

IMD Hyderabad issues orange alert for heavy rainfall in Telangana districts

Hyderabad: The influence of the low-pressure area that formed over the Bay of Bengal continues to affect Telangana. On Monday evening, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)-Hyderabad has issued a heavy to very heavy rainfall warning for all the northeastern districts from Tuesday to Thursday. While Hyderabad and its neighboring districts, including Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Medak, and Yadadri Bhongir, are expected to receive light to moderate showers, multiple districts across the eastern and northern regions are expected to receive rainfall ranging from 115.6 mm to 204.4 mm.

Connectivity without respect for sovereignty loses trust and meaning: PM at SCO Summit

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Tianjin: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, delivering his opening remarks at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin on Monday, underscored that connectivity initiatives which bypass sovereignty ultimately "lose trust and meaning". "India has always believed that strong connectivity not only enhances visibility but also fosters trust and development. With this in mind, we are working on initiatives like the Chabahar Port and the International North-South Transport Corridor. This will help us improve connectivity with Afghanistan and Central Asia. We believe that every effort in connectivity should be inclusive and respect regional identities," PM Modi said. "This is also mentioned in the SCO Charter -- that connectivity bypassing sovereignty loses trust and meaning," he added. These remarks come against the backdrop of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Highlighting Opportunity as the third pillar of India's vision for the SCO, the Prime Minister said that under India's chairmanship in 2023, "new energy and thoughts gained momentum". "Our effort was to take SCO beyond governments -- to connect common people, youth, scholars, and startups together and take them forward," he stated. Proposing ways to strengthen cultural ties within the grouping, PM Modi said, "To enhance people-to-people ties in the SCO, I propose the formation of a 'Civilisation Dialogue Forum'. It will provide a global stage to share our ancient civilisation, culture, traditions, and literature." Reaffirming India's developmental approach, he stated, "Today, India is moving ahead



following the mantra of Reform, Perform and Transform. We have tried to turn every challenge into an opportunity. Whether it is Covid, global challenges, economic crises, or other obstacles, we have sought to turn every challenge into an opportunity." The Prime Minister noted that India's developmental model was not just focused on national growth but also aimed at strengthening regional cooperation. "We are working on taking this ambition forward. These efforts are creating new resources not only for national development but also for inter-state cooperation. I invite all of you to join this journey of India's development," he said. Welcoming the evolution of SCO to address contemporary challenges, PM Modi added, "It is a matter of happiness that the SCO is evolving with the changing needs of the times. Four new centres are being set up to tackle challenges such as organised crime, drug trafficking, and cyber security. We welcome this reform-oriented mindset."

Society must approach specially abled with empathy and cooperation: President Murmu

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Mysuru (Karnataka): President Droupadi Murmu appealed that society must approach specially abled persons with empathy and cooperation. She was delivering the inaugural address at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing's (AIISH) 'Diamond Jubilee Celebrations' in Mysuru city in Karnataka. "As with other health issues, speech and hearing problems require early detection of symptoms and diagnosis by experts. At the same time, it is necessary to create awareness so that society approaches those affected with cooperation and empathy," she underlined.

President Murmu emphasised that institutions like AIISH are expected to work with a spirit of innovation combined with compassion, developing technologies that enable people suffering from speech and hearing impairments not only to lead normal lives but also to contribute effectively to society and the economy. "To make devices such as cochlear implants available at lower costs, it is essential that we become self-reliant in their production. Institutions like AIISH should take a leading role in this direction. As per studies, in 2023, more than 6 crore people in India suffered from hearing disorders. AIISH plays an even greater role as the nodal centre for the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness," she said. "Like other health



issues, speech and hearing problems require early identification and intervention. Expert care is essential. Society must also sympathise and cooperate with those affected, and awareness must be created in this regard," she added. "I am happy that AIISH is playing an effective role in this field. Previously, I had presented a national award to AIISH for its contribution towards the empowerment of specially abled persons. The institute should continue its work to become a model organisation at both national and international levels," Murmu stated.

Cong asks the BJP to prove its honesty on "CBI Probe" on Kaleshwaram



Hyderabad, Sept.1 (NSS): Telangana Congress President and MLC B Mahesh Kumar Goud on Monday said that the Congress government is committed to transparency, while the opposition BRS and BJP are conspiring together on issues like 42 percent BC reservations etc. Stating that the Kaleshwaram corruption case is now in the hands of CBI and the truth will come out soon, he said the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre should now prove its honesty on the issue. The BJP, which had earlier called the Kaleshwaram project as 'BRS leaders ATM', should ensure a speedy probe and stringent action against those involved in corrupt practices in project implementation, he added. Talking to news at the legislative council media point, Goud along with ministers Ponnampallabharathi and Seethakka asserted that the PC Ghosh commission report has exposed the BRS leaders' corrupt practices in construction of the project and how Kaleshwaram has turned into 'Kooleshwaram'. In order to avoid the allegations of state government's interference and criticism in probes like SIT / CID, the Congress government has taken the assembly approval for a CBI probe into the issue. Both KTR and Harish Rao have misled the people with lies on Kaleshwaram project. As

demanded earlier by Union Ministers Bandi Sanjay and Kishan Reddy, it is their duty to push for a speedy CBI investigation. he noted.

Bathukamma festival to transform Telangana into a grand carnival: Jupally

Hyderabad, Sept.1: Minister for Tourism Jupally Krishna Rao announced that the Bathukamma festival will be celebrated as a grand carnival in Telangana from September 21 to 30.

During a press conference at the Secretariat on Monday, Jupally Krishna Rao, along with Endowments Minister Konda Surekha and Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka, revealed that the festivities would kick off on September 21 at the Thousand Pillar Temple in Warangal.

"In an effort to set a Guinness World Record, the government plans to host an elaborate Bathukamma celebration at LB Stadium on September 29. Special events will also be organised with women's self-help groups at People's Plaza, and colleges throughout the state will engage in celebrations with student participation. Moreover, an agreement have been signed with several airlines to promote Bathukamma on a national level," Jupally said.

Minister Seethakka noted that the festival, which symbolises God's connection with flowers, is unique globally, highlighting that Bathukamma is not just a festival but also a celebration of Telangana's dignity and pride. "It is a festival with significant women's involvement that unites families and the community. We will commemorate it in a manner that showcases our connection to nature, the environment, and flowers," she mentioned.

Land dispute turns violent in Ibrahimpatnam, one killed

Hyderabad: A long-standing land dispute between relatives claimed one life at Dandumailaram village in Ibrahimpatnam on the city outskirts on Sunday. According to police, G Jangaiah owned 18 acres of land, which has been the subject of conflict among his four sons for years. Despite a police order prohibiting trespassing, the families of Narasimha and Yadaiah allegedly entered the fields to plant paddy. When the families of Mallaiah and Jangaiah tried to stop them, a violent clash broke out. During the attack, Balaraju (36) was hacked to death on the spot. His brothers Dhanraj and Venktaraju, along with sisters-in-law Pavani and Manjula, were injured. Manjula sustained serious abdominal injuries.

Telangana govt hands over Kaleshwaram project case to CBI

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Hyderabad: The Telangana government ordered a CBI probe into Kaleshwaram project issue. The government already constituted former Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh Commission to investigate the alleged irregularities, misuse of public funds and corruption in the construction of Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages in the Kaleshwaram project. The Ghose Commission found several irregularities including negligence, deliberate suppression of facts and financial irregularities. The Commission concluded that faults took place in the construction of the three barrages. The commission also exposed the previous BRS government's failure in preparing the plan to construct the Kaleshwaram project. The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) report stated that Medigadda barrage was damaged due to lack of planning, design and quality control deficiencies. The NDSA has identified that the defects in the construction were due to poor quality and maintenance. The NDSA and the Commission reports have made it clear it required a deeper and more comprehensive investigation is on all these issues. Inter-state entities, various departments and agencies of the Central and State Governments are involved in this project. Since Central Public Sector Undertakings like WAPCOS and financial institutions like PFC and REC are involved in the design, construction and financing of the project, the government decided to hand over this case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Hence, the House took a decision to hand over the investigation of the Kaleshwaram project case to the Central Bureau of Investigation. During the debate on Ghose Commission report in the assembly, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said that Kaleshwaram Corporation was formed for the construction of the Kaleshwaram project and borrowed Rs. 85,449



crores. The previous BRS government borrowed Rs. 27,738 crores at 11.5 percent interest from Power Finance Corporation and another Rs. 30,536 crores borrowed at 12 percent interest. "We have paid Rs. 19,879 crores as principal amount for the loans they took so far. Rs. 29,956 crores was paid as interest to various banks. A total of Rs. 49,835 crores have been paid to banks so far. We still have a burden of Rs. 60,869 crores" the CM said that it required Rs 47,000 crore to complete the left-over works in Kaleshwaram project. The CM noted that On October 21, 2020, the engineer filed a complaint of the damage of the barrage at Mahadevapur police station. The then Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has also received a report. Police forces were deployed around Medigadda at that time and not even a single person was allowed to come. The chief minister pointed out that it was KCR who shifted the barrage to Medigadda from Tummidihatti. The reason for changing the technology was the then Irrigation minister T Harish Rao. The CM alleged that the BRS rulers swindled public money through Kaleshwaram project. The government an enquiry as per the guidelines, CM Revanth Reddy

KTR questions Congress CM's CBI Probe decision on KLIS, takes jibe at Rahul Gandhi

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

KT Rama Rao (KTR), the working president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), has taken Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and opposition leader Rahul Gandhi to task over the recent decision to hand the Kaleshwaram project investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). KTR raised concerns about how a Congress Chief Minister can authorise a CBI investigation, especially when Rahul Gandhi has previously accused the agency of being misused for political gain by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

In a post on his social media account, KTR highlighted the irony of the situation, noting that the CBI, which Rahul Gandhi once referred to as the "Opposition Elimination Cell" of the BJP, is now being tasked with probing the Kaleshwaram project. "This move raises questions about the intentions and awareness of Rahul Gandhi regarding the actions of his party's representatives in Telangana," KTR remarked. He further stated, "Bring it on, whatever it is that you conspire against us. We will fight both legally and politi-



cally." KTR expressed confidence in the judiciary and the public's ability to discern the truth, indicating that he is prepared to confront any challenges posed by the CBI inquiry. The political landscape in Telangana is expected to grow increasingly contentious as this investigation progresses.

All party leaders urge Governor to approve 42 percent BC reservation Bill



Hyderabad, Sept.1 (NSS): Leaders from all political parties have called on Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma to endorse the Bill advocating for a 42 percent reservation for Backward Classes (BC). During a meeting at Raj Bhavan on Monday, they pressed for the immediate approval of this legislation.

The delegation included TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers Ponnampallabharathi and Seethakka, Government Whips Adi Srinivas and Birla Ilaiah, as well as BRS MLA KP Vivekananda Goud and CPI leaders Narayana and MLC Nellikanti Satyam.

They informed the Governor about the recent passage of the Panchayati Raj Act-2018 Amendment Bill in the Assembly, which lifts the previous 50 percent reservation limit in Telangana and increases the reservation for BCs in local bodies. They emphasised that the Bill was unanimously approved by the Assembly. During the meeting, the Governor asked for information regarding the BC population in Telangana. After the meeting with the Governor, TPCC chief and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud addressed the media, stating that the State government is dedicated to ensuring 42 percent reservation for backward classes (BCs) in body elections. He noted that the previous 50 percent reservation cap has been removed and the relevant law has been revised.

Mahesh Kumar Goud mentioned that this law for BC reservation is based on the findings of the caste census survey, which indicates that BCs make up 56.33 percent of the population in Telangana. He further explained that leaders from all political parties urged the Governor to endorse the Bill, taking the caste census survey report into consideration.

KCR's image tarnished because of Harish Rao and Santosh : Kavitha alleges

Hyderabad, Sept.1 Telangana Jagruti President and BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha today made sensational comments while expressing anguish that her father and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) is being unfairly blamed for the misdeeds of individuals close to him. She alleged that former Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao, former MP Santosh Kumar and the management of Megha Engineering Company were responsible for tarnishing KCR's image.

The BRS MLC, at a press conference, said "KCR worked tirelessly for the people, but some people around him had worked only to increase their personal wealth. Harish Rao and Santosh Kumar have conspired against me many times, yet I remained silent. Today, as KCR's daughter, I feel deeply pained." She further alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had reached a "slandorous agreement" with Harish Rao and Santosh Kumar, by ensuring no criticism was directed at them while targeting KCR. On the Kaleshwaram issue, Kavitha questioned why a minor fault was being exaggerated. "Even if a small part of Kaleshwaram Project sinks, they create a storm as if the entire project has failed."

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

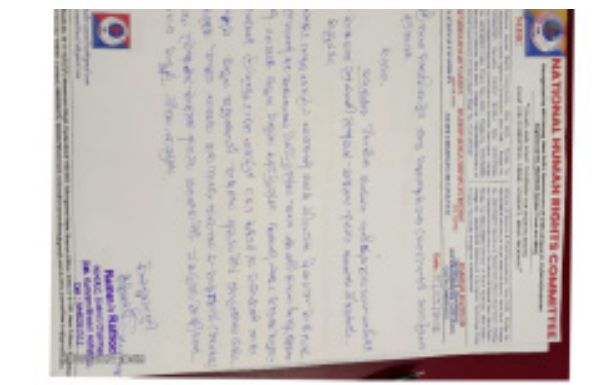
Time to strike right balance between social equity and economic progress

The issue of caste-based reservations keeps popping up in politics, especially in times when jobs are few and far between. One of those times is now, as quality employment opportunities have failed to keep pace with impressive economic growth. So, unsurprisingly, in Telangana and Maharashtra, quota politics is back. In the former, the government has announced its intention to introduce the Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025, during the monsoon session of the Legislative Assembly. The legislation will mandate 42 per cent reservations for Backward Classes in local body elections, which are round the corner. This move has been presented as a way of ensuring broader representation at the grassroots level, but it is also clearly calculated to shore up political support from communities that hold the balance in rural power structures. In Maharashtra, meanwhile, the Maratha reservation issue has returned to the forefront. Activist Manoj Jarange, who has emerged as the face of the agitation, recently launched an indefinite fast, warning the government against testing the patience of the Maratha community. This is not the first time that demands for Maratha quotas have created turmoil in the state, and unless handled with sensitivity and foresight, it is unlikely to be the last. The principle of caste-based reservations is not inherently flawed. On the contrary, it has served an important historical purpose. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in particular, have benefited significantly from this policy. By opening access to education, public employment, and political representation, reservations have helped generations from these communities escape the cycle of poverty, discrimination, and social exclusion. Without them,



Kukatpally, September 1 – The Ranga Reddy District Roller Skating Association convened its executive committee meeting to finalize the schedule and venues for the upcoming district-level championships to be held in September. The championships will feature Roller Hockey, Inline Hockey, Speed Skating, and several other categories. The committee also reviewed plans for organizing special training camps across the district to provide quality coaching and improve athletes' skills. Final decisions regarding the championship venues and dates were taken during the meeting. Speaking after the session, District President M.V. Ramakrishna stated that complete details of the championships would be officially announced soon. Those present at the meeting included District President M.V. Ramakrishna, Senior Vice President Tanguturu Nagaraju, Vice President Srisailam, General Secretary Satyam, Treasurer Vatti Srinu, along with other executive members.

A Building Should Be Constructed For The School



“Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, 01 “NHRC Chairman Rathod Ramesh requested that a building be constructed for a government primary school in Bajejhari Pataguda in Kerameri mandal. On Monday, he met District Administrator Venkatesh Dhore and submitted a petition. The Collector responded positively and said that he would soon prepare reports for sanction of duties and work on the construction of the concept.

Grand Ganesh Utsav Celebrations at Srihari Enclave Colony – Annadanam Organized by Shravan Reddy & Srinivas Reddy Families



“INDIAN CHRONICLE” “Medchal - Malkajgiri District Staff Reporter NSR, Chengicherla, September 01: “Srihari Enclave Colony witnessed grand Navaratri celebrations under the aegis of the Bhagavan Utsav Committee. On the fifth day, Sunday, special pujas were performed with great devotion, marking the occasion with splendor. On this occasion, Shravan Reddy's family and Srinivas Reddy's family performed special pujas and later organized a grand Annadanam program at 1 PM. The organizers extended heartfelt gratitude to former Army Officer Satish for generously contributing rice towards the Annadanam. Senior BRS Party leaders Kotha Ravi Goud and Kumar attended the event as chief guests. They were felicitated with shawls by the Utsav Committee members. The presence of colony elders, local leaders, and a large number of devotees filled the celebrations with enthusiasm and devotion. Through the collective participation of devotees and service-minded families, the Ganesh Utsav at Srihari Enclave Colony turned into a memorable and spiritually uplifting celebration, strengthening the spirit of devotion and community service.



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Congress Government Must Fulfill Promises to Singareni Contract Workers – JAC



“Rayala Kishore, Yellandu Constituency, September 1st, Indian Chronicle: The Singareni Contract Workers' Joint Action Committee (JAC) has demanded that the Congress government immediately implement the assurances given to contract workers. As part of the agitation, on September 12, workers will march to Prajabhavan in Hyderabad with individual petitions. On Monday, campaign wall posters were unveiled at the JK Civil Division in Yellandu under the leadership of Kottapalli Raghu. Later, in a meeting chaired by him, JAC state leaders B. Madhu, Sheikh Yakub Shawali, and Bhanoth Ram Singh stated that though the present Chief Minister had promised wage hikes and resolution of issues during his tours of Godavarkhani, Yellandu,

and Bhupalpally before the Assembly elections, even after 20 months the promises remain unfulfilled. The leaders pointed out that Singareni's profits have come from underpaid contract workers and demanded that 20% of the profits be shared with them. They also criticized the management for denying national festival holidays to contract workers and called on the government to ensure a minimum wage of ₹26,000. They said rising essential commodity prices have made survival very difficult for workers' families. The JAC leaders S.A. Nabi and Mallela Venkateshwarlu also participated and appealed to all contract workers across Singareni departments to join the September 12 Chalo Prajabhavan program in large numbers to pressurize the government into fulfilling its commitments.

Protest in Yellandu Against Obstruction of Harish Rao in Assembly



repeatedly interrupted in the Assembly whenever he pointed out flaws in the report, while ministers and the CM themselves resorted to blatant lies. “Rajender condemned the Congress for exaggerating that corruption of ₹1 lakh crore occurred in the project, when in reality the total project cost was ₹87,000 crore, calling it a peak of “Goebbels propaganda.” Participants in the protest included: Town leaders M.D. Jabbar, Narapaka Vasanth, Lalit Pasi, San Rajesh, Paladugu Rajashekar, Sundarigiri Srinu, Gaddi Srinu, Vanga Sunil, Srikanth, Imran, Khamru, Ramlal Pasi, Kishan Pasi Sardar, Raghuveer Reddy, Ravi Goud, and Mandal leaders Derangula Posham, Devla, Chinnari Ashok, among others.

“Rayala Kishore, Yellandu Constituency, September 1, Indian Chronicle: BRS leaders and activists staged a protest in Yellandu town at Jagadamba Center near the Telangana Talli statue on Monday, wearing black badges, condemning the repeated obstruction of former minister T. Harish Rao during the Assembly discussion on the Kaleshwaram project. The protest was led by BRS founding member Dindigala Rajender and BRS town vice-president Abdul Nabi. Speaking on the occasion, Dindigala Rajender criticized the Congress for misrepresenting the report of former Justice P.C. Ghosh on the Kaleshwaram project. He alleged that without thoroughly examining permissions and clarifications, the Congress prepared its own biased reports, spreading false propaganda to defame former CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who had brought water to drought-hit Telangana. He further said Harish Rao was

A Young Man Dies Of Fever At Asifabad Hospital

“Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, 01. A young man dies of fever at ASF Hospital. Athram Ramshyav (25) from Gudigudi village in Asifabad mandal died on Sunday night while undergoing treatment. Family members of the deceased said that Athram Ramshyav, who was suffering from fever, was admitted to the Asifabad Government Hospital on Saturday. He said that he died due to the doctors not taking care of him after his condition deteriorated on Sunday.

Illegal Sand Trade In The Name Of Houses

“Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. August, 31. “Asifabad, Illegal sand trade in the name of Indiramma's houses. The leaders of the public associations demanded that the authorities take action to stop the sand. On Saturday, a petition was submitted to Asifabad Tehsildar Riyaz Ali. DYFI District Secretary Karthik and KVPS District Secretary Dinakar said that many sand traders are illegally transporting sand from the streams without any permission. They said that the authorities are failing to stop them. They alleged that sand is being smuggled across the district in the name of Indiramma's houses and opening the door to illegal trade. They asked that this be stopped. Members of the associations Mallesh and others were present.

