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'Fan'tastic support for Pawan Kalyan's new film

The Indian film industry may have made giant strides, its entertainment value may have been recognised and appreciated all over the world, opening new markets for peddling our masala movies. A section of cineastes may even opine that the day is not far away when Indian cinema too is at last taken seriously for its variety, colour, music, hi-tech effects and engrossing storytelling. That is the spit-and-polish routine which has kept a certain section of the world hooked to Indian cinema for decades. However, most of the flicks that roll out of studios and production houses are unwatchable and barely innovative, having ended up choking the multiplexes and cinema halls for nearly 80 years, week after week. Into this milieu comes in the next Pawan Kalyan movie 'OG', which is obviously manna from heaven for his fans who have conveniently forgiven 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' his recent and disastrous release. Planned to be a Navaratri bonanza, calculating the holiday mood of the audience, the film has cleverly been pumped up for maximum leverage at the box-office. All that is agreed as these are the methods which have acquired a high level of legitimacy in these last few decades, with fans having taller and taller cutouts of their heroes in the cinema halls, pouring milk from atop and showering flowers from helicopters as extreme publicity stunts. Black marketing of the opening day show tickets and selling special show entry passes at a premium are part for the course for the fans. But a furious bidding for the first ticket priced at Rs 800 between a few of Pawan Kalyan's hardcore supporters made it a ridiculous one-upmanship exercise with the final bid amount touching nearly Rs 1.3 lakh, snapped up by a devoted fan, who announced it as his contribution to his hero's political party, Jana Sena!

"Mother – The Living Trinity: Embodiment of Brahma, Vishnu, and Maheshwara"



P.S. Ashokan "Indian Chronicle" Manthani, September 23: "In the vast philosophical landscape of Sanatana Dharma, there is no truth more profound than this: 'Mat? Devo Bhava' — Revere the Mother as God. She is not merely a caregiver or nurturer, but the living embodiment of the Trimurti — the holy trinity comprising Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the sustainer), and Maheshwara (the transformer)." "These divine aspects are not symbolic but are actively present within the mother throughout her lifetime — guiding, sustaining, and protecting her children. It is for this reason that scriptures exalt the mother to the status of Parabrahman — the Supreme Consciousness itself. To bow at her feet is to bow to the highest spiritual reality. To walk around her in reverence (pradakshina) is equivalent to circumambulating the very cosmos." "A mother, even if aged, frail, forgetful, or unable to care for herself — still holds the divine power to uplift her children. Though she may no longer remember whether she has eaten, though she may struggle to utter a prayer or light a lamp — her mere presence is redemptive. She may speak to herself or live in silence, but her being is a sacred tirtha (pilgrimage)." "As long as a mother exists in form, a son or daughter has the rarest opportunity to perform a sacred act — to bow at her feet and receive immeasurable grace. According to ancient texts, a single circumambulation of the mother bestows the merit of six circumambulations of the Earth and the spiritual reward of ten thousand pilgrimages to Kashi. Such is the scriptural weight placed upon her worship." "And yet, the mother claims nothing for herself. She gives without asking. She uplifts without seeking. She exists not for her own gain, but entirely for the sake of her children. It is through her that one gains access to such profound spiritual merit. No yajna (ritual), no temple, no charitable act compares to a simple, heartfelt pranam at the feet of one's mother. The fruits of such a gesture are beyond the scope of verbal expression." "She, who embodies the essence of all three cosmic functions — creation, sustenance, and dissolution — becomes the unquestionable personification of divine grace. This is why our ancient sages commanded: 'Mat? Devo Bhava' — before all else, recognize the Mother as the divine. She is not just a mother. She is the Supreme. She is the Goddess. She is the living Parabrahma." "Across all stages of life — be it grihastha (householder), brahmachari (student), or vanaprastha (retiree) — individuals bow in reverence to sannyasis (renunciates). But to whom does a sannyasi bow?" "In great monastic traditions like the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, there exists an inviolable code: among renunciates, those who have undertaken more Chaturmasya vratas (vows of austerity during the four sacred months) are honored by those who have taken fewer. This is the discipline of spiritual hierarchy." "Even if a young boy ascends to the position of Peethadhipati (head of a monastic order), his own father, now an ordinary visitor, must stand in queue and offer obeisance like any other devotee."

JSW MG Motor India Deploys 80% Women Workforce at Its Battery Assembly Shop



Hyderabad; JSW MG Motor India announced that its battery assembly shop in Halol, Gujarat has achieved a remarkable milestone by reaching 80% gender diversity across operations. This facility is responsible for assembling the battery packs of MG Comet and MG Windsor, producing an average of 140 units/day.

Diversity is a core pillar for JSW MG Motor India, and the automaker has made significant strides in creating an equitable workforce across its operational bases. Currently, the company employs more than 41% women across its workforce. The carmaker operates its battery assembly line across three shifts with an 80% women workforce. The structured assembly line is divided into four segments, ensuring precision and efficiency in battery production.

Speaking on the milestone, Anurag Mehrotra, Manag-

ing Director, JSW MG Motor India said, "At JSW MG Motor India, we truly believe that diversity powers innovation, resulting in a robust growth story. It is remarkable to witness the cohesive efforts of our teams in creating an equitable and progressive manufacturing ecosystem at our Halol facility. I am confident that our customers will also take pride in knowing that the batteries of their EVs are built by an 80% female workforce. EV Sahi Hai, and this is the spirit behind it."

The battery assembly shop consists of the module line, pack line, charging and discharging line, and the final assembly line. The battery assembly process at JSW MG Motor India begins with the open circuit voltage test ensures the electrical integrity of each cell, while the cell glue process secures them in place using specialized adhesive. This is followed by welding and module assembly, where spot and laser welding techniques are used to precisely join components. Each module is scanned and aligned to ensure structural accuracy, with laser welding also serving as a key quality assurance step.

Safety testing and electrical connections are critical to the next phase. The insulation resistance test guarantees electrical isolation, while bus bar fixing establishes secure and reliable electrical pathways. These batteries undergo rigorous charging and discharging tests to validate performance and reliability. In the final assembly and performance validation stage, battery modules are integrated into packs, before being installed into MG EVs.

PhysicsWallah (PW) Launches LexGlobal to Connect Legal Education with Industry Practice



Hyderabad; Education platform PhysicsWallah (PW) announced the launch of LexGlobal, which will be dedicated to legal certifications and upskilling at an event in Delhi. The launch witnessed the presence of students, advocates, and professionals from the legal sector. LexGlobal will try to address the gap between traditional legal education and practical expertise. With the legal industry expanding rapidly, driven by startup growth, global deal-making, compliance requirements, and IP-heavy sectors, the need for accessible, practice-focused training is stronger than ever. LexGlobal is dedicated to graduates and early professionals seeking hands-on exposure to areas such as corporate law, intellectual property, mergers & acquisitions, and dispute resolution.

LexGlobal will introduce four flagship certifications in Contract Drafting & Negotiation, Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A), Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The certificates will feature the names and logos of PW, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and top law firms, guiding the creation of the course.

Adding to the launch, Atul Kumar, CEO, PhysicsWallah

(PW) Online, said, "With LexGlobal, we are trying to make legal learning practical. It's not just about courses; we're attempting to create spaces where students and professionals can actually apply what they learn, whether it's drafting a contract or preparing for arbitration. We will try to keep improving it with feedback from learners and the legal community so it can try to meet their needs and also help us to keep up with how the legal world is evolving today."

Each course blends recorded sessions, live faculty interactions, case studies, simulations, and capstone projects to provide learners with practical exposure. Programs are structured to engage learners with real-world contracts, simulated negotiations, case-based M&A walkthroughs, IP strategy modules, and mock arbitral proceedings. There are dedicated modules on AI tools and automation for streamlining compliance and redlining. Additionally, the courses also cover international standards such as CISG, FIDIC, and cross-jurisdiction enforceability, in an effort to help learners gain both domestic and global perspectives. With a focus on applied learning, LexGlobal will try to serve not just law students but also early-career professionals, in-house counsels, and corporate legal teams seeking structured upskilling.

Surender Reddy Assumes Leadership of Manthani Reddy Seva Sangham; Receives Commendation from Minister Sridhar Babu."



"P.S. ASHOKAN" Indian Chronicle "Hyderabad / Manthani, Sept 23: "Musukula Surender Reddy, newly elected as the President of the Manthani Reddy Seva Sangham, paid a courtesy visit to Telangana's Minister for IT and Industries, Shri Duddilla Sridhar Babu. During the meeting, the minister extended his heartfelt congratulations and pledged comprehensive support to the association's future endeavors." "Commending Surender Reddy's leadership qualities, Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized the importance of inclusive and dignified governance, encouraging the newly elected president to uphold the values of integrity and public service. He assured that all necessary assistance would be extended to further the organization's social initiatives." "MLA Mal Reddy Rangareddy, recognizing Surender Reddy's commitment and dynamism, also conveyed his best wishes, expressing confidence that he would efficiently discharge his duties and emerge as a role model for youth in public life." "Widely respected for his dedication to social service, Surender Reddy has consistently been at the forefront of grassroots initiatives, particularly in the agricultural sector. As a prominent farmers' leader in the Manthani region, he has played a pivotal role in address-

ing agrarian challenges and championing farmers' rights." "Currently serving as the District President of the Kisan Cell, he has been closely aligned with Minister Sridhar Babu's vision of inclusive development and people-centric governance." "The courtesy meeting was also attended by Reddy Seva Sangham leaders Damodar Reddy, Pullareddy, and other prominent members."

TGTDCL releases 'Mana Bathukamma 2025' song promo

Hyderabad, Sept.23 (NSS): Under the supervision of the Telangana Tourism Development Corporation (TGTDCL), the 'Mana Bathukamma 2025' song promo was released on Tuesday and it was shared on social media. The full song will be released at 8 PM on September 24. Famous people's poet, singer, and MLC Gorati Venkanna wrote the wonderful lyrics, while Suresh Bobbili composed the music.

PhonePe presents affordable firecracker insurance this festive season



Hyderabad: PhonePe, relaunches its comprehensive firecracker insurance coverage, just in time for the festive season, to offer absolute protection against firecracker-induced accidents. This affordable plan is available at just ₹11 (inclusive of GST) and provides extensive coverage up to ₹25,000 for a span of 11 days during the festive period. The initiative aims to provide enhanced assurance and protection to buyers so they can enjoy the festivities knowing they have financial support in the event of an accident.

As the upcoming festive season is the peak time for firecracker usage, PhonePe has re-introduced the firecracker insurance plan to ensure families can celebrate with utmost peace of mind. At a nominal fee of ₹11, buyers can avail a sum insured of up to ₹25,000 and shield their entire family, including themselves, their spouse, and up to 2 children, under a single policy. The coverage is valid for 11 days beginning from October 12th 2025. For policies purchased after this date, the coverage will be effective for 11 days from the date of purchase. The plan has been designed to be simple, transparent and easily accessible, simple and transparent. Users can purchase the policy in under a minute, directly on the PhonePe app, and secure coverage for hospitalisation (>24 hrs), day-care treatment (<24 hrs), and accidental death. Here's how users can avail this coverage on the PhonePe app:

Step 1: Open the Insurance section on the PhonePe app & select Firecracker Insurance. Step 2: Select the plan details, with a sum insured of 25,000 and a fixed premium of ₹11 along with your plan benefits. Step 3: You will be able to view the insurer's information and get a detailed breakdown of the plan benefits. Step 4: Lastly, fill in the policyholder's details, tap 'Proceed to Pay' to complete the process.

25 Year Old Entrepreneur Launches Hunger Crafts, India's First Integrated B2B & B2C Food Services Startup with a Zero-Royalty Franchise model



Hyderabad: Hyderabad-headquartered food services startup that for the first time in India combines integrated B2B corporate catering and B2C meal services under one roof while enabling entrepreneurship through its sub-brand thindify. The venture targets corporate parks, residential communities and events, aiming to redefine large-scale catering while removing barriers for aspiring food entrepreneurs.

thindify, zero-royalty franchise arm, is designed to make food entrepreneurship accessible and sustainable for first-time operators. The franchise offers affordable, high-margin meal and combo models tailored for residential demand, charges no royalty fees to maximize early-stage cash flow, covers 50% of rental expenses to reduce fixed costs for new outlets, and provides comprehensive backend operational support, training and supply-chain access to help new operators scale quickly and reliably. We're building more than kitchens; we're building opportunities. Hunger Crafts is here to create jobs, nurture food entrepreneurs, and deliver reliable, high-quality meals at scale," said Vineeth Medidi, Founder & CEO, Hunger Crafts. To support its growth trajectory, Hunger Crafts has made key additions to its leadership and shareholder base. Sailaja Polisetty joins the company as Director, bringing operational and strategic leadership experience, while Madhu Keerthipati has joined as a shareholder to back expansion. Hunger Crafts has set ambitious targets: the company plans to grow its workforce to more than 100 employees by 2027, expand operations into multiple Indian cities within 24 months, and build a widespread network of thindify foodpreneurs across key urban and peri-urban markets.

ACD, PO Uma Fatima Inspected The Anganwadi Center



"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, 23. "ACD, PO Uma Fatima, along with Superintendent of Police Latha, inspected the Lakshmi Pur Anganwadi Center in Wankidi Mandal of Komurambheem District on Monday. The attendance of the children, food register, weights, height and weight loss, and the children were examined. Anganwadi teacher Raj Kumari was instructed to explain about the hygiene of the children and viral fever. Uma Fatima explained that teacher supervision is mandatory during the laying of contract eggs, that only those with the logo should be taken, that the children's weights should be recorded on time, and that they should attend the center. Pregnant women, lactating mothers, teenage girls, and village people participated in this program."

CITU Submits Petition Opposing Privatization of Labour Welfare Schemes.



“ P . S . A S H O K A N “ I N D I A N Chronicle“MANTHANI,September 23:““In a strong show of resistance, the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) submitted a formal petition today to Assistant Labour Officer D. Ravinder, urging the government to revoke G.O. No. 12, which proposes the transfer of labour welfare schemes to private insurance entities.““Addressing the media, CITU District Committee member Budida Ganesh welcomed the Telangana Building and Other Construction

Workers’ Welfare Board’s recent decision to enhance ex gratia payments — increasing compensation for accidental deaths to ₹10 lakh and for natural deaths to ₹2 lakh. He credited this progress to the long-standing struggle and advocacy of construction workers under CITU’s leadership.““However, Ganesh expressed grave concern over the state government’s move to outsource welfare implementation. “The decision to allocate ₹346 crore to private insurance companies under G.O. No. 12 is not only unjust but also a blatant violation of workers’ rights,” he said. “Welfare schemes must remain under the direct purview of the Welfare Board to ensure transparency, accountability, and social justice.”“

“The petition submitted by CITU demands:““Immediate withdrawal or amendment of G.O. No. 12““Direct implementation of all welfare schemes through the state-run Welfare Board““Resolution of all pending claims without delay““Cancellation of compulsory health tests by CSC (Common Service Centers)““Issuance of health cards to all construction workers without preconditions““Ganesh warned that if the government fails to act on these demands, CITU will be compelled to escalate the agitation with intensified protests across the state.““Prominent CITU leaders including Babu Ravi, Manthani Kishtayya, Nafees, and others actively participated in the demonstration and submission of the memorandum.

"Serving Humanity is the Highest Celebration": Lions Club Hosts Free Breakfast Drive at Government Hospital on Dr. Saranya Yadav’s Birthday.

“ “ P . S . A S H O K A N “ I n d i a n Chronicle“Peddapalli,September 23:““In a heartwarming display of compassion and social responsibility, the Lions Club of Centenary Colony, under the larger umbrella of Lions Club of Peddapalli, organized a special breakfast distribution drive at the District Government Hospital, Peddapalli, as part of their flagship initiative, Meals on Wheels. This event coincided with the birthday celebrations of Dr. Saranya Yadav, a distinguished naturopathy specialist and administrator of the Centenary Colony Lions Club.““The distribution, commemorating 729 consecutive days of free daily breakfast service to patients and their families, was led by Dr. Saranya Maruthi Yadav and former ZPTC and Club Director, Sri Ganta Venkata Ramana Reddy, who personally handed over nutritious meals to attendees in the hospital premises.““Speaking on the occasion, Lions Club President Mekala Maruthi Yadav remarked:““> “True joy lies not in ostentatious celebrations, but in alleviating the suffering of those in need. Feeding the hungry brings a deep sense of fulfillment that no grand event can match. On special days like birthdays or anniversaries, dedicating a small act of service to society can make a meaningful difference.”““He emphasized the Lions Club’s unwavering commitment to humanitarian service and appealed to the public to consider celebrating their personal milestones by contributing to noble causes like this one.““> “Each morning, countless patients and their families wait in hunger, often without the means or access to food. Our mission is to ensure that no one in the hospital goes hungry—not just today, but every day.”““President Maruthi Yadav extended heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Lions Club of Peddapalli for their continued support and active participation in making the initiative a resounding success. He urged



more citizens to come forward and support such activities by sponsoring a day’s meal or volunteering.““For those interested in contributing or sponsoring a day’s meals, the club can be reached at +91 90142 55745.““Distinguished Participants in the Event Included:““Lion Bellamkonda Jayapal Reddy, Meals on Wheels Convener““Lion Sadula Venkateswarlu, Zone Chairman““Lion Bodakunta Ranka Kishan, President, Lions Club of Peddapalli““Lion Meesala Satyanarayana, Secretary““Lion Kalashikam Mahender Rao, Treasurer““Lion Velpula Ramesh, Immediate Past President““Lion Jakkula Sailu, Vice President““Lion Arepalli Kumaraswamy, Senior Member““Lion Dubasi Kumar, Senior Member““Numerous other members and volunteers also joined hands to make the event impactful and meaningful.

