Building on the success of 45 Smart Classrooms set up in government schools in Telangana, the Veni Rao Foundation is now adding two more Smart Classrooms in Janwada. These advanced digital learning spaces aim to make education interactive, engaging, and accessible, empowering teachers and students alike . In addition to educational interventions, the partnership is driving menstrual health awareness and dignity through the Flow Forward initiative, which provides reusable sanitary pads to adolescent girls. Having already reached 6,000 girls in Telangana, the program will now extend to an additional 1,000 girls, helping reduce school absenteeism, promote eco-friendly menstrual practices, and ensure that no girl’s

education is disrupted due to lack of resources.With these expansions, the joint efforts of Teach for Change and the Veni Rao Foundation have positively impacted over 9,000 students and adolescent girls in government schools across the state

Our vision is to ensure that every child, regardless of background, has access to quality education, and every girl can go to school without fear or shame, “ said Lakshmi Manchu . She also

Said that Through their continued partnership with the Veni Rao Foundation, they were creating real, measurable change

Ratna Reddy, the Founder of the Veni Rao Foundation, said that Education and health were the cornerstones of equality and added that the Smart Classrooms and Flow Forward initiative reflect their commitment to creating lasting impact in the lives of children and communities

‘This is just the start’: Farmers’ protest against land pooling scheme gathers steam in Ludhiana



GNS News Agency, August 11

An around-the-clock protest by farmers in Punjab’s Ludhiana against the state’s land pooling policy entered its thirteenth day outside the Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority (GLADA) office on Ferozepur Road A tent erected on July 20 at one side of the main gate has become the symbol of a growing movement that farmers say reminds them of the agitation against the now-repealed three central farm laws. The protest against the government’s land pooling policy to acquire over 65,000 acres of land in 164 villages of Punjab is being held under the banner of the Zameen Bachao Punjab Bachao Sangharsh Committee. Farmers from 32 of the 44 Ludhiana villages affected by the scheme, especially those located in the constituencies of Dakha, Jagraon, Gill, and Raikot, are participating in the protest.

“We have made a roster chart and accordingly, villagers have been told to visit the dharna spot—the same way we used to go to the Delhi borders to protest against the farm laws,” said Jagrup Singh Hassanpur, a committee member from Hassanpur village, located 11 km from the protest site. “Currently, the participation is from Ludhiana villages alone, and its scope can widen if the government does not listen to us,” said Jagrup Singh Hassanpur, a member of the committee. While the turnout is modest on most days—except Sundays and Mondays—villagers say the dharna is only in its early stage. “This is just the start...we are gathering in small numbers as we do not want to create public inconvenience. We are sitting on one side of the gate near the service lane. We want the government to repeal the policy, and if they do not agree, our dharna will grow

bigger,” said Didar Singh Malak from Malak village. Women from Dakha village are expected to arrive in large numbers on Sunday. “The women are gathering in large numbers within the villages...if there is no land... how will they survive? We feel sad that every government takes farmers for granted and creates a situation to make us sit on roads and later blame us for protesting without reason,” said Jagjit Singh, sarpanch of Dakha village and a member of the Shiromani Akali Dal.

He further added, “Punjab CM [Bhagwant Mann] himself had targeted the farmers protesting on roads several times in the past... so he needs to understand that the root cause of these dharnas lies in him and his illogical policies.” In a sign of shifting political sentiments, Varinder Singh, AAP block president from Dakha block and a resident of Dakha village, resigned from his party post and has been actively joining the protests. “Earlier, he used to tell us the benefits of the scheme, but it seems that he has sensed the growing resistance. It is better late than never,” said Ranjodh Singh, a panch from Dakha village and Akali Dal member. The GLADA office is located near Rajguru Nagar and New Rajguru Nagar—areas largely inhabited by landlords from nearby villages. “New Rajguru Nagar is still recorded as a panchayat in land records, despite being urbanised. That connection may explain the public support seen in the earlier protest,” a villager observed.

The villager is referring to the year-long protest during the farm law agitation, when BKU (Ugrahan) members held a dharna near a nearby mall. Locals had supported the protest then by providing daily supplies. “I have no idea how long this dharna will go on, but we will not lift it till the policy is withdrawn,” Hardeep Singh of Sarabha village said. Hardeep is not directly affected but has joined the protest in solidarity. The Indian Express contacted Himanshu Jain, Chief Administrator of GLADA and Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, and Swapan Sharma, Police Commissioner. Both officials were unavailable for comment. “No one has approached us from the administration or government regarding lifting the dharna. However, the police did request us to leave space for public movement, and that we are doing in an organised manner,” Didar said. He also clarified that the protest is not being led by any farmer union. “It is purely by the villagers, though many are members of various unions. Union leaders do visit the dharna spot off and on,” he added.

Supreme Court orders Chandigarh to implement OBC quota from 2025-26 academic session

GNS News Agency, August 11

The Supreme Court has directed the Union Government and the Chandigarh Administration to begin implementing reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in educational institutions in the Union Territory, starting from the 2025-26 academic year. Passing orders in the ‘Dhruvi Yadav vs Union of India & Ors’ case, the top court took exception to the prolonged delay in providing OBC reservation despite national policy and repeated administrative deliberations. The absence of OBC quotas in the admission process of the Government Medical College, Chandigarh, had prompted legal scrutiny.

The bench, led by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, along with Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and K Vinod Chandran, recorded the statement of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Union of India, who said that a formal notification for OBC quota would be issued within a week. The court took this commitment on record and directed immediate implementation. The bench ruled that three per cent reservation for OBC candidates must be introduced this academic year and gradually scaled up to 27 per cent over six years. The court emphasised that this rollout must begin wherever the counselling or admission process has not already commenced for the academic cycle of 2025-26. The directive stated that if any ad-



mission processes for this year were already completed, the new reservation policy must be implemented from the next academic cycle (2026-27). The Supreme Court also mandated compliance reporting. Until now, Chandigarh lacked a formal OBC quota in educational institutions, despite recommendations by the National Commission for Backward Classes and repeated representations. Panjab University, although located in Chandigarh, has only provided a five per cent reservation for backward classes as of 2025 (not the full 27 per cent OBC quota). There is legal ambiguity about whether it must follow the Central rules or those of Punjab/Chandigarh.

Migrant verification drive: Civil society group writes to Gurgaon DC, police, NHRC, Haryana chief secretary

GNS News Agency, August 11

The Mehnatkash Association has requested legal safeguards for Bengali migrant workers allegedly bearing the brunt of the on-going foreigners’ verification drive in Gurgaon district. In an email sent to the Gurgaon district administration, police commissioner, chief secretary, and the National Human Rights Commission on Thursday, the civil society group alleged illegal detention and deportation of Indian citizens during the ongoing ‘Special Talashi Abhiyan’.

The email expressed concern over the detentions reportedly carried out following a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) order dated May 2, and a subsequent district administration directive issued on July 18. The operation is aimed at identifying “illegal immigrants” in Gurgaon. According to Mehnatkash, the drive has resulted in mass detentions and deportations, disproportionately impacting unorganised migrant workers – particularly citizens from West Bengal and Assam – and members of the Muslim community. It alleged that raids were being conducted in labour colonies, slums, construction sites, auto stands, and households employing domestic workers.



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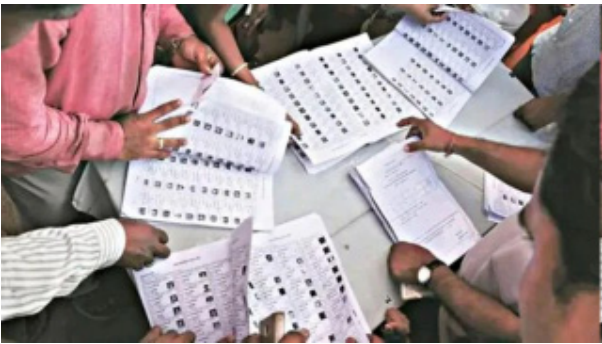
“Entire families have fled overnight, abandoning their homes, employment, and children’s education. Many who have returned to their home states face unemployment, debt, and social stigma. At the same time, employers in Gurugram are reporting acute shortages of workers, severely impacting the informal economy, particularly the domestic work, construction, and service sectors,” the email states. The organisation further alleged that some detainees have been mistakenly designated “illegal Bangladeshi immigrants” without proper legal process or investigation, despite subsequent verification by local authorities con-

firmed their Indian citizenship.

The association attributed the situation, in part, to the non-implementation of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979, which mandates the registration of migrant workers. It has called for immediate cessation of raids, individualised legal scrutiny of all detentions, and a ban on collective deportations. Additional demands include judicial oversight, rehabilitation for wrongfully deported citizens, compensation for affected families, anti-discrimination police training, and full legal safeguards for internal migrants. The Gurgaon police had recently said only “con-

firmed Bangladeshis” as part of the verification drive, and added that they had shut four holding facilities that housed suspected foreigners. The four facilities were at community centres in Badshahpur, Sector 10A, Sector 40, and Sector 1 in Manesar. “We had completed verification and checking of the suspected foreigners, hence the move. Even earlier, only those who were strong suspects based on missing or discrepancies in documents, or, for example, with Bangladeshi numbers on their phone... were taken to the holding centres and immediately released post verification. No body needs to fear or flee,” a police spokesperson said.

Ahead of possible SIR exercise, EC writes to Bengal CEO, directs preparation of booth level agents’ list



GNS News Agency, August 11

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday wrote to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal directing the preparation of the list of booth level agents (BLA) at the earliest. This comes ahead of a possible Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in the state. In the letter to CEO Manoj Agarwal, ECI Under Secretary Sanjay Kumar stated, “The entire exercise of SIR will be incomplete without active participation of the political parties, and BLAs, appointed by the political parties, have to play (an) important role in the SIR activities. Therefore, all the political parties must be informed in writing, and they should be persuaded for the appointment of BLAs immedi-

ately so that these BLAs are in (the) field during SIR and they can bring out any kind of anomaly to notice.”

“You are, therefore, requested to submit information to the Commission regarding the number of PSs (polling stations), number of BLOs (booth level officers), number of BLO Supervisors and BLAs, immediately without any delay,” it said. The letter referred to the SIR process in Bihar, before stating, “All the CEOs (except Bihar) were also requested to complete all the pre-revision activities including rationalisation of polling stations having electors more than 1,200 electors, filling up all the vacant posts of EROs/ AEROs/BLOs/Supervisors, appointment of additional BLOs having regard to electors within 1,200 electors in single polling station.” It added, “... Considering the magnitude of the work involved in the SIR activities, a BLO must be appointed for a single PS and BLO Supervisor should not be given charge of more than 10 PSs.” Notably, West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee has opposed the ECI’s directive on submission of BLA lists. She argued that political parties are not bound to disclose their booth agents’ names in advance and expressed concern that such lists might be leaked, allowing rival parties access. Her comments came amid concerns raised by both ruling TMC and opposition BJP over the role of BLOs, ahead of the SIR process. Teachers deputed as BLOs have expressed apprehensions over their security while on duty in what they say is a politically charged atmosphere.

Dharavi Redevelopment Project: Door-to-door survey to end on August 12

GNS News Agency, August 11

DharaviThe officials stated that they would treat households outside of August 12 coverage as those who opted out of the government program, except if they apply subsequently. Officials associated with the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) Friday informed that the door-to-door household survey being carried out under the Project will end on August 12.

The survey, which began in March 2024, is intended to ascertain the eligibility of residents for resettlement under the government-supported redevelopment scheme. Though survey teams will no longer make house visits after August 12, officials said residents can still be enlisted in the survey list if they call the DRP helpline and submit supporting documents in-person before the authorities. “We would assure that we keep receiving such submissions from these residents and enter them into the official record after checks,” a DRP official said. The cut-off date for free resettlement in Dharavi has been set at January 1, 2000. Anyone who can establish that they had settled in Dharavi by this date is entitled to a 350 sq ft flat in the redeveloped complex. People who moved in between January 1, 2000, and January 1, 2011, are eligible for 300 sq ft accommodation outside Dharavi under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), either on rental or at a nominal buying rate. The officials added that the team has surveyed over one lakh tenements and plots in Dharavi. Overall, the authorities anticipate mapping and constructing about 1.2 lakh tenements. These would be distributed across Dharavi and



other places like Kurla, Mulund, Kanjurmargin, Bhandup, and Malad. The officials stated that they would treat households outside of August 12 coverage as those who opted out of the government program, except if they apply subsequently. A DRP official added, “The Majority of Dharavi has already been surveyed. There remain only a few pockets like Kumbharwada and Compound 13, or private land-owner areas, where the process is pending. If any of the residents of such areas call the helpline and produce proper documents, we will include them at once.” Recently, the Maharashtra cabinet approved a policy in favour of accommodating commercial tenants who do not own the buildings but have been operating from Dharavi. These traders will be provided space in the 10 per cent commercial space reserved in the rehabilitation complexes.

