

# INDIAN CHRONICLE

## Heavy rains predicted in parts of AP amid low pressure area in Bay of Bengal

Heavy rains predicted in parts of AP amid low pressure area in Bay of BengalOfficials from the Meteorological Department have announced that a low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal is persisting and is forecasted to strengthen further by Friday, becoming a distinct low pressure system. Jagannadha Kumar, speaking to reporters in Visakhapatnam on Thursday, stated that the system is currently situated in the west-central northwest Bay of Bengal and is expected to move west-northwestwards towards North Andhra and Odisha.The department predicts that scattered rain is likely across the state over the next week, with heavy to very heavy rainfall possible at one or two locations in the state within the next 24 hours.

## Guv extends greetings to every citizen on occasion of Independence Day



Hyderabad, Aug.14 : Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on the occasion of Independence Day on August 15, 2025 in a message stated, "On this special day in the history of our great nation, I extend my warmest

greetings and heartfelt wishes to every citizen of our beloved Bharat in general, to the people of Telangana in particular. Independence Day is a solemn reflection of honouring the countless patriots who, with unwavering courage and steadfast faith, sacrificed their lives so that our motherland could enjoy the gift of freedom.

"Today, we express our gratitude to those heroic souls whose dedication and selflessness have paved the way for our future. Their sacrifices are the enduring foundations upon which our freedom is built. As we proudly salute our tricolour, let's also recommit ourselves to building a stronger, self-reliant, and Atma Nirbhar India, an India where prosperity and peace shared by all. On this day, let's raise the torch of unity, integrity, and progress high, and move forward together towards a brighter tomorrow. May the tricolour always wave high in the sky, and may its three colours inspire in our hearts the timeless values of courage, peace, and faith", Jishnu Dev Varma stated.

## KTR slams Congress for double standards on Kaleshwaram project

Hyderabad, Aug.14 : BRS working president KT Rama Rao has accused the Congress government of willfully neglecting the Kaleshwaram project, while also downplaying critical safety issues in other significant irrigation projects. Taking to X on Thursday, KT Rama Rao highlighted that recent danger alerts have been issued for the Jurala project, the Manjeera barrage, and the Singur dam, yet the government seems uninterested.The BRS working president noted that both Congress and BJP leaders engage in disparaging remarks about the Kaleshwaram project but minimise the need for repairs to other facilities.

He called out the hypocrisy of both parties, pointing out that they justify substantial repairs on other projects while disparaging the Kaleshwaram project, focusing only on two damaged pillars of the Medigadda barrage. KT Rama Rao emphasised that repairs are standard for all projects, and it is unjust for these parties to portray the Kaleshwaram project negatively."How can the government guarantee the safety of the Jurala project, Manjeera barrage, or Singur dam without addressing necessary repairs, especially after the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) raised concerns? Will



they overlook these issues too?" he questioned, pointing to the government's lack of action regarding the damaged pillars of the Medigadda barrage. KT Rama Rao emphasised that all irrigation and drinking water projects should be repaired urgently and protected for the benefit of the four crore residents of Telangana.

## Harish Rao sounds alarm over Telangana's economic decline under CM Revanth



Hyderabad, Aug.14 Telangana has experienced deflation for the second month in a row, prompting former Minister and senior BRS MLA T Harish Rao to raise concerns about the state's economic situation. He indicated that this trend is a troubling sign of a declining economy. The Reserve Bank of India targets an inflation rate between two percent and six percent to foster healthy economic growth; however, Telangana's inflation is currently below zero. In June, urban inflation was recorded at -0.93 percent, followed by -0.44 percent in July. Additionally, rural inflation in Telangana decreased further to -1.54 percent in July, down from -0.91 percent in June.

"This situation is not a positive development; it's a warning signal for the economy," Harish Rao stated, referencing economist John Maynard Keynes's caution that deflation can lead to a harmful cycle of falling prices, nega-

## Revenue Minister directs the officials to be vigilant during rains

Hyderabad, Aug.14 : In the wake of Indian Meteorological Department's (IMD) warning that there will be heavy rains across the state for another two to three days, Minister for revenue and disaster management Pongulati Srinivasa Reddy today directed all the district collectors and SPs and the police commissioners to be more vigilant during this period and take preventive measures for any loss of life and property. In the last three days, some areas had received more than expected rainfall and appropriate precautions should be taken in the coming days, he noted.

During a video conference with the district collectors and SPs from the state Secretariat on Thursday, the minister asked the district collectors about the prevailing situation in Bhadradri Kothagudem, Mancherla, Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Asifabad Peddapalli, Karimnagar and other districts which have recorded more than 10 cm of rainfall during the

last 24 hours. The Collectors were alerted about the measures to be taken in Medak, Sangareddy and Vikarabad districts which are on red alert in the next 24 hours. On this occasion, the Minister said that one crore rupees have been released to each district for relief measures to be taken in the wake of heavy rains, and if necessary more funds will be released for the purpose. Senior officers have been appointed as special officers for the erstwhile 10 districts to supervise the relief measures. He instructed the collectors to cancel the leaves of the officers and staff who are on leave and to call them back for duties. Orders were issued regarding the protective measures to be taken in low-lying areas and flood-prone areas. The officials of the Municipal, Metro Water Board and Traffic departments were directed to work in coordination with the Greater Hyderabad to ensure that the people do not face any problems, he added.

## Jobs in Public sector Banks!

Hyderabad, Aug.14 Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) has invited applications for filling up of 10,227 clerical cadre vacant posts in different public sector Banks, like Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab National Bank, Punjab and sind Bank,Uco Bank, Union Bank of India . Of the total posts, 261 are in Telangana and 367 in Andhra Pradesh. Eligibility: pass in Degree course from any recognised University. Candidates should have Degree certificate on the day of application. Candidates should have computer knowledge. Age : between 20 and 28 years as on 01.08.2025. Remuneration: scale Rs.24,050 - Rs 64,480 plus allowances and other facilities, as per the rules of respective Bank. Selection on the basis of on-line preliminary exam and online main examination. Last date for online applications is 21.08.2025. For more particulars website: www.ibps.in.

## President Droupadi Murmu approves 127 Gallantry awards for Armed Forces on Independence Day



GNS News Agency, August 14

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu has approved 127 Gallantry Awards, 40 Distinguished Service Awards, and 290 Mentions-in-Despatches to honour the valour and dedication of Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the occasion of India's 79th Independence Day.Among the Gallantry Awards approved are 4 Kirti Chakra, 15 Vir Chakra, 16 Shaurya Chakra, 2 Bars to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 58 Sena Medal (Gallantry), 6 Nao Sena Medal, 26 Vayu Sena Medal, 7 Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal, 9 Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, and 24 Yudh Seva Medal.

The list includes officers and soldiers who operated the S-400 and other air defence systems during Operation Sindoor, successfully thwarting planned attacks by Paki-

stan on Indian soil.Additionally, 290 personnel were mentioned in dispatches, including 115 from the Indian Army, 5 from the Indian Navy, 167 from the Indian Air Force, and 3 from the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB).

Indian Air Force officers have been awarded the Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal for their outstanding role in Operation Sindoor. Among the recipients are Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Narnadeshwar Tiwari, DG Air Operations Air Marshal Awadhesh Bharti, and Western Air Commander Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra.On Independence Day, former Western Naval Commander Vice Admiral S.J. Singh is to be honoured with the Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal for Operation Sindoor, Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti with the Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, and Vice Admiral and DGNO A.N. Pramod with the Yudh Seva Medal.Notable awardees also include Captain Lalrinawma Sailo (4 Para, Special Forces), Lieutenant Shashank Tiwari (Army Service Corps, 1 Sikkim Scouts), and Group Captain Ranjeet Singh Sidhu (Air Force).Awards recognise acts of exceptional courage, gallantry in operations, and distinguished service across the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Central Armed Police Forces. President Murmu has also approved Tatrankshak Medals for five Indian Coast Guard personnel.These honours celebrate conspicuous gallantry, exceptional devotion to duty, and meritorious service, reinforcing India's commitment to recognising the bravery and selfless service of those who protect its sovereignty and citizens.

## Singareni subsidiary APHMEEL must compete globally : Bhatti

Hyderabad, Aug.14 Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said that APHMEEL (Andhra Pradesh Heavy Machinery & Engineering Limited) should grow to a level where it can compete with the world. The Deputy Chief Minister on Thursday visited the Singareni subsidiary APHMEEL located at Ibrahimpattanam, near Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, along with Singareni CMD Balram. On the occasion, he interacted with the workers and later spoke to the media. The Deputy Chief Minister stated that across the globe, among engineering companies manufacturing spare parts for new industries and repairing and supplying old parts, none have better machinery or human resources than APHMEEL.

Bhatti Vikramarka assured that what the officers and workers of the company need is commitment, the mindset that "we can compete with the world," and the drive to effectively utilise the existing systems. If these are in place, he said, APHMEEL too can compete globally.He announced that a consultancy will soon be appointed to study the local conditions and submit a report on the company. Based on that report, the government will decide the direction in which to proceed. Bhatti Vikramarka emphasised that the better the officials and staff perform, the greater the profits will be, leading to more employment opportunities for local youth and contributing to the progress of the states.The Deputy Chief Minister instructed that the plant and its machinery must be kept clean, the machines should be overhauled,



and painted. He also ordered that all working staff must strictly follow safety measures. Bhatti Vikramarka stressed that the industry can progress only through the hard work and high aspirations of its workersHe further said that this industry should not be limited to manufacturing new machinery and repairing old machinery for Singareni Collieries alone, but should also take orders required not only within the state but across the country, functioning like BHEL.

The Deputy Chief said APHMEEL manufactures and repairs machinery required for thermal power stations, and that the state government is considering how best to develop the company in the future.

## Karnataka Home minister warns of legal action if witness allegations prove false



GNS News Agency, August 14

Bengaluru: Home Minister G. Parameashwara on Thursday told the Legislative Assembly that if the allegations made by a key witness in the Dharmasthala "mass burial" case are found to be false, legal action will be initiated against him under the law.Reiterating the government's commitment to a fair and impartial probe, Parameashwara said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) is working strictly within the legal framework to uncover the truth. "No political or religious considerations should influence the process. The investigation must bring out the facts," he asserted.

During the discussion in the Assembly, BJP legislators accused the government of allowing a campaign to malign Dharmasthala and its temple. They demanded that the state obtain an interim report and take action against the complainant and those allegedly backing him."My only request is that this matter should not be given a political or religious colour. The SIT was not formed under any pressure, nor will we yield to any in the future. Our only objective is to reveal the truth and ensure justice," Parameashwara clarified. He also stressed his personal respect and devotion towards Dharmasthala, stating that he, along with members of the ruling party, has visited the temple multiple times.Responding to questions about the progress of the SIT investigation, the Home Minister said police are discharging their duties in pursuit of justice. "The police are not

acting on everything the complainant says. There are limits. The truth will emerge at the right time, and no one can derail the investigation," he stated.The Dharmasthala case has attracted intense political debate in Karnataka, with the government facing pressure from both the opposition and community leaders to ensure transparency and protect religious institutions from unfounded allegations.

## Singer Rahul Sipligunj meets CM Revanth

Hyderabad, Aug.14: Popular playback singer Rahul Sipligunj paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee Hills on Thursday.Recently, the state government has announced a cash reward of Rs 1 crore for Rahul, which prompted the singer to express his gratitude to the Chief Minister during their meeting. On this occasion, Revanth Reddy honoured Rahul by draping a shawl over him. Also present for the meeting were MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLA Kunduru Jaiveer Reddy, Khairatabad DCC President Rohin Reddy, among others.

Rahul's remarkable journey began in the historic old city of Hyderabad and led to international acclaim with his song "Natu Natu" from the film RRR, even earning a nomination at the Oscars. The Chief Minister praised him as a role model for the youth of Telangana, highlighting his achievements through dedication and hard work. With that one song, Rahul captured the admiration of countless fans. In a 2023 programme, Revanth Reddy as the TPCC president pledged a cash reward of Rs 1 crore to Rahul Sipligunj if the Congress party gained power in Telangana. In line with this promise, the Congress government declared an incentive of Rs 1 crore to Rahul during the Bonalu festival in the old city on July 20, thereby honouring the commitment made to the singer.



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## CJI's intervention on stray dogs will delight animal lovers

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai's recent assurance that he would examine the Supreme Court's directive concerning stray dogs must be a welcome relief to animal lovers across the country. The directive, issued on August 11 by a bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, called for the removal of stray dogs from the streets of Delhi-NCR region, with instructions to relocate them to designated shelters. The order was framed to make all localities free from stray dogs, ostensibly to address growing public concerns about safety, hygiene, and civic order. However, the issue is far from one-dimensional.

The debate over stray dog management in India has always been complex, drawing strong views from multiple stakeholders, including residents' associations, animal welfare activists, municipal authorities, legal experts and the citizens. While some view the large stray dog population as a pressing public health and safety problem, others see these animals as sentient beings deserving protection, compassion, and a dignified life. In recent years, there has been a rise in reported incidents of dog bites, often amplified by media coverage, which has intensified public calls for stricter action.

On the other hand, animal rights groups argue that the abrupt removal of strays from their familiar environments can cause distress to the animals and may even be counterproductive if not supported by long-term, humane solutions. For them, sterilisation, vaccination, and community feeding under supervised conditions are proven, sustainable strategies to control stray populations while safeguarding public health. Gavai's intervention signals an awareness of this delicate balance.

## Mandal People Should Be Alert

Mandal Congress Party President Gurnule Narayana""Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter.Jade Srinivas. Indian Chronicle August,14.""Wankidi In the wake of the heavy rains that have been continuously falling in Wankidi Mandal for the past two days, Wankidi Mandal Congress Party President Gurnule Narayana said that the people of the mandal should be alert. Speaking on the occasion, he advised the people of the mandal to not come out except in case of emergency, not to go near electric poles and wires, not to live in old bungalows and Puri huts, not to roam around the border areas where there is rainwater, near streams and bridges, and not to let the elderly, pregnant women and children go out during the rainy season. In case of any emergency in your villages, contact the relevant officials of the Revenue, Police and Electricity Department.

## Frozen Aquatic Life The Traffic To 16 villages Closed



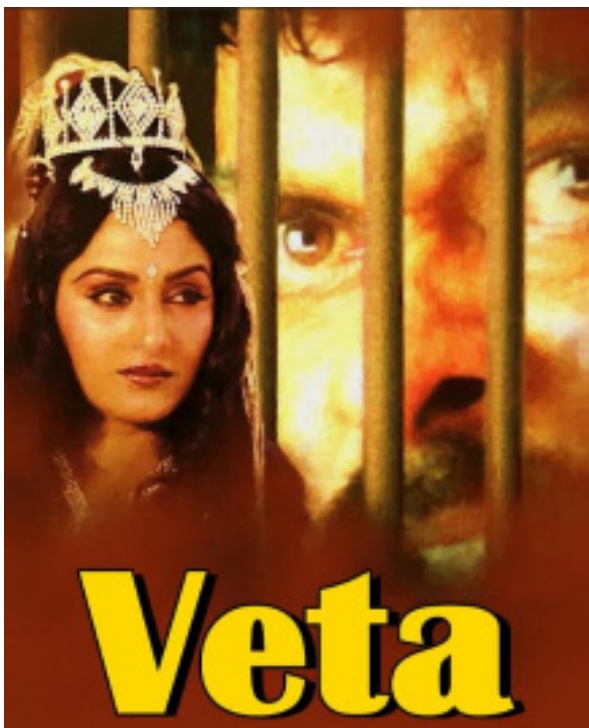
Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter.Jade Srinivas. Indian Chronicle August,14.""Frozen aquatic life."THE Traffic to 16 villages closed"Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, Rathod Ramesh.Due to heavy rains in Komuram Bheem Asifabad district on Tuesday, the Anarpalli, Laxmapur, Goriyaguda, and ravines in Kerameri mandal are flowing heavily. The people of about 16 villages across the ravine have nothing to do as the ravine overflowed. They are complaining about what will happen to them if someone falls ill during an emergency. They are expressing their grief that the bridges over the Anarpalli Laxmapur ravines, which have been sanctioned for ten years, have not been completed till today. The government has recognized their difficulties and immediately.We are requesting that the incomplete bridge work on the Lilli and Lakmapur streams be completed. On Wednesday, National Human Rights Committee District Chairman Rathod Ramesh said. The flow of the streams in Anarpalli, Lakmapur, and Goriyaguda was inspected. People living on the other side of the stream were urged not to venture out and cross the streams.

## 'Rainwater Storage Should Be Removed'



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter.Jade Srinivas. Indian Chronicle August,14.""Additional Collector Deepak Tiwari has directed the authorities to take steps to remove rainwater accumulations from residential areas in Asifabad district from time to time. On Wednesday, he inspected the water accumulations in Paikajinagar, Asifabad, and the steps to be taken to prevent rainwater from entering the houses. He said that since there is a possibility of heavy rains for the next 3 days, all measures will be taken for the protection of the people.

## Celebrate the Megastar: Chiranjeevi birthday special on Tata Play Telugu Classic



Hyderabad:From intense action dramas to rib tickling comedies, Chiranjeevi's career has been a rollercoaster of unforgettable moments, and this August, Tata Play Telugu Classic is bringing them all back in one grand celebration! Whether he's playing a mischievous conman, a righteous hero, or a man torn between love and duty, the Megastar commands the screen with unmatched charisma. Mark your calendars from 18th to 22nd August, every night at 9 PM, and enjoy a spectacular lineup leading up to an all day birthday marathon on 22nd August. Get ready for gripping stories, chartbuster songs, and performances that defined an era of Telugu cinema. Here's what's in store for your Chiranjeevi binge fest!Birthday Special- 22nd August:

Thodu Dongalu - 10:00 AM

A gripping crime drama where Chiranjeevi plays a man forced into the underworld to protect his loved ones. As he

battles both enemies and his conscience, the film delivers a powerful mix of action and emotion. With Krishna, Madhu Malini and Geetha in key roles, this one's a must watch for its intense storytelling and Chiranjeevi's raw energy

Veta - 1:00 PM

Chiranjeevi plays Prathap, a man with everything going for him until a cruel twist of fate lands him behind bars thanks to his scheming enemies. In prison, he meets an old inmate who reveals the whereabouts of a hidden treasure. What follows is an electrifying mix of revenge, adventure, and drama. Also starring Jaya Prada, Jaggayya, and Sumalatha, Veta is a must watch for its grand storytelling, action, and Chiranjeevi's charismatic performance

Khaidi - 9:00 PM

In this iconic revenge drama, Chiranjeevi delivers one of his best performances as Suryam, the son of a humble farmer whose life spirals into tragedy when he dares to love the daughter of a ruthless feudal lord. What begins as a tender romance turns into a brutal battle for dignity and justice. With powerhouse performances from Madhavi and Rao Gopal Rao, Khaidi is known for its gripping storyline, raw emotional intensity, and the film that cemented Chiranjeevi's status as a mass action hero

Aarani Mantalu - 9:00 PM | 18th August

A young man sets out to take revenge on a group of men who raped and killed his sister. However, he is in for a shock. Aarani Mantalu showcases Chiranjeevi in a layered role that balances sensitivity and strength. When family bonds are tested and values clash, he stands tall as the voice of reason. The film's heartfelt storytelling makes it a timeless watch for fans who love seeing his softer, more emotional side. Must watch for the Megastar's nuanced acting at its finest.

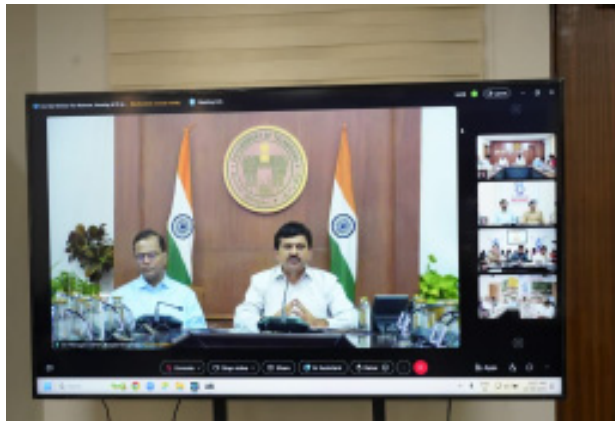
Alaya Sikharan - 9:00 PM | 19th August

A gripping family drama about ambition, betrayal, and redemption. Chiranjeevi plays a determined young man who must rise from humble beginnings to protect his family's honour. The story beautifully balances emotion with inspiring determination, with Sumalatha and Ranganath, adding depth to the narrative. Watch it for Chiranjeevi's commanding screen presence and an emotionally satisfying climax.

## Precautionary measures to prevent loss of life and property due to heavy rains: Ministers Ponguleti, Tummala



""""Bhukya Ranjith naik,bhadradi kothagudem Bureau,august 14,Indian chronicle:Ministers Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Tummala Nageswara Rao have advised people to be vigilant in the wake of the incessant heavy rains across the state. The ministers, along with Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, reviewed the flood situation with the Collectors, Police Commissioners, and SPs of the respective districts through a video conference on Wednesday. The ministers advised that all precautions should be taken in advance to prevent loss of life and property and to prevent undesirable incidents from occurring anywhere due to heavy to very heavy rains. They said that funds of Rs. 1 crore have been allocated to all districts to enable immediate relief measures in emergency situations. They said that these funds should be spent where necessary and that more funds will be allocated if necessary, and that there is no problem with funds. In the last three days, some areas have received more rainfall than expected and some areas have received less, so appropriate precautions should be taken in the coming days, he said. He said that senior officers have been appointed as special officers in ten districts to monitor relief measures. Collectors were instructed to cancel the leaves of officers and staff on leave and call them back and to be alert to the rains. Orders were issued regarding the protective measures to be taken in low-lying areas and flood-prone areas. He advised that special attention should be paid to railway lines, low-level bridges, causeways, and low-lying areas to prevent water from accumulating during the rains and that police personnel should be deployed, especially near low-level bridges. He also advised that appropriate measures should be taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and to ensure that drinking water is not affected. He advised the collectors to evacuate the people living there due to backwater of only 200 mm and to construct Indiramma houses for this as a permanent solution. If the power lines are cut due to rains, steps should be taken to restore the power supply immediately, and alternative arrangements should be made where



roads are cut to prevent traffic disruption and to prevent problems in the normal life of the people. Special attention should be paid to sanitation and drinking water supply, and monitoring should be done to prevent contamination of drinking water. He said that preventive measures should be taken to prevent the spread of diseases. He advised that officials of all departments should work in coordination with each other and deal with the heavy rain situation effectively. Speaking from the IDOC office in this video conference, District Collector Jitesh V. Patil said that although the district is receiving normal rainfall, a maximum of 125 mm rainfall was recorded in Maddukuru village of Chandrugonda mandal. However, no crop damage, property damage, or flood impact has been reported so far.He said that officials of the Irrigation and Agriculture departments have conducted field inspections at the field level, and the situation is being reviewed every hour, the Collector said.

He explained that extensive arrangements have been made in the district for immediate response in case of emergencies.He said that the NDRF team in Bhadrachalam, the STRF team in Palvantha, and 100 trained personnel in the Chatakonda Police Battalion under the Kothagudem Division are ready. He said that the Palvantha SDRF team has been sent to provide assistance to the people in the floods in Warangal. Similarly, he explained that emergency equipment such as ropes, life jackets, torch lights, and hand microphones have been made available in the district and mandal centers. The Collector said that 2 boats are deployed in the fire department and 5 boats in the police department—a total of 7 boats have been deployed in the district. The Collector explained that the district administration is fully prepared to deal effectively with any disaster situation that may arise.Additional Collector D. Venugopal, Trainee Collector Saurabh Sharma, ZP CEO Nagalakshmi, CPO Sanjeeva Rao, Agriculture Department Officer Baburao, OSD Venkataramana, and AO Anantha Ramakrishna, among others, participated in this video conference.