MLA Bhandari Laxma Reddy Lays Foundation for Drainage Works in Mallapur Division



““Nacharam, (Indian Chornical) September 23: Uppal MLA Bhandari Laxma Reddy on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for underground drainage works in various colonies of Mallapur Division.““Nehru Nagar Colony Block–3 at a cost of Rs.8.5 lakhs““Nehru Nagar Colony Block–2 at a cost of Rs.9.5 lakhs and““Ashok Nagar Colony at a cost of Rs.16 lakhs Speaking on the occasion, Mallpur Division Corporator Pannala Devender Reddy said that continuous efforts are being made to strengthen basic infrastructure facilities in the division. Water Board DGM Satish, local leaders, and several colony residents participated in the programme.

Congress Leaders Inspect Drainage Overflow Issue in Old Mallapur

““Nacharam, (Indain chornical, September 23): Due to severe drainage overflow problems in Old Mallapur, Mallapur Congress Party President Sri Kappara Sai Kiran Goud along with the local Water Board AE Sri Raj visited the affected area.““On this occasion, Sri Sai Kiran Goud assured the colony residents that necessary efforts will be taken to resolve the issue at the earliest.““Former OBC President Sri Bongoni Umesh Goud, Mallapur SC Cell President Manohar, Youth Congress President Jayant, GS Vinesh Yadav, Madhu Yadav, and several local residents participated in the programme.



Worker Dies in Sirpur paper Mill Accident

““Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad.District Reporter Jade Srinivas.September.23.““Worker dies in Sirpur paper mill accident“An accident at the Kagaznagar Sirpur paper mill has claimed the life of another worker. Bhaskar, a worker working under an Amazon contractor on the fiber line, was seriously injured in the incident that took place on Wednesday, the 3rd of this month and died on Sunday while undergoing treatment. While he was busy working in the paper mill, chemical fell on Bhaskar, causing serious injuries. His colleagues responded immediately and provided local treatment, but his condition deteriorated and he was rushed to the corporate hospital in Hyderabad. Doctors tried to save Bhaskar’s life for almost 18 days, but his health deteriorated due to the chemical that had a serious effect on his body. He finally breathed his last on Sunday morning. The news of Bhaskar’s death has left the family in a state of grief. Relatives are shedding tears as their future

has been darkened by the death of Bhaskar, who was supporting his family with daily work. Colleagues are also expressing anger at the factory management.

DIGITAL ARREST FRAUD - SENIOR CITIZEN DUPED OF Rs 26.06 LAKH

Hyderabad, Sept.23 (NSS): A 68-year-old resident of Humayun Nagar area in the city was cheated of Rs.26.06 lakh by cyber fraudsters posing as ATS, NIA and even the DGP. The fraud accused him of links to money laundering and the Pahalgam terror attack in Kashmir, showing forged warrants and documents over WhatsApp video calls to threaten arrest.

"Media Bias Undermining Democracy: Putta Madhukar Slams Favoritism Toward Duddilla Sridhar"



“P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Hyderabad, Telangana:““Former Manthani MLA Putta Madhukar launched a scathing attack on certain media outlets, accusing them of deliberately creating a biased political atmosphere in favor of sitting MLA Duddilla Sridhar. Addressing the media at a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday, Madhukar questioned whether democracy is being replaced by selective narrative-building and media-fueled political monopolies.““Madhukar expressed grave concerns over what he described as orchestrated media campaigns aimed at sidelining him while shielding Sridhar from scrutiny. He alleged that some media organizations, possibly under Sridhar’s influence, are engaging in false reportage, portraying him as absent from public life — a claim he dismissed as baseless and defamatory.““> “What wrongdoing have I committed to warrant such slanderous propaganda from channels like NTV?” Madhukar demanded.““The media should be a watchdog of democracy — holding the powerful accountable — not acting as a shield for entrenched political elites.”““Madhukar, who has been in public life for over 37 years, said he has always remained accessible to the people of his constituency, even

after electoral defeats. He challenged the media to focus on more pertinent issues, such as the current MLA’s underperformance, rather than vilifying him without cause.““> “If you’re intent on running stories, focus on Sridhar — a three-time minister and five-time MLA — who, despite decades in power, has failed to bring a single factory, industry, or meaningful employment to Manthani,” Madhukar asserted.““He lambasted the Duddilla family for failing to contribute to their own native village of Dharmaram, even after four decades of political and economic prominence.““> “Despite living in the U.S. for 40 years with the people’s blessings, Sridhar’s family couldn’t even donate a bench to a local school,” he said.““Even after being selected for a pilot project under the Indiramma housing scheme, they couldn’t complete two houses.”““Madhukar further criticized the media silence surrounding incidents like the removal of an Ambedkar statue, which he and his supporters had installed using personal funds. He accused certain groups of operating “like thieves in the night”, removing the statue’s cover before its planned inauguration.”

“He also drew historical parallels, accusing Sridhar’s father of colluding with authorities under the guise of anti-Naxal operations in the past, and alleging that Sridhar continues similar practices today through police suppression.““Addressing rumors about an ongoing CBI inquiry, Madhukar denied any wrongdoing and said he has nothing to fear.““> “Whether I win or lose, I remain with the people. I’ve contested four times and lost three, yet my bond with Manthani is unwavering.”““He criticized past efforts to prevent him from receiving party tickets, claiming that Sridhar and his father systematically blocked rivals from contesting. He thanked TRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for seeing beyond this and giving him three electoral opportunities.““In a strong warning to biased media outlets, Madhukar remarked:““> “Those glorifying the Duddilla family should realize they are embracing a blade of ice — beautiful, but fatal. Your silence on their failures and aggression toward my integrity reveals a dangerous distortion of media ethics.”““He concluded with a firm appeal to the press:““> “Stop the venomous propaganda. Your responsibility is to the truth, not to power.”““Madhukar called the media’s selective narratives deeply unfortunate, particularly when they work to marginalize alternative political voices in Manthani. He reiterated that true democracy thrives only when the press serves the people — not the powerful.

"Harness Traditional Wisdom: Collector Pamela Satpathy Urges Public to Embrace Government Ayurvedic Healthcare Services"

““P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Karimnagar, September 23 ““District Collector Pamela Satpathy emphasized the importance of integrating traditional medicine into modern lifestyles by encouraging citizens to actively utilize government-provided Ayurvedic healthcare services. She noted that Ayurveda, being a time-tested system of holistic healing, offers sustainable solutions for preventive and curative care.““Speaking at the Ayurveda Day celebrations held at the Ayushman Arogya Mandir in Ramnagar, Karimnagar, the Collector inaugurated a free Ayurvedic medical camp where patients received complimentary consultations and Ayurvedic medications.““During her visit, Collector Satpathy attentively reviewed the exhibits of Ayurvedic formulations and a diverse collection of medicinal plants, appreciating the traditional knowledge they represent. She also visited the Yoga Centre within the premises and observed ongoing sessions of therapeutic yogic postures.““She toured the Ayushman Hospital and issued several directives aimed at enhancing the accessibility and visibility of Ayurvedic services. She instructed hospital administrators to prominently display information boards detailing the range of free treatments and medicines available, especially those targeting maternal and child health.““> “Yoga should be actively promoted among pregnant women to facilitate safe and natural deliveries,” she noted, highlighting the role of wellness practices in maternal care.““The Collector further directed the staff to maintain clean and green surroundings within the hospital campus, recommending plantation drives as part of a broader environmental and health initiative.““The event witnessed participation from District Medical & Health Officer Dr. Venkataramana, Senior Unani Medical Officer Dr. Yasab Sultana, District Programme Manager G. Praveen Kumar, and Medical Officer R. Neeraja.““Collector Inspects Hepatitis Vaccination Drive for Medical Personnel““As part of her commitment to public health and workforce safety, Collector Pamela Satpathy



also inspected the Hepatitis vaccination programme being conducted at the Government General Hospital, aimed at protecting medical professionals across government hospitals and teaching institutions under the Directorate of Medical Education.““The vaccination initiative is being implemented under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme, serving as a proactive measure to safeguard doctors and healthcare workers who are at increased risk of exposure.““> “

This vaccination not only strengthens the immunity of healthcare staff but also serves as a critical preventive step against severe complications such as liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer),” she stated.““Following the inspection, the Collector visited several hospital departments to review service delivery and patient care infrastructure.““Accompanying officials included District Medical Officer Dr. Venkataramana, Hospital Superintendent Dr. Veerareddy, Resident Medical Officer Dr. Naveena, and District Immunization Officer Dr. Sajitha.

"Deadline Extended for Lateral Admissions into Navodaya Vidyalaya: Students Urged to Avail the Opportunity"“

“P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Choppadandi, September 23 :““In a significant update for aspiring students, the application deadline for lateral entry admissions into Classes 9 and 11 at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Choppadandi, has been extended until October 7, announced In-charge Principal Mr. K. Brahmananda Reddy.““He stated that students currently enrolled in Classes 8 and 10 during the 2025–26 academic session are eligible to apply for the 2026–27 academic year. The admissions are intended to fill vacant seats and are part of

the standard lateral entry process followed by Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country.““Mr. Reddy encouraged eligible students from the erstwhile Karimnagar district to make full use of this extended timeline and submit their applications within the stipulated period. He emphasized that Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas offer free, high-quality residential education and play a crucial role in nurturing talented students, particularly from rural backgrounds.““> “This is an excellent opportunity for meritorious students to gain access to a nationally reputed institution committed to academic excellence and holistic development,” he added.

Uppal MLA and Mallapur Corporator Submit Representation for CC Road Development Funds“

Nacharam, (Indain Chronical)September 23:On Tuesday Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy along with Mallapur Division Corporator Pannala Devender Reddy submitted a representation to GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, IAS, requesting the sanction of Rs.5 crore funds for the development of CC roads in various colonies of Mallapur Division.““The Commissioner assured that he would make all efforts to release the required funds at the earliest.““Corporator Prabhudas, BRS leader Sai Jan Shekhar, and several other local leaders participated in the program.



Santana Lakshmi Alankaram Today



Shaik Sharief,Bhadrachalam, September 23 ,Indian Chronicle :""The Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy Temple at Bhadrachalam commenced the Sri Devi Sharannavaratri Utsavams and Vijayadashami celebrations on Tuesday, in accordance with the Pancharatra Agama Shastras. On the inaugural day, the Goddess appeared in the form of Adi Lakshmi Alankaram, granting divine darshan to devotees. Special pujas were performed to the Goddess, along with Samaohika Kumkumarchana, Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam, and Balakanda Parayanam, recited by Vedic scholars.""At the Chitrakoota Mandapam within the temple premises, the Sri Ramayana Parayanam began with grandeur. A group of 108 participants will continue the collective recitation for ten days. The temple authorities have arranged



free accommodation, meals, darshan privileges, and anugraha patras (blessing certificates) for all those taking part. A large number of devotees had darshan of Goddess Adi Lakshmi on this auspicious occasion. Temple EO Damodar Rao, along with Vedic priests, participated in the event.""Today, the presiding deity Sri Lakshmi Thayar will appear in the form of Santana Lakshmi Alankaram. Scriptures describe that the entire creation is the progeny of the Goddess, and hence She is worshipped as Santana Lakshmi. It is believed that worshipping the Goddess in this form removes obstacles related to progeny, bestows virtuous children, and grants peace and prosperity. To fulfill the cherished wishes of devotees, the Goddess will bless them today in the divine form of Santana Lakshmi Alankaram.

Grand Celebrations of Muddappappu Bathukamma at Collectorate

– Additional Collector and Trainee Collector Participate



thusiasm, singing and dancing as part of the celebrations. Following tradition, Bathukamma was beautifully arranged in three tiers using flowers such as chrysanthemum, hibiscus, marigold, and ramabanam, and decorated artistically in lotus-shaped arrangements.""A large number of women employees and staff participated, adorning Bathukamma with flowers and performing rituals with devotion. Folk songs and cultural programs highlighting Telangana traditions added color and vibrancy to the event.""On the occasion, Additional Collector D. Venugopal said that Bathukamma is a symbol of Telangana women's self-respect and cultural heritage. He emphasized that mass participation in such festivals strengthens social unity. He also mentioned the belief that offering Muddappappu Bathukamma brings health, prosperity, and family well-being.""Trainee Collector Saurabh Sharma stated that such celebrations promote harmony and camaraderie among employees while bringing joy and enthusiasm to the workplace.""Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Vidya Chandana, District Medical Officer Jayalakshmi, Women and Child Welfare Officer Swamalatha Lenina, along with medical staff and women employees, also took part in the celebrations

Cotton Procurement Must Be Transparent: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil

Bhukya Ranjith naik,Bhadradri Kothagudem Bureau,September 23,Indian Chronicle:District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has directed officials of the concerned departments to ensure that cotton procurement across the district is carried out in a fully transparent manner.""On Tuesday, the Collector held a review meeting at the camp office with officials from Agriculture, Marketing, Planning, Transport, and Police departments to discuss cotton procurement arrangements.""Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stressed that all officials must ensure farmers do not face any difficulties and that they receive the government-fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) in a fair and transparent manner. He noted that cotton is being cultivated in 1,72,937 acres across the district, and the Agriculture Department has estimated a yield of 26.56 lakh quintals. For 2025–26, the government has fixed the MSP for cotton at ₹8,110 per quintal, he added.""Officials informed the Collector that six procurement centers have been set up under the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to facilitate purchases. The Collector instructed the Legal Metrology Department to thoroughly inspect weighing bridges to avoid discrepancies in weighing, and directed that farmers' produce be recorded accurately. He also emphasized that payments to farmers should not be delayed and must be processed on time through a transparent system.""The Collector further instructed that procurement centers be equipped with basic amenities such as drinking water, accommodation facilities,



ties, storage warehouses, and moisture testing machines. He cautioned that no middlemen or unauthorized buyers should interfere with the procurement process, and urged farmers to sell their produce only at government procurement centers.""He also directed millers to take adequate fire safety precautions at cotton mills and advised that awareness be created among farmers on using cotton stalks for biochar production after harvest.""The meeting was attended by CPO Sanjeeva Rao, Agriculture Officer Baburao, Marketing Officer Narender, Legal Metrology Officer Manohar, Transport Officer Venkataramana, along with officials of other concerned departments and cotton millers.

Removal Of Posters With Restrictions On The Media.

"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad.District Reporter Jade Srinivas.September,23.""Komaram Bheem Asifabad, The posters put up on the walls of the Komaram Bheem Asifabad District Government Hospital, imposing restrictions on the media, were removed on Saturday evening by the hospital superintendent. Four days ago, posters were put up on the walls of the district hospital imposing restrictions on the media, and journalist associations decided to organize protest programs under the auspices of the press club. After a complaint was already filed with the district collector, the journalist associations decided to hold a large- scale dharna in front of the collectorate on Monday. The hospital staff, who came down, removed the posters put up on the walls. While the leaders of the journalist associations are of the opinion that imposing restrictions on the media is not right in a democracy, their protest seems to have yielded results. Speaking on this occasion, District Hospital Superintendent Praveen said that the media is being allowed to enter the district hospital. He said that the posters were put up on the walls of the hospital due to some incidents that took place in the district hospital last week, and they are being removed. Compared to the past, the hospital He said that the services have improved, but compared to other hospitals, there are some difficulties due to



the lack of infrastructure. However, he said that more than 700 patients continue to be admitted to the district hospital every day. He said that the media is not able to provide them with proper information due to the high work pressure of the existing staff, and from now on, he said that instead of that, an officer is being specially assigned to provide information. He explained that the media can get the information they need from the said officer. He asked the media to cooperate so that more patients come to the district hospital."

SP Rohit Raju IPS Stresses Strict Action Against Illegal Activities, Calls for Strong Road Safety Measures



""Bhukya Ranjith Naik,Bhadradri kothagudem Bureau , September 23,Indian Chronicle:"District Superintendent of Police (SP) Rohit Raju, IPS, made a surprise visit to the police stations at Dummugudem and Burgampahad on Tuesday. He inspected the station premises and later issued several key directives to the police officers and staff.""The SP instructed the police to remain accessible to people in agency areas and work proactively to resolve their grievances. He emphasized that strict legal action must be taken against individuals involved in illegal activities such as cockfights, gambling, and betting, with special surveillance teams deployed to curb these practices.""SP Rohit Raju also directed officers to enhance vigilance on interstate criminal gangs to prevent thefts. Identifying accident-prone zones and implementing preventive measures to re-



duce road accidents was highlighted as a priority.""Under the "Nenu Saitam" initiative, the SP urged the involvement of local citizens in setting up CCTV cameras across all areas within police jurisdiction. He called for speedy disposal of pending cases and instructed staff to address the concerns of police personnel effectively.""On cybercrime, the SP stressed the need for continuous public awareness programs to protect citizens from online fraud and scams. He insisted on wide-scale campaigns to keep people alert and vigilant.""Additionally, the SP directed the police to keep a close watch on the illegal transportation of narcotic substances such as ganja. He instructed that areas where ganja consumption is reported must be regularly patrolled to curb such activities.