Shortage of Mother-Child Protection Cards in Basti Dawakhanas



“INDIAN CHRONICLE” “Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter NSR, Nagaram, September 01: “For the past several months, pregnant women visiting Basti Dawakhanas have been facing difficulties due to the non-availability of Mother-Child Protection (MCP) cards. These cards are crucial as they record vital health details of pregnant women, medical test reports, precautions to be taken before delivery, and essential child care information. In the absence of these cards, health staff have been forced to record the details manually in separate notebooks. Locals expressed concern that the lack of these important records could affect the health and safety of both mother and child. People are demanding immediate supply of MCP cards to all Basti Dawakhanas. Even after the formation of the new government several months ago, the printing of new cards has not been taken up, which has become a point of criticism.

Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Participates in Ganesh Navaratri Celebrations in Uppal Division



“NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri staff reporter, Uppal, September 1, Indian chronicle: On the occasion of Ganesh Navaratri, Uppal Division Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy visited several colonies and offered special prayers at the Ganesh pandals. Speaking on the occasion, she conveyed that with the blessings of Lord Vigneshwara, the people of Uppal will be blessed with health, happiness, and prosperity. As part of the celebrations, she visited the Ganesh pandal set up at the residence of Uppal Congress Party women leader Som Balamani in Habsiguda Division, Padmavati Colony Welfare Association, Bharat Nagar, New Shanti Nagar Welfare Association, and Akarapu Arun Venkat Reddy Nagar in Habsiguda Division. She performed special pujas along with the members of the respective committees and also took part in the community annadanam program. Members of the Ganesh pandals and local residents actively participated in the celebrations.

ACB REGISTERS 179 CASES IN SIX MONTHS

Hyderabad, Sept.1: The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau had registered a total of 179 cases between January and August 2025. The cases included 108 trap cases, 11 disproportionate assets cases, 18 criminal misconduct, 18 regular enquiries, 21 surprise checks and 3 discreet enquiries. About 167 public servants were trapped / arrested who included 14 outsourcing employees, private persons, and remanded to judicial custody. The ACB seized an amount of Rs 33.12 lakh in trap cases and unearthened assets worth Rs 44.30 crore in DA cases of various departments. As for August 2025, the ACB had registered a total of 31 cases / enquiries during the month which included 15 trap cases, 2 Disproportionate Assets cases, 3 Criminal misconduct cases, 7 regular enquiries and 4 surprise checks. A total of 22 public servants, including four outsourcing employees/private persons, were trapped, arrested, and remanded to judicial custody. An amount of Rs 2.82 lakh was seized in trap cases across various departments and assets worth Rs 5.14 crore were unearthed in DA cases. With regard to finalisation of the cases, about 177 cases of January - August 2025 period were finalized and final reports were submitted to the government for action.

Use Artificial Pond for Ganesh Immersion in Ramanthapur - Tavidaboyina Giribabu“



““NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Reporter, Uppal, September 1, Indian Chronicle: Congress Party in-charge of Ramanthapur division, Tavidaboyina Giribabu, inspected the newly created artificial pond set up by GHMC near the 100 Feet Road, below Gandhinagar, for Ganesh immersion on Monday. During his visit, he interacted with GHMC staff

and gathered details about the arrangements. Giribabu appealed to the residents of Ramanthapur to make use of the artificial pond for immersing Ganesh idols from pandals with idols below 5 feet during the Navaratri festivities. Congress Party A-Block General Secretary Survi Murali Goud, senior leaders Pabboju Bikshapathi Chari, and T. Praveen Kumar also participated in the program.

Traffic diversions: Kothagudem DSP statement on the occasion of CM Revanth Reddy's visit“



““Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau, September 1, Indian Chronicle: In the wake of Chief Minister Enumula Revanth Reddy's visit to Chandrugonda mandal of Kothagudem district, Kothagudem DSP Rahman said that traffic diversion measures will be taken for the convenience of motorists. He explained that these rules will be in effect from 10 am to 5 pm on the 3rd of this month. Diversion routes//From V.M. Banjar to Kothagudem: Vehicles going from V.M. Banjar to Kothagudem via Chandrugonda should travel via Kallur, Tallada, Enkur, and Julurupadu. From Kothagudem to V.M. Banjar: Vehicles going from Kothagudem to V.M. Banjar are advised to travel via Julurupadu, Enkur, Tallada, and Kallur. DSP Rahman urged the public to cooperate with the police to ensure smooth travel without traffic problems during the Chief Minister's visit. He advised people to observe these traffic diversions while traveling.

Invitation to Prominent Leaders for Ganesh Immersion at Kapra Cheruvu“



““NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Reporter, Kapra, September 1, Indian Chronicle: Under the leadership of Nirukonda Satish Babu, Convener of Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Committee, Dr. AS Rao Nagar Division-02, invitation cards were distributed to prominent personalities for the upcoming Ganesh immersion program scheduled this Saturday at Kapra Cheruvu. On this occasion, Division-2 Corporator Singireddy Sirisha Somashekar Reddy, former corporators

Kotha Ramarao and Pajjuri Pavani Mani Reddy, TRS state leader Singireddy Somashekar Reddy, BJP state additional secretary and state in-charge (Policy & Research) Sharath Chandra, members of Kapra Press Club, and representatives from print and electronic media were invited. Members, co-conveners, and advisors of the Division-2 Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Committee also took part in the program.

Youth Congress leader complains to MRO over government land encroachments in Chinna Cherlapalli“



““NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Reporter, Cherlapalli, September 1, Indian Chronicle: Telangana Youth Congress

leader Budida Prem Kumar Goud lodged a complaint with the MRO demanding action against irregularities in survey number 288 of Chinna Cherlapalli village. He pointed out that despite repeated orders from the state government to protect government lands, MROs are taking a casual approach. He questioned how, in a people's government, encroachments are being ignored even after the revenue department issued strict directions to curb them. Allegations are rife that political leaders are backing these land grabbers. In Chinna Cherlapalli, survey number 288 government land has been under encroachment, and despite complaints, local officials have failed to act, he said. Prem Kumar Goud demanded that the Medchal-Malkajgiri district collector immediately intervene, protect the government land in survey number 288, and register cases against the encroachers for a thorough investigation.

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ICFAI Law School Hosts Shri N. J. Yasaswy Memorial 10th Moot Court Competition Valedictory Ceremony

“ “INDIAN CHRONICLE ““September 1““The N. J. Yasaswy Memorial 10th Moot Court Competition 2025 concluded with a grand valedictory ceremony at ICFAI Law School, IFHE, Hyderabad, on Sunday. The three-day national-level competition, held from August 29 to 31, witnessed participation from leading law schools across the country, offering a dynamic platform for budding lawyers to demonstrate their advocacy skills.““The valedictory ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Shri Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili, Judge of the High Court for the State of Telangana, who attended as the Chief Guest. Hon'ble Shri Justice Pulla Karthik, Judge of the High Court for the State of Telangana, was present as the Guest of Honour.““Prof. Dr. Y. Pratap Reddy, Dean of ICFAI Law School, delivered the presidential remarks, while Dr. Pujari Ravisekhararaju, Director of ICFAI Law School, presided over the proceedings. Dr. Himavathi T., Faculty Coordinator of the Moot Court Society, presented a comprehensive report on the competition, appreciating



the spirited participation and high-quality arguments made by the student teams.““In their addresses, the distinguished judges underscored the importance of mooting, research, and professional ethics in building successful legal careers. They also encouraged students to refine their advocacy and analytical skills to meet the demands of the

profession.““The winners of the competition were announced during the ceremony. Bharti Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) New Law College, Pune (Team Code 104) emerged as the winner. Symbiosis Law School, Pune (Team Code 111) secured the first runner-up position, while Pendekanti Law College, Hyderabad (Team Code

101) claimed the second runner-up position.““The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Shubham Prakash Singh, Faculty Co-Coordinator of the Moot Court Society. The ceremony ended on a celebratory note, reaffirming the role of moot court competitions in nurturing critical thinking, legal reasoning, and courtroom advocacy among law students.

Bus service from Shadnagar to Devunipalli Resumes After MLA Veerlapalli Shankar's Initiative“

“INDIAN CHRONICLE ““SHADNAGAR, sep 1““After persistent efforts from Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, the long-awaited bus service from Shadnagar to Devunipalli village has been resumed, bringing relief to the villagers who had been facing severe transportation issues for the past few years.““The service, which was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, had left residents of Devunipalli and surrounding villages struggling for connectivity. Responding to repeated appeals from the villagers, MLA Veerlapalli Shankar took up the issue with the concerned authorities and ensured that the bus facility was restored.““The newly resumed bus will operate from Shadnagar, passing through Srirangapur, Chinna Elkicherla, Pullappa Guda, Ayodhyapur Thanda, and other villages before reaching Devunipalli. Local residents expressed their gratitude to MLA Veerlapalli Shankar for addressing their long-pending demand and ensuring better transport access.““The villagers hailed the MLA's prompt action, describing him as a leader who not only listens to their problems but also ensures swift solutions. His efforts to extend bus connectivity to every village in the constituency have been widely acknowledged.



Many Accidents Have Occurred Due To The Failure To Issue Notices To Cattle Owners As Per The Orders Of Higher Authorities.



““People are Demanding That The Authorities Register Criminal Cases And Make Action Under The Animal Welfare Act.““Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, 01““Srirpur The authorities are facing difficulties due to the excessive movement of cattle on the main road of the bus stand in the Sirpur (T) mandal center of Komuram Bheem Asifabad district. Meanwhile, DSP Ramanu Jam, CI Santosh Kumar, who participated in the peace meeting organized at the police station on the occasion of Ganesh Navratri festivals, told former MPTC Ahmed Durgam Vikram that many accidents have occurred due to the movement of cattle and motorists are being hospitalized due to accidents. Mandal Development““The officer issued orders to the MPDO and the Gram Panchayat Secretary to prevent the movement

of cattle, while the Major Gram Panchayat Secretary, Tirupati, and some owners issued notices, and the movement of cattle will continue as usual. However, the district authorities have responded and, in order to prevent vehicle accidents, the cattle roaming on the road should be kept in a barren barn and cases should be registered against the owners of the cattle under the Animal Welfare Act to prevent the cattle from wandering and prevent the people and motorists from having any trouble and to prevent any accidents and accidents. The motorists are demanding that the Gram Panchayat EO Secretary take legal action to prevent the movement of animals.

'Traffic is Blocked Even Due to light Rain'

““Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, 01.““DYFI District President Tika Nand alleged that the Ullipitta Vagu low-level bridge has overflowed due to the recent heavy rains, causing severe difficulties in traffic. Tiryani (M) Students and locals are facing severe difficulties in traveling from Ullipitta to the ASF district headquarters. He alleged that flood water is flowing from the low-level bridge after a light rain. He said that a high-level bridge should be constructed.

Sarojini Old Age Home Celebrates Divyansh Rishi's Birthday in a Grand Way



Bhuktya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau, September 1, Indian Chronicle: At Sarojini Old Age Home

on Kunavaram Road in Bhadrachalam, a government teacher from Venkatapuram Mandal of Mulugu District, Tellam Venkateswarlu-Sarita, son of Tellam Venkateswarlu, celebrated his birthday in a grand way. First, they cut a cake at Sarojini Old Age Home and distributed it to everyone. Later, they distributed food. Speaking on the occasion, Tellam Venkateswarlu-Sarita said that they are very happy to celebrate the birthday of their son Divyansh Rishi at Sarojini Old Age Home. My fellow government teacher Daravat Bhaskar was impressed to see the birthday celebrations of Jessica Karthikaya, son of the Asha couple, being celebrated at Saroji's old age home and said that our son's birthday celebration was celebrated here. He said that his son's birthday celebration will be celebrated here every year. Along with government teacher Daravat Bhaskar, the family members of the Tellam Venkateswarlu-Saritha couple participated in this program.

Grand 55th Annual Singareni Safety Celebrations““



““Rayala Kishore, Yellandu Constituency, September 1, Indian Chronicle: The 55th Annual Singareni Safety Celebrations were held grandly at Srirampur, where prizes were presented to employees and teams for their outstanding performance in last year's JKOC Safety Week Celebrations. JKOC secured the first place among all open-cast mines across Singareni.““The event was graced by DGMS Ujjwala Dhanbad, Dy. DGMS Kannan, and Singareni CMD



Balaram Naik as chief guests, who distributed the awards.““Also attending were Yellandu Area General Manager Veesam Krishnayya, Area Safety Officer Mohammed Zakir Hussain, JKOC Mine Manager Puli Poornachandra Rao, Mine Safety Officer E.G. Shivaprasad Rao, Recognized Union President Vasireddy Seetharamayya, General Secretary Korimi Raj Kumar, and JKOC FIT Secretary Nadenla Srinivas Reddy, along with other officials and union leaders.

People believe only BJP can protect BC's rights under modi's leadership

Hyderabad, Sept.1:Telangana State BJP President N. Ramchander Rao today asserted that Backward Classes (BCs) and Most Backward Classes (MBCs) in the state strongly believe that the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is the only party that can safeguard their rights. Growing support from the youth, intellectuals, former MLAs and MPs demonstrates increasing faith that BJP alone can ensure justice for BCs, he claimed.

Welcoming former chairman of Telangana state BC commission Vakulabharanam Krishnamohan into the BJP, Ramchander Rao said that the BJP always is in favour of 42 percent reservations for BCs, but would oppose 10 percent reservations to Muslims on religion basis. MP R. Krishnaiah, MLAs, MLCs and official party spokesperson and media in-charge NV Subhash were present.

On this occasion, BJP OBC Morcha National President and Rajya Sabha Member Dr. K. Laxman criticized the Congress government, accusing it of deceiving the BCs. He questioned as to why the Revanth Reddy government

has delayed amending Section 285(A) of the Panchayat Raj Act for providing 42% BC reservations. "If they were sincere, they should have acted 22 months ago. Instead, they staged protests and issued Ordinances without clarity on legal hurdles," Dr. Laxman pointed out and reiterated that BJP fully supports 42% reservations for BCs in local body elections, but firmly opposes 10% religion-based quota for Muslims. Referring to the Kaleshwaram project corruption issue, Dr. Laxman recalled that the BJP has already been demanding a CBI probe into the case. PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had pointed out how the BRS government converted Kaleshwaram into an "ATM" escalating costs from Rs 38,000 crore to over Rs 1 lakh crore.

By setting up the PC Ghosh Commission, the Revanth Reddy government has only wasted time to dilute the evidence. Now that even the Assembly has resolved to handover the case to CBI, the government must 'immediately submit all evidence to the CBI'. Otherwise, Congress will face the same fate as BRS," Dr. Laxman warned.

Srivari Salakatla Brahmotsavams from Sept. 24 to Oct. 2

Tirumala, Sept.1 The annual nine-day festival of Tirumala-Salakatla Brahmotsavams will be celebrated in a grand manner at Tirumala from September 24 to October 02 this year.Among the umpteen number of festivals observed all through the year in Tirumala, the annual brahmotsavams is considered as the mega religious fete and stands as a visual spectacle to the tens and thousands of devotees thronging the festivities during that time.The nine day fest begins with the Ankuraranam, the ritual of prelude, on the evening of September 23.Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam – the temple cleansing ritual will be held at the Srivari Temple on September 16, on the previous Tuesday before the Brahmotsavams.The grandeur of annual Brahmotsavams enhances with it Vahana Sevas. Every day the processional deity of Sri Malayappa Swamy, accompanied with His two Consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi on a few carriers while on some appears solo to bless the devotees along the four mada streets encircling the Tirumala temple.Every day the vahana sevas are observed both in

the morning and also in the evening.

The morning vahana sevas are from 8 am to 10 am while the evening ones from 7 pm to 9 pm during the Brahmotsavams.September 24 : Flag hoisting (Dhwajaroahanam) in the auspicious Meena Lagnam between 05:43 pm to 6.15 pm, Pedda Sessa Vahanam at 9 pm.September 25 : 8 am Chinna Sessa Vahanam, 1 pm to 3 pm Sthanam, 7 pm Hamsa VahanamSeptember 26 : 8 am Simha Vahanam, 1 pm Sthanam, 7 pm Mutyapu Pandiri VahanamSeptember 27 : 8 am Kalpavriksham Vahanam, 1 pm Sthanam, 7 pm Sarva Bhupala VahanamSeptember 28 : 8 am Mohini Avataram, 6:30 pm Garuda VahanamSeptember 29 : 8 am Hanumantha Vahanam, 4 pm Swarna Ratham, 7 pm Gaja VahanamSeptember 30 : 8 am Suryaprabha, 7 pm ChandraprabhaOctober 1 : Chariot procession at 7 am, Aswa Vahanam at 7 pmOctober 2 : Chakrasnanam from 6 am to 9 pm and Dhawaharohanam from 8:30 pm to 10 pm

Greater Hyderabad gears up for grand Ganesh immersion festivities

Hyderabad, Sept.1 The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has completed all necessary arrangements to ensure that the Ganesh idol immersion programme is carried out smoothly, safely, and in an eco-friendly manner, announced GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan.

The Commissioner, along with additional commissioner Raghu Prasad, personally inspected immersion arrangements at Necklage Road covering People's Plaza, Sunrise Point, Lake View Park Bathukamma Pond, and Sanjeevaiah Park Baby Pond on Monday. He reviewed barricading, lighting, crane arrangements, and the setup of control rooms.Commissioner Karnan stated that immersion facilities have been organised at 20 major lakes and 72 specially arranged artificial ponds under GHMC's supervision.

To facilitate smooth immersion, GHMC has allocated adequate funds and provided necessary infrastructure. Across all major lakes, 134 static cranes and 259 mobile cranes have been installed. At Hussain Sagar, in coordination with the Tourism department, 9 boats, Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams, and 200 trained swimmers have been kept on standby. Additionally, 13 control rooms

have been established with police coordination, he said.The Commissioner said for the 303.3 km long main procession route, 160 Ganesh Action Teams have been deployed to ensure smooth idol processions. To maintain cleanliness throughout the celebrations, 14,486 sanitation workers are working in three shifts, he said.Since the beginning of the Ganesh festival, GHMC has collected and transported 3,000 metric tons of waste to dumping yards using 125 JCBs and 102 mini-tippers. At immersion points, 39 mobile toilets have been set up. Along procession routes and immersion locations, 56,187 temporary lights have been arranged. Furthermore, 7 medical camps, including ambulances, have been prepared to operate in three shifts, R.V.Karnan said.As part of the road safety drive, more than 90 percent of potholes across Greater Hyderabad have already been repaired, with engineering teams attending to the remaining damaged stretches caused by rains, he said.R.V. Karnan appealed to organisers to ensure that idols are transported to immersion sites on time so that the process can be carried out in an orderly manner. He also urged devotees and the public to dispose of waste only at the designated garbage points along the procession routes.

SIT INTENSIFIES PROBE INTO SRISHTI FERTILITY SURROGACY SCAM

Hyderabad, Sept.1 :The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has intensified its probe into the sensational Srishti Fertility Center case and has already registered nine cases in connection with the scandal and filing a petition today seeking police custody of the key accused for further interrogation.

Police have booked nine separate cases against Universal Srishti Fertility Center on charges of selling babies under the guise of surrogacy. So far, a total of 27 people, including the prime accused Dr. Namrata, have been arrested. The SIT has now sought two days' custody of Dr. Namrata, her son Jayant Krishna and associates Sadanandam and Chenna Rao.According to the police, the racket which has created a sensation across the Telugu

states, was recently handed over to the SIT for a deeper probe. Officials are examining the role of every individual connected to the illegal surrogacy network allegedly run by Namrata.

Investigators have begun their probe from the Srishti Fertility Center in Visakhapatnam, tracking how babies were procured from couples living in other states and allegedly sold through a well-organized network. About 80 children might have been trafficked so far.SIT officials are also coordinating with other state agencies to gather details of more than 10 additional cases registered against Namrata in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The probe aims to expose the full extent of the network and ensure justice to the affected families.

Telangana Miss & Mrs Belleza 2025 grand finale celebrated in HYD

Hyderabad, Sept.1 The Telangana "Miss and Mrs Belleza" season 2 grand finale lit up the stage at a star hotel in the city with a dazzling display of talent, elegance and empowerment.

The evening commenced with a ceremonial lamp lighting by retired district judge Nerella Malyadri, Belleza founder Vandana Dasari, India Asia Pacific and socialite Sudha Jain, team members Gurjeet and Samreen, along with Nandani, Woman Empowerment Advocate and Strategic Business Advisor. The finale featured 20 finalists across Miss and Mrs categories, representing diverse fields such as medicine, IT, fashion, and homemaking. Contestants competed

in three rounds - Tradition, Indo-Western and Gown - showcasing grace, confidence and individuality.Winners of Telangana Miss & Mrs Belleza 2025: Under the 'Miss' Category, the winner is D. Kavyanjali, while the 1st and 2nd runner-up are Kandakarla Prathyusha and V. Janaki Devi, respectively. As for 'Mrs' category, the winner is Indira Devi, while the 1st and 2nd runner-up are Dr. P. Nikhila Reddy and Avula Revathi, respectively.Emphasizing the mission of the pageant, Belleza founder Vandana Dasari said, "Our goal is not just to highlight beauty, but to celebrate intelligence, strength and self-confidence. Belleza empowers women and helps them succeed in all aspects of life."