## Awareness Seminar On Drug Eradication



""Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter.Jade Srinivas. Indian Chronicle August,14.""The drug eradication pledge program, which is being conducted across the Telangana state to create awareness among the people of Wankidi mandal on drugs, was organized on Wednesday at Shivaji Chowk in Wankidi mandal center on the instructions of Asifabad District SP Kantilal Patil, by creating awareness among the local people on the eradication of drugs. Wankidi SI Tulasiram along with Posetti attended the program and spoke... He said that drug use is increasing day by day and it is the responsibility of all of us to stop it. He said that especially the youth are taking the wrong path and it is becoming an addiction.If this continues, human values will decrease, families will break up, and financial and health problems will arise.Therefore, he said that one should adopt a healthy lifestyle and live peacefully without stress. He said that people should go on vacations and spend time with their family members..

## Unable To Reach An Ambulance.. Pregnant Women In Distress

"Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter.Jade Srinivas. Indian Chronicle August,14.""Unable to reach an ambulance.. Pregnant women in distress."The misery of having to carry 4 km on a bike over hills and valleys.Direction, direction:A heart- wrenching incident took place in Vanki D mandal of Komuram Bheem Asifabad district. Dev Bai, a tribal woman from Godhapur village under Chaupanguda gram panchayat, is suffering from labor pains. Due to this, there is no proper road to the village to take her to the hospital..! No ambulance could reach the village..! Her family members made her sit on a bike and traveled four kilometers on a road with potholes and bumps, and with great difficulty brought the pregnant woman to Doddi Guda village. From there, she was taken to Wankidi Government Hospital in a 108 ambulance.

## How Did The Road Run Like This.....? The Road Resembles a stream...



.""Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter.Jade Srinivas. Indian Chronicle August,14.""Wankidi August 14""Due to the heavy rains that have been falling on the main road of Lakshmi Nagar Colony in Wankidi mandal center for the past two days, the scene of rainwater reaching the main road and resembling a stream is visible. Although the Gram Panchayat staff has been informed many times, there is no one who cares. It only rains and it causes great trouble to motorists. Children and adults have to walk in flood water every day. The residents of the colony are still demanding that the authorities respond and clear the main road in Lakshmi Nagar Colony, remove the flood water and protect them from seasonal diseases. Children are already being hospitalized with malaria, typhoid, and fever. The residents of the colony are demanding that sanitation work be taken up and the main road be cleared.

## Student plants sapling to mark birthday

-To create awareness about nature in children""-To encourage children to show passion for plants from the primary stage""""BOATH, AUGUST 14 (PRAJA JYOTHI)""Ashiq Ali, the eldest son of Sheikh Ali and his wife Rizwana from Dhannur b village in Boath mandal, is studying in class II at U-Turn Play and Primary School near Both town. Thursday is Ashiq Ali's birthday. He has made it a habit to plant saplings in the school he studies in on every birthday. On Thursday too, to mark his birthday, the school staff planted saplings in the school premises. Ashiq Ali's parents, school staff and students congratulated Ashiq Ali for being aware of environmental



protection since childhood. School principal Allam Sai Krishna, Ravi, Guru, Sheikh Ali, Purushottam, Ramana Goud and others participated in the program.



# The central And State Governments Have Completely Failed To Provide Jobs To Tribal Youth.”“



Bridges Should be built across roads, Streams And Ravines In Tribal Areas”Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter.Jade Srinivas. Indian Chronicle August,14.”“The central and state governments have completely failed to provide jobs to tribal youth.Bridges should be built across roads, streams and ravines in tribal areas,Tribal students should be provided with education and medical treatment.”Democratic Youth Federation of India DYF Godisela Karthik District Secretary“Godisela Karthik, District Secretary of the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYF), attended the program organized by the Telangana Adivasi Tribal Association (TAGS) Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District Committee at the Padmasali Buildings to conclude the World Tribal Day week celebrations on August 9.On this occasion,they”Karthik.DYFA District Secretary Godisela Karthik was present. Speaking on the occasion, they said that the central BJP government is trying to break the unity of the tribals, that it is trying to create division among the tribals, that the tribals need to be united, that it is trying to instill Hinduism in the tribals with the idea of damaging the culture of the tribals, that this is a big danger to the survival of the tribals, that the central and state governments that should provide jobs to the youth are delaying their time by not providing jobs, that the BJP govern-

ment has completely failed to provide road facilities to the tribal areas at least through the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana scheme, that education and medical care are not being provided to the tribal people in the right way and many pregnant women are dying without getting proper medical care, and that this is the reason for this, that the central and state governments are the reason for the people of the tribal areas.education, medicine, employment, and road transport facilities to the people of the tribal areas. He said that the recent rains have made the tribal areas flooded and traffic has become more difficult, and that people have faced severe difficulties. If these governments have sincerity and love for the tribals, they should provide road transport facilities in the tribal areas. He questioned the governments to provide education, medicine, employment, and jobs to the youth for the students and the people. He informed the governments that they should stop trying to create division among the people. He informed the youth that the youth of tomorrow are the youth and should not believe the illusions of the politicians. He said that every youth needs to know about politics.should be governed by the youth. He urged every youth to question the rulers on the problems in their areas, to stand up to the governments, to fight on the problems and to achieve their rights.

# District Collector Jitesh V. Patil Reviews Independence Day Arrangements



”Bhukya Ranjit Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau, August 14, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has inspected the arrangements for the 79th Independence Day celebrations, which will be held tomorrow at Kothagudem Pragati Maidan. He instructed officials to make thorough preparations for all aspects of the program, from the flag-hoisting ceremony to its conclusion.”“State Minister for Agriculture, Cooperation, Marketing, and Handloom, Tummala Nageswara Rao, will unfurl the national flag at 9:30 a.m. and then deliver the Independence Day address. The program will also feature a march past, the honoring of freedom fighters, a display of tableaux (sakatas), and cultural performances.”“The Collector emphasized that all arrangements, including the venue's backdrop, the police armed forces' march past, and the felicitation of freedom fighters, should be carried out with meticulous attention to detail. He also suggested that stalls set up by various departments, such as DRDA, DWAMA, Agriculture, Welfare, Rural Water Supply, Tribal Welfare, Medical Health, Horticulture, and Micro-irrigation, should be made attractive and appealing to the public.”“Furthermore, he advised that facilities like photo exhibitions on development programs, seating galleries for officials and VIPs, drinking water sta-



tions, and vehicle parking should be well-equipped. He also instructed officials to make provisions to ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience, even in the event of rain.”“Additional Collector D. Venugopal, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Vidya Chandana, Kothagudem RDO Madhu, Tahsildar Pullaiah, and other officials from the concerned departments participated in the inspection alongside the Collector.



# People should be alert and follow the instructions of the district administration: SP Rohit Raju ““

”Bhukya Ranjith naik,Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau,August 14,Indian Chronicle:In the wake of heavy rain forecast for the district in the next two days, District SP Rohit Raju issued a statement asking people to be alert at all times and follow the instructions of the district administration. People are advised not to come out unless it is an emergency. They are advised not to try to cross the roads that have become dangerous due to flood water.

They are advised not to go to the fast-flowing streams, bends, rivers and ponds and not to expose themselves to accidents. He said that the district police department will be available to the people at all times in coordination with the officers of other departments. As the water level in streams and rivers may suddenly increase due to heavy rains, people in low-lying areas are advised to be alert and follow the instructions of the officers. If anyone faces a catastrophic situation, they are advised to immediately call dial 100 and seek the services of the police. The Edulla stream, which is flowing fast from Seetaygudem towards Tippanapalli in Chandrugonda limits, is being monitored today. The SP visited.

# \*Solipur Dumping Yard Issue to Be Resolved Soon\*““

SHADNAGAR, AUGUST 14”“INDIAN CHRONICLE”“Residents of Solipur village under the Shadnagar Municipality can expect relief soon, as Congress party leaders have announced plans for a permanent solution to the long-standing issue of the dumping yard located near the double-bedroom housing complex.”“On Thursday, Market Committee Vice Chairman Babar Ali Khan, along with several Congress leaders and Municipal Commissioner Sunita, inspected the dumping yard to address the concerns raised by the local community.”“Speaking on the occasion, the Congress leaders assured that the issue would be resolved with the full cooperation of MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, who has given his commitment to finding a permanent fix. The dumping yard has been causing significant environmental problems and unpleasant odors, creating



hardships for residents, particularly those living in the nearby double-bedroom houses. Locals have long expressed their distress over the situation, highlighting the severe inconvenience it has caused.”“The leaders revealed that MLA Veerlapalli Shankar has taken proactive steps to address the issue. Following the inspection, they held discussions with the Municipal Commissioner to formulate

an action plan for resolving the problem. The Congress leaders expressed confidence that, under the MLA's guidance, the dumping yard would soon be relocated, bringing much-needed relief to the residents of Solipur.”“During the visit, the leaders also assessed the ground situation in the village. Senior Congress leaders, including Raghu Naik, Agganur Baswam, Chendi Tirupati Reddy, Mohammad

Ibrahim, Sarvar Pasha, Gopal Naik, Anil, Jangari Ravi, and Istak, participated in the inspection. The residents of Solipur expressed their appreciation for the MLA's initiative and the efforts of the Congress leaders to resolve the issue.”“The promise of a swift resolution has brought hope to the villagers, who have been grappling with the adverse effects of the dumping yard for a long time.

# Youth Leader Ambadas Distributes School Shoes to 135 Students at Madhurapur Zilla Parishad High School“



“SHADNAGAR, AUGUST 14”“INDIAN CHRONICLE”“In a heartwarming gesture, youth leader Ambadas from Mangaligadda Tanda distributed school shoes to 135 students at the Madhurapur Zilla Parishad High School in Farooqnagar mandal on Thursday. The initiative was lauded by villagers and teachers alike, who praised Ambadas for his commitment to social service alongside his political endeavors.”“Speaking at the event, Ambadas urged the youth to actively participate in social welfare activities and support those in need during challenging times. He expressed his personal motivation for the initiative, noting that he himself studied in a government school and felt immense joy in contributing to the welfare of its students. Ambadas emphasized his desire to see government school students wear uniforms and shoes comparable to those in private schools, fostering confidence and equality.”“He called for collaborative efforts from villagers, teachers, and youth to elevate government schools to match the standards of pri-

ivate institutions. Ambadas highlighted the struggles of many parents who work hard to educate their children in government schools, describing it as his privilege to serve such students through this initiative.”“The distribution of school shoes was met with widespread appreciation from the local community. Villagers and teachers expressed their gratitude to Ambadas for his generosity, noting that the provision of shoes to 135 students would significantly benefit the school.”“The event saw participation from village elders, senior BRS party leaders including Rangayya Goud, Buchchireddy, Jagann, Sateesh, Kumar, Siddhu, Sanjeev, Rajender, Shiva Goud, Srikanth Goud, Rajesh Kumar Goud, and S. Rajender, along with school teachers, students, and other community members.”“Ambadas encouraged the youth to draw inspiration from such initiatives and continue contributing to the betterment of society, reinforcing the importance of collective efforts in uplifting government schools and supporting underprivileged students.

# Freedom fighters' photo exhibition inaugurated

Hyderabad, Aug.14 A photo exhibition on prominent Telugu freedom fighters and evolution of the Indian National flag was inaugurated at Salar Jung Museum in the city today. The exhibition was curated by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as part of its Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP). Inaugurating the photo exhibition, Rajya Sabha member V Vijayendra Prasad said that it is a rare collection of information which facilitates the youth to be aware of it. He urged the CBC to disseminate it further using the digital technology. As for the Har Ghar Tiranga segment showcasing the evolution of the design of Indian National flag, he said that the flag is not merely a piece of cloth, but a symbol of the nation's self respect and pride. The flag's first design by Pingali Venkayya was in 1921. As the Indian flag flies high with dignity, every Indian should uphold the same spirit with pride and honour, he added.



of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), along with Prof. B. Jagadeeshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad. The exhibition comprises of 40 odd panels giving information on the role of unsung heroes of the nation's freedom struggle including Turrebaz Khan, Moulvi Allauddin, Kaloji Narayana Rao, Sangam Laxmi Bayamma, Kumram Bheem, Suddala Hanumanthu and others.

On this occasion, University of Hyderabad vice-chancellor Prof. B Jagadeeshwar Rao said that the initiatives like this will play a vital role in preserving India's history and instill-

ing patriotism among the youth. Highlighting the three core themes of the exhibition - India's freedom struggle, the evolution of National Flag and the state's liberation from Nizam's rule, he urged the youngsters to visit and understand the significance of these events, and internalise their essence. The students should channel their patriotic feelings into constructive action by contributing positively to the society, drawing inspiration from the courage, vision, and dedication of Telugu freedom fighters. He reminded them that education is not merely for personal advancement, but also for

contributing to the nation's unity and progress.

As part of the exhibition, the CBC Hyderabad also organised an essay writing competition and Telugu poetry competition on patriotic themes like Operation Sindoor across five colleges in the city. The winners were felicitated with prizes and certificates during the event Shrutti Patil, ADG, CBC said that the photo exhibition was an attempt to bring the youth of today closer to glorious history replete with valour and sacrifices of our forefathers for securing freedom for our country.



# 13 days and counting: Farmers in Punjab’s Fazilka battle waterlogged fields, allege government apathy



GNS News Agency, August 14

Farmers in nearly 15 villages of Punjab’s Fazilka district are seething with frustration over what they call the Government’s apathetic attitude, as over 4,000 acres of farmland have remained submerged since it rained heavily on July 31 and August 1. Though there has been no heavy rain since August 1, intermittent drizzles have slowed recovery. The deputy commissioner has asked village panchayats to use funds received under the 15th Finance Commission to drain the water, but panchayats have expressed their inability to do so, citing a lack of resources.

“Fed up with the laid-back attitude of the Punjab Government, we have staged a dharna in Abohar to make ourselves heard,” said Sudhir Bhadhu, a farmer from Waryam Khera village whose 40 acres have been underwater since August 1. With a choked throat, he added, “Nearly 400 acres of our village are still under water. Out of this, nearly 40 acres are mine. I had kinnow orchards, cotton, and paddy on this land, and everything is under water... What should we do? This year’s income is gone, and government officials and politicians are sitting pretty in their offices.”

Varinder Kamboj, a farmer from Diwankhera village, said, “Fodder for our animals has also been destroyed, not to speak of the fruit orchards of our joint family. We grow kinnow, guava, pear, and other fruits on 50 acres... This is the collective land of our big joint family. We are making our own efforts to get the water drained out. The administration is making no efforts. We have never seen such a laid-back approach from the administration.” Sunil Kamboj, sarpanch

of the village, said, “Nearly 400 acres of our village are under water, and there is hardly any place to get the water drained out to. The administration has asked village panchayats to spend funds received under the 15th Finance Commission. We did some purchases... let’s see if the bills are cleared or not.” In Haripura village, farmer Sukhjeet Kumar is facing double trouble as his seven acres are underwater and his house has been partially damaged. “My house is built within the fields. We now live in one-room accommodation only. Five of us live in this house—I, my wife, my old parents, and my younger brother’s wife. My son studies in Delhi, and my younger brother does transport business in Delhi. They keep frequenting the village. Cracks have developed in the rest of the rooms as our kinnow orchards are under water around this house... We have literally no place to live. I had requested the tehsildar to arrange at least a tent but got no response. Our village has a BJP-dominated panchayat. Perhaps this is the reason for ignoring us... Around 90 acres of this village are underwater.” Sukhmander Sukh, the Fazilka district president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Rajewal), said, “The problem is related to just 15 villages, with an area of 4,000-5,000 acres. We are surprised to see that even this is not being managed well. This small problem has now become a big issue, all thanks to the administration and leaders of the ruling party. Ultimately, we will blame only the Punjab Government and its poor governance. Already its graph is down, and it is now going further downwards.” The affected villages include Sabuana, Sajrana, Abhunn, Diwankhera, Dhingawali, Waryam Khera, Haripura, Dalmirkhera, Billapati, Saidanwali, Giddranwali, and Khui Khera Rakanpura, with no fewer than 300-400 acres in each village remaining underwater. The area suffers from a subsurface waterlogging issue, preventing seepage into the ground. “As it is drizzling on a few days and it is cloudy on a few other days, even evaporation is not happening,” said Varinder Kamboj, the farmer from Diwankhera. When contacted, Abohar MLA Sandeep Jakhar, who has been suspended from the Congress, blamed the district administration. “A laid-back approach of the district administration is responsible for this condition... a proper coordination between PSPCL (Punjab State Power Corporation Limited), the agriculture and irrigation departments, and the district administration is a must for quickly removing water from the fields,” he said.

# ‘Why not approach zoo authorities before coming to court?: Supreme Court asks petitioner seeking probe into Vantara elephant transfer case

GNS News Agency, August 14

The Supreme Court on Thursday heard two petitions related to the relocation of a 36-year-old elephant named Madhuri to a Vantara centre in Gujarat from a Jain Mutt in Maharashtra’s Kolhapur. The bench allowed both petitions to be amended and listed them on August 25. In the first case, petitioner Dev Sharma sought an investigation into all wildlife imports and conservation-related operations at Vantara, an animal rescue, care, and rehabilitation initiative established by the Reliance Foundation.

Justices Pankaj Mithal and Prasanna Varal questioned why Sharma had not approached the Central Zoo Authority or any other relevant zoo authority before coming to the court. “Why (have you not approached them)? You can take these media articles and file a representation to the authority. Who prohibits you?... Don’t file such vague petitions,” the court said. Sharma then sought permission to amend the petition to add certain facts, following which, the court granted five days. The second petition filed by C R Jaya Sukin sought the setting up of a monitoring committee to ensure the return of all captive elephants to their owners and the release of other wild animals at Vantara. The court



asked the petitioner why Vantara had not been made a respondent. “You are making allegations against parties which are not represented here.

You have not made them respondents,” the court said. It allowed the petitioner to make Vantara a respondent and file the amended title in five days. The decision to relocate the elephant Madhuri to Gujarat following a court order had sparked protests in Maharashtra.

# AHTU busts immoral traffic gang

Hyderabad, Aug. 14 The Anti Human Trafficking Unit of Cyberabad busted a case of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act on August 13 and rescued nine victims i.e. seven victims of five different States in India viz. West Bengal-2, Delhi-2, Jharkhand-1, Haryana-1, Punjab-1 and one victim each from two countries viz. Uzbekistan-1 and Turkmenistan-1, in the limits of Madhapur Police Station.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Women & Children Safety Wing, Cyberabad has stated that on August 13, the AHTU Team of Cyberabad conducted raid on BSR Super Luxury & Living Hotel, Gayatri Nagar Colony, Parvath Nagar, Madhapur, Cyberabad on a credible information of running an organized prostitution and rescued nine victims. The team also nabbed nine accused persons, who were procuring women from different places across India, posting ads in the websites i.e. Locanto, Skokka and so on contacting the customers through calls and WhatsApp, facilitating the customers to reach the victims and indulge in prostitution in different hotels, Oyo rooms and collecting money for this organized prostitution. The Police Madhapur registered a case in Cr.No. 1530/2025, U/sec. 143, 144 BNS, Sec. 3, 4 & 5 of Immoral Traffic Prevention Act & Sec. 14 of the Foreigners Act, 1946 and arrested nine accused viz.

Hamer Singh alias Amid Singh (organizer), Thammi Srinivas (supervisor), Pokala Venkateshwarlu, Bekmetova Gulshat, Rakhmanova Malika alias Lovina Bora Rakhmanova Malika alias Lovina Bora, Lakshman Tumu, Akash Bajaj, Gora Mohammed Wasim and K. Parthiban K. Parthiban.

The Cyberabad police once again request the innocent victims and girls not to get enticed for trafficking and prostitution, not to entertain the ways of prostitution and easy money. Some of the agents lure poor girls in the name of jobs and send them for prostitution. Don’t trust such job promises, and easy money unless verified by known sources. The management of Oyo and other Hotels are advised to cross check the address particulars like Aadhar card and other ID proofs and also verify the antecedents of single staying customers while check-in and give strict instructions to those who are coming from other states. Further, people are advised to verify the antecedents of the tenant before letting out their building, flat or house on rent. Once the premise is given on rent, if any illegal activity is noticed in the rented premises, it will be seized. If anyone has information about any illegal activities they can approach local police or inform Dial 100 or send message on WhatsApp No.9490617444.

# Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra being celebrated across State

Hyderabad, Aug. 14 “Har Ghar Tiranga” yatra organised by BJP was celebrated with great enthusiasm across Telangana State as part of nation-wide programme in spite of hurdles created by State Congress government.

Telangana State BJP president N Ramchander participated in Har Ghar Tiranga yatra at two places at Necklace road and JNTU Kukatpally. He launched the Yatra at Necklace road in which party leaders and workers and a large number of citizens, students and youth participated in this patriotic yatra.

Addressing the gathering at Necklace road, the BJP State chief said this yatra programme is being organised officially in BJP-ruled States. But in Telangana, people particularly students voluntarily coming forward and attending this yatra.

Rao announced that in Telangana alone tricolour would be hoisted on 40 lakh houses and hoisting national flag on homes was a great initiative to promote national unity, dig-

nity, integrity and patriotism. Rao further stated that the yatra programme initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was filling the hearts of every Indian with a sense of patriotism.

A wave of patriotism has swept across the State as the yatra was launched with great fanfare to commemorate the 79th Independence day. Rao said adding that sacrifices of thousands of freedom fighters and great leaders were instrumental in achieving India’s Independence.

He accused Congress party of supported British and Pakistan in the partition of India on religion basis which led to plundered country’s wealth. “Let us take a pledge to protect India’s unity, Integrity and culture, Rao called participants.

Har Ghar Tiranga yatra was organised from Necklace road to BR Ambedkar statue near secretariat while in Kukatpally from JNTU to HUDA Truck Park party president Ramchander Rao was in house arrest by police on August 12 to prevent him attending this yatra.

# President's police medal to two SCR railway police

Hyderabad, Aug. 14: In recognition of their meritorious services, two Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel of South Central Railway have been bestowed with the prestigious President’s police medal on the occasion of 79th Independence Day. The awardees Gollamudi Madhusudana Rao, divisional security commissioner, RPF, Guntur, and K Rajagopala Reddy, assistant security commissioner, RPF, Renigunta will receive the medals for their outstanding and meritorious services.

SCR general manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava congratulated the awardees and expressed happiness at the recognition received for their service at the National level. He commended their dedication to duty and efforts in ensuring safety and security of the railway passengers and their property. “It is a proud moment not just for the Railway Protection Force but for the entire SCR zone”, he said.