Heavy Rains Cause Inundation in Mansoorabad Division; GHMC Deputy Floor Leader Koppula Narasimha Reddy Inspects Affected Colonies



"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, hayathnagar, Sept 23, Indian Chronicle: Due to the heavy rains over the past few days, several colonies in the Hayathnagar outskirts under Mansoorabad Division have been severely affected by waterlogging. GHMC Deputy Floor Leader and local corporator Koppula Narasimha Reddy visited the inundated areas including Lakshmi Nagar, Lakshmi Bhavani Colony, Pavanagiri Phase-1, and Brundavan Colony to inspect the situation. During the visit, he highlighted the following issues and directed officials to take immediate action: Lakshmi Nagar: Waterlogging is caused by rainwater flowing from the national highway. He urged GHMC authorities to take prompt measures to divert the water and provide relief to residents. Lakshmi Bhavani Colony: Unauthorized constructions and encroachments



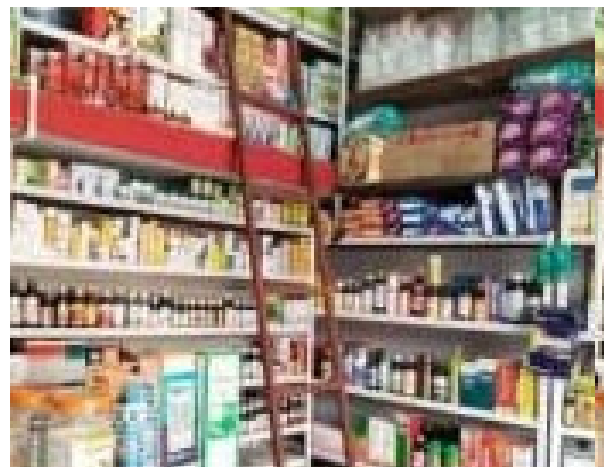
have blocked stormwater drains, worsening the flooding. He instructed HYDRA officials to clear the drains and divert water into the nearby lake. Pavanagiri Phase-1: Heavy rainwater flow damaged the internal roads, causing inconvenience to residents. He directed officials to restore road formation immediately. Brundavan Colony: The collapse of the boundary wall of the Yadavs' cremation ground has created a dangerous situation. He said new walls must be built urgently to prevent further risks. Members of local colony welfare associations including Sanjeev Reddy, Satyam, Sailu Goud, Kodanda Suresh, Rajinikanth, Naveen Rao, Rajender, Satti Reddy, Mahender Reddy, Raghu Ram, Satish, Srinivas Reddy, along with BJP leaders and activists participated in the inspection program.

Inspection of Waterlogging Problem in Sainagar Colony

""NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Sept 23, Indian Chronicle: Due to rainwater accumulation in Sainagar Colony, officials from GHMC inspected the situation following the instructions of MLA Marri Rajashekar Reddy. The inspection was carried out along with DEE Prashanti, AE Arun, Work Inspector Naveen, and leaders Anil Kishore Goud, Vijayshekar, Sampat, JD Narsing, Anil, and Janardhan. Local residents including Srinivas, Ashok, Veera Reddy, and Kamlesh also participated in the program.



There Is A Strong Medical Mafia In The District



"Medical Shops In Hospitals Without Permits Selling Medicines Without Doctor's Script""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad.District Reporter Jade Srinivas.September,23.""The medical mafia is rampant in the district. Hospitals medical shops are running without any permits. Incidents are coming to light where the lives of innocent people are being endangered due to the sale of medicines without doctor's prescription. Many medical shops in the district are running in the names of other people rather than in the names of the owners. Even though there are no students who have studied pharmacy, they are doing business freely in violation of the rules. Locals have alleged that the medical supervision officials who look after these things are acting as if they are not looking. People are demanding that these illegal medical shops should be shut down immediately and strict action should be taken against the officials who are helping them.

Grand Celebration of Chief Whip and MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy's Birthday

""NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, AS Rao Nagar, Sept 23, Indian Chronicle: The birthday celebrations of Government Chief Whip and Member of Legislative Council Patnam Mahender Reddy were held in a grand manner on Tuesday. On this occasion, under the leadership of former Congress Party AS Rao Nagar Division President and senior leader Kotha Anji Reddy, warm birthday greetings were extended to Mahender Reddy at his residence in Banjara Hills. Wishing him good health and long life in his continued service to the people and contribution to the state's development, the leaders felicitated him with a bouquet. The event also witnessed a cake-cutting ceremony followed by distribution. Among those present were former corporator Pajjuri Pavani Manipal Reddy, senior leader Kamsani Seetharam Reddy, Charlapalli Division President Singireddy Venkata Reddy, senior party leaders



Peddi Nagaraju Gupta, Allurayya, S.A. Saheb, Rahmatulla, Ramalingam and several others.

Why is India's trade deficit with China a concern? What is the risk of increasing dependence? | Explained



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

The bilateral trade between India and China has been growing at a healthy rate, but the trade gap remains sharply tilted in Beijing's favour. India has time and again flagged its concern over the ballooning trade deficit and the non-trade barriers faced by Indian goods in the Chinese market., Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it is important for India and China to work together to bring stability to the world economic order as he asserted that New Delhi is ready to advance bilateral ties from a strategic and long-term perspective based on mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity. A list of questions and answers to understand the trade-related issues between the two countries:

How much is the bilateral trade between India and China?

During April-July 2025-26, India's exports rose by 19.97% to \$5.75 billion, while imports increased by 13.06% to \$40.65 billion. In 2024-25, India's exports stood at \$14.25 billion, while imports were \$113.5 billion. Trade deficit (difference between imports and exports) rose from \$1.1 billion in 2003-04 to \$99.2 billion in 2024-25. China's trade deficit accounted for about 35% of India's total trade imbalance (\$283 billion) in the last fiscal. The gap was \$85.1 billion in 2023-24.

Why is the deficit with China a concern?

Because it is not only large, but also structural. What makes it more serious is that China now dominates India's import baskets across virtually every industrial category — from pharmaceuticals and electronics to construction materials, renewable energy, and consumer goods , according to think tank GTRI.

For which key products China's share is over 75%?

GTRI analysis states that in antibiotics like erythro-

mycin, China supplies 97.7% of India's needs; in electronics, it controls 96.8 per cent of silicon wafers and 86 per cent of flat panel displays; in renewable energy, 82.7% of solar cells and 75.2% of lithium-ion batteries come from China. Even everyday products such as laptops (80.5% share), embroidery machinery (91.4%), and viscose yarn (98.9%) are overwhelmingly Chinese-sourced.

What is the risk of increasing dependence on China?

GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava says overwhelming dominance gives Beijing potential leverage against India, turning supply chains into a tool of pressure in times of political tension. The imbalance is deepening as India's exports to China continue to decline, reducing India's share in bilateral trade to just 11.2% today from 42.3% two decades ago. However, according to the Commerce Ministry, most of the goods imported from China are raw materials, intermediate products and capital goods like auto components, electronic parts, mobile phone parts, machinery and active pharma ingredients. These are used for making finished products, which are also exported. India's dependence on imports in these categories is largely due to the gap in domestic supply and demand, the Ministry said.

What steps India has taken to cut its import dependence?

Introduction of production linked incentive schemes for over 14 sectors to boost domestic manufacturing; stricter quality standards and measures for quality controls, testing protocols, and mandatory certification to check standard and poor-quality products in the market and protect consumers' interest. The government encourages Indian business establishments to explore alternative suppliers to diversify their supply chains and reduce dependency on single sources of supply. It also monitors the surge in imports on a regular basis and takes appropriate action. Further, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is empowered to recommend trade remedial actions against unfair trade practices. India has imposed anti-dumping duties on a number of Chinese goods and sectors such as chemicals to engineering items to protect domestic firms from cheap imports.

What is the impact of rising trade deficit?

Pressure on foreign exchange reserves, dependence on external suppliers, cheaper imports can hurt local manufacturers; can lead to currency depreciation pushing cost of imported goods, fuelling inflation; and over-reliance on imports reduces incentives for building domestic capacity in key sectors, slowing long-term industrial growth.

EC mulls setting up polling booths in Bengal's housing societies; won't allow on private premises, says TMC



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

The poll panel first started this experiment in Delhi to increase voter turnout in urban areas. The poll panel first started this experiment in Delhi to increase voter turnout in urban areas. The Election Commission (EC) has proposed to set up polling booths in housing societies and high-rises in the state which have over 400 voters, a move opposed by West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress stating that they will not allow booths on private premises.

The poll panel first started this experiment in Delhi to increase voter turnout in urban areas. Many in Bengal's political and administrative circles believe the decision could impact next year's Assembly polls, especially in constituencies like Kolkata, Howrah and the Salt Lake-New Town area that house large numbers of multi-storeyed residential complexes. However, the BJP, which believes that high-rise residents tend to be its supporters and are often prevented from stepping out to vote by alleged Trinamool-backed goons, welcomed the decision. "Polling booths were set up in high-rises for the first time during the Delhi Assembly polls, and it raised the turnout by 15 per cent compared to the previous election," a poll panel official said. "So, it was decided to extend the measure across the country." For now, housing complexes with at least 400 voters will be considered for the privilege, sources in the Election Commission said. "For this, the secretary of the housing society would have to give a No-Objection, and there should be a proper space, like a community hall, to set up the polling booth,"

said a senior EC official. He added, "The Election Commission will arrange the polling and security personnel. It will also ensure CCTV coverage."

But sources in the EC said the TMC opposed the proposal. State Sports Minister and TMC leader Aroop Biswas, who was part of the party's delegation to the EC, said, "It is not acceptable to set up booths in private areas. Our party will not allow booths on private premises. We had already opposed such proposals." Responding to this, BJP leader Rahul Sinha said, "It is obvious that the TMC would oppose such proposals. They know that educated people don't support them. That is why they always try to stop them from reaching the booth. Previously too, in many cases, they just kept many societies under lock and key so that the people residing there couldn't exercise their franchise and the TMC cast their votes. If the EC sets up such booths, the TMC won't survive."

Expressing concern, a senior BJP leader said, "If the EC tries to implement this decision, TMC leaders would threaten the secretaries of housing societies so that they would not give permission to the poll body to set up booths in their societies." On Friday, the EC had a meeting with an all-party delegation on booth rationalisation, during which the state Chief Election Officer (CEO) decided to increase polling booths in the state by almost 14,000. A draft list of the new booths has already been prepared. According to the draft list, West Bengal will now have 80,681 polling booths. As per the proposal, the total number of booths will increase by 13,816, as many as 37 booths will be abolished, and 1,253 booths will be reorganised. Another 703 booths will be shifted to a new location. Atri Mitra is a Special Correspondent of The Indian Express with more than 20 years of experience in reporting from West Bengal, Bihar and the North-East. He has been covering administration and political news for more than ten years and has a keen interest in political development in West Bengal. Atri holds a Master degree in Economics from Rabindrabharati University and Bachelor's degree from Calcutta University. He is also an alumnus of St. Xavier's, Kolkata and Ramakrishna Mission Asrama, Narendrapur. He

Couple's deaths after liver transplant surgery: Pune police record statements of family members

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Pune liver transplant deaths, Sahyadri Hospitals liver transplant case, Kamini Koamkar death after liver donation, The relatives of the deceased had approached the Deccan Gymkhana Police station alleging medical negligence for the deaths. The Pune city police on Friday recorded the statements of relatives of Kamini Koamkar, 42, and her husband Bapu Balkrishna Koamkar, 49, who had died after a liver transplant surgery at Sahyadri Hospitals in the city. Kamini, a resident of Hadapsar, had donated part of her liver to her husband Bapu on August 15. Post-transplant, Bapu passed away on August 19, while Kamini, who had initially recovered, developed hypotensive shock and multi-organ dysfunction and died three days later. According to Sahyadri Hospitals authorities, she could not be saved despite advanced treatment.

The relatives of the deceased had approached the Deccan Gymkhana Police station alleging medical negligence for the deaths. The police had recorded an accidental death report and launched an inquiry. "We have recorded the statements of the family members of the deceased as a part of an inquiry into the accidental death report," said senior police inspector Girisha Nimbalkar, Deccan Gymkhana police station. The state health directorate has set up a high-profile committee headed by Professor Mohamed Rela, a leading figure in liver transplantation and president of the International Liver Transplant Society, Chennai, to review the case of the deaths. Police said when-



ever medical negligence is alleged, a medical board comprising competent authorities from the state-run Sassoon General Hospital is formed and conducts an inquiry. "After this board submits a report, a First Information Report may be registered in cases where the committee finds medical negligence," Nimbalkar said. Balraj Wadekar, brother of Kamini Koamkar, said,

"The police have sought our stance in the case. We have provided all the details on the timeline, medical history, and other relevant information," Wadekar said. According to Wadekar, the complaint, post-mortem report, and other details will be submitted to the 8-member committee. "They will decide on our complaint of medical negligence," he added.

Preparatory Meeting for Jubilee Hills By-election in Yusufguda



"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Uppal, Sept 23, Indian Chronicle: At a preparatory meeting held at the BRS party office in Yusufguda, Srinagar Division in-charge and Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, along with MLC Ramana, called on party workers to work together to ensure victory in the upcoming Jubilee Hills by-election. The meeting was conducted under the supervision of Maganti Sunitha Gopinath, wife of late Jubilee Hills MLA and Hyderabad district party president Maganti Gopinath. Addressing booth-level in-charges, Bandari Laxma Reddy



emphasized the importance of coordination at every level, stating that the party's goal is to hoist the pink flag in the Jubilee Hills constituency. He said the leadership was not there to dictate but to walk alongside the cadre, carrying forward the vision of Maganti Gopinath and striving for the success of Maganti Sunitha. He added that the party's working president, K.T. Rama Rao, has taken the Jubilee Hills election as a matter of high priority. Corporators, division-level leaders, booth in-charges, women leaders, and other key party workers participated in the meeting.

Ravi Naik Assumes Charge as BJP ST Morcha State President

"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Sept 23, Indian Chronicle: Ravi Naik Nenavat formally assumed charge as the State President of the BJP ST Morcha on Tuesday at the party's state headquarters. Ahead of the event, Naik performed special prayers at the Nacharam Sri Hanuman Temple along with senior leaders, including former Ex MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar. Following the rituals, he proceeded in a rally to the state office, where tribal and adivasi cultural dance performances were organized as part of the celebrations. At the party office, Naik was welcomed by State BJP leaders. Traditional pujas were conducted by priests before he began his official responsibilities. District official representative Potagani Gopal Goud extended greetings to Naik on the occasion.



Carpet industry demands special bailout package

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

The carpet industry has urged the central government for a special bailout package for the exporters in this sector, especially in Bhadohi, as a cushion against the impact of 50% tariff imposed by the U.S. All India Carpet Manufacturers Association (AICMA) and the Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC), which operates under Ministry of Textiles, had met with Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh in this regard. Bhadohi MLA Zahid Baig (Samajwadi Party) has also requested a special 10% bailout package from the Uttar Pradesh government to provide relief to the exporters.

According to Akhilesh Singh, Chief Administrative Officer of CEPC's Bhadohi office, India's carpet exports in the last financial year were valued at ₹16,800 crore. Of this, 60% was exported to the U.S. and 40% to European countries. He noted that Bhadohi alone accounts for 60% of the country's total carpet exports, making it clear that the U.S. tariff will hit the district's exporters the hardest. Both organisations stressed that their priority is to keep their American importers engaged. They explained that if these importers begin sourcing from countries where the U.S. has imposed lower tariffs, such as China, Turkey, and Pakistan, it would be extremely difficult to win them back.

Meanwhile, in a letter to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Baig emphasized that the tariff will most significantly impact the carpet industry because 99% of carpets made in India are exported, with 60% of that going to the U.S. The MLA highlighted that the carpet industry is a



cottage industry that employs 30 lakh people, with women making up a valuable 25% of that workforce. He stated that these women are self-reliant, earning through various types of carpet weaving from their homes. Baig warned that if exports are affected, the biggest blow will be to the weavers, labourers, and women who create these carpets using only their hands and skills, without the use of machinery. This could impact a large portion of the population and lead to millions losing their livelihoods. Mr. Baig urged the government to protect the 800 export units in U.P. from this direct blow. As a representative of Bhadohi, he appealed to the chief minister to immediately announce a 10% special bailout package for Uttar Pradesh's exporters to save the carpet industry.

NSS Students Take Up Wall Painting at Government School in Madharam



"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Sept 23, Indian Chronicle: As part of the seven-day special camp organized by the Little Flower Degree College NSS Unit, the sixth-day activities were held at Madharam. Osmania University NSS Cell Coordinator Professor E. Vidyasagar inaugurated the camp by hoisting the NSS flag and encouraged the students. Former Sarpanch Yadagiri also attended and motivated the volunteers. The main highlight of the day was the wall painting program at the Madharam Government School. Professor Vidyasagar launched the initiative,

following which NSS student volunteers enthusiastically completed the wall paintings. The camp is being successfully conducted under the supervision of NSS Program Officer Dr. M. Prashanth. NSS member Naveen actively participated along with the students.