IIITH hosts ABDM 2.0 Southern Region Consultation Meeting organised by NHA

Hyderabad, Sept.1 : International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIITH), along with the Telangana state Research Collaboration network, organized a full-day consultation workshop on Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission 2.0, for the National Health Authority on 29 August '25. The Theme for the consultation workshop – "Strengthening Data Standards and Interoperability for Public and Private Healthcare: Tackling Adoption Barriers and Enabling India's AI Health Future". Thought leaders and researchers from RICH, IIIT Hyderabad, ISB, BITS-Pilani Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, NIT Warangal & NALSAR are part of the Telangana Research Collaboration network.The workshop included a presentation by Mr. Vikram Pagaria, Director of NHA on the background, conception, technology, adoption, initiatives and accomplishments of ABDM 1.0 and goals for ABDM 2.0. Prof. Sandeep K Shukla, Director of IIIT Hyderabad, addressed the gathering and emphasized the resolve of IIIT Hyderabad to be at the forefront of digital innovation in healthcare and listed the institute's efforts & work relating to the space. The panelists included members from National Health Authority (NHA), State Government, Research Institutions, Private Healthcare Providers, Public Health Institutions, NGOs, Medical colleges & Health

tech companies. Participants deliberated on use cases enabled by ABDM and how they can empower the citizen and enhance care. Areas covered included inpatient care settings, emergency care & home-based care. Researchers emphasized the need for India specific open datasets and pondered how ABDM could enable the creation of such datasets for AI research on healthcare with appropriate safeguards. The technology and infrastructure demands involved in the successful rollout of ABDM services were also discussed. The panel also discussed data & interoperability standards as well as current efforts towards enhancing awareness and deliberated on the role that academic institutions could play in furthering these. The current challenges & related incentives that could enhance the adoption of ABDM for it to realise full value - across the value chain - were discussed. The need for showcasing value by releasing whitepapers in public & private settings by engaging with Academic institutions was suggested. The need for long-term & sustainable measures, beyond incentives for initial adoption, was suggested.

The deliberations will be compiled into a whitepaper that will be shared with NHA.

UoH TO TACKLE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN HEALTHCARE:



Hyderabad, Sept.1 The Department of Anthropology at the University of Hyderabad (UoH) has joined a pioneering global initiative to address the environmental and health impacts of single-use plastics in healthcare. The project, titled "After the Single Use", is supported by the "Wellcome Trust's £5.9 million Discovery Award" and brings together a global consortium of researchers from eight countries. The initiative will explore the cultural, social and environmental dimensions of medical plastics while promoting sustainable and circular healthcare economies.

At UoH, the project is led by Dr. Nanda Kishore Kannuri, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology. The University will receive £422,608 (approximately Rs 5 crore) over five years to contribute to this research. The study will examine the historical, local and global factors driving healthcare waste, analyze the life cycles of disposable medical technologies, and work with policymakers, activists, engineers and designers to build practical

alternatives.Dr Nanda Kishore said, "This collaboration represents a significant opportunity for the University of Hyderabad to contribute to a global initiative at the intersection of anthropology, environmental sustainability and healthcare. We look forward to working with our international partners to develop innovative solutions applicable across diverse healthcare systems."The International consortium includes: University of Edinburgh (UK), University of New South Wales (Australia), University of Geneva (Switzerland), University of Oslo (Norway), National Institute of Medical Research (Tanzania), CRCF (Senegal), PNG Institute of Medical Research (Papua New Guinea), Johns Hopkins University (USA). Additionally, key NGO collaborators "Health Care Without Harm" and the "Norwegian Bioart Arena" are integral to the initiative.

Posters of "CHHAAPP 2025" unveiled

Hyderabad, Sept.1: Telangana ministers today unveiled the posters of "CHHAAPP 2025" which is aimed at strengthening Telangana's position in cultural and creative hub, while providing artisans and young designers with a unique national stage.Minister for tourism and culture Jupally Krishna Rao along with ministers Konda Surekha and Seethakka unveiled the poster at Telangana state secretariat here today. "CHHAAPP 2025" is a prestigious national festival celebrating crafts, textiles, culture and creativity.

‘Financial health a valid consideration’: HC allows Punjab power body to set date to implement pay panel benefits



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL), as an autonomous body, has the right to decide when to implement Pay Commission benefits for its employees while adding that financial constraints are a legitimate consideration in fixing such dates. Delivering a common judgment on August 19 on more than 30 writ petitions filed by retired employees, Justice Harpreet Singh Brar upheld the PSPCL’s decision to implement pension revisions under the Fifth Pay Commission from December 1, 2011, instead of January 1, 2006, the date from which the state has applied the panel’s recommendations to its employees.

The court ordered, “The PSPCL being a statutory corporation is entitled to prescribe a cut-off date for implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission in view of its financial health. The inability of the Corporation to extend benefits of enhanced pension has been demonstrated by relying on cogent material and as such, is not arbitrary in nature.” The petitioners, mostly former employees of the erstwhile Punjab State Electricity Board (now PSPCL), argued that they had served for over 25 years and were entitled to the same benefits as government staff

from January 2006. They challenged government and PSPCL orders restricting revised pension benefits to those retiring on or after December 1, 2011.

Justice Brar noted that while the Punjab government accepted the Fifth Pay Commission recommendations from January 2006 and issued revised pay rules in May 2009, pension benefits were extended only through a notification dated December 15, 2011. This notification removed the requirement of 33 years of service for receiving a full pension, allowing employees with 25 years of qualifying service to receive 50 per cent of their last basic pay or the average of the last 10 months’ emoluments, whichever was higher. However, these benefits were explicitly limited to employees retiring on or after December 1, 2011. “Since the petitioners had retired before December 1, 2011, they were denied the said benefits,” the court observed. The judgment recalled that in 2013, a coordinate bench had quashed the cut-off date of December 1, 2011, terming it arbitrary, and noting that no material had been placed on record to show it was based on financial considerations. The state had challenged that order through an appeal, which remained pending. Justice Brar upheld PSPCL’s autonomy to take decisions on service conditions, including pay and pension, in line with its financial position. “Financial health is a valid consideration,” the court stressed, particularly for a utility that operates with its own resources and does not depend entirely on government funding. The court pointed out that PSPCL is required to maintain fiscal discipline to ensure an uninterrupted power supply and meet infrastructure needs. “Public utilities must strike a balance between employee entitlements and their capacity to bear the financial burden,” the judgment said, adding that the principle of economic viability often outweighs demands for uniform application of benefits in autonomous bodies. It then disposed of the batch of petitions seeking backdated pension benefits.

Agri expert flags talent dearth in Indian potato industry: ‘Can slow down progress’

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

S Soundararadjane, the CEO of HyFarm, the agri-business unit of HyFun Foods, an end-to-end company involved in the potato industry, has flagged the shortage of skilled breeders, agronomists, and agricultural engineers in the country, saying that this talent gap has become an obstacle to growth in the sector. Speaking to The Indian Express in Pune on Thursday, Soundararadjane said the industry now requires trained manpower in every vertical to boost development. “Major growth is expected from the fries and crisps segments, but a lack of talent can make progress slow,” he said.

India is the second-largest producer of potatoes in the world, producing 60 million tonnes annually—second only to China, which has a yield of 96 million tonnes. Frozen French fries from India have proven to be a hit in the international market, with the segment reporting double-digit growth in the last seven years.

Soundararadjane said the need of the hour is to have experienced breeders develop climate-resilient varieties of the crop. “CPRI [Central Potato Research Institute] has done excellent work, but we need to understand that they, too, have limitations in terms of manpower,” he added. The Shimla-based CPRI is the premium research centre for the tuber. The three main varieties of Indian potatoes are table (92 per cent in terms of production), crisps (used for chips) and fries (used for French fries). Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat are the main states producing the tuber. While Gujarat is the leader in terms of production of potatoes used for fries, MP produces pota-



atoes used for crisps. “Potato cultivation requires special attention, given the vast opportunities it can unearth for the country. Unfortunately, potatoes are taught as a single crop at state agricultural universities,” Soundararadjane said. Potato, being a tuber crop, requires special attention in terms of breeding. Most private companies have shied away from investment in the process, and, currently, CPRI is the only body that is releasing new varieties, he said. “But the major chunk of its work has been for the table variety which is used in curries, sabzis, samosas, etc,” he said. Potato is one of the three crops prioritised by the Centre under its ‘TOP’ (Tomato, Onion Potato) scheme, where cold storage infrastructure has been built. “But we require work across the value chain,” Soundararadjane said. “Work in terms of farmer outreach is also necessary to introduce high-end agricultural practices for potato cultivation in the country. But a lack of manpower who can carry out farm extension services is a problem,” he added.

Karnataka HC to hear ex-CM Yediyurappa’s petition challenging Pocso case cognisance



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

The Karnataka High Court Saturday will hear former chief minister B S Yediyurappa’s petition challenging the trial court’s cognisance in the case registered against him last year under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act. The case was initially heard by a single-judge bench of Justice Pradeep Singh Yerur, which had on March 14 granted a stay on cognisance in the case as well as a stay on the summons for Yediyurappa to appear before the court personally. In March 2024, a woman accused Yediyurappa of inappropriately touching her daughter when they visited him in February to seek help regarding an earlier instance of sexual assault. Based on the complaint from her, the Bengaluru police registered an FIR on March 14 that year. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) also filed a chargesheet against Yediyurappa, and three other accused in this case. While trials in Pocso cases are required to be completed within one year of taking cognisance of offences, legal challenges have delayed them in this instance. In the March order, Justice Yerur ruled that the benefit of a stay regarding personal appearance could be granted in this case as a similar benefit had been given last year in July, when a bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna had heard a previous challenge.

Justice Yerur stated in his order, “Under these circumstances, the matter requires a detailed hearing. The State will have to be given an opportunity to file a statement or produce any material and address the arguments on the main matters. Till then, the benefit of the interim order which ensured to the petitioners in the earlier round of the petition... would have to be granted. The petitioners in both these cases deserve a similar order, till the next date of hearing, until the matter is decided on merits.” In the previous case before Justice Nagaprasanna, the matter was referred back to the Pocso Court, as the original cognisance taken by the court had been deemed to be an “unreasoned” order. However,

Justice Nagaprasanna noted in his order that the registration of the crime, report, and investigation were all untouched by his order. The subsequent cognisance of the chargesheet is under challenge again in this case before Justice Arun Saturday.

Day after being booked for defaming Mayawati, UP influencer ‘Puneet Superstar’ apologises

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

A day after he was booked by the Ghaziabad police for allegedly defaming former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mayawati in a video, social media influencer Prakash Kumar, popularly known as ‘Puneet Superstar’, issued an apology on Thursday. “My intention was not to hurt anyone’s sentiments, but if it has... I seek their forgiveness and vow not to repeat it. Jai Shri Ram,” Kumar said in a video posted on his Instagram account, puneetsuperr_star. Atul Kumar Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Shalimar Garden, said that the police were investigating the case.



“It was a baillable offence and he was asked to sign a bond on Thursday,” Singh said. According to the police, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered against Kumar, who has over 10.8 million followers on Instagram, after advocate Narendra Mohit, the district president of the Bahujan Samaj Party’s (BSP’s) Ghaziabad unit, filed a complaint on Wednesday. In his complaint, Mohit said that Kumar, a Ghaziabad resident, had addressed the BSP national president as “Mummy” in a viral video, and this had allegedly sparked anger among party workers. Terming it an “unforgivable and indecent act”, Mohit sought “the strictest punitive legal action should be implemented so that in future no one can make any indecent comment against any person /special person”, as per the FIR.

In Pune, agri expert flags talent dearth in Indian potato industry: ‘Can slow down progress’



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

S Soundararadjane, the CEO of HyFarm, the agri-business unit of HyFun Foods, an end-to-end company involved in the potato industry, has flagged the shortage of skilled breeders, agronomists, and agricultural engineers in the country, saying that this talent gap has become an obstacle to growth in the sector. Speaking to The Indian Express in Pune on Thursday, Soundararadjane said the industry now requires trained manpower in every vertical to boost development. “Major growth is expected from the fries and crisps segments, but a lack of talent can make progress slow,” he said.

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growth in the last seven years. Soundararadjane said the need of the hour is to have experienced breeders develop climate-resilient varieties of the crop. “CPRI [Central Potato Research Institute] has done excellent work, but we need to understand that they, too, have limitations in terms of manpower,” he added. The Shimla-based CPRI is the premium research centre for the tuber. The three main varieties of Indian potatoes are table (92 per cent in terms of production), crisps (used for chips) and fries (used for French fries). Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat are the main states producing the tuber. While Gujarat is the leader in terms of production of potatoes used for fries, MP produces potatoes used for crisps. “Potato cultivation requires special attention, given the vast opportunities it can unearth for the country. Unfortunately, potatoes are taught as a single crop at state agricultural universities,” Soundararadjane said. Potato, being a tuber crop, requires special attention in terms of breeding. Most private companies have shied away from investment in the process, and, currently, CPRI is the only body that is releasing new varieties, he said. “But the major chunk of its work has been for the table variety which is used in curries, sabzis, samosas, etc,” he said. Potato is one of the three crops prioritised by the Centre under its ‘TOP’ (Tomato, Onion Potato) scheme, where cold storage infrastructure has been built. “But we require work across the value chain,” Soundararadjane said. “Work in terms of farmer outreach is also necessary to introduce high-end agricultural practices for potato cultivation in the country. But a lack of manpower who can carry out farm extension services is a problem,” he added.

Pet dogs bite resident, domestic help in Ghaziabad high-rise societies, incidents caught on camera

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

A complaint was filed with the Nandgram police station, following which the police filed a FIR for negligent conduct by animal owner under Section 291 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). A complaint was filed with the Nandgram police station on August 19, following which the police filed a FIR for negligent conduct by animal owner under Section 291 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Two women have been injured in separate incidents involving pet dog attacks in high-rise societies in Ghaziabad, raising concerns over negligent pet ownership, the police said on Friday.

In the first incident that took place on August 14, a 35-year-old woman sustained serious injuries after being attacked and chased by two German Shepherds belonging to her neighbour on the 14th floor of a high-rise in Raj Nagar Extension. According to police, the woman, Nishi Jain, was waiting for the lift when the dogs suddenly attacked her, and as she attempted to flee, she slipped on the staircase and suffered internal injuries, including a head injury. The video of the incident has gone viral. Her father, Alok Jain, lodged a complaint with the Nandgram police station on August 19, following which the police filed a First Information Report (FIR) for negligent conduct by animal owner under Section 291 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Alok Jain claimed this wasn’t the first incident. “On June 18, the same dogs attacked our minor granddaugh-



ter, who was left traumatized. We had informed the police back then as well,” he said. Jain said that when his family confronted the dog owners, they replied, “Nothing will change. If you have a problem, you should move elsewhere”. In another incident, a pet dog bit a domestic help inside the Amrapali Village society in Indirapuram on August 19. According to the police, the woman, identified as Kalpana, who works in CM Tower of the complex, was also attacked while waiting for the lift. CCTV footage showed the dog — accompanied by its owner and a woman — rush out of the lift and bite the woman around 7.15 pm as the lift door opens. Kalpana, clutching her thigh in pain, eventually picked up her belongings and took another lift. The footage shows her breaking down in pain after boarding, the police said.

Security breach at Parliament as man scales wall, jumps into premises



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Parliament Security Breach Update: In an early-morning security breach, a man scaled the wall of the Parliament by climbing an adjacent tree and jumping into the premises, police said. The man allegedly jumped over the wall from the Rail Bhawan side, a police officer said. The Parliament security staff immediately apprehended the accused and handed him over to local authorities. “He will now be questioned by the Intelligence Bureau and Special Cell officials,” the police officer said. The man, aged 20, hails from Uttar Pradesh and works at a shop in Gujarat, police said.

According to an officer, the accused, of a thin frame and clad in a black T-shirt and khaki pants, wasn’t carrying anything with him. “He appears to be mentally unstable,” the officer said.

In December 2023, a major security breach had occurred in Parliament when two men jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitors’ gallery, raised slogans, and opened canisters that emitted yellow smoke. There was no injury to any Member of Parliament. The incident took place when Zero Hour proceedings were under way. The duo, Sagar Sharma (25) from Lucknow and Manoranjan D (35) from Mysuru, were taken into custody. Two others, Neelam Singh (42) from Hisar in Haryana and Amol Shinde (25) from Latur in Maharashtra, were also arrested from a spot near Parliament House, where they too opened smoke canisters soon after the incident in Lok Sabha. Following this, the Lok Sabha Secretariat had asked the Delhi Police to withdraw 150 personnel, including 54 women personnel, from the security of the Parliament complex. The police’s Security Unit removed them, and they were replaced by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel. The Centre had also asked the CISF to carry out a survey of the Parliament premises for regular deployment on a comprehensive pattern.

‘Uniform voter list of utmost importance’: At Delhi meet, Union ministers bat for ‘One Nation One Election’

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Union minister Bhupender Yadav on Thursday spoke in favour of the ‘One Nation One Election’ proposal to hold simultaneous elections in the country, saying that “elections are only the means to an end, the means cannot be the final object”. “It is of utmost importance to have one uniform voter list for the country,” Yadav, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said at a symposium titled ‘One Nation, One Election—Need of the Hour’, organised by Lawyer’s Voice at the Delhi High Court. An organisation that works to promote the interests of the legal fraternity, Lawyer’s Voice was founded by Delhi High Court judge Justice Ajay Dippaul, along with others. “We have an independent judiciary, an impartial Election Commission... Our Constitution envisages a social, economic and political justice for all... I ask myself then, what is our priority to achieve constitutional principles? Is it governance or to be elected? Our priority is to establish a governance model in our country... but because of consequent elections, the priority for our political parties remains to be elected, it should instead be the means to an end... The end is to implement our constitutional principles,” Yadav said. He also referred to electoral roll revisions, saying, “The speedy change that is being made (with voter roll revisions) is to ensure that the voter list must be finalised. It is of utmost



importance to have uniformity in voter lists in this country. And to have uniformity, it is only fair that it be published and that objections be sought on it. But now some are objecting to the process of seeking objections.” Dismissing the Opposition’s objections to ‘One Nation, One Election’ and criticism on non-consultation of stakeholders, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said at the event that consultations with political parties, as well as feedback and suggestions from the public and experts, have indicated that a majority are in favour of the policy. “All this means the public too wants it... When everyone is saying they want it, some do not want [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi ji to do good work.

Elvish Yadav house firing: man nabbed in encounter, being questioned for suspected involvement in case, say Faridabad police



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

The Faridabad police said Friday they have arrested a wanted criminal after an encounter, and are interrogating him for his possible involvement in Sunday's incident, where three masked assailants opened fire at the Gurgaon house of YouTuber Elvish Yadav. A police spokesperson said the man was on the run and wanted in multiple serious criminal

cases, and has been identified as Ishant alias Gandhi. According to the police, Gandhi opened four rounds of fire from a 26 bore gun when he was stopped by a team from the Crime Branch, Sector 30, between 4 am and 4.30 am near Faridpur village on Tigaon Road. He tried to flee on a bike, triggering an exchange in which he sustained injuries. He was taken to a hospital under police guard. The spokesperson said more details will be shared soon. Three masked men fired more than two dozen shots outside the house of Elvish Yadav in Gurgaon's Sector 57 early Sunday, when he was not at home. Even as the bullets hit the first floor and the stilt area of the three-storey building, no one was injured in the firing. Yadav's family lives on the second floor. The Himanshu Bhau Gang claimed responsibility for the attack hours after the incident. In a post on Instagram, the gang said Elvish Yadav was targeted, as he promoted betting platforms. The Gurgaon police lodged a First Information Report (FIR) on charges of attempt to murder, criminal acts by multiple accused with common intention, and offences under the Arms Act.

New Industrial Park Policy for ease of doing business in Punjab soon: Sanjeev Arora

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

In two major announcements, Punjab Industry and Commerce Minister Sanjeev Arora on Thursday said that the state government is finalising a new Industrial Park Policy and is also planning to establish an independent authority to oversee maintenance of infrastructure in all focal points and industrial estates. During a press conference, Arora said that the Industrial Park Policy, currently in the drafting stage, is designed to be among the most competitive in India and will foster industrial growth and enhance ease of doing business.

"It will provide a robust framework to support industrial expansion by offering state-of-the-art infrastructure and comprehensive facilities within designated industrial parks. These parks will streamline business operations, attract investments, and create a conducive environment for industries to thrive," he said. Arora highlighted the launch of the Fasttrack Punjab portal (fasttrack.punjab.gov.in) on June 10, 2025. The portal, designed to expedite approvals and clearances, has received 1,431 applications to date. Of these, 684 have been processed in time, while the remaining 747 are under review and expected to be cleared soon. Speaking at the 'Rising Punjab – From Suggestions to Solutions' event in Ludhiana earlier in the day, Arora said that said that the independent authority aims to address critical issues such as sewerage, roads, lighting, and other essential facilities to support industrial growth. Global consultancy firm Ernst & Young is developing a framework for the authority. The event saw participation from industrialists across Ludhiana, Moga, Sangrur, and Fatehgarh Sahib, who provided valuable suggestions to shape government policies.