From ‘bhagwa’ to Bhagwat: day after swinging to Pragya Thakur’s defence, BJP throws weight behind RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

GNS News Agency, August 11

A day after it defended of its former MP Pragya Singh Thakur following her acquittal in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, the Bharatiya Janata Party Friday launched another attack on the Congress and the Gandhi family for seeking to “forcefully disrespect, arrest and seek revenge from” the BJP, “believers of Hinduism and the top officials of the Sangh” in the case. Addressing a press conference at the party’s national headquarters, BJP MP Sambit Patra alleged that investigating officials had been “pressured” by the then-Congress government to allegedly implicate RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in the Malegaon blast case in consideration of its “vindictive, appeasement and vote bank” driven politics.

“It was the Gandhi family’s intent to attack Sanatan and the Hindu community, which has fallen flat on its face after yesterday’s verdict,” Patra said. On Thursday, the BJP demanded a public apology from the Congress leadership, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, for “conspiring” to impose the narrative of “Hindu terror” on the country. Its demand came after a special court designated under the NIA Act acquitted all seven accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case. Among those acquitted were former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, Major (retired) Ramesh Upadhyay, Ajay Rahirkar, Sameer Kulkarni, Sudhakar Chaturvedi, and Sudhakar Dhardwivedi.’

The senior BJP leader said ‘two new political developments’ have taken place since Thursday “which have shed new light”. “ATS, which investigated the incident, one of its officials, Mehboob Mujawwar, has today made a shocking revelation,” Patra said, accusing the Congress of spreading “the narrative around saffron terror in the country” at the behest of “the Gandhi family”.

“After the 2008 Malegaon blast, he (Mujawwar) was a crucial part of the investigation team. This morning, he revealed that top officials both in the agency and the government had exerted tremendous pressure on him and the ATS to arrest Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh Sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagat to advance this ‘saffron terror narrative,’” he alleged. Patra alleged Mujawwar “was directed...to arrest Mohan Bhagwat ji at any cost” despite his name not being part of the chargesheet or any relation whatsoever to its investigation. “Mehboob Mujawwar cited the Constitution and refused to do so because it was neither constitutional nor legal, and he would not do anything that would hurt the Constitution of India, refusing to carry out this order...in reaction, some damning charges were pressed upon this officer...stalling his promotion. He later went to court and was acquitted...Just look at the vindictive attitude of the then-Congress government,” he added. How to “forcefully disrespect, arrest and seek revenge from” the BJP, believers of Hinduism, and the top officials of the Sangh, Patra said, it was with this “vindictive attitude” that the then-Congress government was working “at the directions of the Gandhi family.” Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, Patra said, during his statement related to Operation Sindoor, mentioned the statement of “a big leader” amid the intelligence establishment in the US that for India, saffron terror



BJP’s Sambit Patra alleged an ATS of-ficer “was directed...to arrest Mohan Bhagwat ji at any cost” despite his name not being part of the chargesheet or any relation to its investigation.

was a bigger problem than the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI). “You all know who this big leader, who told the American ambassador this, is. It was clearly the agenda of the Gandhi family for the sake of vote bank politics to insult Sanatan at any cost,” he said. Taking on Prithviraj Chavan, he said statements such as “terrorism has no religion” were the “catchphrases of appeasement” which were “utilised by Congress leaders following each terror attack to keep their vote bank intact”. “On one hand you say that terror has no religion but in the same breath...Prithviraj Chavan says ‘Hindu and Sanatan terrorists’... but you simply must repeat ‘Hindu terrorist’ and ‘Sanatan terrorist,’” he said.

“(Former Union home minister) Sushil Kumar Shinde, during a party meeting, had said ‘saffron terrorism’. When asked whether he believed he had done the right thing or not by saying so last year, he smiled and said, ‘I did not do it on my own; I feel I did wrong, but whatever the high command said, what my party said, I did’...there is only one high command in the Congress,” he alleged. Patra also cited the 2007 Samjhauta Express train blasts, in which the accused were released within 14 days, and the Hyderabad Mecca Masjid blasts the same year, in which alleged Harkatul-Jihad-al-Islami (HuJI) members who were allegedly behind it were also let go. He added that senior Congress leaders were “giving Pakistan a clean chit” in the 26/11 Mumbai attack as well, as they “released books on saffron terror” and “turning terrorists loose”. “This is natural...for a party which views Zakir Naik as an ‘apostle of peace’ and from whose NGO...the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation accepts donations, to expect that they will not say ‘Hindu, Saffron, Sanatani terrorist’ is a bit too much,” he said. “Those who have been released in the case include a person from the Army, a sadhvi. ...Sena, Sant, Sanatan and Samvidhan — for 17 years, the Congress attacked these four...as per a calculated conspiracy. But Satyameva Jayate (truth always prevails)... Their objective is to end Sanatan...but Sanatan is invincible and cannot be defeated,” he added.

At Ghatkopar, suburban Mumbai’s first cable-stayed bridge to be operational by 2027



GNS News Agency, August 11

Mumbai Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Marg, At Ghatkopar, suburban Mumbai’s first cable stayed vehicular bridge to become operational by 2027The bridge will significantly bring down the travel time and decongest the LBS Marg -- a junction that records a high vehicle density in the suburbs. Vehicle movement on the congested Andheri-Ghatkopar Link Road (AGLR) in Mumbai is set to get smoother in two years, as the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (MRIDC) are constructing a cable-stayed bridge, linking Ghatkopar’s eastern and western sides and intersecting over Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Marg in Ghatkopar.Background of the project:

Earlier, Ghatkopar East and West were linked by a Railway Over Bridge (ROB) that was declared unfit in 2018, following a structural audit carried out by the civic authorities. Consequently, the authorities mooted a decision to de-

molish the 45-year-old structure and replace it with a new cable-stayed bridge.Specifications of the project:The cable-stayed bridge, measuring 216 metres long and 11 metres wide, will have six lanes to accommodate heavier traffic. This will be the first cable-stayed ROB to become operational in the Mumbai suburbs. Currently, the cable-stayed bridges that are operational in Mumbai include the Bandra-Worli Sea Link and Reay Road Bridge. In the Metro One line, the stations on Western Express Highway (WEH) and Andheri are also linked by a cable-stayed railway bridge.

How will the bridge benefit Mumbaikars?

The bridge will significantly bring down the travel time and decongest the LBS Marg — a junction that records a high vehicle density in the suburbs. To ensure the citizens are not facing hardships, the authorities are building the bridge into two phases. In the first phase, only one arm of the ROB is being demolished and constructed to ensure that vehicle movement continues in the second arm. In the following phase, the remaining arm will be demolished and reconstructed.

Cost and timeline:The cost of the bridge has been pegged at Rs 350 crore and the BMC has set up a 2027 deadline for completing the project. At present, the work is ongoing in the first phase. “The bridge is being built to ease connectivity in the suburbs. The design of the bridge has been planned to boost the appeal of the place, and it will have aesthetic lighting to complement the structure. Alongside the vehicular carriageway, the bridge will also have footpaths and service roads to cater to pedestrians and emergency vehicles,” an MRIDC spokesperson told The Indian Express.

Threat emails to Zeeshan Siddique: prankster held at Mumbai airport on return from Trinidad and Tobago

GNS News Agency, August 11

The Crime Branch of the Mumbai police on Friday morning arrested a man returning from Trinidad and Tobago for allegedly sending threatening emails to former MLA Zeeshan Siddique, the son of the late Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique.The accused, identified as Bihar native Mohammad Dilshad Naved, was held at the international airport in Mumbai. A police officer said that soon after the threatening emails were received last year, the police had identified Naved as the culprit and issued a Look Out Circular against him.

Naved had gone to the Caribbean island nation to work at his uncle’s shop there, a senior officer revealed. “He saw some videos on social media regarding the murder of Baba Siddique. As a prank, he sent several emails to Zeeshan Siddique, threatening him. Naved thought that since he was so far away, law enforcement agencies would not apprehend him,” the senior officer said.Baba Siddique was shot dead by members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang on October 12 last year. Officers said that the email threats were sent to Zeeshan’s official email ID on April 19 this year, followed by several more over the next two days. The sender allegedly demanded Rs 10 crore and mentioned the Dawood Ibrahim gang.Investigators said the accused probably believed that he might earn some money in this manner. Subsequently, Zeeshan filed a complaint at the Bandra police



station.Last year, threat emails sent to actor Salman Khan were found to have originated in the United Kingdom. In that case, the police allegedly found that the accused was an Indian student who had gone to the UK to study and sent the email as a prank, following which a Look Out Circular (LOC) was issued against him. The person will be arrested when he lands in India.The officer said that people based abroad, especially those of Indian origin, feel that if they send a threatening email from another country, they will not land in trouble. “That is, however, not true. We take proper legal action to ensure that whenever such a person tries to move out of that country, they are detained at the airport,” he added.

Chemistry graduate from Pune held for cheating Delhi woman of Rs 12 lakh in cryptocurrency investment scam

GNS News Agency, August 11

cryptoln her complaint, the woman said that, trusting the advisor, she made 29 separate transactions into various bank accounts, amounting to a total of Rs 12.85 lakhA 25-year-old BSc Chemistry graduate from Pune has been arrested for allegedly duping a Delhi woman of over Rs 12.85 lakh through a cryptocurrency investment scam on Telegram, the police said on Friday.The incident came to light on May 20 when two complaints were filed by the victim, stating that she had been approached by someone posing as a financial advisor on Telegram. The individual allegedly lured her with the promise of high returns on cryptocurrency investments.

In her complaint, the woman said that, trusting the advisor, she made 29 separate transactions into various bank accounts, amounting to a total of Rs 12.85 lakh. However, when she attempted to withdraw her money, she was denied access and realised she had been cheated, she said.According to the police, the investigation revealed that one of the bank accounts used in the fraud had received a significant amount of funds and withdrawals were being made from an ATM in Pune.“The fraudsters had made a complex transaction trail, making it challenging to identify the real culprits. But, working patiently, the team found that in one of the beneficiary accounts in Pune, the cheated amount was being withdrawn from an ATM, and the account received a substantial amount in a limited time,” Vichitra Veer, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West), said.



The police laid a trap and arrested Rugved Ashwin Dengle, he added.The police allegedly recovered 14 ATM cards, 15 chequebooks, six passbooks, four smartphones with SIM cards, and Rs 3.45 lakh in cash from Dengle.According to the police, Dengle had previously invested in local film production ventures and had suffered substantial financial losses. He came into contact with an unidentified individual on Telegram who introduced him to cybercrime, following which he became involved in arranging mule bank accounts for receiving defrauded funds in exchange for cryptocurrency USDT, the police claimed. Dengle distributed the funds across multiple accounts before withdrawing the cash from ATMs, the police added.Further investigation is underway to identify other individuals involved in the racket and to trace the remaining money, the police said.

Flex banners near roads pose threat to lives in Kothagudem

Kothagudem: Putting up flex banners on main thoroughfares without permission has become a menace in Kothagudem Municipal Corporation.It has become a regular practice for activists of various political parties, caste-based organisations, and people’s groups to display flex banners, hoardings, and party flags on road dividers, road turns, and even at traffic signals whenever their leaders visit the town.

Speaking to Telangana Today, advocate Sadiq Pasha said activists were even displaying banners covering the Telangana Martyrs Memorial at the Kothagudem bus stand centre, showing no respect for the martyrs. Such banners have become a regular sight on footpaths near the railway underbridge and in congested traffic areas.These flex banners and flags not only cause inconvenience to the public but also pose a danger to two-wheeler riders. Two cars collided at a road turn near Sujatha Nagar on the Kothagudem-Khammam road on Thursday due to a large banner put up at the turning, he noted.

He said he had submitted a petition to the Kothagudem Municipal Commissioner requesting that permission should not be given to install banners at traffic junctions and key locations just for revenue generation.Pasha urged the Municipal Corporation to take preventive steps against illegal flex banners and party flags on public roads. He demanded that those already installed should be removed immediately.