Uppal, Medchal Congress leaders greet Legislative Council Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy on his birthday



"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Sept 23, Indian Chronicle: Congress leaders from Uppal and Medchal, Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, Vajresh Yadav, and former TPCC General Secretary Nurse Reddy Boopathi Reddy, extended birthday greetings to Telangana Legislative Council Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy.

Elgaar Parishad accused Ramesh Gaichor released on temporary bail to meet ailing father, jail authority apologises to Bombay HC for delay



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

The Talaja Prison authorities on Thursday tendered an unconditional apology before the Bombay High Court for not complying with its August 26 order and submitted that the Elgaar Parishad case accused Ramesh Gaichor was released on a three-day temporary bail on the night of The High Court had granted temporary bail to Gaichor to visit his ailing father and directed the Talaja prison to release him on September 9, so that he would be back in jail on September 11. However, Senior Advocate Mihir Desai and Advocate Sanskruti Yagnik for Gaichor filed an application on Wednesday claiming that he was not released from prison despite the HC order, as the jail authorities insisted on a release warrant from the trial court.On Thursday, Pramod Wagh, Superintendent of Talaja Central Prison, filed an affidavit tendering unconditional apology for not complying with the August 26 order. The affidavit informed the HC

that Gaichor was released from jail after 10 pm on Wednesday. The court accepted the apology and modified the duration of the temporary bail period from 11 pm on September 10 till 5 pm on September 13.

Ramesh Gaichor, who was part of the cultural group Kabir Kala Manch, was arrested along with others by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2020 for his alleged role in the controversial Elgaar Parishad event held in Pune on December 31, 2017.A Division Bench led by Justice Ajey S Gadgarkar on Wednesday pulled up the jail authorities for not complying with its August 26 order and questioned as to what was the need for the release bond or warrant procedure to be followed when the HC had ordered his release. The government lawyer had claimed that a warrant or bond was a general procedure followed while seeking a release, and that the delay took place due to a certain misunderstanding on the part of jail authorities, and such issues had also arisen in earlier cases. The court orally remarked that it was "sheer high-handedness" by the jail superintendent and warned of action against him. The High Court, on August 26, passed an order on Gaichor's criminal appeal challenging the July 1 order of the special court designated under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, which rejected his plea for temporary bail. Gaichor had claimed that he had not met his over 75-year-old father, who is suffering from age-related ailments since his arrest in September 2020, and he was desirous to see him. The appellant had said that the trial court did not consider the said aspects and rejected his temporary bail plea.

Bikram Singh Majithia seeks anticipatory bail in DA case, Punjab & Haryana HC seeks govt response

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday gave the Punjab Government two weeks to respond to former minister Bikram Singh Majithia's petition for anticipatory bail in a disproportionate assets case registered in July.

Majithia, a senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and brother-in-law of party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, moved the high court after an Amritsar court dismissed his anticipatory bail application. The former minister was arrested from his home on June 30. His judicial custody, first extended till August 28, was further prolonged to September 6. He remains lodged in New Nabha Jail near Patiala.

A Mohali court rejected Majithia's regular bail plea on August 19, citing the seriousness of the charges and the ongoing investigation. On August 22, the Punjab Vigilance Bureau filed a 40,000-page chargesheet against him in the case. Also on Thursday, a Mohali court dismissed his plea for a separate cell in jail, directing that he continue to share a barrack with other inmates. The Vigilance Bureau has al-



leged that Majithia amassed Rs 540 crore, routed through shell companies. On September 8, the Bhagwant Mann-led Cabinet granted prosecution sanction against him under section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Majithia first approached the high court on July 3, seeking relief against what he called his "illegal arrest and remand".

Bengaluru woman defrauded out of Rs 3.75 crore with Sadhguru's deepfake video: police

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

sadhguruln June this year, Sadhguru Vasudev Jaggi and his Isha Foundation approached Delhi High Court against the misuse of his identity through AI-generated deepfakes. (Photo: Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev/Instagram)A 57-year-old retired woman in Bengaluru has lost Rs 3.75 crore to scammers who used an AI-generated deepfake video of spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev to promote fake investment opportunities, the police said on Thursday.

The woman, a resident of CV Raman Nagar, was completely unaware of deepfake technology when she encountered what appeared like a genuine Sadhguru video on social media between February 25 and April 23. The woman said in her complaint filed at the East CEN police station, "I watched a video of Sadhguru stating that he had been trading with the firm, for which a link is provided below and If you click it and input your name, email, phone number for an amount of \$250, your finances will improve greatly." After she followed the instructions, the woman was contacted by a person calling himself Waleed B, who claimed to represent a company called Mirox. The fraudster operated through multiple UK-based phone numbers and added the woman to a WhatsApp group with approximately 100 members. She was then directed to various websites and instructed to download the Mirox stock trading app. Waleed conducted trading tutorials via Zoom, later introducing another accomplice, Michael C, as a substitute instructor. The scammers employed psychological tactics, with group members regularly sharing fabricated profits and screenshots of supposed account credits to build trust and legitimacy, according to the FIR.

Convinced by these manipulative strategies, the woman began transferring money to bank accounts provided by the fraudsters. By April 23, she had transferred the entire Rs 3.75 crore across multiple transactions, with the fake platform displaying impressive returns on her investments. The woman realised that she had been cheated only when she attempted to withdraw her profits. The



scammers demanded additional payments for processing fees and taxes, raising her suspicions. When she refused to pay these extra charges, the fraudsters ceased all communication. Since the woman filed her complaint on Tuesday, nearly five months after the fraud concluded, a police officer said that the recovery of the lost money would be challenging. The officer added that the authorities were coordinating with banks to freeze the fraudsters' accounts. In June this year, Sadhguru Vasudev Jaggi and his Isha Foundation approached Delhi High Court against the misuse of his identity through AI-generated deepfakes.

What is deepfake? Deepfake is a combination of the terms 'deep learning' and 'fake'. It refers to artificial intelligence software that overlays a digital composite onto an existing video or audio file. Deepfakes are generated using machine learning models that employ neural networks to manipulate images and videos.

In January 2024, actor Rashmika Mandanna's deepfake video went viral and the police arrested Eemani Naveen, an engineer from Andhra Pradesh, who created the video to increase his Instagram followers. Journalist Rajdeep Sardesai and Infosys Foundation chairperson Sudha Murthy, wife of Narayana Murthy, are some of the other prominent personalities whose deepfake videos have been used by cybercriminals.

Telangana student among five arrested by Delhi Police over alleged ISIS links

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Hyderabad: A youth from Telangana is among five persons arrested by Delhi Police from different parts of the country over alleged terror links. A team from Delhi Police's Special Cell police on Wednesday took a youth into custody in Bodhan town of Telangana and shifted him to the national capital for investigation.

Huzaifa Yemen, 20, is a B. Pharma student at a local college. Literature related to arms, including PDF files, was seized from him, a police source said. No arms or explosives were recovered from his possession. After the youth's arrest by the Delhi police, the local police also began an investigation into his local contacts. However, the youth's family members denied that he has links with any terror groups. The youth was reportedly arrested by the Delhi Police as part of the investigation into the case relating to the alleged terror plot. The Delhi police arrested five persons

from different parts of the country over alleged terror links. They were allegedly trying to recruit youngsters for ISIS. The Bodhan youth's arrest followed the arrest of the suspected ISIS operative in Jharkhand. He was allegedly using a special video call app to be in touch with the terror suspects.

Delhi Police's Special Cell, Jharkhand Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and Ranchi police arrested Ashar Danish, who is said to be the prime accused. Two accused, both natives of Mumbai, were arrested in Delhi, and another youth was arrested in Madhya Pradesh. They were in touch with other members of an ISIS-inspired network and were engaged in activities aimed at furthering the terror outfit's agenda. Material used for making explosive devices was seized from them. They were allegedly in touch with their handlers in Pakistan through social media apps. The accused were allegedly part of the sleeper module of ISIS and were tasked with making bombs, procuring weapons and increasing the outfit's strength.

'Behind shutters, we heard gunshots': Bengal and Tripura PhD scholars stranded amid Nepal unrest



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

The four scholars, like others stranded in Kathmandu, are spending sleepless nights, while their families in Bengal anxiously wait for the borders to open or for evacuation support. The four scholars, like others stranded in Kathmandu, are spending sleepless nights, while their families in Bengal anxiously wait for the borders to open or for evacuation support.

Four agricultural scholars, including two from West Bengal's Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), have been stranded in Kathmandu, Nepal, following violent protests. The group had travelled to Kathmandu on September 5 to participate in the World Congress on Climate Change and Its Effect, held from September 6 to 8 at Central College. The PhD scholars — Swapnajit Chowdhury (from Agartala, Tripura), Souvik Chakraborty, Mayukh Bhattacharyya and Manihar Talukdar (all from West Bengal) — were scheduled to depart on September 9 by bus from Gangabu (Naya) Bus Park for Kakarvitta on the Indo-Nepal border, and onward to Siliguri. Their plans were disrupted after widespread unrest.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Mayukh Bhattacharyya said, "When we came out of the conference,

we saw that the entire place was burning. Suddenly, we noticed a group from the mob running towards us. The four of us ran towards a momo shop which was open and hid there. From behind the closed shutters, we could hear the crowds and gunshots. Late in the evening, we went to our hotel." He added that while the situation remained grim, they were being provided food and water at the hotel. "We cannot venture out as per Army instructions but then we have to see the monetary aspect also. The food prices will rise. Also, due to disturbed network, online transactions are becoming difficult. We do not know for how long we have to stay. After a few days, it will become difficult for us," Bhattacharyya said. Another scholar, Talukdar, said, "We cannot believe what is happening. We got to know that the bus terminus was burnt, roads were blocked, there are also terrible mobile network issues in our area of Kathmandu. The curfew is on and the Army can be seen everywhere. Our families are very worried now." Since September 7, the scholars have been confined to the hotel. "The next day from the terrace of the hotel we could see the Parliament burning and mobs running in the streets and looting shops," Bhattacharyya recounted. He added that the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu had advised them to remain indoors until the situation normalised. "We have been told to postpone our journey and stay inside the hotel for safety. If the situation worsens, we would seek evacuation support from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs to return to India." According to the scholars, the road journey from Kathmandu to the Indo-Nepal border takes 17-18 hours, and "nobody is ready to risk such a long ride". Airline tickets, they said, had become prohibitively expensive after limited flights resumed. Talukdar, meanwhile, noted: "I do not have a passport, so I can only enter Bengal by road. We are just praying that everything calms down in Nepal." The four scholars, like others stranded in Kathmandu, are spending sleepless nights, while their families in Bengal anxiously wait for the borders to open or for evacuation support.

'Gentle, brilliant, disarming': How Sri Lankan PM Harini Amarasuriya is remembered by mentor, Hindu College peers

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

In the early 2000s, Delhi was on edge. A spate of low-intensity bomb blasts—many targeting fruit carts and crowded markets—had unsettled the city. Children were warned against lingering outside schools, and residents grew wary of ordinary street corners. It was during this tense period that Harini Amarasuriya, a former Sociology student at Hindu College, visited her professor, sociologist Susan Visvanathan, at Jawaharlal Nehru University. "Harini admitted to nervousness, and I said, 'Why? Colombo has the same problem.' So she laughed and said, 'If I died there, in Colombo, people would know I had died, but if I died on a street here in a bomb blast, no one would know,'" Visvanathan recalled. She never forgot the candid remark, edged with humour and vulnerability. As Amarasuriya is set to return to Delhi as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, her alma mater is preparing to honour her with an honorary doctorate at a special convocation. The ceremony, planned in mid-October at Hindu College, marks a homecoming for the former undergraduate who once sat by the window in Room 27, debating Karl Marx and Max Weber with her classmates.



Born in March 1970 in Galle on Sri Lanka's southwestern coast, Amarasuriya was the youngest of three children in a family whose fortunes shifted when her father's tea estate was nationalised. She moved with her family to Colombo, studied at Bishop's College, and spent a year in the United States as an exchange student. But as political violence escalated in Sri Lanka in 1988-89, she was forced to discontinue her studies there. Later, on an MEA-sponsored scholarship, she enrolled in Delhi University's Hindu College, where she completed her BA (Honours) in Sociology in 1994. She went on to earn a Master's in Applied Anthropology and Development from Macquarie University in Australia and a doctorate in Social Anthropology from the University of Edinburgh. Amarasuriya's early career unfolded not in Parliament but in community health. Her first job was as a social health officer in a community mental health centre, working with institutionalised women. Later, as head of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department at the Open University of Sri Lanka, she built a reputation as an academic and activist. She entered politics only in 2021, joining the Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna. Last year, she was appointed Prime Minister—only the third woman to hold the office in the island nation's history.

Room 27 and a student who stood out Visvanathan still remembers the first time she encountered Amarasuriya as a student in the early 1990s. "I came back from a Teen Murti Fellowship in 1992, to Hindu College, and was delighted to find a quartet of students, Ruchi, Ranu, Harini and Amrita, who stood out in a small class of 15 students. They came for all the lectures I took on Sociology of Religion, Urbanisation and Stratification, and in 1993, they sat in on a hundred lectures on Marx, Weber, and Émile Durkheim. Harini sat in the front row, first seat near the window in Room 27, and they answered and questioned one another as their curiosity and imaginative interventions were unique. I had the freedom to integrate questions around everyday contexts of reading and interpreting Sociology with them." "They had such a wonderful gang life, each maintaining their unique identity, not quarrelsome or competitive, that I did keep in touch with them in the following 30 and more years as a friend, who occasionally got to hear from them about what they were currently busy with. In my mind, I could not quite separate them, as their gang life was so erudite," she said. When Visvanathan met Amarasuriya again in 2024 while following up field work in Sri Lanka's tea plantations, she was struck by the continuity. "She had not changed at all... as we were both 32 years older, it was interesting for me that she had continued her rehabilitation work with Tamil and Sinhala workers through the organisation called NEST, had a PhD from Edinburgh University and was currently editing a book describing the status of refugees from the War Years in Sri Lanka, who were now diaspora from UK. Her simplicity and charm and her sense of humour were the same as in 1992," Visvanathan said.

Together, they travelled to villages and small towns around Colombo and Galle. "Crowds of people would turn up to hear her, and so also in hotels and on street corners. The fact that they trusted her and communicated an ardour of hope and optimism was the most striking thing about her. When I returned to India, it was with the knowledge that

she had made an impact on her people, resulting in the success of the party in the elections last year," Visvanathan said. "I am so delighted that Dr Harini Amarasuriya is being honoured by the Indian government, as she integrates theory and praxis, and democracy and dialogue are regenerative forces implicit in her vocabulary," she added.

Among her peers in Hindu College, those memories take a softer and more personal hue. Her classmate Ranu Jain, now a photographer, recalls her fondly. "It gives me much joy to share a little about my association with Harini, whom I first met in Hindu College, University of Delhi, and got to know over the course of three lovely years studying Sociology. In a class polarised by intellectual differences, it was easy to see one person always standing out as the same voice of friendship. That was Harini, with the most disarming smile. She could mediate between groups with kindness and laughter. And her quiet intelligence, gentleness, and warmth were and continue to be her most striking qualities," Jain said. Jain met Amarasuriya again in Colombo in 2013. "It was then that I learnt of her interest in the grassroots movements in Sri Lanka. I enjoyed reconnecting with her and seeing how she was still the same person that I knew way back in college, her simplicity and brilliance unchanged. She told me about her cat and her rabbits and how they lived happily together, and I could imagine how her parenting would have played a definitive role in their amicable co-existence," Jain added. Watching her rise to leadership, Jain said, "I am happy that she is visiting India and New Delhi as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and a guest of the state and am certain that her leadership will inspire generations of Sri Lankans and people all over the world. I think of her fondly and wish her well." When Delhi University gathers in mid-October to confer an honorary doctorate, Hindu College will be hosting not just a head of government, but a former student remembered as "gentle," "brilliant," and "the most disarming smile" in a class of 15.

Telangana student among five arrested by Delhi Police over alleged ISIS links

Hyderabad: A youth from Telangana is among five persons arrested by Delhi Police from different parts of the country over alleged terror links. A team from Delhi Police's Special Cell police on Wednesday took a youth into custody in Bodhan town of Telangana and shifted him to the national capital for investigation.

Huzaifa Yemen, 20, is a B. Pharma student at a local college. Literature related to arms, including PDF files, was seized from him, a police source said. No arms or explosives were recovered from his possession. After the youth's arrest by the Delhi police, the local police also began an investigation into his local contacts. However, the youth's family members denied that he has links with any terror groups. The youth was reportedly arrested by the Delhi Police as part of the investigation into the case relating to the alleged terror plot. The Delhi police arrested five persons from different parts of the country over alleged terror links. They were allegedly trying to recruit youngsters for ISIS. The Bodhan youth's arrest followed the arrest of the suspected ISIS operative in Jharkhand. He was allegedly using a special video call app to be in touch with the terror suspects.

