

Medak Ordnance Factory gets Rs 1,119 crore defence order

Hyderabad, Sept.12 : Medak MP Raghunandan Rao has expressed happiness over the order worth Rs.1,119 crore received by the Ordnance Factory located in Patancheru Assembly constituency of Medak parliament constituency.In a statement released on Friday, Raghunandan Rao noted that he had addressed this issue multiple times and brought it to the attention of the Union government. The BJP MP also met with Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Sanjay Seth, presenting them with memorandums related to the matter. Rajnath Singh responded positively, leading to the decision to place an order with the Ordnance Factory.

India’s traditional knowledge being copied by others: PM

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

Mr. Modi, who was addressing an International Conference ‘Reclaiming India’s Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage’ as part of the launch of the Gyan Bharatam Mission, said digitisation would also help in curbing “intellectual piracy”, as the information sourced from the country’s traditional knowledge system had been copied and patented many a time by others.He said the exercise would be an extension of the country’s resolve to forge ahead with the concept of “swadeshi” (made in India) and “atmanirbhar (self-reliant) Bharat”.The Prime Minister said India has the world’s largest collection of about one crore manuscripts of which over 10 lakh had been digitised so far. He commended private organisations for working with the government to achieve this goal.India is now proudly presenting before the world its heritage of ancient knowledge preserved in its manuscripts for centuries, he said, adding that India was also working with other countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and Mongolia, with whom it has enjoyed cultural ties and which are home to such manuscripts.“Throughout history, cores of manuscripts were destroyed, but the ones that remain show how devoted our ancestors were to knowledge, science, and learning,” Mr. Modi said.“India’s manuscripts contain footprints of the development journey of the entire humanity.” He said that India was a living stream with its cultural identity, consciousness and soul, and its history is not merely about the rise and fall of dynasties.

The Prime Minister also launched the ‘Gyan Bharatam’ portal, a dedicated digital repository platform that seeks to accelerate digitisation and preservation of



ancient Indian manuscripts, and enhance the dissemination of traditional knowledge embedded in them.The ‘Gyan Bharatam’ Mission was announced first by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the budget speech and then by Mr. Modi as part of his Independence Day speech. Over 1,100 participants from across the country are attending the conference. The participants include more than 95 academics, 22 government and private administrators, 179 professionals, 112 research scholars, 230 students, and over 400 individuals from various other fields.Eight groups have been set up under different verticals, including critical areas such as manuscript conservation, digitisation technologies, metadata standards, legal frameworks, cultural diplomacy, and decipherment of ancient scripts.

At least 4 dead in West Sikkim as incessant rain causes landslide; rescue ops on to trace missing people

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

sikkim, landslide,Rescue operation underway after incessant rain triggered a landslide in the Upper Rimbi area around midnight, in Gyalshing, Sikkim, on Friday. A landslide in Upper Rimbi, West Sikkim, has killed four people and left three missing. Police, Armed Border Force (SSB) personnel, and villagers have conducted rescue operations, evacuating two injured women on a makeshift tree-log bridge over the flooded Hume river to hospital.“At least four people have died due to a landslide in Yangthang in the Rimbi area of West Sikkim. Several people are still missing. Rescue teams have started a search operation to find them,” said a resident in the area.According to local sources, the landslide covered a house in mud and stones, and members of a family were trapped inside. It is learnt that it occurred in Yangthang early on Friday. Local Superintendent of Police Geising Tshering Sherpa said that three deceased died on the spot, while the fourth died at hospital. The condition of the other admitted woman is critical.The identities of the deceased are yet to be ascertained.According to the Superintendent of Police, “The rescue operation is being repeatedly hampered due to the remote hilly area and adverse weather conditions.”National Highway 10 — the main road connecting Siliguri in West Bengal to Sikkim — has



been closed several times in the last two to three months due to landslides, causing difficulties for both residents and tourists. In both April and June this year, North Sikkim was devastated by landslides.Sikkim and its adjoining areas, including North Bengal, have been receiving incessant rainfall over the past few days.Rain has been falling in North Bengal, including Sikkim, for the past few days. According to the India Meteorological Department, on Friday, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong, Alipurduar and Cooch Behar are likely to face heavy (7 to 11 cm) rain with gusty winds. Thunderstorms are possible in North Bengal until next Wednesday.

TPCC chief reiterates BRS MLAs joined Congress for a ‘specific’ purpose



GNS News Agency, Sept 12

Hyderabad: In sharp contrast to the claims of turncoat MLAs that they are still associated with BRS, TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud once again admitted that the 10 BRS MLAs had joined the Congress for a specific purpose.Speaking to the media on Friday, the TPCC president said the MLAs joined the Congress to thwart the attempts by the opposition to dethrone the State government.In a video circulating in social media platforms, Mahesh Kumar Goud is seen saying “These MLAs joined the Congress because they were threatened by the BRS and the BJP to topple the Congress government. They have joined the Congress to protect the government.”The TPCC president also said that the BRS working president KT Rama Rao does not have the moral right to speak on MLA defections.

“KTR has no right to talk about MLAs. It (defections) happened at the time of BRS party rule. The change of MLAs from one party to another happened in BRS. It is different from today,” Mahesh Kumar Goud.The TPCC president’s comments bear significance as Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar served notices to the BRS 10 turncoat MLAs. Of these, eight MLAs have responded to the notices claiming that they had not defected to the Congress and were still

members of the BRS party. Two others, including Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari and Khairthabad MLA Danam Nagender, have sought more time to respond to the Speaker’s notice.

Sushila Karki, Nepal's first female Chief Justice, becomes first woman to lead government



GNS News Agency, Sept 12

Nepal’s former Chief Justice Sushila Karki was sworn in Friday (September 12, 2025) to lead the transition as the country’s next Prime Minister after deadly anti-corruption protests ousted the government.President Ram Chandra Paudel administered the oath of office to Ms. Karki (73) at the President’s Office.“Congratulations! We wish you success, wish the country success,” President Paudel said to Karki after the swearing in ceremony broadcast on state television.

AIC-IIITH LAUNCHES PROG FOR GREEN TECH STARTUPS

Hyderabad, Sept.12 (NSS): The AIC-IIITH launches 3rd Akash EPAM Social Impact Innovation Program for GreenTech Startups. The AIC-IIITH Foundation, in collaboration with EPAM Systems Inc., has launched the 3rd Akash EPAM Social Impact Innovation Program (ESIIP) to support 12 GreenTech startups in areas such as Green Energy, Climate Tech, Smart Cities, Mobility and Sustainable Agriculture. The program offers equity-free grants of up to Rs.5 lakh, incubation support and access to IIITH’s research expertise in AI / ML, Robotics, IoT and GIS.

CM ORDERS FOR 'TEMPLE-CENTRIC' GHATS FOR GODAVARI PUSHKARALU

Hyderabad, Sept.12 :Grand preparations are underway for the upcoming "Godavari Pushkaralu", popularly known as the "South India Kumbh Mela". Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday directed the officials to take up advance works and prepare special plans to provide world-class facilities for lakhs of devotees expected to take a holy dip in Godavari river during the Pushkaralu, which begins on July 23, 2027.Revanth Reddy emphasized that 'permanent temple-centric ghats' must be constructed at all major temples along the banks of Godavari in Telangana. He instructed the officials to visit prominent temples from Basara to Bhadrachalam, and finalize the list of locations for ghat development. The key temples identified include Basara, Kaleshwaram, Dharmapuri and Bhadrachalam. Each ghat should be designed to accommodate up to two lakh pilgrims for a holy dip in a single day, with designs reflecting the religious and cultural prominence of the respective temples, he noted.

Highlighting the importance of accessibility, the CM directed that temples located near the National and State Highways be given priority in infrastructure development. Apart from ghats, permanent facilities such as roads, drinking water supply, accommodation, parking areas and bathing amenities will be developed.On this occasion, the officials informed the CM that 74 Pushkar ghats are planned along the 560-km stretch of Godavari river in Telangana, starting from the state’s entry point at Maharashtra to Bhadrachalam. After hearing the officials, the CM directed them that the works be taken up at a fast pace and completed within 23 months ahead of the festival. Expansion of existing ghats, road improvements, and traffic management measures will also be undertaken, he added.



The CM instructed the officials to hold consultations with Temple Committees and rope in 'experienced consultancies' that have worked on major pilgrim congregations such as the "Maha Kumbh Mela" to ensure world-class facilities for devotees.Revanth Reddy further stressed the need to maximize the use of Central Government schemes for Pushkar works. Departments were asked to identify the projects that can be linked to Swachh Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission, tourism and infrastructure programs, and prepare proposals to seek a 'special package' from the Centre for smooth conduct of "South Indian Kumbh Mela."

The review meeting was attended by Minister Konda Surekha, CM Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, Endowment Department Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaiyar, CMO Principal Secretary Seshadri, CM Principal Secretary Srinivasa Raju, Spiritual Advisor Govinda Hari and other senior officials.

Govt clears pending arrears to boost for tribal welfare schemes in TG

Hyderabad, Sept.12 : In a decisive move to strengthen social welfare initiatives, Minister for SC, ST, minorities and disabled welfare Adluri Laxman Kumar on Friday announced a series of measures from clearing long-pending dues to launching integrated schools and modern hostels for marginalised communities.Addressing the press conference at the Secretariat on Friday, the Minister underlined the government’s commitment to students’ welfare, employee dignity, and systemic reforms that were ignored by the previous regime.

He said Rs.11 crore pending arrears released under the tribal welfare department, bringing relief to employees neglected in the past. Similarly, Rs.11.53 crore was released towards remuneration for contract, outsourced and part-time staff of TGTWREIS for July–August 2025. Rs. 2.38 crore was disbursed to Subject Associates, Senior Faculty and Games Coaches for April–August 2025. Rs. 22 lakh was released to head office staff, and Rs. 1.04 crore was cleared towards sanitation, sweeping and catering service charges. In addition to this, Rs. 9 crore additional dues were cleared for July–August, safeguarding the interests of welfare staff.

The Minister said the construction of 18 Young India Integrated Schools commenced across constituencies to provide modern educational facilities for SC/ST students."The construction of modern kitchens was launched on the pilot project at Shaikpet and Dharmapuri with Rs. 24 lakh each to ensure hygienic meals in welfare hostels. Plans are devised to build a new SC hostel at Ashoknagar, Hyderabad for students preparing for competitive examinations. Similarly, CSR funds are mobilised to construct permanent school buildings in Hyderabad, supplementing government allocations," he said.



Adluri Laxman Kumar criticised the previous BRS government for spending on the Pragathi Bhavan while neglecting hostels and schools for SC/ST children.He recalled that former leaders never dined in welfare hostels, while Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has shared meals with students to demonstrate solidarity.Adluri Laxman Kumar also urged the Union government to increase its share in scholarships and allocate more funds to SC/ST welfare departments. He said senior IAS officer Savyasachi Ghosh has been appointed as Special Secretary to oversee welfare hostels for effective monitoring.Responding to charges regarding Group-I examinations, the Minister said baseless allegations without proof will not stand. He added that the government will not compromise on the future of children.The Minister reaffirmed that the education and welfare of SC/ST students remain a top priority. He appealed to opposition parties not to politicise children’s future but to contribute with constructive suggestions.

KTR, Harish Rao condemn cases against journalist for reporting on urea shortage in Khammam

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao and senior MLA T Harish Rao came down heavily on the Congress government for filing cases against T-News journalist Sambasiva Rao from Khammam district, who reported on farmers’ struggles due to urea shortage. They demanded that the State government and the DGP withdraw the cases immediately, accusing Congress of silencing voices that speak for farmers.Cases have been filed against Sambasiva Rao under Section 151, 196, 353(2) of BNS for assaulting and wrongfully restraining government officials, promoting enmity or disharmony between different groups and also publishing or circulating false information with an intent to promote enmity and hatred, at Konijerla police station.

Reacting strongly to these cases, Rama Rao accused the government of unleashing “Indiramma’s police state” by targeting the media for reporting on challenges faced by farmers due to urea shortage, instead of addressing farmers’ grievances. “This is the time to solve farmers’ problems, not to harass journalists. Threatening media only exposes the government’s tyranny,” he charged.Harish Rao called out the police for committing a crime by framing illegal cases against a reporter who exposed the shortage. “For two months, farmers have been suffering for urea, while the government turned a blind eye. Now, by registering cases against journalists who highlighted its negligence, the government is proving its authoritarian mindset,” he said.Both the leaders warned that suppressing media freedom was undemo-



cratic and would only deepen public resentment. Instead of ensuring law and order, they said the police were being used as a weapon of political intimidation.

ED likely to step in the multi-crore drug case probe

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

Hyderabad: The multi-crore drug racket, which was busted recently at a chemical lab on the outskirts in Cherlapally, has now come under the scanner of multiple central agencies, with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) likely to join the investigation.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

India's space exploration comes of age

Call it an Indian oddity or the country's unique feature but over centuries it has demonstrated that it would rather be the tortoise than the hare vis-à-vis the world affairs. The focus is always on sustained momentum once something is conceptualised unlike some countries, which tend to update the world about the developments of anything new they are working on. On several occasions those 'experiments' fall flat on their face. It is no different when one talks of the giant strides being made in space exploration.

Global giants like the US, Russia and China have been obsessed with scoring over their immediate opponents in this segment with many projects going kaput. Against this backdrop, the Indian space scientists must be rejoicing the fabulous news announced by the Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) V. Narayanan, who came up with a remark that must have come as a major surprise to the world. Dwelling deeper he said that India has secured not only an overwhelming nine world records in space exploration but that another 10 are likely to fall in India's kitty in the coming few years. No doubt, the silent revolution, being orchestrated by ISRO and the country's top space scientists is a matter of pride for every countryman. Even as far back as 2017, ISRO set a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single mission, a testament to the reliability of its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). This first lunar mission Chandrayaan-1 was a scientific success, notably detecting water molecules on the Moon's surface and placing India among the leading countries in lunar exploration. The 2008 effort caught the world's attention, which transformed into amazement from a sense of bafflement.

Former Rajya Sabha Member V. Hanumantha Rao Receives Munnuru Kapu Sangham Membership



“N S Reddy, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Uppal, September 12, Indian Chronicle: Representatives of the Telangana State Munnuru Kapu Sangham on Friday presented membership to former PCC chief and Rajya Sabha member V. Hanumantha Rao. The membership was handed over by state secretary Induri Tirupati Patel and Kadudula Somayya Patel. Speaking on the occasion, Hanumantha Rao said he would extend full support and cooperation for the development of the Munnuru Kapu Sangham. Later, Induri Tirupati Patel and Kadudula Somayya Patel said the Sangham is actively conducting membership registration programs across the state, with support from community representatives. They appealed to Munnuru Kapu leaders to come forward and join the Sangham by taking membership. The program was attended by Gouni Satyanarayana Patel, Sakinalla Nursing Rao Patel, Mallela Paparao Patel, Gouni Ramulu Patel, Ranjith Patel and others.

Srivani Choudhary Appointed as Telangana State Women's Wing Director of Head World Human Rights Council



“N S Reddy, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Nagole, September 12, Indian Chronicle: The Head World Human Rights Council, which is active in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, has appointed V. Srivani Choudhary from Nagole as the Telangana State Women's Wing Director. The appointment was made by the Council Chairman Madhav. Speaking on the occasion, Srivani Choudhary expressed her gratitude to Chairman Madhav and National General Secretary Satish Devarakonda for their support. She stated that she would work with full dedication for the growth of the organization, stand by victims, and fight to ensure justice for them. She also emphasized the Council's commitment to protecting human rights. Members of the organization and local community leaders extended their best wishes to Srivani Choudhary on assuming the new role.

Is Kapil Sharma auditioning for a Telugu film? This Saturday's episode of Netflix's The Great Indian Kapil Show has secrets, surprises and a lot of spice!!



Hyderabad: What do you get when Shriya Saran, Teja Sajja, Jagapathi Babu and Ritika Singh come on The Great Indian Kapil Show? You get multi language jokes, some pranks (mostly on Kapil) and lots of South swag!

Kapil kickstarts the madness by admitting the only

Telugu he knows is the word Telugu, adding that since his guests don't know Hindi either, 'baaki bachi English, dekhte hain kab tak bachti hai mujhse.' What follows is a laugh riot filled with unexpected confessions like Teja Sajja calling Jagapathi Babu a romantic at heart, Kapil and Teja's rib-tickling banter, and each one of them doing their versions of a Rajnikanth dance.

On a sweet and filmy note, Shriya Saran opens up about how she first met her husband, Andrei Koscheev, "I had booked the wrong flight in the wrong month and ended up alone on a cruise to the South of Maldives, and that's where I met Andrei. We knew nothing about each other but somehow we started going on dives together and that's how it all began. She also shared, "The first film of mine he ever watched was Drishyam and he got so scared after that!" Dive karte karte woh ek doosre ke pyaar mein doob gaye... kya Drishyam ka next sequel ocean themed hoga inspired by Shriya? Meanwhile, Kapil's set gets a blockbuster surprise as none other than Pushpa storms in with his iconic "jhukega nahin saala" swag. And Jagapathi Babu leaves everyone in splits with his political one-liner: "South superstars usually go into politics. I've always played a villain till now, but if I join politics, I'll be the hero because wahaan toh aur bhi zyada villains hai." Swag, sass, and sizzling punchlines on this week's episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show featuring the cast of Mirai dropping this Saturday, 13th September at 8PM, only on Netflix.

Aristotle School of Business Management, Chilkur – Moinabad.



MBA Students Embark on Enriching Educational Visit to Rural Technology Park, NIRDPR, Hyderabad In line with its commitment to providing holistic and experiential learning, the Aristotle School of Business Management, Chilkur – Moinabad, organized an educational field visit to the Rural Technology Park (RTP) at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. The initiative was undertaken as part of the MBA programme's practical exposure component, aimed at bridging the gap between academic theory and industry practices. A cohort of 55 senior MBA students, accompanied by nine esteemed faculty members, actively participated in the visit. The tour was designed to offer students in-depth insights into rural entrepreneurship, sustainable technologies, and the working models of small-scale industries, with a focus on the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector — a critical pillar of the Indian economy.

Throughout the visit, students engaged in meaningful

interactions with rural technology experts and industry practitioners. They explored a range of innovative technologies and business models developed for rural application, including sustainable construction methods, eco-friendly practices, renewable energy solutions, and income-generating activities rooted in local skills and resources.

Speaking on this occasion Principal Dr L Srinivas Reddy said that "this educational exposure not only broadened the students' understanding of rural development and enterprise creation but also emphasized the importance of innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity in business management."

The management of Aristotle School of Business Management extended its appreciation to the faculty and organizing team for executing the visit seamlessly. They expressed confidence that initiatives like these will greatly enrich the academic journey of students, preparing them to navigate complex challenges and opportunities in both rural and urban industrial ecosystems.

The Government's Goal Is To Provide Quality Education And All Facilities To Students.

“Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, 11. "Komuram Bheem District Additional Collector and In-charge DEO Deepak Tiwari visited Anukada and Gannaram schools in Kagaznagar mandal on Thursday. He said that the government's goal is to provide quality education to students with all facilities.

He advised the teachers to pay special attention to the backward students by examining the teaching methods, mid-day meal and classrooms. He ordered to provide cleanliness, nutritious food and clean drinking water. MEO and teachers participated in this program. Show less



Collector Conducts Surprise Inspection At Ginneadhari Tribal Ashram School



"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, 12. "Komuram Bheem Asifabad District Collector Venkatesh Bhete made a surprise visit to Ginnedhari Tribal Ashram School on Friday. He asked questions on environmental science and mathematics to the students and appreciated their answers. He provided them with uniforms and advised them to continue their higher studies by utilizing the facilities provided by the government. He instructed the medical staff to take care of their health during the monsoon season. He congratulated the teachers for their hard work. The school principal Naitham Krishna Rao, officials and teachers participated.

Sr. Journalist Krishna chary wished Konda Vijay kumar on his Birthday



“Chandanagar September 12 Indian Chronicle: Chandanagar Hope Foundation Chairman Konda Vijay Kumar's birthday celebrations were held in a grand manner. Senior journalists Krishna chary and Shyam wished Konda Vijay kumar on his birthday by giving him a bouquet of flowers.