He further demanded that cases be booked against those who installed banners without permission. If officials fail to act, he warned that he would approach the court.A local resident, Bathula Srinivas, said some individuals were putting up flex banners to mark birthdays of their leaders and friends, but municipal authorities and police were not taking any action.

It is unfortunate that political parties put up banners near U-turns, obstructing the view of oncoming vehicles. If an accident occurs, the municipal officials should take moral responsibility and pay compensation to the victim’s family, said journalist P Reshwanth.

Rs 107-crore GST fraud case: Punjab and Haryana HC grants bail to accused, slams prosecution for focusing only on arrests



Punjab and Haryana High Court, UK woman harrassed, Mohali SSP, ChandigarhIn an earlier hearing, the court had directed top tax officers across Punjab, Haryana, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh to furnish data on Goods and Services Tax (GST)-related complaints, arrests, and trials.The Punjab and Haryana High Court on July 28 granted regular bail to Manish Kumar, accused of defrauding the State Exchequer of Rs 107 crore in a 2024 case involving fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) claims through fake GST invoices and shell firms.

In a sharp indictment of the prosecuting agencies under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, Justice Harpreet Singh Brar questioned their priorities, noting that despite repeated arrests, trials were rarely concluded.Manish Kumar and his brother Amit Kumar Goyal were accused of creating 27 fake firms and generating invoices amounting to Rs 700 crore, leading to fraudulent ITC claims worth Rs 107 crore.

The court noted that the final investigation report had already been filed against the petitioners, and the case had been pending pre-charge evidence for the past six months.While opposing the bail, the prosecution argued that the investigation was still ongoing against another co-accused and expressed apprehensions about the possibility of destroying evidence and influencing witnesses. The court

rejected these concerns and observed that the evidence was documentary and electronic, and all prosecution witnesses were officials of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI).

Justice Brar said, “It remains unclear as to why the arrest process has not been initiated against the co-accused qua whom an investigation is pending... While the possibility of evidence tampering has been flagged, the entire case is based on documentary and electronic evidence, which are already available... and all of the prosecution witnesses are officials of the respondent.”Calling it unreasonable to keep the petitioners in custody merely because another accused was under investigation, the court noted that “nothing has been brought to the fore to suggest that the release of the petitioners would derail the investigation; therefore, this cannot be used as a reason to keep them under custody indefinitely.”

In an earlier hearing, the court had directed top tax officers across Punjab, Haryana, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh to furnish data on Goods and Services Tax (GST)-related complaints, arrests, and trials. The analysis of the submitted data revealed a disturbing trend.“Since [GST’s] commencement, only a solitary conviction has been made in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh put together... arrests are in fact made without prior notice, while in cases where notice is served, arrests are not being made,” the court observed.Justice Brar flagged systemic issues in how the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) law is being implemented.“Of late, it has been observed that the involvement of the criminal justice system in cases pertaining to the CGST Act seemingly begins at the stage of arrest and ends when bail is secured... The slow-paced trials and departure from procedure under Sections 73 and 74 are symptomatic of a systemic problem,” the court observed.He said that allowing such practices to go unchecked would “raise serious doubts about the efficacy of investigation” and ultimately erode public confidence in the justice system.

Punjab and Haryana Bar Council warns lawyers against advertising legal services via social media, influencer collabs

GNS News Agency, August 11

The Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana (BCPH) has issued a warning to all advocates and Bar Associations against the unethical and increasingly common practice of advertising legal services through social media platforms, promotional videos, and influencer collaborations.The Council has emphasised that such conduct violates Rule 36 of Chapter II, Part VI of the Bar Council of India (BCI) Rules. It warned that violations will be treated as professional misconduct under Section 35 of the Advocates Act, 1961, which may lead to suspension or cancellation of an advocate’s licence.It has also made it clear that office bearers of Bar Associations in Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh will be held accountable if such practices continue under their watch.In a detailed communication addressed to presidents and secretaries of various Bar Associations, including those of tribunals, tax bars, and consumer forums, BCPH chairman Rakesh Gupta stated that the legal profession is a noble service, deeply rooted in public trust and distinct from commercial business ventures.Citing multiple judicial pronouncements, including a recent landmark ruling by the Madras High Court dated July 3, 2024, the Council reiterated that commercialisation of legal services undermines public faith and the sanctity of the legal practice.

The communication also noted that despite previous directives, a growing number of advocates have been found



soliciting work through indirect advertisements, online promotions, and even publicising favourable court outcomes with client photographs in newspapers in a clear violation of ethical standards.Rule 36 of the BCI Rules explicitly prohibits advocates from soliciting work through any form of advertisement or public endorsement, including via digital platforms. It also forbids personal publicity or associating oneself with any particular cause, organisation, or past designation to gain legal work.The Bar Council further highlighted recent concerns over “legal influencers” spreading misleading information online, regardless of their credentials.The Council has urged all presidents and secretaries of Bar Associations to immediately disseminate the circular among their members and ensure strict compliance.

Train blasts, Malegaon: Two attacks, multiple investigations, and how the cases fell

GNS News Agency, August 11

In a span of 10 days, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and National Investigation Agency (NIA) have received major blows in two big terrorism cases, with courts junking their investigation and finding no substance in their theories, leading to the accused being let off.Pointing to lapses in the Malegaon investigation, the Special NIA Court Thursday said: “Though there was strong suspicion against the accused persons, the investigating agencies failed to establish their guilt beyond reasonable doubt to convict them.”

The September 2008 Malegaon blasts had left six people dead and over a hundred injured. All the seven accused, including former BJP MP Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, were acquitted by the court Thursday.The ATS’s case was that the blasts were carried out by people with radical Hindutva leanings, with the communally sensitive Malegaon chosen deliberately for an attack during the month of Ramzan and on the eve of Navaratri.On July 21, the Bombay High Court set aside a special court verdict, acquitting all 12 accused in the 2006 Mumbai train blasts case that killed 186. Of the accused, five had been awarded death sentences and seven life terms.

Both these cases happened under Congress-led governments in the state and at the Centre — and were first investigated by the state ATS. Both had communal and political overtones; hence, amid allegations from political parties, different probe agencies were roped in at different stages of the case, impacting the overall investigation.In the Mumbai train blasts case, the ATS built a case blaming individuals linked to members of the Students’ Islamic Movement of India, backed by Pakistani terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The Special MCOCA Court validated the ATS’s investigation and, in October 2015, awarded the death penalty to five of the convicts and life terms to seven others.

The accused kept claiming that they were subjected to torture during the custodial interrogation.On July 21, the Bombay High Court set aside this verdict, putting a big question mark on the ATS’s theory that individuals linked to SIMI had orchestrated the blasts.This is important as, two years after the train blasts, the Mumbai Crime Branch, then headed by Joint Commissioner of Police Rakesh Maria, had claimed that when they busted the Indian Mujahideen (IM) module that had carried out blasts in Ahmedabad and other parts of the country, their members had admitted to also having carried out the Mumbai train blasts.In the Malegaon case, in October-November 2008, the ATS under its then chief Hemant Karkare made arrests of several alleged Hindu fun-

damentalists, including Thakur, and invoked MCOCA.

However, soon after, Karkare was killed during the November 26, 2008, Mumbai attack, after which former ATS chief K P Raghuvanshi was roped in to investigate the Malegaon case. He was first given additional charge of the ATS for seven months, then made full-fledged ATS chief and promoted to ADG rank.During his first stint with the ATS, Raghuvanshi, incidentally, had led the investigation into the 2006 Mumbai train blasts as well.Karkare’s investigation, alleging the involvement of Hindu extremists, was reflected in the first chargesheet filed by the ATS in January 2009, followed by a supplementary chargesheet in April 2011.

CSR activity on 10-08-2025'



Trump hits dozens more countries with steep tariffs



WASHINGTON, -GNS News Agency, August 11 U.S. President Donald Trump imposed steep tariffs on exports from dozens of trading partners, including Canada, Brazil, India and Taiwan, ahead of a Friday trade deal deadline, pressing ahead with plans to reorder the global economy.Trump set rates including a 35% duty on many goods from Canada, 50% for Brazil, 25% for India, 20% for Taiwan and 39% for Switzerland, according to a presidential executive order.The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.listed higher import duty rates of 10% to 41% starting in seven days for 69 trading partners as the 12:01 a.m. EDT (0401 GMT) deadline approached.

Some of them had reached tariff-reducing deals while others had no opportunity to negotiate. Trump included an exception for some goods shipped within the coming week.Goods from all other countries not listed would face a 10% U.S. import tax. Trump had previously said that rate might be higher. The administration also teased that more trade deals were in the pipeline as it seeks to close trade deficits and boost domestic factories.

The Republican president has tapped emergency powers, pressured foreign leaders, and pressed ahead with trade policies that sparked a market sell-off when they were first announced in April.U.S. federal appeals court judges on Thursday questioned Trump's use of the emergency powers to justify his tariffs of up to 50% on nearly all trading partners.Trump invoked the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act to declare an emergency over the growing U.S. trade deficit and impose his "reciprocal" tariffs and a separate fentanyl emergency.Asian shares were headed for the worst week since April on Friday after the tariffs were announced.European stocks hit a three-week low on Friday as investors focused on the impact of the new tariffs. The pan-European STOXX 600 indexfell around 1% in early trading, down for the third straight session and on track to end the week in red

Trump's tariff rollout comes amid more evidence they have begun driving up consumer goods prices.U.S. Commerce Department data released Thursday showed prices for home furnishings and durable household equipment jumped 1.3% in June, the biggest gain since March 2022.Recreational goods and vehicles prices shot up 0.9%, the most since February 2024. Prices for clothing and footwear rose 0.4%.Switzerland said it would push for a "negotiated solution" with the U.S., while Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said the new 20% tariff rate for the island was "temporary " and that he expected to reach a lower figure.

Thailand returns some Cambodian soldiers ahead of key border talks

BANGKOK, GNS News Agency, August 11 - Thailand's army sent home two Cambodian soldiers from a group of 20 on Friday, ahead of a key meeting in Malaysia next week where defence ministers and military commanders will hold talks aimed at maintaining a ceasefire along their disputed border.Long-simmering tensions on the Thai-Cambodian border exploded into clashes last week, including exchanges of artillery fire and jet fighter sorties, the worst fighting between the Southeast Asian neighbours in over a decade.

The clashes claimed at least 43 lives and left over 300,000 people displaced.A truce was achieved on Monday, following a push by Malaysia and phone calls from U.S President Trump who threatened to hold off tariff negotiations with both countries until fighting stopped.Thailand and Cambodia previously faced tariffs of 36% for sending goods to the U.S., their largest export markets. Following further negotiations, they will now pay a 19% tariff, the White House announced on Friday.In Bangkok, Thai government spokesperson Jirayu Houngsub told reporters on Friday that two Cambodian soldiers had been sent back, and the remaining 18 were being processed for violating immigration law."The Cambodian soldiers intruded on Thai territory and the army took them into custody, treating them based on humanitarian principles," he said.In a statement, the Cambodian defence ministry asked Thailand to return all the detained soldiers."Cambodia is actively engaging in negotiations to secure their release, and reiterates its firm call for their immediate and unconditional release in accordance with the international humanitarian law," a ministry spokesperson said.Defence ministers and military leaders from both sides, who were previously scheduled to meet in the

South Africa's Trade Minister Parks Tau said he was seeking "real, practical interventions" to defend jobs and the economy against the 30% U.S. tariff it faces.Trump's order said some trading partners, "despite having engaged in negotiations, have offered terms that, in my judgment, do not sufficiently address imbalances in our trading relationship or have failed to align sufficiently with the United States on economic and national-security matters."Other details are still to come, including on the "rules of origin" that will determine what products might face even higher tariffs.This range plot displays U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff rates or the most recent previously announced or threatened tariff rates for the U.S.'s top trading partners on Aug. 1, 2025.for Canada that raises the rate on Canadian goods subject to fentanyl-related tariffs to 35%, from 25% previously, saying Canada had "failed to cooperate" in curbing illicit narcotics flows into the U.S.The higher tariffs on Canadian goods contrasted sharply with Trump's decision to grant Mexico a 90-day reprieve from higher tariffs of 30% on many goods to allow time to negotiate a broader trade pact.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said he was disappointed by Trump's decision, and vowed to take action to protect Canadian jobs and diversify exports."While we will continue to negotiate with the United States on our trading relationship, the Canadian government is laser focused on what we can control: building Canada strong," he said in a post on X.The extension for Mexico avoids a 30% tariff on most Mexican non-automotive and non-metal goods compliant with the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement on trade and came after a Thursday call between Trump and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

"We avoided the tariff increase announced for tomorrow," Sheinbaum wrote on X, saying the Trump call was "very good."About 85% of U.S. imports from Mexico comply with the rules of origin outlined in the USMCA, shielding them from 25% tariffs related to fentanyl, according to Mexico's economy ministry.Trump said the U.S. would continue to levy a 50% tariff on Mexican steel, aluminum and copper and a 25% tariff on Mexican autos and on non-USMCA-compliant goods subject to tariffs related to the U.S. fentanyl crisis."Additionally, Mexico has agreed to immediately terminate its Non Tariff Trade Barriers, of which there were many," Trump said in a Truth Social post, without providing details.Indian goods seemed headed for a 25% tariff after talks bogged down over access to India's agriculture sector, drawing a higher-rate threat from Trump that included an unspecified penalty for India's purchases of Russian oil.New Delhi vowed to protect the country's farm sector, and the threat of higher rates from Trump triggered outrage from the opposition party and a slump in the rupee.