Madhusudana Rao (IRPFS) is presently serving as the Divisional Security Commissioner, Railway Protection Force, Guntur, South Central Railway. He joined the RPF as a Sub-Inspector in 1989 and through sheer hard work, dedication, and exemplary service over the last 36 years, rose to his present rank. Throughout his career, he has served with distinction in various divisions of SCR as Sub-Inspector and Inspector. Upon promotion as Assistant Se-

curity Commissioner, he served in the Railway Board, Rail Wheel Factory/Yelahanka, Hubballi Division/SWR, 7th Bn/ RPSF/Moula-Ali, and Vijayawada Division between 2014 and 2025. On being promoted as Divisional Security Commissioner on April 23, 2025, he was posted to Guntur Division. Renowned in the Railway Protection Force for his sincerity, dedication, and uprightness, he is known to lead with work ethics that inspire his colleagues. In his illustrious career, he was earlier awarded the Indian Police Medal during the Republic Day celebrations in 2016, the DG/RPF Insignia in 2014, the General Managers Medal, 05 PCSC Awards, and 16 DRM awards. As for Rajagopala Reddy, he is presently serving as Assistant Security Commissioner, Railway Protection Force, Renigunta, South Central Railway. Earlier, he was bestowed with the Indian Police Medal in the year 2012 (Republic Day), All India Railway Ministers Medals for Best Investigation on two occasions, Director Generals Insignia, General Manager’s Medals and several other awards for detecting several difficult cases and exemplary services. He represented India in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in Kosovo and South Sudan, as Police Advisor for about two years during the difficult times and has been awarded with four United Nations Peacekeeping Medals.

# GHMC serves notice to Oakridge international school

Hyderabad, Aug. 14 The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has issued a show cause notice to the management of Oakridge International School, Khajaguda, for unauthorized parking of school vehicles on public roads thereby causing severe inconvenience to the public and for traffic congestion. According to GHMC, the School management is allowing to park its vehicles along the road at Khajaguda, Serilingampally resulting in a blockage of road of approximately 500 meters.

This obstruction has been causing significant traffic jams and inconvenience to commuters, which is in violation of the GHMC Act, 1955 and the TG-bPASS Act, 2020. Under Section 405 of the GHMC Act, 1955, no person is

permitted to obstruct or encroach upon public property or government land. Illegal parking on public roads is strictly prohibited, and such actions invite penalties, and for initiating legal proceedings.

The Serilingampally deputy commissioner, GHMC has directed the school management to immediately remove the parked vehicles and refrain from using public roads for parking in the future. The school has also been instructed to submit a written explanation within three days of receiving the notice. Failure to comply will result in towing and seizure of the vehicles at the cost of school management, along with imposition of penalties and for initiation of legal action as per GHMC rules.

# SOT Malkajigiri team along with Cherlapally Police apprehended inter state gang

Hyderabad, Aug. 14 : On credible information, the sleuths of Special Operations Team, Malkajigiri Zone along with Cherlapally L&O Police today apprehended one Shiv Kumar of Pukat Nagar Colony, opposite Govt School, Pedda Cherlapally and native of Vill Pithanua, Post Rampur, Thana, Barun block, Pithanwan, Aurangabad of Bihar State, who was in illegal possession of fire arms and ammunition and seized three countrymade weapons along with 10 live rounds. Another accused Krishna Paswan of Aurangabad of Bihar State was absconding.

As per his pre-plan, Shiv Kumar procured three countrymade weapons along with 10 live rounds from his brother-in-law Krishna Pashwan of Bihar State and hatched a plan to sell weapons to the persons intended to involve in

criminal activities. While the things stood so, on August 14, 2025 while the Shiv Kumar was moving near Cherlapally Railway Station. Upon credible information, SOT Malkajigiri Police, along with Cherlapally Police have apprehended him and seized three countrymade weapons along with 10 live rounds from his possession. He was previously arrested in the following case. Cr.No.52/2025 U/s 8 (c) 20 (b) (ii) (A) of NDPS ACT of Cherlapally PS of Rachakonda (Seized Ganja Chocolates). The Police Rachakonda appealed to all citizens not to involve in illegally possession of fire Arms. It is also requested the Public to inform Police about any illegally possession of fire Arms or purchasing and selling which might take place in their area and cooperate to Police for building a healthy crime free society. (

# Telangana's true history must be passed on to future generations: Asad

Hyderabad, Aug. 14 AIMIM president and MP Asaduddin Owaisi and TS Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr G. Chinna Reddy emphasized the need to rewrite the history of Telangana to reflect its true story and pass it on to future generations. They made these remarks at a seminar organized by the Telangana Council of Historical Research on the topic “Unwept and Unsung Heroes of Telangana” at the Press Club in Bhashya Bagh. They said freedom fighters from Telangana, particularly those from Hyderabad, were denied recognition in the country’s struggle for independence. The history of Telangana was distorted during the unified State rule. It’s essential to make fundamental changes to Telangana’s history to pass on its true story to future generations.

Owaisi and Chinna Reddy demanded that the history

of Telangana be rewritten to include the contributions of its freedom fighters. They announced that they would soon meet with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to discuss the necessary funding for this initiative. Examples of unsung heroes: Maulvi Alauddin, who spent 30 years in the Cellular Jail, was the first Indian to be imprisoned there. Turre Baj Khan, who was shot dead by the British during the Residency attack, Abid Ali Hasan Safrani, who worked as a personal secretary to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and coined the slogan “Jai Hind.” Owaisi and Chinna Reddy emphasized the need to rectify the historical errors and recognize the contributions of Telangana’s freedom fighters. They appreciated Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for entrusting Captain Pandu Rangareddy with the task of rewriting Telangana’s history.

# Election Commission’s prestige is fading: Aziz Pasha

Hyderabad, Aug. 14 : The occasion of the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of India (CPI) was held at Hyderabad District party office at Satyanarayana Reddy Bhavan in Himayat Nagar on Thursday. CPI National Secretary and former MP Aziz Pasha, after unfurling the party’s flag, inaugurated the Congress and addressed the party representatives. He alleged that the ruling Central Government was creating false votes through the autonomous Central Election Commission and showing strength in the elections. He said the Election Commission had lost its credibility by illegally removing about 65 lakh Dalit minority votes in the name of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the State of Bihar. Expressing sympathy for the Indian citizens, who died in the Pahalgam attack, he blamed the lack of minimum security at the borders during the attack. He also raised questions about the foreign policies adopted by the Indian Government towards Palestine and other countries. “Because of Narendra Modi’s attitude, the US President Trump criticized India for increasing tariffs by 50%,” he said and added that the Central government, which should provide employment to the youth and people of the country, was using religion for its political gains by increasing religious tensions. CPI State secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, who attended the event as the chief guest, said the Communists had given a proper warning to the BRS party, which has been maintaining a dictatorial regime in the State for the last ten years and had made the governance corrupt, in the last elections. He said even though it is in alliance with the Congress party, which is currently in the State government, it was only till the election time and added that they would always raise their voice against the governments that follow anti-people policies and not solve the problems of the people. He called upon everyone to work hard to strengthen the party by demonstrating their strength



in the local body elections in the coming period. Rejecting the false propaganda that some Communists are doing nothing and that their work is over, he said the party activists should publicize the history of the party, the sacrifices and the struggles and movements being carried out by the Communist parties around the world. He said it was necessary to prevent the actions of adopting fascist policies like BJP and spreading hatred against a section of people and instilling wrong ideas in the minds of children at every step. CPI senior leaders Comrade Prem Pavani, District Construction Officer and State Secretary ET Narasimha addressed the representatives. Hyderabad District Secretary Chayadevi presented the report of the Political Secretary on the activities carried out from the previous conference to today’s conference in the conference. District Assistant Secretaries Stalin, Kamatham Yadagiri, Praja Natyamandali State Secretary Palle Narasimha, District Executive Members Chandramohan, M. Narasimha, B. Venkatesham, Shankar Nayak, Salim Khan, Shamsuddin, Srikanth, Nalini, Kampalli Srinivas, M. Venkataswamy, Mohammed Salim, Umar Khan, District Council Members .



## 5 Bangladeshi nationals detained near Red Fort amid preparations to mark Independence Day



GNS News Agency, August 14

Five Bangladeshi nationals were detained Monday after they allegedly attempted to enter the Red Fort without valid passes just days before the country's 79th Independence Day celebrations, the Delhi Police said. Intelligence agencies questioned the men to ascertain their intent and background, senior officers confirmed. According to Raja Banthia, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North Delhi,

the incident took place near the access control point of the historic monument. Security personnel deployed in the area stopped the group of five men, aged between 20 and 25 years, after they failed to produce valid entry passes.

"On enquiry, they were found to be Bangladeshi nationals who illegally came to India some three-four months ago. They were working as labourers in Delhi. They came to see the Red Fort as they were not aware that it has been closed to the public since July 15. Bangladeshi documents were found with them. On interrogation, nothing suspicious could be found. They will be deported as per law," DCP Banthia said. The Red Fort has been closed to the public as part of routine security preparations ahead of the Independence Day celebrations. The matter has been reported to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), and authorities have initiated the process for the deportation of the men under legal provisions. Meanwhile, seven policemen were suspended after failing to intercept a Delhi Police Special Cell team that snuck in with a dummy bomb during a mock drill at the Red Fort on Monday. Drills are being conducted across the National Capital to test security arrangements ahead of Independence Day, officers said.

## Man, son assaulted in Mumbai's Mira Road over objection to pigeon feeding amid ongoing controversy

GNS News Agency, August 14

Pigeon 1, MCD 0: Why Delhiites won't stop feeding their feathered friends According to the Kashimira police, Mahendra Patel and his son, Premal, 46, were assaulted Sunday morning at the D B Ozone building near Thakur Mall in Mira Road.

A 69-year-old man and his son were allegedly assaulted with an iron rod by four people in Mumbai's Mira Road after the senior citizen objected to a woman feeding pigeons in their residential complex. The incident comes close on the heels of a Bombay High Court order that directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to take strict action against unauthorised pigeon feeding in public spaces, citing serious health hazards. The court also emphasised penal action against citizens who continue to flout the ban. Following the directive, the Maharashtra government instructed BMC to strictly implement the order across the city. Ranjit Andhale, Inspector, Kashimira Police Station, said they have registered an FIR under sections 118(1), 115(2), 352, and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) based on the complaint lodged by the man's son.

"While no one was hospitalised and the injuries are not serious, we are verifying the claims about the iron rod being used. There was no prior enmity between the parties. Notices have been issued to the suspects, and no arrests have been made yet," said Andhale. According to the Kashimira police, Mahendra Patel and his son, Premal, 46,



were assaulted Sunday morning at the D B Ozone building near Thakur Mall in Mira Road. Mahendra Patel noticed a woman, identified as A Vyas, 56, feeding pigeons in the common area of the building. Patel reportedly asked her to stop, pointing out that it attracts more pigeons and creates hygiene issues for residents. The brief exchange escalated into a heated argument, with Vyas allegedly abusing Patel. Premal came to the spot after hearing the commotion, and confronted Vyas over her behaviour towards his father. The matters escalated further when three others, identified as Somesh Agnihotri, and two unnamed individuals allegedly joined Vyas and physically assaulted the man and his son. According to Premal's complaint, the group allegedly kicked, punched, and attacked them with an iron rod. One of the accused even attempted to strangle him, he told the police.

## No poor family in Haryana will stay homeless: Saini

GNS News Agency, August 14

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini Monday handed over "interim" ownership certificates under the Mukhyamantri Shehri Awas Yojana and plot allotment letters under the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas Yojana 2.0 to hundreds of beneficiaries. Speaking at the state-level function in Panchkula, Saini said, "No poor family in Haryana will remain homeless. About 1,144 beneficiaries in Sector-23, Jagadhri received interim ownership certificates under Mukhyamantri Shehri Awas Yojana, while 3,884 rural beneficiaries received plot allotment letters across 58 villages under the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas Yojana 2.0." The CM added that beneficiaries were identified in a transparent manner. "No favoritism, no recommendations were made, just need-based assistance was provided. It is a milestone in transparent and accountable governance. No irregularities or corruption were allowed in the implementation process. All data and procedures have been kept digital and transparent, and beneficiaries were selected entirely on merit".

Highlighting the role of a double-engine BJP government, Saini added, "We have kept our promise, land has been provided, and financial assistance has been extended for house construction. This has only been possible due to strong coordination between the Centre and the State". Sharing the key achievements of his government, the CM said, "Under the first phase of the Mukhyamantri Shehri Awas Yojana, 15,256 families in 14 cities were already allotted 30-square-yard plots. A Rs 2.5 lakh subsidy per household is being provided under PMAY-Urban 2.0 for house construction. Besides this, in rural areas, under Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas Yojana-2.0, the process to allot plots to 1.58 lakh applicants in 561 villages is underway. Furthermore, Rural beneficiaries will receive Rs 1.38 lakh under PMAY-Gramin, Rs 12,000 for toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission, and 90 days of unskilled labour wages under MGNREGA." Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin, so far, 69,150 houses have been built in



rural areas with Rs 579 crore in assistance, while 77,900 houses have been constructed in urban areas under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Shehri with Rs.1,650 crore support," Saini said.

Taking a dig at the Congress, Saini said that even after being in power for 55 years, the party failed to bring real change for the poor. "In the past, Congress promised plots to poor families but failed to provide proper documents or possession," he said, adding, "Before 2014, rural households did not even have access to LPG gas cylinders but Haryana is now providing gas cylinders to poor families for Rs 500." Talking about the healthcare in Haryana, Saini said, "The 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana' and 'Chirayu Haryana scheme' are now providing free treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh. So far, 22 lakh people in Haryana have benefited, and Rs 2,500 crore has been spent on treatment." Further refuting opposition's accusations of exorbitant collector rate hike, Saini reiterated, "Some opposition leaders are claiming that the government is collecting Rs 5,000 crore in the name of collector rates. The truth is, in over 80 per cent of areas in Haryana, rates have increased by only 10 per cent. There is a process for this, under which the collector rate is renewed every year considering the highest registry as the basis. Spreading such lies is irresponsible."

## Work to resume on Pragati Maidan underpass in Delhi after Centre's nod

GNS News Agency, August 14

Pragati Maidan tunnel, potential threat to public, Public Works Department, pragati maidan tunnel repair work, Pragati Maidan water leakage, tunnel drainage issues, indian express news The multi-crore Pragati Maidan tunnel project was inaugurated in 2022. Commuters travelling on the Ring Road stretch near Bhairon Marg, Sarai Kale Khan, and ITO will have a smooth ride by the end of this year, as the Delhi Government has received the go-ahead from the Centre to complete construction of Underpass No 5, officials said Monday. Construction work at the underpass, which is a part of the Pragati Maidan transit corridor, stopped in 2023 after the precast concrete boxes, pushed beneath an active railway line using the box-pushing method, sank due to flooding caused by the Yamuna River flowing nearby. The Public Works Department (PWD) then proposed a new plan, and sent it to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) seeking approval. "This is not just a clearance. It is a green signal to speed, transparency, and accountability. Every rupee spent on infrastructure must yield public value, and I am glad that this solution safeguards both engineering integrity and financial responsibility. I thank

MoHUA for their support. Now, execution is our top priority, and delay is not an option," Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said. According to officials, PWD will take steps like carrying out immediate grouting under the box structures to stabilise the soil and prevent further settlement. The other steps it will follow are urgent stitching of boxes beneath the railway embankment, enabling track strengthening and ensuring structural safety. "The adoption of the cast-in-situ construction method with revised width and height parameters, identified as the most technically viable solution in the current scenario," said an official. Underpass 5 is a vital component of Delhi's strategic transit upgrade, aimed at easing congestion in and around Pragati Maidan, ITO, and nearby arterial roads. Once operational, it will ensure seamless vehicular movement, especially during major conventions and public events at the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) complex. PWD has been directed to immediately initiate the approved works and submit weekly progress reports to Singh's office. The project is now being positioned as a model of high-impact infrastructure delivered with fiscal discipline and administrative resolve.

## Plea seeks 'urgent intervention' to protect the Ridge, HC issues notice to HP, Shimla MC



GNS News Agency, August 14

Built using lime and mortar, the tank holds over 10 lakh gallons of water and faces potential damage from the regular movement of heavy vehicles and increasing commercial events on its surface, the petition says. Built using lime and mortar, the tank holds over 10 lakh gallons of water and faces potential damage from the regular movement of heavy vehicles and increasing commercial events on its surface, the petition says.

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has asked the state government and the Shimla Municipal Corporation to respond to a petition seeking urgent intervention to protect the historic Ridge Ground from structural damage and excessive commercial use. The petition, filed by former deputy mayor of Shimla, Tikender Singh Panwar, highlights the risk posed by the unchecked and commercial activities to the Ridge in general and to the 140-year-old underground wa-

ter reservoir beneath it in particular. Built using lime and mortar, the tank holds over 10 lakh gallons of water and faces potential damage from the regular movement of heavy vehicles and increasing commercial events on its surface, the petition says. Taking note of the plea, a division bench led by Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia, and comprising Justice Ranjan Sharma, on July 30 issued notices directing the authorities to respond within four weeks. Panwar has been waging a battle against the commercial activities and movement of heavy vehicles on the Ridge. In December last year, he had written to the chief secretary demanded to shift the stage of winter carnival away from 'yellow markings' on the Ridge. Citing the age and structure of the underground water tank, he had highlighted that it has been kept in a "very high vulnerable" zone in the Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment of the Shimla town. "It is precisely because of this reason that no activity is allowed on the Ridge Water tank that may cause further accentuating of the vulnerability," he had said, adding "there is no reinforcement in the tank and since the last few decades cracks have started appearing in the tank". He had further added that the northern slopes of the Ridge have already experienced subsidence since 1971 and are "still considered as sinking zone extending from Scandal Point to Lakkar Bazaar, including the Old City Bus Stand, Idgah, Longwood, Ruldu Bhatta and adjoining areas". Recently the traders' body in Shimla had held a symbolic shutdown protesting against the increasing use of the Ridge and Mall Road for exhibitions and trade fairs. They had argued that such activities not only disregard the pedestrian norms but also undermine the cultural and historical significance of the area.

## Panel formed to oversee SAD reorganisation to launch own outfit

GNS News Agency, August 14

A committee constituted by the Akal Takht on December 2, 2024 for the reorganisation of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) is now all set to elect its new president on August 11, heralding a new faction of the Panthic party. Former Akal Takht Jathedar Harpreet Singh and member of the committee Satwant Kaur are among the front runners for the post of president. Meanwhile, sources said that the Akali Dal has approached the officiating Jathedar of Akal Takht, Kuldeep Singh Gargaji, against the upcoming faction. A former Akali MLA said, "We have asked Jathedar to not allow the faction to use the name of Sri Akal Takht Sahib. It was seven-member committee that was formed on December 2 last year from the Akal Takht Sahib. Two members of that committee — Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president Harjinder Singh Dhami and former president Kirpal Singh Bandungar — had resigned from the committee reducing it to five members." Besides, the committee was supposed to report back to Akal Takht Sahib within six months. But now seven months have already elapsed and committee has not reported to the Akal Takht Sahib. Now, this committee is a group of ambitious politicians who are misusing the name of Sri Akal Takht Sahib. They shouldn't be allowed to fool the people by using name of Sri Akal Takht Sahib," he said. Sources said that the Sikh clergy can consider this argument of the Akali Dal against the five-member committee during its August 6 meeting.

Meanwhile, the five-member committee has sent a letter to the SGPC seeking permission to hold a meeting on August 11 at Teja Singh Samundri Hall. To avoid the contention, SGPC has forwarded the permission-related letter to the Akal Takht. In the letter, all five members of the Akali Dal recruitment committee — Manpreet Singh Ayali, Gurpratap Singh Wadala, Santa Singh Umaidpur, Iqbal Singh Jhunda, and Bibi Satwant Kaur — said that the recruitment process has been completed following the directives of the Akal Takht. A general assembly is being convened on August 11 to elect a new president. The committee wishes to hold this assembly at the SGPC office, Teja Singh Samundri Hall. SGPC member Kulwant Singh Manan confirmed that a letter had been sent by the recruitment committee.

The Akal Takht Monday asked Punjab Cabinet Minis-

## 4 meetings done, 5th today; Centre looks to resolve dispute between Punjab, Haryana

GNS News Agency, August 14

syL canal dispute between punjab and haryana The last meeting between the two states, also chaired by Patil, "was held in a cordial atmosphere" with both Mann and Saini expressing commitment to finding an early resolution to the long-standing water-sharing issue. Looking to resolve the decades-old impasse over the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal, Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil will on Tuesday chair a meeting in New Delhi to be attended by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and his Haryana counterpart Nayab Singh Saini. It will be the fifth meeting between the chief ministers of the two states — the last being held on July 9. The meeting comes a before a case pertaining to the SYL canal and sharing of waters between the two states comes up for hearing in the Supreme Court on August 13.

The last meeting between the two states, also chaired by Patil, "was held in a cordial atmosphere" with both Mann and Saini expressing commitment to finding an early resolution to the long-standing water-sharing issue. The SYL Canal has remained a source of contention between the two states since the 1980s.

Earlier, on the directions of the Supreme Court, the first meeting between the CMs of Punjab and Haryana was held on August 18, 2020. At the time Capt Amarinder Singh was the chief minister of Punjab and Manohar Lal Khattar was his Haryana counterpart. The second meeting was held in Chandigarh on October 14, 2022 after the Aam Aadmi Party took over the reins of Punjab. The third meeting was held in Delhi on January 4, 2023, under the leadership of then Union Water Resources Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Punjab Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal said that the state has already taken a stand that it does not have a single drop of water to share with anyone. "Haryana is not our enemy. It is our neighbouring state. But we do not have water. How can we supply water to state when we do not have enough for our farming needs? The Centre is not willing to give us an additional water and it expects us to share ours," he said. offer Goyal added that Mann had taken a stand on the issue during the last meeting and the "will continue with its stand". During the last meeting, Mann had told Patil that the groundwater situation in Punjab is very grim and most of the river resources have dried up. Stating that Punjab needs more water to cater to its irrigation needs, he had asserted that the state has no surplus water for others and demanded its legitimate share



ter Harjot Singh Bains to appear before the five Singh Sahiban (high priests) on August 6 for allegedly "hurting Sikh sentiments". Bains has been summoned for organising "entertainment performances" at a programme held in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar to mark the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur. A meeting of the five 'Singh Sahiban' will be convened at the Akal Takht Sahib Secretariat in Amritsar on August 6 under the leadership of the Jathedar Gargaji to deliberate on various 'Panthic' and religious matters, said a statement. Bagicha Singh, in-charge of the Akal Takht Secretariat, stated that an e-mail has been sent to Bains, summoning him to appear before the five Singh Sahiban. He added that Jaswant Singh, director of the language department, Punjab, will be summoned at a later date as he has gone abroad until August 12 for a relative's wedding. Earlier, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) had taken strong objection to the "entertainment performances" involving singing and dancing at the event organised by the Punjab government's language department in Srinagar last month to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of ninth Sikh Guru, Guru Teg Bahadur. The SGPC had condemned the performances, calling it a direct affront to Sikh religious values. Education Minister Bains had earlier said that he would appear before the Akal Takht and would be bound to obey every order while accepting his moral responsibility. Bains had said that he, as a Sikh cabinet minister, seeks forgiveness for whatever happened due to negligence of the organisers, knowingly or unknowingly, at the event.



The SYL Canal has remained a source of contention between the two states since the 1980s.

in the Indus waters. He said that with the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan, efforts should be made to bring water from the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) to meet the growing demand. Mann had said that 23 million acre feet of Chenab waters could be diverted to Punjab and further to Haryana, even Madhya Pradesh. He had said that the dispute had become a forever bleeding wound. Both the states are fighting for a few million acre feet of water. He had stated if Punjab gets 23 MAF from the Chenab, the whole dispute will be resolved forever. It was learnt that Patil had stated that he had noted the proposal to conduct feasibility studies on the western tributaries Indus, Chenab and Jhelum. Saini, however, had expressed confidence that the SYL issue will be resolved soon, asserting that the Punjab government has also sought a solution to the problem. Saini said meaningful discussions were held in the meeting and that Punjab CM "also acknowledged that this issue should be resolved as it has remained pending for far too long". The two states had indulged in bitter exchange of words over supplying water to Haryana over and above its quota from Bhakra dam in May. Punjab had refused to release even a drop extra and a high drama had ensued when the chairperson of Bhakra Beas Management Board was locked up in a rest house at Nangal. Later, the Centre had announced to deploy CISF at the dam. Punjab government is now squabbling with Centre over the deployment of the central security forces stating that Punjab Police is capable of protecting its dams.