Geetha workers' pension applications submitted to municipal chairman

Aswaraopet Naga Manoj, September (12): Geetha Karmika Society President Arepalli Venkatesh Goud on Friday submitted a petition to Municipal Commissioner Nagaraju, seeking the speedy sanction of pension to Geetha workers in Aswaraopet Municipality. In this meeting held at the Commissioner's office, various issues related to the welfare of Geetha workers were discussed. He asked the Commissioner to ensure that every eligible Geetha worker benefits.

Illegal Multi-Storey Construction on A.S. Rao Nagar Main Road – No Action from Kapra Municipal Officials



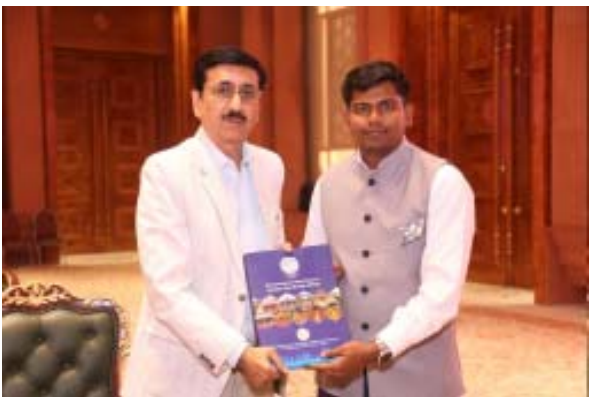
“N S Reddy, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, September 12, Indian Chronicle: Despite repeated news reports in several newspapers, illegal construction continues unchecked on Dr. A.S. Rao Nagar Main Road. A cellar and multiple floors are being built in violation of permissions and building norms. Residents in the area have expressed concern that such unauthorized structures not only create traffic and parking problems but also pose serious safety risks. They allege that even after media coverage, Kapra municipal officials have failed to take any concrete action against the builders. Locals demand immediate intervention from the authorities to stop further illegal construction and to take strict action on those responsible.

Brutal Murder in Meerpet Housing Board Area



N S Reddy, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Meerpet, September 12, Indian Chronicle: Tension gripped the Mangapuram locality under Meerpet Housing Board limits on Thursday evening after a real estate businessman, Srikanth Reddy, was brutally murdered. According to police, Reddy was attacked with knives by his own associates, leading to his death on the spot. Following information, police along with the clues team rushed to the scene, brought the situation under control, and collected evidence. The body was shifted to a hospital for postmortem. A case has been registered and investigation is underway to nab the accused.

ITDA Project Officer Rahul Participates in National Conference on Tribal Development Vision 2047



““Shaik Sharief,Bhadrachalam, September 12,Indian Chronicle :“In line with the directives of the Hon’ble President of India, a National Conference on Tribal Development Vision 2047 was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on September 9 and 10 to review progress and draft a future roadmap. ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul participated in the conference, which brought together Principal Secretaries and Project Officers from various states.”“Rahul highlighted the implementation of key initiatives in 19 tribal mandals and 130 remote villages of Bhadradi Kothagudem district, including Aadi Karmyogi Abhiyan, Dharti Aaba Jan National Village Utkars Abhiyan, PM Janman, and the Forest Rights Act.”“He noted that Podu land titles are being distributed to



eligible tribal farmers, while Gram Sabhas are being conducted to ensure all welfare schemes reach beneficiaries in the presence of officials from multiple departments. Training programs for DNT and BNT instructors are also being conducted to strengthen grassroots-level development activities.”“Rahul further mentioned that the Tribal Museum at the ITDA premises in Bhadrachalam showcases tribal traditions, cultural practices, and heritage. A copy book on the museum’s details was formally presented to the Ministry of Tribal Welfare during the conference.”“The two-day event saw active participation from senior officials, including Principal Secretaries and ITDA Project Officers representing different states across the country.

Villagers Boycott Anganwadi Teacher“



““Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad.District Reporter Jade Srinivas.September,“12.”“Members of the SC/ ST Vigilance and Monitoring Committee of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district have found that villagers are showing caste discrimination against Igarapu Lakshmi, an Anganwadi teacher working in Chinna Bendara village of Wankidi mandal. The committee members, who visited the

village on Friday and conducted an inquiry, said that Lakshmi, a Dalit woman,has been facing discrimination since she was transferred five years ago, and recently the problem has worsened and she has been boycotted from even eating the food she has cooked.The Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti, Ambedkar Sangam,“Leaders of the Banjara Beri Youth Association also participated.

BRS Party State Leader Ravi Yadav in Mana Basti Bata Program“



“Serilingampalli September 12: BRS Party State Leader Ravi Yadav of the 106th Division in Serilingampalli Constituency organized the Mana Basti Bata Program in Gopinagar Colony. On this occasion, Ravi Yadav reached Gopinagar at 7 am and got to know the problems of the local people firsthand.”“ People explained many issues to Ravi Yadav, such as water problems, roads, sanitation issues, the current electricity pole problem, and infrastructure deficiencies, and he assured that he would take appropriate steps to resolve them quickly. After listening to the problems of the people, Ravi Yadav said, "It is my duty to provide the necessary facilities to the people. I will not hesitate to face any hardship to resolve the problems." Malleesh Mudiraj, Swaminath, Venkata Reddy, Venkata Chari, Srikanth Yadav, Srisailam Yadav, Gaddam Srinivas, Suresh Yadav, Gadda Mahesh, Gangadhar Goud, Kondakala Srinivas, Naveen Goud, Sai Nandan Mudiraj, Pawan, Swami, Raju Goud, Vadde Srinivas, Jangaiah, Praveen Yadav, Anil Yadav, Balaraju, Shankar, Munna, Raju Goud, Srikanth Reddy, Krishna, Narasimha, Divya, Nirupa, Nagamani and others participated in this program.

Telangana Revolutionizes Caste Certificate Issuance via MeeSeva: Swift, Streamlined, and Citizen-Centric.“

““P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Hyderabad,Sep 12:““In a landmark administrative reform aimed at enhancing service delivery and eliminating bureaucratic delays, the Government of Telangana has introduced a streamlined process through its MeeSeva centers for the issuance of caste certificates to citizens belonging to BC, SC, and ST communities—excluding certain exceptional cases.”“Previously, every application required fresh scrutiny and approval by the local Tahsildar, often resulting in prolonged processing times and significant inconvenience for applicants. Responding to these systemic inefficiencies, Minister for IT and Industries, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, directed the MeeSeva department to devise a more efficient and citizen-friendly mechanism.”“Following multiple consultative sessions involving key stakeholders—including the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA), BC and SC Welfare Departments, district administrators, and revenue officials—a reformed protocol was finalized and launched on a pilot basis two weeks ago.”“Remarkable Response in Initial Phase““Within just 15 days of implementation, the new system has already facilitated the successful issuance of caste certificates to 17,571 applicants, underscoring its efficacy and public acceptance. Telangana processes approximately 2 million caste certificate applications annually, making this reform particularly impactful.”“The updated certificate format now includes reference to the original approving authority and the current re-issuance date, thereby maintaining transparency and legal continuity.”“Special Cases to Follow Existing Protocol““In certain exceptional scenarios—such as religious conversions that affect eligi-



bility categories (e.g., a person transitioning from Hindu SC to Christianity and seeking a certificate under BC-C)—applications will continue to be routed through the traditional approval framework, in accordance with G.O. Ms. No. 3, dated 09.09.2020.”“How to Avail the Service““If the Previous Certificate Number is Available: Citizens can simply present the old certificate number at any MeeSeva center to obtain an updated printout instantly.”

“If the Certificate Number is Unavailable: MeeSeva personnel will assist in retrieving the record using details such as district, mandal, village, sub-caste, and applicant's name.”“For further assistance, individuals are encouraged to visit the official MeeSeva website or approach the nearest MeeSeva center, as advised by MeeSeva Commissioner Ravi Kiran.

Green Initiative by Transport Department: Over 200 Saplings Planted at Baddanapalli Test Ground.““

P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Rajanna Sircilla, September 12 :““In a commendable effort to promote environmental sustainability, the Transport Department of Rajanna Sircilla district organized a large-scale plantation drive under the leadership of District Transport Officer (DTO) Laxman. As part of the initiative, over 200 diverse species of saplings were planted at the Baddanapalli site, which is designated for vehicle fitness testing and inspections.”“This green initiative saw the enthusiastic participation of Motor Vehicle Inspector Vamshidhar, newly appointed Enforcement Trainee Assistant Motor Vehicle Inspectors Gregorjan Ronald Ed and Dandugula Manoj Kumar, along with departmental personnel including Constable Prashanth and Home Guard Ellayya.”“The plantation drive reflects the department’s commitment not only to regulatory duties but also to ecological responsibility, setting a positive example for other government departments to follow. The effort is



expected to enhance the green cover in the area and contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment.

Collector Koya Sri Harsha Calls for Strategic Readiness in Kharif Paddy Procurement: Emphasizes Infrastructure, Logistics & Quality Control.



““P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Peddapalli, September 12.”“In preparation for the 2025–26 Kharif Marketing Season, District Collector Koya Sri Harsha has urged officials to adopt a comprehensive, meticulously structured strategy to ensure seamless and efficient procurement of paddy across Peddapalli district.”“Presiding over a high-level review meeting at the Integrated District Collectorate, the Collector, accompanied by Additional Collector B. Venu, assessed the department’s readiness and infrastructure, while issuing clear directives to streamline the entire procurement process.”“Key Highlights of the Collector’s Strategic Directives:““ Micro-Planning & Forecasting:““Collector Harsha instructed mandal-level officials to develop granular, month-wise procurement forecasts, estimating paddy inflow per center based on local crop patterns. This advance planning will be crucial for minimizing bottlenecks and maximizing operational efficiency.”“ Minimum Support Price (MSP) Assurance:““The Collector reiterated that Grade-A paddy will be procured at an MSP of ₹2,389 per quintal, while Common variety paddy will be purchased at ₹2,369 per quintal, as per government guidelines.”“ Procurement Center Modernization:““All procurement centers are to be equipped with essential infrastructure, including:““Moisture analyzers““Paddy cleaning units““Digital weighing machines““Tarpaulins““Proper lighting and uninterrupted power supply““Drinking water facilities““He stressed that gunny bags must be made available in accordance with anticipated procurement volumes to avoid disruption in operations.”“Strict Quality Surveillance:““The Collector underscored the importance of rigorous quality inspections at the procurement point. Substandard or compromised grain should be categorically rejected. Further, rice mills must process only quality-assured paddy, leaving no room for malpractice or negligence.”“ Fine Variety (Sanna Rakala) Paddy Handling:““Officials were directed to collaborate with Agricultural Extension Officers to identify fine varieties of



paddy at the center level. Post-verification, these should be exclusively routed to pre-designated rice mills, ensuring quality segregation and targeted processing.”“ Seamless Transport & Logistics:““Adequate fleets of transport vehicles must be kept on standby, enabling timely and uninterrupted movement of procured grain from procurement centers to rice mills. The Collector stressed that logistical readiness is non-negotiable.”“ Training & Reporting Protocols:““Procurement center in-charges are to be given specialized training to handle daily operations efficiently. A daily procurement progress report must be submitted to the district administration without fail.”“ Farmer Outreach & Awareness:““The Collector emphasized the importance of extensive sensitization campaigns to educate farmers about paddy quality standards. Farmers should be encouraged to bring only clean, dry, and high-grade paddy to the centers, ensuring both quality and procurement speed.”“Officials in Attendance:““The review meeting was attended by District Civil Supplies Officer Srinath, District Civil Supplies Corporation Manager Srikanth, District Cooperative Officer Mala, District Marketing Officer Praveen, Additional DRDO Ravinder, and other senior departmental officials.

Lambadi self-respect rally on 14th at Kothagudem center



“Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, 12 September, Indian Chronicle : Banjara leaders have called for a successful Lambadi self-respect rally to be held at Bhadradi Kothagudem district center on 14th of this month.”⁴⁴ Speaking at a meeting held at Bhadrachalam mandal center on Friday, the leaders criticized MLA Tellam Venkat Rao and Soyam Bapur Rao for making false allegations that hurt the self-respect of Lambadis. During a demonstration against the case filed against Lambadis in the Supreme Court, Lambadi leaders said that Lambadis are constitutionally recognized as Scheduled Tribes, but some are trying to gain political gain by creating an atmosphere of conflict between tribal tribes that are brothers and sisters. “In agency areas, G.O. No. 3, Fifth Schedule, 1/70, PESA Acts are being written by the upper caste rulers, but MLA Tellam

Venkat Rao, who should provide constitutional protection to the people, has refused to question them in the legislative assemblies and expressed his anger that it is not an excuse to behave in a way that damages the self-respect of the Lambadis. "He asked the tribal tribes to be vigilant against such people."

The leaders called for a victory for the self-respect rally to be held in Kothagudem district center on the 14th of this month. In this meeting, State President of Lambadi Rights Struggle Committee Rajesh Nayak, T.G. TTF. State President Laxman Nayak, Advocate-State General Secretary of Lambadi Rights Struggle Committee Ramesh Nayak, State General Secretary of Sewalal Banjara Sangham Lavudiya Prasad Nayak, L.V., Mansingh, Naresh, Sitya and others participated.

Anganwadi Centres Rival Private Institutions in Quality: Collector Pamela Satpathy.“



"P.S.ASHOKAN"Indian Chronicle"Karimnagar, September 12 :""District Collector Pamela Satpathy affirmed that Anganwadi centres, equipped with a professionally designed syllabus and managed by well-trained educators, are now delivering educational services that are on par with reputed private institutions.""Addressing a community awareness programme held at the Velichala Gram Panchayat building in Ramadugu Mandal on Friday, organized under the aegis of the Women Development and Child Welfare Department, the Collector highlighted the transformative impact of grassroots initiatives in rural Telangana.""She emphasized that weekly village-level meetings are fostering widespread awareness among women regarding nutrition, health, and overall family well-being.""These gatherings are empowering women to not only monitor their own health and nutrition but also that of their children," she noted.""Commending the creativity of Anganwadi teachers, Ms. Satpathy remarked that they are developing indigenous teaching aids and educational toys, which instill discipline and good habits among children in an engaging, child-friendly manner.""She further stated that the ongoing innovative initiatives in government schools across the district have significantly boosted public confidence, resulting



in a notable migration of students from private to government institutions. "We have witnessed an increase of nearly 8,000 new admissions in government schools," she revealed. "Regarding healthcare services, the Collector urged citizens to utilize the full range of facilities offered at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), including free diagnostics for conditions such as blood pressure and diabetes, along with free medication. She also informed that individuals requiring long-term medication can notify healthcare staff and receive their prescriptions delivered directly to their homes." "Particularly addressing rural women, she encouraged participation in the Arogya Mahila initiative, which provides comprehensive free health check-ups tailored for women's wellness." "The event also featured a Preschool Mela, showcasing a variety of learning materials, preschool kits, and educational exhibits used in Anganwadi centres, which received enthusiastic responses from attendees. Additionally, an Annaprasana (first solid food feeding ceremony) was conducted for young children as part of the celebration." "Dignitaries present at the programme included District Welfare Officer Saraswathi, District Immunization Officer Sajitha, Tahsildar Rajeshwari, MPDO Rajeshwari, CDPO Narsinga Rani, Mahila Pranganam District Manager Sudharani, and Special Officer Anil Prakash.

Corporator Bannala Reviews Water Works Projects““



“N S Reddy, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Chilkhanagar, September 12, Indian Chronicle: Chilkhanagar Division corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj held a review meeting with Water Works officials at the corporator's office.

The meeting was attended by Water Works DGM Rajinikanth, managers Lavanya and Satyanarayana, along with staff. Discussions focused on completing sanctioned

Water Wash Center Inaugurated at Meerpet Housing Board“““

N S Reddy, Medchal Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Meerpet, September 12, Indian Chronicle: Uppal constituency Congress in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy attended as the chief guest and inaugurated a water wash center at Meerpet Housing Board. The organizers, led by Congress leader CH Suresh, felicitated Parameshwar Reddy with a shawl during the program. Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy congratulated the organizers for inviting him to the inauguration and conveyed his best wishes. He stated that youth should focus on self-employment opportunities instead of wasting time, and work towards becoming entrepreneurs by utilizing government self-employment schemes. He added that youth are the backbone of the country's future. He also wished that the water wash center at Housing Board would provide quality service, gain customer appreciation, and achieve business growth. Those who participated in the program included Mallapur Division President Kappara Sai Kiran Goud, Srinivas Mudiraj, NSUI leaders Bandirala Kishore, Rayani Uday Kiran, Mallesh, Suresh Goud, Aziz, District Agriculture Marketing Vice Chairman Vittal Naik, Akash, Mahender, Balakrishna, BC Sangam JAC Chairman Venkanna Goud, Chinna, Raju, Naveen Goud, Gemini, Ganesh, Youth Congress President Rajesh, Tarun Raju, and others.



7th All India Prison Duty Meet 2025 Concludes in Hyderabad“



“N S Reddy, Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, September 12, Indian Chronicle: The closing ceremony of the 7th All India Prison Duty Meet 2025 was held on Thursday night at the RBVRR Telangana Police Academy campus. The event was jointly organized by the Telangana Prisons and Correctional Services Department and the Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs. A total of 1,222 officers and staff from 21 states and 3 union territories participated in sports, cultural, professional and fine arts competitions. For the first time, a technology expo and a prison products exhibition were introduced, which drew wide attention. Telangana athletes secured 28 medals, including 21 golds, emerging as the overall winners. Tamil Nadu won 17 medals, while Maharashtra secured 16. A total of 133 medals were awarded across different categories. Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services, Dr. Soumya Mishra, announced upcoming reforms, including the establishment of a National Prison Academy in Hyderabad, advanced surveillance systems,



new de-addiction centers, and a high-security prison in Warangal. Addressing the gathering, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay said prisons should not be seen merely as places of confinement but as spaces that provide opportunities for rebuilding lives. He noted that Telangana's prisons department achieved national recognition with the highest number of trophies at the meet and praised the successful conduct of the event. He also highlighted that the real success of prison systems lies in reforming inmates and reintegrating them into society. State Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said the Telangana prisons department, with its reforms and initiatives, has become a role model for the country. He conveyed state government's appreciation for successfully hosting the national-level meet.

The event was also attended by Telangana Home Department Special Chief Secretary Ravi Gupta, State DGP Dr. Jitender, Additional DGP of BPR&D Ravi Joseph, RBVRR Telangana Police Academy Director Abhilasha Bisht, and other senior officials."

Illegal Shed Construction on Chilkanagar–Uppal Main Road“

“N S Reddy, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Chilkanager, September 12, Indian Chronicle: An illegal large shed is being constructed on Kaveri Nagar Road, adjacent to a petrol pump, along the Chilkanager–Uppal main road. Municipal town planning officials have failed to take action despite the ongoing construction. Locals allege that the officials are deliberately ignoring the issue and may serve notices only after the shed construction is completed, in an attempt to wash their hands of the matter.



Charlapalli Division Corporator Inspects Netaji Nagar

“N S Reddy, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, September 12, Indian Chronicle: GHMC Standing Committee Member and Charlapalli Division Corporator Bontu Sridevi Yadav inspected Netaji Nagar. During the visit, she informed the residents that 200 meters of UGD works had been sanctioned and that the works would begin shortly in response to the residents' request.

Speed up SC, ST Intermediate Students' Scholarship Process

*****N S Reddy, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, September 12, Indian Chronicle: The Additional Collector of Medchal-Malkajgiri district, Radhika Gupta, directed junior college principals to immediately complete the process of updating SC and ST Intermediate students' scholarship applications through digital key and face recognition system. She made it clear that unless the updates are done, the applications will not reflect in the portal. On Friday, during a review meeting with junior college principals held at the Collectorate conference hall, the Additional Collector collected details of pending applications from each college at the mandal level. She instructed that all pending records must be updated online within a week. Principals explained that in some colleges the pendency was higher mainly due to low attendance percentage of migrant students. They also cited mismatches between SSC memo details and Aadhaar records, which caused delays in reactivating inactive accounts. Responding to this, the Additional Collector assured that steps would be taken to resolve such issues immediately. She also instructed the colleges to ensure a minimum of 80% pass percentage. On infrastructure, she said



that issues like drinking water, lighting, fans, drainage, water leakage, and windows would be addressed by the district authorities without fail. The meeting was attended by District Intermediate Officer Kishan, District SC Welfare Officer Vinod Kumar, along with principals of various colleges.