Russian drones in Poland's airspace stir worries for Europe's civil aviation



SEOUL/FRANKFURT, GNS News Agency, Sept 23 The incursion of Russian drones in Poland has reignited safety concerns over the vulnerability of civil air transport in Europe, aviation and insurance experts said, the latest upheaval facing airlines from escalating global conflict.Early on Wednesday, Poland shot down drones in its airspace with the backing of military aircraft from its NATO allies, the first time a member of the Western military alliance is known to have fired shots during Russia's war in Ukraine.Make sense of the latest ESG trends affecting companies and governments with the Reuters Sustainable Switch newsletter. Sign up here.Warsaw Chopin and Modlin airports, as well as Rzeszow and Lublin airports in the country's east, temporarily closed before resuming operations.

Countries bordering on Ukraine have reported occasional Russian missiles or drones entering their airspace since Russia's 2022 invasion, but not on such a large scale, and they are not known to have shot them down.Proliferating conflict zones around the world have increased the burden on airline operations and profitability, adding to safety concerns and disrupting travel.With airspace closures around Russia and Ukraine, throughout the Middle East, between India and Pakistan, and in parts of Africa, airlines are left with fewer route options.Detours add to airlines' fuel costs and lengthen journey times. Eurocontrol, a 41-nation coordination agency, has said Ukraine's closed airspace has added to congestion in the region's skies.Since October 2023, many international carriers have suspended flights to the region due to fears of missile and drone interference.

Wednesday's drone incident followed Israel's attempt on Tuesday to kill the political leaders of Hamas in the Qatari capital Doha.Worries about further disruption for the travel industry pressured airline stocks. Shares in British Airways

owner IAGFlight disruptions were relatively limited because the drone incursion happened early in the morning, before many airlines had started flying.Polish airline LOT redirected some flights to western Poland and said it expected cancellations and delays. which operates in central and eastern Europe, said its security teams "closely monitored" the situation and adjusted flight schedules after airports closed.The European Union Aviation Safety Agency said no advisory was needed for the drone incursion due to its temporary nature, adding that Poland's aviation authorities were able to sufficiently handle the incident.

Aviation analysts say airlines are increasingly wary of the risks posed by incursions into civilian flight zones."This is a wake-up call, I think, for everyone in Europe that can expect this more often," said Eric Schouten, head of security consultancy Dyami.Two senior aviation insurance market sources said the market was watching events in Poland and Qatar closely.If the market got a sense either that Russian drone incursions into Polish airspace were becoming consistent and deliberate, or that Israeli airstrikes in the Middle East were likely to continue, it would pose serious questions for insurers, one source added.LOT, Lufthansa, Ryanair, and airBaltic did not immediately respond to requests for comment.Poland's civil aviation authority and air navigation service did not respond to a request for comment on additional measures taken to ensure airspace safety.Following the drone incident, airlines may review their risk assessments in Poland, said Matthew Borie, chief intelligence officer at aviation risk consultancy Osprey Flight Solutions.

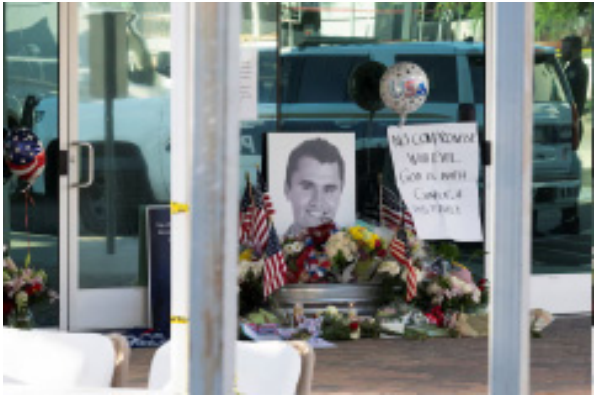
They may consider flying further west in Poland away from the Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian borders, operating during daylight hours and carrying extra fuel to cope with potential diversions, he said, similar to steps taken in the Middle East.The worst-case scenario for airlines flying near a conflict zone is a plane being struck — either accidentally or deliberately — by weaponry.Since 2001, six commercial planes have been unintentionally shot down, with three additional close calls, according to Osprey.In one such incident, in December, an Azerbaijan Airlines flight crashed in Kazakhstan, killing 38 people. The plane was accidentally shot down by Russian air defences, according to Azerbaijan's president and Reuters sources.In 2020, a Ukrainian passenger plane was mistakenly targeted and destroyed by Iranian air defence operators."If this happens more often, you really have to understand what's happening ... What might go wrong? I'm always saying, misidentification is your biggest risk," Schouten added.

Police search for sniper who killed conservative activist Charlie Kirk in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, GNS News Agency, Sept 23- Police and federal agents mounted an intense manhunt on Thursday for the sniper believed to have fired the single gunshot that killed conservative activist Charlie Kirk as he was fielding questions about gun violence during a university appearance.Kirk, 31, a podcast-radio commentator and an influential ally of Donald Trump, is credited with helping build the Republican president's base among younger voters. He was gunned down on Wednesday in what Utah Governor Spencer Cox called a political assassination.The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.The slaying, captured in graphic detail in video clips that rapidly spread around the internet, occurred during a midday event attended by 3,000 people at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, about 40 miles (65 km) south of Salt Lake City.In one clip, blood could be seen gushing from Kirk's neck immediately after a shot rang out, and he slumped in his chair.

Kirk, co-founder and president of the conservative student group Turning Point USA, was pronounced dead at a local hospital hours later. His murder stirred immediate expressions of outrage and denunciations of political violence from Democrats and Republicans alike.Cox said Kirk's events on college campuses were part of a tradition of open political debate that was "foundational to the formation of our country, to our most basic constitutional rights". "When someone takes the life of a person because of their ideas or their ideals, then that very constitutional foundation is threatened," Cox said.The shooting punctuated the most sustained period of U.S. political violence since the 1970s. Reuters has documented more than 300 cases of politically motivated violent acts across the ideological spectrum since supporters of Trump attacked the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.Trump himself has survived two attempts on his life, one that left him with a grazed ear during a campaign event in July 2024 and another two months later foiled by federal agents.The lone perpetrator suspected of firing the single gunshot that struck Kirk in the neck, apparently from a rooftop sniper's nest on campus, remained "at large," said Beau Mason, commissioner of the Utah Department of Public Safety, at a news conference four hours later.

Security camera footage showed a person believed to be the assailant dressed in all-dark clothing, Mason told reporters. But some eight hours after the killing, authorities said they still had no suspect in custody.State police issued a statement on Wednesday night saying that two men had been detained, and one was interrogated by law enforcement, but both were released."There are no current ties to the shooting with either of these individuals," the statement said. "There is an ongoing investigation and manhunt for the shooter."One of the two detainees, an older man



seen in photos that circulated online shortly after the killing, was familiar to locals as a political "gadfly," according to the Salt Lake Tribune. Officials said he had been charged with obstruction by university police.The other man had been initially described by the governor as a "person of interest" in the investigation.Police said late on Wednesday that investigators were seeking clues at "multiple active crime scenes," pinpointed on the basis of where Kirk was shot and "locations where the suspect and the victim traveled."Kirk, who was married and the father of two young children, had just returned to the United States from an overseas speaking tour in South Korea and Japan.His appearance on Wednesday was the first in a planned 15-event "American Comeback Tour" of U.S. college campuses.Known for his often-provocative discourse on topics ranging from race and gender to immigration and fire-arms regulation, Kirk often used such events to invite members of the crowd to debate him live.At the moment he was shot, Kirk, a staunch advocate of the Constitution's Second Amendment right to bear arms, was being questioned by an audience member about gun violence, according to multiple videos of the event posted online.In a video message taped in the Oval Office and posted to Trump's Truth Social online platform, the president vowed that his administration would track down those responsible for Kirk's killing.Trump, who routinely describes political rivals, judges and others who stand in his way as "radical left lunatics" and warns that they pose an existential threat to the nation, also decried violent political rhetoric, while casting it as a phenomenon of the political left."For years, those on the radical left have compared wonderful Americans like Charlie to Nazis and the world's worst mass murderers and criminals," Trump said the video, recorded in the Oval Office. "This kind of rhetoric is directly responsible for the terrorism that we're seeing in our country today, and it must stop right now."

'Not a friendly place': Inside the Bangkok prison where ex-PM Thaksin is jailed

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Three blankets to sleep with, an open bathing area, bland food and the constant risk of violence. These are the conditions inside the maximum security prison in Thailand's capital where 76-year-old former premier Thaksin Shinawatra is jailed, according to two people with knowledge of the facility.Once one of Thailand's richest and most powerful men, Thaksin was ordered on Tuesday to serve a year in jail by the Supreme Court, which determined that the billionaire had wrongfully spent time in a hospital in lieu of prison.Thaksin's initial eight-year sentence for conflicts of interest and abuse of power while Prime Minister from 2001-2006 was commuted to one year, following his homecoming from self-exile in August 2023.He was released on parole in February 2024, after just six months of detention, the entirety of which he had spent in the VIP wing of a hospital.

Since then, he has lived in a high-fenced, suburban mansion in Bangkok, often ferried around the city in a black and silver Mercedes-Maybach sedan and flown out of the country in a private jet.An hour after the court delivered its verdict, Thaksin was placed in a van, escorted by Corrections Department officials, and, following medical checks, transferred to Klong Prem prison. The facility, which houses some 6,500 prisoners, has held high-profile Thai political figures and a media mogul. Viktor Bout, an international arms dealer dubbed "the merchant of death", is also a previous inmate."It is a very depressing life. When I first got inside, all I did was cry," said Somyot Pruksakasemsuk, an activist and magazine editor, who served more than seven years in prison on lese majeste charges, including time at Klong Prem."The environment was very tense. It is not a friendly place."Reuters could not determine exactly which part of Klong Prem, a sprawling facility in northern Bangkok,

Americans uneasy at Trump's moves to expand presidential power, Reuters/Ipsos poll finds



WASHINGTON, GNS News Agency, Sept 23 President Donald Trump's expansion of executive power, including his unprecedented push to send troops into U.S. cities to combat crime and his attempt to seize control of aspects of the economy, has left Americans uneasy, a new Reuters/Ipsos poll found.The findings suggest that a substantial majority of the public favors limits on presidential power and does not approve of Trump's efforts to shatter longstanding norms.The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.

"President Trump has not convinced most Americans that there is an emergency in this country that requires greatly expanded presidential power to address," said David Hopkins, a political scientist at Boston College.Over the last few weeks, Trump's administration has taken control of the Washington, D.C., police department and deployed National Guard troops to the city, claiming that crime there is out of control. He has discussed sending troops to Chicago and New Orleans as well.On crime, only 32% of Americans said they would feel safer with armed soldiers deployed to large cities in their state, the poll found. Some 62% of Trump's fellow Republicans were warm to military patrols in big cities, but only one in four independents felt the same way, as did just one in 10 Democrats.Only one in five respondents said they often feel unsafe because of high crime in their area, and just a third of people overall said they avoid big cities because of crime, suggesting that a majority of voters view crime as a remote phenomenon that does not affect them personally. About half of Republicans said they steer clear of large cities for fear of becoming victims."People agree that crime and safety are an issue, but they think Trump's abuse of power doesn't fix the prob-

lem, he makes it worse," said Jesse Ferguson, a veteran Democratic strategist.Trump has also taken a strong hand in attempting to regulate the U.S. economy by pushing for the government to take a 10% stake in chipmaker IntelHe has tried to pressure the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates and tried to fire a member of its board of governors following allegations the central banker committed mortgage fraud, a charge the official has denied.The president has faced legal challenges to his tariffs across a range of nations, claiming trade imbalances constitute a national emergency. He has also threatened to retaliate against U.S. companies such as AppleThe Reuters/Ipsos poll found just 16% of Americans overall - including 2% of Democrats and 34% of Republicans - thought it would be good for the president to have power to set interest rates and tell companies where to manufacture products.Trump's overall approval rating remains stable at 42%, according to the poll, with nine in 10 Republicans supporting him."Even if citizens have concerns about urban crime or economic performance, they don't view either issue as currently in a state of unprecedented crisis requiring unprecedented measures to resolve," Boston College's Hopkins said."And while Trump certainly has a set of personal admirers who would happily grant him whatever powers he might seek, there are also many Republican voters who supported Trump in the last three elections but who don't agree that he should be allowed to operate without limits."U.S. voters overwhelmingly want their president to respect the authority of federal courts, with nine in 10 Democrats and seven in 10 Republicans saying the president should abide by judicial rulings even if he disagrees with them.Still, Republicans are more inclined to give Trump a free hand.Asked if they were willing to give up some checks and balances in the U.S. democratic system to have a government that can take action faster, 39% of Republicans said they would take that offer, compared to 45% who rejected it. Only 17% of independents - and the same share of Democrats - liked the idea.At the same time, voters of both parties are increasingly less likely to view the U.S. as exceptional.Some 29% of people in the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll agreed with a statement that "America is the greatest country in the world," down from 38% in a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted in November 2017, during Trump's first term in office.The share of Democrats who agreed fell to 12% from 26% and among Republicans the share dropped to 55% from 59%.The poll, which was conducted online and nationwide, gathered responses from 1,084 U.S. adults. It had a margin of error of 3 percentage points for all respondents, and between 5 and 6 points for Republicans, Democrats and independents.

Qatar bombing tests the limits of the Trump-Netanyahu alliance

WASHINGTON, GNS News Agency, Sept 23 Less than four months ago, President Donald Trump met with the leader of Qatar, praising his opulent palace and signing a sweeping defense agreement with the Gulf monarchy, a key ally that hosts the biggest U.S. base in the Middle East.Israel's surprise attack on Tuesday against Hamas leaders in Doha has jolted that relationship, angering Trump and drawing fierce condemnation from Doha and Western allies.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

Ordered by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and targeting the political offices of the Palestinian militant group, the strikes killed a Qatari security agent and five others, but failed to kill the Hamas leaders. Trump said he was "very unhappy about every aspect" of the Israeli operation.But for all the indignation, the strikes are unlikely to change the president's fundamental approach toward Israel, analysts and U.S. officials say. If anything, the bombings underlined the cold calculus beneath the Trump-Netanyahu relationship.Israel has shown it is not afraid to act against U.S. interests. The administration of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not formally warn Washington of its impending bombing campaign on Tuesday, U.S. officials said.

That lack of warning recalled Israel's September 2024 attack on Hezbollah, when Israel wounded thousands of the militant group's members with booby-trapped paggers, without informing then-President Joe Biden.Trump, for his part, has occasionally expressed displeasure with Netanyahu. But his administration has strongly supported Israel's campaign to weaken Hamas and allowed it to largely take the lead on key issues such as Iran's nuclear program."On this one, I think Trump is annoyed by Netanyahu's tactics," said Aaron David Miller, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and veteran U.S. peace negotiator.But, Miller added, "(Trump's) instinct is that he agrees with Netanyahu's notion that Hamas cannot just be hollowed out as a military organization. It needs to be fundamentally weakened."Asked for comment, the White House referred Reuters to remarks by Trump on Truth Social on Tuesday night, during which he said the bombings did not advance U.S. or Israeli interests."However," Trump wrote, "eliminating Hamas, who have profited off the misery of those living in Gaza, is a worthy goal."Some analysts declined to rule out the possibility that Netanyahu may yet exhaust Trump's patience if he springs more surprises on Washington. In practice, that could mean a withdrawal of political cover for Israel's ongoing invasion of Gaza, which has provoked outrage among European and Arab nations as famine conditions spread.

"As his Arab friends complain to him about what Israel is doing - and they are doing so now - he may say to them give me a credible plan for the day after in Gaza and with an alternative to Hamas running it and I will tell Bibi you have done enough," said Dennis Ross, a former Middle East negotiator for Democratic and Republican administrations.Israel's strike in Doha will likely dampen Trump's hopes for more Gulf states joining the Abraham Accords, a landmark agreement brokered by his first administration in which several Arab countries forged diplomatic ties with Israel.Still, a rupture between the two men seems unlikely, argued Michael Oren, Israel's former ambassador to the United States, saying that Trump appreciates strength and transactions that end wars."If Netanyahu can continue to appeal to those two sides of this president then he will be okay. I'm not concerned about the relationship," said Oren.In May, Trump traveled to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates during his first major foreign trip, skipping Israel, which many analysts viewed as a snub. The Republican president returned to office in January promising to reinvigorate relations with Netanyahu that had deteriorated under his Democratic predecessor.During that trip, Trump agreed to lift sanctions on the new Syrian government at the behest of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. That move alarmed Israeli officials who question the motives of Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, a former al-Qaeda commander.But just



a month later, the Trump-Netanyahu alliance seemed back on track. After Israel launched an air war on Iran in June, Trump - who campaigned on ending foreign conflicts - surprised even some of his own political allies by sending B-2 bombers to partially destroy Iran's key nuclear facilities.If that created goodwill within the Netanyahu administration, it did not benefit Trump's foreign policy interests, at least in the short-term.Iran and Israel for breaking a U.S.-brokered ceasefire. In July, the U.S. appeared to criticize an Israeli strike in Damascus, which destroyed part of Syria's defense ministry. And on Tuesday, Israel notified the U.S. shortly before the Qatar strike, but there was no coordination with or approval from Washington, two U.S. officials said."The U.S. can seek to cajole and push Israel to take decisions," said Jonathan Panikoff, a former deputy U.S. national intelligence officer on the Middle East. "But Netanyahu will continue to act in a manner that it views as in the best interests of Israel alone."