# Work to resume on Pragati Maidan underpass in Delhi after Centre’s nod



GNS News Agency, August 14

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Construction work at the underpass, which is a part of the Pragati Maidan transit corridor, stopped in 2023 after the precast concrete boxes, pushed beneath an active railway line using the box-pushing method, sank due to flooding caused by the Yamuna River flowing nearby. The Pub-

lic Works Department (PWD) then proposed a new plan, and sent it to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) seeking approval. “This is not just a clearance. It is a green signal to speed, transparency, and accountability. Every rupee spent on infrastructure must yield public value, and I am glad that this solution safeguards both engineering integrity and financial responsibility. I thank MoHUA for their support. Now, execution is our top priority, and delay is not an option,” Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said.

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# Bus services hit as transport workers begin strike across Karnataka, passengers stranded

GNS News Agency, August 14

Employees of Karnataka’s state-owned transport corporations began an indefinite strike on Tuesday morning, severely affecting public bus services across the state and leaving passengers in the lurch. The unions went ahead with the strike despite a court stay against the agitation, under-way pressing demands including wage revision.

Buses remained parked at depots and only a few were seen running, as some staff chose not to participate in the strike. Some buses in rural areas operated as a few drivers opted to work for the convenience of students to ferry them to their schools, said sources in the transport department. The transport corporations are learned to have roped in trainee bus drivers to manage the situation. Bus stands in major cities like Bengaluru, Chikkamagaluru, Raichur, Chitradurga, Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Mangaluru, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Hassan, Madikeri, Shivamogga, and Kalaburagi saw heavy passenger rush, with thousands stranded and struggling to find alternate ways to reach their destinations. Passengers faced difficulty due to the running of a limited number of buses, mostly those that went on the roads before the strike officially began. Private bus operators and cab aggregators allegedly made a killing as a result of the strike as passengers turned to them to reach their destinations.

Some passengers complained that autorickshaw drivers were charging exorbitant fares in Bengaluru. The protest comes after talks between the workers’ unions and the Karnataka government failed. The workers are demanding



payment of 38 months’ salary arrears and a wage revision effective January 1, 2024. Despite the Karnataka High Court issuing an interim stay on the strike, the unions have decided to go ahead with their protest. The HC had on Monday said that if the entire public transport operation was stalled, people are likely to be put to hardship, and therefore granted the interim stay till Tuesday, awaiting the outcome of negotiations with the government. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had appealed to the unions to call off the strike. However, union leaders said they were unhappy with the government’s offer to clear only two years of arrears and having got no clear assurance on salary revision. KSRTC Staff and Workers’ Federation president H V Anantha Subbarao said, “We are not satisfied. The strike will begin as planned. We want full 38 months’ arrears.” During a court hearing, the bench expressed concern over the long-pending wage issues and asked the government about the delay

# Will take protest to every slum cluster in city: Delhi Congress

GNS News Agency, August 14

In its first major street protest since the BJP formed government in Delhi earlier this year, the Congress Monday accused the Rekha Gupta-led government of forcibly evicting slum dwellers across the city without rehabilitating them. “The Congress will not allow the BJP to drive the poor out of Delhi. This government’s agenda is to remove ‘garib, not garibi, (the poor, and not poverty),” said Delhi Congress Chief Devender Yadav, announcing that the party will take its agitation to every JJ cluster in the city.

Party leaders invoked the legacy of former CM Sheila Dikshit, claiming theirs was the only party that had made efforts to regularise and resettle slum clusters. “Congress built in-situ flats in areas like Bhoonihien Camp and Kathputli Colony. BJP only makes hollow promises,” said former MP Udit Raj. “What’s happening with slum dwellers is no surprise. This is BJP’s character,” said former MP and Sheila Dikshit’s son Sandeep Dikshit. Amid the demonstration at the Assembly, allegedly held without permission, Delhi Police repeatedly announced that Section 144 was in place and that public gatherings were prohibited. Even as Congress workers continued their demonstration despite warnings, police deployed water cannons and detained at least 36 protesters, including Yadav, who was taken to Subzi Mandi police station. The demonstration was called against the recent demolition in areas such as Jangpura, Kalkaji, Wazirpur and Ashok Vihar.



More than 3,000 homes in slums have been demolished and 15,000 families have been rendered homeless over the past five months, without advance notice or alternate housing options, the party alleged. In a symbolic act, party workers brought a paper jhuggi topped with a toy bulldozer, bearing photographs of BJP ministers with the words “Haye Haye” written below. A poster on a protest truck read: “Jahan pe kiya jhuggi waalon ko beghar, wahin banao unka ghar (relocate the homeless jhuggi dwellers in the same area)”. Last month, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi visited the Ashok Vihar slum cluster in Jailorwala Bagh, where hundreds of homes were demolished in June as part of an ongoing anti-encroachment drive. Videos shared by the Congress on social media showed Gandhi walking through the debris, speaking to residents who said they were left homeless.

# Flood-like situation in 17 UP districts, thousands of families displaced

GNS News Agency, August 14

Heavy rain led to a flood-like situation in at least 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh, displacing thousands of families, officials said. As many as 694 villages in 40 tehsils and 92 wards in urban areas were affected, they said. The constant rainfall for the past two days has led to major rivers like Ganga and Yamuna constantly flowing above their danger mark. Schools in most of these districts, including Lucknow, were closed. Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said the state received 4 per cent excess rainfall. “Thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and heavy to very heavy rain are very likely at isolated places in the state,” the IMD said on Monday. In the 24 hours till late Sunday night, the state witnessed 14.2 mm rainfall against the average normal of 7.2 mm. At least 24 districts in the state have recorded excess rainfall. Some of the districts like Chitrakoot, Pratapgrah, Varanasi and Bhadohi reported over 55 mm rainfall. The state capital Lucknow received 18 mm rain against the normal 8.6 mm. With districts like Prayagraj, which are witnessing the water level in Ganga and Yamuna rise above the danger mark, there are reports of water flooding the residential areas. The 17 affected districts include

Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, Lakhimpur Kheri, Agra, Auraiya, Chitrakoot, Ballia, Banda, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Chandauli, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Etawah, and Fatehpur. Officials said more than 350 houses were damaged due to flood water, while the affected population has crossed over 1 lakh mark. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath formed a special team of ministers, referred as “Team 11”, which were assigned districts for flood management and relief work.

Most of these ministers have reached their districts assigned to them, it is learnt. These ministers include Nanda Gopal Gupta; Swatantra Dev Singh, Sanjay Gangwar, Pratibha Shukla, Ramkesh Nishad, Jaiveer Singh, Suresh Khanna, Sanjay Nishad, Dharamveer Prajapati, Ajit Pal, and Daya Shankar. From August 2 to August 3, two people died because of drowning, one due to a storm and two due to heavy rain, officials said.



# ‘Got court orders since 1990 on encroachment, nothing changed’: Chandni Chowk shopkeepers protest against MCD, police



GNS News Agency, August 14

Flagging the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)’s alleged inaction in tackling poor sanitation and illegal hawkers in Chandni Chowk despite the High Court’s order last year, more than 30 shopkeepers took part in a silent protest on Monday and marched from the Fountain Chowk to the Red Fort. Launched by Chandni Chowk Sarv Vyapar Mandal, the protest saw shopkeepers holding placards, and targeting the MCD and Delhi Police over several issues in the area, including encroachment, congestion, rising crimes like pickpocketing, mobile snatching, and eve-teasing. The demonstrators said the stir will continue until a decision to call it off is taken.

Last November, the Delhi High Court, while hearing a PIL filed by the body, had issued an order, directing the police and MCD to remove illegal hawkers and encroachments from the area within two weeks. The court, in its order dated November 22, 2024, had further directed MCD, Public Works Department, Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation, Delhi Police, and the Traffic Police to file a status report within two weeks.

While referring to the HC order, the market body on Monday accused the MCD of civic apathy. Sanjay Bhargava, president of the association, and a dealer of a textile brand near Sunehri Masjid in Chandni Chowk, said,

# ‘Opposition loves anti-national forces, sees reflection in them’: Delhi CM amid praise for Op Sindoor, PM Modi

GNS News Agency, August 14

Rekha Gupta Her remarks came as she addressed the House during a debate on Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, in which the perpetrators of the terror attack were killed recently. Even as Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday lashed out at the Opposition parties and hailed Operation Sindoor and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for protecting the dignity “of our sisters”, Leader of Opposition Atishi questioned the imposition of ceasefire during the military operation. The political war of words happened on Monday in the Assembly as the Monsoon session began.

“Operation Sindoor was a response to the silent suffering of India’s daughters and sisters. By acting as a courageous father, a compassionate brother, and a resolute national leader, the Prime Minister has upheld the dignity and empowered the spirit of Indian women,” the CM remarked. The operation by the tri-services was launched in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives.

Her remarks came as she addressed the House during a debate on Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, in which the perpetrators of the terror attack were killed recently. Calling the Operation Sindoor a “befitting reply” to Pakistan, the CM stepped up the attack on the Opposition. “These people (Opposition) do not love Bharat, but they love anti-national forces because they see their own reflection in them. They are not inspired by India’s progress — they would rather see the nation held back,” she claimed. Hitting out at the Congress-led INDIA bloc, she said, “The Opposition parties came together to form an alliance. Only its name has INDIA in it but if you listen to them, they sound as if they are the spokesperson of Pakistan... they even raised numerous questions on Operation Sindoor in Parliament recently... They don’t trust their own military and refuse to believe their own Prime Minister, and instead place their faith in foreign powers.”



She stressed that the Indian armed forces continue to defend the nation with the same courage and commitment they displayed during the wars of 1965 and 1971. “Why did our governments return captured territories under pressure after the 1965 war? Why did we accept mediation from the United Nations and the United States? And in 1971, after capturing 93,000 Pakistani soldiers, why were they released unconditionally?” she asked, attacking the previous Congress-led governments. On the other hand, former CM and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi questioned the imposition of the ceasefire. “Our army could have decisively wiped out Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, but that didn’t happen because of BJP’s cowardice. PM Narendra Modi got scared of US President Trump’s threats. Trump has publicly said over 25 times that he threatened to shut down trade — that is why India backed out,” she alleged.

AAP MLA Sanjeev Jha also questioned the declaration of ceasefire and used words that the Speaker directed to be expunged from the records after he allegedly made a derogatory statement against the PM. Meanwhile, Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood tabled the Bill to regulate fee hike by private schools in the Capital. He also claimed that they got “threats” from education mafias against the Bill.

# Pay Rs 1.2 lakh to clear outstanding fee, court tells parent as pvt school claims financial situation jeopardised



GNS News Agency, August 14

The Judge was hearing a suit filed by Bluebells International School, which was the defendant for the recovery of the school fee of one of its students. The school had argued that the parent, the plaintiff, was under a legal obligation to make timely and regular payments of the fees. “Present suit has been filed on October 16, 2024, whereas the cause of action last arose upon the plaintiff on February 7, 2024, when the defendant made the last pay-

ment against the outstanding amount,” the court noted in its order dated July 23.

“In view of the foregoing reasons, the present suit is decreed in favour of the plaintiff and against the defendant. The plaintiff is held entitled to recover from the defendant a sum of Rs. 1,21,418/- alongwith interest @ 10% per annum from the date of institution of the suit till the realisation of the suit amount,” said Civil Judge Yashu Khurana of Saket Court. It was also argued that the parent had not cleared the dues despite repeated requests and reminders. Stating that its financial situation was being jeopardised, the school also told the court that a legal notice dated May 31, 2024 was issued to the parent. The order comes at a time when the Delhi government has introduced a Bill to regulate fee hikes by private schools in the Assembly amid the ongoing Monsoon Session. The Bill, which has come in the backdrop of protests by parents against arbitrary hikes by private schools, imposes strict penalties on schools that hike fees in an arbitrary manner. Schools will face fines ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for the first time offences and Rs 2 to 10 lakh for repeat violations. Repeat violations may also lead to a loss of the right to increase fees in the future.

# 10 country-made bombs seized in Outer Delhi: 2 years on, cops dispose of them

GNS News Agency, August 14

More than two years after 10 country-made bombs were seized at an abandoned plot in Outer Delhi’s Holambi Kalan area, the bombs were finally disposed of on Sunday, said police. “The Bomb Disposal Squad and the National Security Guard (NSG) carried out proper inspection and neutralisation procedures as per the established safety protocols and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and all 10 country-made bombs were disposed of for the purpose of further investigation and necessary action.” DCP (Outer

North) Hareshwar Swami said. Apart from the teams from the NSG, Bomb Disposal Squad, FSL (Rohini) teams had also come at the spot where the bombs were buried after a letter was sent by the police for the disposal of the bombs. According to the police, the bombs were seized on April 10, 2023, at an abandoned plot at Metro Vihar area in Holambi Kalan. The police had received a tip-off that a man named Deepak, 33, was in possession of country-made grenades. Deepak was apprehended the same night.



# Israel to allow gradual and controlled entry of goods to Gaza through local merchants



Israel will allow gradual and controlled entry of goods to Gaza through local merchants, COGAT, the Israeli military agency that coordinates aid, said “This aims to increase the volume of aid entering the Gaza Strip, while reducing reliance on aid collection by the U.N. and international organisations,” the agency said.On Sunday (August 3, 2025), Hamas said it was prepared to coordinate with the Red Cross to deliver aid to hostages it holds in Gaza, if

Israel meets certain conditions, after a video it released showing an emaciated captive drew sharp criticism from Western powers.Protestors block the road outside of Trump International Hotel during a rally against the hunger crisis in Gaza that organizers say is caused by Israel, in New York City, U.S., August 4, 2025.Protestors block the road outside of Trump International Hotel during a rally against the hunger crisis in Gaza that organizers say is caused by Israel, in New York City, U.S.,Palestinian and U.N. officials said Gaza needs around 600 aid trucks to enter per day to meet the humanitarian requirements - the number Israel used to allow into Gaza before the war.The Gaza war began when Hamas killed 1,200 people and took 251 hostages in an attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, according to Israeli figures.Israel's offensive has since killed more than 60,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials who do not distinguish between fighters and non-combatants.According to Israeli officials, 50 hostages now remain in Gaza, only 20 of whom are believed to be alive. Hamas, thus far, has barred humanitarian organisations from having any kind of access to the hostages and families have little or no details of their conditions.

# Will oppose July Proclamation of interim govt. if it goes against Constitution of Bangladesh: BNP general secretary Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir

The July Proclamation that is being planned on the anniversary of the anti-Sheikh Hasina uprising on Tuesday (August 5, 2025) in Dhaka will be opposed if it goes against the constitution of Bangladesh, said a senior leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Speaking to The Hindu, the party's general secretary, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, said the interim government had consulted various stakeholders before going ahead with the planned announcement of the July Charter on Tuesday (August 5), but cautioned that the charter should not go against the 1972 constitution of Bangladesh which is based on the sacrifices of 1971 Liberation War.“The interim government sent us a draft of the July Proclamation some weeks ago. We did not find anything objectionable in that draft but we do not know what will be the exact draft of the proclamation that will be launched on 5 August. If we find that the proclamation goes against our existing constitution, then we will oppose it,” said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir ahead of Tuesday’s launch of the July Proclamation which is also being described as July Charter.

Mr. Alamgir’s remarks came hours after the interim government announced that Chief Adviser Prof Mohammed Yunus will announce the July Proclamation at 5 pm, Tuesday at the southern plaza of the Jatiyo Sansad, the parliament of Bangladesh.The July Proclamation came into focus in December 2024 when the student-activists who are among core support groups of the interim government, announced that they wanted to use the July Proclamation to ‘bury’ the 1972 constitution of Bangladesh. The attempt of the student activists was however not successful and the interim government stepped in and decided to carry forward the idea of the proclamation. In his Id speech on 6 June, Prof Yunus revived the idea of the July Proclamation saying that the text of the proclamation had been agreed upon by “all parties”. Mr. Alamgir however told The Hindu that the interim government has not made BNP a signatory



to the proclamation.“The July proclamation is being brought by the government to highlight the uprising of July-August 2024. But we were not asked to put our signatures to it,” said Mr Alamgir speaking to The Hindu over telephone from Dhaka even as doubts persist over the BNP’s participation in Tuesday’s programme.BNP leaders have not declined the invitation of the interim government to participate in the event in the parliament of Bangladesh though it is understood that a small team from the party is most likely to be at the event as BNP is waiting to see the final draft of the proclamation. BNP which is one of the two major political formations – the other being Awami League – to have governed Bangladesh since 1972 constitution was launched, believes that framing of any guiding principle for the country should be undertaken by elected representatives and not by an interim administration.In the meanwhile, traffic guidelines have been issued for Tuesday as the capital of Bangladesh prepares for the launch of the July Charter. Chief Adviser’s Deputy Press Secretary Abdul Kalam Azad Majumdar said that the Prof Yunus will read the document personally as Bangladesh marks a year since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government.

# U.S. reverses pledge to link disaster funds to Israel boycott stance

GNS News Agency, August 14

The Trump administration on Monday reversed course on requiring U.S. cities and States to rebuke boycotts of Israeli companies in order to receive disaster funds, according to a statement, and deleted the earlier policy from its website.The U.S. Department of Homeland Security removed its statement that said States must certify they will not sever “commercial relations specifically with Israeli companies” to qualify for the funding.

Reuters reported on Monday that the language applied to at least \$1.9 billion that states rely on to cover search-and-rescue equipment, emergency manager salaries and backup power systems, among other expenses, according to 11 agency grant notices reviewed by Reuters.This is a shift for the administration of President Donald Trump, which has previously tried to penalise institutions that don’t align with its views on Israel or antisemitism.Economic pressure on IsraelThe disaster funding requirement took aim at the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement designed to put economic pressure on Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian territories. The campaign’s supporters grew more vocal in 2023, after Hamas attacked southern Israel and Israel invaded Gaza in response.



“FEMA grants remain governed by existing law and policy and not political litmus tests,” said DHS Spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin in a statement on Monday afternoon.DHS oversees the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA in grant notices posted on Friday said states must follow its “terms and conditions” to qualify for disaster preparation funding.Those conditions required that they not support what the agency called a “discriminatory prohibited boycott,” a term defined as refusing to deal with “companies doing business in or with Israel.”

# U.S. could require up to \$15,000 bonds for some tourist visas under pilot program

GNS News Agency, August 14

The U.S. State Department is proposing requiring applicants for business and tourist visas to post a bond of up to \$15,000 to enter the United States, a move that may make the process unaffordable for many.In a notice to be published in the Federal Register on Tuesday (August 5, 2025), the Department said it would start a 12-month pilot program under which people from countries deemed to have high overstay rates and deficient internal document security controls could be required to post bonds of \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000 when they apply for a visa.

The proposal comes as the Trump administration is tightening requirements for visa applicants. Last week, the U.S. State Department announced that many visa renewal applicants would have to submit to an additional in-person interview, something that was not required in the past. In addition, the department is proposing that applicants for the Visa Diversity Lottery program have valid passports from their country of citizenship.A preview of the bond notice, which was posted on the Federal Register website on Monday (August 4, 2025), said the pilot program would take effect within 15 days of its formal publication and is necessary to ensure that the U.S. Government is not financially liable if a visitor does not comply with the terms of his or her visa.“Aliens applying for visas as temporary visitors for business or pleasure and who are nationals of countries



identified by the department as having high visa overstay rates, where screening and vetting information is deemed deficient, or offering citizenship by investment, if the alien obtained citizenship with no residency requirement, may be subject to the pilot program,” the notice said.The countries affected will be listed once the program takes effect, it said. The bond could be waived depending on an applicant's individual circumstances.The bond would not apply to citizens of countries enrolled in the Visa Waiver Program, which enables travel for business or tourism for up to 90 days. The majority of the 42 countries enrolled in the program are in Europe, with others in Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere.Visa bonds have been proposed in the past but have not been implemented.

# Brazil’s Supreme Court orders house arrest for former President Jair Bolsonaro



GNS News Agency, August 14

Brazil’s Supreme Court on Monday (August 4, 2025) ordered the house arrest for the country’s former President Jair Bolsonaro, on trial for allegedly masterminding a coup plot to remain in office despite his defeat in the 2022 election — a case that has gripped the South American country as it faces a trade war with the Trump administration.The trial is receiving renewed attention after U.S. President Donald Trump directly tied a 50% tariff on imported Brazilian goods to the judicial situation of Bolsonaro, a Trump ally. The U.S. leader has called the proceedings a “witch hunt.”Prosecutors accuse Bolsonaro of heading a criminal

organisation that plotted to overturn the election, including plans to kill President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and a Supreme Court justice, Alexandre de Moraes. Monday’s order followed one from the top court last month that ordered Bolsonaro to wear an electronic ankle monitor and imposed a curfew on his activities while the proceedings are underway.

Justice Moraes, who oversees the case against Bolsonaro in the court, issued the order, saying in his decision that the 70-year-old far-right leader had violated the precautionary measures imposed on him by posting content on the social media channels of his three lawmakers.Moraes added that Bolsonaro, who governed Brazil between 2019 and 2022, has spread messages with “a clear content of encouragement and instigation to attacks against the Supreme Court and a blatant support for foreign intervention in the Brazilian Judiciary.”Bolsonaro supporters plead for pardonTens of thousands of Bolsonaro supporters took the streets in the cities of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro on Sunday, pleading for Brazil’s congress to pardon him and hundreds of others who are under trial for their roles in the destruction of government buildings in capital Brasilia on Jan. 8, 2023.The latest decision from the top court keeps Boslonaro under ankle monitoring, allows only family members and lawyers to visit him and seizes all mobile phones from his home.

# U.S. pursuing 'neocolonial' policy to maintain hegemony: Russia

GNS News Agency, August 14

Russia on Monday (August 4, 2025) accused the U.S. administration of pursuing a “neocolonial” policy against Global South nations to maintain Washington’s hegemony, and expressed its willingness to boost cooperation with these countries to form a “truly multilateral” and equal world order.The comments by Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova came days after U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled sweeping new tariffs on dozens of countries.Calling sanctions and restrictions a “regrettable reality” of today’s historical stage that affects the entire world, Ms. Zakharova said that the U.S. cannot come to terms with the “loss of hegemony in the emerging world order.”She accused Washington of continuing to “pursue a neocolonial policy in an attempt to maintain its position, using politicised levers of economic pressure against those who refuse to follow in its wake in the international arena.”

Commenting on Mr. Trump’s tariff policy against Russia’s partners in the Global South, Ms. Zakharova called it a “direct encroachment” on the national sovereignty of nations and an “attempt to interfere in their internal affairs”.Russia believes that no tariff wars and sanctions can do anything with the natural course of history, she said.We have a huge number of partners, like-minded people, and allies who share this approach among the countries of the Global South and, first and foremost, BRICS, she said.Ms. Zakharova was referring to the bloc originally



comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in 2025.“We are ready to increase cooperation with them in order to counter illegal unilateral sanctions and form a truly multilateral, fair and equal world order,” she said.Ms. Zakharova added that the U.S. policy is fraught with a slowdown in economic growth, damage to supply chains, and fragmentation of the global economy.“Contrary to the basic provisions in the area of free trade, which the Western countries themselves once promoted, there is politically motivated protectionism and voluntaristic build-up of tariff barriers,” she added.