Kolkata police halts Army truck a day after TMC protest stage removal



GNS News Agency, Sept 12

Kolkata police On Tuesday morning, an Army truck was stopped by Kolkata traffic police after it allegedly swerved close to Police Commissioner Manoj Verma's convoy near BBD Square, a high-security zone in Central Kolkata. Tensions are running high in Kolkata after back-to-back incidents involving the Indian Army and the Trinamool Congress (TMC), the state's ruling party. The latest involves an army truck which allegedly came "too close" to the convoy of Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Verma. Just a day before, on Monday, a controversy had erupted over the Army's removal of a TMC protest stage.

On Tuesday morning, an Army truck was stopped by Kolkata traffic police after it allegedly swerved close to Po-

lice Commissioner Manoj Verma's convoy near BBD Square, a high-security zone in Central Kolkata. The alleged incident unfolded as the commissioner was en route to the police headquarters at Lalbazar. Police sources said the truck was halted and later seized by officers from Hare Street Police Station, and the extent of action to be taken is being decided. "The truck attempted to make a right turn on a road with no right turn allowed, narrowly avoiding a close collision with the Commissioner's vehicle," said a traffic police official. According to police, the truck was allegedly travelling from Fort William to a passport office.

However, an Army jawan traveling in the truck told the media that it was taking a turn at an open signal and that they were unaware of the Commissioner's convoy behind them. He said the police claimed the truck was being driven "dangerously" and that the matter had been reported to his seniors. Kolkata Police posted on X: "A lot of misinformation is being circulated from certain quarters regarding action taken by police over an incident of violation of traffic rules. It's apparently clear from the CCTV footage that the truck in question was being driven in a dangerous manner violating the traffic lane. The other vehicle narrowly escaped a collision thanks to the alertness of its driver. It's a case of violation of traffic rules, and legal action is being initiated as per law against the driver of the offending vehicle." They shared purported CCTV footage showing the army truck making a sudden right turn as the Commissioner's car sèvres to avoid it.

Umar Khalid denied bail yet again in Delhi riots case — sixth unsuccessful attempt

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

He has failed to get relief from the sessions court thrice, twice from the Delhi HC, and had also withdrawn a bail plea from the Supreme Court. In July 2021, he first filed for bail before a Karkardooma court under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). By September 2021, however, he withdrew the bail plea. Umar had submitted that he wanted to file for bail under CrPC Section 437 instead.

Both sections dealt with the grant of bail: Section 439 dealt with the grant of bail in all other cases where bail is not a matter of right, whereas Section 437 provided for the grant of bail to a person who is arrested or detained without a warrant in a bailable offence, or in a non-bailable offence, where the bail is a matter of right. The prosecution had primarily contested the maintainability of the bail plea and the relevant provisions for making such a plea, even as Umar had accused the prosecution of using dilatory tactics. In September 2021, he filed his second plea for bail before the Karkardooma court. Six months later, in March 2022, the court dismissed it. Then in April 2022, Umar moved the HC, appealing against the dismissal of his bail plea and seeking bail. In October 2022, a division bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Rajnish Bhatnagar dismissed his appeal and rejected his plea for bail.

Umar moved the Supreme Court in April 2023 against the Delhi HC's October 2022 order that had refused him bail. Nearly a year later, in February 2024, he withdrew the



plea, citing "changed circumstances." In February 2024, Umar applied for bail for a third time before the Karkardooma sessions court — in May that year, it rejected his plea. Then, in July 2024, Umar moved the Delhi HC a second time, appealing against the sessions court's rejection of his bail plea and seeking bail. Over 13 months later, on September 2, the Delhi HC rejected his plea a second time. Khalid, along with others, is facing allegations of a "larger conspiracy" to allegedly cause the riots in Northeast Delhi between February 23 and 25, 2020, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. He has been booked for offences under the Indian Penal Code, Prevention of Damage to Public Property (PDPP) Act, Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Developed by two champions, this app is giving children playing sports a winning edge

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

At 15, Pune-based squash player Anika Dubey is blazing a formidable trail. She is a three-time national junior squash champion with an Asian Junior Team Championships under her belt. On August 30, National Sports Day, the Maharashtra Government felicitated Dubey at an event at the Balewadi Stadium. Among those cheering her on were members of SportsSkill, a sports performance tracking app she has been using to improve her skills.

"We used to travel a lot for Anika's training to Mumbai as she was being coached by Abhinav Sinha, a former international squash player who coached the Indian team for the World Junior Championship in 2019 and the British Junior Open in 2020. When Abhinav co-founded the SportsSkill app, we started using it. After that, Anika and I did not need to travel to Mumbai all the time. She used to practise in Pune and upload her videos on SportsSkill, based on which Abhinav used to make comments. The app, which is equipped with features such as performance tracking, goal setting, progress monitoring, rest-and-recovery tracking, and community engagement, provides real-time insights, multiple training facility support, and personalised analytics. "It is suitable for all skill levels and keeps athletes motivated and informed," says an official statement of the company. The other co-founder of the company, which was launched in 2021, is Chetan Desai, a former ATP-ranked tennis player with a career high of 310. He says that parents today are paying for two things mainly: academics and sports. While online reports inform them of a child's academic performance and shortcomings, it is not happening in sports. "A coach who typically manages 50 -60 children does not know how to keep track of all their performances in one particular place. SportsSkill, where one can upload videos of children playing, becomes an effective tool in not just giving information but tracking progress. It keeps a record of the data that is required over the period of the life cycle of that particular athlete," says Desai. The company works on a business-to-business model, reaching out to schools, clubs, and academies. "They buy the subscription for their users. Then, the communication between the coach and players starts happening on the app," says Sinha. The Government, too, is encouraging a culture of sports in the country. Among the mottos of the Khelo India initiative is to inspire young talent, give them top-notch infrastructure, and training of the highest level.

"We need to inculcate a strong spirit of participation in sports that enables players to demonstrate their true potential. Only then can India realise its dream of becoming a sports superpower," says Sinha. Sinha says that people have become "very, very serious about sports". "They are getting their children in a formal training method, unlike 20 years back, when parents used to just send them down to play. As a result, a lot of children are in sports classes. Parents are spending on sports. Even in Tier Three cities, people have started taking sports very seriously. We are at the stage where we decide, 'how do you make sure they stay interested and you guide them well?', he adds. While SportsSkill has been downloaded more than 1,000 times, a challenge for companies such as theirs is the traditional mindset. Many coaches prefer the tried-and-tested method of watching over children and making notes. "We have met



a few coaches who were quite progressive. They were using a few advanced tools, like video analysis and basic spreadsheets. But the majority of the people are not tech-savvy. So that was one of the issues we faced," says Sinha. Now, the app is going international. It recently completed a small camp in the US with David Palmer, a two-time world squash champion. "We gave him the SportsSkill app. He used it for six weeks and was quite happy. This was our first small pilot. We want to grow slowly and steadily," says Sinha.

27-year-old mother of two elopes with minor male student from Kerala, held in Karnataka

Alappuzha: The police arrested a 27-year-old woman and mother of two from Karnataka after allegedly eloping with a 17-year-old male student from Alappuzha about two weeks ago, police said on Tuesday. According to the police, the woman has been booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act after the arrest. She was arrested in Karnataka's Kollur, about 600 km from Alappuzha, after she allegedly eloped with the boy, along with her two children, 12 days ago from their native place in Pallippuram near Cherthala in the district. The boy's parents had lodged a missing person complaint with the Cherthala police after the boy did not return home. During interrogation, the woman said she wished to live with the boy and had eloped with him, taking her children and leaving her husband behind. The woman avoided using her mobile phone, which made it difficult for the police to trace her. Acting on information that they might have gone to Bengaluru, the police searched several locations there but in vain. The police finally managed to trace them after the woman sent a WhatsApp message from Kollur to a relative in Alappuzha two days ago. The police said that the woman allegedly forced the minor boy to elope with her. The police brought them to Alappuzha on Monday, and the woman was remanded in judicial custody in Kottarakkara jail in the neighbouring Kollam district after producing her in the First Class Magistrate Court (1) in Cherthala, said the police.

‘Enough is enough’: Calcutta HC dismisses petition of over 300 SSC candidates deemed ‘tainted’



GNS News Agency, Sept 12

On Tuesday, the Calcutta High Court dismissed the application of nearly 350 sacked teachers whose names appeared in the list of 'tainted' candidates released by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) on August 30. They had filed a petition claiming that their names have been erroneously put in the list, and, therefore, they should be allowed to take next week's teachers' recruitment exam. A single bench of Justice Saugata Bhattacharya observed that since the case is still pending in the Supreme Court, the High Court will not interfere.

BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari suspended for day after uproar in Bengal assembly

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari was on Tuesday suspended for a day by Speaker Biman Banerjee for allegedly disrupting proceedings during a special session of the West Bengal Assembly convened to debate a motion condemning the alleged harassment of Bengali migrants. During the discussion on the motion condemning alleged attacks on Bengali-speaking migrants in BJP-ruled states, Adhikari stood up and interrupted Education Minister Bratya Basu for allegedly making 'defamatory' remarks about the Indian Army. The BJP leader shouted slogans against the TMC government and demanded that Basu's comments be expunged from the proceedings, a request denied by the Speaker. "I am forced to suspend you for the day for repeatedly interrupting speeches and leaving your seat," Banerjee said, prompting ruling party MLAs to thump their desks in approval. BJP legislators soon staged a walk-out, raising slogans such as "We don't want this pro-appeasement Mamata government" and "shame, shame." During the debate, Basu alleged that the Army had dismantled a TMC protest pandal near the Gandhi statue on Mayo Road, drawing a parallel with the sacrifices made by



those who laid down their lives to defend their mother tongue and identity during the 1952 language movement, in erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Outside the Assembly gates, Adhikari hit back at the ruling party, claiming he had been "unethically forced out." "I was suspended because I protested against Basu's defamatory remarks against the Indian Army. We want those remarks to be expunged," he told reporters.

As Bombay HC deadline passes, police clear roads; Manoj Jarange Patil vows to stay at Azad Maidan

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

As the Bombay High Court's 3 pm deadline for Maratha quota protesters to clear Mumbai's streets expired on Tuesday, the Mumbai police swung into action to remove vehicles parked illegally near Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters. Security was also stepped up with the deployment of Mumbai Police and the Rapid Action Force to avert any untoward incident.

Police teams used loudspeakers to request protesters to clear the roads and confine themselves to Azad Maidan, as per the court order. "After 3 pm, protesters should not be roaming on the road and must remain only at Azad Maidan," a senior police officer said. Earlier, the high court had asked Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil and other protesters agitating at Mumbai's Azad Maidan to comply with court orders, saying it would otherwise take necessary steps, including issuing contempt of court action and imposing exemplary costs.

The development came even as Jarange Patil reiterated that he would not leave Azad Maidan under any circumstances until the government met his demands. "Even if I die, I will not leave Azad Maidan. If the government tries to evict us, it will prove costly. You might charge lathis on Marathas today, but you will also have to visit different parts of Maharashtra. If you want to see what Marathas are after 350 years, then go ahead and try to remove us," Jarange



Patil said. Jarange Patil, who is on a hunger strike, however, instructed his supporters to respect the court's directions and not inconvenience Mumbai citizens. "You travel by public transport, do not bring vehicles. Even if I die, do not resort to violence. Follow the path of peace..." he told his followers. Following his appeal, several vehicles began moving from outside CSMT and the BMC building. Maratha leaders also announced that while around 5,000 protesters would remain at Azad Maidan, others should proceed to Navi Mumbai, where arrangements have been made at CIDCO Centre in Vashi. Jarange Patil declared that the agitation will continue until the Satara and Hyderabad gazettes are implemented. "I will not leave Mumbai till our demands are met," he said.

Cidco's Hetawane water supply project for Navi Mumbai nears completion, sets tunnelling record



GNS News Agency, Sept 12

Navi Mumbai residents will now have a more consistent water supply as the City and Industrial Development Corporation's (CIDCO) Hetawane Water Supply Augmentation Scheme is nearing completion, officials said, adding that the project set a new national record in tunnelling in July, when it completed 777 m in one month using the tunnel-boring machine Flamingo. The operation, executed with a tunnel-boring machine with a diameter of 3.2 m, is undertaken on an 8.7-km-long stretch in Package 1 of the scheme. Afcons Infrastructure, the contractor for the scheme, has completed 4.2 km of work. With the scheme, CIDCO aims to ensure long-term water security in the Navi Mumbai and Panvel Municipal Corporation regions, the officials said.

The July record surpassed the earlier record of 653 m, set at Mumbai's Amar Mahal II Tunnel in 2024. Afcons had already bettered the industry average in May by completing 714 m of tunnelling work in a month. "This is a new benchmark in the national tunnelling industry. The record proves the team can deliver complex infrastructure projects quickly and with accuracy," said R Anantakumar, Direc-

tor—Urban Infrastructure, Afcons. He further stated that the company would maintain this pace in the coming months. Engineers encountered a number of challenges along the alignment, which traverses Amygdaloidal basalt rocks of the Sahyadri range. There was not enough room to lay equipment, and muck and material had to be carried over a 4-km distance. "The progress of the work depended on adaptive tunnelling techniques in order to overcome those challenges, and we have tackled them successfully," a CIDCO official said. CIDCO considers the Hetawane augmentation scheme one of its key projects to meet the rising water demands of Navi Mumbai's growing population. Officials said the project would provide a steady and enhanced drinking water supply to the entire Navi Mumbai area under CIDCO's purview.

Hyderabad man duped of Rs 43 lakh in fake Axis Bank IPO scam

Hyderabad: A 63-year-old man from the city lost Rs 43 lakh to fraudsters who duped him on the pretext of an initial public offering (IPO) of Axis Bank. According to the police, the victim had received a WhatsApp message from 'Axis Security', an account created by fraudsters. Assuming it to be a genuine message from Axis Bank offering IPO allotments and trading opportunities, he invested Rs 43 lakh between July and August. "The fraudsters regularly showed the man fake profits and allotted discounted shares of listed companies after market hours, claiming it was a QIP quota in IPOs. They even allotted more shares than his available balance and forced him to pay an additional amount," the police said. The fraudsters threatened to freeze his accounts if he failed to pay the extra amount.

Retired bank staff lose pension fight as Punjab and Haryana HC backs scrapping of scheme



GNS News Agency, Sept 12

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has upheld the discontinuation of the Cooperative Bank Employees Pension Scheme, 2005, dismissing multiple writ petitions filed by retired employees of the Punjab State Cooperative Bank (PSCB) and various district central cooperative banks. The petitions, led by cases filed by Vijay Kumar Kapil and others, challenged a 2015 order by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies that deemed the decision to scrap the scheme fair, reasonable, and legal. Beneficiaries of the old pension scheme, all former employees of these cooperative banks, argued that the repeal was illegal as it slashed their pensions to nearly one-third of the original amount. They contended it violated principles of natural justice since they were not heard before the change.

The petitioners further claimed the discontinuation resulted from mismanagement by the banks and the pension trust, which failed to recover profits or manage funds effectively, and asserted they had a legitimate expectation of lifelong benefits after contributing to the scheme. The scheme, introduced in 2005 with retrospective effect from January 1, 1996, was voluntary and aimed at providing tax benefits, with a trust managing contributions. However, in August 2012, PSCB's board of directors resolved to dis-

continue it due to a lack of funds, replacing it with a defined contributory pension scheme managed by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Petitioners argued the board lacked authority to scrap it entirely, as its powers were limited to amendments under the scheme's clauses.

In his judgment, Justice Harpreet Singh Brar held that the pension scheme was not statutory, did not mandate participation, and did not form part of employees' service conditions under the Punjab Cooperative Societies Act, 1961, or its rules. The court emphasised that it was a voluntary, benevolent initiative, not one created under statutory powers exercised by the state government or the registrar. Mere approval by the registrar, it observed, did not confer statutory status. The bench noted that the scheme had become financially unviable, with inflows failing to match outflows as beneficiaries increased. LIC advised in 2012 that sustaining it would require an initial infusion of Rs 351-361 crore plus annual contributions, which the trust could not manage. The court observed that 90 per cent of beneficiaries had opted for the new scheme, and 2,462 in-service employees supported it compared to 1,425 retirees. Justice Brar highlighted that shareholders of cooperative banks are often small agriculturists with limited resources, and burdening them further could risk the banks' closure. "These banks cannot be considered instrumentalities of the state under Article 12 of the Constitution," the judgment stated, adding that no statutory provisions were violated, making the writ petitions non-maintainable. The court also ruled that retirees continue to receive other statutory benefits such as provident fund, gratuity, and leave encashment, ensuring they are not left helpless.

Citing Supreme Court precedents, including Chairman & MD, Kerala SRTC vs. K O Varghese (2007), the bench affirmed that autonomous entities like cooperative banks can revise policies based on financial health without being arbitrary or violating Article 14.

Umar Khalid, 9 others refused bail in 2020 Delhi riots conspiracy case

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday refused to grant bail to Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Gulfisha Fatima and seven others in the 2020 riots 'larger conspiracy' case. A division bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur rejected the bail pleas of nine — Sharjeel, Umar, Gulfisha, Athar Khan, Abdul Khalid Saifi, Mohd Saleem Khan, Shifa ur Rehman, Meeran Haider, and Shadab Ahmed.

Notably, Saifi, Gulfisha, Md Saleem Khan and Shifa ur Rehman had completed arguments for bail twice earlier before the Delhi HC, before two different benches. However, the judges, after being appointed as Chief Justices of other High Courts, did not deliver their verdict. The four accused argued for bail a third time before Justices Chawla and Kaur. Another division bench of Justices Subramonium Prasad and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar also rejected the bail of Tasleem Ahmed. In open court, it pronounced that his "appeal is dismissed". A detailed order is awaited. Tasleem was arrested in April 2020 in another case and was then arrested in the 'larger conspiracy case' by the Delhi Police Special Cell in June 2020. In March 2022, a sessions court in Karkardooma had rejected his bail plea. The trial court had primarily referred to statements by protected witnesses to prima facie conclude that allegations against Tasleem are true. He had again moved a bail plea, which a sessions court in Karkardooma rejected a second time in February 2024. He sought bail primarily on the ground of parity with other co-accused who were released on bail. Eighteen people accused in the case are facing alle-



gations of pre-planned conspiracy to allegedly cause riots in Northeast Delhi between February 23 and 25, 2020, with offences registered under the IPC, Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act (PDPP) Act, Arms Act, and the UAPA. An FIR was registered by the Delhi Crime Branch in March 2020.

The investigation is being undertaken by the Special Cell. Among the 18 accused, activist Safoora Zargar was released on bail in June 2020 and another accused, Faizan, was granted bail in October 2020. Three other activists — Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita, and Asif Iqbal Tanha — were granted bail in June 2021 by the Delhi HC. Former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan was granted bail in this case in March 2022. Another accused, Saleem Malik, was refused bail by the Delhi HC in April 2024. Former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Tahir Hussain too remains in custody in this case.

Mohali villagers gather on GMADA premises as sessions court orders attachment of property



GNS News Agency, Sept 12

High drama unfolded at the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) office in Punjab's Mohali on Tuesday when residents of village Bhaggo Majra gathered outside the complex and officials, under court orders, moved in to take possession of movable property from the office of the Land Acquisition Collector (LAC). According to reports, the District and Sessions Court, SAS Nagar, in a landmark order on September 1, issued an attachment warrant against the movable property of the Punjab Government after the authorities failed to disburse the compensation dues, amounting to Rs 3.98 crore, to the farmers of Bhaggo Majra village. The order granting compensation to farmers was passed in 2016, in lieu of the land acquired by GMADA for Unitech.