Arora highlighted that Punjab's focus on easing business operations over the past three and a half years has attracted investments worth Rs 1.14 lakh crore, generating employment for 4.5 lakh people. He said that a three-day Punjab Investment Summit will be held at ISB Mohali from March 13, 2026. The summit will bring together industrialists, traders, NRIs, and foreign companies to boost investment in the state. He said that the 'Rising Punjab' initiative is designed to address industrialists' concerns promptly, with policies being shaped based on their feedback.

Arora also added that through the One-Time Settlement Scheme, nearly 40-year-old issues have been resolved. An appellate authority has been established for canceled plots to ensure timely resolution. Clubbing and de-clubbing of industrial plots has been implemented, enabling



entrepreneurs to make better use of their land. Industrialists can now also convert leasehold plots or sheds into freehold. The government is also granting ownership of plots allotted on lease, so that entrepreneurs can conduct financial transactions with ease. He added that last year, the state government provided incentives worth Rs 90 crore to industrialists, and now, within 5 months, incentives worth Rs 222 crore have already been given. Industry director Surabhi Malik elaborated on key initiatives, including the One-Time Settlement (OTS) schemes, procedures for applying, and terms for plot restoration. She also discussed policies for clubbing, de-clubbing, leasehold-to-freehold conversion, and fragmentation/subdivision, along with their respective fee structures. Additional CEO of Invest Punjab Rahul Chhaba highlighted recent reforms and introduced the Fast Track Punjab Portal, a digital platform designed to streamline processes for industrialists. Arora also held a meeting with key departments' officials to review industry, labour, PSPCL, MC, PWD and other schemes related to the industry and address implementation challenges. He also detailed significant infrastructure investments. The Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC) has allocated Rs 100 crores for upgrading infrastructure across various focal points in the state. Tenders worth Rs 70 crore have already been issued, with the remaining Rs 30 crore in the tendering process. In Ludhiana, the Municipal Corporation will invest Rs 55 crore to enhance local infrastructure, ensuring better connectivity and facilities for industrial and commercial activities. He also unveiled plans for the construction of three state-of-the-art exhibition centres in Ludhiana, Amritsar, and Mohali. These centres aim to boost trade, promote local industries, and provide platforms for showcasing products and innovations.

Will consider VRS request by professor ‘positively’: JNU to Delhi High Court



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

JNU tells Delhi HC: Will "consider positively" VRS request by professor Jacob, associated with JNU since 2008 was a professor in the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament (CIPOD) of the School of International Studies (SIS), JNU. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Thursday informed the Delhi High Court that the varsity administration has agreed to consider the voluntary retirement (VRS) application of a scholar and professor "positively", subject to his withdrawing the petition before the high court. Happymon Jacob's request for VRS has been kept on hold owing to "unauthorised foreign trips". Jacob, who was appointed as Assistant Professor in the Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament (CIPOD) of the School of International Studies (SIS), JNU, in 2008, applied for VRS in March this year after completing 20 years of service. He joined as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Strategic and Regional Studies at the University of Jammu in 2004. While the VRS was due to take effect from June 28, as per the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021, and was even approved initially, it was put on hold after Jacob went to Malaysia twice without prior authorisation from the varsity in June. After Justice Prateek Jalan, addressing JNU on August 18, asked orally why it was inviting a problem that does not exist, it said before the court Thursday that Jacob subsequently wrote to the university, and agreed to withdraw the petition. Recording the same, Justice Jalan disposed of the petition as withdrawn. JNU also informed the Delhi High Court that Jacob's request for pensionary benefits, which he is eligible for, "will be considered."

The court, however, reserved Jacob's liberty to move

court again if his grievances survive subsequently. Jacob's VRS application was approved in an office order by JNU on June 18, four days before his retirement. On June 24, JNU informed through an email that his retirement request is being kept in abeyance on account of "unauthorised foreign trips". The communication was sent after Jacob travelled to Kuala Lumpur for the 38th Asia-Pacific Roundtable from June 17-19. On July 14, Jacob, in a written communication to the dean of SIS, stated that he made the foreign trip during the vacation period at the university, and he had faced technical issues with the online leave application. In the communication, he also requested that the trip be condoned, and the hold on his resignation be withdrawn.

Telangana HC terms publication of Kaleshwaram report improper without Assembly debate, asks govt to take it down from public domain

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Friday faulted the State government for putting the PC Ghose Commission report on the Kaleshwaram project in public domain, before discussion in the Assembly. The State government has been directed to take down the official report or its summary from public domain. The court has posted the matter for hearing after five weeks. The HC Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Moinuddin, was acting on writ petitions filed by BRS chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, and former Minister T Harish Rao, seeking a direction to the Telangana Government not to act upon the report on the Kaleshwaram project. During the arguments, Advocate General A Sudharshan Reddy made a categorical submission that no action would be taken on the report until it was placed before and discussed in the Assembly, as mandated by the Commission of Inquiries Act. In view of the written submission by the State government, the bench noted that the petitioners' apprehensions of immediate action were misplaced. It held that no interim directions were necessary at this stage.

‘I’m an easy target... being relentlessly harassed,’ claims AUD student; HC seeks varsity’s response



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Relentlessly harassed: AUD student to HC The student, through her advocate Pranjal Abrol, has now again moved the HC, seeking that the expulsion order, issued against her on June 27, be set aside. The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought a response from the BR Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) as a postgraduate student claimed in a plea before the court that she was being "relentlessly harassed" after being expelled allegedly over participation in protests.

Accusing the university of "institutional malice", advocate Abhik Chimni, arguing on behalf of the student before Justice Vikas Mahajan, told the court on Thursday, "(I'm being) relentlessly harassed...I'm a student...they first throw me out...I'm an easy target (for the AUD)." Nadia, who was first suspended on March 5 for a period of one year over the alleged violation of code of conduct by participating in protests against an incident of ragging and bullying of a student, had moved the High Court earlier too, highlighting "lapses" on the part of AUD. At the time, Nadia had pointed out that the university's decision had come without

any show-cause notice, statements of charges, notice of disciplinary proceedings or the opportunity of a reasonable hearing. After the HC intervened, the university had revoked the suspension and agreed to consider the case with due process. The court, while disposing of the petition, had also cautioned that she should not take part in any demonstration, "directly or indirectly related with regard to the incident".

The student, through her advocate Pranjal Abrol, has now again moved the HC, seeking that the expulsion order, issued against her on June 27, be set aside. She is also seeking the setting aside of the dismissal of the appeal against the expulsion order. The court was told that she did not participate in any further protests pertaining to the incident in which the AUD had initiated an inquiry, in compliance with the HC's order passed earlier, and that her expulsion has been reasoned on the ground of her alleged participation in a protest on April 21. She also highlighted the alleged violation of principles of natural justice by the university.

She claimed that she was not allowed to cross-examine the complainant, who is also the only witness as per the university; was not supplied with evidence purportedly relied upon; and was not allowed to adduce her own witnesses and not supplied any inquiry report. While the university has alleged that Nadia participated in a protest on April 21, which was held to raise several demands, including reopening of AUD main gate, restoration of timings, withdrawal of arbitrary show-cause notices, revocation of suspensions, removal of barricades, enabling mail chain, and withdrawal of the decision banning protests, it refused to consider that Nadia's presence at the site was only limited to "conversation". Justice Mahajan has now issued notice to the university, posting the matter for consideration on October 9.

South Delhi triple murder: Man held for killing parents, elder brother, cops say wanted to die by suicide

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

A day after he allegedly slit the throats of his parents and elder brother at their home in the Maidangarhi area of South Delhi, the 22-year-old accused, identified as Siddharth, was arrested on Thursday evening after a coordinated raid by the police personnel and the Special Staff sleuths of the South Districts, officers said. According to the police, the accused was arrested after he was spotted by officers at the AIIMS Metro station, around 4 pm on Thursday. His whereabouts remained unknown till then, officers added. It is suspected that Siddharth intended to die by suicide after allegedly murdering his family members, DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan said.

The deceased were identified as Prem Singh (50), his wife Rajani (45) and their elder son Ritik (24). Prima facie, it has emerged that the accused had disclosed to someone that he had murdered his family and would not live there anymore, DCP Chauhan added. During the preliminary probe, police claimed to have found documents and medication, suggesting Siddharth's prolonged treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder and anger management issues. "He is being questioned to ascertain the motive behind the crime. Further investigation is underway," DCP Chauhan said. The accused had allegedly told his friend



about a month back that he plans on leaving his family behind and moving to Rajasthan, a police officer said. Siddharth allegedly took his family scooter to flee the spot of the crime, which was later found parked near the Mehrauli police station, the officer added.

Police said that a PCR call was received around 7 pm on Wednesday when they were informed that a man had been found lying in a pool of blood inside house number 155 at Satbari Kharak village in Maidangarhi. It was Ritik's body. "When a police team reached the spot, three persons were found dead," the DCP said.

Day after Delhi CM Rekha Gupta attacked, friend of accused held, 4 more set to record statements

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

A day after CM Rekha Gupta was attacked during a public meeting and a man from Gujarat was arrested under attempted murder charges for the assault, the Delhi Police on Thursday night detained one of his friends for questioning from Gujarat. Four more persons linked to the accused have been identified and their statements will be recorded to connect the dots in the case, officers said. Meanwhile, the CM asserted on Thursday that she "will never leave Delhi despite all these unexpected attacks" and will continue to fight for the interest of people.

Rajesh Khimji Sakriya was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly attacking the CM at a 'Jan Sunwai' event outside her Civil Lines office. Sakriya's friend, who allegedly transferred him money in Rajkot, was detained by a team of personnel from Delhi Police with help from Gujarat Police late on Thursday night — he will be brought to the Capital on Friday, said an officer, pleading anonymity, without divulging more details. Sakriya had interacted with four other persons before leaving Rajkot, the officer added. Their statements will be recorded. Sakriya was sent to five days of police custody on Thursday after he was produced at the residence of the Metropolitan Magistrate in Dwarka post midnight. The Delhi Police had initially sought remand for seven days. Police said they wanted to investigate if the crime was self-motivated, financially motivated or if there was any organisation behind the attack. "The conspiracy angle needs to be checked and unearthed... we need to check if more people are involved in this attack, conduct background checks of the accused and since he has family and contacts in Gujarat, their statements need to be taken down," said police in their remand application. So far, the probe has indicated, sources said, that it was a 'self-motivated' attack. However, some details are being verified, officers underlined. On Thursday, the police also verified



the route the accused had taken from the time he reached Delhi till the time the attack took place.

The accused had earlier told the police that he saw a video clip in which the CM is seen speaking about stray dogs, and then decided to attack her because he was a dog lover. After questioning him and scrutinising his cellphone details, police said the investigation has also revealed that he offered prayers at Shri Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga Temple in Ujjain before coming to Delhi on Tuesday. The CM, meanwhile, said in a post on X on Thursday that 'Jan Sunwai (public hearing)' meetings will not be held just at her home, but in every Assembly constituency. She posted a photograph of her signing files, and wrote in Hindi, "When I was in college, my father gave me a car to drive. One day, an accident occurred. I was afraid to touch the car again. Then my father said that accidents happen in life, one should not stop out of fear." "Yesterday, another accident happened, but I can never stop fighting for the interests of Delhiites. Every moment of my life is dedicated to Delhi. I will never leave Delhi despite all these unexpected attacks," she said.

Three Bengaluru cybercriminals held in Jagtial for Rs 74 lakh fraud

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Jagtial: Jagtial police arrested three cybercriminals on charges of cheating people in the name of business, investment and trading. The arrested were Nagendra Prasad, Yogendra Kadam and Sunil who hail from Bengaluru. They used to do transactions through a gang from Kolkata. A businessman from Korutla lost Rs 53 lakh while another one from Jagtial lost Rs 21 lakh. Based on the complaint by victims, a special team was constituted under the supervision of Cybercrime DSP Venkataramana. As part of the investigation, police identified the bank accounts of cybercriminals who were cheating the people in the name of stock market business and

investment and trading. Police also found that the accused were doing transactions through a gang from Kolkata. After identifying that they belonged to Bengaluru, a special team police went to Karnataka and arrested them. In order to earn money in an easy way, Nagendra Prasad started cheating the people in the name of business investment and trading. Based on the advice of one Anwar from Calcutta, he started cheating. He diverted the amount earned through cheating to other bank accounts. There are 71 cases against him in the NCRP portal. Yogesh and Sunil, who used to open bank accounts on their names as well as others names, had earned money by selling them to cybercriminals. 22 cases were registered against them in NCRO portal.

U.N. declares famine in Gaza, first ever in Middle East



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

The United Nations officially declared a famine in Gaza, the first in the Middle East, with its experts saying 500,000 people were facing “catastrophic” hunger. U.N. aid chief Tom Fletcher said the famine was entirely preventable, saying food could not get through to the Palestinian territory “because of systematic obstruction by Israel”. But Israel’s Foreign Ministry immediately hit back, saying “there is no famine in Gaza”. In a statement, it slammed the report by the Rome-based IPC panel, saying it was “based on Hamas lies laundered through organisations with vested interests”. U.N. agencies have for months been warning of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territory. In its latest update on Friday, the IPC said “as of 15 August 2025, famine (IPC Phase 5) — with reasonable evidence — is confirmed in Gaza Governorate”, Gaza City, which covers about 20 percent of the Gaza Strip. Famine is projected to expand to Deir el-Balah and Khan Yunis governorates by the end of September, which would cover around two-thirds of the Palestinian territory. “After 22 months of relentless conflict, over half a million people in the Gaza Strip are facing catastrophic conditions

characterised by starvation, destitution and death,” the report said. This number, based on information gathered between July 1 and August 15, is expected to increase to nearly 641,000 people -- nearly a third of the population -- by the end of September.

‘Haunt us all’ The IPC said this was the most severe deterioration in the situation since it began analysing hunger in the Gaza Strip. It said the change was driven by a sharp escalation in the war between Israel and Hamas, and the resulting massive displacement of people, combined with the severe restriction of access to humanitarian and commercial supplies of food. In early March, Israel completely banned aid supplies from Gaza, before allowing very limited quantities to enter at the end of May, leading to severe shortages of food, medicine, and fuel. Speaking in Geneva, the U.N.’s Fletcher said the famine should “haunt us all”. “It is a famine that we could have prevented if we had been allowed. Yet food stacks up at borders because of systematic obstruction by Israel,” he told reporters. The IPC noted the local food system has also collapsed, with an estimated 98 percent of cropland in the Gaza Strip either damaged, inaccessible or both, livestock decimated and fishing banned. To add to this, the health system has severely deteriorated, while access to safe drinking water and adequate hygiene has been drastically reduced. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Initiative (IPC) is a coalition of monitors tasked by the UN to warn of impending crises. And third, at least two in every 10,000 people are dying every day because of outright starvation or because of malnutrition and disease. Hamas’s October 2023 attack on Israel that sparked the war resulted in the deaths of 1,219 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures. Israel’s offensive has killed at least 62,192 Palestinians, most of them civilians, according to figures from the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza that the United Nations considers reliable.

Trump administration reviewing all 55 million people with U.S. visas for potential deportable violations



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

The Trump administration said on Thursday (August 21, 2025) it is reviewing more than 55 million people who have valid U.S. visas for any violations that could lead to deportation, part of a growing crackdown on foreigners who are permitted to be in the United States. In a written answer to a question from The Associated Press, the State Department said all U.S. visa holders, which can include tourists from many countries, are subject to “continuous vetting,” with an eye toward any indication they could be ineligible for permission to enter or stay in the United States. Should such information be found, the visa will be revoked, and if the visa holder is in the United States, he or she would be subject to deportation.

Since President Donald Trump took office, his administration has focused on deporting migrants illegally in the United States as well as holders of student and visitor exchange visas. The State Department’s new language suggests that the continual vetting process, which officials acknowledge is time-consuming, is far more widespread and could mean even those approved to be in the U.S. could abruptly see those permissions revoked. The department said it was looking for indicators of ineligibility, including people staying past the authorised timeframe outlined in a visa, criminal activity, threats to public safety, engaging in any form of terrorist activity or providing support to a terrorist organisation. “We review all available information as part of our vetting, including law enforcement or immigration records or any other information that comes to light after visa issuance indicating a potential ineligibility,” the department said.

The U.S. also will stop issuing worker visas for commercial truck drivers, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Thursday on X. He said the change was effective immediately. “The increasing number of foreign drivers operating large tractor-trailer trucks on U.S. roads is endangering American lives and undercutting the livelihoods of American truckers,” MR. Rubio posted. The department did

not immediately respond to a question about the number of foreign truck drivers working in the U.S. The Trump administration in past months has taken steps to enforce the requirement that truckers speak and read English proficiently. The Transportation Department said the aim is to improve road safety following incidents in which drivers’ ability to read signs or speak English may have contributed to traffic deaths. The administration has steadily imposed more restrictions and requirements on visa applicants, including requiring them to submit to in-person interviews. The review of all visa holders appears to be a significant expansion of what had initially been a process focused mainly on students who have been involved in what the government perceives as pro-Palestinian or anti-Israel activity. Officials say the reviews will include all visa holders’ social media accounts, law enforcement and immigration records in their home countries, along with any actionable violations of U.S. law committed while they were in the United States. The reviews will include new tools for data collection on past, present and future visa applicants, including a complete scouring of social media sites made possible by new requirements introduced earlier this year. Those make it mandatory for privacy switches on cellphones and other electronic devices or apps to be turned off when an applicant appears for a visa interview.

“As part of the Trump Administration’s commitment to protect U.S. national security and public safety, since Inauguration Day the State Department has revoked more than twice as many visas, including nearly four times as many student visas, as during the same time period last year,” the State Department said. The vast majority of foreigners seeking to come to the U.S. require visas, especially those who want to study or work for extended periods. Among the exceptions for short-term tourist or business visits are citizens of the 40 mainly European and Asian countries belonging to the Visa Waiver Program, which grants those nationals a stay of up to three months without having to apply for a visa. But large swaths of the world — including highly populated countries like China, India, Indonesia, Russia and most of Africa — are not part of the program, meaning their citizens must apply for and receive visas to travel to the United States. Earlier this week, the department said that since Trump returned to the White House, it has revoked more than 6,000 student visas for overstays and violations of local, state and federal law, the vast majority of which were assault, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and support for terrorism. It said about 4,000 of those 6,000 were due to actual infractions of laws and that approximately 200 to 300 visas were revoked for terrorism-related issues, including providing support for designated terrorist organizations or state sponsors of terrorism.

Top European diplomat says Putin is setting 'a trap' by demanding Ukraine concessions

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

The European Union’s Foreign Policy Chief said on Friday (August 22, 2025) that the possibility of Ukraine ceding land to Russia as part of a peace deal to end their three-year war is “a trap” set by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Russian leader is demanding Ukrainian concessions in return for halting his army’s invasion, but granting him those demands would amount to rewarding the country that started the fighting, Kaja Kallas said. The recent talk about handing Putin concessions is “exactly the trap that Russia wants us to walk into,” Ms. Kallas said in an interview with the BBC. “I mean, the discussion all about what Ukraine should give up, what the concessions that Ukraine is willing to (make), whereas we are forgetting that Russia has not made one single concession and they are the ones who are the aggressor here, they are the ones who are brutally attacking another country and killing people,” she said. U.S.-led peace efforts have struggled to get traction, despite US President Donald Trump discussing the war with Putin in Alaska last week before hosting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders at the White House on Monday. Numerous details for a formal peace proposal need to be hammered out. Meanwhile, Russia has continued to attack Ukraine and has raised objections to some key Ukrainian demands. Establishing post-war Western security guarantees for Ukraine, which Kyiv insists are needed to deter another Russian attack, is under discussion by a variety of countries, Kallas said, noting that “it does sound like we are some way off in terms of pinning that down.” “Russia is just dragging feet. It’s clear

that Russia does not want peace,” Kallas said. “President Trump has been repeatedly saying that the killing has to stop, and Putin is just laughing, not stopping the killing, but increasing the killing.” Ukraine, meanwhile, has hit back at Russia with long-range weapons that are targeting infrastructure supporting Moscow’s war effort. It has hit oil refineries, among other targets, and Russian wholesale gasoline prices have reached record highs in recent days. Ukrainian forces on Friday targeted the Druzhba oil pipeline in Russia, hitting the Unecha oil pumping station in the Bryansk region, according to the commander of Ukraine’s Unmanned Systems Forces, Robert Brovdy, also known as Magyar. The Druzhba pipeline starts in Russia and takes oil through Belarus and Ukraine to Slovakia and Hungary. In Russia, a section of it goes through the Bryansk region and the Unecha district. Ukraine fired HIMARS rockets and drones at the region in a combined attack, Bryansk regional Gov Alexander Bogomaz said in a Telegram post. The pipeline supplies Hungary with more than half of its crude oil. Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto wrote on Facebook on Friday that the Druzhba pipeline had been attacked “for the third time in a short time.” “This is another attack on the energy security of our country. Another attempt to drag us into war,” the minister wrote. Hungary under Prime Minister Viktor Orban has taken a combative stance toward both Kyiv and its EU backers while most EU countries have offered political, financial, and military support to Kyiv. Orban visited Moscow to meet with Putin last month in a rare trip to Russia by a European leader. Slovakia and Hungary are the only remaining EU member states still receiving oil from Russia.