# Canada airdrops aid into Gaza, says Israel violating international law

GNS News Agency, August 14

Canada said on Monday (August 5, 2025) it delivered humanitarian assistance through airdrops to Gaza, which has been under a devastating Israeli military assault for almost 22 months, with Ottawa again accusing Israel of violating international law.“The (Canadian Armed Forces) employed a CC-130J Hercules aircraft to conduct an airdrop of critical humanitarian aid in support of Global Affairs Canada into the Gaza Strip. The air drop consisted of 21,600 pounds of aid,” the Canadian government said in a statement.The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported that it was Canadian Armed Forces’ first humanitarian airdrop over Gaza using their own aircraft.The Israeli military said 120 food aid packages for Gaza’s residents were airdropped by six countries, including Canada. The other five were Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Germany and Belgium.Canada said last week it plans to recognise the State of Palestine at a meeting of the United Nations in September, ratcheting up pressure on Israel as starvation spreads in Gaza.

Canada also said on Monday that Israeli restrictions have posed challenges for humanitarian agencies.“This obstruction of aid is a violation of international humanitarian law and must end immediately,” Canada’s government said.The Israeli embassy in Ottawa had no immediate comment. Israel denies accusations of violating international law and blames Hamas for the suffering in Gaza.Israel cut off food supplies to Gaza in March and then lifted that blockade in May - but with restrictions that it said were needed to prevent aid from being diverted to militant groups.President Donald Trump also claimed Hamas militants were stealing



food coming into Gaza and selling it. However, Reuters reported late last month that an internal U.S. government analysis found no evidence of systematic theft by Hamas of U.S.-funded humanitarian supplies.Israel says it is taking steps for more aid to reach Gaza’s population, including pausing fighting for part of the day in some areas, allowing airdrops and announcing protected routes for aid convoys.The latest bloodshed in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict was triggered in October 2023 when Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,200 and taking about 250 hostages, Israeli tallies show.Gaza’s health ministry says Israel’s subsequent military assault has killed over 60,000 Palestinians. It has also caused a hunger crisis, internally displaced Gaza’s entire population and prompted accusations of genocide at the International Court of Justice and of war crimes at the International Criminal Court. Israel denies the accusations.

# Who is Erika McEntarfer? Why did Donald Trump fire the U.S. Labor Statistics Chief amid the jobs report row?

U.S. President Donald Trump has dismissed Erika McEntarfer, the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), amid allegations that the latest U.S. jobs report was “rigged.” The move has sparked a wave of attention toward the integrity of official economic data and the independence of federal statistical agencies.Erika McEntarfer is an experienced labour economist who served as the Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics from 2023 until her removal in August 2025. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Social Science from Bard College and a doctoral degree in economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and previously held senior roles at the U.S. Census Bureau and the Council of Economic Advisers. Her research is focused on labour market dynamics and interactions between firms and workers in the economy and has been published in the Journal of Labor Economics, American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, and the Journal of Economic Perspectives. Appointed during the Biden administration, Ms. McEntarfer led the BLS through a period of post-pandemic labour market normalisation and increasing political scrutiny over economic indicators.

Why was she dismissed?

On August 1, 2025, Mr. Trump announced Ms. McEntarfer’s termination, claiming that the July jobs report under her leadership was “manipulated” to downplay eco-

nom ic gains. The BLS report showed an increase of 187,000 jobs for July, while the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.8%. Trump publicly rejected the figures and suggested they were politically motivated. Last weeks Job’s Report was RIGGED, just like the numbers prior to the Presidential Election were Rigged. That’s why, in both cases, there was massive, record setting revisions, in favor of the Radical Left Democrats. On Friday morning, the BLS reported that the US economy added just 73,000 jobs in July, well below estimates. It also said it had revised the May and June numbers, and they turned out to be lower than previously announced by more than 200,000 jobs. “We need accurate Jobs Numbers,” Mr. Trump wrote on Truth Social. “I have directed my Team to fire this Biden Political Appointee, IMMEDIATELY. She will be replaced with someone much more competent and qualified.

What’s the issue with the July 2025 U.S. Jobs Report, and how is it compiled?

The July 2025 U.S. jobs report, released by the Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS) on August 2, showed a net gain of 187,000 non-farm payroll jobs, while the unemployment rate held steady at 3.8%. The report also noted modest upward revisions for previous months: June’s job growth was revised from 206,000 to 211,000, and May’s from 218,000 to 223,000.



# Putin 'has gone absolutely CRAZY!', says Trump



Washington: President Donald Trump made it clear he is losing patience with Vladimir Putin, levelling some of his sharpest criticism at the Russian leader as Moscow pounded Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities with drones and missiles for a third straight night. "I've always had a very good relationship with Vladimir Putin of Russia, but something has happened to him. He has gone absolutely CRAZY!" Trump wrote in a social media post on Sunday night.

Trump said Putin is "needlessly killing a lot of people," pointing out that "missiles and drones are being shot into Cities in Ukraine, for no reason whatsoever." The attack was the largest aerial assault since Russia's full-scale invasion of the country in February 2022, according to Ukrainian officials. At least 12 people were killed and dozens injured. The US president warned that if Putin wants to conquer all of Ukraine, it will "lead to the downfall of Russia!" But Trump expressed frustration with Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy as well, saying that he is "doing his Country no favours by talking the way he does." "Everything out of his mouth causes problems, I don't like it, and it better stop," Trump wrote on social media.

The president has increasingly voiced irritation at Putin and the inability to resolve the now three-year-old war, which Trump promised he would promptly end as he campaigned to return to the White House. He had long boasted of his friendly relationship with Putin and repeatedly stressed that Russia is more willing than Ukraine to reach a peace deal. But last month, Trump urged Putin to "STOP!" assailing Ukraine after Russia launched another deadly barrage of attacks on Kyiv, and he has repeatedly expressed his frustration that the war in Ukraine is continuing. "I'm not happy with what Putin's doing. He's killing a lot of people. And I don't know what the hell happened to Putin," Trump told reporters earlier Sunday as he departed northern New Jersey, where he spent most of the weekend. "I've known him a long time, always gotten along with him, but he's sending rockets into cities and killing people and I don't like it at all. "A peace agreement between Russia and Ukraine remains elusive. Trump and Putin spoke on the phone this past week, and Trump announced after the call that Russia and Ukraine will "immediately" begin ceasefire talks. That conversation occurred after Russian and Ukrainian officials met in Turkey for the first face-to-face talks since 2022. But on Thursday, the Kremlin said no direct talks were scheduled. The European Union has slapped new sanctions on Russia this month in response to Putin's refusal to agree to a ceasefire. But while Trump has threatened to step up sanctions and tariffs on Russia, he hasn't acted so far.

# Avoid costly mistakes in retirement plans

Retirement planning is a crucial aspect of personal finance. Rising life expectancy, growing prevalence of nuclear families and lack of social security for the elderly have further increased its importance. Here are some suggestions to avoid common retirement planning errors. Underestimating needs Many investors wrongly assume a steep reduction in living expenses post retirement. While some expenses like commuting may reduce, rising chances of catching diseases, risks of injuries and other age-related health risks are likely to lead to a steady increase in healthcare expenses. Another critical factor is longevity risk — the possibility of outliving your corpus. As medical advancements are likely to raise life expectancy, one should factor in a life expectancy of, at least 80 years while calculating retirement corpus.

People also tend to ignore impact of inflation on post-retirement costs. This can leave one with inadequate retirement corpus. For example, assuming average inflation of 6%, a 35-year-old spending ₹50,000 per month will need ₹2.15 lakh a month at age of 60 for the same lifestyle. One can use online retirement calculators to calculate the monthly contributions for creating the corpus. Prefer calculators that consider key factors like current monthly expenses and expected inflation rates, among other things. Not starting early

The most effective way to create a sufficient corpus without straining one's finances is to start early. For example, assuming a 12% annualised return, a 30-year-old investing ₹10,000 a month in equity mutual funds (MFs) via SIPs would have a post-retirement corpus of ₹3.5 crore in the next 30 years. Whereas a 45-year-old would require a monthly SIP investment of about ₹70,000 in equity funds for building same corpus in 15 years at the same rate of return. Avoiding equities Volatility leads many investors to avoid equity exposure in retirement corpus. However, equity as an asset class usually outperforms inflation rate and fixed-income instruments by a wide margin in the long term.

# Fiscal health rankings can act as policy nudge, encourage states to lower debt ratios: Rao Inderjit Singh

The Fiscal Health Index (FHI) initiative that ranks states by their finances can act as a "policy nudge" and play a key role in encouraging states to lower their debt-to-Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratios, according to Rao Inderjit Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and Ministry of Planning. With the central government set to target a reduction in its debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio from 2026-27 onwards, Singh said "any fiscal slippage by states can undermine India's sovereign risk profile". In an e-mail interview with Siddharth Upasani, the Minister also discussed more frequent revisions to GDP and Consumer Price Index (CPI) data series, the importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in data collection, and ramping up recruitment of statistical officers. Edited excerpts:

MoSPI will release the updated series for key macro-economic indicators such as CPI, GDP, and IIP (Index of Industrial Production) next year. Does the ministry plan to update these key data series on a more regular basis?

The next base year revision exercise of GDP, IIP, and CPI is currently underway. For GDP, the new series is scheduled to be released on February 27, 2026 with 2022-23 as base year. For IIP, 2022-23 has been tentatively identified as the revised base. IIP on revised base would be released from 2026-27. For CPI, 2024 has been identified as the revised base year and the item basket and weightage of the items would be decided based on the HCES conducted in 2023-24. The new CPI series is expected to be published from the first quarter of 2026. MoSPI is exploring the experimental compilation of a chain-based IIP to improve responsiveness to structural changes. The item basket and factory frame of the new IIP series would be selected using the latest data of Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2022-23. HCES serves as the foundation for updating the CPI base. The base updation of CPI relies on HCES for the item basket and their respective weights. Therefore, MoSPI is planning to conduct HCES in about every 3 years. Accordingly, base revision of CPI will be done. For the new CPI series, MoSPI is expanding its approach by exploring alternative data sources, such as online platforms for airfare, rail fare, OTT (over-the-top) platforms and administrative records for price data of petrol, diesel and LPG. Discussions are ongoing with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation, the Ministry of Railways, and the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell under the Ministry of

Petroleum and Natural Gas for direct transfer of data for integration in CPI. The Ministry is exploring the use of scanner data and web scraping to enhance the accuracy, efficiency, and comprehensiveness of price data collection. The possibility of collecting price data from e-commerce websites is also being considered. Regarding GDP, annual data in respect of the Government expenditure and private corporate sector are available. However, for the large informal sector in India, the estimates are dependent on various survey results. Attempts are being made to reduce the periodicity of the surveys, like Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) are now available monthly, ASUSE data are being planned to be released quarterly. Pilot has been done on Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises (ASSSE). In addition to the use of data from Office of Controller General of Accounts, MCA-21, Reserve Bank of India, etc. as was done in the previous base revision exercise, use of Goods and Services Tax data, E-Vahan portal, UPI transaction data from National Payments Corporation of India, etc. are also being attempted. With the availability of more datasets, GDP base revision could be done more frequently in the near future. Could IIP and GDP data be revised with 2023-24 as the base year considering the results of the ASI for 2023-24 is set to be released in September 2025?

The ASI data for 2023-24 is expected to be available in late 2025, which would be too late to be considered for the upcoming base year revision exercise of GDP and IIP.

The first Fiscal Health Index (FHI) rankings of states were published earlier this year. With the central government moving towards targeting debt-to-GDP ratio from 2026-27, can such rankings help push the states to lower their debt ratio?

Yes, the FHI rankings can play a critical role in encouraging states to lower their debt-to-GSDP ratios, especially in light of the central government's target of reducing overall government debt starting 2026-27 to a level of 50 per cent from the existing 57.1 per cent. The FHI assesses the fiscal performance of Indian states, and is aimed at promoting transparency, accountability, and prudent fiscal management. It evaluates states across four core pillars: revenue mobilisation, quality of expenditure, fiscal prudence, and debt index and sustainability, along with several sub-indicators, to present a holistic picture of fiscal health. Beyond being a comparative scorecard, the FHI provides state-specific insights, identifying areas of strength and concern and offers a foundation for tailored policy recommendations.

# How will land ports closure impact the region? | Explained



GNS News Agency, August 14

The story so far: On May 17, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade shut down all land ports with Bangladesh for export of apparel (readymade garments) from Bangladesh. The order also shut down the northeastern land ports with Bangladesh to restrict the export of specific items from Bangladesh. The move is being interpreted as a fall-out of the downturn in relations between New Delhi and Dhaka. The two sides are yet to develop a fully functional relationship after the fall of the Hasina government last August.

What is the May order?

Stopping import of readymade garments from Bangladesh through all land ports, the order said, "Import from Bangladesh shall not be allowed from any land port; however, it is allowed through Nhava Sheva and Kolkata seaports." That apart, the order also banned export of fruit, fruit flavoured drinks, processed food items (baked goods, snacks, chips and confectionery), cotton and cotton yarn waste, plastic and PVC finished goods except pigments, dyes, plasticisers, and granules, and wooden furniture from Bangladesh through land ports of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura. The same goods were also banned from entering India through the land customs stations of Changrabandha and Fulbari. The order has clarified that import of fish, LPG, edible oil and crushed stone from Bangladesh will remain unaffected.

What led India to issue this order?

India said the order was aimed at ensuring reciprocity in trade with Bangladesh. On April 13, Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue imposed a ban on the import of cotton yarn from India through land ports. That apart, Bangladesh also stopped export of Indian rice through the Hili land port in West Bengal. Indian officials further said that Bangladesh had been carrying out aggressive checks of Indian trucks over the past several months. All these factors were taken into account in stopping the entry of readymade garments through Indian land ports. In all, there are 24 operational land ports between India and Bangladesh, and several other crossings are being developed.

How is India justifying the decision?

The order came into immediate effect on May 17, officials said. However, the order and the list of items on it are expected to be reviewed from time to time. The sea ports too are not expected to remain open for all items from Bangladesh as there will be mandatory checks and reviews of all items from Bangladesh exported through Indian sea

# Where does the RBI's surplus come from? | Explained

The story so far: Putting an end to much speculation, the Reserve Bank of India's Central Board on Friday (May 23, 2025) announced that it had decided to transfer ₹2.69 lakh crore to the Central government as a surplus for the year 2024-25. This is a record high transfer, 27% higher than the ₹2.11 lakh crore transferred the previous year, which itself was a record at the time.

What had the government budgeted for?

This ₹2.69 lakh crore is also higher than what the government itself budgeted — ₹2.56 lakh crore — as dividend or surplus from the RBI, and the public sector banks and insurance companies. With the RBI's share itself exceeding this amount, this means the government's total collections from this category is likely to be far in excess of what it budgeted. However, things have not always been so easy for the government when it comes to the RBI's surplus. There have been strong arguments on both sides in the past on what should be done with the surplus the RBI earns, including some reportedly caustic remarks by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself.

Where does the RBI get its surplus?

Before getting into the past controversy, it's important to first understand how the RBI earns money, and also why what it transfers to the government isn't called a 'dividend'. The RBI is not a company in the traditional sense with shareholders, and so it cannot issue dividends. But it is a 'full-service' central bank, meaning that not only does it target inflation, issue currency, and regulate the banking sector, it is also the last resort lender to the government of India and the various State governments. The RBI can earn significant profits from some of these functions. For example, the process of issuing currency allows for the RBI to earn something called seigniorage. Seigniorage is basically the difference between the face value of a currency and the cost it took to produce that currency. When the RBI issues currency, say, a ₹500 note, the commercial banks have to 'buy' these notes from the central bank at the full face value (in this case, ₹500) even though it might have cost a fraction of that to actually produce that note. This counts towards the RBI's revenue. Then, the central bank also lends money to the Central government, State governments, and commercial banks with interest. This interest, too, adds to the RBI's revenue. Third, the RBI makes investments in other countries' bonds as well, not only earning interest on these, but also potentially benefiting from currency exchange rate fluctuations. According to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, after the RBI has made provisions for bad and doubtful debt and has met all its expenses, including any provisions it needs to make towards buffer funds, "the balance of the profits shall be paid to the Central Government". The debate, thus, is on the size of the buffer the RBI should maintain.

What kind of buffer levels does the RBI maintain?

The main buffer fund the RBI maintains is called the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB), which is basically a safety net in the event of a financial stability crisis. In 2018, a committee was set up under the chairmanship of former RBI governor Bimal Jalan to determine the RBI's Economic Capital Framework (ECF), including how big the CRB should be. At the time, the committee recommended that the CRB should be in the range of 5.5-6.5% of the RBI's

ports. The Indian side further claimed that Bangladesh has been cherry-picking issues and that several comments by top leaders indicated that they were treating the northeast as a "captive market" for Bangladesh's products, while Indian goods are not being given transit. Citing Prime Minister Modi's speech on the northeast, Indian officials said the northeast is integral to the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation). The "equal market space now available in the resource-rich northeast is expected to give a fillip to manufacturing and entrepreneurship in the region under the Atmanirbhar Bharat schemes and policies," they said.

How has Bangladesh responded?

Bangladesh has not issued any official response so far though off the record Bangladeshi officials have expressed disappointment over the way this step was initiated by the Indian side. They said Bangladesh was not intimidated about Indian plans and that they got to know of the decision through media reports which caught traders and transporters unawares. To India's accusation of Bangladesh unilaterally stopping India's cotton yarn and rice exports, Bangladesh officials said that these moves were enforced to control corruption on their side. Commerce Adviser S.K. Bashir Uddin of the interim government of Bangladesh has said a preliminary review is on about the impact that the Indian order will have on the economic prospects of Bangladesh. He said that in terms of furniture and agro products, the impact on Bangladesh will not be widespread, but the impact on readymade garments is likely to be significant.

Will India's order affect Bangladesh's trade with Nepal and Bhutan?

India claims that the order will not affect Bangladesh's trade with Nepal and Bhutan. However, it is understood that overland trade blockade will naturally impact flow of orders from Bangladesh to Nepal because of frequent disruption. The order has also created a ripple effect making investment planners careful before venturing into Bangladesh.

Is the decision to shut land ports part of a larger issue between India and Bangladesh?

Indian officials say the order is a "message to Bangladesh" in response to remarks regarding India's northeast made by interim government chief Mohammed Yunus in China during the March 26-29 visit, which were unacceptable. In a meeting with Chinese business houses, Prof. Yunus had described the northeast as a "landlocked" region that is suffering from developmental bottlenecks, urging China to access the region through Bangladesh. He had pitched Bangladesh as the "guardian of the ocean" suggesting that Bangladesh's coastline is available to China to develop industrial and commercial links with India's northeast. Indian officials have said that the closure of land ports (Integrated Check Posts and Land Customs Stations) is also a message to the interim government of Bangladesh which has warned towards Pakistan, accused of exporting cross-border terrorism to J&K. Indian officials said the order to restrict readymade garments was taken as it will affect nearly \$700 million worth of textile exports from Bangladesh to India. Though it is a small part of the total \$50 billion worth of exports from Bangladesh, it is expected to send a message to the global community about Bangladesh's moves.



balance sheet. This was adopted by the RBI in 2019. The Jalan committee also recommended that the ECF be reviewed every five years, which is what the RBI's central board just completed doing. The central board decided that the CRB range would be widened to 4.5-7.5% from 2024-25 onwards. During 2018-19 to 2021-22, the RBI kept the CRB at 5.5% of its balance sheet, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the economy. This was then hiked to 6% in 2022-23 and 6.5% (the maximum limit at the time) in 2023-24. For 2024-25, the RBI board has decided to keep the CRB at the new highest limit of 7.5% of the central bank's balance sheet. The profits of the central bank have been such that — despite this higher provisioning — it could still manage to transfer a record ₹2.69 lakh crore to the Central government.

Have these transfers happened in the past without controversy?

In short, no. While the surplus transfers haven't been the sole reason for acrimony between the RBI and the Ministry of Finance, it has certainly played a significant part. Take, for example, the statement by then RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya in 2018 in which he lamented that the RBI was "neither an independent nor an autonomous institution" and that governments that do not respect the central bank's independence will "come to rue the day they undermined an important regulatory institution". It was never officially clarified what this was about, but reporters covering the beat at the time knew a large part was about the government demanding large transfers of surpluses, and the RBI resisting. Then, there's the explosive passage in former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg's book We Also Make Policy, in which he recounts that — during a meeting with then RBI governor Ujit Patel in September 2018 — PM Modi told Mr. Patel that he was like a "snake who sits over a hoard of money". Both Mr. Acharya and Mr. Patel resigned soon after their disagreements with the government. The matter subsequently died down, especially once the Jalan committee formula was adopted.

Are such large transfers the new normal?

The higher transfer this year was on account of higher foreign exchange sales by the RBI, higher earnings on its foreign exchange assets and from its liquidity management tools. As Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, noted, the RBI's foreign exchange sales — a significant driver of profits — may not be at the same level next year. However, on the other hand, the RBI has also now provided itself a wider band for the CRB. So, if next year it decides to keep it at the lower end of 4.5%, then it could have a larger amount left over to send to the government.



# Silent aftershocks: the mental health toll of mass IT layoffs on young professionals



In recent years, the tech industry has seen waves of mass layoffs, driven by shifting market demands and economic uncertainty. IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) recently announced that it would release 2% of its global workforce -- amounting to more than 12,000 employees. Other IT companies too, have made similar moves in the recent past.While these layoffs affect workers across age groups, young employees - many of whom are early in their careers - face unique mental health challenges. For early-career employees, the loss of a job is not just a financial setback but also a blow to their identity, confidence, and future aspirations. The instability that a layoff causes can lead to increased levels of anxiety, depression, and self-doubt, particularly as they navigate a highly competitive job market. Understanding the psychological toll of these layoffs is crucial to building more resilient support systems, both within the industry and in society at large.

Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) Pratima Murthy says that the IT industry boom that attracted young people with aspirations and promises of a better life - financially and socially - has resulted in migration from smaller towns as well as rural areas, into urban centres. "History suggests that when jobs are scarce or people lose jobs, the loss of income does not impact just the individual but also families back home who are often dependent on that individual. This has a snowballing effect financially on their loan EMLs for instance, and their planned investments. Losing one's job, that too suddenly, can be very distressing," she says.While common emotional reactions include shock, disbelief, sadness, a sense of futility and unfairness, relationships can also be seriously impacted, especially when these have been initiated in the context of the workplace.

"There is additionally an emotional consequence, where a sense of loss of face, loss of confidence and a sense of being let down as well as letting down the family may ensue. A sense of shame and difficulty in facing the family may result in concealing the reality of the situation, aggravating the stress. Such stress can trigger a grief response as well as anxiety or depression," Dr. Murthy explains.

Excessive substance abuse is a well known response to stress, further aggravating the situation. "In an ideal world, protection of jobs would insulate professionals from all such consequences. Some ways of mitigation are to provide support to such employees, for more open communication with families, counselling for alternative job placements and for problem resolution. These are all very important, especially for emotionally vulnerable persons so that they do not feel that this is the end of the road, but develop the resilience to begin anew," she points out.Paulomi M. Sudhir, professor and consultant at the behavioural medicine unit, department of clinical psychology at NIMHANS, says mass layoffs are likely to contribute to feelings of uncertainty, demoralisation,

a sense of unfairness and anger at the loss. "In some it may result in experiences of anxiety, sadness, hopelessness and helplessness especially when they are unprepared for the layoff and have commitments to fulfill, or have been solely supporting families," she says.On an average, the work duration in IT and ITeS ranges from 10 to 11 hours and could go up to 12 hours in startups. With announcements of layoffs, employees report anxiety levels hitting a peak.