Gurjant Singh, Sarpanch of Bhaggo Majra, confirmed the dues and added that "this order was passed in 2016 in our favour, but even after nine years, it has not been implemented, forcing the court to intervene strongly." "The attachment proceedings on the GMADA premises stem from the order of an execution case by Neetika Verma, Additional District and Sessions Judge-2, Mohali. The warrant, dated September 1, directs the Collector, Acquisition, Punjab Urban Planning and Development Authority (PUDA), Mohali, to seize GMADA's movable property and submit a compliance report to the court by September 3. The court stressed that the "attachment must be executed and reported to the court on September 3 without fail." Land Acquisition Collector Harbans Singh told The Indian Express that "The payment is to be made by Unitech Company because the land was acquired by GMADA for Unitech. Company officers have been summoned, and further proceedings are underway." At the site, Akali leader Jasvir Singh Jassa, who is also a farmer, criticised the government for planning new acquisitions, despite claims that it has no funds to pay the long-pending dues of acquired lands. "For years, payments for earlier acquisitions have been withheld. Recently, GMADA was preparing to acquire another 65,000 acres, but the Akali Dal stopped it through protest. GMADA must

first clear the dues of villagers before acquiring any new land," Jassa noted. Echoing the anger of villagers, Baljinder Singh of Bhaggo Majra said, "It is extremely unfortunate that people have to run from court to court for years just to receive their rightful payments. Officials show no concern, and only when courts issue strict attachment orders does the government face embarrassment." Surmukh Singh, a resident of the village and one of the petitioners in the case, said, "Since GMADA acquired our land, it is GMADA's responsibility to pay us. That is why we made GMADA a party in the case. The authority cannot shirk its responsibility, and this is precisely why the court ruled in our favour."

Delhi riots 'larger conspiracy' case: HC refuses bail to accused Tasleem Ahmed

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

Ahmad was arrested in April 2020 in another case and was then arrested in the larger conspiracy case by the Delhi Police Special Cell in June 2020. Ahmad was arrested in April 2020 in another case and was then arrested in the larger conspiracy case by the Delhi Police Special Cell in June 2020.

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday refused to grant bail to 2020 riots accused Tasleem Ahmed. A division bench of Justices Subramonium Prasad and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar pronounced in open court that his "appeal is dismissed". A detailed order is awaited.

A division bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur is due to pronounce the verdict on the bail pleas of nine other accused in the case. Ahmad was arrested in April 2020 in another case and was then arrested in the larger conspiracy case by the Delhi Police Special Cell in June 2020. Eighteen people accused in the case are facing allegations of pre-planned conspiracy to allegedly cause riots in Northeast Delhi between February 23, 2020 and February 25, 2020, with offences registered under the IPC, Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act (PDPP) Act, Arms Act, and the UAPA. An FIR was registered by the Delhi Crime Branch in March 2020. The investigation is being undertaken by the Special Cell. Among the 18 accused, activist Safoora Zargar was released on bail in June 2020, and another accused, Faizan, was granted bail in October 2020.

India gets first fully indigenous 32-bit chip 'Vikram' built by ISRO lab



GNS News Agency, Sept 12

New Delhi: In a significant step towards making India a global semiconductor hub, Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday presented the first made-in-India processor, along with test chips from four approved projects, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi here. The first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor, called 'Vikram', has been developed by ISRO's Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL). It is designed to withstand the harsh environmental conditions of space launch vehicles, marking a milestone in India's efforts to reduce dependency on imported chips. Vaishnaw highlighted the rapid progress of India's semiconductor infrastructure at the Semicon India

2025 event. "Just a few years ago, we met for the first time to make a new beginning. Driven by our Prime Minister's farsighted vision, we launched the India Semiconductor Mission. In a short span of 3.5 years, we have the world looking at India with confidence," said the minister. "Today, the construction of five semiconductor units is going on at a rapid pace. We just presented the first 'Made-in-India' chip to PM Modi," he told the gathering. India's semiconductor journey has gained momentum under the Semicon India Programme. The government has already approved 10 projects in critical areas such as high-volume fabrication units (fabs), 3D heterogeneous packaging, compound semiconductors, and outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing (OSATs). In addition, design-focused initiatives have supported more than 280 academic institutions and 72 start-ups with advanced tools, while 23 start-ups have been approved under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme. Over three days, the flagship event will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, fireside chats, paper presentations, and six international roundtables. A dedicated 'Workforce Development Pavilion' will also highlight career opportunities in microelectronics to attract new talent. With top companies like Applied Materials, ASML, IBM, Infineon, Lam Research, Micron, Tata Electronics, SK Hynix, and Tokyo Electron participating, Semicon India 2025 is expected to drive India's next wave of semiconductor innovation and strengthen its position in the global value chain.

Stuck in blame game, Congress govt ignores recommendations for Medigadda repairs

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

Hyderabad: If one thread runs common through the NDSA report, the Vigilance inquiry and the Justice PC Ghose Commission, it is this: repair Medigadda barrage and restore water to Telangana's farmers. Yet, for nearly two years, the Congress government under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has chosen political point-scoring over practical action. In its report, the Ghose Commission minced no words. While refraining from commenting on the State's actions, the Commission endorsed NDSA's recommendations to "take steps to prevent further damage and to protect the projects and also for carrying out the investigations/ tests, suggested by the NDSA with organisations such as CSMS, New Delhi/ CWPRS, Pune/ NGRI, Hyderabad, in accordance with the provisions of law in the matter, in the larger public interest".

The NDSA report earlier had urged the government to act with urgency and relay displaced blocks at Medigadda, expedite rectification works at Annaram and Sundilla, and work "day and night" before the monsoon. Even the Vigilance Department, while restricting itself to Medigadda, flagged the same need: rectify, restore, repair. But instead of mobilising engineers and resources, the Congress government preferred rhetoric. Instead of protecting Telangana's irrigation backbone, it turned the issue into a political weapon against former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao and former Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao. While Congress leaders thunder in Assembly debates



and order inquiry after inquiry, the core issue of repairing Medigadda barrage remains untouched. Farmers who depend on the Kaleshwaram project for their crops continue to pay the price for this deliberate inaction. Incidentally, the government is also not even required to spend any funds as the executing agency was responsible for the repairs till 2025 as per the contract. It is unclear whether or not and when the government initiates the repair works, but by refusing to act on the common recommendation, the Revanth Reddy government is drawing flak for sacrificing the needs of Telangana's farmers for political gains. Irrigation experts warned that prolonged delay in taking up repairs could damage the Medigadda barrage further.

Juhu BEST bus vandalism: Men booked for assaulting passenger, damaging property

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

The Mumbai police on Monday booked eight to 10 people, who were allegedly Maratha quota protesters, for assaulting a passenger on board a Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) bus and vandalising a window of the vehicle in Juhu. According to the police, the incident occurred at around 7.15 pm on Sunday on a BEST bus plying on route number 201. When the bus was at Juhu bus station, an argument allegedly broke out between a few Maratha quota protesters and some passengers. The argument escalated into violence, as the protesters allegedly dragged a passenger inside the bus, assaulted him, and broke the glass of a third window towards the rear of the bus, the police said. "The people involved in the altercation seem to be Maratha reservation agitators who were travelling without tickets. They started fighting with passengers over seats," a police officer from the Juhu police station said.

By the time the police arrived at the scene, the protesters and passengers had left. The bus was moved aside, and a few passengers resumed their journey on another bus. One of the protesters recorded a video of the incident, which later became viral. A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections related to charges of unlawful assembly, causing loss or damage to property, and assault against an unidentified group of eight to 10 people, a senior police officer said. The



bus conductor has recorded his statement, and further investigation is on. The incident occurred against the backdrop of a citywide agitation led by activist Manoj Jarange Patil, who has been demanding reservation for the Maratha community and is on a hunger strike at Azad Maidan. Thousands of Jarange-Patil supporters have thronged Mumbai, leading to traffic blocks in south and central Mumbai, and several incidents of alleged altercations and commotions have been reported. The Bombay High Court has asked Jarange Patil and other protesters continuing agitations at Azad Maidan to comply with court orders, saying it would otherwise take steps permissible in law, including issuing contempt of court action and imposing exemplary costs.

'Will go to any extent to uphold majesty of law': Bombay HC allows Manoj Jarange Patil to stay at Azad Maidan

The Bombay High Court Tuesday accepted a request made by Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil and other protesters seeking time to engage in dialogue with a sub-committee of the Maharashtra Cabinet. The court adjourned the hearing on the plea against the permission granted for protests seeking Kumbi certificates for Marathas for reservation under the OBC category at the designated site in South Mumbai's Azad Maidan to 1 pm, Wednesday.

"We must indicate that this court would be constrained to pass any orders and to go to any extent to uphold the majesty of the law in as much as any breach of the order passed by this court shall not be tolerated and appropriate action shall be taken against violators," a bench of Acting Chief Justice (ACJ) Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Aarti Sathe said, adding that the organisers will have to answer issues raised by the court. The bench also questioned the Maharashtra Government whether it was not the responsibility and duty of the administration to ensure that court orders are complied with. It also questioned why the government could not approach the HC on the second day of protests, which began on August 29, stating that the number of participants had increased beyond 5,000 and reached more than a lakh. "We will have to pass orders against you (state), too. You could have taken the steps and could have got it vacated forcefully. This is a very serious issue, and we are very unhappy with your conduct. How can we per-

mit violation of our orders?" the bench questioned orally. During the pre-lunch session, the HC asked the protesters to comply with court orders, and vacate the protest site after it was informed that the Mumbai police had issued a notice to leave the designated spot at Azad Maidan for flouting the terms and conditions of the permission granted to them. In the post-lunch session, Senior Advocate Satish Maneshinde, representing the organisers, stated that Jarange Patil appealed to his followers not to break law and order. Maneshinde urged the court to adjourn the hearing so that his client and the associates can engage in dialogue with a sub-committee consisting of state ministers Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Manikrao Kokate, and Shivendra Rajee Bhosale. The lawyer also submitted that, based on an appeal made by Jarange Patil, those who came to Mumbai to participate in the Maratha quota protest had begun leaving, and most of them had already left the city. Maneshinde also said that several people who came to the city on their own have parked their vehicles at pay-and-park facilities, and they will also leave soon. The bench also referred to an order by a special bench of Justices Ravindra V Ghuge and Gautam Ankhad, which had directed Maratha quota protesters to vacate all streets in South Mumbai by Tuesday noon. The bench noted that as per September 1 order, "no clear stand was coming forth" from Jarange Patil, "who is considered to be the man behind the rally".

US Congress returns, with a one-month deadline to avert government shutdown



GNS News Agency, Sept 12

WASHINGTON, The U.S. Congress returns on Tuesday with less than a month left to perform one of its core functions - keeping federal agencies funded and averting a partial government shutdown - a job that it has struggled to perform in recent years.The chamber's bitter partisan divides have hardened in the first year of President Donald Trump's new administration, which has angered Democratic lawmakers by deciding not to spend some money previously approved under bipartisan deals, as well as the July passage of a tax-cut bill that nonpartisan analysts said could cause more than 10 million low-income Americans to lose healthcare coverage.Jumpstart your morning with the latest legal news delivered straight to your inbox from The Daily Docket newsletter. Sign up here.

Lawmakers' work on agreeing on the roughly \$1.8 trillion in discretionary spending in the \$7 trillion federal budget will be further complicated by expected fights over the release of information related to the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, a former friend of Trump's, and the administration's surge of federal agents and National Guard into the capital.There have been 14 partial government shutdowns since 1981, most of which lasted only a day or two. The most recent stretched over 34 days in December 2018

into January 2019 during Trump's first term.Trump's Republicans hold a 219-212 majority in the House of Representatives and a 53-47 edge in the Senate, though that chamber's rules require 60 votes to pass most bills, meaning that seven Democrats' support would be needed to pass a funding bill. A preemptive blame game started this summer over which party would be faulted if Congress fails and a partial government shutdown occurs.In the lead up to Republicans' approving Trump's request for a \$9 billion cut to foreign aid and public media, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a July letter that the majority should not expect Democrats to "act as business as usual" in the bipartisan appropriations process due to the party cutting back on funding already approved by Congress.Schumer faced howls of outrage from some in his party in March after providing the votes for a continuing resolution to keep the government funded, arguing at the time that allowing a government shutdown would have been more damaging.The Democrats' full strategy this time around has not yet been defined, but the Democratic leaders have requested a meeting with their Republican counterparts to discuss the deadline. Some Democrats want assurances by Republicans to not unilaterally cut funding if more requests are made by the administration."I hope that the process will continue in a bipartisan way as we move toward the September deadline," Senate Majority Leader John Thune said in a floor speech.Some Democrats, including Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, are betting the conservatives would be blamed and that the funding deadline should be used as leverage."In September the Republicans are going to need to get a budget through to keep the government open and to do that they are going to need some Democratic votes," Warren said at a rally in Nebraska in August. Referring to the sweeping tax-cut bill, she added, "You want my vote -- and I hope the votes of the rest of these Democrats -- then by golly, you can restore healthcare for 10 million Americans!"The U.S. federal debt is \$37.25 trillion, according to the Treasury Department. It has continued to grow under Republican and Democratic administrations as the U.S. Congress continues to authorize the federal government to spend more money than it takes in.

China's Xi hosts 'old friend' Putin, North Korea's Kim in challenge to West

BEIJING.GNS News Agency, Sept 12 China's President Xi Jinping convened his Russian and North Korean counterparts in Beijing for the first time on Tuesday, a show of solidarity with countries shunned by the West over their role in Europe's worst war in 80 years.

Xi hosted Vladimir Putin for talks at the Great Hall of the People and then at his personal residence, calling him his "old friend". A few hours later, Kim Jong Un's armoured train was spotted by a Reuters witness arriving in the Chinese capital.Make sense of the latest ESG trends affecting companies and governments with the Reuters Sustainable Switch newsletter. Sign up here.The three are set to take centre stage at a massive military parade on Wednesday, where the Chinese president will flaunt his vision for a new global order as U.S. President Donald Trump's "America First" policies strain Western alliances.Beyond the pomp, analysts are watching whether the trio may signal closer defence relations following a pact signed by Russia and North Korea in June 2024, and a similar alliance between Beijing and Pyongyang, an outcome that may alter the military calculus in the Asia-Pacific region.It would also be a blow for Trump, who has talked up his close relations with Putin, Xi and Kim and touted his peacemaking credentials as Russia's three-and-a-half-year war with Ukraine has raged on.

In a thinly veiled swipe at this rival across the Pacific Ocean on Monday, Xi told a summit of more than 20 leaders of non-Western countries: "We must continue to take a clear stand against hegemonism and power politics."Xi also held talks on Monday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, whose country has been targeted by Trump over its purchases of Russian oil seen as helping finance Putin's war effort.Trump's Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called the summit "performative" and accused China and India, the biggest buyers of Russian crude, of being "bad actors" by fuelling Russia's war.and China National Petroleum Corporation signed a deal to increase gas supplies and penned an agreement on a new pipeline that could supply China for 30 years.The leaders later retired to the Chinese president's personal residence to continue talks. Putin and Kim may also hold a meeting following Kim's arrival, Russia's state news agency TASS reported.At a time when Trump has set his sights on a Nobel Peace Prize, any new concentration of military power in the East that includes Russia will ring alarm bells for the West."Trilateral military exercises between Russia, China and North Korea seem nearly inevitable," wrote Youngjun Kim, an analyst at the U.S.-based National Bureau of Asian Research, in March, citing the conflict in Ukraine had pushed Moscow and Pyongyang closer."Until a few years ago, China and Russia were important partners in imposing international sanctions on North



Korea for its nuclear and missile tests... (they) are now potential military partners of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during a crisis on the Korean peninsula," he added, using the diplomatically isolated country's official name.Kim is an important player in the conflict in Ukraine: the North Korean leader has supplied more than 15,000 troops to support Putin's war.In 2024, he also hosted the Russian leader in Pyongyang - the first summit of its kind in 24 years - in a move widely interpreted as a snub to Xi and an attempt to ease his pariah status by reducing North Korea's dependence on China.About 600 North Korean soldiers have been killed fighting for Russia in the Kursk region, according to South Korea's intelligence agency, which believes Pyongyang is planning another deployment.Putin also told the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin that a "fair balance in the security sphere" must be restored, shorthand for Russia's criticism of the eastward expansion of NATO.For Kim, the parade will mark the largest multilateral diplomatic event he has ever attended, offering the reclusive young leader an opportunity to gain implicit support for his banned nuclear weapons, and expand his diplomatic circle.Before crossing to China early on Tuesday, Kim visited a missile laboratory, described by analysts as a choreographed move.The visit was geared towards "showing off (North Korea's) status as a nuclear power" just before "standing alongside Xi and Putin, which is intended to suggest support for North Korea as a nuclear state," said Hong Min, North Korea analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification.Painstaking planning has also gone into China's "Victory Day" parade, marking 80 years since Japan's defeat at the end of World War Two, with downtown Beijing paralysed by security measures and traffic controls for weeks.Alongside the showcase of cutting-edge military hardware in front of an estimated 50,000 spectators, authorities plan to release more than 80,000 "peace doves" during the event.

North Korea's Kim Jong Un heads to Beijing by train to attend parade, state media says

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

SEOUL, Sept 2 (Reuters) - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un crossed the border into China on his special train early on Tuesday to attend China's celebration of the formal surrender of Japan in World War Two, North Korean state media said on Tuesday.Kim left Pyongyang for China on Monday and crossed into China early Tuesday morning, North Korea's state newspaper Rodong Sinmun said, en route to the largest multilateral diplomatic event he has ever been to.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.Kim is expected to attend the military parade in Beijing on Wednesday, joining Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.Rodong Sinmun published photographs of Kim and his entourage, including Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, who has been involved in Pyongyang's diplomacy on weapons developments for more than two decades.In one photograph, Kim can be seen standing next to the dark green train with a cigarette in his hand.In another, he is seated at a desk inside the train with a North Korean flag behind him and with a closed laptop computer in a carriage ornately furnished with wood paneling.The train appeared to be similar to the bulletproof train he has used before to travel to other countries.Before crossing into China, Kim on Monday visited a missile laboratory that is researching carbon fibre composite materials

to be used in engines for intercontinental ballistic missiles, state media KCNA said.Kim's visit to a missile laboratory just ahead of the multilateral summit appeared highly symbolic, experts said.The visit is geared toward "showing off (North Korea's) status as a nuclear power" just before "standing alongside Xi and Putin, which is intended to suggest support for North Korea as a nuclear state," said Hong Min, North Korea analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification.Hong said it also sent a message to the U.S. about North Korea's "will to advance nuclear weapons and the status of a nuclear power that is difficult to reverse."North Korea on Monday expressed support for remarks made by Xi at a summit calling for fairer global governance, adding that cooperation between North Korea and China will grow to pursue such a value, according to a vice foreign minister in comments posted on the North Korean foreign ministry's website.Xi on Monday pressed his vision for a new global security and economic order that prioritises the "Global South", in a direct challenge to the United States, during a summit that included the leaders of Russia and India.South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, who has been seeking to improve ties with Pyongyang, was receiving real-time reports about Kim's trip to China, the presidential office said. Seoul is sending National Assembly speaker Woo Won-shik to Beijing, but the country's Unification Ministry said it was unsure whether he would be able to hold bilateral talks with the North Korean leader on the sidelines of the event.

Thousands of Israeli reservists report for duty, as military chief clashes with ministers



JERUSALEM/CAIRO/GAZA, Sept 2 (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of reservists started to report for duty on Tuesday ahead of a new Israeli offensive in Gaza City, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants to speed up, despite warnings from senior ranks.Israeli Army Radio said that some 40,000 reservists would report for duty on Tuesday for the Gaza City offensive. The military said it was readying logistically for the intake of reservists ahead of the offensive.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

Israel's security cabinet, chaired by Netanyahu, approved a plan last month to expand the campaign in Gaza with the aim of taking Gaza City, where Israeli forces waged fierce urban warfare with Hamas in the early stages of the war. Israel currently holds about 75% of the Gaza Strip.A security cabinet meeting late on Sunday included angry exchanges between Netanyahu and his ministers, who want to push ahead with the Gaza City offensive, and military chief Eyal Zamir, who has urged the politicians to reach a ceasefire deal.Zamir said the campaign will endanger hostages and put further strain on the already over-stretched army, according to four ministers and two military officials present at the meeting.This follows previous tense exchanges between Zamir and Netanyahu's cabinet. Netanyahu said on August 20 that he gave instructions to speed up the timetable to take Gaza City, but the next day the military warned against hostages being endangered and said it could not begin the campaign for two months, according to a source in Netanyahu's circle and a defence official.The military's main reason was that more time was needed for humanitarian efforts. But surveys have shown a proportion of reservists are unhappy with the cabinet's plans, with some having taken the unusual step of openly accusing the government of lacking a cohesive strategy, a

post-war plan for Gaza or clear victory metrics."I don't feel like I'm doing anything that really applies significant pressure to have Hamas release the hostages," one combat reservist who has been serving in Gaza since October 7 told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak publicly.