19 terrorists gunned down in NW Pakistan

Peshawar: Security forces have gunned down 19 terrorists from the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan in three separate engagements in restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in northwestern Pakistan, the army said on Thursday.Intelligence-based operations were conducted by the security forces in Mohmand, North Waziristan and Bannu district during the September 9-10 night, the Inter-Services Public Relations, the military media wing of Pakistan, said on Thursday.During the operation in Mohmand district, security forces engaged with the terrorists at the specified location, and after an intense exchange of fire, 14 of them were killed.In another intelligence-based operation conducted in the general area of Datta Khel in North Waziristan district, four terrorists were killed by the security forces while one terrorist was gunned down by the security forces in an encounter that took place in Bannu district.Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the terrorists.Meanwhile, unidentified militants demolished the house of an intelligence agency official in Nasar Khel area of Lakki Marwat district and fled with his weapons on Wednesday night.The militants forced their way into the house, held his family members hostage in one room and then demolished part of the official's house, police said.The terrorists have accelerated their activities against people associated with law enforcement agencies and security personnel, especially police and the Frontier Constabulary in the southern districts of the province.



Speeding shaped by social pressure, poor road design, weak enforcement systems: research



Speeding is not just about ignoring rules but is also shaped by social pressure, poor road design and weak enforcement systems, a research study based on evidence from nine countries by the George Institute of Global Health has found.Global evidence shows that every 10 km/h reduction in average vehicle speed reduces the risk of a fatal crash by up to 40 per cent, making speed management one of the most powerful tools for saving lives.

The research, published in BMJ Injury Prevention, a peer-reviewed journal, is the first global qualitative evidence synthesis on why people speed.With rapid growth in car and motorcycle ownership, combined with limited public transportation, speeding and its deadly consequences are worsening. These insights are highly relevant for India, which continues to record the highest number of road crash deaths worldwide.In 2023 alone, there were over 480,000 crashes and 172,000 deaths -- roughly 55 crashes and 20 deaths every hour.

Aligning with the UN's Second Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021–2030), the study notes the urgent need for smarter, stronger speed management strategies to halve

deaths and injuries by 2030."Speeding is not just an individual choice — it is shaped by culture, road design and the credibility of enforcement. If we want to save lives, we need to create systems where safe driving is the easier choice, not the harder one," said Pratishtha Singh from The George Institute for Global Health, India.Researchers found that simply informing people that speeding is dangerous is not sufficient. Effective interventions must address peer pressure, challenge dangerous cultural norms linking speeding to masculinity and design roads that naturally slow down traffic.The study also noted that these findings reflect perceptions from diverse global contexts and may not apply equally everywhere. Importantly, there are still major gaps in high-quality research and evidence from low and middle-income countries, including India.Addressing Indian drivers, Jagnoor Jagnoor, Co-director of the WHO Injury Collaborating Centre, The George Institute for Global Health, said, "Reducing average speeds by just 10 km/h can cut the risk of a fatal crash by up to 40 pc. Speeding is not a marker of a nation's development – the true measure is how much we value human life. Staying within limits isn't about being slow; it is about making sure everyone gets home safely."The researchers have recommended stronger, more transparent enforcement, including automated systems like cameras and speed radars; road design that naturally slows traffic, including narrower lanes, speed bumps and roundabouts; policies to reduce average speeds by at least 10 km/h, which can cut fatal crash risk by up to 40 per cent.Stricter licensing systems for young drivers and targeted policies like in-vehicle speed limiters; reduction and public health campaigns to challenge myths such as "speeding saves time" and address gender norms around risky driving; and greater investments in reliable and affordable public transport to reduce dependence on private vehicles are among other recommendations.

Tamil Nadu’s tryst with horizontal reservation for college students

Way back in August 1996, the then DMK government in Tamil Nadu headed by M. Karunanidhi issued a Government Order (G.O.) setting up a high-level committee to review the standard of education. The committee recommended 15 per cent reservation for students studying in panchayat schools in rural areas for admission to professional courses. Subsequently, in December 1997, another G.O. extended the 15 per cent reservation to medical courses from the following academic year. It was later extended to law courses as well. The policy was in force for a couple of years.In 2001, the AIADMK led by J. Jayalalithaa came to power and soon after, the government increased the quota from 15 to 25 per cent.

Several writ petitions were filed before the Madras High Court by aggrieved parties challenging the G.O. In February 2002, the Madras High Court ruled the G.O. was unsustainable. The Bench comprising the then Chief Justice of Madras High Court, B. Subhashan Reddy and Justices K.P. Sivasubramaniam and K. Ravirajapandian stated that besides the fact that rural reservation could not sustain, the increase in reservation would not stand Constitutional scrutiny."For the foregoing discussion, we hold that the rural reservation provided at first with 15% and then extending to 25% for admission in professional colleges in the State of Tamil Nadu, by issuance of the impugned Governmental orders by the Government, has got absolutely no nexus to the object to be achieved and there is no intelligible differentiation either and that the Government has failed to justify the discrimination and as such they are invalid being infractive of Article 14 of Indian Constitution and are hereby set aside," the Bench held. The court also directed the government to approach the Medical Council of India and the Bar Council of India for additional seats to offset the differential arising out of those given admission under the policy.Tamil Nadu government was quick to file a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court against the High Court's pronouncement. It held that horizontal reservation was intended to protect the underprivileged who could not be treated on a par with the privileged, urban students. The SLP maintained that the classification was made based on social and educational backwardness of the students who studied in schools run by village panchayats. Tamil Nadu's submission also stated that the direction of the High Court to create additional seats was inconsistent with Supreme Court judgment in the Rajiv Kapoor case.The Supreme Court, however, declined to stay the Madras High Court's judgment. Consequently, the 25% quota for rural students was not implemented thereafter.After nearly two decades, the Tamil Nadu government, this time headed by the AIADMK's Edappadi K. Palaniswami, unanimously passed a Bill in September 2020 in the Legislative Assembly seeking to provide 7.5 per cent horizontal reser-



vation for government school students on a preferential basis for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) qualified candidates. This was based on recommendations of a Commission headed by retired High Court judge P. Kalaiyarasan.

The Commission had observed that students from government schools are disadvantaged compared to those in private schools "due to a cognitive gap created by socio-economic factors such as caste, wealth, parental occupation, parental education, gender etc., and these psychological and socio-economic barriers cannot be bridged by a few months of intensive coaching for NEET, even if provided for free". It recommended 10 per cent reservation for government school children but the government preferred to offer 7.5 per cent quota.Justice P. Kalaiyarasan (left), then Madras High Court judge with C.Ve. Shanmugam (right), then Tamil Nadu Law Minister at Salem on December 12, 2017In August 2021, after the DMK came to power under M.K. Stalin, the government extended the reservation policy to engineering, agriculture, veterinary and fisheries courses based on recommendations by a Commission headed by retired High Court judge D. Murugesan.In doing so, the government introduced a different criterion in reservation – the socially and educationally deprived – while not disturbing the integrity of the 69 per cent caste-based reservation. It meant that public school students would have minimum representation within the vertical quotas meant for BC, MBC, SC and ST students, besides the OC as well.This also formed the basis of Tamil Nadu's argument before the Madras High Court when a batch of petitions challenged the constitutional validity of the law. The State held that the law only provided a preferential source of admission and that the categorisation was based on intelligible differentiation that had close nexus to the object sought to be achieved by ensuring that government school students did not lag behind. In April 2022, the Madras High Court upheld the constitutional validity of the law.

WHO adds GLP-1 drugs for diabetes, others to essential medicines list

The World Health Organization has added GLP-1 drugs to treat diabetes to its essential medicines list alongside treatments for cystic fibrosis and cancer, and said it hopes this will help improve global access to the costly drugs.Essential drug listThe list, consisting of 523 medicines for adults and 374 for children, is a catalogue of the drugs the WHO believes should be available in all functioning health systems. In the past including a drug has helped boost access for people in poorer countries, such as for HIV treatments in the early 2000s."Rather than letting price be a disqualifying factor, the committee views inclusion in the essential medicines list as a potential catalyst for access," Lorenzo Moja, head of the WHO secretariat overseeing the list, told Reuters.The expert committee added the active ingredients in Novo Nordisk's Ozempic and Eli Lilly's Mounjaro to the list, to treat type 2 diabetes in conjunction with established cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease or obesity.The drugs were initially developed for diabetes but have become wildly popular weight-loss drugs too, under different brand names, but the WHO stopped short of adding them to treat obesity alone, as it also did in 2023.

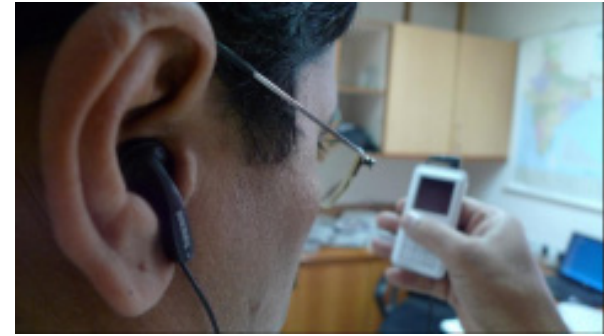
The committee said this decision provided clear guidance on which patients would most benefit from the therapies."High prices of medicines like semaglutide and tirzepatide are limiting access to these medicines," the WHO statement added, saying that encouraging generic drugmakers to produce the product would also help when patents begin to expire on the drugs next year.A spokesperson for Novo Nordisk said the company was committed to supporting broader access to its treatments. Several



companies are already working on generic copies.Globally, there were more than 800 million people worldwide living with diabetes in 2022, the WHO said. There are also more than 1 billion people with obesity. Earlier this year, a WHO memo said it would recommend the use of the drugs for obesity, a separate step to adding them to the essential list.

The list also includes Vertex Pharmaceuticals' combination therapy for cystic fibrosis, Trikafta or Kaftrio. Activists have criticised its high price and lack of accessibility for years.It also includes Merck's top-selling cancer immunotherapy drug, Keytruda, for the treatment of cervical cancers, colorectal cancers, and non-small cell lung cancers that have spread, or metastasized and recommended strategies to increase access.The WHO also added rapid-acting insulin analogues, also made by Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly, among others, to the list for treating type 1, type 2 and gestational diabetes.

How loud is too loud? What you need to know about the risks of hearing loss



Last month, a social media user Prachi Patel, shared a story about how she lost 20% hearing in one ear and 35% in the other, due to prolonged use of wireless earphones (buds/pods) with noise cancellation features. She claimed that the suction created by the ANC (active noise canceling) technology weakened her hearing, and also caused tinnitus, a condition where constant ringing is experienced in the ears. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), over one billion young adults are at risk of permanent, avoidable hearing loss due to unsafe listening practices. The WHO also states that by 2050, nearly 2.5 billion people are projected to have some degree of hearing loss, while more than 700 million will require hearing rehabilitation. The ears are sensitive sensory organs, and while hearing loss is usually thought of as occurring due to old age, the fact is, one's hearing can get damaged at any age if there is an exposure to harmful levels of noise or constant noise. At present, experts say, young adults are at a high risk of hearing damage. "Millions of teenagers and young people are at risk of hearing loss due to the unsafe use of personal audio devices and exposure to damaging sound levels at venues such as nightclubs, bars, concerts and sporting events," the WHO said in a statement in 2022.

The louder a sound, the more the damage it can potentially cause to one's ears. According to the United States-based National Institute of Deafness and other Communication disorders (NIDCD): "Sounds at or below 70 A-weighted decibels (dBA), even after long exposure, are unlikely to cause hearing loss. However, long or repeated exposure to sounds at or above 85 dBA can cause hearing loss. The louder the sound, the shorter the amount of time it takes for NIHL [noise-induced hearing loss] to happen."But how do we know that a particular sound is loud and possibly damaging our hearing? The NIDCD lists noise levels as follows to give you an indication: Whispering is 30 dB; the sound of your fridge humming is 40 dB; your normal talking voice at arm's length is 65 to 80 dB. But anything above that: such as a lawn mower or sounds in a movie theatre are between 80 to 104 dB and are loud enough to make you lose some of your hearing. The NIDCD advises: "To protect your ears, try to sit farther away from the speakers,

The largely unregulated space of home health care in India

When Ani Grace Kalaimathi was looking for a home health assistant for her aged mother, little did she anticipate the challenges. The young women who presented their qualifications to her claimed to be trained nurses but could not perform even simple tasks, she says. Ms. Kalaimathi, who is the registrar of the Tamil Nadu Nurses and Midwives Council, is not the only one who has experienced difficulties finding professional care for an elderly relative. Home health care for the elderly and the immobile, she says, is an unregulated sector: there is a huge demand, and limited supply, creating a system where agencies have mushroomed, but adequate training is often missing.

The elder health care space has grown substantially but haphazardly, picking up momentum in the past decade. Small players and large hospital groups have both entered the field, with the latter offering services including physiotherapy, diet counsellors and doctors-on-call, along with home care.

Meanwhile, standalone organisations train people from the community and place them in homes. There is, however, a dearth of training or refresher courses for updating knowledge amongst staff, say experts. Geriatrician K.R. Gangadharan, whose Heritage Foundation of India has been in the field of elder care since 1995, began his journey when he trained persons as bedside assistants. But he too has faced issues: from not being able to maintain contact with trained personnel who either change their phone numbers or drop out of service, to demands from the family of the elderly that assistants must also do domestic work.

Also, advances in the medical field as well as familial expectations have now changed. Costs have gone up, making access to trained medical assistants difficult for a majority of families. "Many families do not understand that the roles of a health assistant, a full-fledged nurse and a domestic help are different. This leads to unpleasant interactions between the assistants and the family that hurt the elderly in need of care," he says. This was the case with Trina's 78-year-old father, who is severely diabetic with foot ulcers. The health assistant employed by the family agreed to also assist Trina's mother, a cancer survivor. But Trina says, "He would insist that we not even enter the room of our parents. I was afraid he might hurt my parents. Things were always difficult." An altercation between her son and the caregiver turned physical, leaving her son with serious injuries. The Chennai-based hospital from which they had accessed the service, withdrew the caregiver after a complaint from the family. There is no regulatory mechanism to oversee agencies, say experts, nor is there clarity on services to be provided or the requirement for minimum wage. Service providers in the elder healthcare space unanimously declare that it is fragmented, available in silos and only accessible to those with financial wherewithal. It is primarily young women who enter this field, says Ms. Kalaimathi. Unfortunately, she says, the lack of standardised courses leads to aspirants spending money beyond their means but learning very little, she says, adding that the carer she had employed for her mother said she had spent ₹45,000 but had learnt everything on her own through YouTube videos. Since there is a demand for certified home healthcare assistants, candidates could be offered a six-month course and one-year internship, she says. Interested candidates who have completed Class 12 could later pursue the auxiliary nursing course, she suggests. "When such a course is started, the scope of the programme must be defined. Systematic training must be given, and shorter, associate courses are also needed. The National Skill Development Corporation offers such courses," she adds. She says that trained candidates who wish to pursue higher

and put in a pair of earplugs." It further explains that listening to music with your headphones at the highest volume: 96 to 110 dB can make you lose some of your hearing in just a few minutes. "To protect your hearing, turn it down to a lower volume. The music will still sound great!" it states.The message is clear: regularly being around noise that is more than 85 decibels can cause hearing loss. Sounds between 60-70 dB are safe.

Hearing loss is not always sudden. It can happen over time, and it can be moderate or severe. It can happen in one ear or both. Exposure to loud sounds can also lead to temporary hearing loss, the WHO states. The WHO also warns that "prolonged or repeated exposure can lead to permanent hearing damage, resulting in irreversible hearing loss."Suresh Naruka, senior consultant, ENT, at Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi has been seeing a number of youngsters who are experiencing hearing loss. "Youngsters who are exposed to continuous, loud music often have the hearing graph of an 80-year-old," he says. He further explains, "People who are constantly exposed to loud noises or even some amount of noise (even if its moderate) on a day-to-day basis, such as people working on ships, may hear a continuous buzzing sound in their ears and thus show early signs of hearing difficulties." Experts say that it is not the device but the volume of noise and duration of exposure that is to blame for hearing loss. Dr. Naruka explains that the "real risk to your ears comes from listening to content at high volumes for prolonged periods, not the earbuds, earpods or headphones. Even listening to a television set at a high volume may pose a risk." He adds that hearing loss impacts not just one's hearing ability, but also leads to psycho-social dissociation.Multiple myths also abound about the use of ear pods/buds and headphones/earphones. One common myth is that as ear pods go inside the ear canal, they cause more damage while headphones used from outside are safer. This is not true. Either device, when used at high volume levels can be harmful. Another belief is to do with cancer: according to the American Cancer Society however, bluetooth ear devices send out radiofrequency waves at significantly lower levels than even mobile phones. At present, there is no conclusive research to prove exact harms or cancer risk association. The key message here is to keep the volume down, or at a comfortable limit on personal audio devices. Wearing a protective hearing aid such as a clean pair of earplugs at noisy places can help.Dr. Naruka suggests "moving away from loud and noisy places, wearing clean ear plugs or headphones, getting ear check-ups and activating volume control on devices." He adds that one needs to be careful if one's occupation involves exposure to noises such as working at an airport, or if one is living near an industrial area. "If hearing loss is sudden and if you report it within 24 hours, chances of getting your hearing ability back are quite high, but the possibility reduces with delays in getting treatment."



studies could be offered concessions and be allowed to join nursing programmes. "We need qualified nurses in the tertiary care sector and in district healthcare facilities and the government must focus on this," she says. The distribution of health assistants in the country is unequal, with a concentration of cadre in urban areasDr. Gangadharan, who is currently involved in a training programme in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh at the request of the State, says 50 people will be trained annually under the programme. There is a need for such trained personnel, he points out, as at least 5%, amounting to seven million elderly in the country, are disabled. If trained hands are deputed to villages with the promise of a livelihood, it would both offer jobs and help provide care where needed. Home care should be correlated with day care centers and later, to institutional care when the elderly cannot take care of themselves, he adds.