U.S. court throws out massive civil fraud penalty against President Trump



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Mr. Trump, in a social media post, claimed “total victory” in the case, which stemmed from a civil lawsuit brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James. “I greatly respect the fact that the Court had the Courage to throw out this unlawful and disgraceful Decision that was hurting Business all throughout New York State,” the Republican wrote.

James, a Democrat, focused on the parts of the decision that went her way, saying in a statement that it “affirmed the well-supported finding of the trial court: Donald Trump, his company, and two of his children are liable for fraud.” The ruling came seven months after Mr. Trump returned to the White House, his political fortunes unimpeded by the civil fraud judgment, a criminal conviction and other legal blows. A sharply divided panel of five Judges in the state’s mid-level Appellate Division couldn’t agree on many issues raised in Mr. Trump’s appeal, but a majority said the monetary penalty was “excessive”. A lower-court judge, Arthur Engoron, had ordered Mr. Trump last year to pay \$355 million in penalties after finding that he flagrantly padded financial statements provided to lenders and insurers. With interest, the sum has topped \$515 million. Additional penalties for executives at his company, the Trump Organisation, including sons Eric and Donald Trump Jr, have brought the total to \$527 million with interest.

“While harm certainly occurred, it was not the cataclysmic harm that can justify a nearly half billion-dollar award” to the state, Judges Dianne Renwick and Peter Moulton wrote in one of three opinions shaping the appeals court’s ruling. They called the penalty “an excessive fine that violates the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution”. Both were appointed by Democratic governors. Engoron’s other punishments, upheld by the appeals court, have been on pause during Mr. Trump’s appeal, and the president was able to hold off collection of the money by posting a \$175 million bond. Donald Trump Jr celebrated the decision by mocking James, who had periodically posted a running tally of the fraud penalty with interest. Over a post from James in February 2024, when the tally was nearly \$465 million, Trump Jr wrote: “I believe you mean \$0.00. Thank you for your attention to this matter.” The five-Judge panel, which split on the merits of the lawsuit and Engoron’s fraud finding, dismissed the monetary penalty in its entirety while also leaving a pathway for an appeal to the state’s highest court, the Court of Appeals. In the meantime, Mr. Trump and his co-defendants, the Judges wrote, can seek to extend the pause to prevent any punishments from taking effect.

While the Appellate Division dispatches most appeals in a few pages in a matter of weeks, the Judges weighing

Mr. Trump’s case took nearly 11 months to rule after oral arguments last fall and issued 323 pages of concurring and dissenting opinions with no majority. Rather, some Judges endorsed parts of their colleagues’ findings while denouncing others, enabling the court to rule. Two Judges wrote that they felt James’ lawsuit was justifiable and that she had proven her case but the penalty was too severe. One wrote that James exceeded her legal authority in bringing the suit, saying that if any lenders felt cheated, they could have sued Mr. Trump themselves, and none did. Another wrote that Engoron erred by ruling before the trial that James had proven Mr. Trump engaged in fraud. In his portion of the ruling, Judge David Friedman, appointed by a Republican governor, was scathing in his criticism of James for bringing the lawsuit.

“Plainly, her ultimate goal was not ‘market hygiene’ ... but political hygiene, ending with the derailment of President Trump’s political career and the destruction of his real estate business,” Judge Friedman wrote. “The voters have obviously rendered a verdict on his political career. This bench today unanimously derails the effort to destroy his business.” Mr. Trump and his co-defendants denied wrongdoing. At the conclusion of the civil trial in January 2024, Trump said he was “an innocent man” and the case was a “fraud on me”. The Republican leader has repeatedly maintained the case and the verdict were political moves by James and Engoron, both Democrats. Mr. Trump’s Justice Department has subpoenaed James for records related to the lawsuit, among other documents, as part of an investigation into whether she violated the president’s civil rights. James’ personal attorney Abbe D Lowell has said investigating the fraud case is “the most blatant and desperate example of this administration carrying out the president’s political retribution campaign”. Mr. Trump and his lawyers said his financial statements weren’t deceptive since they came with disclaimers noting they weren’t audited. The defence also noted bankers and insurers independently evaluated the numbers, and the loans were repaid.

Despite such discrepancies as tripling the size of his Trump Tower penthouse, he said the financial statements were, if anything, lowball estimates of his fortune. During an appellate court hearing last September, Mr. Trump’s lawyers argued that many of the case’s allegations were too old and that James had misused a consumer protection law to sue Mr. Trump over private business transactions that were satisfactory to those involved. State attorneys said that while Mr. Trump insists no one was harmed by the financial statements, his exaggerations led lenders to make riskier loans and that honest borrowers lose out when others game their net worth numbers. The civil fraud case was just one of several legal obstacles for Mr. Trump as he campaigned, won and segued to a second term as president. On Jan 10, he was sentenced in his criminal hush money case to what’s known as an unconditional discharge, leaving his conviction on the books but sparing him jail, probation, a fine or other punishment. He is appealing the conviction. And in December, a federal appeals court upheld a jury’s finding that Mr. Trump sexually abused writer E. Jean Carroll in the mid-1990s and later defamed her, affirming a \$5 million judgment against him. The appeals court declined in June to reconsider. Trump still can try to get the Supreme Court to hear his appeal. Mr. Trump also is appealing a subsequent verdict that requires him to pay Carroll \$83.3 million for additional defamation claims.

Iran, European nations to hold urgent call over nuclear deal as sanctions deadline nears

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Dubai: Just days away from a European deadline, Iran said Friday its foreign minister would hold a telephone conference call with his French, German and British counterparts to avoid the reimposition of United Nations sanctions over Tehran’s nuclear programme. The call, planned for Friday by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, according to Iran’s state-run IRNA news agency, comes as the three parties to Tehran’s 2015 nuclear deal threaten to reimpose those sanctions under a mechanism known as “snapback” in the accord. The European Union’s chief diplomat will also join the call, IRNA said. The Europeans’ concern over the Iranian programme, which had been enriching uranium to near weapons-grade levels before the 12-day Iran-Israel war in June saw its atomic sites bombed, has only grown since Tehran cut off all cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the conflict’s wake.

That has left the international community further blinded to Iran’s programme — as well as the status of its stockpile of uranium enriched to 60 per cent purity, a short, technical step to weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent. Iran has long insisted its programme is peaceful, though it is the only non-nuclear-armed nation enriching uranium at that level. The US, the IAEA and others assess Iran had a nuclear weapons programme up until 2003.

European letter set deadline. In a letter August 8, the three European nations warned Iran it would proceed with “snapback” if Tehran didn’t reach a “satisfactory solution” to the nuclear issues. That deadline would be August 31, in nine days, leaving little time for Iran to likely reach any agreement with the Europeans, who have grown increasingly skeptical of Iran over years of inconclusive negotiations over its nuclear programme. Restoring the IAEA’s access

is a key part of the talks. Iran has blamed the war with Israel in part on the IAEA, the UN’s nuclear watchdog, without offering any evidence. The IAEA issues quarterly reports on Iran’s programme and the 2015 deal gave it greater access to keep track of it. Iran has also threatened its director-general, Rafael Mariano Grossi, with arrest if he comes to Iran, further complicating talks. Grossi is considering running to become the UN’s secretary-general, something Tehran has seized on as well in its criticisms of the Argentine diplomat.

Alongside the European call with Iran, IAEA officials in Vienna were to meet with Iranian officials, a diplomat close to the agency told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door meeting. Those talks would be a continuation of a discussion held during an August 11 visit to Tehran by Massimo Aparo, a deputy to Grossi, the diplomat added. Iran tries to downplay snapback threat. In announcing the call, the IRNA report didn’t mention the deadline and instead appeared to suggest Iran’s concerns would dominate the discussion. Quoting Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei, IRNA said Araghchi “would discuss lifting of the unlawful sanctions” and “the need for the involved parties to respond to criminal attacks against Iran’s peaceful nuclear facilities.” Araghchi himself also has sought to downplay the threat “snapback” poses. The “snapback” power in the nuclear accord expires in October, also putting pressure on the Europeans to potentially use it as leverage with Iran before losing that ability. Under “snapback,” any party to the deal can find Iran in noncompliance, reimposing the sanctions. After it expires, any sanctions effort could face a veto from UN Security Council members China and Russia, two nations that have provided some support to Iran in the past but stayed out of the June war.

EU foreign policy chief warns Ukraine concessions to Putin are ‘a trap’

Kyiv: The European Union’s foreign policy chief said Friday that the possibility of Ukraine ceding land to Russia as part of a peace deal to end their three-year war is “a trap” set by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Russian leader is demanding Ukrainian concessions in return for halting his army’s invasion but granting him those demands would amount to rewarding the country that started the fighting, Kaja Kallas said. The recent talk about handing Putin concessions is “exactly the trap that Russia wants us to walk into,” Kallas said in an interview with the BBC. “I mean, the discussion all about what Ukraine should give up, what the concessions that Ukraine is willing to (make), whereas we are forgetting that Russia has not made one single concession and they are the ones who are the aggressor here, they are the ones who are brutally attacking another country and killing people,” she said. US-led peace efforts have struggled to get traction, despite US President Donald Trump discussing the war with Putin in Alaska last week before hosting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders at the White House on

Monday. Establishing postwar Western security guarantees for Ukraine, which Kyiv insists are needed to deter another Russian attack, is under discussion by a variety of countries, Kallas said, noting that “it does sound like we are some way off in terms of pinning that down.” “Russia is just dragging feet. It’s clear that Russia does not want peace,” Kallas said. “President Trump has been repeatedly saying that the killing has to stop and Putin is just laughing, not stopping the killing, but increasing the killing.” Ukraine, meanwhile, has hit back at Russia with long-range weapons that are targeting infrastructure supporting Moscow’s war effort. It has hit oil refineries, among other targets, and Russian wholesale gasoline prices have reached record highs in recent days. Ukrainian forces on Friday targeted the Druzhba oil pipeline in Russia, hitting the Unecha oil pumping station in the Bryansk region, according to the commander of Ukraine’s Unmanned Systems Forces, Robert Brovdy, also known as Magyar. The Druzhba pipeline starts in Russia and takes oil through Belarus and Ukraine to Slovakia and Hungary.

Hyderabad electrocution deaths: Where wires hang low, and accountability even lower



Grief hangs heavy in the narrow lanes of Old Ramanthapur, a working-class suburb on the eastern edge of Hyderabad. Inside the Yadav household, every corner seems to echo with the absence of 21-year-old P.Krishna, — the only son in a family of daughters, the boy everyone relied on. Days earlier, his right arm was crowded with rakhis, tied lovingly by his sisters who will now have only that memory to clutch on to.On August 18, Krishna, fondly known among his friends as ‘Diamond’ had stepped out into the rain to fetch his father from the Janmashtami procession. Often seen in crisp white shirts, he had put on a yellow turban and scarf on the festival day. It was the first ever Krishna Shobha Yatra in their neighbourhood. Until now, locals say, the festival revolved around the traditional utti or utsavolam, in which clay pots filled with butter or sweets were smashed by youths forming a human pyramid. The grand procession was meant to add visual flourish and attract youth to the celebrations.

By midnight, he and four others lay lifeless on the road. The nine-foot chariot they were pulling had brushed against a sagging high-tension wire near RTC Colony. The current tore through the men in seconds. Krishna died instantly, along with Rajendra Reddy (48) of Ravindra Nagar Colony, Srikanth Reddy (35) of Sharada Nagar, Rudra Vikas (39) of Habsiguda and Suresh Yadav (34) of Old Ramanthapur.His sister Ramya, who had stayed back at home after Raksha Bandhan, remembers him urging her not to leave for her in-laws: “Just two months ago, he had planned my wedding down to the smallest detail. He assured me that though he is younger, he would always take care of our parents. No matter what [compensation] the government gives us, they can’t bring him back.”“Within seconds, it was all over. My son had come to take me home in the rain. He wanted to help move the chariot,” recalls Raghu Yadav, Krishna’s father, his voice breaking. “He was our support. But he is gone.”

The loss rippled across households. Rajendra Reddy’s wife and two school-going children are left behind. Srikanth Reddy’s teenage children must now grow up without the man they relied on. The morning after the incident, Suresh Yadav’s family had returned to their native place with their infant daughter, their home in Ramanthapur locked and silent. Neighbours say he was the sole breadwinner.Among the survivors was Armed Reserve head constable V. Srinivas (55), a thick bandage wrapped around his head and his chest still marked from the CPR that saved him. “I have been friends with Vikas, Srikanth and Rajender Reddy for over a decade. We even took photos together before the procession began. When the Gypsy ran out of fuel, we started pulling the chariot ourselves. I was holding it from the back when there was a sudden spark. I collapsed. The next thing I knew, I was in the hospital. I lived, but my friends did not.”

Others injured included Ganesh (21) of Golnaka, Surva Ravindar Yadav (30) and Mahesh (27) of Old Ramanthapur. Mahesh has since been discharged, but the rest are still undergoing treatment.In the aftermath of the electrocution deaths, the Electricity department scrambled to cut wires hastily and arbitrarily, leaving a heap strewn on the road.But Ramanthapur was not the only tragedy. Within 24 hours, Hyderabad saw two more fatal electrocutions. In DD Colony, about 2.3 kilometres from Ramanthapur, labourer Ram Charan Tej (18) died while erecting a 15-foot pandal for Ganesh puja, suffering a fatal head injury. The next morning in Bandlaguda, around 16 kilometres from Ramanthapur, Tony (21) and Vikas (22) died when the Ganesh idol they were transporting touched a 33-kv line. Their friend Akshay, 23, escaped with injuries.Eight lives lost in less than 48 hours. Since January, more than a dozen people across Hyderabad and surrounding districts have died in similar accidents — a boy near an Eidgah ground in Khairatabad, two men pulling down a signboard in Habsiguda and workers tying banners or plucking mangoes near live wires.The series of electrocution deaths jolted the government into action. Within 24 hours, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who is also the Minister of Energy, ordered a fast-track shift to underground cabling in Hyderabad. He also directed the removal of unauthorised cables from electric poles, warning of strict action against operators. The move echoed Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy’s earlier call for underground networks and followed Mr.Bhatti’s study of Bengaluru’s cabling model.

The Uppal police of Rachakonda booked a case of accidental death and started a probe. Meanwhile, IT Minister D. Sidhar Babu announced ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh for each of the bereaved families and said the government would bear the entire medical expenses of those injured.Yet beneath the urgency of these announcements lies a more complicated reality. Hyderabad’s skyline of poles and wires is the outcome of years of neglect, weak regulation and blurred responsibility. “In a built-up city, undergrounding is disruptive and expensive,” says architect Shankar Narayan. “Smart poles are a better alternative, where electricity, internet and other utilities are integrated. Along major roads, underground cables may work. But in narrow bylanes, smart poles, like those used in Japan, are easier to maintain and can even generate revenue if properly regulated.”He adds that the electricity utility could even generate revenue by regulating this. “Internet service providers string wires haphazardly on poles, and when they are cut, households are left without connectivity. Governments should involve planners and architects before rolling out such projects,” he argues.A knee-jerk reaction

Instead, haste triggered fresh chaos. Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL), reeling from criticism, began hacking down overhead cables

across Hyderabad. In the process, it left lakhs digitally paralysed. The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) called the abrupt cable-cutting move “indiscriminate and aggressive.”Social media was soon flooded with photos of severed wires piled on pavements. Office work was stalled, students missed deadlines and homes fell into sudden silence. “Without internet, all our high-end devices are just bricks,” says Rahul Kumar, who gave up work to watch a movie with colleagues.College students, struggling on patchy mobile data, fumed. “I had a deadline for my project submission and missed it as there was no Wi-Fi. And they tell us Hyderabad is becoming a smart city,” rues engineering student Sidhar

Even daily routines were upended due to the balckout. “Our smart TV went blank. My daughter asked if the internet had gone on strike,” says Arvind, a software engineer from Kukatpally.A senior official in the Department of Electrical Inspectorate admits that Hyderabad’s poles were never designed for the burden they now carry. “They were meant for power and service lines. Today they carry a messy bundle of electric and broadband cables, often indistinguishable from one another. Reckless pulling of network cables can disturb an electric one, and in some cases, even turn a data line into a conductor,” the official avers.The risks, he explains, build up slowly but fatally. Constant tugging and overloading weaken the poles, while the friction erodes the insulation on power lines. “Even without a direct fault, the way these cables are fastened and dragged eats into the lifespan of our network. It is a slow, invisible erosion of safety. A single break in sheathing or prolonged contact with a signal cable can unleash a lethal charge,” he says.Eyewitnesses in the Ramanthapur case recall seeing a dangling signal line brushing a high-tension wire — the moment the chariot became electrified, causing the five young men to collapse within seconds.Such incidents, the official points out, underline not just technical flaws but the absence of clear oversight. Broadband operators, mostly private players, string lines across power infrastructure with little oversight. Permission is meant to come from both municipal authorities and the power utility, but in practice it is rarely sought.A man rides past a condolence poster of the five men electrocuted when their chariot touched a sagging high-tension wire during the Krishna Janmashtami procession in Hyderabad’s Ramanthapur on August 17 night.A man rides past a condolence poster of the five men electrocuted when their chariot touched a sagging high-tension wire during the Krishna Janmashtami procession in Hyderabad’s Ramanthapur on August 17 night.

According to him, both the Central Electricity Authority regulations and Indian Standard IS:1255, which lays down norms for the safe installation and maintenance of power cables, emphasise the need to keep signal and power cables separate to ensure safety and prevent interference.Last year, the TGSPDCL had issued directives to cable operators and internet service providers to remove unauthorised lines from electricity poles. But enforcement is weak.“Broadband providers must be brought under a regulatory framework, with accountability equal to that of the power network. Unless their networks are supervised, monitored and shifted to safer routes, either physically away from the power network or into underground ducts, such preventable tragedies will repeat,” he warns.Meanwhile, internet service providers (ISPs) argue that they are being unfairly targeted. A field worker from a leading ISP says that operators already pay rent to use electricity poles — about ₹50 monthly per wire per pole — a cost that is passed on to customers as part of subscription fee. “Of a ₹3,500 subscription for six months, nearly ₹500 goes to the gov-

With practised ease, Sarasu’s finger glides over the smartphone screen from one video to the next, as she lists out the things she learned to do with the phone. For a while, the septuagenarian worker of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) even had a YouTube channel featuring her folk songs, which accidentally got deleted when her phone developed a technical snag.Standing in front of her modest house in the deep interiors of Pullampara panchayat in Thiruvananthapuram, she speaks of the joy of video calling her grandchild and taking photographs.In another ward in the same panchayat, S. Boban, a veteran farmer, has just prepared the ground for black pepper cultivation using PVC pipes, a novel method he learned from YouTube. His only complaint is that now he gets to see too many videos on black pepper cultivation on his timeline, due to the algorithms.Both of them until recently belonged to the vast number of “digitally illiterate” citizens, sometimes left behind in a world moving along unfamiliar trajectories. But now they are part of the 21.87 lakh people across Kerala who have completed the State government’s Digi Kerala digital literacy programme, making Kerala the first State to achieve total digital literacy. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan made the official declaration on Thursday (August 21).Total number of persons surveyed to identify ‘digitally illiterate’ - 83.45 lakh families, consisting of 1.51 crore people, surveyedNumber of people identified as digitally illiterate - 21.88 lakhNumber of people who completed the evaluation successfully after training - 21.87 lakhIn a grassroots-level movement akin to the landmark total literacy campaign of the late 1980s, the State utilised its strong local self-government mechanism to the hilt to bridge the digital divide.The story begins in 2021 at Pullampara, a hilly rural region located approximately 25 km from Thiruvananthapuram, the State capital. A group of government officials native to Pullampara began noticing long queues regularly in front of one of the few banks in the panchayat. Many of them were MGNREGS labourers who had travelled long distances just to check their account balance.Sajina Sathar, then a district women’s welfare officer and an assistant director in the Local Self-Government department at present, says that the travails of those who kept aside their daily work for something as simple as an account balance check kindled a thought about teaching them to use the basic digital technology required in daily life. Thus103-year old Karunakara Panicker and his son, Rajan, watching a song on YouTube at their home in Pullampara panchayat in Thiruvananthapuram.The plans to impart digital literacy to all residents of the panchayat began in August 2021 under a five-member core team led by panchayat president P.V. Rajesh. The team had Sajina, MGNREGS district engineer Dinesh Pappen, and S. Sanob, a trainee of the Kerala Administrative Service, and a technical education department employee Shammad Pullampara as its members. A survey was soon carried out across all wards to identify those who are digitally illiterate. Out of 3,917 people thus identified, training was provided to 3,300 as the rest were bedridden.