Trump hit Brazil's exports on Wednesday with a 50% tariff as he escalated his fight with the country over its prosecution of former President Jair Bolsonaro, but softened the blow by excluding sectors such as aircraft, energy and orange juice from heavier levies.Meanwhile, China is facing an August 12 deadline to reach a durable tariff agreement with Trump's administration after Beijing and Washington reached preliminary deals in May and June to end tit-for-tat tariffs and a cut-off of rare earth minerals.Additional reporting by Doina Chiacu and Susan Heavey in Washington and Aftab Ahmed in New Delhi; Writing by David Lawder and Stephen Coates; Editing by Nick Zieminski, Daniel Wallis, Michael Pery and Jane Merriman



Cambodian capital next week, will now hold talks in Malaysia, after Thailand sought a neutral venue for the meeting.

The General Border Committee, which coordinates on border security, ceasefires, and troop deployments, will meet between August 4-7, Thai Acting Defence Minister Nattaphon Narkphanit told reporters."Defence attachés from other ASEAN countries will be invited as well as the defence attachés from the U.S. and China," a Malaysian government spokesperson told reporters, referring to the Southeast Asian regional bloc that the country currently chairs.Thailand and Cambodia have for decades claimed jurisdiction over undemarked points along their 817-km (508-mile) land border, with ownership of several ancient temples at the centre of disputes.In May, a Cambodian soldier was killed in a skirmish, leading to a troop build-up and a diplomatic crisis, which eventually snowballed into five-days of intense fighting in late July.

Relief in Southeast Asia as Trump's tariffs level playing field



BANGKOK/KUALA LUMPUR,GNS News Agency, August 11 - Southeast Asian countries breathed a sigh of relief on Friday after the U.S. announced tariffs on their exports that were far lower than threatened and levelled the playing field with a rate of about 19% across the region's biggest economies.U.S. President Donald Trump's global tariffs offensive has shaken Southeast Asia, a region heavily reliant on exports and manufacturing and in many areas boosted by supply chain shifts from China.

Thailand, Malaysia and Cambodia joined Indonesia and the Philippines with a 19% U.S. tariff, a month after Washington imposed a 20% levy on regional manufacturing powerhouse Vietnam,Southeast Asia - with economies collectively worth more than \$3.8 trillion - had raced to offer concessions and secure deals with the United States, the top export market for much of the region.Its countries, many of them key players in the global supply chain, vied to stave off the prospect of losing market share to each other and of multinational firms shifting operations and orders elsewhere.

Malaysia's Trade Ministry said its rate, down from a threatened 25%, was a positive outcome without compromising on what it called "red line" items.Thailand's finance minister said the reduction from 36% to 19% would help his country's struggling economy face global challenges ahead."It helps maintain Thailand's competitiveness on the global stage, boosts investor confidence and opens the door to economic growth, increased income and new opportunities," Pichai Chunhavanjira said.The extent of progress on bilateral trade deals with the United States was not immediately clear, with Washington so far reaching broad "framework agreements" with Indonesia and Vietnam, with scope

U.S. President Donald Trump calls out Indian American Vasant Narasimhan, other big pharma CEOs to cut drug prices

In a rare and direct move, U.S. President Donald Trump has personally written to 17 top pharmaceutical CEOs — including Indian American Vasant Narasimhan, MD and CEO of Novartis — demanding an urgent action to bring down skyrocketing drug prices in the United States.

The letters, signed by the President and disclosed at a White House briefing on Thursday (July 31, 2025), give companies time until September 29, 2025, to commit to offering Americans the same prices they charge in Europe and other developed nations. The announcement, delivered by White House press secretary Karoline Leavitte, marks a significant escalation in the administration's war on what it calls "abusive drug pricing practices."Trump ended conflicts including India-Pakistan, should get Nobel Peace Prize: White House Press Secretary

"For too long," Ms. Leavitte told reporters, "Americans have paid more than triple for the same life-saving medications compared to other countries. President Trump says this injustice ends now."The letter addressed to Dr. Narasimhan and his peers includes four binding demands: extend global parity pricing to Medicaid, apply fair pricing to new drugs, redirect overseas profits to American patients, and enable direct consumer purchases at internationally benchmarked prices.Each letter was tailored but echoed the same urgent message: the days of global freeloading on American innovation are over.

Trump and team 'frustrated' with India over trade talks, says U.S. Treasury Secretary"This unacceptable burden on hardworking American families ends with my administration," Mr. Trump wrote, warning companies that if they fail to comply, the White House will "deploy every tool in our arsenal."Among the many recipients of these letters is Novartis CEO Vasant Narasimhan, a U.S.-trained physician who has led the Swiss pharmaceutical giant since 2018. While Novartis is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, it derives substantial revenue from U.S. patients and government programmes.

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to negotiate further. Pichai said Thailand was about a third of the way there.The United States on Friday slashed the tariff rate for Cambodia to 19% from earlier levies of 36% and 49%, a major boost for its crucial garments sector, its biggest economic driver and source of about a million manufacturing jobs."If the U.S. maintained 49% or 36%, that industry would collapse in my opinion," Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and top trade negotiator Sun Chanthol told Reuters in an interview.

STATUS QUOIn Thailand and Malaysia, business groups cheered a tariff rate that could signal a maintenance of the status quo between rival markets, among them beneficiaries of so-called "China plus one" trade."It's very good - we're on par with Indonesia and the Philippines and lower than Vietnam ... we're happy," said Werachai Lertluckprecha of semiconductor manufacturer Star Microelectronics

Chookiat Ophaswongse of the Thai rice exporters association said the similar rate to Vietnam would maintain its share of the U.S. market, while Wong Siew Hai, president of Malaysia's semiconductor industry association, said the latest tariffs would level the competition."I don't see the companies doing anything special. It will be business as usual for now, until they figure out what is the next best move," Wong said.Much remains to be worked out by the Trump administration, including non-tariff barriers, rules of origin and what constitutes transshipment for the purposes of evading duties, a measure targeting goods originating from China with no or limited value added, where a 40% tariff would apply.Vietnam has one of the world's largest trade surpluses with the United States, worth more than \$120 billion last year, and has been often singled out as a hub for the illegal re-routing of Chinese goods to America.It was a first-mover in trade talks and reached an agreement in July that slashed a levy from a threatened 46% to 20%, but concerns remain among some businesses that its heavy reliance on raw materials and components imported from China could lead to a wider application of the 40% rate."That is the real issue," said one businessman in Vietnam, who asked not to be named to allow him to speak more freely.Andrew Sheng of the University of Hong Kong's Asia Global Institute said the similar tariffs mean Southeast Asian countries should be relieved that policy uncertainty was over for now."The tariff announcement looks like a classic Trump Art of the Deal deal - lots of hype and threats, and with one flourish, the other side feels that it has a reasonable deal," he said.



Behind the policy is a human story. During the briefing, Ms. Leavitte read a letter from a mother in Ohio who struggles to afford insulin for her son, even while working two jobs. "This is about people," she said. "Families are being forced to choose between rent and medicine."In his letter, Mr. Trump said the unacceptable burden on hardworking American families ends with his administration. "Most proposals the Trump administration has received to resolve this critical issue promised more of the same, shifting blame and requesting policy changes that would result in billions of dollars in handouts to industry," he said."Moving forward, the only thing I will accept from drug manufacturers is a commitment that provides American families immediate relief from the vastly inflated drug prices and an end to the free ride of American innovation by European and other developed nations. Accordingly, I'm calling on Eli Lilly and Company and every manufacturer doing business in our great country to take the following actions within the next 60 days: extend the most favoured nation pricing to Medicaid; guarantee most favoured nation pricing for newly launched drugs; return increased revenues abroad to American patients and taxpayers; provide for direct purchasing at most favoured nation pricing," Mr. Trump wrote.

Treasury Secretary"This unacceptable burden on hardworking American families ends with my administration," Mr. Trump wrote, warning companies that if they fail to comply, the White House will "deploy every tool in our arsenal."

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Syria forms committee to investigate Sweida violence

GNS News Agency, August 11

BEIRUT, - Syria has pledged to investigate clashes in the southern province of Sweida which killed hundreds of people last month -the second major episode of sectarian violence since the ouster of longtime Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad.In a decree dated July 31, justice minister Muzher al-Wais said a committee of seven people - including judges, lawyers and a military official - would look into the circumstances that led to the "events in Sweida" and report back within three months.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

The committee would investigate reported attacks and abuses against civilians and refer anyone proven to have participated in such attacks to the judiciary.The violence in Sweida began on July 13 between tribal fighters and Druze factions. Government forces were sent to quell the fighting but the bloodshed worsened, and Israel carried out strikes on Syrian troops in the name of the Druze.

The Druze are a minority offshoot of Islam with followers in Syria, Lebanon and Israel. Sweida province is pre-

dominantly Druze but is also home to Sunni tribes, and the communities have had longstanding tensions over land and other resources.A U.S.-brokered truce ended the fighting, which had raged in Sweida city and surrounding towns for nearly a week.In March, hundreds of Alawite civilians were killed after government-aligned forces deployed to Syria's coastal areas following a deadly attack on new government forces by militias still aligned with Assad, who hails from the Alawite minority.Assad's brutal crackdown on protests against him in 2011 from within Syria's Sunni majority spiralled into a nearly 14-year war. Western leaders are keen to ensure the new government, led by a former Sunni Islamist group that has its roots in global jihad, conducts an orderly democratic transition. The fact-finding committee established after the March killings last month referred 298 people suspected of carrying out abuses against Alawites to the judiciary.

The committee said it found no evidence of commanders ordering troops to commit violations and that 265 people had been involved in the initial attack on government forces.

Indian apparel exporters warn of ‘mass layoffs’ over US tariffs



The US is a key market for Indian Ready-Made Garments (RMG) exports, with India holding a 33 per cent share in the country's total garment exports in 2024, AEPC said. The US is a key market for Indian Ready-Made Garments (RMG) exports, with India holding a 33 per cent share in the country's total garment exports in 2024, AEPC said.

Apparel exporters on Friday raised an alarm over steep 25 per cent US tariffs, stating that they will have to sell below cost to keep their factories running and avoid mass layoffs. This comes as new tariffs are set to come into effect on August 7, and as US tariffs on India have been set higher than on over 50 countries, including Bangladesh and Pakistan. "We request immediate government intervention to offset this huge setback. Exporters have their back against the wall and will have to sell below cost to keep their factories running and avoid mass layoffs," Sudhir Sekhri, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), said in a statement.

The US is a key market for Indian Ready-Made Garments (RMG) exports, with India holding a 33 per cent share in the country's total garment exports in 2024, AEPC said. India's presence in the US garment import market has grown, with its share increasing from 4.5 per cent in 2020

to 5.8 per cent in 2024, and it ranks fourth among the top RMG exporters to the United States, it said. "Top three most exported products by India to US: Cotton T-shirts (9.71 per cent); women's or girls' dresses of cotton (6.52 per cent); babies' garments of cotton (5.46 per cent), etc. The top three exports of India to the USA hold 10, 36, and 20 per cent share, respectively, in the US total imports of these products globally," AEPC said. China continues to be the top exporter, with a market share of 21.9 per cent in 2024, down from 27.4 per cent in 2020. Together, China, Vietnam and Bangladesh supplied 49 per cent of US apparel imports in 2024. Notably, while tariffs on China continue to be 30 per cent, US tariffs on Vietnam and Bangladesh have been set at 20 per cent.