At least 86 people were killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza, and scores more were wounded in the past 24 hours, local health authorities said.Three separate airstrikes killed 26 people in total in houses in the Gaza City suburbs, where the Israeli forces stepped up aerial and ground bombardment in preparation for expanding the fighting.Outside Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, white plastic body bags with corpses were laid out on the street splattered with blood. Crowds waited for slain relatives."We fled (our homes) with nothing. They went to get clothes and food from their homes, to bring clothes for their children and food for themselves... and Look now! They came back as martyrs!" said Nasr Nasr, a relative of some of the dead.Hundreds of mourners carried bodies through the streets. Others stood and prayed around a group of five bodies in shrouds, including three tiny children.

The Israeli army's Arabic service spokesperson told residents of Gaza there would be better humanitarian services in the south, as the army prepared to expand the Gaza City offensive.The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment but it has stated that its forces are combating fighters on the outskirts of Gaza City, destroying tunnels and militant infrastructure and seizing weapons.Other deaths reported on Tuesday included five people killed while waiting in a food line in the south, nine killed in a strike on an apartment, and seven killed by Israeli tank fire.Thirteen more Palestinians, including three children, died of malnutrition and starvation in Gaza in the past 24 hours, the territory's health ministry said on Tuesday, raising officially reported deaths from such causes to at least 361, including 130 children, the vast majority in recent weeks.Israel disputes the hunger fatality figures given by the health ministry of Gaza's Hamas-run government, arguing that deaths were due to other medical causes.

The war in Gaza began on October 7, 2023, when gunmen led by Hamas attacked southern Israeli communities near the border, killing some 1,200 people, mainly civilians, and taking 251 hostages including children into Gaza, according to Israeli figures.Over 62,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's air and ground war in Gaza since then, according to Gaza health officials, who do not say how many were militants but have said most of those killed have been women and children.

Brazil Supreme Court's Bolsonaro trial concludes under Trump's scrutiny

BRASILIA GNS News Agency, Sept 12, - The landmark trial of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro enters its final phase on Tuesday as the Supreme Court begins hearing closing arguments in the case accusing the 70-year-old right-wing firebrand of orchestrating a plot to remain in power after he lost his 2022 reelection bid.

The final stretch of the trial, expected to conclude by September 12, will unfold under the glare of U.S. President Donald Trump, whose administration has vowed to keep track of the case he denounced as a "witch hunt" against his Brazilian ally.The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.Trump used the case as his main argument to impose sweeping 50% tariffs on many Brazilian imports, sanctioned Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, the judge overseeing the proceedings, and took away the visas of most of his colleagues.Bolsonaro has consistently maintained his innocence, even as he relinquished any hope of being acquitted by the Supreme Court, as he told Reuters in a July interview.

On Saturday, Justice Moraes ordered inspections of all vehicles leaving Bolsonaro's residence and enhanced monitoring of the surrounding area to prevent any escape.Moraes has become a commanding symbol of the strengths and weaknesses of the institutions Bolsonaro has long attacked. While his supporters see him as a courageous defender of a young democracy, right-wing critics view his actions as politically motivated persecution."He is taking on a leading role" in ensuring that crimes against democracy are punished, said Senator Eliziane Gama, a center-left politician.As with many high-profile cases before Brazil's Supreme Court, the trial will be broadcast live, drawing millions of Brazilians to their TVs and phones to witness



another dramatic chapter in the country's deeply polarized political saga.The final stretch of the trial caps a years-long investigation into the causes and context of the 2023 invasion and defacing of Brazil's most iconic civic landmarks, such as the Congress and the Supreme Court, by thousands of Bolsonaro supporters who were protesting his electoral defeat.The trial could draw fresh demonstrations, too. On Sunday, dozens of people demonstrated their support to Bolsonaro in front of his home in Brasilia, and other protests are scheduled for the coming days.Having Bolsonaro, a former Army captain, and several of his allies, including high-ranking military officials, as defendants could also mark a historic reckoning for a country that has never held its armed forces accountable for leading a violent and corrupt dictatorship from 1964 to 1985.While the court could impose sentences totaling more than 40 years, Brazilian law typically allows convicted felons to be released well before serving their full terms.

Greek farmers pocket over 22 million euros in EU farm aid fraud, minister says



ATHENS.GNS News Agency, Sept 12 - Greek farmers misappropriated EU agricultural subsidies worth more than 22 million euros between 2019 and 2024 by faking land ownership, a minister said on Tuesday, following a police investigation that has shaken the government.

Greek police raided the Athens offices of OPEKEPE - the government agency tasked with supervising and paying EU subsidies - in July, seizing hundreds of thousands of farmers' tax records.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.So far, police have found that hundreds of Greek farmers have misappropriated EU subsidies worth at least 22.67 million euros (\$26.54 million), after scrutinising more than 6,000 out of more than 800,000 applications, Citizen Protection Minister Michalis Chrysochoidis said in a televised statement on Tuesday."We can't and we should not tolerate people coveting precious public money, whether it's state or European," Chrysochoidis said. "It's our duty... to activate all available mechanisms, to prevent, and whenever needed, investigate, identify and punish offenders."In

March, European prosecutors said they had charged dozens of Greek stockbreeders who received EU financial aid with making false declarations of ownership or leasing of pastureland.The EU in June imposed a 392 million-euro fine on Greece over the mismanagement of agricultural subsidies between 2016 and 2023 by OPEKEPE, which handles more than 2 billion euros in annual EU farm aid.Some senior OPEKEPE officials who EU prosecutors have investigated for their alleged roles in the fraud have denied wrongdoing. The government has said it will soon transfer OPEKEPE's responsibilities to Greece's state revenue authority to improve transparency.EU prosecutors have referred the case to the Greek parliament, the only body to investigate politicians. The parliament will set up a committee to look into OPEKEPE's handling of the EU subsidies.The conservative government of Kyriakos Mitsotakis - who won a second term in 2023 - has seen its popularity fall amid the scandal which has led to the resignation of four ministers who have also denied wrongdoing.

Floods leave over 600 irrigation tanks damaged in Telangana

Hyderabad: The recent heavy rainfall triggered by a low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal has left a trail of destruction across Telangana, with Kamareddy, Adilabad, Sangareddy and several other districts bearing the brunt of the unprecedented showers from August 26 to 28.

Described as the heaviest in 50 years, the downpour severely impacted the State's irrigation infrastructure, including more than 600 minor irrigation tanks, canals and other critical water management systems, according to sources.

Higher rate of cancer among women; oral cancer most common among men: How India's 4-year cancer registry maps incidence



The site is currently waterlogged, and the presence of coal mines in the vicinity puts another layer of pressure on the rich and historic mineral deposits. Scientists said the site needed to be declared part of India's significant planetary geo-heritage.

Bengali migrants of Gurugram live in fear amid police verification drives



A fresh spell of rain in the afternoon has turned the narrow alleys into slippery, muddy roads. The air is heavy with the stench of rotting garbage, open sewage, and human waste. For those who live in one of the many “luxury” homes advertised on hoardings,

Gurugram’s smart buildings with glass facades don’t reflect the reality of thousands of people living in their shadows. Off Golf Course Road, the city’s most desired and expensive real estate, jhuggi-jhopri clusters are sprawled across several acres like a patchwork quilt in and around Sector 53.

A fresh spell of rain in the afternoon has turned the narrow alleys into slippery, muddy roads. The air is heavy with the stench of rotting garbage, open sewage, and human waste. For those who live in one of the many “luxury” homes advertised on hoardings, it is stomach-churning. For the people who have built homes here, it is a matter of survival. The shanties have somehow left space for labyrinthine paths, each house cobbled together from rusty tin sheets and tattered plastic. Many of the houses are now locked, their occupants having fled the city. A locked house at a settlement in Gurugram belonging to a migrant worker, who returned to his home town amid the police’s verification drive. A locked house at a settlement in Gurugram belonging to a migrant worker, who returned to his home town amid the police’s verification drive. | Photo Credit: Shashi Shekhar Kashyap

In shanty no. 128, Nasira Bibi, 34, her hair prematurely grey, says her daily commute to work is filled with dread these days. The police may detain her, she fears, and take her to a holding centre for questioning. Her fears intensified after her maternal uncle, Nasimuddin, a 48-year-old from Murshidabad in West Bengal, and a neighbour, a man in his late 20s, were picked up by the police 10 days ago while returning from work in the afternoon. “They were let off only after four days of questioning,” she says. Behind the buzzing corporate corridors, where it is business as usual, the Gurugram police have launched a large-scale verification drive aimed at identifying and deporting Bangladeshi nationals staying illegally in the city. As part of this operation, four community centres — one each in Gurugram’s Sector 40 and Sector 10A, Badshahpur, and Manesar’s Sector 1 — were converted into special holding centres on July 18 as per an order from the office of the District Magistrate. The order refers to a missive from the Union Home Ministry (Foreign Branch) dated May 2 that outlined the standard operating procedure for States to deport Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingya persons. A community centre designated as a special holding centre by the district administration at Sector 10A in Gurugram.

Residents of the city’s shanties say anyone who speaks in Bengali fears being picked up for questioning. This has triggered an exodus of Bengali-speaking migrants. Nasira says people are fleeing even if they possess all the documents required to prove their Indian citizenship. “They usually leave under the cover of night to avoid being caught or harassed by the police,” she says. “This morning, we woke up to find that two more families in our neighbourhood had vanished.” Most of the Bengali-speaking people who live in the shanties hail from Assam and West Bengal. They predominantly work as service support staff in offices and homes, on construction sites to build the ever-expanding city, and as gig workers in quick-service delivery businesses. The exodus of migrants in hordes from Gurugram to their home towns has caused a severe crunch of domestic workers and garbage collectors, leading to a sanitation crisis, affecting hundreds of households relying on their services. Nasira’s employers in a housing society are worried. “Madam ko kaafi chinta hai itna kachra kaun saaf karega agar hum log chale gaye. Darr se sab log ja rahe hain, toh nayi maid milna bhi mushkil hain (Madam is quite worried about who will clean up so much garbage if we leave. Everyone is leaving out of fear, so it is difficult to find a new domestic help),” she says.

Around her is the cacophony of despair: the wailing of infants, barking of dogs, and the bickering of families. For an escape from this world, seemingly in a perpetual state of chaos, a person must simply walk a few hundred metres to the quickly flooding main road, where a luxury car tries to zip through a traffic snarl. The Gurugram police are yet to disclose the number of people they have detained during the drive. However, Assistant Sub-Inspector Sandeep Kumar, Gurugram Police spokesperson, says detentions were carried out based on “intelligence” and the detainees were let off only after their credentials as Indian citizens were established through background checks by the office of the District Magistrate. “So far, 10 Bangladeshi nationals staying here illegally have been identified and will be deported,” he says.

Pointing at two tarpaulin-covered trucks parked on the roadside near the shanties, Mohammad Ismail, 66, says the vehicles carried the belongings of over 200 families that left the city by buses and trains. “People are leaving even if they have valid documents. No one wants to get into trouble. Even those working in the city for decades have hurriedly left,” he says, adding that his friend who ran a meat kiosk was taken away by the police a week ago. “He had been running the meat shop for several years. His family lives in Delhi. His wife and relatives came to Gurugram when they learnt about his detention. But the police have not released him yet,” he says. Ahsan Qureshi, in his mid-40s, from Nadia in West Bengal, sits on a wooden counter outside a now-closed meat shop, observing that while people living in jhuggis have faced several demolition drives before, the current situation is different. “The police’s random detentions have sparked widespread fear. The circulation of videos showing police brutality on social media is exacerbating this fear among poor migrants,” he says. Qureshi emphasises that many residents, including him, possess documents to prove their Indian citizenship: identity cards, mark sheets, and land records. He suggests a more orderly process, like a police camp where people could present their documents, so that those who may not have them readily available are allowed time to arrange for them. “Verification drives are routine,” he notes. “But this time, the police are taking people straight to detention centres without even asking for documents.” This is why the fear is heightened, says a man sitting beside him. Nasira’s

uncle Nasimuddin says his four-day experience at the detention centre in Badshahpur was “not so bad”. He says the police picked him up on July 19 while he was on his way home from work with a friend. During his detention, he was given food and tea, and did not face any physical abuse. Nasimuddin had moved to Gurugram four months ago to work in the housekeeping department of a shopping mall. He is a trained mason, but ill health now prevents him from carrying out this work. His wife is a domestic help in an apartment complex. To supplement their income, he also cleans toilets in some houses in the evening. Though senior police officers remain tight-lipped, sources say special teams were constituted in each police station to carry out the raids, especially at jhuggi-jhopri clusters inhabited by Bengali-speaking migrants. “The raids are being carried out for more than a month now, though the detention centres were set up only a week ago. The raids are mostly conducted late at night or in the early hours of the morning,” says a constable, who is posted at the Pataudi police station and has been part of these special teams.

Residents don’t resist A couple residing at Regency Park-I, Sector 43, says their domestic help and car washer suddenly left to return to their native place in Assam. Despite undergoing the police verification process two years ago when they were hired, the recent crackdown had instilled fear in them. The police verification process is a standard procedure that confirms whether the address mentioned on an individual’s Aadhaar card matches their actual place of residence. According to the couple, many housing societies have made this verification compulsory for domestic workers and other staff. The couple claims that their staff informed them about a late-night police raid on their colony in Chakkarpur village, during which some migrant workers were taken away. Their landlord had also asked tenants from Assam and West Bengal to vacate, prompting their decision to leave. Abhey Poonia, senior vice president of the Gurgaon Citizens’ Council, an umbrella organisation of over 80 resident welfare associations (RWAs), says many domestic workers, car washers, and garbage collectors left their jobs over the past few days. “About 80% of domestic workers and garbage collectors have disappeared,” he says. “Door-to-door garbage collection has stopped. Now, municipal vehicles collect trash from outside our societies every three to four days.” Despite the inconvenience, Poonia states that the council backs the initiative. Sushant Lok-II RWA president Pawan Yadav echoes his views. “Residents are finding it difficult to manage household chores and dispose of waste, but we support the verification drive. It should have been done earlier,” he says.

THEN AND NOW Gurugram has been built by migrant workers. (Top) From The Hindu archives, a picture from 2004, when much of the city was scrub-land or fields. (Below) The city now has an arterial National Highway running through it and this picture from 2025 of the same area, shows how the city has been built up. THEN AND NOW Gurugram has been built by migrant workers. (Top) From The Hindu archives, a picture from 2004, when much of the city was scrub-land or fields. (Below) The city now has an arterial National Highway running through it and this picture from 2025 of the same area, shows how the city has been built up. | Photo Credit: Anu Pushkarna and Ashok Kumar

A contractor, who was hired by the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram for door-to-door waste collection, segregation, and composting, says half of his employees have fled the city after the verification drive was launched. “Waste collection came to a halt for four to five days, but we supported our men while they were held in detention centres and helped them get the verification done. We have asked those who have left to send their documents for verification to us. We hope that they will return soon,” the contractor says, adding that more than three-fourths of people engaged in garbage collection belong to Assam and West Bengal; the rest are from Bihar. “There were some instances initially where police personnel in plain clothes beat up migrants in the name of verification. They extorted money from them. Employers left them to fend for themselves. It created a sense of fear, causing the exodus,” says the contractor, who did not wish to be identified. The police, however, vehemently deny the allegations of physical abuse and extortion. Community voices Ainal Sekh, in his 50s, who stays in a single room with his wife and two adult children in Sector 15, says he works as a security guard at a college in Sector 14, but is scared to commute to work. His family had moved to Gurugram in 2012 in search of work and better education for the children. He says purported videos of migrant workers being beaten up by the police have filled him with fear. “I don’t know whether those videos are fake or real, but I’m scared. My son works as a delivery boy. For the past two days, we have told him not to leave the house.” Sekh says they have all the required documents to prove that they are citizens of India. “There are no jobs in West Bengal. Can’t we work in our own country?” says Beauty Bibi, his wife, who works as a domestic help. Barsha, in his 40s, who runs a meat shop in Chakkarpur’s machhi mandi (fish market), says police teams had come to the area to verify documents, but did not pick up anyone. “Most Bengalis in Gali No. 5 are Hindus, so they have nothing to fear,” he says. Though the drive has reportedly de-escalated over the past few days and some holding centres are empty, it has drawn criticism on a few counts. Congress MLA from Nuh and former Haryana Transport Minister Aftab Ahmed says the “inhuman treatment” meted out to Bengali-speaking people from West Bengal and Assam, mostly Muslims, is “shameful”. He alleges that people employed in Gurugram for years and engaged in menial jobs were beaten up and packed into vehicles like animals in order to be taken away to detention centres. He claims that in a few cases, including one in Faridabad’s Ankhri, the police demanded money from some migrant workers in exchange for their release. “Earlier, Muslims were not allowed to offer Friday prayers in Gurugram. Now, the local police are doing what Raj Thackeray’s party (Maharashtra Navnirman Sena) is doing to Hindi-speaking Indian citizens in Maharashtra,” he says.

Ahmed clarifies that he is not against the verification drive, but says an environment of fear is being created by the Haryana government to force migrants out of the State. The State’s Trade Union Council in a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of Gurugram said picking up Bengali-speaking people in the name of verification, “collecting money from them, keeping their documents in custody, and not giving any kind of information to their family members” are actions that constitute a blatant violation of human rights. In a press release, it stated, “We have also come to know that most of the people who come in plain clothes to pick up people arrive in vehicles without registered number plates. Are they police personnel or someone else? This is a matter of serious concern. As a result, a large number of poor labourers are migrating out of fear.” Idrish Ali, in his late 50s, a tea stall owner in Carterpuri village, says, “Hundreds of families are waiting for their monthly wages to be cleared by the first week of August before they too leave.

Why is Hong Kong regulating and licensing stablecoins? | Explained



The story so far: Hong Kong is taking a decisive step forward in regulating certain types of cryptocurrencies, as it prepares to enforce the Stablecoins Ordinance from August 1. The new regulations come amidst an explosion of interest in stablecoins and their promising applications in both personal finance and international business. While crypto users who support official regulation are excited, the authorities have advised caution.

What is the new stablecoin licensing system in Hong Kong?

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority announced that the Stablecoins Ordinance will come into effect on 1 August this year. This means it will be illegal for people to “offer any unlicensed fiat-referenced stablecoin (FRS) to a retail investor, or actively market the issue of unlicensed FRS to the public of Hong Kong,” according to Eddie Yue, Chief Executive of the HKMA. Furthermore, companies that want to legally issue stablecoins to users in Hong Kong will have to obtain a licence from the Monetary Authority as well as meet set requirements when it comes to managing reserve assets and redemption, asset stabilisation, and processing user requests. In addition to this, they will have to comply with the applicable regulations that prevent money laundering and terrorist financing, thus making sure that their assets are properly disclosed and audited.

The HKMA warned that the regulations are not a red carpet for interested parties to begin issuing stablecoins, and that in the beginning it would “at most grant a handful of stablecoin issuer licences. In other words, a large number of applicants will be disappointed,” per Mr. Yue in an official statement.

What are stablecoins?