"There is already stress due to work pressure, which forces you to work long hours on weekdays and even on weekends. On top of that, now the layoff announcements have caused severe anxiety for many of us to the extent that it is affecting our daily lives," says a mid-management level employee at a leading ITeS company. A female project manager at the Bengaluru office of a global technology and service supplier notes how problems like depression are common among employees. "An emotional intelligence trainer employed by our own company, during her training session recently, mentioned how mild to medium depression is common among IT employees. The odd work hours affect our sleep cycle, create hormonal issues and induce depression symptoms," she notes. She goes on to add how women feel the pinch more as they face the same workload as men at the office and an additional burden at home due to household work and childcare, in patriarchal family systems. Doctors say stigma surrounding mental health continues to be a major barrier to help-seeking behaviour, especially among laid-off IT employees who often face unique psychological stressors. Stigma further contributes to low morale, motivation and guilt.

Although the sudden loss of employment can trigger anxiety, depression, and feelings of inadequacy, many hesitate to seek professional support due to fears of being perceived as weak or unemployable in future roles, doctors say. Cultural expectations of resilience, particularly in tech environments that value productivity and self-reliance, further discourage open conversations about mental well-being. As a result, stigma not only delays recovery but also perpetuates isolation, preventing individuals from accessing critical mental health resources during a vulnerable period. Addressing these barriers through workplace education, peer support systems, and normalised mental health discourse is essential for promoting healing and reintegration into the workforce.Asserting the importance of staying connected, Dr. Sudhir says seeking social support instead of isolation, continuing self care and using adaptive coping strategies are important at such times. She also points out that corporate mental health programmes in supporting employees during layoffs can be helpful - if the organisation involves them in preparing employees, offering mental health support and in staying connected. "Although businesses may have their own challenges, wherever possible, team leads, managers and other senior members should be available to offer support, in preparation for such situations and to also check particularly on those who are vulnerable (those with pre-existing mental or physical health issues, social concerns)," she says.The response from companies however continues to be less than optimal: employees feel that companies are barely taking any steps to address their mental health concerns. "They ask us to inhale and exhale," scoffs one employee. While most big IT and ITeS companies provide in-house counsellors and occasionally conduct mental health workshops, employees say that the root cause of the problems is still left unaddressed. Without systemic changes brought in through, perhaps, stricter labour laws by the government and other measures, improvements will not be seen anytime soon, they say.

# Osteoporosis can result in chronic pain, disability and morbidity, and it creeps up silently: here's how to prevent it

Savithri is a high-spirited septuagenarian who lives with her husband in a high-rise apartment in Chennai. Her morning routines include: rising before the dawn, sharing coffee time with her husband and then a short walk around the sprawling apartments. One day, she tripped over the pavement during her stroll. Though she believed it was a simple fall, she could not get up from the ground and her right leg could not be moved. Her elderly husband called for an ambulance and with the help of neighbours, she was taken to a nearby hospital.

Savithri broke down when the doctor showed her the fracture in her hipbone on x-rays, and explained the need for a surgery. She could not quite understand how a simple fall could break her bone. She had been eating well, does her morning walks religiously and does not suffer from any other illnesses. The doctor explained to her that her bones were very weak and brittle due to osteoporosis, a term that the elderly couple were hearing for the first time.Osteoporosis is a silent disease. Unlike other old age conditions like arthritis or ligament tears, osteoporosis does not manifest itself overtly until a fracture happens.

The bone is one of the most active tissues in the body, with old bone being resorbed, and new bone laid over, continuously. This process helps keep the bone strong, in order to bear daily physical stresses. However, this bone turnover becomes slower with increasing age, and more bone is resorbed compared to new bone formation. Consequently, the bones of the body become weaker with ageing, and this condition is called osteoporosis, meaning 'bones with pores'. Though 20 to 30% of the elderly have osteoporosis, most do not know that they have it, as it is not symptomatic until the person develops a fracture, like in Savithri's case. When people less than 50 years of age sustain a trivial fall, their strong bones do not give away. However, when elderly people with osteoporotic bones sustain an injury, as trivial as slipping in the washroom or bending down to lift an object from the floor, they incur a fracture. Since the elderly also have poor coordination, less visual acuity and weaker muscles, the chances of sustaining simple injuries leading to osteoporotic fractures are higher with increasing age.

Roughly, one in three post-menopausal women and one in five men over the age of 50 are at risk of experiencing osteoporotic fractures. An estimated 2 million new osteoporotic fractures are diagnosed annually, a figure exceeding the annual incidence of myocardial infarction (heart attacks) and breast cancer.As most families have become nuclear, the management of elderly people sustaining osteoporotic fractures, who require hospitalisation and surgery, is a significant problem. Their restricted ambulation, need for repetitive hospital visits and prolonged nursing care required, pose difficult socio-economic problems. India is also experiencing a significant demographic shift with its ageing population, which is growing faster than those of younger age groups. This trend is expected to continue, with the number of elderly individuals projected to be around



20% of our total population in 2050. This means that unless osteoporosis is prevented or diagnosed early, a significant chunk of our population is likely to suffer from these fractures in the near future.

Osteoporosis is a consequence of old age. Post-menopausal women, due to decreasing oestrogen levels, are more susceptible than men. Obesity, sedentary lifestyles, smoking, alcoholism, regular steroid usage and poor dietary habits are important avoidable risk factors. With regular physical activity as simple as regular walking, aerobic training, low weight training and exercises, the bone mass can be kept optimal.Similar to systematic financial investments, it is essential that such activities be started in young adulthood itself so that adequate bone mass is available during old age. Apart from this, sufficient calcium intake (dairy products, green leaves) and exposure to sunlight for Vitamin D would keep the bones enriched with minerals.If there are old people at home, it would be prudent to ensure that the environment is fall-free. Rooms should be adequately lit; large obstacles should be avoided; railings should be provided near stairs; washrooms should be dry, and wall supports should be available for safety. Beds and couches should not be too high and nightwear should be loose and above the ankles.

Osteoporotic fractures commonly occur in the spine, wrist, shoulder and the hips. While many of these fractures heal with rest and splints, the occurrence of one fracture portends the future possibility of further fractures. These fractures affect the individual's quality of life; result in chronic pain, disability and morbidity. Longevity is also significantly reduced with the occurrence of osteoporotic fractures. The mortality rate within the first year following an osteoporotic fracture is estimated to be 20%, and the risk of mortality increases 3 to 4 times over five years following these fractures. Some of these fractures require surgical intervention, which is a major undertaking in elderly patients. So, prevention of fractures should be the main aim.It is recommended that women after menopause and men above 70 years of age undergo bone density assessment. This assessment is performed through CT BMD scans, DEXA scans and foot ultrasounds, which are available in many government and private hospitals.

# SpiceJet employee thrashed by Army officer: 'He hit me, punched me, I was only doing my job'



Mudasir Ahmad Khan, the SpiceJet employee who has been bedridden due to alleged assault by an Army officer at Srinagar airport last month, said he was targeted for doing his work honestly.Four employees of the airline were assaulted by Lieutenant Colonel R.K. Singh on July 26 after Khan had asked the Army officer to pay charges for carrying extra cabin baggage according to the norms set by SpiceJet."I saw this man was carrying two cabin bags and asked him to stand aside so that they could be weighed. Against an allowance of 7 kilograms per piece of cabin baggage, this man was carrying two which weighed 16 kilograms," Mr. Khan told PTI Videos from his home in Srinagar where he has been bound to his bed after he suffered a spinal fracture caused by the assault.

Mr. Khan said he asked the Army officer to pay for extra baggage but he became irate and misbehaved with him and other colleagues before turning violent."He hit me with the bag, he punched me and slapped me till blood started oozing from my mouth and nose. Then I fell unconscious. Later I saw in the videos that he was not allowing anyone to even pick me up. He even assaulted four employees," the injured man said.Mr. Khan said he only stopped Lt. Col. Singh as a part of his duty."Had I been wrong, then it would have been a different story. The airline ticket has clearly mentioned the baggage allowance for each passenger, however, this gentleman claimed that he does not know about it. I was only doing my job honestly," he added.He demanded that the erring Army officer be punished for his violent acts and said, "What happened to me can happen to someone else as well. So he should definitely be punished for it."Police have registered a case against Singh for allegedly assaulting and injuring four employees of a private airline at the Srinagar International Airport last week.A case has been registered against Lt. Col. Singh under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Section 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) for assaulting employees of SpiceJet airline following a disagreement over payment of extra baggage charges on July 26.Lt Col Singh has filed a counter-

# IAF's unending fighter conundrum | Explained

After over six decades in service, the MiG-21 fighter jets are set to be retired from the Indian Air Force (IAF) in September this year. The formal ceremony is scheduled to be held at Chandigarh where the jets were first inducted in 1963. With this the fighter strength of the IAF will dip from 31 to 29 squadrons, against the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons. A fighter squadron typically has 16-18 jets. The IAF is awaiting deliveries of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A, which is expected to begin in the next few months after repeated delays. All this at a time when the Chinese Air Force and Navy have fielded around 1,900 fighters including more than 1,300 fourth-generation aircraft, not including trainers, as per a 2024 U.S. Department of Defence report. China has also deployed two Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA), recently unveiled two more advanced jets, and is likely to supply 40 J-35s stealth jets to Pakistan.

What has been the legacy of MiG-21s? Contracted from the erstwhile Soviet Union after the 1962 war with China, the MiG-21s heralded the onset of supersonic aviation in the IAF and was also its first non-western fighter. A total of 872 MiG-21 aircraft have been inducted in the IAF, a bulk of them licence-manufactured by the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The MiG-21s remained the mainstay of the IAF for several decades and a spate of accidents in the early 2000s earned them the name 'flying coffins'. Over the six decades, there were over 450 accidents involving the jet.The jets played a key role in the 1965, 1971 wars, the 1999 Kargil conflict, and more recently in the aerial dual with Pakistan on February 27, 2019, a day after the Balakot air strike. During the attack, Group Captain (then Wg Cdr) Abhinandan Varthaman's MiG-21 was shot down and fell in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir after he shot down a Pakistani F-16, according to the IAF.In fact, in the absence of an Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT), before the Hawks were inducted in 2008, the MiG-21s were used for stage III training of young pilots for a long time as it was the "most suitable" fighter even though it was considered "sub-optimal" as a trainer. The MiG-21 is also among the most successful fighter jets globally with over 6,000 jets of 12 types flown by over three dozen countries. Currently, there are two MiG-21 Bison squadrons in service — the No. 23 'Panthers' and the No. 3 'Cobras'. Incidentally, the No. 3 Squadron has the distinction of being the first to get the upgraded MiG-21 Bisons still in service and will now be the first to get the LCA-Mk1A. With the MiG-21s out, the MiG-29s are the last of the MiG series in service which together with the SU-30MKI remain the last of Russian-origin fighters.

What is the current status of the IAF? Besides the MiG-21s, a majority of the current inventory, that is the early variants of the Jaguars, Mirage-2000s and Mig-29s, will start going out by the end of the decade. This leaves the SU-30MKI in service, the LCA variants planned to be inducted, and the Medium Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) while the indigenous FGFA, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is under development.The IAF currently operates two squadrons of the LCA-Mk1, which undertook maiden flight in January 2001 and was inducted in 2016. A more capable variant, the Mk-1A, which is to be inducted in large numbers, had been delayed initially due to development issues and later due to non-delivery of engines by General Electric (GE) Aerospace citing supply chain difficulties.

How did it get delayed? The Defence Ministry had signed a ₹48,000 crore contract with HAL for 83 Mk1A jets, and deliveries were to start in March 2024 with at least 16 planes to be delivered to the IAF every year. However, not a single Tejas Mark-1A has been delivered so far. In August 2021, the HAL placed an order for 99 F-404 engines with GE Aerospace at a cost of ₹5,375 crore for the 83 Mk1A jets. The first engine arrived in India only in April this year after a delay of one and half years and the second engine was delivered early this month. Additionally, a deal for 97 additional jets, estimated to ₹67,000 crore, is expected to be concluded in the next few months. HAL has assured to scale up production to 24 jets

complaint with the police alleging assault, following which an FIR has also been registered against the airline staffers.

The officer, who is currently posted at the Army's High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS) at Gulmarg in Baramulla district, was to board a SpiceJet flight to Delhi when the incident took place.When asked about the incident, army officials said that full cooperation is being extended to the authorities.The army is committed to uphold the highest standards of discipline and conduct and takes all allegations seriously, public relations officer (defence), Srinagar, said in a statement.The incident was caught on camera, and a video of the incident has surfaced on multiple social media platforms purportedly showing the enraged Army officer hitting several airline employees with an iron stand.The airline issued a detailed statement about the incident, saying one of the four victims of the assault had suffered spinal injuries. They also said it has initiated the process to place the passenger on the no-fly list in line with civil aviation regulations."A passenger grievously assaulted four SpiceJet employees at the boarding gate of flight SG-386 from Srinagar to Delhi on July 26, 2025. Our staff members suffered a spinal fracture and serious jaw injuries after being attacked with punches, repeated kicks and a queue stand," the SpiceJet said in a statement.According to the airline, an employee fell unconscious on the floor, but the passenger continued kicking and hitting him. "Another staff member suffered bleeding from the nose and mouth after receiving a forceful kick to the jaw while bending down to assist the colleague who had fainted." The airline said the passenger, a senior army officer, was carrying two pieces of cabin baggage weighing a total of 16 kilograms, more than double the permitted limit of 7 kilograms."When politely informed of the excess baggage and asked to pay the applicable charges, the passenger refused and forcefully entered the aerobridge without completing the boarding process - a clear violation of aviation security protocols. He was escorted back to the gate by a CISF official," the statement further said.The airline further informed that the passenger grew increasingly aggressive at the gate. It could not be immediately ascertained whether the passenger was detained at the airport after the incident.SpiceJet said it has also written to the civil aviation ministry, apprising them about the "murderous assault" on its staff and has requested appropriate action against the passenger.The airline also said that it has secured the CCTV footage of the incident from the airport authorities and handed it over to the police.Strongly condemning any act of violence against its employees, SpiceJet said it will pursue this matter to its fullest legl and regulatory conclusion.Army officials said the issue has come to the notice of the Indian Army and "we are awaiting the conclusion of the pending investigation".



a year.Amid these delays, an Empowered Committee for Capability Enhancement of the IAF headed by the Defence Secretary R. K. Singh identified key thrust areas and made recommendations for medium- and long-term measures in the report submitted to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in March.As per the IAF, the LCA Mk2, larger and more capable than the Mk1 variants, is meant to replace the Mirage 2000, MiG-29 and Jaguars. It is expected to take first flight in 2026. In February 2025, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh said that they need to add 35-40 jets every year to make up for the shortage in numbers. Both these programmes, LCA-Mk1A and Mk2, are extremely critical to shore up fighter numbers of the IAF over the next 10-15 years. In an interview to PTI in June, HAL Chairman and Managing Director D. K. Sunil said that GE Aerospace is expected to supply 12 engines in the current fiscal and that the jets would be delivered to the IAF.

Moreover, India has procured 272 Su-30MKIs from Russia of which around 260 remain in service. Last December, the Ministry of Defence signed a ₹13,500 crore deal with HAL for 12 Sukhois to replace those lost in crashes. A major upgrade programme for the Sukhoi's has been lined up to be undertaken by HAL. The upgrade of 84 jets in the first batch has already been approved. Meanwhile, by early 2040s, some of the earlier batch of SU-30MKIs will go out.

What is the way forward? The IAF has drawn up an ambitious plan to induct more than 600 jets over the next two decades, a large number of them being LCA variants. This includes 180 LCA-Mk1A, over 120 LCA-Mk2, 114 MRFA and at least 120 AMCA. A Twin-Engine Deck Based Fighter for the Navy's aircraft carriers is also on the drawing board. However, all this hinges on timely production and deliveries.Mr. Singh said in an interview recently that they are talking to partners for the likely import of a small number of fifth gen fighters as an interim measure while the AMCA development continues. The option is between the Russian SU-57 and American F-35. These are sensitive negotiations, Mr. Singh said adding, "When it reaches a tangible stage, whether it is an Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), a Request For Proposal or ultimately through a contract that is when the media will come to know."Ultimately, it is the fifth gen AMCA that is the way forward while the LCA variants and MRFA fill numbers and add strength in the medium term. The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) that is developing the aircraft has floated an AoN inviting private sector participation for the production. Even HAL has to bid for it, unlike the nomination in the past. "I imagine it will take 3-6 months to reach the contract award stage", Mr. Singh said. "Thereafter the project itself of development and an AMCA prototype to actually take to the skies, it would be a 10-year program, I would imagine."On the engine front, the F414 engine to power the LCA-Mk2 is to be licence manufactured by HAL for which commercial negotiations with GE are underway. The AMCA development is envisaged in two phases — Mk1 development and couple of squadrons with the GE414 engine, and AMCA-Mk2 with a more powerful 110KN engine that is to be co-developed with a foreign partner for which talks are underway.All this leaves the MRFA deal, for which the Request For Information was issued to global aircraft manufacturers in April 2019, but there has been no progress since. Given the huge cost involved, the long timelines and various other programmes already in the pipeline, it has to be seen how it can be taken forward.



# China price war, lack of clarity on US ‘penalty’: What Indian exporters are discussing in tariff talks with American importers



US tariff impact on India: Amid a sudden escalation of trade tensions between India and the US, with American President Donald Trump threatening to impose tariffs “substantially” higher than the 25 per cent announced earlier, Indian exporters face a two-pronged challenge in maintaining access to their largest export market — the US. On the one hand, China has begun aggressively undercutting prices to outcompete other countries; on the other hand, the undefined “penalty” over and above the 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs has complicated negotiations between US importers and Indian exporters, especially in low-margin products such as apparel and footwear.

The uncertainty over the “penalty” on India for purchasing Russian oil has come at a time when Indian exporters typically receive bulk summer orders, including for cotton garments, lightweight footwear, and linen clothing. Normally, exporters and importers share the burden of additional tariffs, but exporters said contracts have stalled due to the unknown penalty amount. “A lot of exporters, particularly from the apparel and footwear sectors, are facing uncertainty because summer season orders are set to be placed very shortly. They are in touch with buyers, and some of them have even visited the US. But neither the buyer nor the seller is in a position to state what they are willing to negotiate, as the ‘penalty’ amount is unknown,” Ajay Sahai, director general & CEO of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), told US retailers and apparel companies typically begin shipping merchandise from global suppliers at least two to three months before the summer season starts in April. Traders, typically, begin negotiating contracts much earlier.

“China has become a little more aggressive because they are outpriced by 5 per cent, and they are looking at the extent to which they can reduce the price. That’s also a challenge. It may not be entirely possible for the exporter to absorb the duty, and therefore they are requesting that the government should chip in for a limited period only, as we hope that a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) will be concluded by September or October,” Sahai added. However, after Trump threatened to raise tariffs on Indian goods over its purchase of Russian oil, New Delhi on Monday said the targeting of India was “unjustified and unreasonable”, and

that the country would take “all necessary measures” to safeguard its “national interests and economic security”. “India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian oil, they are then, for much of the oil purchased, selling it on the open market for big profits... They don’t care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian war machine. Because of this, I will be substantially raising the tariff paid by India to the USA,” Trump said in a post on his social media platform, Rating agency ICRA said that the higher-than-expected US tariffs on India — and the potential penalty linked to India’s crude and defence purchases from Russia — are likely to pose a headwind to India’s GDP growth in the current fiscal. “We have lowered our growth forecast for India for FY2026 by 20 basis points to 6.0 per cent; the extent of the said penalties could result in a further downside,” the agency said. “Tariff threats against India are not economics” Simon J Evenett, Professor of Geopolitics and Strategy at the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), an independent academic institute in Switzerland, said in a LinkedIn post that tariff threats against India have “nothing to do with economics”. He said that the United States has now antagonised all five of the original BRICS nations, home to more than 3.2 billion people.

“I struggle to see a coherent grand strategy here — other than to take on every possible pole of alternative power. None of the BRICS have the defence dependence on the USA that the EU, Korea, Japan, and the UK have — and that probably playing the greater part in the latter’s acquiescence to recent US tariff threats. So what is the US offering to the BRICS?” Evenett said. Access to the US market isn’t a compelling answer. Take India. Its largest export to the USA is smartphones — does anyone else on the planet buy smartphones? Next biggest export is a variant of diamonds — there are other buyers for these too. Medicines are third on the list — same argument. Light oil next — you get the picture. Only one-sixth of Indian goods exports go to the USA. Big deal,” he added. As Trump has threatened several countries with additional tariffs over the re-routing of goods to the US, Deborah Elms, a trade and economic policy expert with the Hinrich Foundation, said in a LinkedIn post that one key complaint from the business community is the lack of clarity on what the US currently means by “transshipment”. “Given that tariffs are about to be 40 per cent on anything deemed to be transshipped, definitions are critically important. Typically, firms are required to ‘substantially transform’ products. In other words, you aren’t allowed to simply take a box, slap a new label on it saying ‘from country X’, but must take raw materials, parts, and components to create something transformed. The amount of transformation is critically important. In a free trade agreement, officials spend months or years wrangling over these rules. Is there a value threshold that needs to be crossed? Is it a change in tariff heading? Subheading? Unfortunately, with new tariffs coming on August 7, we have no guidance at all on these rules,” Elms said.

# How India’s pesticide market is changing

Crop protection chemicals are commonly known as “pesticides”. These are basically substances sprayed on crops to protect against insects (“pests”) that cause damage, whether directly (by feeding on them) or indirectly (by transmitting disease). Take the white-backed plant hopper, a pest that both feeds on rice plants and also spreads the Fiji virus disease, resulting in their stunted growth. This “dwarfing” disease has been reported by many paddy farmers in Punjab and Haryana during the current kharif growing season. The vector insect here injects the virus while sucking the sap from mostly young plants. But crop protection chemicals aren’t limited to insecticides. They also include fungicides (to control fungal diseases such as blast and sheath blight in rice or powdery mildew and rusts in wheat) and herbicides (to kill or inhibit the growth of weeds). India’s organised domestic crop protection chemicals market is valued at roughly Rs 24,500 crore.

The largest segment within that is insecticides (Rs 10,700 crore), followed by herbicides (Rs 8,200 crore) and fungicides (Rs 5,600 crore). As the accompanying chart shows, it is the market for herbicides that’s growing at the highest rate — over 10% annually. Much of that is controlled by multinational companies: Bayer AG (which has an estimated 15% market share), Syngenta (12%), ADAMA (10%), Corteva Agriscience (7%) and Sumitomo Chemical (6%). While Bayer is German, Corteva is from the US and Sumitomo is Japanese, the Basel (Switzerland) and Ashdod (Israel)-headquartered Syngenta and ADAMA respectively are both owned by the Chinese state-owned Sinochem Holdings Corporation. However, the herbicide segment has Indian players, too, such as Dhanuka Agritech (estimated 6% share) and Crystal Crop Protection Ltd (CCPL: 4%). CCPL recently purchased the rights to Ethoxysulfuron, a herbicide used against broad-leaved weeds and sedges in rice and sugarcane, from Bayer AG for sales in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Southeast Asian countries.