The US is India's largest export market for the labour-intensive Indian textile and apparel industry, as India exported \$10.91 billion worth of products under the category in FY25. A steep 25 per cent tariff would leave Indian products uncompetitive compared to those from Bangladesh. Textiles have been a key growth driver in the US market, as a Morgan Stanley analysis said that India's bilateral goods trade surplus with the US has doubled over the last 10 years, growing from \$20 billion in FY15 to \$40 billion in FY25. "This increase has been mainly driven by higher surpluses in sectors like electronics, pharmaceutical products and textiles," the report said. The India-US trade deal is stuck over sensitive sectors such as agriculture and automobiles. The Indian Express had reported last week that India is unlikely to agree to US demands during the ongoing trade negotiations to accept genetically modified (GM) agricultural products such as corn and soy. This assumes significance as agriculture remains one of the contentious issues between the two countries, and the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has previously flagged restrictions on its GM products by countries as discriminatory.

Pakistan, Bangladesh among 50 countries now with lower US tariffs than India

The Trump adminThe Trump administration has set lower tariffs on several competitors in the American market, which could hurt Indian exports, especially in the labour-intensive and high-value electronics sectors.

US New Tariff Policy 2025: After securing trade deals on his terms with partners such as the European Union (EU), Japan and South Korea, US President Donald Trump has ramped up pressure on India by imposing lower tariffs on more than 50 countries including Pakistan and Bangladesh, compared to the 25 per cent levied on India, a new set of reciprocal tariffs released on Friday showed. The US has set lower tariffs on several competitors in the American market, which could hurt Indian exports, especially in the labour-intensive and high-value electronics sectors. Even without a trade deal, the US has announced 20 per cent tariffs on Bangladesh — a key competitor in the readymade garments (RMG) category not just in the US but also in several Western markets.



The new tariffs are set to come into effect on August 7.

Even Pakistan, with whom the US has announced a trade deal, will have lower tariffs set at 19 per cent. Trump had said that Pakistan and the US would work together on developing large Pakistani oil reserves. However, Pakistan has seen a number of unsuccessful oil exploration attempts. Moreover, Vietnam at 20 per cent, and Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines at 19 per cent each, are Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries that have also been assigned lower tariffs, potentially giving them better market access in the US in the electrical and electronics sectors compared to India.

While lower duties on Bangladesh and Pakistan could impact India's RMG exports to the US, a beneficial duty structure for Vietnam and Malaysia is expected to hurt India's fast growing non-leather footwear manufacturing along with the electronics manufacturing sector. This comes after White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett on Wednesday said Trump has been frustrated with how trade talks with India are progressing. "I think President Trump is frustrated with the progress we've made with India but feels that a 25 per cent tariff will address and remedy the situation in a way that's good for the American people," Hassett

said, as per Reuters.

The notification said that some trading partners that have agreed to, or are on the verge of concluding, meaningful trade and security agreements will remain subject to the fresh duties announced "until these agreements are finalised and subsequent orders are issued". The India-US trade deal is stuck over sensitive sectors such as agriculture and automobiles. The Indian Express had reported last week that India is unlikely to agree to US demands during the ongoing trade negotiations to accept genetically modified (GM) agricultural products such as corn and soy.

This assumes significance as agriculture remains one of the contentious issues between the two countries, and the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has previously flagged restrictions on its GM products by countries as discriminatory. "The Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006 includes specific provisions for regulating food products derived from genetically engineered (GE) sources; however, as of 31 December 2024, the FSSAI was still in the process of establishing its regulations. India's biotechnology approval processes are slow, opaque, and subject to political influences, and do not appear to take into account science-based approval processes for GE products in exporting countries," the USTR report earlier this year had said. While India is seeking greater market access for its textiles, leather and footwear, the US is pushing for access to India's agricultural and dairy markets — a major hurdle, as Indian farmers often operate on small land parcels with limited technological support. In contrast, the US has demanded that India drop its GM regulation.

India, China marking a beginning, sense of caution would have to be built in: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

India and China are beginning to move towards more access and interactions that might help the economy, even as a sense of caution would have to be built in, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday. She also underlined that maintaining growth is India's top priority along with the need to be a dynamic player in global institutions and redefining its role in the global South, and having a friendly and attractive FDI policy to be able to get more and more investments. When asked about the thaw in Indo-China relations at the launch of the book A World in Flux: India's Economic Priorities with the recent relaxation of visa norms, Sitharaman said not just India but China has also shown interest in these interactions and one will have to "wait and see" how far it will go. Citing the restrictions earlier enlisted in Press Note 3 that had put curbs on investments from China, which also affected some of the projects including those in the renewable energy sector, Sitharaman said there was lull during the tariff war between the US and China. But, now it has been felt by both India and China for the "need to have more access and a lot more interactions that could possibly open some windows".

"And that's not just from our side, even the Chinese have been approaching through the MEA. So, you had External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar go. There is something, some kind of a beginning, as to how much it will take us far; how far it will go is something we will have to wait and see. But it might help the economy; however much, a sense of caution would have to be built in," she said. Last week, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar travelled to China where he had underlined that "differences should not become disputes" nor should "competition ever become conflict" and that while India and China have made good progress in the past nine months towards the normalisation of bilateral relations, they should work to address de-escalation on the border. India had earlier put restrictions on investments from China through Press Note 3 in April 2020 to curb potential opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies during the Covid-19 pandemic by making a government approval mandatory for all investments from countries sharing a land

border with India, including China. It continued to be in force in the wake of national security concerns due to border tensions after the Galwan clash.

Enlisting India's priorities, Sitharaman said growth is the topmost priority. "Growth is the topmost priority, and therefore, it will have an overlap with: do you create jobs, do you have that value addition," she said.

The Indian economy grew by 6.5 per cent in FY25, the slowest in four years as against 9.2 per cent growth in FY24. For the current financial year 2025-26, the Economic Survey has projected GDP growth at 6.3-6.8 per cent, while the RBI has lowered its growth forecast to 6.5 per cent from an earlier level of 6.7 per cent for FY26. The second objective for India would be to be relevant on the global stage, she said. "Not just to be there in the leadership position but to be able to define how this move is going to take India forward along with the rest of the countries. We need to define the global institutions which are going to govern us for the next hundred years," she said. Within India, Sitharaman said the government will have to focus on whether it is giving the economy the necessary support and attending to every aspiring section's aspirations, not just by giving money but by giving an overall ecosystem through which they can aspire to grow. Finding resources for meeting domestic economic aspirations within fiscal constraints is another priority for the government, she said. Another priority would be to make sure that the FDI policy is friendly and attractive to be able to get more and more investments happening in India. On the issue of trade pacts, Sitharaman said agreements are taking priority over multilateral trade even though she can't comment if it's good or bad as of now. "On the bilateral trade front, we are moving forward and we have seen bilateral agreements being signed in the last four to five years with Australia, UAE, EFTA and the UK. Negotiations are progressing well with the United States as well as the European Union," she said. Aanchal Magazine is Senior Assistant Editor with The Indian Express and reports on the macro economy and fiscal policy, with a special focus on economic science, labour trends, taxation

The silent engine behind every cancer cure: why everyone should care about research



Every gain in survival, every reduction in side effects, and every new hope offered to families comes from decades of careful investigation and relentless inquiry. The complex field of cancer keeps evolving because of research. Research is carried out with the never-ending hope that somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known. This curiosity of scientists, driven by courage and strewn with challenges, has shaped the scientific advances we see today, says Pandurangan Vijayanand, director of research, Cancer Institute (WIA). Every cancer treatment that saves a life today, whether it is a precise beam of radiation, a novel surgery, or a life-extending drug, was made possible through decades of research. Some of it began in laboratories, where scientists uncovered the genetic, molecular, and cellular secrets of cancer. Equally important, much of it unfolded in hospitals, through clinical trials and patient-centred studies led by doctors, nurses, and multidisciplinary care teams. While scientists and physicians may work in different settings, they share a common goal: to improve patient outcomes.

Vijayalakshmi Ramshankar, professor and head, department of cancer biology and molecular diagnostics, emphasises that cancer research is not a straight line from lab to clinic; it is a continuous, collaborative cycle in which laboratory discoveries inform clinical practice, and real-world observations at the bedside spark new questions in the lab. Yet for the public, research can seem abstract or distant. It is often imagined as something done in sterile labs, far removed from everyday life. In truth, research is the invisible force that powers everything in modern cancer care, says Sabitha Ramanathan, professor and head, department of molecular oncology. Like invisible roots beneath the soil that nourish the whole tree, research nourishes the branches of innovation and discovery. It shapes how we diagnose, treat, prevent, and even talk about cancer.

Not long ago, cancer treatment followed a one-size-fits-all approach. Most patients received similar combinations of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. Today, we are firmly in the era of precision oncology, where treatments are tailored to the genetic and molecular makeup of each patient's tumour, and this treatment plan has been vetted and approved after intense discussion at multidisciplinary meetings called tumour boards. Targeted therapies, for example, attack specific mutations that drive cancer growth while sparing healthy cells. Drugs like imatinib and

trastuzumab have transformed outcomes in diseases such as chronic myeloid leukaemia and HER2-positive breast cancer. These breakthroughs came from years of basic science, drug development, and clinical trials. Just as importantly, they were supported by data on how these treatments work across different populations and health systems, helping ensure that innovation benefits everyone, not just a few. One of the most remarkable developments in recent years is immunotherapy, a treatment that harnesses the body's immune system to fight cancer. Immune checkpoint inhibitors have shown dramatic results in cancers like skin and lung cancer, where survival has improved for the first time in decades. CAR-T cell therapy takes it a step further by genetically modifying a patient's T cells to target their cancer directly. While currently used in certain types of blood cancer, research is underway to expand these therapies to more patients and cancer types.

Research has also changed how treatments are delivered. Surgery has become more precise with robotic assistance and minimally invasive techniques that reduce pain and shorten recovery times. In radiation oncology, newer technologies such as image-guided radiotherapy, stereotactic body radiation therapy, and proton beam therapy enable doctors to target tumors with exceptional accuracy. This means fewer complications, especially in children and in cancers located near sensitive organs like the brain or spinal cord. India, with its vast and diverse population, is well positioned to make significant contributions to global cancer research. Increasingly, Indian institutions are leading clinical trials that reflect our realities, including affordability, infrastructure, and cultural factors. Efforts include repurposing inexpensive, off-patent drugs; evaluating shortened treatment courses; and generating real-world evidence from both urban and rural settings. The Indian Paediatric Haematology Oncology Group (INPHOG) has developed and tested protocols suited explicitly to local children. National cancer registries now generate critical data that guide policies and help international partners better understand cancer trends in low- and middle-income countries. Every screening guideline, every side effect averted, every treatment that improves survival began with a research question. Even in palliative care, the process of easing pain and supporting dignity at the end of life, has evolved through studies aimed at improving our approach. Despite all the progress, cancer remains a leading cause of death in India and worldwide. The burden is expected to grow. That makes continued research not just important, but critical. We need better prevention strategies, early detection, shorter and safer treatments, and solutions that work in real-world environments. Patients, caregivers, communities, and policymakers all play a crucial role. Participating in studies, advocating for research funding, donating to medical science, or simply asking doctors about the latest evidence -- these actions collectively strengthen the ecosystem that advances cancer care. As we look toward a future of Artificial Intelligence (AI), personalized medicine, and wearable health monitors, compassion and curiosity must continue to guide us. In a world where cancer affects nearly every family, investing in research is seeking the science that is truth, which is a moral imperative.

Study finds climate change could worsen risk of diarrhoea among children in south, southeast Asia

Climate change could worsen the risk of diarrhoea -- a leading cause of death among children aged under five -- across south and southeast Asia, including India, endangering the health of millions of children, according to a study. Researchers from Australia, including those from Flinders University, analysed data of more than three million children, taken from national surveys of eight Asian countries, such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Prevalence of diarrhoea was found to be about 8 per cent among India's under-fives. The disease is marked by passing loose, watery stools occurring more often than normal. Dehydration, malnutrition and an impaired immunity are among its risk factors.