Stablecoins are a class of cryptocurrencies, with their values linked to assets. Unlike better known cryptocurrency coins such as Bitcoin (BTC) and Ether (ETH) or even tokens such as Shiba Inu (SHIB), whose values can wildly rise and fall due to investor sentiments and other factors, stablecoins are designed to maintain relatively steady prices. Hence, their name. This so-called stability is achieved through the process of “pegging” the stablecoin to an asset such as fiat currency (like U.S. Dollars, EU Euros, Hong Kong Dollars, etc.), a commodity (like gold), other cryptocurrencies (such as Bitcoin), by regulating their value via computer algorithms, or by mixing multiple strategies. While the price of Bitcoin might rise or fall in the coming years, a USD-pegged stablecoin should ideally remain around \$1. Stablecoins are different from CBDCs, or Central Bank Digital Currencies, which are digital currencies officially issued and controlled by a government’s central bank. Meanwhile, stablecoins can be privately issued and can also be pegged to foreign currencies.

Telangana’s surrogacy scam: The business of selling babies

The Secunderabad railway station in Telangana is a noisy transit hub. Thousands of people enter and exit the concourse every day. Ad jingles in Hindi, Telugu, English, and Bengali, about the various medical procedures offered by hospitals across the city, blare over the din. Billboards outside the station feature smiling couples with babies. The city, along with Hyderabad, is a significant hub for medical tourism in India. In August 2024, after having done some research, Sonam Singh and her husband Akshay travelled to Secunderabad from Kuharwas village near Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan for an in vitro fertilisation (IVF) procedure. They rented a house near the railway station and began searching on the Internet for hospitals nearby. Near the railway station, they found the Universal Srushti Fertility Centre, which promised them an 85% success rate for an IVF procedure. The hopeful couple met the owner, Pachipala Namratha aka Athaluri Namratha, 64.

The test results showed that we were medically fit to conceive,” says Sonam, speaking over the phone from Kuharwas. “But the doctor insisted that we opt for surrogacy. She told us that it was safer and more reliable. She also assured us that the clinic would use our sperm and egg, and also handle all the paperwork and legalities.” While an IVF procedure can cost anywhere between ₹2 lakh and ₹6 lakh per cycle, Namratha told the couple that surrogacy would cost them ₹30 lakh. She asked Sonam and Akshay to transfer half the amount through their bank account and pay the remaining in cash, supposedly for the surrogate. Convinced, the couple made their first payment on August 16, 2024. According to the First Information Report filed by Akshay, Namratha also promised the couple that “a healthy child [would be] delivered... after DNA confirmation.” Nearly a year later, on June 5, Sonam and Akshay were handed a baby at Lotus Hospital in Visakhapatnam. However, the couple grew suspicious when Namratha’s clinic refused to perform the DNA test. They took the infant to the DNA Forensics Laboratory in Vasant Kunj, Delhi. To their shock, the results showed that the baby was not theirs. When they returned to Secunderabad to confront Namratha, she had disappeared. Sonam and Akshay approached the Gopalpuram police in Secunderabad, which investigated the matter and uncovered a baby-selling racket. The police booked Namratha under Sections 61, 316, 335, 336, and 340 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Act, 2023, which deal with criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust by carriers, forgery of documents, and related offences. They also booked her under Sections 38, 39, and 40 of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, which deal with prohibitions, punishments, and penalties related to surrogacy practices.

According to the Gopalapuram police, Universal Srushti Fertility Centre has cheated at least 15 couples. Promising these couples a baby through surrogacy, it has charged them between ₹20 lakh and ₹30 lakh each, and handed them babies not related to them. It has also furnished falsified documents, say the police. An investigation has revealed that the clinic paid commissions to smaller centres for referrals of potential surrogate mothers and women who wanted to undergo abortions, forged medical reports, and operated without proper licensing. According to the police, an agent called Dhanasri Santoshi struck a deal

Why do stablecoins require regulation?

Stablecoins play an important role both within and outside the crypto ecosystem, even if they might not balloon in price like Bitcoin. Crypto investors often use stablecoins to facilitate easy trading on crypto exchanges. Others around the world have used stablecoins to maintain the value of their savings when their native currencies are depreciating, or to save money on cross-border transactions. Argentina, Turkey, and even Taliban-occupied Afghanistan are some places where stablecoins are not just for trading, but a way to make daily life possible.

The numbers tell a compelling story as well. Tether (USDT), the fourth largest cryptocurrency by market capitalisation and the largest stablecoin, per CoinMarketCap, has a circulating supply of 163.75 billion USDT. Meanwhile, more than \$250 billion worth of stablecoins are estimated to be in circulation worldwide.

Naturally, more governments are concerned about whether the highly engineered use of stablecoins could one day affect the value of the original fiat currencies or commodities backing them up. Furthermore, what is the guarantee that every stablecoin pegged to the dollar, euro, pound, or peso is actually backed up by its issuer? Currently, it is largely up to stablecoin users to audit their issuers’ reserves and make sure that their stablecoins are adequately backed. When a stablecoin issuer suddenly adds millions of dollars in assets, it naturally raises questions about where the money to back this is coming from, or whether it really exists. This is where regulation comes in.

Do stablecoins exhibit volatility despite being pegged to currencies?

Despite their name and their backing, stablecoins can also exhibit volatility. In response to both technical factors and world events, stablecoins sometimes come unpegged and their prices may rise or fall beyond the usual range, with sudden drops triggering panic amongst investors. For example, USDT, which is pegged to the U.S. Dollar, has in the past fallen to prices as low as around \$0.92. Stablecoins have also collapsed entirely. In May 2022, Terra’s cryptocurrency LUNA and its linked algorithmic stablecoin UST both lost most of their value in a matter of hours. Panicking investors who no longer trusted these assets quickly sold them off to minimise losses, and the prices fell close to zero. Billions of dollars were wiped from the crypto sector and the ensuing liquidity crunch triggered asset freezes across global crypto exchanges and fintech platforms.

Have other countries started to regulate stablecoins?

U.S. President Donald Trump in July signed the GENIUS Act that is designed to regulate stablecoins and protect the U.S. dollar, much to the joy of his pro-crypto supporters.

Per the White House, the GENIUS Act requires 100% reserve backing with liquid assets like U.S. dollars or short-term Treasuries for stablecoins. Those issuing this asset will also have to make monthly, public disclosures of the composition of their reserves, apart from complying with marketing rules. Other countries that have started to regulate stablecoins include Japan and Singapore, per AFP, while multiple other jurisdictions have more generic regulations that cover stablecoins along with other cryptocurrencies. Though the Chinese government heavily restricts crypto-related activities in its jurisdiction, some of the country’s tech giants hope that Hong Kong’s upcoming regulatory regime will provide an outlet for their own stablecoin ventures.



between a couple from Assam and the clinic. They say the Assamese couple’s baby was given to the couple from Rajasthan. The police have arrested the couple from Assam on charges of selling their baby. “Instead of getting ₹15 lakh, the couple from Assam got ₹90,000 for selling their baby,” says a police officer. The baby has been moved to foster care at Shishu Vihar, a childcare centre under the Women and Child Welfare Department. The police add that they have discovered a disturbing pattern in how surrogates are sourced. The sealed medical facility in Secunderabad is surrounded by lodges and bed-and-breakfast rooms. These lodging facilities were used to house women. A police officer says, “The agents would approach vulnerable women, particularly those seeking abortions, and offer them money to continue their pregnancy so that they could take the baby later. These newborns would then be passed off as children conceived through surrogacy. This is how people were misled into believing that the babies were biologically theirs.” In at least four known cases in Telangana, women were not paid at all and completely abandoned post-delivery, the officer adds. On November 26, 2024, a woman engaged as a surrogate by a couple died after falling from the ninth floor of a building in Raidurgam in the western part of Hyderabad. According to the police, the victim and her husband, both natives of Odisha, were given accommodation by Rajesh Babu and his wife at their residence. When Rajesh allegedly tried to sexually assault the 26-year-old woman, she tried to escape through the balcony and slipped and died. She was purportedly brought to the city through middlemen for surrogacy for ₹10 lakh, say police reports.

Donors in queue As the police widened their probe, they raided a facility operating under the name, Indian Sperm Tech, near Secunderabad East Metro Station, located about 400 metres away from the fertility clinic. They found 17 sperm donors and 11 egg donors waiting in queue at the facility. “The women donors were brought from Delhi, and the men from Andhra Pradesh and other parts of Telangana. The sperm donors, mostly aged between 22 and 30, were paid ₹1,000-₹1,500 per sample. The men were in need of quick cash,” says a police officer who led the raid. L. Shiva was among the people arrested by the police in the mid-night raid. Shiva, 35, from Vizianagaram, brought egg and sperm donors and connected them to the hospital. Another broker who was arrested hails from Indore in Madhya Pradesh. One of the egg donors caught in the raid was a 30-year-old resident from Baksa,

‘Heart of the network’: Inside WDFC’s control room in Ahmedabad driving Railways’ 3000 million tonnes freight goal



Inside the high-tech operations control centre (OCC) of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) in Gujarat’s Ahmedabad, the 72-meter panoramic wall is illuminated with hundreds of lines in red, blue, yellow, green running from one end to the other, resembling the mission control room of a space station.A train alarm goes out loud in the expanse of the room. Sitting at the mechanical section row of multi-screen window, Rahul Sapre, a junior engineer, quickly press the temperature log view to find that the axle box of a wagon of a freight train passing through New Varediya-New Makapura section at 72 kmph was heating up, with any difference in the temperature of the wheel bearing on either side that pushes above 25 degree centigrade effectively setting off the hooter.

Spread over 3.07 acres of area, the Ahmedabad OCC is one the two key centres of 2843-km Dedicated freight corridor of Indian Railways, which has mapped every of asset of its network Spread over 3.07 acres of area, the Ahmedabad OCC is one the two key centres of 2843-km Dedicated freight corridor of Indian Railways, which has mapped every of asset of its networkSapre then alerted the station master of New Makarpura and provided details of train number, wagon number and axle box number for physical verification of the heating alarm by stopping the train at the station. It was an error in the brake binding, and the train was allowed to pass after the problem was fixed. With this process, Sapre averted a potential train derailment as he and other continued to monitor every such aberration on the expansive display board that spanned the wall, with blinking colours showing the status of movement of every freight train along the route in real time.“The alarm was sent by the hot axle box detector (HABD) installed next to the Railway track. It uses infrared sensors to detect overheating. The temperature difference of either side of the axle should not exceed 25 degree centigrade and absolute temperature cannot be over 82 degree centigrade. The centre is the heart of the 1506-km network of WDFC. We keep an eye on literally every movement of over 150 pairs of trains on the route,” said Sapre.

Spread over 3.07 acres of area, the Ahmedabad OCC is one the two key centres of 2843-km Dedicated freight corridor of Indian Railways, which has mapped every of asset of its network- from track, traction power, signal & telecommunications, rolling stocks, stations- in a control room to provide seamless flow of goods along its ambitious rail freight arteries. It is now working towards the Predictive Maintenance system enabled by Artificial Intelligence (AI). With this system in place, the Indian Railways is looking to achieve its ambitious target to increase the freight traffic to 3000 million tonnes (MT) by 2030 from over 1600 MT freight loaded in 2024-25 (FY25) and raise the speed of freight trains to 100 kmph from current average speed of 25 kmph.With this system in place, the Indian Railways is looking to achieve its ambitious target to increase the freight traffic to 3000 million tonnes (MT) by 2030First announced in the Railway budget of 2005-06, the development of DFCC network ran into many delays owing to many challenges like lengthy process of approval, high quantum of earthwork, and Land acquisitions etc.

\$WLFI crypto token lists on exchanges: A look at Trump family-backed digital asset firm’s expansion plans

The Trump family-backed World Liberty Financial Inc (WLFI) cryptocurrency, \$WLFI, listed on crypto exchanges on Monday, paving the way for trading in the virtual digital asset, the company said in an official statement. In an announcement on its official website, WLFI stated “\$WLFI is now tradeable”. Clicking on the call to action button redirected visitors to another page where the message read “Trade \$WLFI: Use \$WLFI to exchange into other cryptocurrencies and vice versa.”The \$WLFI token was valued at \$0.2456 apiece at 11:36 PM IST, according to CoinMarketCap.com data. The crypto asset is being offered on three blockchain networks, namely, Ethereum, Solana and Binance. These networks operate a blockchain, the foundational technology behind assets such as Bitcoins, which provide the unique key that verifies the authenticity of a crypto asset. The listing marks the latest development in Trump-family backed cryptocurrency initiatives in what turned out to be a busy week for Eric Trump, a key actor in the Trump family’s focus on crypto assets. From travelling to Hong Kong and then Japan to listing their currency on exchanges, Eric Trump has laid out the path that WLFI and associated crypto ventures of the Trump family aim to chart over the coming months.WLFI’s website also lists plans of starting a crypto wallet which makes these assets accessible on tap and usable for payment. The company is also planning a crypto exchange of its own, according to its website. The company acquired a listed pharmaceutical firm called Alt5 last month, which was used to raise \$750 million. Alt5 used \$500 million out of these funds to purchase \$WLFI coins, in effect taking on the status of a crypto coin treasury for the Trump-family backed digital asset.The WLFI business, backed by Donald Trump Jr and Eric Trump, is separate from the Trump Media and Technology Group’s foray into treasury strategy announced in partnership with Crypto.com.Treasury strategy in cryptocurrency parlance refers to an investment strategy that forms the bulwark of future offerings such as asset allocation and risk management.Apart from this, the Trump family holds a sizable share of cryptocurrencies, including the \$TRUMP and \$MELANIA memecoins issued by Trump Media.Another family concern, bitcoin mining company American Bitcoin, is eying a public issue later this month with a potential listing on the tech-heavy Nasdaq stock exchange, Reuters reported, citing the company’s largest investor, Asher Genoot, CEO of Hut8. This marks the company’s listing

While 1337-km Eastern Dedicated Freight corridor (EDFC), which runs from Ludhiana (Punjab) to Sonnagar (Bihar) is fully commissioned, the 102-km stretch from Vaitarna to Mumbai (JNPT) of WDFC is pending and scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. In all, the DFCs traverse through nine states and 72 districts, Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), a special purpose vehicle (SPV) of Ministry of Railways, has been tasked with the construction, operation and maintenance of the complete network.Spanning 1,506 km from Dadri (Uttar Pradesh) to Mumbai (Maharashtra), the WDFC passes through Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, directly linking India’s industrial clusters with major western ports. Currently 93.2 percent complete, WDFC is operational on several stretches, carrying double-stack container services, cement and clinker trains, coal rakes for power plants, Trucks on Train services and parcel traffic. With volumes steadily rising, WDFC is handling on an average 180 freight trains per day on commissioned sections, demonstrating its potential to decongest passenger routes, reduce road freight and promote modal shift.

Manish Awasthy, the Chief General Manager of DFCCIL, said that once fully commissioned, the WDFC will reduce the logistics costs, cutting freight transit times, and boosting India’s export-import competitiveness.Spanning 1,506 km from Dadri (Uttar Pradesh) to Mumbai (Maharashtra), the WDFC passes through Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, directly linking India’s industrial clusters with major western ports. Spanning 1,506 km from Dadri (Uttar Pradesh) to Mumbai (Maharashtra), the WDFC passes through Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, directly linking India’s industrial clusters with major western ports.“For Indian Railways to transport more freight through its network, we needed such a command centre to monitor every aspect of its operation to expedite the movement. At the OCC, we can see where the congestion is, speed of the trains, health of the rolling stock, monitoring of complete electric lines etc. We can decide which train to expedite to ensure speedy arrival of goods. With this system we have been able to increase our average speed to 50-55 kmph and transit time has reduced by almost 50 percent,” said Awasthy.

Currently, both DFC together carry almost 13 percent of Indian Railways total gross tonne-kilometer (GTKM) freight. Awasthy further said that OCC is connected to all the stations of WDFC as well as Divisional head quarters of Indian Railways on dual redundant OFC (Optical Fiber Cable) system.“It has centralised control and functioning of 2*25 KV traction power through SCADA (Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition) and general electric systems through non-traction SCADA. It also has a system to establish communication with train loco-pilots and station masters, the Global System for Mobile Radio Communication for Railways (GSM-R),” said the official.Jitendra Kumar Agrawal, Additional General Manager of DFCCIL at the command centre, who looks after operations and business development, said that systems like HABD and Axle counter installed across the WDFC ensures safety as increasing speed of train might result in derailment if not monitored properly.“We have installed a total of 80 HABD across the WDFC lines. Similarly we have an axle counter between two signals which counts every axle of the train. If there is any error in counting the axles of the wagon, it immediately sends a message to the control room and the next signal is immediately made red so that the train does not move forward and the error can be investigated,” said Agrawal.

Back at the room with a big wall, Rahul Sapre goes back to the dashboard for the month of August. He received a total of 495 alarms, of which feedback was taken in 490 cases. A total of 129 cases involved brake binding, 320 of HTNAD and 8 cases were of hot axle, which becomes one of the potential reasons of train derailment.“In an eight hour shift per day, we get 10-12 alarms per day. We cannot take any one of the alarms lightly. You never know what it could lead to,” said the engineer.

via the SPAC method after a merger with Gryphon Digital Mining, Genoot indicated during the Bitcoin Asia conference in Hong Kong.Genoot stated his company Hut8 will proceed from bitcoin mining into the mining infrastructure space, and plans to lease data centres to American Bitcoin. This indicates the Trump family’s consolidation of its interests in the entire crypto value chain from infrastructure to crypto mining and treasury to exchange operation.Trump family’s stamp on global crypto developments

US President Donald Trump’s son Eric Trump attended an event in Japan organised by crypto treasury Metaplanet on Monday in which he urged the company’s extraordinary shareholders’ meeting to back the agenda of a 130 billion yuan share sale which would free up capital for re-investment in the flagship cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, Reuters reported. To be sure, Metaplanet did not confirm Eric’s involvement in the voting process, the newswire reported.Eric traveled to Japan within days of attending the Bitcoin Asia conference where he portended bitcoin to touch the \$1 million-mark. To be sure, Bitcoin reached close to the all-time high of \$125,000 last month amid expectations of the announcement of a rate cut cycle by US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell at global central bankers and economists’ retreat at Jackson Hole.Eric also praised China for its role in developing cryptocurrencies, which is a contradiction since the People’s Bank of China has banned digital tokens altogether. To be sure, the passage of a legislation that legalises stablecoin issuance in Hong Kong is likely to have prompted the PBOC to consider a plan to tap the autonomous territory for offshore transactions that allow interoperability between stablecoins and its own digital central bank currency, the Digital Yuan, Reuters reported last week.As the self-proclaimed ‘Crypto President’ Donald Trump has paved the way for widespread stablecoin and cryptocurrency adoption with a spate of regulatory and legislative interventions as well as presidential orders. The Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for US Stablecoins Act (GENIUS Act) has made it legal to issue stablecoins backed by US treasuries, in a move US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said would re-emphasise the US dollar’s status as the global reserve currency. This comes at a time when global central banks are accruing gold to de-risk their assets from the probability of US sanctions after witnessing what happened to Russia with the inset of its war with ukraine

WHO says over a billion people living with mental health conditions globally, 1 in 100 deaths is suicide: What are challenges in India?



Suicide accounts for one in every 100 deaths globally. According to new data released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), an estimated 727,000 people across all ages lost their lives to suicide in 2021, with one suicide death happening in over 20 suicide attempts. The WHO further says that more than a billion people are living with mental health disorders.The new findings were published in two reports – ‘World Mental Health Today’ and ‘Mental Health Atlas 2024.’ Over the next few weeks, WHO will also be releasing country profiles as part of ‘Mental Health Atlas 2024,’ the first after Covid and factors in after-effects of the pandemic.

What are top mental health disorders?

The most common mental disorders are anxiety and depressive disorders, which together accounted for more than two-thirds of all mental health conditions in 2021. Between 2011 and 2021, the number of people living with mental disorders increased faster than the global population. As a result, the global age-standardized point prevalence of mental disorders reached 13.6 per cent, which is 0.9 per cent higher than a decade ago.Younger adults aged 20–29 years are estimated to have the largest increases (1.8 per cent) in prevalence since 2011. Males are estimated to more commonly have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorders, and idiopathic disorder of intellectual development (comprising intellectual disability from any unknown source). Females are estimated to more often experience anxiety, depressive and eating disorders. Anxiety disorders typically emerge earlier than depressive disorders, which are rare before ten years of age. After the age of 40 years, depressive disorders become more prevalent than anxiety disorders, peaking between ages 50 and 69 years.