The deal, announced in January 2025, also covered the latter’s ‘Sunrice’ trademark for mixture products containing this active ingredient. Earlier, in December 2023, CCPL had acquired ‘Gramoxone’, a broad-spectrum herbicide containing the active ingredient Paraquat, from Syngenta for sale in India. “We are very bullish on herbicides. While the all-India market for this segment grew by 10% in 2024-25 (from Rs 7,460 crore to Rs 8,209 crore), our own sales rose over 47%, from Rs 229 crore to Rs 337 crore,” said Ankur Aggarwal, managing director of the Delhi-based company that recorded a turnover of Rs 2,201 crore from crop protection chemicals last fiscal.

Weeds, unlike insect pests and disease-causing pathogens, don’t directly damage or destroy crops. Instead, they compete with them for nutrients, water and sunlight. Yield losses happen because the crops are deprived of these essential resources. Besides growing at their expense, weeds sometimes even harbour pests and pathogens inflicting further harm.

By keeping their fields free from weeds, farmers can ensure that the benefits of the fertilisers and irrigation water they give go to the crops and not these unwanted plants. Weed control has traditionally been through manual removal by hand or simple lightweight short-handled tools with flat blades such as khurpi. There are also power weeders with 3-10 horsepower engine capacity that can be run between rows of standing crops to remove weeds in and around those spaces. But manual weeding is time-consuming, with a labourer taking 8-10 hours to cover one acre. And since the weeds regrow, the process has to often be repeated during the crop’s lifecycle. According to the Labour Bureau’s data, the all-India daily wage rate for plant protection workers averaged Rs 447.6 in December 2024, as against Rs 326.2 five years ago. More than the cost though, labour isn’t available when required by the farmer. Power



The growth is now coming not from insecticides or fungicides, but herbicides. And the driver for that is shortage of labour for manual weeding.

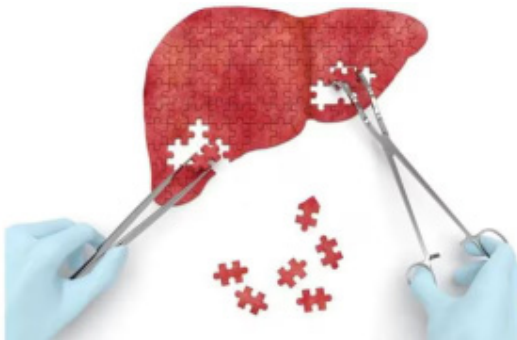
weeders take only 2-3 hours per acre, but aren’t effective in pulling out weeds with deep roots or growing within densely planted crop areas. That’s where herbicides come in. The demand for these chemicals is growing mainly on the back of rising agricultural

labour scarcity; the number of people in rural India prepared to do this work of bending, digging and uprooting plants for long hours are getting fewer by the day. In other words, herbicides have become more like tractors and other labour-saving farm machinery — a substitute for manual weeding. Farmers generally spray insecticides and fungicides only when they physically observe and assess the pest population or disease incidence to be significant enough to impact crop yield and quality/marketability.

There’s a certain so-called economic threshold level, where the cost of controlling the pest/disease using chemicals is justified by the extent of anticipated crop loss. In herbicides, too, farmers tend to mostly spray only after the weeds appear and are seen, i.e. “post-emergence”. In recent times, farmers have also been resorting to prophylactic application of “pre-emergent” herbicides around or just after crop sowing. These stop the weeds from coming out, helping keep the field clean from the start. Alternatively, they may use “early post-emergent” herbicides to control weeds at the crop’s initial sensitive growth stage.

In both cases, the spraying is preventive, as opposed to being reactive. Out of the estimated Rs 1,500-crore paddy herbicide market, the “pre-emergent” sub-segment accounts for roughly Rs 550 crore. That share is about a fifth in the Rs 1,000-crore market for wheat herbicides. The “pre-emergent” and “early post-emergent” spaces are clearly the ones leading the growth, as farmers increasingly opt for timely and smart weed control amid rising labour shortages. Unlike seeds and fertilisers — where there are enough Indian public as well as private sector players — the crop protection chemicals industry is practically a multinational monopoly. There are some Indian companies, nevertheless, that are attempting to break through, by acquiring the rights to active ingredients and brands from big global majors or even introducing innovative formulations. CCPL, for instance, has collaborated with the Ohio (US)-based Battelle and Japan’s Mitsui AgriScience to develop a new paddy herbicide called ‘Sikosa’. Containing two active ingredients, Bensulfuron-methyl and Pretilachlor, in a patented oil-dispersion formulation, ‘Sikosa’ spreads quickly in water and works well when sprayed within 0-3 days after transplanting. “With a single 500-ml bottle of this super spreader herbicide, farmers can control narrowleaf, broadleaf and sedge weeds in transplanted paddy. And the product cost is Rs 850-900 per acre, compared to Rs 2,000-plus with manual weeding,” Aggarwal claimed. But India is still some distance away from having a Sinochem Holdings Corporation.

# WHO classifies Hepatitis D as cancer-causing: Why taking the Hepatitis B vaccine helps



The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently announced the reclassification of hepatitis D as cancerous, emphasising the urgency for preventing viral hepatitis, which is a growing public health crisis. “Every 30 seconds, someone dies from a hepatitis-related severe liver disease or liver cancer. Yet we have the tools to stop hepatitis,” Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, MD, WHO Director-General, said in an official news release. The WHO’s announcement stems from the International Agency for Research on Cancer’s (IARC) reclassification of hepatitis D as carcinogenic, supported by data from a study published in “The Lancet Oncology”. “In India, the prevalence of hepatitis D, caused by a virus, is low in the general population but may be underestimated in high-risk groups such as intravenous drug users and those with chronic hepatitis B. Public education on safe blood usage, avoidance of needle-sharing and safe sex practice like using barrier contraception prevents transmission,” says Dr Piyush Ranjan, vice-chairperson, Institute Of Liver Gastroenterology & Pancreatic Biliary Sciences, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi.

All types of hepatitis are associated with acute liver infection; however, only hepatitis B, C, and D can lead to chronic infections with a higher risk of liver cirrhosis, failure or cancer. According to the authors of the study’s findings, hepatitis D is associated with a two- to six-fold higher risk of liver cancer compared with hepatitis B. Hepatitis D is a serious liver infection caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV).

# This superager was 95, but had a biological age of 75: Why this fit group qualifies for procedures done on people in their 70s

many older persons frequently remain under-investigated and under-treated even when it might benefit them Many older persons frequently remain under-investigated and under-treated even when it might benefit them When Mr Ravi Johnson walked into my clinic, looking at his gait, the spring in his steps, I could not imagine him to be over the age of 75 years. His Aadhar card said otherwise. He was 95 years old and surprisingly fit. As we do for all our patients, we conducted a Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) — to document his mobility, muscle strength, mood, and memory — and found him aging all clinical and functional parameters. Although 95, he was biologically younger than most 70-year-olds I had seen that week., the pain in itself was a red flag. It is the traditional presentation for hidden coronary artery disease in the elderly. So, we went ahead and did a CT coronary angiography — a non-invasive but useful diagnostic test to evaluate arterial blockage. As predicted, the scan indicated prominent coronary obstruction.

I referred him to a geriatric cardiologist, stressing in my note that even though Mr Johnson was chronologically 95-years-old, he was biologically significantly younger. He was what you would call a ‘Super-ager.’ Yet, to my dismay, the doctor did not recommend that he undergo additional invasive studies such as angiography or procedures such as stenting and bypass. Something that would surely have been done for a 75-year-old. Just like Mr Johnson, many older persons frequently remain under-investigated and under-treated even when it might benefit them. So, there is a need to move away from the age mention on the ID cards and develop quantitative methods for assessing a person’s biological or functional age. To this end, scientists have developed epigenetic clocks, which measure the chemical changes happening in the DNA with age. While the first version called the Horvath Clock focused only on DNA changes, the newer models also incorporate blood tests and health data for a more accurate picture of our biological ageing process. DunedinPACE — one of the recent, most advanced epigenetic clock — combines the blood-based markers of changes to the DNA with key clinical assessment of organ systems such as brain, heart and lung. What sets it apart is its ability to calculate the pace at which a person is ageing. When tested in European and some Asian populations, the researchers found that the people showing signs of accelerated ageing — where their biological age is

However, it is an incompetent virus that requires hepatitis B virus (HBV) for replication. This means it cannot cause infection alone and triggers co-infections only with the hepatitis B virus. So hepatitis D only affects people who already have hepatitis B either simultaneously or sequentially. Hepatitis B & D co-infection runs a more severe course for risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer. Hepatitis B can cause liver cancer even without causing cirrhosis as it gets integrated in the DNA of cells. Hepatitis D virus augments the carcinogenic effect of Hepatitis B as per the data, 75 per cent of hepatitis D patients could develop liver cirrhosis within 15 years. People who have contracted hepatitis B alone are 50 per cent less likely to develop liver cancer as compared to people who have hepatitis B and D coinfection.

What is the mode of transmission?

The mode of transmission is similar to hepatitis B and C, that is through parenteral route or injections and transfusion, mother to child transmission and sexual contact.

How is hepatitis D diagnosed?

Universal hepatitis B vaccination indirectly prevents hepatitis D. Despite hepatitis B being included in the national immunisation programme, the vaccine coverage is a dismal 50 per cent. Managing infections among those already affected remains difficult owing to the limited availability of approved therapies, although emerging options like bulevirtide give an assurance. The carcinogen tag is expected to enhance global surveillance, funding and research to reduce the burden of HDV-related liver cancer. Prevention also relies on safe blood bank practices, safe sex, screening and avoiding needle sharing.

How to take the Hepatitis B vaccine?

Hepatitis B vaccine may be given in any of the following schedules: Birth, 1 and 6 months; birth, 6 and 14 weeks; 6, 10 and 14 weeks; birth, 6, 10 and 14 weeks. In catch up vaccination, use 0, 1 and 6 months schedule. An adult, especially if in a high risk comorbidity group, should take the hepatitis B vaccine in three shots. The second dose is given a month after the first, and the third dose is given six months after the second.



more than their chronological age — face a higher risk of poor health outcomes, complex diseases, and premature death.

One of the challenges, however, is that these clocks have been validated in different ethnic and geographically distinct populations. And, no such clock has been developed in India. To address this, the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) with funding support from ICMR, has launched a pioneer study in the field of biological ageing. Using the data collected over the years through this research, we aim to develop a predictive algorithm to estimate biological age and pace of ageing in the Indian population. Meanwhile, there are things that people can do to slow down their biological ageing. There is plenty of evidence that restricting calorie intake, following a balanced, nutrient-rich diet focussed on whole foods, and limiting processed and junk foods can help keep our cells younger. Staying active and getting regular exercise is also one of the most reliable ways to slow our biological ageing clock. Equally important is prioritising quality sleep and managing chronic stress, which is known to accelerate ageing at the cellular level. Relaxation techniques like yoga, meditation and mindfulness can help regulate stress and promote healthy ageing. Avoiding smoking and limiting alcohol consumption are also critical. Lastly, the role of meaningful human connection is deeply impactful. Strong social bonds and engagement with others go a long way in maintaining emotional resilience and help slow the pace of biological ageing. With ageing becoming a popular topic, many health and wellness companies have come up with claims of reversing biological ageing. Most of these claims are misleading and not backed by rigorous science. In the absence of the gold-standard randomised control trials, do not let the hype of social media influencers or billionaire celebrities drive your decisions.

# Health Minister J P Nadda says ICMR study shows over 84% of IT sector employees in Hyderabad have the condition

More than 84 per cent of IT sector employees in Hyderabad had increased liver fat, indicating a condition called the MAFLD (or Metabolic Dysfunction Associated Fatty Liver Disease). This is basically fatty liver brought on by obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. The IT employees seem to be a vulnerable group because of their largely sedentary lifestyles, poor diet and lack of sleep. The study — based on data from 345 IT employees — found that 76.5 per cent had high levels of LDL (low-density lipoprotein or bad) cholesterol, 70.7 per cent were obese and 20.9 per cent had higher than normal fasting blood glucose levels. While the study was published in the journal ‘Scientific Reports’ earlier this year, it was reported recently in the Parliament by Union Health Minister JP Nadda. He was answering a question by AIMIM member Asaduddin Owaisi on the burden of MAFLD and what the government was doing to combat the challenge.

What is MAFLD?

This is a chronic condition where excessive fat builds up in the liver. This can, over time, lead to inflammation and scarring, which damages the liver tissue. Unchecked, this leads to cirrhosis and even liver cancer. Until recently, the condition was referred to as Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) as the symptoms were similar to what would be seen in alcoholics but with alcohol consumption. It is estimated that anywhere between nine per cent and 32 per

cent of the population is living with this condition. In the absence of early symptoms, most people are unaware that they have fatty liver, often associated with drinking alcohol. It is only when the condition progresses and the liver gets damaged that people may experience symptoms such as abdominal pain, fatigue and weakness, loss of appetite, weight loss and jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin caused by bilirubin buildup when the liver does not function properly).

What are risk factors?

Obesity, especially fat around the abdomen, insulin resistance, high blood glucose levels, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels — are all considered to be risk factors for MAFLD. A study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) — conducted with the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences — has been initiated to look for regional risk factors for fatty liver disease. Phase I of the study conducted in three tehsils of Jaipur found that 37.2 per cent people had fatty liver disease, with the prevalence being higher in men. Importantly, it found that people consuming fast-food weekly were at an increased risk of fatty liver disease, with 76.3 per cent of the regular consumers of fast food having the condition, according to the reply in the parliament. The study in IT employees from Hyderabad, quoted above, also looked at the prevalence of various risk factors.



# Shubman Gill’s pursuit of perfection: How Indian captain put in serious hours to prepare for English Test and came out trumps

It was about a month before he was to take the most important flight of his life to Heathrow, London, for his first assignment as India’s Test captain at 25. On one gloomy day in Chandigarh before Shubman Gill came to England, England came to Shubman Gill.It was IPL time, he was leading the Gujarat Titans and having nets on what seemed like a ‘dicey’ pitch – some balls flying towards his face, others darting at his ribs. Shubman would stop training, dump the white balls back in the kit bag, and ask for a shiny red new one, the kind used for Test matches. Even while playing IPL, Shubman wasn’t missing a chance to be England-ready.Gujarat Titans’ assistant coach Naeem Amin is based out of London, and he was there to witness Shubman’s quick ball-switch. “And the bit that you will find interesting was him keen to practice just against a new ball. As soon as the new ball would become a little bit old, he’d change it for another new ball,” says Amin. As India’s new Test No.4, Shubman knew that after facing the white-ball on flat tracks, he had to deal with the swinging-seaming red cherry in England.Amin also talks about the young skipper’s hunger to learn and the desire to improve. “His appetite always puts cricket first, and in that aspect, he is second to none. When Kane Williamson (former New Zealand captain and world’s leading modern-day batsman) was in our team (GT), he was asking him about his thoughts all the time. ‘How would you go about this or that? Why are you doing this drill? How does it benefit you?’.”

Shubman Gill regularly picked the treasure trove that is Kane Williamson’s brain while the pair shared a dressing room in the IPL playing for Gujarat Titans. (Photo credit: Gujarat Titans) Shubman Gill regularly picked the treasure trove that is Kane Williamson’s brain while the pair shared a dressing room in the IPL playing for Gujarat Titans. (Photo credit: Gujarat Titans)England and New Zealand are miles apart, but on the cricketing map of conditions and pitches, they aren’t that different. Williamson is in England playing county cricket these days, and turned up for the Lord’s Test to find his one-time IPL teammate in the middle of the form of his life. He was pretty happy with what he saw.

The pursuit of batting perfection has been Shubman’s life goal since his wonder years in Punjab’s border town of Fazilka. His father, a landed farmer, would pay kids in the neighbourhood Rs 100 to bowl at his son all day. When in his teens, Shubman knew that he could go back to tractors, fields and the family agriculture income, if cricket didn’t work out. Like many others around him, the batting prodigy didn’t lose sleep over the dilemma of academics or a career option. He would get up fresh with only cricket on his mind.

Shubman would follow a punishing schedule, all through his Under-16 and Under-19 days, bat close to 6 to 8 hours every day. A typical day for him in Chandigarh, where he and his father moved from their village, would be about 3 to 4 hours of batting in the morning, a quick Amritsari lunch of patti or chhola kulcha, and again 3 to 4 hours of batting. Even when he made it to the Indian team, he was among the batsmen who batted the most at the nets.

“I want my body to take control of my mind ... Not my mind taking control of me, seeding inside me self-doubts or getting carried away. Because I have practised so much for so many years, I want my body to take control of my mind. Let the muscle memory kick in. That’s my challenge: use the mind to tell itself to stay quiet,” he once told

A teenaged Shubman Gill at PCA Stadium in Mohali in March 2015. Shubman followed a punishing schedule all through his Under-16 and Under-19 days, batting close to 6 to 8 hours every day. (Express photo by Jaipal Singh) A teenaged Shubman Gill at PCA Stadium in Mohali in March 2015. Shubman followed a punishing schedule all through his Under-16 and Under-19 days, batting close to 6 to 8 hours every day. In England at the age 25, Shubman seemed to have achieved that batting nirvana. India’s batting coach Sitanshu Kotak has been watching him closely for the past several months, and he could notice a change.“From the Australia series to this series, I have seen his thought process and the way he batted. It is little different from what he has done in Australia ... I would give a lot of credit to him for deciding what he wants to play, when he does not ... Every batter, at some stage of their life, thinks and changes the way they bat in Test cricket. And Shubman seemed to be doing that brilliantly in this England series,” Kotak said.

Before this series, Shubman’s highest Test score was his 128 against Australia in 2023. As if he was given a Midas touch along with the captain’s armband, everything that he touched in England has turned to gold. Between June 20 to July 6 – his fortnight of fortitude from the first to the third Test – Shubman registered three higher scores: 147, 269, 161. This was like the Swedish pole-vaulter Mondo Duplantis clearing new heights every other day, raising the bar at will.It was in Birmingham that Shubman would find his Bodhi Tree, where he found enlightenment. In England, his 267 is being hailed as the most perfect knock he’s ever played. Data shows that epic innings had a false shot percentage of 3.5 – that’s the least for any innings in England since this statistic came into existence 20 years back.

Since geniuses like Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Pointing, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli are on the list below Shubman, the Birmingham innings is worthy to be framed in India’s batting Hall of Fame. The near-perfect 267 was the outcome of his long penance, after mulling over many dismissals. It lifted him to a higher level, elevated him to the spiritual state where “the body controls the mind” and the “mind tells itself to stay quiet.”Since geniuses like Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Pointing, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli are on the list below Shubman, the Birmingham innings is worthy to be framed in India’s batting Hall of Fame. (AP Photo) Since geniuses like Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Pointing, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli are on the list below Shubman, the Birmingham innings is worthy to be framed in India’s batting Hall of Fame. England isn’t an easy place to play cricket. In summer, the days are long; for cricketers, they are longer. They can suck the energy out of you, the weather can be murky, it can make you gloomy. This time, during the day, there was heat too.

Consider the schedule of an Indian cricketer during the Lord’s Test to understand this. The day would start at 6 am to be on the team bus that would start at 8 am. The match timing would be 11 am to 6.30 pm. By the time the team settles on the bus for the journey back to the team hotel, after press conferences and interviews, it would be 7.30 p.m.From Lord’s to St James Court, where the team stayed, was easily a one and half hour long journey on the team bus, negotiating London’s notorious traffic. After that the players would have a meal, some me-time and then hit the bed. Within hours, the alarm would go off once again. The schedule would be more or less the same for 25 days, plus there was the pressure of performance and fear of failure to deal with.For Gautam Gambhir, Shubman’s biggest achievement as a first-time skipper was to remain unfazed all through this very demanding tour. “This England team



challenges a captain much more than Australia. They have many batsmen who can just run away with the game, and this puts pressure on the captain when the team is fielding. But not once has he looked shattered or lost,” he says.For Gautam Gambhir, Shubman’s biggest achievement as a first-time skipper was to remain unfazed all through this very demanding tour. (AP Photo) For Gautam Gambhir, Shubman’s biggest achievement as a first-time skipper was to remain unfazed all through this very demanding tour. In Australia, there’s just one Travis Head in the Test team who can mentally disintegrate an opposition captain and make the fielding side rudderless. In England, Bazballers are crawling out of the dressing room ever so frequently. It starts with openers Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett, the batting buccaneers who can brain freeze the best.

Down the batting line-up, there is Harry Brook, Jamie Smith, and Ben Stokes – all three with swinging bats that can rattle any captain. The run machine Joe Root, with his solidity, seems to loom as a fulcrum. There have been occasions when Shubman has looked clueless, when he seemed to have lost the grip on the game but the team didn’t give up.As was the case at The Oval when Brook and Root seemed to have the game in their pocket, India kept on coming back at them. And when they got a toe-hold in the door, they barged in as a commando unit on a covert operation.

But as a member of the tour said, this series has been one of learning for the young skipper. “See the way Ben Stokes leads his team, he has a few fielding templates, or call them plans, to get wickets. He keeps his fielders moving around. Suddenly, there would be a leg-side trap, next the off-side would have fielders in funky positions. Shubman needs to find his own templates and plan. He is young, he is hungry, he will learn,” a team official says.Gujarat Titans coach Amin gives an example of Shubman’s thinking of a course correction as soon as he gets out. “He is not the kind you will say I could have done this or that. After he has made a mistake as a batsman and got out, he has already dissected it on his walk back to the dugout. This is how quickly he realizes what he needs to do. There are times when there might be video analysis going on for another batter. He’s keen to listen in, just in case he can upskill 0.5%,” he says.

In the first Test in Leeds, he got out playing a reckless shot when on 147. It would have helped if he had stayed on longer. On the eve of the next Test, he would take the blame, promise to do better and an astonishing atonement waited for him. He would score a double hundred in the next innings. What was that compelling reason for the improved performance?“Sometimes, especially when you are the captain, I think you need to lead by example so that whenever there is another player in that situation, you can command that player,” the team official said. This was a captain subtly asserting himself; this was a skipper earning the right to be the “commander.” Former England captain Nasser Hussain, who had noted during the first Test that Gill “lacked aura” would reassess his verdict at the end of the second Test: “He (Gill) is not going to be a Kohli-type character. He’s got a low heartbeat, but that can help. Look at this crowd here today. Look at all of India watching on. You may need someone just to calm the team.”

As for Gambhir, he hasn’t been over-interfering in the proceedings on the field. For long periods of stand-offs where wickets have been hard to come by, the captain has been changing fields, bowlers, and tactics without any obvious prompt from the dressing room. When Shubman is batting, the substitutes haven’t randomly run on the field with gloves, or when the team is fielding, carrying unasked-for water bottles.Shubman does his thing, the way he likes. He does have counsel available on the field. Vice-captain Pant, seniors KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, and even Mohammed Siraj, to chip in – when asked for and even offer unsolicited advice. As the pundits from the commentators box, especially while assessing the new captain during the first Test have said “Shubman is running the team by committee.”

For long periods of stand-offs where wickets have been hard to come by, Gill has been changing fields, bowlers, and tactics without any obvious prompt from the dressing room. (AP Photo) For long periods of stand-offs where wickets have been hard to come by, Gill has been changing fields, bowlers, and tactics without any obvious prompt from the dressing room. Amin speaks about this same leadership trait in the captain, who is always willing to listen. “Shubman is the kind of guy where a 15-year-old was there and he had an opinion on something and Shubman thought it would be useful to him, he would listen to him,” he says.Behind those soft features and dimpled smile, there is a steely resolve to stay ahead. “The guy puts in hours... he puts in some serious hours to get better. Like I’m telling you about the red ball, how he’s practising against it, even when he’s in India. He’s just trying to stay one step ahead,” says Amin.It is the same pursuit of perfection that started from the border town. Life came full circle for Shubman at The Oval. In a 2-2 verdict, it was tough to say if the runs brought the best out of his captaincy or the captaincy triggered an avalanche of runs.