Rajit Mehta, managing director, Antara Senior Care highlights a critical aspect: most elderly citizens are inadequately prepared, financially, to deal with health issues. Apart from investing in pension schemes and setting up a corpus, there is also a need for insurance products to cover recurring healthcare expenses, assisted living facilities and at-home care services, he says. A dedicated body to oversee the sector is necessary, he adds. "The fragmentation that currently exists hampers the development of a cohesive ecosystem," he says. Sai Kumar, head, medical services, Apollo Home Healthcare, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, says the Apollo Group ventured into home healthcare to address short term and long-term care. He adds that health insurance would reduce the burden that hospitalisation episodes place on patients.

The distribution of health assistants in the country is unequal, with a concentration of cadre in urban areas, whereas 70% of the elderly live in villages, says Dr. Gangadharan. Adding to this problem, candidates who come from rural parts of the country do not want to go back there. The solution, he says, lies in streamlining services. He cites Kerala's Kudumbasri scheme, where the government pays for the healthcare of the elderly and says it is worthy of emulation. "The government should make it part of its political manifesto, as in 25 years we will have 300 million senior citizens," he points out. On regulating homes for the elderly, he says the government should hand-hold organisations, instead of being an inspecting authority. His organisation, for instance, is a regional resource training centre for the government. "We are supposed to monitor old age homes funded by the government. I encourage the staff to do their work correctly so that the government does not shut them down. This way, I can ensure at least 60% of them run effectively," he says. Such organisations that work with the government could pull institutions up for mistakes but not function as punishing agencies. This would benefit the community, he points out. The future of home care for the elderly may see the use of more technology — from monitoring vitals and using wearables to alert elders to changes in their health status.

Military biographies: a matter of heroes and overlapping history



V.K. Krishna Menon, India's defence minister before and during the 1962 Sino-Indian war, was not a popular figure with the service chiefs, who nicknamed him 'God Almighty' for his overbearing ways. Not particularly fond of Gen. Thimayya (Timmy), Menon sought the opinion of Major General Sam Manekshaw on Thimayya. Sam, outspoken and articulate, replied, "Sir, as a junior officer, we are not permitted to express an opinion on a superior officer. We respect our seniors and we have no two opinions on it." In his book on Thimayya, *An Amazing Life* (KW Publishers), Brigadier C.B. Khanduri writes about this innocuous but pivotal conversation that kickstarted a political storm leading to Thimayya's resignation, which he later retracted. Biographies on Indian military leaders from different eras reveal overlapping spaces in history. For instance, Khanduri's book mentions how Timmy's recommendations on China were ignored by Menon, leading to India's debacle in 1962. On the other hand, Arjun Subramaniam's book *Shooting Straight* (HarperCollins) begins the career story of Lt. Gen. Rostum (Rusty) Nanavatty after the 1962 conflict. Nanavatty was commissioned at the end of the war, a few years after Timmy's career ended and at a time when a demoralised national leadership was undergoing a catharsis. Subramaniam highlights a letter written by the young Lieutenant Nanavatty who is remarkably unsparing in his criticism of the leadership for its foibles in the war.

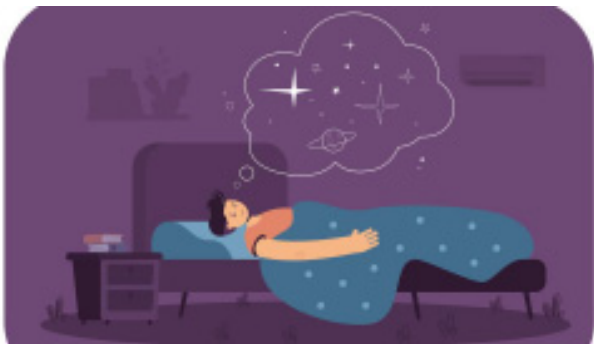
The author deftly uses the letter to bring out the fearlessness in the young officer's thinking. In a way, Subramaniam's narrative in *Shooting Straight* is a consequential document about the war's impact on young Indians. The stories of Timmy and Rusty are from different Indias -- separated by the war of 1962 as the inflection point. Wedged between the two eras is the post-war decade after 1971. On one hand, the wars of the 1960s were over and on the other, the insurgencies of Punjab and Kashmir of the 1980s hadn't yet arrived. Air Chief Marshal Idris Latif was an Air Force Chief during this period in the late 1970s. His wife, Bilkees Latif, in her book on her husband *The Ladder of His Life* (KW Publishers), reminisces about an important dimension of the question of choice during Partition in 1947. Soon after the Partition was announced, Latif, then a young air force officer, was goaded by another Muslim officer leaving for Pakistan to join him. To the officer's opinion that Pakistan was a land for Muslims, Latif replied, "You must be joking; what has religion got to do with nationality? I'm an Indian, born in Hyderabad, you know -- and not the Hyderabad in Pakistan!" He even advised the departing officer to stay, insisting that the Indian Air Force would be a better choice. Latif followed in the footsteps of Brigadier Mohd Usman who chose India over Pakistan. The story of Latif, who rose to become India's first Muslim Air Chief, is emblematic of the secular culture of India's

military. Typically, biographies provide a framework to situate events in the context of a nation's journey. Military biographies assign signposts on the time-trajectory in a country's history, especially in India, where the journey post-independence has been a progression from early existential struggles to assertions of identity. By exploring the paths of these protagonists, the biographies seek to capture the cultural impressions, personalities, choices, and help contextualise judgements on these characters. In the case of Nanavatty, peeling away his personality helps reveal his versatility. Like the tenure in Sri Lanka in the 1980s, when para commando units were sceptical of Nanavatty's role as a commander but grew to respect his initiative, wholeheartedness and an ability to lead from the front.

Subramaniam's writing, lucid and accessible, aided by the protagonist's painstaking notes, brings out the clarity in Nanavatty's thinking, which underpinned his career philosophy. Khanduri writes about Timmy as a committed and vocal personality who commanded a larger than life presence. He carried the legacy and impressions of a colonial army, and oversaw the transition during post-independence nation-building, before the era of wars in the 1960s. Nanavatty, on the other hand, was the archetypal infantryman who believed that victory is measured by the proverbial 'foot', and whose spartan measures set a high bar in tackling 'dirty' insurgencies of the 1990s.

Complex journeysThe biographies of Timmy, Latif and Nanavatty help us understand the personalities and the road taken by each. While Timmy's life is set in a time of tussles within the government, Latif played a key role in the modernisation following the 1971 war, including the replacement of old Canberra aircraft and the induction of Jaguars, all the while working with two different Prime Ministers of different political parties. Subramaniam's work on Nanavatty reveals the general's approach in more complex security challenges than the other two -- which involved the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka and the insurgency in Kashmir. The three narratives collectively depict how the Indian armed forces have evolved since independence to the nineties. The three books delve into the nuances of military leadership, particularly with the stakeholders -- political or military. All three were straight shooters in their approach, but differed on their styles. While Timmy could be vocal and confrontational, Latif managed the political leadership adroitly, while Nanavatty, by the 1990s, had adopted a pragmatic approach. Despite these three eminently readable books and a recently republished biography of Gen. Srinagesh (Commanded by Destiny/Penguin Books), military biographies are rare in India. Many belong to an era of World Wars, when accounts were documented and information was archived better. Sadly, within this thin historiography, several books suffer from abysmal writing or hagiographical accounts. One wishes to see more critique of the protagonist in accounts. In his book, Subramaniam reminds us that objective biographies of military leaders, especially those whose careers reached a pinnacle in the 1980s and 1990s, are rare, which makes Lt. Gen. Nanavatty's book both relevant and unusual. At the level of perceptions, military biographies in India run the risk of being mistakenly assumed to be technical accounts of a closed community. In a country where the military has had a major role to play in its history, a diminished understanding robs readers of an essential part of history defined by its characters. India needs more biographies that provide a lens to understand people and past events, and their influence upon the present.

The science of sleep and the role of sleep aids



Some people seem to fall asleep the moment their head touches the pillow, while others toss and turn, counting imaginary sheep or scrolling endlessly on their phone. For the latter group, a growing market of sleep aids exists from white noise machines and rain sound playlists to herbal teas, melatonin pills and age-old practices like drinking warm turmeric milk before bed. Do these sleep aids help? And what makes falling asleep so effortless for some, yet such a challenge for others? Experts point to a complex mix of biology, lifestyle and environment.

What is sleep?

According to Sridhar R., senior consultant, Interventional Pulmonology, MGM Hospital, Chennai, sleep is broadly divided into two categories : Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep and Non-REM (NREM) sleep. NREM has three stages, from light sleep (N1) to deep, restorative slow-wave sleep (N3). REM, where vivid dreaming occurs, is vital for memory and emotional processing. A typical night involves four to six sleep cycles, each lasting 70–120 minutes, moving fluidly between NREM and REM stages. While adults require 7 to 8 hours of sleep, Indu Khosla, senior consultant, Paediatric Pulmonology, Narayana Health SRCC, Mumbai, notes that newborns may sleep up to 22 hours a day, children need 9 to 12 hours, teenagers 8 to 10 hours and older adults 6 to 8 hours. Interestingly, she adds, "Indians and Asians generally take less sleep than their Western counterparts." Experts explain that those who nod off quickly may simply have a robust circadian rhythm the body's internal clock and lower pre-sleep arousal. Others may benefit from optimal "sleep hygiene": regular sleep times, low stress before bed and minimal light exposure. On the other hand, for people who lie awake, causes can range from excessive evening caffeine and screen use to underlying sleep disorders like insomnia or obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). Sounds and habitsAuditory aids -- white noise, pink noise, rain sounds, whale calls, Indian classical ragas, even traditional conch blowing can help by masking sudden, disruptive sounds. M.S. Panduranga, senior consultant , Neurology, Dharamshila Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, explains, "The brain processes sounds even during sleep. A continuous, uniform sound acts like an acoustic blanket, reducing the chance of arousals from irregular noises." Pink noise, such as steady rainfall, can even synchronise brain waves and consolidate sleep. Indian classical music, says Dr. Sridhar, offers a "structured broadband quality" that relaxes without the jarring impact of random noise. For babies, rhythmic sounds may mimic the mother's heartbeat in the womb, aiding sleep but Dr. Khosla

cautions against creating long-term dependence on such aids. Sindhuv V., consultant, pulmonology, SRM Global Hospitals, Chennai explains, "India's mix of traditional and modern habits has a clear impact on sleep". Late-night chai -- rich in caffeine -- and prolonged screen exposure suppress melatonin, delaying sleep onset. Blue light from devices signals the brain to "stay awake," a problem most pronounced in urban areas.

In rural regions, sleep tends to follow the natural light cycle -- early to bed, early to rise, whereas city dwellers often push bedtimes later due to artificial lighting, socialising or work. "Practices such as yoga, meditation and warm milk before bed, rooted in Indian tradition, can help counteract these modern disruptions," Dr. Sindhuv said. Sleep associated health risksInsomnia -- sleep disorder where people struggle to fall asleep, stay asleep, or both, even when they have the opportunity for a full night's rest. Obstructive sleep apnea(OSA)-- another sleep disorder where your upper airway repeatedly becomes blocked during sleep, causing pauses in breathing (apnea) or shallow breathing (hypopnea) , restless leg syndrome -- a neurological disorder that causes an irresistible urge to move the legs, often accompanied by uncomfortable sensations and narcolepsy -- a chronic neurological disorder that disrupts the brain's ability to regulate sleep-wake cycles, leading to excessive daytime sleepiness and other sleep disturbances are among India's most prevalent sleep disorders.

OSA, often linked to obesity, enlarged tonsils, craniofacial structure-- the intricate framework of the head and face, encompassing the skull, facial bones, muscles, nerves, and teeth, which develops from complex embryonic processes like neural crest cell migration disrupts deep sleep and can cause hypertension, heart disease, and memory impairment. Dr. Khosla stresses that even children especially those living with obesity, Down syndrome, or neuromuscular disorders can suffer from OSA, making timely diagnosis through sleep studies crucial. While there is some evidence that herbal remedies including chamomile tea, ashwagandha, brahmi, and turmeric milk promote relaxation, self medicating with over-the-counter sleep medications can be risky. Dr. Sridhar advises professional consultation, particularly for chronic insomnia (trouble sleeping three or more nights a week for over three months) or when sleep issues are linked to other health conditions.

Quality matters as much as quantity. "A regular sleep schedule, reduced evening caffeine, limited screen time, a calm sleep environment and moderate daytime activity can make falling asleep and staying asleep much easier", says Dr. Panduranga. For those still struggling despite good habits, doctors recommend seeking evaluation rather than relying indefinitely on home remedies or sound machines. While International health bodies such as World Health Organization supports research and guidelines on sleep disorders and includes certain prescription medicines for short-term use in specific cases, their primary advice too is to build lasting, good sleep hygiene. As experts puts it, "Good sleep is not a luxury , it's a biological necessity. Every stage of sleep has a role in keeping your body and mind healthy. If you're not getting it, your health will eventually show it."

To survive AI and global geopolitics, India should become a hub of knowledge creation, not just knowledge processing

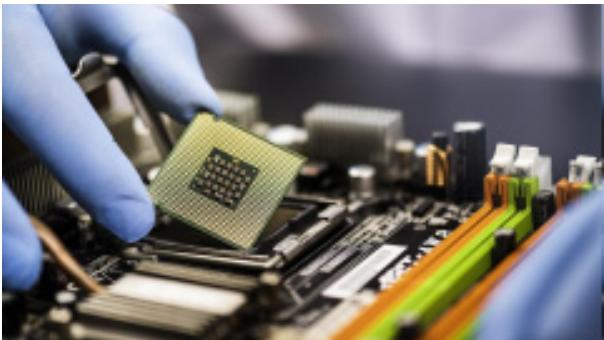
Earlier this month, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's largest IT services firm, confirmed it will lay off 12,000 employees. For decades, companies such as TCS symbolised India's prowess in IT-enabled services -- a low-cost, high-scale model that rode the wave of globalisation. But that model is now under existential strain. The era of labour arbitrage is drawing to a close, and the age of artificial intelligence (AI) is rewriting the rules of economic competitiveness.

Generative AI, machine learning, and automation are fast replacing the very tasks that once gave India its edge: coding, data entry, support services, and even parts of analytics. The decline in headcount is not a blip; India's core export, white-collar digital labour, is being disrupted. And the country does not seem prepared as we see problems in absorbing science and engineering talent newly entering the job market. Simultaneously, the manufacturing-led catch-up route is narrowing. For years, economists argued India could do what China did in the 1990s -- turn industrial policy and export-led manufacturing into mass employment and structural transformation. But that ship has largely sailed. Countries such as Vietnam and Bangladesh have already captured the low-cost manufacturing space. Add to that rising automation and India's own infrastructure bottlenecks, the feasibility of China-style manufacturing resurgence diminishes rapidly.

What, then, is India's pathway to sustained economic relevance?

The answer lies upstream -- in innovation, discovery science, and a smart, coordinated science, technology, and innovation (STI) policy. If India wants to be a rule-maker rather than a rule-taker in the AI-driven global economy, it must invest urgently in becoming a hub of knowledge creation, not just knowledge processing. This will only be achievable with a new national compact that starts from STEM but goes above and beyond embracing STEPS -- an integration of STEM with policy and society. This means building a generation of technologists who understand not just how to build systems, but how those systems affect entrepreneurship, business model and scaling, ethics, governance, and inclusion. It also means reforming curricula to include data governance, AI ethics, climate-tech, innovation economics, and intellectual property policy. Finally, it also means urgent, mission mode requirement of an integrated, State-agnostic approach where we will see not just southern India having a head start in STEM and STEPS. The New Education Policy (NEP), 2020 provides some groundwork, but implementation must go further and deeper. From IITs to State universities, India will need a deliberate shift toward interdisciplinary innovation and doctoral-level research capacity. India's innovation-to-education pipeline is currently too weak to sustain a 21st century knowledge economy.