Can suicide rates go down by 2030?

Suicide is the leading cause of death among young people across all countries and socio-economic contexts. Yet, progress in reducing suicide mortality is too low to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

Higher rate of cancer among women; oral cancer most common among men: How India’s 4-year cancer registry maps incidence

These are some of the key findings of an analysis by researchers from premier institutions of data collected from 43 cancer registries across the country between 2015 and 2019 — a period when 7.08 lakh cancer cases and 2.06 lakh deaths were recorded.Based on the analysis, the researchers also estimated that a total of 15.6 lakh cancer cases and 8.74 lakh deaths occurred across the country in 2024.Population-based cancer registries collect data on new cancer cases, deaths and trends in selected geographical areas. India’s registry currently covers 23 states and Union Territories, either partially or fully, and monitors trends in 10% to 18% of the population, with newer registries in regions such as Kashmir, Prayagraj and Thiruvananthapuram.The analysis was conducted by a group of national investigators from data collected by various hospitals, such as AIIMS-Delhi, Adyar Cancer Institute-Chennai, PD Hinduja-Mumbai, Tata Memorial Centre-Navi Mumbai, and Assam Medical College and Hospital. The data for 2020 was not included in the analysis due to the impact of Covid on health systems and the registry.The Government has several cancer care programmes in place and on the anvil, including, screening at the lowest levels through health and wellness centres, day care centres to be rolled out across all districts and treatment in tertiary centres under Ayushman Bharat. It has also been working on making newer cancer drugs cheaper by cutting related duties.

Dr Prashant Mathur, director, ICMR-National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research, which coordinates the country’s cancer registry, said the gender disparity is linked to the time taken for diagnosis. “The apparent disparity of more cases but fewer deaths can largely be explained by the types of cancers most common in women. Breast and cervical cancers together account for 40% of female cancers and generally have better prognosis, higher survival and established screening programmes that support earlier detection and treatment. In contrast, men experience higher mortality because their leading cancers — oral, lung, liver, stomach and oesophagus — are often diagnosed late and have poorer outcomes,” said Mathur, who led the group of investigators. “Our recent survival analysis also indicates that women with oral cancers tend to have slightly better survival rates than men,” he said.

This was noted among men in 14 of the 43 registries and among women in four registries. Besides, oral cancer overtaking lung cancer as the most common type among men is significant because the use of tobacco has gone down over the years — the proportion of adults using tobacco in India reduced from 34.6% to 28.6% between two rounds of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey 1 (2009-10 and 2016-17).“Evidence from cancer studies suggests that it often takes at least 20 or more years for cancer to develop after the first exposure to a carcinogen like tobacco. The long latency period may explain why oral cancer rates continue to rise despite recent reductions in tobacco use. High alcohol consumption, another established risk factor for oral cancer, also contributes to this burden,” says Mathur.According to Dr Abhishek Shankar, oncologist from AIIMS-Delhi, alcohol consumption is a known risk factor for at least seven types of cancers, including oral cancers, apart from liver cancer. “It also increases the risk of gastric and colorectal cancers that are among the common cancers in men. While both alcohol and tobacco consumption are individually known to increase risk of cancers, together they are known to compound it,” said Shankar, who is not

of a one-third reduction in suicide rates by 2030. Given current status, only a 12 per cent reduction will be achieved by that deadline, according to estimates in the report. What is needed are sustained financing, strong leadership and effective implementation of existing schemes, according to Dévora Kestel, Director, Department of Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health (ad interim), WHO.Dr Pratima Murthy, Director, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, told The Indian Express that suicides have multi-factorial triggers. “There is an interaction of personal (familial risk), vulnerable temperament and environmental risks such as early exposure to trauma, stressful environment, life events, isolation, lack of support, stigma, poor awareness of help, lack of availability and access to services. A combination of factors increases the risk,” she said.

What are challenges of broad-basing mental health care in India?

Dr Murthy feels that mental health institutions are not enough. “There is a need to have psychiatric beds in general hospitals and tertiary care institutions which can be staffed by well-trained multidisciplinary teams. While acute cases can still be treated at mental health institutions, the model of care must shift from custodial to therapeutic approaches. Bigger tertiary hospitals can even become academic training hubs,” she said.Psychiatric hospitals are often associated with poor living conditions and ill-treatment, including cruelty, abuse and neglect. This is because of the second challenge, that of scant funding.The third challenge is a huge scarcity of trained mental healthcare personnel, including nurses, social workers, psychiatrists, psychologists, counsellors and other paid mental health workers. Dr Bharat Vatwani, psychiatrist and Ramon Magsaysay award winner who set up Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation, said the number of psychiatrists in the interior parts of the country was abysmal. “While the district headquarters may have a few psychiatrists, there are hardly any across towns and villages. Medicines are not available in the interior areas and importantly while family members may have the will to reach out to psychiatrists, their economic condition can prohibit them from travelling long distances and seeking professional help for their loved ones. The loss of daily income for these travels is very tough to bear. This is our ground zero assessment over the years,” he added.Third, for mental health management to be streamlined, the chain of care must be carefully established. “This means availability of professional help, continuity and availability of treatment and medicines and economic conditions to cope with the financial load. Do not forget that in severe mental health issues (30 million Indians have severe mental health issues as per a NIMHANS report), the patient has invariably become a non-earning member of society,” Dr Vatwani said.



associated with the study.While the proportion of cancer deaths among women is lower, the researchers have underlined the scope for awareness, screening and other measures such as vaccination. For instance, breast cancer, which makes up 30% of cancers in women, can be detected early through screening thereby improving chances of survival.

Mathur said cervical cancer incidence was below 4 per 100,000 in only two registries and emphasised the need to strengthen screening, HPV vaccination and awareness.The highest cancer incidence across the 43 registries was reported from Aizawl in males (198.4 per 100,000) and females (172.5 per 100,000). Lifestyle, environment and infectious risk factors led to this high burden in the northeastern states, Mathur said.“The use of tobacco among females and males in all the Northeastern states is significantly higher than the national average. Besides tobacco, betel nut chewing and certain dietary habits, such as consumption of sa-um (fermented pork fat), smoked dried salted meat and fish, very spicy food, hot beverages, and the use of soda as a food additive, also contribute to cancer risk,” he said.“Moreover, the prevalence of infections such as Helicobacter Pylori, hepatitis, salmonella typhi, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), etc., which may act as carcinogens in several cancers, is also high in the region,” Mathur said.

According to Shankar, the use of preservatives and the smoking of meat increases the exposure to nitrogen compounds. “These are known to increase cancer risk. There is a high prevalence of smoking and drinking in these states that increase the risk of several cancers. The use of fire to heat up houses also leads to increased indoor pollution,” he said.The highest incidence of breast cancer was in Hyderabad (54 per 100,000 population) while that of cervical cancer was in Aizawl (27.1). The highest occurrence of lung cancer in men was in Srinagar (39.5) and among women in Aizawl (33.7). Lung cancer emerged as the most frequently diagnosed cancer in the southern areas and metropolitan cities, including Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram, the Malabar region, Chennai and Delhi.The highest incidence of oral cancer in men was in Ahmedabad (33.6) and among women in East Khasi hills (13.6). Mouth cancer was found to be the most common in some western (Ahmedabad Urban, Bhopal, Nagpur and Wardha), central (Barshi Rural, Mumbai, Aurangabad, Osmanabad, Beed, Pune, Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri) and northern (Prayagraj and Varanasi) regions.Srinagar (12.7) recorded the highest incidence of prostate cancer.According to the experts, the geographical spread underscores the need to have a national as well as state-level plans in place, with related medical infrastructure and human resources to be scaled up accordingly.

FIDE’s strict dress code rules are an avoidable blunder



At the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship last year in December, while Magnus Carlsen’s foul-mouthed withdrawal from the event and eventual reconciliation with FIDE was making headlines, there was another top player who was seething after being at the receiving end of FIDE’s unyielding dress code. Chinese grandmaster Zhu Jiner, tipped to be a future women’s world champion, was also one of those fined by FIDE at the event in Wall Street. Her offence? Wearing white boots. Or more specifically, “laceless white winter boots.” The snow boots were deemed “inappropriate” by the officials, who handed her a \$200 fine (which was later rescinded). “The actions of the FIDE officials during this crucial stage disrupted my performance, and as a result of this interference, I lost the match,” she continued. “This situation highlights a lack of understanding of what athletes need and detracts from the very essence of chess. Such interference is unnecessary and weakens the fairness of the tournament. An official who does not understand his own rules should not interfere with the players, and should not influence the fairness of the game with his personal will.”

The fine on Zhu was perhaps even more glaringly absurd than the one on Carlsen. How are pristine white boots un-professional? In sharp contrast, just a few months before the World Rapid and Blitz, the world’s top players were competing in another elite chess tournament organised by FIDE — the Chess Olympiad — where diversity in attire was actually celebrated. The Vanuatu chess contingent, for example, showed up rocking attires in bright, riotous colours of red, green, yellow, and black — the colours of their national flag. The men’s team of Vanuatu was given the best original team uniform award (which was separate from the best classic team uniform and the best sport team uniform awards).

Teams representing other nations like Ethiopia also sported colourful regional dresses that made them stand out at an event where participants from over 200 nations competed, mostly wearing athletic tracksuits or formal suits. To avoid situations such as the one with Zhu and Carlsen, FIDE has made changes to its dress code for the Grand Swiss tournament, which begins later this week, allowing “non-distressed jeans” in the Samarkand event. But it still leaves gaping holes in interpretation as big as the ones you would find in cool jeans these days. Here’s the dress code for men at Grand Swiss: “?Dark business casual trousers, including classic, non-distressed jeans (blue, black, and grey); ?Unicoloured shirt (with minor deviations allowed, e.g. checkered or striped); Dress shoes and loafers with closed toes; ?Unicoloured sneakers (soles can be a different colour).” In its reasoning for the change, FIDE mentioned that allowing “appropriate jeans” offered players more comfort and freedom of choice, “while ensuring that the overall appearance of the event remains professional and respectful.” FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich, in his comments, mentioned that the players and everybody associated with the sport should strive to ensure that the “sport remains

appealing to the audience and sponsors.”

One wonders how appealing any sport is to sponsors or audiences when the leading face of the sport is kicked out from a major tournament for wearing jeans. Or when a leading women’s player complains that she lost because an official interfered with her concentration right before a decisive game over her white shoes. Words like “professionalism” also made an appearance in FIDE’s 10-page presentation to players before last year’s FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championships. “It’s about creating a positive and inspiring image for chess, showcasing a level of professionalism that aligns with the high caliber of competition... A polished appearance conveys seriousness and respect for the game,” FIDE had said in December last year when jeans were still outlawed. If any player had shown up at the World Rapid and Blitz Championship — or shows up for the Grand Swiss — sporting what the Vanuatu players wore at Olympiad, it probably won’t pass the stringent attire rules of FIDE. Did the appearance of the Olympiad as a professional sporting event get compromised by the players sporting colourful attire that you would usually see a team wearing at a FIFA World Cup? Is the Global Chess League — where each of the six teams have vibrant jerseys for their players, and no one plays in formal suits — not a “professional” tournament?

In the aftermath of the controversy last year, Hikaru Nakamura, one of the sharpest tongues in the sport, had weighed in on the controversy in his inimitable fashion, saying: “Regarding Magnus playing in jeans, there is not a single person who won’t watch because Magnus is playing in jeans! Or in his underwear or Speedos! I don’t think there is a single person in the world who cares about these things at all. He’s the best player in the world. That’s what they want to see. This thing about dress code, the sooner that chess moves into the 21st century and we don’t try to portray this fake image of these great geniuses who never say bad things, keep emotions aside, and are gentlemen like it’s the 1600s! The sooner we get past this nonsense the better chess is going to be. It’s an antiquated view. It’s out of place.”

Bear in mind that FIDE’s strict rules are only enforceable at the events that it organizes, not at events like Norway Chess or the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour. That any governing body of a sport constantly thinks in so much depth about creating an “inspiring image” for the sport is admirable. But its obsession with doing so through clothes that players wear is a bit odd. On the one hand, FIDE is trying its best to convince the rest of the world and sponsors that chess is a serious sport, not a pastime or a hobby as some cynics tend to dismiss it. Or it’s trying to present a “professional” look for the sport at certain events organised by it by making players look like they’re heading into a board meeting to discuss quarterly earnings reports.

Of course this is not to say that FIDE completely does away with dress code for tournaments. As chess legend Susan Polgar had mentioned in a lengthy Facebook post last year after the Carlsen and Zhu controversy, “In my 50+ years in chess, I have personally seen players coming to serious chess tournaments with: gym shorts, old, worn-out T-shirts with holes, soaking wet swim trunks, beach flip flops and sometimes even barefoot. Some players wore the exact same outfit for 9-10 days or more, showered maybe once during the same duration (if we are lucky), and didn’t bother to brush teeth or use mouthwash. It was problematic and embarrassing to chess, the organizers and sponsors.” This is why a dress code matters at any sporting event. But FIDE needs to realise that no fans or sponsors are walking away from the sport because a player is wearing jeans or white snow shoes.

Prasidh Krishna on heated argument with Root during 5th IND vs ENG Test: ‘I just said, ‘you’re looking in great shape’ and then it turned into a lot of abuse’



GNS News Agency, Sept 12

During the fifth Test between India and England, Joe Root, who is one of the calmest cricketers going around, was upset with something Prasidh Krishna said to him. Both players were seen exchanging words with one another, and it took a bit of time for both parties to calm down. Recalling the incident, Prasidh said he did not understand why Root reacted in a certain way.

“I don’t know why Rooty reacted. I just said, ‘you’re looking in great shape’ and then it turned into a lot of abuse

and all of that. I did go and speak to most of them — including Root. I asked him what happened. He said, ‘I thought you abused me’. I said, ‘No’, and he replied, ‘I actually just wanted to get myself going as well, so I had to pump myself up’,” he said on ESPNcricinfo. That’s what I love about the sport — that’s the way I’ve always played it. To see everybody, and especially a legend like him, putting it all out there and fighting for the team, even today, that’s something for everyone to learn from. You’re out there to fight, to win battles. Sometimes it takes a lot more than just skill; it takes a lot of mental grit to be part of that journey,” he added. “I think it was just a competitive edge amongst us that was coming out, both of us are good mates off the field,” Krishna said on the day after the incident, speaking to the press. “It was just a little bit of banter, and both of us enjoyed it. This is what I am. I think I was just running in well, I enjoyed the way that I was bowling, maybe a wicket or two there also would have made things better,” he added. “I did not expect him to get animated,” Prasidh admitted. “But like I said, I love the guy, he is a legend of the game, and I think it is great when two people are out there trying to do the best and to be a winner at a given moment,” Krishna added.

Marcus Stoinis returns to Australian squad for T20I series against New Zealand

Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis returned to the squad for the upcoming three-match T20I series against New Zealand. Additionally, Mitchell Owen and Matt Short also joined the bunch. Red-ball and ODI skipper Pat Cummins will miss the bilateral event to manage himself for the upcoming Ashes series, and Nathan Ellis due to the birth of his first child. Xavier Bartlett, who has impressed with his bowling in the final ODI against South Africa, also returned to the squad, while Cameron Green has prioritized the Sheffield Shield rounds.

Mitchell Marsh (c), Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matt Kuhnemann, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Owen, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa Mitchell Starc has announced his retirement from T20I cricket, the 35-year-old announced on Tuesday. Starc, who has not played a T20I since the 2024 World Cup in the USA and the Caribbean, will remain available for Tests, ODIs and domestic T20 leagues, including the Indian Premier League.

“Test cricket is and has always been my highest pri-

ority,” Starc said in a statement. “I have loved every minute of every T20 game I have played for Australia, particularly the 2021 World Cup, not just because we won but the incredible group and the fun along the way.

“Looking ahead to an away Indian Test tour, the Ashes and an ODI World Cup in 2027, I feel this is my best way forward to remain fresh, fit and at my best for those campaigns. It also gives the bowling group time to prepare for the T20 World Cup in the matches leading into that tournament,” he added.

Having made his T20I debut in 2012, Starc quickly established himself as one of the shortest format’s most devastating bowlers. He played in five of Australia’s next six ICC events in the format (he missed the 2016 World T20 due to injury) and was vital in the side breaking their title drought in 2021, beating New Zealand in the final in Dubai. Starc retires as the leading men’s T20I wicket-taker among Australian pacers. He has 79 scalps in T20 Internationals from 65 games, and only spinner Adam Zampa (130) has more wickets than Starc among Australian bowlers in T20I.

Commonwealth Games 2030: India’s bid for hosting rights face surprise Nigerian challenge



GNS News Agency, Sept 12

What struck Commonwealth Games smack in the face was Victoria, Australia throwing their hands up in the air just two years before the 2026 edition, pleading their inability to host. (Reuters) What struck Commonwealth Games smack in the face was Victoria, Australia throwing their hands up in the air just two years before the 2026 edition, pleading their inability to host. India gets a head-on competition from Nigeria as the African nation joins the bidding race for the hosting rights of the 2030 Commonwealth Games. Nigeria submitted their formal bid before the August 31 deadline for the multi-sporting event. Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Friday said it has submitted the final bid documents to Commonwealth Sport for the 2030 CWG, with Ahmedabad as its preferred host city, while the Commonwealth Sport (CS), the governing body of the CWG, on Monday confirmed Nigeria’s bid submission.

“India and Nigeria have submitted formal proposals to host the 2030 centenary Commonwealth Games by the deadline of 31 August 2025. This follows unprecedented, diverse and wide-ranging Expressions of Interest in hosting the Games in 2030 and beyond,” Commonwealth Sport

‘It’s the head of Anaconda that keeps on rising... Why raise it again?’: Ashwin on Lalit Modi-Clarke sharing unseen Harbhajan-Sreesanth ‘Slapgate’ video

GNS News Agency, Sept 12

With the unseen footage of Harbhajan Singh slapping S Sreesanth during the first edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2008, often dubbed as ‘slapgate,’ being shared by former IPL chairman Lalit Modi on former Australian captain Michael Clarke’s podcast Beyond 23 Cricket, the 2008 incident is once again in the spotlight. While Harbhajan Singh called the reuse of the footage something with a selfish motive, former Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has termed the incident the ‘head of the anaconda that keeps on rising’ and has urged to address the issue minimally, noting that both players have moved on.

“It’s the head of Anaconda that keeps on rising. In the modern era, you have video footage of everything and everywhere. So this kind of resurfacing will keep happening. But I feel, see, this moment is not the proudest in both the player’s lives. Why raise it again? Why aggravate it unnecessarily? Sreesanth’s wife also put out a post. I think we should address it minimally,” Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. It was in the first edition of the IPL in 2008 that Singh, who was the then-interim Mumbai Indians skipper, slapped Sreesanth, who was playing for the then Kings XI Punjab, following Mumbai Indians’ 66-run loss against the home side at the IS Bindra PCA International Stadium in Mohali. Eighteen years after the incident, Modi shared the unseen footage of Singh slapping Sreesanth. Ashwin also spoke about the incident being in the past and how the world should move past it.

“See, it’s done. Harbhajan spoke about the same in our podcast earlier and how he felt. You have done something wrong and you have to live with it. There are no two ways there. But we move past it, right? Some might have done something similar in the confines of their homes and that’s why we don’t know of it. There is no point in moral policing an issue that is done and dated. They have apologised, moved past it and I think the rest of the world should do it too,” Ashwin added. Earlier last week, Sreesanth’s wife, Bhuvneshwari Sreesanth, also slammed Modi and Clarke for uploading the unseen footage of the incident. “Shame on you @Lalitmodi and @Michaelclarkeofficial. You people are not even human to

said in a statement. Both proposals will now be assessed by an Evaluation Commission appointed by the CS Executive Board, including in-person presentations by the Candidate Hosts at a meeting in London in late September. The Evaluation Commission will report its findings to the CS Executive Board, which will recommend a host to the 74 member nations and territories for approval at the General Assembly in late November in Glasgow, Scotland. The Evaluation Commission is chaired by CS vice president Sandra Osborne, who also serves as the federation’s sports committee chair and president of the Barbados Commonwealth Games Association and Olympic Committee. Joining Sandra Osborne on the Commission are CS executive board member Helen Phillips, CS Athletes’ Advisory Commission Chair Brendan Williams, Glasgow 2026 Organising Company vice chair Ian Reid, former executive director of Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) Andrew Ryan and CS director of games and assurance Darren Hall (non-voting member). Canada had also earlier expressed interest to bid for the 2030 CWG but later withdrew, citing budgetary constraints.