“We trained our volunteers on ways to convince se-

What’s the issue with the way Africa is shown on maps? | Explained



The story so far: The African Union (AU) has endorsed the ‘Correct the Map’ campaign to replace the Mercator map projection with alternatives such as the Equal Earth map. At the heart of this demand is the charge that the Mercator projection, still widely used in schools, media, and online platforms, systematically distorts the sizes of landmasses, shrinking Africa while inflating Europe, North America, and Greenland. By backing the call, the AU has expressed hope that a fairer projection will restore geographical accuracy and correct what it characterises as centuries of symbolic marginalisation.

Why is the Mercator map under fire?

The Mercator projection was designed in 1569 by Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator, who was trying to solve a navigation problem. When a ship follows a fixed compass direction, the path it traces — called the rhumb line — is a curve on most flat maps. This made it awkward for sailors to translate a bearing into a usable course they could plot on a chart.Mercator’s projection stretched the north-south scale so that all rhumb lines appeared as straight lines. Sailors could now draw a straight line across the map at a chosen compass angle and follow that heading consistently at sea. Thus, together with Edward Wright’s 1599 mathematical tables, the Mercator projection is believed to have catalysed European exploration and colonial expansion. To achieve this convenience, Mercator distorted scale: landmasses close to the poles appeared larger while those near the equator appeared smaller than in reality.

As a result, Africa, which covers 30 million sq. km, often appears on Mercator maps roughly as large as Greenland, which is 14x smaller. Europe also looks comparable in size to Africa although the continent is a third as large. Similarly, Canada, Russia, and northern Europe appear bloated while tropical regions like Africa, South America, and India are diminished.Over time, wall maps in offices, atlases, and on digital platforms defaulted to Mercator’s rectangular format because it was familiar and convenient, further reinforced by textbooks of the 20th century.However, critics have argued that such distortions subtly condition how people perceive relative importance. A continent depicted as smaller seems less powerful and even less worthy of attention.

Why are maps distorted?

There is no perfect way to flatten the surface of a sphere onto a rectangle, rendering every map a compromise. Mathematicians and cartographers tasked with projecting a globe onto a plane need to distort one or more of area, shape, distance or direction. Experts have said the choice of which property to preserve and which to surrender is a technical as well as political act.The Mercator projection is a conformal map, which means it preserves local shapes and angles. But to achieve this, Mercator stretched landmasses near the poles, inflating their apparent size and diminishing those of equatorial regions like Africa and South America.By con-

trast, the Equal Earth projection preserves the relative sizes of continents and countries, ensuring that Africa appears far larger than Europe or Greenland, as it is in reality. However, landmasses also appear curved or stretched. The orthographic projection makes a different trade-off. It portrays the earth as it would look from space, as if viewed from a great distance. While this choice makes it visually intuitive, this projection is limited by the fact that it shows only one hemisphere at a time and areas near the edges appear compressed.The Equal Earth projection preserves the relative sizes of continents and countries, ensuring Africa appears far larger than Europe or Greenland, as it is in reality. However, landmasses also appear curved or stretched.The Equal Earth projection preserves the relative sizes of continents and countries, ensuring Africa appears far larger than Europe or Greenland, as it is in reality. However, landmasses also appear curved or stretched. | Photo Credit: Strebe (CC BY-SA)

How does the distortion affect Africa?

Experts have said for many years now that the Mercator projection has reinforced Africa’s marginalisation in the global imagination. By making the continent look small, the map suggested, consciously or not, that Africa was less consequential. This perception seeped into textbooks, policymaking, and popular culture.As Rabah Arezki, a former World Bank economist, has said, the “standard projection was a political tool” that aided colonial domination, making Africa look “small and conquerable then” and “irrelevant now”. Likewise, the AU’s deputy chairperson Selma Malika Haddadi has described the Mercator map as falsely portraying Africa as “marginal”.Thus, the AU as well as advocacy groups like Africa No Filter and Speak Up Africa have articulated a move away from the Mercator projection as a way to reclaim dignity.

What happens next?The leading alternative to the Mercator projection is the Equal Earth projection, created in 2018 by Tom Patterson (US National Park Service), Bojan Šavric (then with American GIS company Esri), and Bernhard Jenny (Monash University, Australia). It preserves relative areas sacrificing shape, i.e. continents appear stretched or curved.Another option is the Gall-Peters projection repopularised in the 1970s. It also preserves area but stretches continents vertically, making them appear elongated. Just as Mercator wanted to help sailors, as political scientist Arthur Klinghoffer wrote in his 2006 book, ‘The Power of Projections’, “Peters was trying to challenge basic assumptions inherent in the Mercator projection with the aim of influencing social and political attitudes. His elongated images were shocking, and made people examine their cartographical frame of reference.”In 1979, a 21-year-old Australian named Stuart McArthur published the ‘Universal Corrective Map of the World’ that turned the world map 180° and showed Australia at the top. He was reportedly sick of being teased as being from “Down Under”.The AU’s endorsement is the most significant institutional backing yet for the ‘Correct the Map’ campaign. Campaigners have also petitioned the U.N. Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to adopt Equal Earth. The World Bank has already said it is phasing out Mercator in favour of Equal Earth. National Geographic and NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies have also been using it. Google Maps introduced a 3D globe option in 2018, although its mobile app still defaults to Mercator.This isn’t expected to be easy, however, as the Mercator projection is entrenched in classrooms, news graphics, and even some AU-affiliated websites. Displacing it altogether will entail revising textbooks, redesigning curricula, updating digital interfaces, and overcoming institutional inertia.

By achieving 100% digital literacy, Kerala reaches another milestone

nior citizens who were reluctant to adopt digital technology and smartphones about the benefits and possibilities of adopting the new technology. We convinced them that they could video call their grandchildren, watch an episode of a television serial they might have missed, the wide variety of helpful videos available on YouTube to learn new skills, and the benefits of Internet searching,” says Sajina.

The core team designed 15 activities in three modules for training, ranging from basic smartphone usage to navigating social media applications to bill payments and accessing government services. APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University vetted the modules that were used to train in the panchayat as well as across the State, says Sajina.While the National Digital Literacy Mission’s guidelines for digital literacy require training to be imparted only for those up to 60 years of age, the Digi Pullampara and later the Digi Kerala programme included people of all ages, even those above the age of 100. Instead of the focus on computer literacy at the national level, the programmes at the panchayat and State levels were tweaked to make people proficient in using smartphones.Students from the National Service Scheme (NSS) units of five engineering colleges in the region and a higher secondary school aided in the training programme, along with Kudumbashree volunteers, SC/ST promoters, and library council members. The training was carried out in three ways — in places like MGNREGS worksites and Kudumbashree neighbourhood groups where people come together in considerable numbers, through volunteers visiting households, and through the younger generation in households with senior citizens.“For years, I have used a basic mobilephone, as my idea of a phone was that it was meant for calling only. I used to think of smartphones as some kind of luxury. But these kids told me how knowing this would be helpful in the future. Now, it is helping me in farming, in paying bills from home, and in video calling my daughter who is abroad,” says Boban.Karunakara Panicker learned the basics of using a smartphone at the age of 99, along with his son, Rajan, then 69. Now at 103, his failing eyesight prevents him from using it on his own, but he joins his son in listening to the news and songs on the phone. Sarasu, on completion of her classes, bought a smartphone using savings from her MGNREGS wages.103-year-old Karunakara Panicker and his son, Rajan, watching a song on YouTube at their home in Pullampara panchayat in Thiruvananthapuram [S.R. Aswathi, vice president of Pullampara panchayat, talks about one of the biggest challenges for the project, with six wards out of the 15 in the panchayat not having mobile network coverage. After failed meetings with telecom service providers who were reluctant to expand further into the rural hinterlands, an intervention from John Brittas, MP, led to the installation of mobile towers in the area, she says.The programme did not end with the training. An evaluation of each trainee was conducted by another set of volunteers, in which they had to complete at least six of the 15 tasks to pass. Those who failed were retrained. As many as 96.18% of the participants successfully cleared the evaluation in Pullampara. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared



Pullampara as Kerala’s first fully digitally literate panchayat in September 2022 and also announced a plan to expand the project State-wide.The core team from Pullampara trained a set of master trainers at the Kerala Institute of Local Administration, who in turn trained 2.57 lakh volunteers who fanned out across the State for surveying and training. As many as 1.51 crore people from 83.45 lakh houses across the State were surveyed, from which 21.88 lakh people were identified as digitally illiterate and training was provided. The Economics and Statistics department also carried out a third-party evaluation. For local bodies in which over 10% of the candidates failed, re-training and evaluation were conducted. A total of 21.87 lakh people, comprising 99% of the participants, passed the evaluation, according to those involved in the project.

One of the criticisms of the project is that the State-wide survey did not cover all houses. Officials argue that local-level Kudumbashree workers who accompanied the volunteers for the survey helped them avoid the houses in which the residents were already digitally savvy.M.A. Abdullah Moulavi Baqavi, 104, from Asamannoor panchayat in Ernakulam district is one of the oldest among the newly digitally literate.“I can now video chat with my grandson who is working in Sharjah. As a Koran scholar, I use Google to clear some of my doubts regarding the scriptures, while YouTube is a good source of news,” says Baqavi, who along with Sarasu has become the face of the digital literacy campaign.Out of those who passed the evaluation, 7.77 lakh people are between the ages of 60 and 75, 1.35 lakh between the ages of 76 and 90, and 15,221 above the age of 90. Over 13 lakh women, eight lakh men and 1,644 transgender persons completed the programme successfully, claim the authorities.On November 7, 2019 the then Left Democratic Front government in Kerala announced that Internet connection would be a basic right in the State, becoming the first State in the country to do so. In 2023, the government commissioned the first phase of the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON) project aimed at ensuring universal Internet access and narrowing the digital divide.With an aim to provide Internet free of cost to 20 lakh below the poverty line (BPL) families, the project has till now reached over 14,000 BPL families, in addition to 74,203 commercial home connections, according to KFON sources.

GoM backs Centre’s plan for GST rate rationalisation; states raise revenue loss concerns



The Group of Ministers on Rate Rationalisation gave its in-principle support Thursday to the Centre’s proposal to overhaul the Goods and Services Tax (GST) design, even as member states raised concerns about potential revenue loss on account of the rate rationalisation.Six days ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day address, announced the next big phase of reforms under the GST regime by Diwali, a gift for the common man, small entrepreneurs and MSMEs, in terms of reduced tax burden. The Centre has suggested replacing multiple slabs – 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent – with a broad two-slab structure – 5 per cent and 18 per cent – in addition to a 40 per cent special rate for sin and demerit goods.

Meeting in the Capital Thursday, state ministers who are part of the GoM said all members supported the “pro-people” proposal. Two specific concerns, however, stood out: whether there will be any institutional mechanism to compensate states for revenue loss; and whether the benefits from GST rate cuts will percolate to the ultimate beneficiary – the common person.States said they do not oppose the “pro-people” proposal, but it may result in revenue losses that will ultimately leave them with less resources to spend on common people in their regions.

While Bihar’s Deputy Chief Minister and GoM convenor Samrat Choudhary spelt out the panel’s support for the GST overhaul proposal, he said observations made by states will be referred to the GST Council. Detailed discussions on items will be taken up in the Council, he said.“We have deliberated upon the Centre’s proposal to remove the two GST slabs, we have given our support and recommendations. Now, the GST Council will decide. All states gave their views, there were some observations by some states. Those will be referred to the GST Council,” Choudhary said.The differing views and observations of states on revenue loss and concerns over possible profiteering by manufacturers and companies will be part of the note that the GoM will send to the Council along with the Centre’s proposal.

Some states were also of the view that the work done by the GoM over the last few years will now essentially be wasted as they would be simply handing over the Centre’s proposal to the GST Council.“We have neither approved nor rejected it. Centre cannot give its proposal directly to the Council, so we will be just handing over the Centre’s proposal to the Council,” a top state government official told .States are learnt to have sent their suggestions for the GoM’s note on a mechanism to compensate states that will address their revenue loss concerns. States are anticipating annual revenue loss of Rs 6,000-10,000 crore, the official said.West Bengal’s Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya echoed a similar view and said they are “okay with the pro-people proposal” but it is not an agreement. The Centre’s proposal has not outlined the figure for rev-

RBI paper on monetary policy says raising inflation target above 4% could erode policy gains

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday released its keenly awaited discussion paper on the country’s monetary policy framework, warning that raising the inflation target at the current juncture could be seen as a dilution of the framework and lead to the loss of policy gains made over the last decade or so.In its discussion paper, the Indian central bank has sought feedback by September 18 on four key questions: if monetary policy should target headline or core inflation, if the current 4 per cent target remains optimal to balance growth and stability, whether the tolerance band of 2-6 per cent needs to be revised or even dropped, and if the target rate of 4 per cent should be removed and only a range be maintained.

“However, raising the target at this stage – when the global economy is confronted with geopolitical uncertainty and geo-economic fragmentation – can be interpreted by global investors as a dilution of the IT (inflation targeting) framework thereby undermining policy credibility. It could erode the gains in policy and institutional credibility achieved through fiscal responsibility and external stability,” the discussion paper said, adding that reducing the target rate below 4 per cent “may not be appropriate in case of India”.

Last week, while upgrading India’s rating to BBB from BBB-, S&P Global Ratings had praised the RBI, saying its record of inflation management had been burnished by headline retail inflation staying broadly within the 2-6 per cent target range. Low and stable inflation is crucial for foreign investors as sharp increases in prices can erode their investments, weaken growth and the domestic currency, and create social unrest — all factors that can lead to a rating downgrade.The RBI formally adopted the flexible inflation targeting framework in late 2016. As per the framework agreed with the central government, the target is valid for a period of five years, after which it must be reviewed. Since the framework’s inception, the medium-term target for the RBI has been 4 per cent in terms of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation, within a band of 2-6 per cent.

The target, which is valid until March 2026, must be notified again for a five-year period starting April 2026. Earlier this month on August 6, Governor Sanjay Malhotra had said the RBI was preparing the discussion paper, with a final view to be taken by the government. “We will give our views to the government as to how we should move ahead in this regard,” Malhotra had said in the post-policy press conference.Headline versus core inflationThe debate on whether monetary policy should target headline or core inflation – which is inflation without taking into account food and fuel items, whose prices can be rather volatile – came to the fore over the last year after the Economic Survey for 2023-24, tabled in Parliament in July 2024, said “it is worth exploring whether India’s inflation targeting framework should target the inflation rate excluding food” on account of the high weight of food in the CPI.

In its discussion paper released Thursday, the RBI pointed out that almost all inflation targeting countries have chosen headline CPI inflation as the target, irrespective of their inflation target level and stage of development, with only Uganda targeting core inflation. In its discussion paper released Thursday, the RBI pointed out that almost all infla-

enue loss on account of the GST rate rationalisation and the proposal should not move ahead without detailing a mechanism for compensating states for revenue loss, she said.

“It’s not an agreement in that way. If it’s there, it is okay. If it is pro-people, then it’s okay. But it has to be discussed in the Council’s meeting also. There is no benefit in discussing it item-by-item in the GoM meeting. It will be discussed item-by-item in the (GST) Council meeting. While presenting a report to the GST Council, they will give a note of what we have said,” she said.Bhattacharya said no state had any issue in accepting the pro-people GST overhaul proposal. “All states are pro-people. There is no doubt about it. It’s nothing to talk about in politics. They are pro-people, let us take it for granted. But when the states lose their revenue, that also ultimately goes back to common people. That has to be looked into. That is what we have said,” she said.“Because to give relief to common people should not mean that there isn’t much left to spend on them after that, we have to think about that. That’s why we have said that while you give the presentation, you must quantify it (revenue loss),” she said.She also said that ministers from BJP-ruled states have concurred with the suggestions. “But we have said we are there, if it benefits people, we are okay. On the one hand it reaches people and on the other hand see what is the loss we (states) are facing. Ultimately if a state suffers any loss, that ultimately boils down to the suffering of the common man,” she said.

Uttar Pradesh’s Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna said the Centre’s proposal was welcomed by all member states saying it is in the interest of the common person. “States were asking that they should be compensated for revenue loss. The revenue loss will be calculated. Ultra luxury goods and sin goods will attract 40 per cent,” he said.While the GST overhaul plan entails removal of 12 per cent and 28 per cent slabs, states’ revenue loss concerns stem mainly from the proposal which would see most items such as white goods, small cars shift to 18 per cent from the existing 28 per cent slab. The Centre plans to introduce a special rate of 40 per cent, which will apply only to 5-7 sin, demerit and luxury items.Some states have suggested amending the GST laws to allow for an additional levy going beyond the current cap of 40 per cent (20 per cent Central GST plus 20 per cent State GST). Some of the items right now attract GST of 60-70 per cent, West Bengal FM Bhattacharya said, adding that the law should be amended to ensure that the current tax incidence, especially on sin goods, remains at the current level.She said Section 9(1) of the GST law needs to be amended and a special schedule should be introduced in the law to allow for an additional GST levy beyond the 40 per cent cap. “I had raised this issue in the GoM on compensation cess. Section 9(1) needs an amendment and you put a special schedule there. Now, 20 per cent GST can be imposed by Centre and 20 per cent by states, therefore, not more than 40 per cent. But, what about the goods that were paying 60 per cent rate or 70 per cent rate,” she said.“So, a special schedule should be made, an amendment should be brought in the Act, then this matter can be solved. Therefore, that is what we have said and they have noted it. It is not an additional cess, it is an additional duty, full additional duty in that sense, on the select goods on which compensation cess is currently levied,” she added.Section 9(1) of the Central GST Act provides for tax to be levied on intra-state supplies of goods and services at rate not exceeding 20 per cent. The corresponding section in State GST law also allows for a maximum levy of 20 per cent, hence, giving space for a maximum combined GST rate of 40 per cent.



The RBI formally adopted the flexible inflation targeting framework in late 2016 with a 4 per cent target in a band of 2-6 per cent. The target is valid for five years, after which it must be reviewed.

tion targeting countries have chosen headline CPI inflation as the target, irrespective of their inflation target level and stage of development, with only Uganda targeting core inflation.“India’s inflation targeting framework should consider targeting inflation, excluding food. Higher food prices are, more often, not demand-induced but supply-induced. Short-run monetary policy tools are meant to counteract price pressures arising out of excess aggregate demand growth,” the Survey had argued.However, the RBI under the then governor, Shaktikanta Das, had fought back, saying that food prices could not be ignored by the monetary authority.

In its discussion paper released Thursday, the RBI pointed out that almost all inflation targeting countries have chosen headline CPI inflation as the target, irrespective of their inflation target level and stage of development, with only Uganda targeting core inflation.“Food inflation, if persistent, can spill over to core inflation through higher wage costs, higher rents and higher mark ups. Empirical exercise in the Indian context suggests that non-core prices converge to core prices in the long run. There are also spillovers from non-core inflation to core inflation, possibly through the cost-push and expectation channels, implying that monetary policy cannot ignore second-round effects emanating from persistent supply-side shocks,” the discussion paper said.Headline retail inflation as measured by the CPI slumped to an eight-year low of 1.55 per cent in July – its second-lowest print ever under the current inflation series, which is set to be updated in early 2026. Meanwhile, CPI inflation excluding food and fuel edged down to 4.1 per cent.Headline inflation has moved in a broad range of 1.5-8.6 per cent since January 2014, driven by CPI food inflation, which has ranged from -2.7 per cent to 14.2 per cent. Meanwhile, core inflation has been far more stable.“The conduct of monetary policy frameworks needs both policy certainty and credibility. This has become particularly important during the current environment of heightened uncertainty. It is, therefore, important that the basic tenets of the framework that have been tested and judged to be favourable are continued,” the discussion paper said.

Serena Williams becomes the new face of blockbuster weight loss drugs: How do they impact women and what caveats do they need to follow?