The findings, published in the journal Environmental Research, also highlight temperature extremes and declining rainfall (in a year's wettest month) as the two main climate-associated factors driving a higher risk of diarrhoea among children. A wider range of yearly temperatures -- 30 to 40 degrees Celsius -- was related with a 39 per cent increase in chances of diarrhoea among children, while less-than-usual rainfall in the wettest month (under 600 millimetres) increased the risk by about 30 per cent. Further, children of mothers with less than eight years of schooling were found to face an 18 per cent higher risk of diarrhoea, lead researcher Syeda Hira Fatima from Flinders University said.

"This makes investing in maternal education one of the most powerful and scalable climate-adaptation strategies -- not only to improve child health, but also to address broader challenges like overcrowding and poor hygiene," Fatima said. "Education empowers mothers to act early when their children fall ill, which can save lives," the lead researcher said and added that its role in climate-health policies is central, especially in the world's densely populated, high-risk regions. Citing previous research, co-author Corey Bradshaw, professor of global ecology at Flinders University, said 88 per cent of deaths due to diarrhoea are



linked to unhygienic conditions, including unsafe drinking water.

"Improved access to drinking water can reduce the risk of diarrhoea by 52 per cent, while better sanitation facilities can lower the risk by 24 per cent," Bradshaw said. The author added that poverty is known to increase diarrhoea risk by limiting access to nutrition, clean water and healthcare, while also fostering environments where diarrhoeal pathogens thrive. "With our recent research also showing that droughts in East Asia will intensify based on 1,50,000 years of monsoon records, this new study now warns that the intensified impacts of climate change will lead to increased child diarrhoea and all the associated health impacts in Asia," Bradshaw said. The authors wrote, "Higher annual temperature range (30-40 degrees Celsius) was associated with a (nearly) 39 per cent increase in diarrhoea probability, while lower precipitation in the wettest month (under 600 millimetres) increased risk by (nearly) 29 per cent, highlighting the role of drier conditions." "We found that maternal education (under) eight years increased diarrhoea probability by (nearly) 18 per cent, and household sizes exceeding six members increased it by (nearly) nine per cent," they wrote.

COVID and flu may trigger relapse in breast cancer survivors: Study

New Delhi: Common respiratory infections, including Covid-19 and influenza, can awaken dormant breast cancer cells that have spread to the lungs, setting the stage for new metastatic tumours, according to a new study. The findings published in the journal Nature, based on mouse studies as well as meta-analysis of human patients, support research showing increases in death and metastatic lung disease among cancer survivors infected with SARS-CoV-2 -- the virus that causes Covid.

"Our findings indicate that individuals with a history of cancer may benefit from taking precautions against respiratory viruses, such as vaccination when available, and discussing any concerns with their health care providers," said Julio Aguirre-Ghiso, from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, US. Previous evidence suggests that inflammatory processes can awaken disseminated cancer cells (DCCs) -- cells that have broken away from a primary tumour and spread to distant organs, often lying dormant for extended periods. An increase in cancer death rates during the Covid pandemic bolstered the idea that severe inflammation may be waking up the dormant DCCs, Aguirre-Ghiso said.

The team tested the hypothesis on mice and exposed them to SARS-CoV-2 or the influenza virus -- both triggered the awakening of dormant DCCs in the lungs, leading to a massive expansion of metastatic cells within days of infection and the appearance of metastatic lesions within two weeks. Molecular analyses revealed that the awakening of dormant DCCs is driven by interleukin-6 (IL-6), a protein that immune cells release in response to infections or injuries. This suggested that using IL-6 inhibitors or other targeted immunotherapies might prevent or lessen the re-surgence of metastasis. Further, to understand the implications in humans, the team analysed two large databases and found that respiratory infections in cancer patients in remission are linked to cancer metastasis. "The effect was most pronounced in the first year after infection," said Roel Vermeulen, from Utrecht University, The Netherlands. The rapid progression to cancer mirrors the observed quick expansion of dormant cancer cells in animal models. "Our findings suggest that cancer survivors may be at increased risk of metastatic relapse after common respiratory viral infections," said Vermeulen. "It is important to note that our study focused on the period before Covid-19 vaccines were available."

Karun Nair’s toil for England tour during IPL revealed by Kevin Pietersen: ‘Spent many hours talking...’



GNS News Agency, August 11

Karun Nair was pivotal in India’s efforts to go into Stumps on Day 1 of the fifth Test between India and England without losing all of their wickets. Nair, whose contributions throughout the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy has left a lot to be desired, scored his only half-century outside of the unbeaten 303 in 2016 on a day in which India lost wickets in clumps at the other end. Kevin Pietersen, who worked with Nair in the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL), said that the latter spent many hours talking to him about batting in England.

“So happy for Karun and how he’s stabilised India’s batting yesterday. He’s a tremendously hard worker on his game and we spent many hours talking about batting in

England during the IPL. I’m hoping he gets a wonderful 100 today!” Pietersen said in a post on his X handle before start of play on Day 2. It hasn’t quite worked out the way the England captain wished for in the post, with Nair falling for 57 off 109 balls in just the third over of the day.

India ended up capitulating on Day 2, losing their last four wickets including that of Nair’s in just over five overs and being all out for 224 runs. England have since tightened their grip on the match with Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett blazing a 92-run partnership in just 78 balls.Nair played eight matches for Delhi Capitals in IPL 2025, with Pietersen being the team’s mentor. He scored 198 runs at a strike rate of 172.17. This came after a bumper season in the Ranji Trophy in which he helped Vidarbha win the title and a ridiculous Vijay Hazare Trophy season in which he powered the team to the final by smashing a whopping 779 runs in nine matches at an average of 389.50 with five centuries and a half-century.Pietersen’s revelation is only the latest in a slew of reports of Indian players using the IPL to prepare for the ongoing tour. At Rajasthan Royals, Yashasvi Jaiswal would spend so much time with his teammate and England captain Joe Root that they would start calling him ‘Joeswal’. Akash Deep, when at RCB, would relentlessly stalk his team’s main pacer, the Aussie star Josh Hazlewood for advice. Nitish Reddy would ask his captain at SRH, Aussie stalwart Pat Cummins, the secret of getting wickets in England. Delhi Capitals this year had Kevin Pietersen as the team mentor. Kuldeep Yadav didn’t let the opportunity go to waste.

Another high for Divya Deshmukh, breaks into top-15 in world rankings after FIDE World Cup win

GNS News Agency, August 11

Divya Deshmukh barged into the top 15 of the world as the August 2025 ratings list was released by FIDE, the global governing body of chess. Her rating also swelled by 15 points to go to 2478 after her barnstorming campaign at the FIDE Women’s World Cup in Batumi, Georgia, where she won the title despite entering the tournament as the 15th-best ranked player. Thanks to winning the World Cup, arguably the most treacherous tournament to win in women’s chess, Divya also became a grandmaster, India’s 88th. She is also only the fourth woman from the country to get clinch highest title on offer in the sport.Winning the FIDE Women’s World Cup also helped her secure a spot in the FIDE Women’s Candidates tournament, where eight players will battle for the right to challenge the reigning women’s world champion Ju Wenjun in the next Women’s World Championship.

With 2535 rating points, Koneru Humpy, who Divya defeated in the final of the World Cup in a thrilling tiebreak, remains the top-ranked Indian in the world in the women’s rankings list. Humpy has, however, gone down one spot to no 6 in a ranking list dominated by the Chinese. The veteran Harika Dronavalli, who lost to Divya in the quarterfinal



of the FIDE World Cup, was ranked 12th in the world among women, ahead of Divya.There are five women from China occupying the top 5 spots in the FIDE ratings list for women: Hou Yifan (world no 1 at 2607), Ju Wenjun (No 2 with 2570), Lei Tingjie (No 3 with 2565), Tan Zhongyi (No 4 with 2539) and Zhu Jiner (No 5 with 2536).Meanwhile in the open ratings list, there are three Indians among the world’s no 6, led by Praggnanandhaa at world no 4 with a rating of 2779. World champion Gukesh is no 5 while Arjun Erigaisi is no 6. Both players have the same points, 2776.

Divya Deshmukh reveals her team of Seconds for Women’s World Cup; dedicates GM title to late coach Rahul Joshi

GNS News Agency, August 11

Divya Deshmukh, the 19-year-old latest chess star from India, has revealed her team of Seconds, which helped her win the FIDE Women’s World Cup 2025. The triumph in Georgia’s coastal city of Batumi helped her become the first Indian to win this elite event; it also made her the fourth Indian female Grandmaster after Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli and R. Vaishali.Revealing her Seconds, Divya named GM Csaba Balogh and GM Abhimanyu Puranik as those who helped her train during the World Cup.“Also, I was helped by Abhimanyu Puranik for this tournament. He was always there to cheer me on,” she further added.

In an interview with IM Michael Rahal for FIDE, Divya revealed her team. She said, “For this tournament, I was helped by Csaba Balogh. He’s from Hungary. He’s a really strong Grandmaster. He spent endless nights. I think he’s had a harder time with this tournament than I have. He’s got no sleep. He was the reason I had such good preparation.”“Also, I was helped by Abhimanyu Puranik for this tournament. He was always there to cheer me on,” added Divya.

GM Balogh is a 2014 Olympiad individual and team silver medalist for Hungary. Having received a GM title in 2004, Balogh was a member of the Hungarian national team



that won both the U-16 Chess Olympiad and the European U-18 Team Chess Championship. Meanwhile, Puranik is a 25-year-old GM, based in Mumbai. He finished second at the World Junior Chess Championship in 2018.After returning to India, Divya dedicated her GM title to her first coach, late Rahul Joshi. Joshi, a well-known chess trainer from Nagpur, died in 2020 at the age of 40.Divya beat compatriot Humpy in the tiebreaks to win the World Cup as both players confirmed their spots in the upcoming women’s Candidates Tournament set to be played in 2026. The Candidates acts as a challenger’s tournament, which gives its winner the right to challenge the reigning World Champion.

Jasprit Bumrah released from India squad for fifth Test against England: BCCI

GNS News Agency, August 11

After his struggles in the Manchester Test, former India batter Mohammed Kaif feels that Bumrah may soon quit from Test cricket. (AP)After his pace struggles in Manchester, former India batter Mohammed Kaif feels that Bumrah may soon quit from Test cricket. (AP)Indian ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been released from the squad for the fifth Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy against England, played at the Oval in London. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the development on Friday after Bumrah was rested for the final Test to manage his excessive workload in the longest format of cricket.

BCCI released a statement which reads, “Mr Jasprit Bumrah has been released from India’s squad for the fifth Test of the series against England. The fifth and final Test of the series is underway at Kennington Oval, London.”World No. 1 Test bowler was supposed to play three Tests in this series, which Bumrah had informed the board ahead of the tour.As reported by The Indian Express, India did make four changes to their playing XI for the final Test: Jasprit Bumrah, Rishabh Pant, Anshul Kamboj and Shardul Thakur missing out while Prasidh Krishna, Dhruv Jurel, Akash Deep and

Karun Nair making it to the XI.India skipper lost his fifth toss in a row as England won the toss and elected to bowl first on a green-top surface. Indian batters struggled against the English attack, which was assisted by the overcast conditions, as the visitors scored 204/6 at the end of day’s play in 64. Nair and Washington Sundar remained unbeaten.On the match eve, there was a point of view that Bumrah might play his fourth Test of the series in Oval despite the team management’s workload considerations and the pre-decided plan to play him just three Tests. That was not to be.

After the team management resisted the temptation to play Bumrah, they threw their weight behind the youngish pace attack led by Siraj. At the end of the first Test that India lost, coach Gautam Gambhir was asked if they would think of giving Bumrah an extra Test, four instead of three, in case the series result was on line. “There will be no compromise on work load,” he had said.India’s updated squad for fifth Test: Shubman Gill (C), KL Rahul (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Mohd. Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Kuldeep Yadav, Anshul Kamboj, Arshdeep Singh, N Jagadeesan (WK).