CS launched a new collaborative host selection process for the Commonwealth Games in January, inviting its CGA members to lodge their interest for 2030 and future editions of the Commonwealth Games, with a deadline of the end of March. Following this initial phase, CS worked closely with each interested CGA and their regional representatives to assess hosting feasibility and support the development of detailed proposals. The CS 2023-2034 ‘Commonwealth United’ Strategic Plan, launched in June 2023, and ‘Games Reset’ allow a move away from a traditional host bidding process. They enable flexibility, offering potential hosts the opportunity to be innovative and work collaboratively through a co-creation process on proposals for delivering the Games, while ensuring that all Commonwealth Sport members can meaningfully participate.



drag up something from 2008 just for your own publicity and views. Both @Sreesanthnair.36 and Harbhajan have long moved on, they are fathers now with children, and yet you try to throw them back into an old wound. Absolutely disgusting, heartless and inhuman,” Bhuvneshwari wrote on her official Instagram stories. On Sunday, Singh had termed the release of the unseen footage of the incident as something with a selfish motive. “The way the video has resurfaced, that’s very wrong. I believe nobody should do that. Maybe they have some selfish motive in doing that. Because something that happened 18 years ago, people have forgotten, and they are reminding people about it. So I feel bad for whatever incident that happened during that time. Because we were playing, and everyone had things going on in their mind. Mistakes happened, and I do feel ashamed about it,” Singh told Instant Bollywood after attending a Ganesh Chaturthi pandal in Mumbai. Singh had also talked about the incident on Ashwin’s podcast earlier. He had shared that Sreesanth’s daughter did not speak with him and it made him verge on crying. “What hurt me even after many years was when I met his daughter and I was talking to her with a lot of love and she said, ‘I don’t want to talk to you. You hit my father.’ My heart was shattered and I was on the verge of tears. I was asking myself what is the impression I’ve left on her? She must be thinking of me in a poor light, right? She sees me as the guy who hit her father. I felt so bad. I still apologise to his daughter that I can’t do anything,” Singh had said on Ashwin’s podcast.

Nagababu, son of a fisherman makes it big in kabaddi

H Y D E R A B A D :

Chekka Nagababu, son of a fisherman from Vijayawada, was the star performer in the Yuva Andhra Championship with a record-breaking performance. Representing Vizianagaram Ninjas, the 29-year-old was adjusted ‘best raider’ of the championship scoring a stunning 226 raid points at an incredible strike rate of 71 per cent. Nagababu happened to be the first player to cross both 100 and 200 raid points, and the only one to record five consecutive Thunder20s. In the Super 4 stage, the gifted player delivered three back-to-back Thunder20s, stamping his dominance on the league. His consistency has now made him a strong contender for selection in the upcoming Telugu Kabaddi League (TKL). While his team finished second in the championship, Nagababu’s individual brilliance stood out as one of the highlights of the season. “The Yuva Kabaddi Series holds profound importance for me because,



until now, I have only participated in smaller, local tournaments,” said Nagababu. Nagababu comes from the fishing village of Ramannapalem, Machikarlam, where life revolved around the sea. His journey into kabaddi began only in 2019 during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he started playing in small village tournaments and bet matches. “With guidance from mentors like his school teacher Pawan Sir, Telugu Titans coach Sai Sir, and Andhra State Secretary Srikanth Sir, I could trans-

form my raw game into a competitive skill set,” he said. Nagababu carved a niche for himself with his ankle touches, sharp raids, and kavaru covering skills, he soon earned a place in two Senior Nationals. But the journey was not that easy as Nagababu lost his father in 2016, after which his elder brother took on the responsibility of the family. Initially, his brother discouraged him from kabaddi, worried about injuries, but later became his biggest supporter when he saw Nagababu’s potential. What next? “To

play in the Pro Kabaddi League, secure his family’s future, and repay his brother’s sacrifices. “I dedicated myself to daily practice, constantly improving. Furthermore, with the crucial support and guidance of my coach, I was able to further enhance my practice sessions, all while maintaining the earnest hope that I would ultimately secure the chance to played in Yuva Kabaddi Series” Yuva Kabaddi Series is a good platform that encourages youth and takes them to a higher level.

Rajesh Khanna's co-star was brutally murdered along with family members; bodies were buried in farmhouse and undiscovered for over a year



In 2008, yesteryear superstar Rajesh Khanna was well past his prime, and had resorted to starring in B-movies. One of these films was Wafa: A Deadly Love Story. The movie featured character actors Tinnu Anand and Sudesh Berry, and it also featured a young actor named Laila Khan as the female lead. While the film didn't leave much of a mark, it has become etched in infamy because of what happened. In 2011, Laila and five members of her family seemingly disappeared overnight. It was discovered that they had been brutally murdered by a family member, who had developed a resentment for them over the years. In a recent interview with crime writer and journalist Hussain Zaidi, former Mumbai crime branch officer Ambadas Pote, who investigated the case, recounted chilling details of what happened.

Pote said that Laila's mother, Selina, had gotten married to a man named Parvez Tak. He was her third husband, who was living with the family in Oshiwara. Tak, who was described by Pote as a very religious man, wasn't in favour of Laila working in the film industry. He was also resentful about how Laila treated him. When he complained to Selina about this, she told him to take it in his stride. The family had further arguments over property, and Parvez's idea for Laila to work in Dubai. When she rejected this idea, he decided to kill everyone, Pote said.

Pote said that Tak's first step was to get one of his associates hired as a watchman at the family's Igatpuri farm-

house. This is where he had decided to kill them. He was also the one who made the suggestion for them to go to the farmhouse for a brief getaway. When the family didn't return from the trip, Selina's first husband, Nadir Shah, filed a complaint with the police. Tak's Aadhar card was found at their residence, which led the police to investigate him. He was arrested in Kashmir in a joint operation by the Mumbai and J&K police forces. Tak was brought to Mumbai, where he provided a confession.

The family was taken to Igatpuri in a Mitsubishi car. They reportedly had a barbecue later that night, and danced together. It was after they'd retired to their rooms that Tak and his associate began attacking them brutally with a rod and a knife. Imran, Laila's brother, tried to protect them despite being injured himself. Pote said that Tak made sure that each of them was dead by repeatedly attacking them even after they had fallen to the ground, unconscious. One of the family's cars was then taken to Jammu, before being abandoned. Tak was apprehended in a joint operation between the J&K police and the Mumbai police. Media team at kept long distance where Mumbai Crime Branch was searching dead body of Laila Khan and her family members at Laila's farmhouse at Igatpuri.

The bodies were buried in a pit meant for a swimming pool. Three bodies were dumped into the pit first, covered with a mattress and pillows, followed by three more bodies. They were also covered with a mattress and pillows, and then with soil. When Pote and his team arrived at the scene, they immediately noticed that some of the mud had sunk into the ground because of the rains. After excavating the site for over six hours, during which they doubted Tak's testimony many times, they came across some remains that were identified by the doctor as human. The skeletons were unearthed shortly afterwards, and then identified. "Parvez Tak is a shrewd, cunning and dangerous criminal. But however much you run, you cannot hide. The law will catch up with you and you will be brought to justice," Himanshu Roy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime), Mumbai, told NDTV. In 2024, over a decade after the crimes, Tak was sentenced to death by a Mumbai sessions court in 2024. The court said, "The case showcases a totally barbaric act that shocked the collective conscience of society, making it a rarest of rare case... The execution of the act indicates that these were cold blooded murders, after commission of which the accused cold heartedly and meticulously planned screening of the evidence, which remained unnoticed for almost 17 months after commission of the offence." Pote said that Tak's associate, who was an accomplice in the crimes, was never caught.

Lokah in soup over portrayal of Bengaluru as 'capital of drugs and crime', dialogue deemed 'demeaning to its girls'; Dulquer Salmaan and Raj B Shetty apologise



While the movie continues its triumphant run at the box office, receiving rave reviews from all quarters, director Dominic Arun's superhero film Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra, starring Kalyani Priyadarshan and Naslen, has found itself embroiled in controversy over its portrayal of Bengaluru. In recent days, a section of social media has voiced its disapproval of certain depictions in Lokah, feeling that they depicted Karnataka's capital in a negative light. What has irked people most was a line delivered by the antagonist, Inspector Nachiyappa Gowda (played by Sandy), which many have described as "demeaning to the girls of Bengaluru." National Award-winning Kannada director Mansore also condemned

the depiction, which he felt was a common practice in some of their films as well. "In Kannada film Bheema, Malayalam films Officer on Duty, Avesham, and now Lokah, Bengaluru is being portrayed as the capital of drugs and crime. Once upon a time, it was represented in movies as a beautiful town... It has come to such a state due to uncontrolled migration," he wrote on social media. Slamming the perceived derogatory dialogue in the movie, Kannada activist Rupesh Rajanna demanded that the makers issue an apology. He also urged actor-filmmaker Raj B Shetty, the distributor of Lokah in Karnataka, to remove the offensive dialogue from the film. In response, the makers issued a statement expressing their apology on Tuesday evening. "It has come to our attention that a dialogue delivered by one of the characters in our film Lokah: Chapter One has unintentionally hurt the sentiments of people from Karnataka. At Wayfarer Films, we place people above everything else. We deeply regret this oversight and assure you that no offence was intended. The dialogue in question will be removed/edited at the earliest. We sincerely apologise for the hurt caused and humbly request you to accept our apology," the statement, jointly issued by production company Wayfarer Films and Raj B Shetty's Lighter Buddha Films, read. Bankrolled by actor Dulquer Salmaan under the banner of his Wayfarer Films, Lokah is fast approaching the Rs 100 crore mark and has already grossed Rs 66 crore worldwide, according to industry tracker Sacnilk. After opening to Rs 2.7 crore in the domestic market on day one (Thursday), it minted Rs 17.7 crore during the weekend. On its first Monday in theatres, Lokah earned an impressive Rs 7.2 crore. The superhero movie's total India nett collection, as of 6 pm on Tuesday, stands at Rs 36.18 crore.

Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana's Alibaug real estate deal lands in hot water

Mumbai: Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan has landed into a legal trouble surrounding a real estate deal. It has come to light that the actress has bought the land allotted to the farmers by the government without procuring proper permissions and paperwork. The piece of land is in the Thal village, and was given to the farmers by the government for the purpose of farming. The piece of land reportedly costs Rs 12.91 crores, which Suhana paid to the Khote family based in the Cuffe Parade, the upmarket area of Mumbai. She had paid a stamp duty of Rs 77.46 lakh at the time she bought the land. The transfer happened on May 30, 2023 through Standard Chartered Bank. The matter is under investigation and an impartial report has been sought from the Alibaug tehsildar.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Suhana is gearing up for her upcoming film King, which also stars her father. It marks her second film after the streaming debacle The Archies, which was unanimously panned by the critics and the audiences alike. Earlier, her father SRK was said to have suffered an injury to his arm while filming King. The super-



star sustained an injury while filming an action sequence for the film. He left the shooting of the film midway, and was rushed to the hospital for a medical procedure. The actor appeared after a few days in public view when he took to his Instagram, and uploaded a video of himself wearing a sling. He spoke about receiving his first National Award in 33 years of his career, and expressed his gratitude to the government.

Once a glamorous star who lived lavishly, mentored Helen, this Golden Age actress tragically died in utter poverty



When people think of Hindi cinema's golden era, names like Helen often come to mind, an actress who captured hearts and inspired many to take up dancing. But while Helen is well-known today, few realize that she had a mentor who played a crucial role in her life. That woman was Cuckoo Moray, a legendary dancer famous for her cabaret and club performances in Bollywood during the 1940s and 1950s. Not only did Cuckoo introduce Helen to films, but she also shared a close, almost family-like bond with her. Cuckoo Moray was born in 1928 into an Anglo-Indian family during British rule in India. From a young age, she loved dancing and dreamed of becoming a top performer. By 1944, Bombay Talkies was already a prominent studio, with actresses like Devika Rani and Shobhana Samarth making their mark. But the glamour quotient was still missing, and Cuckoo filled that gap with her distinct westernized look and style. Her break came early, at just sixteen, with the film Mujrim starring the acclaimed actor Motilal. Cuckoo made a strong impression with her dance performance, which opened doors for many more offers. Soon, cabaret dance became a staple in Hindi films, and Cuckoo was admired for her skills in both cabaret and classical Indian dance forms.

Over the next five years, she appeared in nearly fifty major films, working alongside giants like Raj Kapoor, Mehboob Khan, H.S. Rawail, and Devendra Goel. The only legendary filmmaker she never collaborated with was V. Shantaram. Though her roles were mostly centred on dance numbers, Cuckoo's presence was magnetic and unforgettable. She had a special partnership with playback singer Shamshad Begum, much like the later duo of Helen and Asha Bhosale. A defining moment in her career was Mehboob Khan's Anokhi Ada (1949), which cemented her reputation as a top dancer. The hit film Andaz (1949), featuring stars Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar, and Nargis, also gave her a chance to showcase her acting abilities. Helen Cuckoo was the queen of film dancing in Hindi cinema of the 1940s and 1950s.

Some of her most memorable performances include the bar dancer number "Ek do teen" in Raj Kapoor's Awara (1951) and the seductive "Patli kamar hai" alongside Premnath in Barsaat (1949). Other notable films include

After splitting with Katy Perry, Orlando Bloom applies for an Irish passport: 'I love the fact that I have Irish heritage'



Actor Orlando Bloom is certainly having a whirlwind of a year. First he and singer Katy Perry announced their breakup after six years of engagement. Bloom has also been patiently waiting for the release of his film Cut, for which he underwent an extreme transformation. Now Legolas from Lord of the Rings has decided to rekindle his relationship with the country of Ireland and has applied for an Irish passport. While talking to Virgin Radio, Orlando Bloom revealed his connection to the Emerald Isle and said, "I'm getting my Irish passport. [My grandfather] was actually

Bazaar (1949), Patanga (1949), and Aankhen (1950). Aan (1952) was her only color film. She even sang the song "Neele aasmani" in Guru Dutt's Mr. and Mrs. 55 (1955). No wonder, she became a highly sought-after actress. She charged Rs 6,000 per song and reportedly led an extravagant lifestyle, so much so that she dedicated one of her three cars just to take her dogs out for drives. At the height of her career, Cuckoo introduced a 13-year-old Helen, the daughter of a family friend, to the world of dance. The two even appeared together in Yahudi (1958), Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi (1958), and Heera Moti (1959). When asked about Cuckoo's influence on her film career, Helen laughed, saying, "She didn't influence me, I think she influenced my mother. Because I didn't dream of becoming anything, I didn't dream of entering the films. I was only dreaming of having fun with my friends and going to school. My mother thought that she would like me to enter the films too. I was very young then, I must have been about 12 or 13 years old. In short, it was Cuckoo who got me into the line."

Cuckoo helped Helen find her footing in the Hindi film industry. Helen recalled, "She was in this film called Shabistan (1951) and I was in the chorus because I was too young. In those days, they were not known as item numbers, it was known as solo dances. I was too young for that. So I was just as a group dancer. So for about a year, I was in the chorus and after that, I was selected to do one duet dance." Cuckoo also helped actor Pran get his first film, Ziddi (1948), launching his own legendary career. Off screen, Cuckoo lived a glamorous, westernized lifestyle. She owned a lavish bungalow in Khar, one of Mumbai's upscale neighbourhoods. Being Anglo-Indian, she mostly spoke English with her close friends. Often seen outside her home in long skirts or gowns, she was known for smoking 555 cigarettes. Her extravagance extended to owning 5,000 pairs of shoes, 8,000 dresses, and three luxury cars, one for herself, another for family and friends, and a third just for her pet dogs.

Despite her opulence, Cuckoo was generous and kind-hearted. She believed in sharing her wealth with friends and lived day-to-day without saving for the future. She frequently hosted grand parties with food catered from Mumbai's five-star hotels. However, as time passed, Cuckoo's career began to fade. Younger dancers like Helen and Vyjayanthimala started to dominate the scene. Eventually, the offers stopped coming altogether. Her last film was Mujhe Jeene Do (1963). With the years, Cuckoo Moray's fortunes declined sharply. Reports say an income tax raid uncovered undeclared assets, leading to their confiscation. From living like a queen in a palatial home, she ended up with nothing. Her family and friends deserted her during her toughest days. Left alone, Cuckoo took care of herself, struggling even to afford basic food. Her final years were marked by severe illness; diagnosed with cancer, she couldn't even afford painkillers. On September 30, 1981, she passed away, alone and forgotten. Today, Cuckoo's name is rarely remembered, but her impact on Bollywood's dance and glamour scene remains undeniable.

from Northern Ireland." While the host of the interview joked that a lot of people have been applying for other passports since Brexit, Orlando explained that the move is mainly for a professional reason. Part of it was actually just for work, like, when I was working in Prague for a while, there was a whole bunch of new paperwork. And also, I love the fact that I've got Irish heritage. That's all it is."

However, this does seem connected to Orlando Bloom's career a tad bit more than he let on, as he is playing an Irish boxer in The Cut. The actor revealed that he had to drop 52 pounds for the role and told the host and audience over at This Morning about the regime he had to adopt in order to achieve such a feat. He said, "I was exhausted mentally and physically. I was hungry. I was a horrible person to be around. The paranoia, the intrusive thoughts. I wouldn't recommend doing it at home; it would not be something to take lightly." The actor added that he was just eating tuna and cucumber for the last three weeks of shooting and that he had no "brain power" left. On the personal front, Orlando Bloom and Katy Perry have decided to keep things civil and still appear as a family for the sake of their daughter Daisy. The couple met nine years ago during the Golden Globes and got engaged in 2019. They both own several properties together, including their Montecito mansion worth \$14.2 million (Rs 125 crore), according to Architectural Digest.

Downton Abbey The Grand Finale trailer: It is time to say goodbye to the Granthams as the film wraps up over 15 years of storytelling.

The first trailer for Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale, the third and final film in the beloved Downton Abbey franchise, is here, bringing a close to the story that began with the acclaimed ITV series in 2010. Set in the summer of 1930, the film centers on Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery) as she manoeuvres through the glittering but unforgiving world of London's high society. Meanwhile, Lord and Lady Grantham (Hugh Bonneville and Elizabeth McGovern) manage the sprawling Yorkshire estate.

This concluding chapter not only wraps up the film trilogy but also marks the end of over 15 years of storytelling that captivated audiences through six television seasons. Returning to direct is Simon Curtis, who also helmed the previous installment, Downton Abbey: A New Era. The screenplay comes from the series creator and executive producer, Julian Fellowes, whose writing imbues the characters with warmth and complexity.

Alongside Michelle Dockery, Hugh Bonneville and Elizabeth McGovern, Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale features a host of familiar faces from the series and earlier films, including Jim Carter, Brendan Coyle, Joanne Froggatt, Phyllis Logan, Penelope Wilton, Paul Giamatti, and Dominic

West. New additions to the cast include Joely Richardson, Alessandro Nivola, Simon Russell Beale, and Arty Froushan, enriching the ensemble with fresh dynamics.

The Downton Abbey saga expanded to the big screen with the 2019 film, followed by A New Era in 2022, both enjoying box office success — the original film grossing \$194 million globally. Director Simon Curtis describes Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale as "a loving portrait of the characters as they enter the 1930s, and we really dig into the characters' emotions at the end of the story we're telling." He adds, "I was thrilled because, as a director, I simply love working with actors and this is the greatest ensemble of British actors around; and then you add the amazing guest stars we've got and it's a dream come true." Central to the plot is Mary's divorce, a serious scandal for a family of their status during that era, which also reveals her evolution into a formidable businesswoman ready to face the controversy head-on. Curtis reflects on the emotional depth of the script, saying, "I love those little moments of humanity between the different characters, with the added poignancy that, very often, these moments are their final moments together."