## Strong batting displays mark

Hyderabad: Centuries by Gnana Prakash Reddy (101) for Nalgonda, Keshav Upadhyay (109 batting) for Enconsee, Shrey Singh (143) for Raju Cricket Club, Darsh Mohan Lal (130 batting) for Galaxy were some of the highlights of the HCA B-Division two-day league cricket championship here on Monday.

In other matches, Aditya Vardhan (108) for Cybertech, P Koushik (107 batting) for Ours and V Sunil (159) for Agarwal Seniors also batted well.The scores: B-Division two-day league: Mahmood 237/5 in 59 overs (N. Nitesh Naik 53, Hariom Singh 51, G. Sai Vardhan Goud 51, Bala Trivikram 44) vs Megacity.

Nalgonda 261/5 in 54 overs (Gnana Prakash Reddy 101, C Srinath 89) vs Kosaraj. Enconsee 217/2 in 60 overs (Syed Ghazi Abbas 33, Abhyudaya Pratap Singh 50, Keshav Upadhyay 109 batting, Shaumik Kapoor 50batting) vs New Blues.

# ‘Hope that the word ‘workload’ goes out of the Indian Cricket dictionary’: Sunil Gavaskar after Mohammed Siraj’s 185.3 overs effort in IND vs ENG Test series

GNS News Agency, August 14

The ball that Mohammed Siraj bowled to Gus Atkinson to rattle his stumps was Siraj’s fifth fastest delivery of the series, and this came after five Tests in which he bowled a whopping 185.2 overs. He ended up as the leading wicket-taker with 23 wickets in the series. He was the last bowler remaining from both sides to play all the games at the end alongside Chris Woakes. Former Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar, appreciative of Siraj’s workload, said that he debunked the “business of workload.”

“There’s always the saying that the bowlers win your matches, but the fact of the matter is that you’ve also got to score the runs. So because India didn’t score the runs, they lost those two matches. So yes, I think Siraj bowled his heart out, and he debunked forever this business of workload,” he said, speaking to India Today.“I hope that the word ‘workload’ goes out of the Indian Cricket dictionary. I’ve been saying that for a long time. For five Test matches nonstop, he bowled 6-over, 7-over, 8-over spells because the captain wanted it, and the country expected of him. And I think that is the one thing that we all should keep in mind that this workload is only a mental thing, not so much a physical thing,” Gavaskar added.“If you are going to succumb to people who are talking about workload, then you



are never going to have your best players on the field. You’ve got to get them to a situation where you say, ‘Hello, you are playing for your country, and when you are playing for your country, you got to forget the aches and pains in your muscles. That is what you mean on the border. Do you think the jawans complain about the cold, or what is the situation? They are there to give their lives for the country. Give your very best for the country. Don’t worry about accident pains. What did Rishabh Pant show you? He came out bat with a fracture. That is the kind of thing you want to expect from your team,” Gavaskar further said.

## Suryakumar Yadav returns for training for first time since sports hernia surgery



GNS News Agency, August 14

Indian T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav, who was injured in July with a sports hernia, returned to the BCCI Centre of Excellence last week for his first net session. The 34-year-old flew to Germany to have surgery. Surya’s workload will be monitored, and it will be increased gradually due to the upcoming Asia Cup 2025, which starts on September 9.According to ESPNcricinfo, initially, his return was planned, given the series against Bangladesh, which was scheduled for late August 2025, but has been postponed to next year. This is Suryakumar’s third surgery in the last three years. After an ankle surgery in 2023, the stylish Indian middle-order batter had previously undergone the same sports hernia surgery back in 2024.

## Arshdeep Singh coaches Siraj about making videos for Instagram: ‘Sab sikhaana padta hai bowling ko chhod ke’

GNS News Agency, August 14

Arshdeep Singh coaches Mohammed Siraj about posting content on social media after India’s win at the Oval against England. (Screengrab via X/BCCI)Arshdeep Singh coaches Mohammed Siraj about posting content on social media after India’s win at the Oval against England. (Screengrab via X/BCCI)

After Mohammed Siraj dragged India over the finish line on Monday at the Oval to help Shubman Gill’s side level the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy 2-2, he needed some help. He was trying to figure out the perfect social media clip to encapsulate the moment. In came Arshdeep Singh with an assist. The bowler who was not used by coach Gautam Gambhir in any of the five matches against England, helped out Siraj with content idea.In a video shared by the BCCI on its social media handles after India’s six-run victory, Arshdeep is seen hilariously advising Siraj to film a two-second Instagram Reel. Arshdeep tells Siraj to say the popular catchphrase, “Pressure? What pressure?” — a line made famous by football legend Alan Shearer during the UEFA Euro 2024 tournament.Arshdeep, in fact, even tells Siraj to pause for a second after saying “pressure” for the first time, like a diction and speech coach.He then looks at the BCCI camera person and quips: “Sab sikhaana padta hai bowling ko chhod ke (Other than bowling, have to teach him everything).”Siraj ended the England tour as the highest wicket-taker of the series with 23 scalps in nine innings,



including the nine wickets he took in the final Test at the Oval as the leader of the Indian bowling unit in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah.After winning the game for India, Siraj said: “To be honest, it feels amazing. We wanted to fight hard from Day 1 and to see this result is great. The plan was to keep it simple and hit one spot. When I woke up today I believed that I could do it. And when I woke up in the morning, I went to Google and found an emoji of believe. I put it on my wallpaper and said that I will do it,” Siraj said after the match. He later showed that wallpaper to the media. It featured Cristiano Ronaldo and a solitary word that became his driving force — ‘Believe’”

## What does Shubman Gill’s ‘storm only rattles those not ready for it’ merry and mystic Twitter post mean?

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It wasn’t quite Eric Cantona in Manchester and India had in fact merrily won the last Teat to draw the series 2-2. But captain Shubman Gill dropped an equally mystifying 10 word cryptic post to celebrate one of Test cricket’s finest series, a massive W for the new Team India.“The storm only rattles those who aren’t ready for it,” Gill’s official Twitter account posted. Four pictures of post match, including one with last day heroes Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna accompanied the line.While there will be several interpretations of what the storm he was referring to, the Indian captain sure did Shiv Kumar Batalvi proud when he or his social media team posted that Cantona-ish line, in the land of Shakespeare.

The young Indian captain with a love for museums and deeper appreciation of written word, left sufficient air of mystery around the post and its meaning.The Manchester United legend Cantona it may be recalled once came to a press conference and spoke sardines, trawlers and those who follow them for the nature of footballer-media equations (or so it is presumed) after he was once again in some sort of trouble. The calm Gill’s victory post might have been simpler. The Storm could simply mean the fire through which Indians have walked in this England series, the cauldron of emotions. Being ready for it might well mean his and his

team’s level of preparation which was top notch, even as England tried multiple times to faze the young team’s equilibrium.Other Team India members stuck to mushy emotion. Washington Sundar, who must never be dropped given how he’s a constant when India pull out these incredible wins against England or Australia, wrote, “Determination, self belief and resilience. Indebted to all the love, positive energy and support from everyone.”

Across, the cricket World, the last Test match win and the entire series got hailed as a great spectacle of the 5 day format, with many from West Indies to South Africa to Australia to Sri Lanka riveted as the games ebbed and flowed. The final day with the tireless Siraj finding redemption for a boundary catch, with spirited bowling and the final Yorker to send back Gus Atkinson reverberated across the commonwealth globe with its healthy cricketing addiction for Test cricket.“Long live Test cricket. A format that rewards patience, skill and heart. No shortcuts here,” wrote KL Rahul on Insta, “just hard earned moments and real character. The whole group gave their everything over the last 2 months and this ending was fitting. Proud of this team”Rishabh Pant took to FB to post, “A tour that asked a lot and gave even more in return. Proud of how this team stood up adapted and kept fighting. Representing the country means everything to us, it takes a everything out of you but we take pride in that.



## Shah Rukh Khan thanks Shashi Tharoor for not using ‘more magniloquent and sesquipedalian’ language for his National Award win, asks Gauri Khan to ‘brag during dinner’



Superstar Shah Rukh Khan recently won his maiden National Film Award in 33 years of his acting career and he has been on a high since then. The actor has been engaging on social media to thanks his family, friends, and fans in his own witty style. As SRK's wife, producer-interior designer Gauri Khan celebrated his victory, the actor had an adorable request from her to 'brag' about him at the dinner table. He also thanked Shashi Tharoor in the politician's style by using complex English words. The winners list for the 71st National Film Awards was announced a few days ago, and Shah Rukh earned the Best Actor accolade for his film Jawan. His wife Gauri Khan took to social media to express her happiness. Besides her husband, she also congratulated her close friends – filmmaker Karan Johar (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani won the Best Popular Film Pro-

viding Wholesome Entertainment) and Rani Mukerji (Best Actress category for her Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway). She also mentioned about being ready to brag about the achievement. Gauri wrote on X, "Three of my absolute favourites just WON big... and so did our hearts (red heart emoji). When talent meets goodness, magic happens – So proud, and so ready to brag about them forever!" The Swades actor gave a humorous response to her tweet later, and wrote, "Please brag about me to me when we sit for dinner tonight... thanks for producing the film." Shah Rukh's witty exchange of replies with Shashi Tharoor also grabbed a lot of eyeballs. The politician wrote on X, "A National Treasure wins a National Award! Congratulations @iamsrk! (sic)." To which, he replied, "Thank u for the simple praise Mr Tharoor. Would not have understood something more magniloquent and sesquipedalian ha ha (sic)." Tharoor is known for his exceptional command on the English language.

SRK thanked each and every celebrity who congratulated him for the National award win on social media. Jawan director Atlee also posted a heartwarming note for him on his X handle. "Feeling blessed, @iamsrk sir. I'm super happy that you've got the national award for our movie Jawan. It feels very emotional and inspiring to be part of your journey. Thank you for trusting me and giving this film, sir. It's just my first love letter to you; a lot more to come, sir," a part of his letter read. "MAAASSS MAAASSS MAASSS. Thank you for your vision. Only you could do this... In the next song, we will do more steps. Love u," the actor responded. He also replied to Riddhi Dogra, who played his mother in Jawan. "The best news. The best film. This fake mother of her Jawan son is over the moon with real joy @iamsrk congratulations ?????????? bigeessttt love to you and @Atlee\_dir and entire team," Riddhi wrote, to which SRK replied, "Big hugs and congratulations... and thank u for mother ka aashirwad!!" On the work front, Shah Rukh Khan will next be seen in Siddharth Anand's King. The film also stars his daughter Suhana Khan, Abhishek Bachchan and Deepika Padukone in key roles.

## Actor with 14 flops took Ajay Devgn's role in blockbuster, promised 100 films with director, hasn't spoken to him in 20 years

If you look at Akshay Kumar's career trajectory, there has been phases of hits and flops. While his early films, including his debut Saugandh (1991), failed to earn him fame, Khiladi (1992) turned him into an overnight sensation. Between 1996 and 1999, his films Khiladiyon Ka Khiladi and Sangharsh worked in his favour, several of his other films flopped, making directors and producers "ridicule" and "reject" him. Around the same time, he teamed up with filmmaker Suneel Darshan for Jaanwar, a film that marked his comeback. The success made the same directors and producers who once dismissed him eager to work with him. However, things eventually soured between Akshay and Suneel, and the two haven't met in the past 20 years. In a recent interview with Bollywood Bubble, Suneel Darshan opened up about the time when Akshay Kumar requested to cast him in his film Jaanwar. "Akshay had been through a phase of his career when he had stopped getting movies. He had reached a point where he had about 13-14 flops. He didn't know how to go forward. And when someone is unsuccessful, people try their best to push them away and he was going through that phase."

It was around the same time when Suneel Darshan had a misunderstanding with Sunny Deol, for whom Jaanwar was originally scripted. "I had a script written for Sunny Deol, who let me down for a different agenda. After that, I decided I will not be working with him. After Sunny, I approached Ajay Devgn. He was very keen to do the film. The distance was just like cup and lip from him doing the film when Akshay Kumar called me. He met me. We talked and I thought 'My God! He is such a gorgeous looking man! He was very humble, had the humility of a Punjabi boy.'"

He added, "Besides all this, there was this one thing about him—his reputation of being a very disciplined actor. While these were his plus points, the biggest minus point was that he was not saleable. And to make a movie of that size with a hero who was not saleable, was a very big risk to take. It was a huge challenge." Exposing the reality of the glamour industry, Suneel Darshan shared people are only nice to successful actors. But, as soon as they have a downfall, the same people humiliate them. "It is very traumatic for the actors." After that, Jaanwar happened. It was very well supported by my entire team, which included Karisma Kapoor who was a top star at that point of time. The success of Jaanwar led to Suneel and Akshay signing six more films together—Ek Rishtaa, Talaash, Dosti, Mere Jeevan Saathi, and Andaaz. Suneel directed them all except Andaaz. Their collaboration too were a mix of hits and flops.

The filmmaker recalled, "We did seven films together

## Salman Khan warned Ramayana actor Indira Krishnan not to slap him during Tere Naam, was told she will be banned: 'Their prank left me in tears'

Indira Krishnan recently recalled the time Salman Khan pulled a prank on her after a scene in Tere Naam required her to slap the superstar. Indira Krishnan worked with Salman Khan in actor-turned-director Satish Kaushik's Tere Naam. (Credit: Although it eventually became a landmark project in her career and put her on the map, working in actor-turned-director Satish Kaushik's Tere Naam came with its fair share of 'difficulties' for actor Indira Krishnan. Featuring Salman Khan and Bhumi Chawla in the lead roles, Tere Naam was a hard-hitting tragedy where Indira played the elder sister of the female lead character portrayed by Bhumi. Recently, she took a trip down memory lane and recalled the time Salman Khan pulled a prank on her after a scene in Tere Naam required her to slap the superstar. Indira revealed that he and his bodyguard took the practical joke so far that she

started crying, thinking her career was over. Mentioning that Salman, Sanjay Dutt and Suniel Shetty were the OG pranksters of that era, Indira observed during a recent conversation that she had worked with the first two. "They used to have prank sessions," she told Galatta India. She then went on to recall Salman's 'threat' to her before filming the slapping scene. "Aap thappad maarogi toh phir kuch bhi hosakta hai. Aap dekhlo iska phir kya honewala hai (If you slap me, then anything can happen. You see what is going to happen to her next)," she quoted the superstar as saying. Indira revealed that even Salman's bodyguard joined in on the prank and played along. He said, "Ma'am aapne kya kardiya? Press waale aagaye. Aap van mai jaake baith jaao (Ma'am, what have you done?). The press people have come. You go and sit in the van)." Although she suspected at the back of her mind that it could be a prank.

## How Gulshan Grover reconnected with son after divorcing wife, almost thrashed him after high-profile Hollywood meeting



Bollywood's 'bad man', Gulshan Grover, appeared on Archana Puran Singh's YouTube channel, where he spoke about his upcoming movie, Heer Express. The film has been produced by Gulshan's son, Sanjay, who worked as a development executive in Hollywood. Gulshan said that he is extremely proud of Sanjay for bringing his experience and expertise to an Indian production, and said that working on the project gave them an opportunity to reconnect. He said that Sanjay grew up away from him, as he'd divorced his mother.

Chatting with Archana, Gulshan said that at this stage in his life, all he wants to do is leave a legacy behind for his son, and to see his son succeed. Archana's husband, Parmeet Sethi, asked Gulshan how he wants to be remembered as a person, and Gulshan said, "I want to see big success, big achievements, but for my son, Sanjay Grover.

Sanjay went to study in UCLA, and one day, I had a meeting at the Hollywood studio MGM. Sanjay said that he wanted to accompany me, because he wanted to see all the Oscars that they have in the lobby of their office."

Gulshan said that during the meeting, which was with former MGM co-CEO Mary Parent, Sanjay kept contradicting everything she said. "Like any Punjabi dad, I felt like taking him out and thrashing him. But, to my surprise, after the meeting, Mary handed him her details and said that a job would be waiting for him once he graduates. I was so proud. I felt like a village idiot," Gulshan said.

Asked why Sanjay gave up his career in Hollywood and moved back to India, Gulshan said, "I am divorced from his mother, and she lives separately. Any parent would feel like enough is enough, my son has lived outside for so many years, we should live together now. He came, and we worked out an arrangement where he would stay on the top floor of my duplex house, and I would stay on the bottom floor. He was free to enter my space, but I didn't have permission to enter his space." In an earlier interview with Hindustan Times, Gulshan had spoken about his son's ambition to become an actor. "His experience of making films in Hollywood as well as watching world cinema – German, French, American, Korean is fabulous. Jitna wo dekhta hai, utna mujhe dekhne me 10 saal lag jaaenge. So his experience and exposure to not just the most talked about projects but also the hidden gems, helps me get a certain kind of vision, which I do not possess," he said. Gulshan said that he had to 'emotionally blackmail' his son to return to India and try his luck out at acting. Sanjay worked at the Hollywood studio MGM, and recently co-produced director Tarsem Singh's Dear Jassi. Heer Express has been directed by Umesh Shukla, best known for films such as OMG – Oh My God and 102 Not Out.

## '40-year-old actor insecure by Saiyaara's success': Komal Nahta says star's face fell at Bhushan Kumar's party after hearing verdict for Ahaan Panday's film

Veteran film journalist Komal Nahta spoke about a recent article that he wrote about the industry's reaction and response to the blockbuster hit Saiyaara. Starring newcomers Ahaan Panday and Annet Padda, the movie emerged as a massive hit that many from the industry didn't see coming. But, Nahta said that all signs were pointing in the direction of a grand success. He mentioned his interaction with a star at producer Bhushan Kumar's party, where he declared Saiyaara to be a 'blockbuster'. He said that the star's face fell. He also spoke about writing an article about a '40-year-old actor who is insecure about Saiyaara's success', and swore that he didn't make it up. In a chat with Faridoun Shahryar on YouTube, Nahta was asked about his article. He said, "I didn't take the actor's name so as not to embarrass them. But whatever I wrote, that he is spending sleepless nights, that he is constantly on calls asking if the numbers are accurate, every word of that article is genuine, I swear. The only detail that I have misrepresented is the number of films that person has done, but only to save them from embarrassment."

Recalling his interaction with an actor at Bhushan Kumar's party, he continued, "I wrote the article not to make fun of that person, but just to tell the world how insecure this industry really is. Even an established star can become insecure because of a newcomer. They have to remember that they were also newcomers once upon a time, they shouldn't be nervous; there's enough space for everyone. I

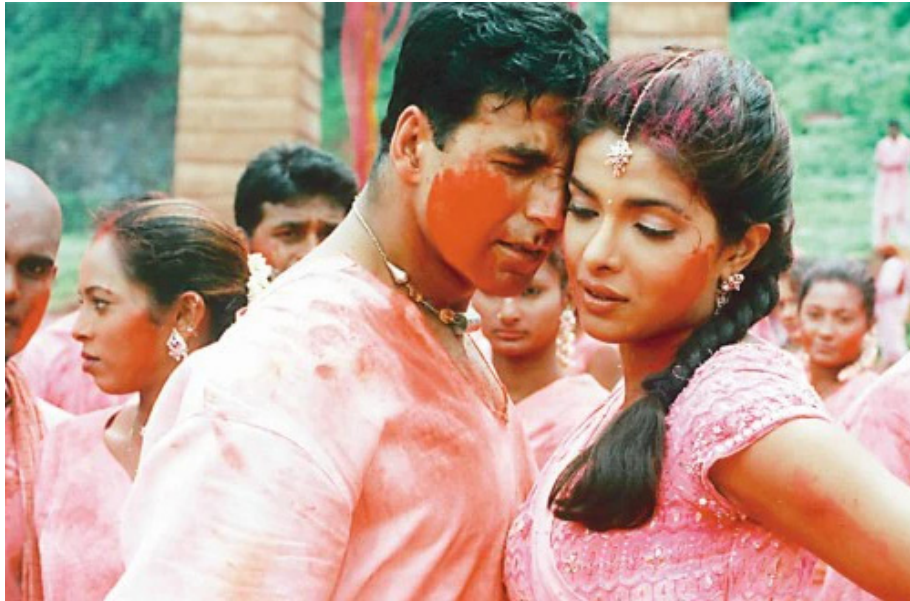


was at Bhushan Kumar's party, and one of his stars asked me about Saiyaara. I told him that it's a blockbuster. He got up and left." He said that he gets phone calls from directors and producers on Fridays, and all that everybody wants to hear is that the new film in theatres isn't any good. If he praises the film, they excuse themselves, but if he criticises it, they have a long conversation. "At least 20 people called me after Saiyaara, and expressed shock about its opening. But I told them that it was guaranteed; they weren't paying enough attention to the promotions," Nahta said. Saiyaara announced itself as a hit from the first day of its release. The romantic drama has made a stunning Rs 485 crore at the worldwide box office so far, emerging as the second-biggest Hindi film of the year. It has particularly been hailed for reviving the romance genre, and for doing it with newcomers.

## 'Married man' Akshay Kumar should've been more responsible, Priyanka Chopra wasn't to blame; Suneel Darshan on rumoured affair

Filmmaker Suneel Darshan once again commented on the rumoured affair between Priyanka Chopra and Akshay Kumar, which soured his relationship with the star. He'd worked with Akshay on seven films in seven years, but they parted ways as Akshay's career reached new heights. He said in an interview that they haven't spoken in two decades, as he recalled his rumoured affair with Priyanka Chopra. This isn't the first time that he has commented on the matter; he previously went so far as to suggest that Akshay's wife, Twinkle Khanna, put her foot down and barred him from working with Priyanka.

In a new interview with Bollywood Bubble, Suneel Darshan said that he'd actually commenced production on the film Barsaat, and had filmed a song with Akshay and Priyanka before things turned upside down. "There was turbulence in his personal life after a point. He told me that there were some personal issues, and asked if the film could be made with only one of them. I feel all actors should be responsible, and married men should be even more re-



sponsible. But it is man's nature to make mistakes. And it is destined for producers to bear the brunt of their mistakes. I don't want to put the onus of responsibility for that 'haadsa' on Priyanka..." In an earlier interview with Friday Talkies, Suneel had said, "Kuch blunder aise ho chuke thay (He did some blunders). Some rumours about Priyanka Chopra and Akshay Kumar started doing the rounds and Twinkle had left his home. As an actor you have to be responsible. If your wife has

been an actress, she knows everything about the industry and she has also worked with all the big stars. She knew everything," Suneel clarified that he did not hold Priyanka responsible for the situation, adding, "I don't blame Priyanka Chopra for this. She was doing what was in her own interest."

In another interview with Vicky Lalwani, he said, "It's not about him not wanting to work with Priyanka Chopra. Circumstances had reached a point... The public, the media did mention a

relationship, which the wife got to know of. But suddenly, after making me wait for 18 months, to say that I can't be a part of the film, I was shocked... He did want to compensate by saying he'd do the next film with me, but I just thought it was unbelievable, coming from Akshay." Akshay and Priyanka worked together on the films Andaaz, Aitraaz, and Waqt: The Race Against Time. In a recent interview, Priyanka made a rare comment about Akshay, and praised his action chops.