Tennis Grand Slam champion Serena Williams has not only admitted that a GLP-1 medication helped her shed 31 pounds (14 kg) after the birth of her child, she has also become a spokesperson for a healthcare company, professing that the drug helped her when nothing else did. “As an athlete and as someone that has done everything, I just couldn’t get my weight to where I needed to be at a healthy place — and believe me, I don’t take shortcuts,” she says in the promotional video, while taking an injectable.Williams, a mother of two daughters, said she has been on a GLP-1 medication after the birth of her second child. “As a woman, you go through different cycles in your life... No matter what I did — running, walking, I would walk for hours because they say that’s good, I literally was playing a professional sport... Then, after my second kid, it just even got harder. So then I was like, OK, I have to try something different,” she was quoted as saying.Of course, the fact that her husband is one of the investors in the healthcare company sparked conversations online about whether it was a sales spiel and whether an athlete, used to regular workouts, really needed a weight loss drug. “Athletes often gain weight after they stop playing sports because they typically continue to eat a high-calorie diet but their significantly lower physical activity and reduced exercise regimen lead to a calorie imbalance and increased fat storage. That transition takes time. Besides, post-pregnancy, women are more prone to weight gain. Some even have genetic history,” says Dr Richa Chaturvedi, endocrinologist at Apollo Hospital, Delhi.

What is GLP-1 medication?

This class of weight loss drug works by mimicking a hormone that the body produces after eating, leading to reduced appetite and feeling full more quickly. “The medications are also prescribed for diabetes because they trigger the release of insulin by the pancreas. Semaglutide has dem-

Putin’s poop box has lessons: Why doctors are studying what we flush

While memes overwhelmed the internet after Russian President Vladimir Putin’s bodyguards were reportedly seen carrying his ‘poop boxes’ to the Alaska summit in the US, many overlooked their medical significance. While Putin’s retinue has followed this practice to prevent other countries from obtaining information about his health, the truth is your stool or faeces tells a great deal about your body and its well-being.The stool is composed of undigested food particles, bacteria and other by-products, all of which can be early indicators of a developing condition that cannot be ignored.MAPPING GUT MICROBES

One of the growing areas of medical research is the study of the gut microbiome through stool samples. The gut is home to a vast number of bacteria, fungi, viruses and archaea that live in the intestines. These micro-organisms play an essential role in breaking down food, absorbing nutrients and regulating metabolism, including sugar levels. They also train the immune system to distinguish between beneficial and harmful organisms.When the balance of this microbiome is disturbed, the impact can be wide-ranging. Studies have linked such disturbances to diabetes, obesity and immune-related disorders. By studying stool, doctors and researchers are able to map the microbiome and understand how these imbalances occur. This knowledge provides direction for the development of new therapies such as targeted probiotics or dietary interventions that aim to restore microbial balance. It also offers possibilities for more personalised treatment strategies, tailored to the unique microbial environment of each individual. In this way, stool is becoming a simple yet powerful tool for advancing medical science.

DIAGNOSIS OF COLON CANCERStool is important in the early detection of colon cancer, which continues to be a major cause of cancer-related deaths, but outcomes improve greatly with early diagnosis. A change in bowel habits, persistent diarrhea or constipation, changes in stool consistency, blood mixed with stool, or a change in shape such as narrow, ribbon-like stools are all signals that require evaluation. Noticing these features early and consulting a doctor can make a significant difference. Medical ex-

Is this vitamin deficiency causing brain fog, vision and memory problems?

Sometimes, patients fear they have a serious complication when they report symptoms like confusion, fatigue, vision changes and worse, memory problems. They may even do all sorts of tests without realising that one possible but often overlooked cause could be a deficiency in vitamin B1, also known as thiamine.Thiamine is a water-soluble B vitamin that plays a key role in the body’s ability to convert carbohydrates into energy. It’s essential for the proper functioning of the nervous system, brain, muscles and heart. The body can’t produce thiamine on its own and stores very little, so it needs to be obtained regularly from food or supplements.

What are symptoms of thiamine deficiency?

Thiamine deficiency can affect many systems in the body but it most commonly impacts the brain and nervous system. Symptoms may includeShort-term memory loss Mental confusion or disorientati Difficulty concentrati Irritability or mood changes

Fatigue or muscle weakness

Poor coordination or balance

Blurred vision or rapid eye movementsIf left untreated, severe deficiency can lead to Wernicke’s encephalopathy, a medical emergency characterised by confusion, loss of muscle coordination and eye movement abnormalities. In some cases, this progresses to Korsakoff syndrome,

onstrated an average weight loss of about 12 per cent in clinical trials. Tirzepatide, which is a combination of GLP1 and the fat-regulating GIP mimic, has shown the highest average weight loss, 18 per cent and more,” says Dr Chaturvedi. Williams had said sometime ago that she was taking Zepbound, which is made of tirzepatide, an injectable prescription drug.

Isn’t a celebrity endorsing GLP1 medication through an advertisement normalising random use? Is this safe?

“Many celebrities have spoken of using weight loss medication. There is available literature on the subject. As long as the user goes into a regime with full knowledge of side effects and follows the guidance of their doctor, using such medication is safe,” says Dr Chaturvedi. However, she warns that results are entirely individual and may vary from person to person, the medication is not a magic pill and needs intensive diet, exercise and sleep regime to support the weight loss. “Medication is the first push to shed weight, sustaining is your effort without which weight regain is a reality,” she adds.

Do women respond better to weight loss drugs?

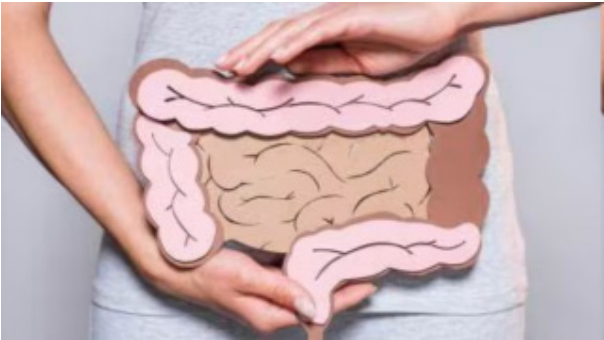
Yes, they do. A study found that women with heart failure lost more weight on semaglutide than men. “Why it happens is still under study but many experts believe women may have more subcutaneous fat compared to visceral fat, and GLP-1s could be more effective on one type of fat than the other. Some say higher levels of estrogen in women may play a role in enhanced weight loss,” says Dr Chaturvedi.GLP-1 medication has shown positive effects on menstrual regularity and improvements in hormonal balance in women by enhancing insulin sensitivity and reducing androgen levels.

Can women with thyroid issues take GLP 1 medication?

Dr Chaturvedi says it is safe for those with common conditions like hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism as the drug doesn’t directly affect thyroid hormone production. “However, those with a family history of thyroid cancer should not take it at all. If thyroid hormone levels are not well-managed, adjust your daily medication to do so before going on weight loss drugs,” she says.

Any other guardrails?

Watch out for muscle loss. “Most studies have varied the range of muscle loss from 15% to 40%. So have lean proteins in your diet and support the drug regime with strength training exercises,” says Dr Chaturvedi.



amination of stool does not only rely on what can be seen. Tests are available that detect hidden blood or even specific molecular markers linked to cancer. These are simple, non-invasive tests that can be used for screening, especially in people at higher risk. Early identification allows treatment to begin when it is most effective and can reduce the need for more aggressive interventions later.

ASSESSING GUT DISORDERSDoctors may use stool tests to monitor the effectiveness of treatments for conditions like inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) or to ensure the eradication of infections like H. pylori. Undigested meat fibres in the stool may be caused by pancreatitis. A low pH may be caused by poor absorption of carbohydrate or fat. Stool with a high pH may mean inflammation in the intestine (colitis), cancer or antibiotic use. Blood in the stool may be caused by bleeding in the digestive tract. White blood cells in the stool may be caused by inflammation of the intestines, such as ulcerative colitis, or a bacterial infection.

TRACKING NUTRIENT ABSORPTIONStool analysis is useful in diagnosing malabsorption disorders. These occur when the body fails to absorb nutrients properly, leading to deficiencies in growth, energy, immunity and overall health. Stool testing can reveal whether fat or other nutrients are being lost in waste, giving doctors important clues and guiding further evaluation for corrective treatment.



a chronic memory disorder.

How to test for deficiencies?

While blood tests can assess thiamine levels, they may not always be reliable or readily available, especially in resource-scarce settings. Some tests, like the transketolase activity test, indirectly assess thiamine status, but even these can be affected by other factors.

Who is at risk?

Thiamine deficiency is more common in certain groups, especially those with:

Chronic alcohol use – Alcohol interferes with thiamine absorption and use.Low dietary intake – Diets high in processed foods and low in whole grains.Older age – Reduced absorption and higher requirements.Diuretic use – These medications increase thiamine loss through urine.t

More history for Matthew Breetzke, even as he misses out on century against Australia



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Matthew Breetzke continued his dream start to his One-Day International career as he smashed 88 runs against Australia in the second ODI at Mackay on Thursday. His knock on Thursday against an Australian bowling attack comprising of Josh Hazlewood, Xavier Bartlett, Aaron Hardie, Nathan Ellis and Adam Zampa saw Breetzke equal

the ODI record for most consecutive fifties right after making his debut. Breetzke joins former India opener Navjot Singh Sidhu in the record.Breetzke smashed the Australian bowling attack for 88 runs off 78 balls — a knock which included eight fours and two sixes — before he sent a rising ball from Nathan Ellis into the hands of Alex Carey at deep square leg.Had the right-handed batter scored just 12 more runs on Thursday, he would have become the joint-fastest South African to hit two ODI centuries in four innings (Colin Ingram also had two centuries in four matches). However, despite the miss, Breetzke still has his name etched on some records already in a young career.Breetzke had made his debut in the 50-over game for South Africa with a record-making 150 runs. In that game, he became the only player to make 150 on their one-day international debut. In fact, with that 150-run score, Breetzke eclipsed West Indies great Desmond Haynes, who had made 148 against Australia on his debut in 1978. The next highest score on debut is 127. Breetzke's knock of 150 n debut had helped Proteas post 304-6 against New Zealand, even though South Africa lost the game by six wickets in Lahore.

‘Cricket is a relatively violent game’: When Taylor Swift got confused by Kevin Pietersen’s ‘chest match’ talk

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Cricket can be a little confusing for an outsider, especially if you're an American. An example of this came when singer-songwriter Taylor Swift was on the Graham Norton Show with former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen. Back then (in 2014), Pietersen had just released an autobiography called "KP: The Autobiography", which, among many other things, also dealt with the infamous "textgate" scandal where he was found sending "provocative" messages to the South Africa cricket team in 2012, including some nasty ones about then England captain Andrew Strauss, in the middle of a Test series. The discovery of those texts led to Pietersen being dropped from the England team for the final Test of that series.So when Pietersen was doing the talk show rounds to promote his autobiography, he found himself being asked some prickly questions about the "textgate" scandal by Norton. All the while, Swift is sharing the couch with Pietersen looking increasingly confused.In the episode of the Graham Norton Show, Taylor Swift — who is about to drop her 12th album, The Life of a Showgirl, soon — confesses that she has never been to a cricket match.At this, Pietersen jumps at the opportunity to pull her leg: "If you Google 'cricket', you will get a result that 'Lord's is the home of cricket.' So Taylor walked through the door at Lord's, and said: 'Cricket, of course I know who you are'. 'No, you don't! You don't know what cricket is!' At this stage, Swift defends herself saying: "I know what cricket is. I know it's relatively violent." Swift then explains that in an episode of the popular sitcom FRIENDS, Ross Geller is dating an English girl, and in a scene Ross joins his girlfriend's friends in a game of cricket."He tries to play and he breaks all the bones in his body! It's wild," Taylor Swift says. The most hilarious moment of this episode came when Swift thought cricketers played "chest matches". But before we come to that, Norton spoke to Pietersen about the texting scandal."Having written all this (in the book) and gone through it again, are there things you would do differently,



or do you look back kind of thinking, 'Actually, I could have had a lot better?'" Norton asks Pietersen.To this, the former England cricketer says: "One of the biggest mistakes I made was just before his (Strauss') hundredth Test match, I was involved in the text messaging scandal. For me, it was one of my good friends who was just about to play his hundredth Test match... and (I ruined) his whole week, being the captain of the side, too."

Strauss had taken over the England captaincy after Pietersen's brief reign ended in 2009.Pietersen continues: "Basically, I was involved in that little bit of a scandal the week before his hundredth Test match. He had basically thought in his mind, 'I'm finishing after this Test match.' He had captained us for a few years. He was a fantastic captain. He was a very good cricketer, a good friend of mine. I was involved in a bit of a mix-up. Basically that just sort of tarnished his week, which should have been one of the greatest weeks of his career, and I regret that, and I feel so sorry for that. And yeah, it's sort of tarnished and hurt our relationship a little bit, which I don't like."In the middle of this answer, Pietersen pauses to tell Swift: "Playing a hundred Test matches is quite a big thing. It's like huge."Then as Swift continues to look confused, Pietersen starts to chuckle in the middle of his answer.

‘You don’t talk, rookie’: Virat Kohli’s sledging response shut down ex-Australia batter on Test debut, ‘didn’t say a word for four days’

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

India's 2014-15 tour of Australia marked the true arrival of Virat Kohli as India's next bona fide leader in the Test format during a tour where then-skipper MS Dhoni was ruled out of the first match, and subsequently announced his retirement post the Boxing Day Test at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground.While it was the recurring theme of the series where Kohli didn't take too lightly to sledges and jibes from the hosts, it took an MCG Test debut for former Australia batter and current Italy skipper Joe Burns to understand the Indian batting superstar wasn't someone you would mess around with. Burns, who led Italy to their maiden T20 World Cup qualification recently, elaborated on how Kohli shunned him with a sharp retort to a poke from the close-in field whilst batting in the first innings of the Boxing Day Test.After Australia piled on 530, India's response was shouldered by Kohli's magnificent 169, during which he dismissed debutant Burns' attempt to get into his head.When Kohli shut down rookie Burns

"In my first game, first Test match at the MCG on Boxing Day, I was 24. And first game, I was fielding at bat-pad (close to the batter). And I'm fairly certain, Virat scored 100 that day. But there was a little bit of chirp going on. Not sledging, just obviously we got Hadzi (Brad Haddin) behind the stumps, and Watto (Shane Watson) was at first slip. Nathan Lyon was bowling, so I'm in close. I think it'd been four hours. I hadn't said a word. I think I said one line. I think I said to him, 'Virat, you got to play some shots,'" Burns told CricTracker.However, Kohli wasn't going to have any more of that; rather, the jibes only brought out the best in him, remarked Burns."He stopped the bowler, stopped Nathan Lyon, turned to me and said, 'You don't talk, rookie'. Next ball he faced up, smacked it through covers. It was very



embarrassing for me. I didn't say a word the next four days after that, but it showed me that Virat was not someone to mess with. And I think as a 24-year-old debutant at bat-pad, it wasn't really the person or in the place to be saying anything to Virat at that point.'Kohli shaped India's identity even after retirementKohli finished that tour with a sensational 692 runs in eight innings, packed with four centuries, and Burns said that the former India captain had since shaped up the way the team plays, even after his retirement, scoring 9230 runs in 123 matches.

"Virat Kohli doesn't take a backward step. As I said before, he really shaped that team's identity. I think even now that he's not in the team, you can see that the way that India play, it's really shaped on, the foundations that Virat put in place over a number of years. He's always a really fierce competitor. I tried not to look at him on the field," said Burns."I didn't want to engage with him because I knew that that really spurred him on. And I guess you factor in the fact that he's a world-class batter, one of the greatest of all time. It's a great combination. And like I said, it really set the identity for the Indian cricket team."

and proved myself," Devank said.On his breakthrough performance against Tamil Thalaivas in last season, Devank said that that match (last season) against Tamil Thalaivas was very important for him as he scored 25 raid points."It gave me motivation and belief. After that, I found my rhythm. I started aiming to score Super 10s in every game, and it kept happening. The team kept rising, and my name started growing as well. From Jaipur to Patna, and now from Patna to Bengal—it has been an incredible journey. Sometimes I still can't believe it, but I did it, and it feels really good," he said.On stepping into Maninder Singh's shoes, Warriorz star raider said that he had full faith in his abilities. "I will give everything to match what Maninder has done for this team and carry forward his legacy. My aim is to make the team believe in me," he said.On adding new skills and playing with aggression, Devank said he had worked on many new skills. "

How Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa can qualify for GCT finals 2025 via Sinquefield Cup



GNS News Agency, Sept 1

Qualification Scenarios for Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa for GCT Finals via Sinquefield Cup 2025: The 10th edition of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) has reached its final stage, with the last event of the tour, the Sinquefield Cup 2025, underway in Saint Louis. For the second consecutive year, the GCT features two Indians — World Champion D. Gukesh and R. Praggnanandhaa — as full tour players.The 2025 tour began with the Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland, followed by the Superbet Chess Classic Romania. It then moved to Croatia for the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz Croatia before its final stop in Missouri for the Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz and the Sinquefield Cup.

Each event awards placement points in addition to prize money. The combined points will determine the final standings, with the top four players qualifying for the GCT Finals in Brazil from September 26 to October 4.Wildcard player Vladimir Fedoseev won the first event in Poland. At the Superbet Chess Classic Romania, a classical event, Praggnanandhaa finished joint first with France's Maxime

Vachier-Lagrave and Alireza Firouzja, winning the event in a tiebreak. Magnus Carlsen, a wildcard in the third event, won the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz Croatia, while Levon Aronian clinched the Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz.

MVL leads the standings with 28 points from three events and is all but through to the finals. Aronian (23.5), Firouzja (22.5), and Caruana (20) are placed second, third, and fourth, respectively, heading into the Sinquefield Cup. Praggnanandhaa is fifth with 20 points, while Gukesh is eighth with 16.

How can Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh qualify for the GCT finals?Of the two Indians, Praggnanandhaa has the better chance to qualify, courtesy of his 20 points. He sits just half a point behind the fourth-placed Caruana. The simplest path for Praggnanandhaa is to finish ahead of Caruana in the Sinquefield Cup, which would effectively guarantee him a place in the finals at Caruana's expense. If Caruana finishes above him, Praggnanandhaa would need to finish 2.5 points ahead of Firouzja or 3.5 points ahead of Aronian to overtake them in the standings.Praggnanandhaa will face Sevan in the fourth round, while Gukesh will lock horns with Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, who is among the five players on 1.5 points. (Picture Credit: Grand Chess Tour/Lennart Ootes) Praggnanandhaa will face Sevan in the fourth round, while Gukesh will lock horns with Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, who is among the five players on 1.5 points. (Picture Credit: Grand Chess Tour/Lennart Ootes)For Gukesh, the best way to qualify would be to win the Sinquefield Cup outright. A sole winner receives 13 points, which would take Gukesh to 29. He would then need at least two of the players above him — Aronian, Firouzja, Caruana, or Praggnanandhaa — to have a poor finish (for example, in the bottom four) to solidify his chances.

From bent knees to breaking national record: Vishal TK pushes the bar at Inter-State Athletics

GNS News Agency, Sept 1

As the giant screen flashed 'Vishal TK 45.12s', the 23-year-old from Tamil Nadu let out a roar before taking a note out of his pocket that read, 'For my coach Jason' (Jamaican Jason Dawson) in direction of the cameras. (Express Photo By Venkata Krishna B)As the giant screen flashed 'Vishal TK 45.12s', the 23-year-old from Tamil Nadu let out a roar before taking a note out of his pocket that read, 'For my coach Jason' (Jamaican Jason Dawson) in direction of the cameras.

At 10 minutes to 6 p.m, as Vishal TK lined up for the warm-ups, one could hear murmurs from the stands. Since May, he had already clocked four sub-46 seconds over the 400m. Three of those had come this month, including one in the semifinals on Wednesday. On Thursday evening, as he positioned on the blocks at the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships, you could see he was going for the national record held by Kerala's Muhammed Anas (45.21s) for six years. As Vishal got off the blocks and crossed the finished line, he endured a few anxious moments waiting to see the result. As the giant screen flashed 'Vishal TK 45.12s', the 23-year-old from Tamil Nadu let out a roar before taking a note out of his pocket that read, 'For my coach Jason' (Jamaican Jason Dawson) in direction of the cameras. He would then go on to embrace his father Thennarasu in a tight hug, before repeating it with Sabarish Kumar, his first coach.When Vishal was in fourth standard, Thennarasu had taken him to Sabarish at Jolarpet Sports Foundation for he was knock kneed. "His legs were bent. Both his knees used to come to contact when he walked. I wanted him to walk straight. That was the primary motive to put him in athletics," Thennarasu who runs a diary farm in Jolarpet, a north west TN town, tells The Indian Express. "In Jolarpet, you will mostly find long distance runners. That has been the norm all these years. Little did we know that Vishal would break the trend when we sent him to Chennai two years later," says Sabarish now part of Tamil Nadu Police.Since Vishal was in sixth standard, the Jawaharlal Stadium has been his home. Enrolled at the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu sports hostel, this venue has seen his highs and lows. "In my mind, I was chasing personal best. If it meant national record or World Championship qualification mark, it was alright for me," Vishal said shortly after the medal ceremony.Jason and Vishal started working together since last November. (Express Photo by Venkata Krishna B)To put things in perspective, just a year ago Vishal was competing in 100m and 200m before Seenivasan Ramaiah, who coaches at NCOE Thiruvananthapuram, made him switch to 400m. Months later, he was training under Jason, who already had a reputation for being a hard task master. What has since followed is a stunning upswing in not just results, but also in timing. In less than 12 months, Vishal has reduced his timing by a second, no mean achievement.