Duleep Trophy: Shardul Thakur to lead star-studded West Zone team



GNS News Agency, August 11

Shardul Thakur will lead the West Zone team for Duleep Trophy, the Zonal selection committee decided on Friday. In a star studded line-up which has Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer, Sarfaraz Khan and Ruturaj Gaikwad, the selection committee preferred Mumbai’s bowling all-rounder Thakur to lead the side. The reason for not naming Iyer as skipper was that the selection committee felt that he might be picked for the Asia Cup team which is scheduled to play from September 9 onward. The Duleep Trophy is scheduled to kick start from August 28 in Bengaluru.

Thakur has been playing a vital role in Mumbai’s Ranji success for the last few years. He has been contributing both with bat and ball. Over the last two seasons, where Mumbai has been bailed out from runs from lower-order, Thakur has had a lead role to play alongside Tanush Kotian and Shams Mulani.The two also join Thakur in the West

Zone squad that also has place for pacer Tushar Deshpande.Earlier, Iyer had expressed his availability to play in the Duleep Trophy. Iyer has played 14 Tests for India and scored one century to go with five fifties, but he hasn’t played the longest format internationally since February 2024 against England. He was, however, an integral part of the Indian team that lifted the 50-overs Champions Trophy title in Dubai earlier this year.More recently, under Iyer’s captaincy, Punjab Kings entered the final of the Indian Premier League’s 2025 season, where they lost to the Royal Challengers of Bengaluru in Ahmedabad. Iyer wasn’t picked for the Indian Test tour to England that is currently underway, as the selectors decided to go with Karun Nair, who had prolific returns in domestic cricket more recently.The 2025–26 domestic season will begin with the Duleep Trophy (August 28, 2025) and conclude with the Senior Women’s Inter-Zonal Multi-Day Trophy (April 3, 2026). The Ranji Trophy season is set to begin from October 15, with Phase 1 going up until 19 November and Phase 2 of the season (Elite) extending from 22 January 2026 to 1 February. This season the Duleep Trophy returns to the zonal format. The squads are picked by the state selectors from respective zones. South Zone were the champions when the Duleep Trophy was held in the 2023-24 season.West Zone squad: Shardul Thakur (Capt), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Aarya Desai, Harvik Desai (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Sarfaraz Khan, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Jaymeet Patel, Manan Hingrajia, Saurabh Nawale (wk), Shams Mulani, Tanush Kotian, Dharmendra Jadeja, Tushar Deshpande, Arzan Nagwaswala.

Magnus Carlsen shushes Saudi crowd after roaring support for Hikaru Nakamura at Esports World Cup in Riyadh

Chess at the Esports World Cup 2025 (EWC) delivered big time as the semifinal clash between two Goliaths — Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura — saw a lot of tense action, drama, high-quality games and antics as the chess world was privy to entertainment. The best-of-six semifinal saw World No. 1 Carlsen pitted against World No. 2 Nakamura in a nail-biting duel that went down to the wire.With the live audience heavily favouring the American Nakamura, who represents Saudi-based Esports organisation, team Falcon, Carlsen grew visibly frustrated and even went on to raise a finger to his lips, looking to silence the crowd.

Carlsen wasted no time getting into the lead after beating Nakamura with white pieces. In return, the American hit hard to get an almost winning position against the Norwegian but ended up drawing the game under severe time pressure. This is when Carlsen does a fist pump, understanding the value of his hold.But Nakamura wasn’t done. He retaliated in Game 3 with the black pieces, levelling the score 1.5-1.5 after being fueled by roaring support from the live crowd, who made their allegiance clear. However, their cheers only seemed to ignite Carlsen’s resolve. The moment he gained a winning advantage, he fired back with a silencing gesture, hushing the audience.



After playing out a draw in the fifth game to retain a 3.0-2.0 lead in the match-up, Nakamura delivered in the must-win game and beat Carlsen on demand, taking the semifinals to the Armageddon. The tiebreaker Armageddon went in Carlsen’s favour as he qualified for the finals, where he will be up against Nakamura’s teammate and another crowd favourite, Team Falcons’ Alireza Firouzja.“It pissed me off when they cheered when Hikaru was winning!” Carlsen admitted after the match. What was Hikaru’s reaction to his loss? “Hopefully tomorrow Alireza can kick Magnus Carlsen’s a**!”

Khalid Jamil named India coach, first home-grown tactician to be given national team charge after 13 years

GNS News Agency, August 11

Former footballer Khalid Jamil was named as the new coach of the Indian football team, it was announced on Friday.Jamil, who is currently the coach of Indian Super League side Jamshedpur FC, will become the first Indian to coach the national team after 13 years. Savio Madeira was the last home-grown coach to be given the top job in October 2011. His stint lasted till March 2012.Confirming his appointment, the All India Football Federation said: “The AIFF Executive Committee, in the presence of the Technical Committee, has approved the appointment of Khalid Jamil as the new head coach of the Senior India Men’s National Team.”

Jamil, who will replace Manolo Marquez, was selected from a shortlist of three coaches, which included former India coach Stephen Constantine and Slovakian manager Stefan Tarkovic.Born in Kuwait, the 49-year-old enjoys the rare honour of winning India’s top division as a player and a coach — he won it with Mahindra United in 2005 and then guided Aizawl FC to the I-League title in 2017 in one of biggest underdog stories inIndian football.

Jamil, who holds the AFC Pro License, has the experience of coaching across all divisions — I-League, I-League 2, and the Indian Super League (ISL).Marquez’s



short, turbulent and unsuccessful stint as the Indian football team’s coach ended earlier this month after the Spaniard and the AIFF ‘mutually agreed to part ways’.Marquez’s tenure lasted just under a year, making it the shortest among Indian head coaches in the last decade — Constantine was India’s head coach from 2015–2019 before Igor Stimac (2019-2024).While a poor performance in the 2023 Asian Cup was among the key reasons for Stimac’s sacking, India are now in danger of failing to qualify altogether for the 2027 edition of the tournament. India managed just one win in the eight matches they played under Marquez.

Shreyas Iyer expresses availability to take part in Duleep Trophy that marks the beginning of new domestic season in Indian cricket

India batter Shreyas Iyer has expressed his availability to take part in the forthcoming Duleep Trophy for the West Zone side. The Duleep Trophy is scheduled to kick start from August 28 and the zonal selection is scheduled to take place on Friday afternoon in Mumbai.Apart from Iyer, Mumbai’s middle-order batsman Sarfaraz Khan, and allrounder Shivam Dubey too have confirmed their availability to play and have informed the Mumbai Cricket Association about it.

“Iyer has informed us that he is available to play in the Duleep Trophy. Other players like Sarfaraz, Shivam Dubey and Tushar Deshpande have confirmed their availability,” a source in the MCA confirmed to The Indian Express.Iyer has played 14 Tests for India and scored one century to go with five fifties, but he hasn’t played the longest format internationally since February 2024 against England. He was, however, an integral part of the Indian team that lifted the 50-overs Champions Trophy title in Dubai earlier this year.More recently, under Iyer’s captaincy, Punjab Kings entered the final of the Indian Premier League’s 2025 season, where they lost to the Royal Challengers of Bangalore in Ahmedabad. Iyer wasn’t picked for the Indian Test tour to England that is currently underway, as the selectors de-

cided to go with Karun Nair, who had prolific returns in domestic cricket more recently.However, it’s not clear whether the selection committee will pick the players who are part of the Indian Test match team, which is currently playing against England. The current Indian players have been away from home for the past four months, and they could be in need of a well-deserved break.

It is understood that West Zone selectors will not pick Ravindra Jadeja, as he will be given rest to prepare for the long domestic season that is further ahead of the Duleep Trophy. Meanwhile, Shardul Thakur will be available for selection. The South Zone selection committee, which recently named Tilak Varma as skipper for their side, too had decided not to include KL Rahul, Prasidh Krishna, Washington Sundar and Mohd Siraj.

The 2025–26 domestic season will begin with the Duleep Trophy (August 28, 2025) and conclude with the Senior Women’s Inter-Zonal Multi-Day Trophy (April 3, 2026). The Ranji Trophy season is set to begin from October 15, with Phase 1 going up until 19 November and Phase 2 of the season (Elite) extending from 22 January 2026 to 1 February.

Meena Kumari was thrown out of the house she bought by her father, paid him Rs 2 lakh to get married; was treated as a ‘meal ticket’ by her family



There’s a certain sense of tragedy that haunts a child who starts facing the camera at a particularly young age. Even before they know their alphabets, they are mugging up paragraphs of dialogues; before they can make friends, they are required to be professional. The children are treated as employees by their parents and the guardian who is supposed to provide them with a safe space ends up pushing them in an environment which is generally regarded as unsafe. One wonders if it is just money, or the idea of fame and fortune that makes adults push their toddlers into a business which is infamous for more reasons that can be listed here; or if it is the sheer insensitivity that causes parents to look the other way as little kids collapse under circumstances that lead to harassment, sexual or otherwise. Documentaries like Finding Neverland, Quiet on Set: The Dark Side of Kids TV, Child Star examined how irresponsible parents conveniently ignored their kids as they were being swallowed by their unkind atmosphere. Closer home, actors like Daisy Irani, Rekha, Madhubala faced uncomfortable situations on film sets in their younger years, as their parents forced them to continue working in the movies. ‘Tragedy Queen’ Meena Kumari had a similar start as she started working in the movies as a 4-year-old, and soon became the sole caretaker of her entire clan.

Meena Kumari, who was born as Mahjabeen, to parents Ali Bux and Iqbal Begum in a chawl in Dadar, Mumbai (now Bombay) in 1933, was thrown in front of a camera at the age of 4. Her older sister Khursheed was already making a living wage as a child actor, as their father dragged them from one studio to another in search of the next job. Ali was a musician, and had moved from Pakistan to Mumbai, leaving behind his first wife and three other daughters. He married Iqbal Begum, who was previously a Hindu named Prabhavati, and was related to the family of Rabindranath Tagore, and had three daughters – Khursheed, Meena and Madhu. It is said that Ali was unhappy when Meena was born and some reports even claim that he left her outside an orphanage, but no one could ever verify that. Their chawl was next to an orphanage and perhaps, that led to this rumour.

Meena was an innocent four year old when she faced the camera for the first time and was completely unaware that she had gotten on a ride that would never stop. In the book, Meena Kumari – the Classic Biography, by Vinod Mehta, she was quoted saying, “The first day I trotted along to work, I little imagined that I was saying goodbye to the normal pleasantries of childhood. I thought I would go to the studio for a few days and then go to school, learn a few things and play and make merry like other children. But

Sumathi Valavu movie review: Arjun Ashokan’s ‘horror comedy’ aims for the sturdiness of Stree, but proves that ambition alone won’t take a film far

Sumathi Valavu movie review: Remember the “Salsa Mukku” subplot in Kunjiramayanam? As absurd, unrealistic, fantastical and cartoonish as it was, what made that track extremely enjoyable — and even believable — was due to director Basil Joseph’s mastery as a storyteller. Not just that he and writer Deepu Pradeep had built the world of Desham comprehensively well by then, stretching out the many wacky characters there — each of them even serving as a microcosm of the land in itself — but Basil also made us feel that there’s no one else who knew Desham like he did. As if he were the all-seeing eye. And hence, no matter how ludicrous certain things in Kunjiramayanam appeared, since Basil was the director, it was pointless not to believe them. Therefore, when he said that a curse once gripped Desham — after which the natives could no longer bring the local liquor called Salsa to their village, as the bottle would somehow break or the alcohol would drain away once the person carrying it reached a particular spot, which came to be known as Salsa Mukku — it felt entirely plausible. This is although Kunjiramayanam wasn’t presented as a horror story, nor a fantasy. And that kind of treatment stemming from conviction is what’s missing in Vishnu Sasi Shankar’s “horror comedy” Sumathi Valavu.

Set in the ‘90s in the forest-edge village of Kalleli, near the Kerala–Tamil Nadu border, the movie unfolds through the lives of the locals, whose stories are intertwined with the myth surrounding a curved path, Sumathi Valavu, that leads to the locality. Believed to be haunted by the spirit of Sumathi, a woman who was burned alive ages ago by the then-residents of the village in an act of ritual slaughter to gain absolute power, no one traverses that path at night. Fortifying their beliefs, not even a single person has ever crossed that road at night unharmed, and only the lucky few have managed to escape alive. Apparently, the only people who have gotten across safely are Appu (Arjun Ashokan) and his friend and army officer Mahesh’s (Gokul Suresh) elder sister, while he was “helping” her elope with her lover against her family’s wishes. Although all others accepted this story, Mahesh and his family never did, as they believed it was impossible to cross Sumathi Valavu, which instilled in them the suspicion that Appu had done something to her. The enmity between the two families, as well as the myth behind Sumathi Valavu, forms the crux of the story, and new conflicts arise as Appu falls in love with Mahesh’s cousin, Bhama (Malavika Manoj).

Although Sumathi Valavu opens strongly with a scene set in the ‘60s, offering a glimpse of the spirit’s power, once

that was not to be.” Ali was never in favour of sending his daughters to school as he believed that this was an unnecessary expense, and so he put all his daughters to work as kids. Before they knew it, the girls became the providers of the household and Ali continued to run a tight ship, where none of the three girls were allowed to make any decisions for themselves. For her first film Leather Face with director Vijay Bhatt, Meena was paid Rs 25, and Ali knew that Meena was going to be the moneymaker. In a chat with RSTV, Vinod said, “She became the meal ticket. She didn’t have a normal childhood. And from the age of 6-7, she was just being hopped around from place to place as a child artiste and the money that she made, the family survived on that.” Three girls under the age of 15 made enough money that the family pulled itself out of their chawl, and moved into a house at Bandra’s Chapel Road, and Ali had completely immersed himself in managing their careers. Iqbal Begum gave up her career as a dancer after she had a lung infection that eventually turned into cancer, and Ali gave up on his career as a musician.

Ali and Iqbal had married for love but it went out of the window after the family faced abject poverty. As per Mehta’s book, their marriage was successful, but only on paper. The parents were always quarrelling about money in front of their daughters, and from a very young age, they were made aware that one’s existence was solely dependent on the money they made. Meena wanted to study but there was never enough money in the house to indulge her wishes. With the help of some tutors, Meena learnt to read and whenever she got a chance, she found a book and sat in a corner. She was quoted in Mehta’s book saying, “My one interest was to read and when other children in the studio went out to play in the compound, I moved into a corner and lost myself in the world of children’s books.” Meena started appearing in more films – Ek Hi Bhool, Pooja – and she also started her career as a playback singer. She recorded her first song in a film called Behan in 1941, and continued to work as an actor. While Meena was taught to be an obedient worker on set, she sometimes acted like a child on set. After all, she was one. “I remember once I was ‘shot’ on the sets and asked to drop down dead. I refused to fall and they had to use force to make me obey,” she said.

Meena’s older sister got married and dropped out of the movies, and by this time, Meena was a grown up, who was starting to play the heroine. She had been financially independent for years, but she had never tasted independence for herself. The first time that Meena got a chance to be her own person was when she decided to marry Kamal Amrohi. She knew Ali would never agree to her wedding so she and Kamal decided to keep it a secret until she could gather Rs 2 lakh and present it to her father. When Ali got to know, he forced her to separate, but she relented. Meena continued to live in her father’s house for another year and he never asked her to leave for she was making the money that supported this family. Until one day, when Meena decided to work in a movie with Kamal Amrohi, while simultaneously rejecting a proposal presented by her father. He shut the doors of his house, which was bought by her, on her face, and never allowed her to come back. As per Mehta, she wrote him a letter which read, “Babujee, whatever has happened I have left. Please do not talk about going to court. That would be childish. I desire nothing from your house except my clothes and books. This car I now have I will send to you tomorrow. My clothes, etc., you can send when you find it convenient.” Meena’s tragedies began when she was a little girl, and they always followed her like a shadow. Ali Bux pushed her into a world that completely consumed her and the good daughter that she was, she continued to support everyone around her until the end, even though those favours were never returned.

it cuts to the era wherein the rest of the story is set, the movie starts losing its balance quickly enough. Not just that Abhilash Pillai’s writing is quite rickety, but Vishnu’s direction is just as ineffectual, leaving the movie tottering almost throughout. Soon after the film settles into the setting where the main story unfolds, it becomes apparent that the intrigue factor is confined to the story and that Abhilash hasn’t managed to ensure an even distribution of the same across the script. What we are, hence, left with is a series of unengaging scenes, with only a few ending up actually hitting the mark. While most of the moments come across as underdeveloped and underwhelming, another shortcoming of Abhilash’s screenplay is that it’s packed with odds and ends, causing the instances that truly needed the spotlight to be buried under this, that, and the other.

For a movie that’s titled Sumathi Valavu, the fact that so much of it is about everything but that significantly detracts from the experience. How would we have felt if the movie Bhargavi Nilayam revolved around everything except Bhargavi Nilayam itself? Yes, that’s exactly what’s wrong with the Arjun Ashokan film. Although the characters do talk about Sumathi and the curve often enough, it mostly feels like Abhilash was just ticking a box. In fact, had the curve not been there or the spirit of Sumathi existed somewhere else, the outcome would’ve been more or less the same. Worse still, even if the myth of Sumathi hadn’t existed in the story at all, not much would have changed. This raises a fair question: was the film’s title simply clickbait?

In fact, Abhilash’s writing is so dull that the cumulative impact of the remaining scenes in the film fails to match that of the chilling pre-interval sequence, which Vishnu has staged and portrayed quite well. The complete absence of horror and comedy in the script has affected Sumathi Valavu significantly, and its case is worsened by the shoddy dialogues. The lack of consistency in characterisation, including in the case of Sumathi, Appu and the local doggoeder Chemban (Sidharth Bharathan), only underscores the weak writing. Although Chemban is portrayed as someone with the most idea about the Sumathi myth, and hence never underestimates it, there’s a moment in the movie where he, along with Appu and others, consumes cannabis and creates a “humorous” ruckus at the curve at midnight. Despite the film establishing early on that Appu is extremely scared of Sumathi, in retrospect, it’s he who we see travelling along the path most frequently at night in the entire movie.

Ranbir Kapoor said no to Anurag Basu for Kishore Kumar’s biopic for Nitesh Tiwari’s Ramayana, director recalls his ‘tough choice’: ‘It was the right decision’



Ranbir Kapoor is gearing up to play the role of Lord Ram in Nitesh Tiwari’s upcoming two-part mythological epic Ramayana. However, the actor had to give up the lead role in the long-awaited biopic on legendary singer Kishore Kumar. In a recent interview, Anurag revealed that Ranbir Kapoor took the ‘tough decision’ of choosing Ramayana over the singer’s biopic, which has been in development since more than ten years.

During a conversation with BBC News, the director opened up about how Ranbir had to choose between the two projects due to clashing schedules. “Ranbir had a tough choice in life – Kishore Kumar or Ramayana. It was very difficult for him. In the end, he chose Ramayana, and I think it was the right decision,” he said.

Ranbir Kapoor and Anurag Basu have collaborated several times in the past, including Barfi (2012) and Jagga

Jasoos (2017). While both have expressed their wish to work together again, their busy schedules have made it hard. “We keep trying to work together, but it’s just not happening,” the director added.

After Ranbir turned down the biopic, rumours also suggested that Aamir Khan might step in the role of Kishore Kumar. But, Anurag didn’t give any confirmation and told Mid-Day, “Until everything is finalised and the contract is signed, I don’t think I should speak on it. This project has seen many ups and downs over the years. So, I’m keeping my fingers crossed that it happens this time and I go on set with the story, which I’ve been trying to tell for the last decade. I won’t jinx it by speaking about it.” Besides Ranbir Kapoor, Ramaya also stars Sai Pallavi, Sunny Deol, Arun Govil, Ravi Dubey, and Lara Dutta in key roles. The two-part film is set to hit the theatres on Diwali 2026 and Diwali 2027.

Bollywood starlet was pushed into prostitution, died penniless and alone at 34; her body was transported on ‘thela’ for funeral

She appeared in only 10 films and died at the age of 34, but Vimi’s career had more tragedy than a Bollywood potboiler. Born in 1943, Vimi trained to be a singer, but her decision to become an actor was met with staunch protest by her family. She was disowned, and left to navigate the film industry by herself. But she was a woman of taste; she lived in a Pali Hill bungalow, played golf in her spare time, and drove a fast car. In 1968, after the success of her debut film Humraaz, it seemed like Vimi was going to become one of the biggest stars of her generation. But her life took a nosedive not long afterwards, sending her to Kolkata, forcing her to rely on alcohol, and resulting in her untimely death at the age of 34. In an episode of Tabassum Talkies, the venerable host said that Vimi was married to a Kolkata-based businessman named Shiv Agarwal, who was disinherited by his family because of Vimi. In fact, she was already married when she joined the films. In a 1968 interview with Star and Style, Vimi had said that her husband was going to produce a film for her to star in, and that she had signed three movies — Rangeela, Sandesh and Appointment — after the success of Humraaz. Little did she know that Shiv would eventually leave her.

Even though her first director, BR Chopra, said in a 1967 interview with Picture Post that she was “intelligent, educated and grasps things quickly,” he didn’t cast her in any future films. None of her movies after Humraaz worked. She got by on magazine photoshoots and public appearances. By 1971, she had disappeared into oblivion. It was only when she died in 1977 that the truth about her downfall came to light. It was revealed that her marriage with Shiv broke down because his parents convinced him to leave her when her career started to spiral, and that she had started living with a film distributor named Jolly, in the hope that it would help her professionally.

She started a textiles business, which was sold off in order to pay her debts. Tabassum said that Vimi developed a reputation for being a poor actor, which resulted in her not getting work. “Because of this, she took to alcohol,”



Tabassum said. She added that the distributor that Vimi had holed up with forced her into sex work, making it seem like this was the only way that she could revive her career. “Vimi became a broken woman; she started drinking more heavily, and that, too, the cheap liquor,” Tabassum said. Vimi died in 1977 of liver disease at the Nanavati Hospital, and was taken by Jolly to the crematorium on a ‘thela’. Nobody from the film industry showed up for her funeral, although, it was said that Sunil Dutt was there. Even in death, Vimi wasn’t spared the humiliation. A person named Krishna, claiming to be a ‘friend’, wrote a hurtful obituary in the Anand Bazar Patrika. Krishna described Vimi’s death as “a great pain-reliever to her.” He called her the girl “with the roving eye who went out without her husband in the fond hope that some producer or actor will make her an offer.” In her short career, Vimi appeared in films such as Aabroo, with Ashok Kumar, and Nanak Nam Jahaz Hai, starring Prithviraj Kapoor and IS Johar. She also appeared in a cameo in Jaya Bhaduri’s Guddi. Her final film was Subhash Ghai’s Krodh, starring Dharmendra and Shashi Kapoor. It was released several years after her death.

Johnny Lever says he was a ‘drunkard’, would drink till 4 am everyday on Mumbai’s Chowpatty beach: ‘Police would come and’

Veteran comedian Johnny Lever, one of Indian cinema’s most beloved and versatile performers, recently opened up about the challenges he faced at the peak of his career—including his battle with alcohol. Starting his career at the age of 17, Johnny quickly rose to fame. Within six years, he became a household name, with CDs of his performances being sold in the United States. He had signed multiple films and was performing comedy shows around the world—living the dream, but paying a steep personal price.

In a candid appearance on comedian Sapan Verma’s YouTube show along with his daughter Jamie Lever, Johnny recalled his hectic schedule and how the overwhelming success began to take a toll on his health and lifestyle. “I used to be so tired,” he shared. “I would shoot for films during the day and perform in shows at night. On top of that, I used to drink heavily. It would completely drain me. I would be sitting backstage like I was in shavasana (completely still, lifeless). Despite his exhaustion, Johnny never missed a commitment. “I always gave my performance, no matter how drained I felt. But after

the show, there would be nothing left in me.” He then issued a heartfelt warning to his audience: “I request people—limit mein piyo (drink in moderation). I had crossed my limits, and it’s not worth it. I was a drunkard. I would sit at Chowpatty and drink till 4 in the morning. Many times, the police would come, but when they recognised me, they would laugh and say, ‘Arre, Johnny bhai,’ and let me sit in their car to continue drinking safely.”

In the same show, he admitted, “Success can mess with your mind. At one point, no movie was made without me. I was also doing international shows and constantly traveling. I lost myself in all of it. But eventually, I made a decision—I quit drinking. It’s been 24 years now, and I haven’t touched alcohol.” Johnny also made it clear that no matter what he was going through, he maintained professionalism: “One thing I can proudly say—I never performed under the influence. I never drank before a show.” Previously, in a video shared by veteran actor Dharmendra, Johnny could be heard saying, “I used to drink a lot, about one and a half bottles. When I drank, my wife would get very angry with me.