"It wasn't easy to reduce one second inside 12 months. As Indians we have to believe it is not impossible. We shouldn't think only in terms of Indian standard. We have to think to international standards and since I went and participated in overseas tournaments, I got good exposure. In India, we try to control the race. For example, we think if we push from the start, we would get tired soon. But I didn't do it. I started and I just ran my race. If you look at European athletes, they don't slow down or anything. Since I participated in 3-4 such events, I wanted to use that experience here," Vishal said.Jason and he started working together since last November. "Jason is a hard task-master. There was pain, there were sufferings, but you need it to succeed. In my first meet I came last (eighth) in my off-season. From there on, nobody has defeated me, I've been first, first, first. I completely trusted him. Indian coaches' workload is relatively easy. But Jason doesn't alter depending on your fitness. He believes only in results," Vishal said.'Vishal, he is a new athlete. Vishal brings to the table, something I have asked from the older athletes — honesty, dedication," Jason says in his heavy Jamaican accent. "If you have that, then the possibility of you going worldwide and achieving is likely. But you can't come and try to trick the coach and the program. Vishal is a special young man. He listens, and he learns quickly. He's not afraid to work. And that is why you saw the result today that we saw," Jason adds.

Though Vishal has had a sensational few months, where he has improved on his timing at almost every meet he features, Jason says technically he still has lot to learn. "Technically, he's still learning. Visually, he's just learning. It's like a new student, who doesn't even know how to do drills. The good thing is he's eager to learn, he's not afraid to work. The work is hard, but the thing is, he challenges me. And that is what I ask," he says.Jason says Vishal still has a long way to go in terms of maintaining consistency and improving the timing. "If you notice, he doesn't even run like a 400-meter runner. He doesn't know how to use his arms properly. Now he's learning to use his hip flexor. Learning to use his arm. And he has to keep his shoulder in a square line when he's running. You know, honestly, Vishal doesn't even know how to use the blocks. I've made a promise that I would make him better and that's what I'm doing," Jason says.

Ajay Singh re-elected boxing federation president in polls delayed by almost five months

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The results, however, remain subject to the outcome of an ongoing case in the Delhi High Court, where several state units have challenged the constitutional amendments introduced by the interim committee that had been overseeing BFI's daily affairs. (File Photo)The results, however, remain subject to the outcome of an ongoing case in the Delhi High Court, where several state units have challenged the constitutional amendments introduced by the interim committee that had been overseeing BFI's daily affairs. Ajay Singh was re-elected President of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) for a third consecutive term on Thursday, in polls delayed by almost five months due to legal issues between various competing factions.Singh, representing Uttarakhand, defeated former boxer Jasral Pradhan, from the Sikkim unit, 40-26 in the election conducted in the presence of Returning Officer Rajesh Tandon and BFI interim committee head Fairuz Mohammed of Singapore, who was sent by World Boxing as an observer.World Boxing president Boris van der Vorst and secretary General Mike McAtee, who were originally named as observers, did not attend the election. The union sports ministry and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) also didn't send any observers.Singh, who is also the managing director of SpiceJet Airlines, will be joined by a new secretary general in Pramod Kumar of Uttar Pradesh, who succeeds Assam's Hemanta Kalita after defeating Digvijay Singh 36-30. Kalita was ineligible to contest after serving two consecutive four-

year terms as an office-bearer and must now undergo a mandatory cooling-off period.Tamil Nadu's Pon Baskaran was elected treasurer after a three-way battle with Anil Kumar Bohidar and R Gopu. "I'm just happy that we get to continue the good work that the BFI has been doing for the past eight years," Singh was quoted as saying by PTI. "We want to ensure that our boxers get many more opportunities and get to bring Olympic medals for the country." Talking about his plans in his third term in office, Singh said: "My foremost commitment is to ensure that every ounce of energy now goes into strengthening grassroots programmes, empowering our junior and youth athletes, and building on India's growing stature in world boxing." Ministry awaits court orderThe results, however, remain subject to the outcome of an ongoing case in the Delhi High Court, where several state units have challenged the constitutional amendments introduced by the interim committee that had been overseeing BFI's daily affairs. The elections were initially scheduled for March 28 but were repeatedly stalled due to a series of petitions, appeals and counter-appeals.After the constitutional amendments that prevented Anurag Thakur from fighting for the BFI President's post, the ministry said it will adopt a wait-and-watch approach."We have already told the Delhi High Court that we do not think that the procedure followed in the conduct of these elections is right. We will wait now and see what the court says," a source in the union sports ministry said on Thursday when asked why there was no government observer at the elections.

Tehran: John Abraham’s geopolitical thriller isn’t smarter than a fifth grader, no matter how many newspapers it reads



There is a scam in Punjab that Rajkumar Hirani would’ve heard about while researching Dunki. Shady travel agents are charging crores from desperate (and mostly uneducated) Indians with the promise of arranging safe passage to the American state of Georgia. The scam? These poor men are being sent to the country of Georgia instead. In most cases, they’ve sold off family land, quit their jobs, and exhausted their entire life savings; some of them even have wives and children with them. All to be sent to the land of khachapuri. To put it simply, there are a bunch of people from Bathinda knocking about in the Caucasus right now. Anyway, the folks who made the new John Abraham film Tehran are no smarter. The movie opens with a voiceover in which we are told about an operation carried out by Iran in 2012, where Israeli diplomats were targeted in Thailand, India, and Georgia. They meant the country. But the map that the movie shows instead is that of the US state.

You’d agree that it isn’t the strongest of first impressions that a movie like this could’ve made, especially since it wants to be perceived as more intelligent than the average Bollywood thriller. These days, John seems to have mostly strayed from his past life as a superhuman tank. His last attempt at quasi-realism, The Diplomat, came across as a muddled mess — an oil-and-water combination of edgy intentions and ‘massy’ execution. The result was something so determined to follow the rulebook that it inadvertently echoed the problematic belief systems of those who write the rulebooks these days. Thankfully, Tehran hews closer to the tone that its subject demands. It’s no Syriaana, but it isn’t Ek Tha Tiger either.

The most interesting thing about the movie, however, is how it positions its star; you cannot help but read it as Abraham’s most self-expressive film in years. He plays a special cell police officer called Rajeev Kumar, a burly hotshot who’s drawn into a geopolitical mess when some Iranian terrorists target Israeli officials on Indian soil, leaving an innocent young girl dead. Outraged at how two warring nations could use India as a battleground and turn its people into collateral damage, he takes it upon himself to first identify the perpetrator of the attack, and then — this is where the movie jumps the shark — bring them to justice

Indian Idol winner’s wedding was gatecrashed by 2000 people, newlyweds forced to stand on stage for 14 hours: ‘I had to take a mic, ask people to make queues’



Indian Idol’s first season brought in a new wave in the reality show space. While there had been shows like Sa Re Ga Ma and Boogie Woogie for aspiring singers and dancers, the start of Indian Idol in 2004 revamped the traditional reality show format so when the audience got a chance to choose the winner, they were fully invested. Abhijeet Sawant, who became the first winner of the series in March 2005 was on cloud nine as he won, and so was his family, girlfriend, and her family as well. Just a few months after his win, Abhijeet was engaged to Shilpa, and two years after that, the couple tied the knot. In a recent interview, Abhijeet and Shilpa recalled their chaotic wedding that happened while Abhijeet was enjoying his fame after Indian Idol. In a chat with Hauterrfly, they shared that more than 2,000 people gatecrashed their wedding and Abhijeet had to start managing the crowd just so they wouldn’t go out of control. “I can’t explain the chaos on that day. I could see that in the area where the food was being served, there was so much crowd. We were expecting a crowd of 1000 people, but there were 3000 people who showed up,” he recalled.

He shared that since everyone in the surrounding area got to know that he was getting married, as the venue was quite close to his residence, strangers started showing up in the hopes of meeting the couple. “I had to take the microphone and ask people to make queues because there was so much chaos,” he said as his wife added, “People were coming on stage to click pictures with us but who were they? We didn’t know. We got on the stage at around 1 pm and we got down at around 3:30 am.”Abhijeet shared that he had two televisions displayed outside the venue where they had to ultimately display that the couple had left so more people wouldn’t come in. “There was a filmy moment here as we had to station someone outside the venue to stop people from coming in,” he said.Abhijeet and Shilpa shared that they

by sneaking into Iran.Rajeev somehow finds a way to annoy three separate governments, including his own. But he pushes through, driven by a sense of justice and patriotism. There is no shortage of actors in Bollywood who would pretend to motivated by these same ideas, both personally and professionally. But with John, the ‘josh’ feels genuine. Whereas most of his colleagues would prefer to maintain an arm’s distance from making political statements, John flexes his biceps, cracks that crooked grin of his, and hurls a motorbike at the idea of hesitation. But if there’s an art to remaining apolitical on screen, John has perfected it.

In both Vedaa and The Diplomat, he was motivated by personal choices; his politics were incidental to the plot of those films. The movie Batla House was similarly dangerous in what it was proposing. John has said that he’d never make a movie like The Kashmir Files, but he doesn’t seem to realise that he already has. In Tehran, which is the cinematic equivalent of a shrug, Rajeev Kumar literally declares that he won’t take sides in the Israel-Iran conflict; all that he cares about is avenging the death of a young child. This makes no sense; it’s antithetical to the very DNA of the film. It’s almost like watching a Batman movie in which the Dark Knight concerns himself not with catching criminals, but with trying out the best new restaurants in town.In one scene, it is shown that the primary antagonist — a maniacal murderer who lives by a skewed code — is a supporter of the Free Palestine movement. This, more than any nuclear war nonsense, is his primary grouse against the Israeli regime. Perhaps it’s the film’s way of underlining how, even a righteous movement can be hijacked by fundamentalists. But, if it wanted to say this, maybe it should’ve just come out with it. This isn’t Superman, where director James Gunn took (the correct) political stance via fake placeholder nations. Tehran is set in the real world. It alludes to a real-life conflict; it needed to have the courage of its convictions. A more cynical reading of the film would lead you to assume that it is conflating a terrorist organisation’s crimes with the plight of the Palestinian people, which, by the way, Rajeev mocks in one scene.While Gunn kept pretending that Superman wasn’t about real life and quietly communicated everything he wanted to via his film, Tehran keeps insisting that it’s about grave real-world injustices, but it ends up being a movie about nothing. Rajeev Kumar isn’t rescuing a person in peril; he’s safeguarding the very idea of sovereignty. How could a foreign nation encroach upon our land and carry out an operation that causes harm to our citizens? Rajeev is scandalised by the mere thought. Nobody tell him about the Chinese. But somebody please tell him that a movie about invaders and occupiers simply cannot sit on the fence, especially when its own protagonist is shown to be bothered by such behaviours.But does this mind-your-own-business attitude stem from John’s own personality? He has long been a lone wolf of sorts, having worked with everybody from the Bhatts to the Chopras, from the Jayantilal Gadas and Bhushan Kumars to the Sajid Nadiadwalas and the Tauranis. He has also starred in films directed by Deepa Mehta, Anurag Kashyap, Vivek Agnihotri and Vishal Bhardwaj. It’s quite the bold spectrum. Only someone who stays in their lane and doesn’t talk out of school can get away with something like this, especially in a clique-dominated industry like Bollywood. In other words: being apolitical pays. The recent film Dhadak 2 proved that it is possible to balance Bollywood melodrama with an abrasive personality, whereas Tehran opens by revealing that it probably flunked geography in school. You be the judge.

Cricketer Suryakumar Yadav’s wife Devisha Shetty supports Dhanashree Verma after her interview on divorce with Yuzvendra Chahal: ‘So much respect’

first met each other as neighbours when they were still in school but got romantically involved with each other during their college years. After Abhijeet’s big win at Indian Idol, their families were quick to get them married.

Dhanashree Verma was all over the internet when she finalised her divorce with cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal in March. She once again came in the limelight, when the actor-choreographer opened up about her divorce and shared her side of the story in a podcast with Humans Of Bombay. Now, she has received support from the wife of cricketer Suryakumar Yadav, Devisha Shetty. Dhanashree Verma and Devisha Shetty often hung out together when they attended matches played by the Indian cricket team.Devisha took to her Instagram handle to share a screenshot of Dhanashree’s recent podcast and wrote, “So much respect and love for you.”Devisha’s story was also shared on Reddit, where it attracted several responses. Many of them blamed Yuzvendra for their divorce. A user wrote, “Good that SKY’s wife is standing up for her , clearly she knows more than we do.” Another user wrote, “Idk who was wrong but after divorce yuzi was being so immature (that tshirt thing and going on podcast and telling just bad things to dename) but Dhanshree handled it well At least respect the relationship both had.”Other comments read: “It’s clear that Chahal did something wrong.” The comment further questioned Chahal’s silence when Dhanashree’s name was being linked to Shreyas for sharing a Instagram reel with him. “Mature men would take a stand for their wife, but he did nothing.”In her podcast, Dhanashree openly spoke about her divorce and even addressed the drama around Yuzvendra’s choice of t-shirt on the day of their court hearing for finalising divorce. His t-shirt had a text that read: ‘Be Your Own Sugar Daddy’.Speaking in length, Dhanashree shared how she was taken by surprise by Yuzvendra’s move at a time when she was vulnerable, “I think he walked off first and that whole thing happened. T

Living alone at 79, Sushant Singh Rajput’s ageing co-star worries nobody will come for her if she slips and falls: ‘Marte dum tak...’



Veteran actor Usha Nadkarni celebrated the recent 16th anniversary of her show, Pavitra Rishta, by joining actor Ankita Lokhande on her YouTube channel and reflecting on their experiences together. Ankita headlined the show with the late Sushant Singh Rajput, who died in 2020. In a vlog posted on her YouTube channel recently, she welcomed the veteran Usha to her home, where they chatted about their relationship on the show, and the impact that it has had on their lives. Usha said that she lives alone at the age of 79, and worries about having nobody to call for help if she ever needs any. Ankita and her husband, Vicky Jain, assured her that they are just a phone call away.

Ankita confessed that she and Usha didn’t exactly have the warmest of relationships during the show, and would keep to themselves. But, Ankita said, Usha was instrumental in teaching her the ropes, and that she still applies many of the lessons she learned from her on that show, such as

not demanding glycerin when she is required to cry, and not wearing excessive makeup. Ankita recalled that she asked to meet Usha on their last day on set together, and the two had an emotional conversation during which they teared up. Usha confessed that she had no idea why Ankita had called to speak to her, as they hadn’t interacted much before that.Ankita said that everybody on set was aware of Usha’s feisty nature, and expressed admiration for the veteran actor. “She lives alone still; she’s a firecracker,” Ankita told her husband, as Usha began to get emotional. “I’m a firecracker, but I get emotional. Dard hota hai... Because I live alone, I’m afraid nobody will come to know if I slip and fall. My son lives abroad, and I recently lost my brother,” she said, adding, “Who will be there for me now?” Ankita got up and hugged Usha, and promised that she will be there for her. “I told you even on our last day together on set, I’m just a call away, and the moment you ask me to come, I’ll come,” Ankita said.

In a recent interview with Pinkvilla, the veteran actor had opened up about her plight. “I’m used to it. I’ve been living alone since 1987. I’m not scared at all. I used to be scared when I first moved in at my building. I would ask the guard to accompany to my door because I was afraid somebody would attack me from behind. But I’m not scared anymore. People can’t tell how they’ll die. Some people go in their sleep, some people die in the hospital. I’m not scared even one bit. If I die in my sleep, my neighbours would come knocking and think, ‘Buddhi ne darwaza nahi khola hai,’” she said.Signing off in Ankita’s video, Usha said that Pavitra Rishta has earned her millions of fans and admirers over the years. “Don’t stop loving me till the day I die,” she said, and Ankita said that they will continue to be loved long after they have gone.

Archana Puran Singh’s ‘loud laughter’ is used to check noise cancellation headphones, reveals boAT’s Aman Gupta

Archana Puran Singh’s job on The Great Kapil Show, and many other versions of the same before that, has always made people think that this has to be the most comfortable job in the entertainment industry. For the audience, it appears that Archana’s job is limited to taking a throne-like seat on the show, and laughing her heart out every time someone says something funny. Her laughter has been a part of weekend comedy shows since Comedy Circus first began in the year 2007. Now, Aman Gupta, judge of Shark Tank India, and co-founder of boAt, has said that they actually use her laughter to check noise cancellation on their headphones.

In the latest promo of The Great Indian Kapil Show, Aman can be heard saying, “Archana ji, thank you. Aapke laughter ko humne R&D factory mein dia hua hai noise cancellation check karne ke liye. (We have given your laughter to our R&D factory so we can check noise cancellation.)” Hearing this, Archana laughs again.This week, The Great Indian Kapil Show will see Aman, OYO’s Ritesh Agarwal, Mamaearth’s Ghazal Alagh and Paytm’s Vijay Shekhar Sharma on the stage. This will be the 10th episode of the third season of the show. The season began with Salman Khan joining Kapil on stage to promote his film Sikandar. In later episodes, the cast of Metro In Dino, Son of Sardaar 2, also became a part of the season.Archana is prominently



seen in her family vlogs these days. Along with her husband Parmeet and sons Ayushmaan Sethi and Aaryamann Sethi, the family has been posting weekly vlogs on YouTube and has seen a sharp growth in their subscriber base in the last 8-9 months. They currently have over 890k subscribers. Recently, her son Aaryamann started a separate YouTube channel as well and that also grew quickly to over 100k subscribers.

Shah Rukh Khan is ‘extremely boring’, complains Boman Irani: ‘He eats tandoori chicken and nothing else’



Shah Rukh Khan is not just his fans’ favourite actor but also his co-stars’ favourite person. Every actor who has worked with him in his over 30 years of career, has only great things to say about him. However, his Happy New Year co-star Boman Irani seems to have a problem with him. In a recent interview, the actor shared his experience of working with the actor and called him “extremely boring”.Speaking to Humans Of Bombay, Boman Irani fondly spoke about Shah Rukh Khan. He shared, “Shah Rukh (Khan) enjoys being on a set. He enjoys being with people. He enjoys the collective nature of creating a movie. For me, there is really a naughty side to him. He is very giving. He is very big hearted.”

Explaining his statement, Boman revealed, “His suite door will always be open. There will be all the snacks on one side. People walk in and walk out, pick up snacks. He plays games with them when he has the time. The set is always fun.”The 3 Idiots actor has several favourite moments with Shah Rukh Khan. “If I have to make a list of my favourite moments from set and off-set, I think Shah Rukh will be in the top five. Straight up. There is no question about it.”Explaining one of the reasons behind the actor being his favourite person, Boman shared, “Sometimes, when we are performing... and things go wrong, we find it funny. Rather than be desperate. That’s a great talent to have. We know we will get there. He knows he will.”He also shared how Shah Rukh never lets his co-actors feel that he is a star. “Shah Rukh doesn’t allow you to think like that with him. He doesn’t allow you to get there.”However, there is one problem that Boman has with Shah Rukh Khan. “Food,” he said. The actor explained, “He is extremely boring. He only eats tandoor chicken and nothing else. He is not a restaurant

kinda guy. He will come with us, but he won’t eat. The food is lying over there, he is talking and it is getting cold and everybody is enjoying a lovely meal par Shah Rukh ko koi farq nahi padta (but none of this affects SRK). So I do have a problem there. He doesn’t give me a company when it comes to food.”

In an earlier interview with RJ Devangana, Shah Rukh had spoken about his frugal habits when it comes to food. “I naturally prefer very simple food. I eat two meals a day: lunch and dinner. I eat nothing apart from these two meals. Mujhe pakwan pasand nahi (I don’t like fancy foods). I eat sprouts, grilled chicken, broccoli, sometimes a little bit of dal. This is all I have been eating repeatedly on a daily basis for several years,” he had said, while adding that he doesn’t diet.

Vishnu Manchu to invest Rs 100 crore in microdramas after Kannappa success

Hyderabad: Actor–producer Vishnu Manchu, who recently drew attention with his performance in Kannappa, is now channeling his focus toward a new venture. Backed by both personal capital and equity, the actor has announced a Rs100 crore investment into what he calls “Microdramas.”

Unlike short reels, these are high-quality cinematic episodes of three to seven minutes, made for mobile-first audience. Each episode is planned with professional direction, strong writing, and full-scale production, ensuring compact yet powerful storytelling.The move comes at a time when viewing habits are increasingly shifting to quick, on-the-go content. With Kannappa establishing his credibility as both performer and producer, industry circles say this investment positions Vishnu as a forward-looking entrepreneur in Indian entertainment.An industry insider noted, “He has gone from being recognised for one of the most talked-about performances of the year to placing a big bet on how stories will be consumed in the future.”Reports suggest Vishnu is also preparing to announce new projects alongside this venture, keeping both fans and the industry curious about his next steps.