And sadly in this, as noted above, manufacturing likely will not save India any more. The dream of becoming the "next China" in manufacturing is now largely unrealistic. India's manufacturing sector contributes just 14-16% of the GDP -- a figure that has barely budged in a decade. More worryingly, global manufacturing is undergoing its own AI-



led transformation: smart factories, predictive maintenance, and robotic assembly lines are shrinking the need for cheap labour. Competing on cost is now a losing battle. Moreover, global supply chains are also realigning around strategic resilience and digital integration, not just wage arbitrage. India's challenge is not to attract the next garment factory but to build the next quantum computing lab or climate-resilient agri-tech platform. Which brings us to the question of how a Triple Helix approach might be India's best shot at future-readiness. To get there, India will need a clear National Science and Innovation Strategy underpinned by deep collaboration between government, industry, and academia. No single actor can deliver the transformation needed and increasingly the need of the hour will be science-based entrepreneurship and scientist entrepreneurs. It has been done before like by Vijay Chandru, inventor of Simputer and founder of Strand Genomics, also a former IISc Professor, but one Vijay Chandru is hardly enough for a country of 1.3 billion. Government also must invest in blue-sky science, reform its R&D funding structures, and design enabling regulatory frameworks for frontier tech (AI, biotech, semiconductors, and so on). Universities must evolve into innovation hubs, not just exam factories. They must work closely with industry, build tech transfer offices, and reward risk-taking. Industry also must move beyond short-term returns and co-invest in long-horizon research, from chip design to synthetic biology refusing to accept modest productivity gains with a middling equilibrium mindset. Global lessons abound. The U.S.'s DARPA ecosystem, Germany's Fraunhofer Institutes, and Israel's Start-Up Nation playbook all demonstrate how strategic state support and institutional coordination can turn ideas into global advantage. India can build from their lessons, leverage on the current global geopolitical headwinds and create a national consciousness around science and innovation. It is not just investment in science that will matter, but investment in the science of innovation itself brings in a critical evaluation mindset for upgrading based on evidence. India lacks a coherent framework to measure what works: which R&D models yield translational success? How do tech incubators perform over time? Where does research funding leak or stagnate? A National Science of Science and Innovation Policy (NSIP) platform -- a cross-ministerial, data-driven approach to governing the innovation ecosystem -- could be a way forward. NITI Aayog's AI strategy and the recent National Research Foundation are steps in the right direction, but coordination and scale remain insufficient.

Ration at your doorstep

On August 12, 2025, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched Thayumanavar Thittam, a scheme to provide ration products at the doorsteps of senior citizens and persons with disabilities. This scheme, which when translated means 'one who shows motherly affection', is not new for Tamil Nadu, conceptually or in practice. But what makes it different from similar schemes implemented in the past is its reach. Thayumanavar Thittam, at a cost of cost of ₹30.16 crore, is set to benefit about 20.4 lakh senior citizens and 1.3 lakh persons with disabilities across the State. In early July, the authorities conducted a trial run of the scheme in 10 districts, including Chennai. Tamil Nadu is perhaps the only State to follow a universal public distribution system (PDS) instead of a targeted PDS. Unlike in many other States, where licences are issued to private dealers to run fair price shops, cooperative societies in Tamil Nadu manage the affairs of nearly 95% of the shops (as against the national average of over 20%). Of about 37,330 shops in the southern State, more than 35,000 shops are handled by cooperative societies.

Tamil Nadu has also established 2,495 mobile fair price shops to ensure access to essential commodities for people in remote, hilly, and geographically challenging areas. Five years ago, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the then AIADMK regime also opened seven such shops and named them after former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa. Other States have been implementing schemes similar to Thayumanavar Thittam for some time. Under the Oppom scheme in Kerala, auto rickshaw drivers deliver essential commodities at the doorsteps of people who cannot visit PDS shops to collect their supplies due to old age, illnesses, or other issues. In Karnataka, the Anna Suvidha scheme benefits those aged over 75. Punjab is also implementing its own variant of the concept. In Delhi and Andhra Pradesh, the execution of similar schemes ran into problems. The scheme in Delhi never took off when the Aam Aadmi Party was in power. In Andhra Pradesh, regime change proved to be the obstacle: the Telugu Desam Party-led government reversed the previous YSR Congress Party government's practice of supplying essential commodities through mobile dispensing units for all beneficiaries. In the revised scheme, door delivery of commodities has been restricted to about 16 lakh PDS beneficiaries who are aged above 65 years or are physically challenged. Nevertheless, the idea has clearly been gaining currency. This is why it is strange that the Union government told the Lok Sabha early this month that "there is no provision under the [National Food Security] Act for delivery of foodgrains at the doorstep of beneficiaries." What should have been stated is that Section 32 (1) of the Act says that the law does "not preclude the Central government or the State government from continuing or formulating other food-based welfare schemes."

The DMK regime's initiative was appreciated by Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) general secretary Premalatha Vijayakant, who is not an ally of the ruling party. Describing the launch of the scheme as a "victory" for DMDK founder Vijayakant and the party, she recalled how Vijayakant had promised electors during the 2006 Assembly polls that his party would deliver commodities to beneficiaries if brought to power. His idea had been ridiculed then, she said. The DMDK general secretary was, however, guarded about her party's position on forming an alliance with the DMK for the 2026 Assembly elections and clarified



that the decision would be taken at the party's meet in Cuddalore in January. Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran criticised the scheme, contending that it had been implemented keeping the Assembly elections in mind. He also reminded the government that it had not implemented the DMK's electoral promise of increasing the quantity of sugar and including urad dal once again under the PDS. Notwithstanding the criticism, Mr. Stalin seems to be conscious of the fact that it is officials in charge who determine the success of any scheme. This was evident when he pointedly sought their cooperation. Without the right approach from them, schemes such as this may fail to ensure food security to lakhs of beneficiaries.

'Global gold prices may double on weaker dollar'

International spot gold prices may touch \$7,000 an ounce by 2030 in the event of a dollar devaluation, according to Anindya Banerjee, head of currency and commodities, Kotak Securities. This is twice the current price of about \$3,400 an ounce. "The United States is trying to morph from the world's consumer of last resort into a net producer. That pivot requires a cheaper currency and smaller capital inflows--outcomes that are bullish for real assets and especially for gold," said Mr. Banerjee. A cheaper dollar may be achieved even as an outcome of policies such as immigration control and tariffs, among others, to achieve a zero-trade deficit, he pointed out. U.S. President Donald Trump, during a recent interaction with the American media, said "you make a hell of a lot more money with a weaker dollar. When you have a strong dollar, you can't sell anything. It's only good for inflation, and it's good psychologically. It makes you feel good." The American government is reportedly mooting the idea of devaluing the dollar to shore up exports and reduce the trade deficit. The immediate consequence of such a move would be a spike in international gold prices according to analysts. An active devaluation might be unlikely because that might reduce dollar's status as a reserve currency, said Maneesh Sharma, AVP of commodities and currencies, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers. He, however, said even without a planned devaluation, a cheaper dollar, which is the outcome of tariffs and trade controls, would invariably lead to a surge in gold prices.

Nepal, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka: When demographic dividend isn’t delivered



Sri Lanka in 2022. Bangladesh in 2024. Indonesia in August 2025...and now Nepal, a month later. The past few years have been littered with youth-led uprisings in Asian countries, coming at a time when the headline growth numbers have not resulted in better lives for those entering the labour force. At the same time, the ruling elite and business class seem to have prospered. Over the last week, the children of Nepal’s political class have come under heavy fire for displaying their luxurious lifestyles on social media, with the phrase ‘nepo kids’ trending as the Gen Z’s ire over corruption took centre-stage. In 2024, Nepal was ranked 107 out of 180 countries in Transparency International’s corruption rankings. Bangladesh was ranked 151, Sri Lanka 121, and Indonesia 99.

If politics is about optics, the leaders of these countries have not quite helped themselves. Earlier this week, Indonesia’s President, Prabowo Subianto, fired the globally respected Sri Mulyani Indrawati as the finance minister amid some of the worst public unrest in years following the revelation that Parliamentarians were set to receive a monthly housing allowance equivalent to \$3,000. The allowance, scrapped on September 4 after days of violent protests, was almost 10 times the country’s highest monthly minimum wage of \$337 in the capital city of Jakarta. Indrawati, a former Managing Director at the World Bank and Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund, had burnished Indonesia’s image with her fiscal restraint during her 13 years as the finance minister under three Presidents. However, she was at odds with Subianto and his populist policies. The high levels of corruption and lack of political continuity have meant economic growth has not been inclusive, with the youth suffering in particular. And these countries are all rather young. According to the United Nations’ World Population Prospects 2024 report, the median age of Nepal last year was 25 years, only slightly lower than Bangladesh’s 25.7. For Indonesia it was 30.1, while Sri Lanka’s was 33.1 years.

Whither demographic dividend?
Countries with a young population bank on the youth

to propel economic growth higher. This gain, called the demographic dividend, comes from changes in the age structure of a country’s population which lead to the proportion of the working-age population becoming increasingly larger than those who don’t work – young children and the retired. As young adults finish their education, they expect to enter the labour force and boost the talent available to domestic firms. An increase in supply of talent can also ensure wages don’t rise much, helping raise profits, which can help finance future investments. This would then support the creation of more jobs. This, seemingly, has not happened in many of Asia’s developing economies. “...although there has been significant and largely sustainable growth, that has not been accompanied by millions of new jobs,” the Asian Development Bank said in June. “In urban Asia, auto electronics and textile manufacturing used to be the entry point into the labour market for millions of young people. But with much of industrial production now mechanised, we live in an era of far fewer jobs in those traditional sectors. The average car factory today employs only around 15 per cent of the workforce it needed 25 years ago. Likewise, repetitive low-skilled assembly work everywhere has been largely ceded to increased automation.” Last year, the World Bank had warned South Asia was on a path “that risks squandering its demographic dividend of growth”. According to the Bank, from 2000 to 2023, South Asia created 10 million jobs a year on average – just over half of what was required. High youth unemployment In Indonesia, the national average unemployment rate in 2024 was 4.91 per cent. But for those in the 20-24 age bracket, the unemployment rate was more than three times as high: 15.34 per cent. In Bangladesh, the national unemployment rate in 2023 was 3.35 per cent. However, at 8.24 per cent, the highest unemployment rate was for those in the 15-24 years age bracket. In Nepal, the country’s statistics office said in July that the employment challenge was “significant”.

The high dependence on foreign employment and remittances, coupled with limited industrial development and job creation in the formal sector, presents ongoing challenges for policymakers,” the National Statistics Office said in a report titled Demographic Dividend in Nepal, adding that the labour market sector had not shown any improvement, with unemployment increasing to 12.6 per cent in 2022-23 from 11.4 percent in 2017-18. With underemployment even more prevalent, especially among those aged 15-24, young Nepalis were looking abroad for jobs, resulting in remittances accounting for nearly a quarter of the country’s GDP. “These trends highlight the urgent need for domestic job creation in emerging sectors and industries to retain talent and support the economy sustainably... without sufficient job creation, Nepal risks missing out on the economic benefits of its demographic dividend.”

Tanishaa Mukerji recalls life-altering head injury during ‘Sssshhh...’ shoot: ‘My brain shifted inside my skull’; Neurologist explains what happens during a concussion



Speaking to Vickey Lalwani, she recalled travelling with co-stars Dino Morea, Gaurav Kapur, and director Pavan S Kaul when their car skidded off black ice and fell into a gorge. “My director was driving the car. It was a good film. We were enjoying a lot. Dino Morea, me and Gaurav Kapur, were all inside the car. We all thought we would go to work together that day. The director was driving the car, and he slid on black ice, and our car stumbled into a gorge. Gaurav had fractures in three places in his arm. Dino also had a fracture (sic).”

Tanishaa herself sustained the most alarming injury. “I suffered from a head injury, which was very dangerous; I had a concussion. So the doctor told me, my brain had shifted to the side of my scalp and then came back to its place, and that’s why the left or maybe the right hemisphere of my brain was swollen. It took more than one year for it to get better, but I had to finish this film and other films (sic).” The experience also came with memory loss, something she described as almost cinematic. “After this accident, I lost my memory. We see in films that characters get up after an injury and ask, ‘Who are you?’ I was that person. My mom was with me in Manali, where the shooting was going on, and we had to come to Delhi for treatment.”

So, what actually happens inside the brain during such concussions, and how dangerous can this type of injury

be? Dr Shiva Kumar R, senior neurologist, Poorna Neuro Holistic Care & Manipal Hospital, Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru, tells indianexpress.com, “When someone sustains a concussion or a head injury, the brain can move suddenly inside the skull due to impact. This rapid movement causes stretching of brain tissue and temporary disruption of nerve cell communication. In severe cases, the brain can strike against the inner walls of the skull, leading to swelling or small bleeds.”

He adds, “The phrase ‘brain shifted to the side’ is a layman’s description of this internal movement. While most concussions are mild and reversible, any swelling in one hemisphere can become dangerous because it increases pressure inside the skull. If not managed properly, it may lead to complications such as prolonged symptoms, neurological deficits, or, in rare cases, life-threatening situations.”

How common is memory loss after a concussion, and what determines whether it is temporary or long-lasting?

Memory loss is one of the hallmark symptoms of a concussion and is fairly common. Dr Shiva Kumar states that it usually occurs because the brain’s ability to process and store new information is temporarily disrupted by the injury. In most cases, this memory loss is short-term, lasting from minutes to weeks. “Whether it becomes long-lasting depends on several factors: the severity of the injury, whether there were repeated head injuries, the age and overall health of the patient, and how quickly treatment and rest were initiated.” Initially, doctors advise complete rest to allow the brain to recover from the trauma. This includes physical rest and also limiting mental strain, such as long screen time or multitasking. Rehabilitation may involve physiotherapy for balance, occupational therapy for daily skills, or cognitive therapy to strengthen memory and concentration. Adequate sleep, hydration, balanced nutrition, and stress management also play a critical role in healing. Most importantly, avoiding another head injury during the recovery phase is essential, since repeated concussions can cause long-term cognitive issues,” notes the expert.

Mrunal Thakur reveals her mother’s nighttime skincare advice: ‘Batao, benefits batao...’

Jersey actor Mrunal Thakur recently shared a glimpse of her nighttime skincare routine that includes a generous application of an oil her mother swears by. “Mummy wants me to apply almond oil on my face every night before I go to bed. Batao, benefits batao... (tell us about the benefits, mom?),” she can be heard saying in the Instagram reel. As Thakur is seen applying the oil all over her face and neck, her mother, Vandana, can be heard saying: “It is good for blood circulation, helps with skin glow”.

Is it advisable to apply almond oil to the face at night?

Almond oil is often used as a natural remedy for healthy skin. It is rich in vitamin E, fatty acids, and antioxidants that help keep the skin soft, smooth, and hydrated. According to Dr Shareefa Chause, dermatologist, Dr Shareefa Skin Care Clinic, Mumbai, regular use may reduce dryness, improve skin tone, and add a natural glow. “Some people also find it helpful in reducing dark circles, fine lines, and puffiness under the eyes. It is believed to have soothing properties that can calm mild skin irritation and make the skin feel nourished,” said Dr Chause. Dr Shweta Nakhawa, consultant dermatologist, KIMS Hospitals, Thane, said almond oil is full of vitamin E, fatty acids, and antioxidants. “It softens skin, seals in moisture, and enhances overall texture. Skin can feel smoother and look healthier with repeated use. Others apply it to eyelashes and eyebrows as it conditions the hair, lessening dryness and breakage, making them look healthier and glossier,” said Dr Nakhawa.

Does almond oil enhance circulation?

The oil itself does not actually enhance circulation. “Gently massaging it onto the skin does, however, have the effect of stimulating circulation, which causes the face to temporarily have a natural sheen and look refreshed,” said Dr Nakhawa.

Can it actually make eyebrows and eyelashes grow?



According to Dr Nakhawa, almond oil conditions and healthily strengthens hair shafts so that they don’t become brittle. That creates the illusion of fuller brows and longer lashes. But it won’t necessarily make it grow faster—it’s more about healthy hair.

What to consider?

There are a few cautions to keep in mind. “Almond oil may not suit everyone, especially those with oily or acne-prone skin, as it can clog pores and lead to breakouts. People who have sensitive skin should avoid them completely to prevent allergic reactions. Always do a patch test before applying it to your face. Use it in small amounts, preferably at night,” said Dr Chause. For people who have allergies to nuts, almond oil must be avoided entirely, stressed Dr Nakhawa. Avoid using almond oil on broken skin, acne, or on extremely humid days since it tends to make skin greasy. “Use sparingly, a little goes a long way. Use just a few drops on clean skin. If you notice redness, itching, or acne, discontinue,” said Dr Nakhawa. Almond oil is a natural, gentle solution that has proven advantages. “It is best used with care and in relation to skin type, not as something to be applied across the board for everyone,” said Dr Nakhawa.

Masters of deception: 9 animals that are experts at conning the creatures around them

The animal kingdom isn’t always about strength, speed, or sharp teeth. Sometimes survival comes down to one simple skill: being a good liar. From birds that trick others into raising their young to spiders that perfume the air with false promises, nature is full of expert con artists. These strategies may seem cruel, but they’re products of evolution. Trickery saves energy, increases survival, and ensures the next generation thrives. Whether it’s a cuckoo chick outcompeting its nestmates or a drongo stealing a hard-won meal, deception in the wild is often the difference between life and death. Here are some of nature’s most notorious tricksters and how they pull off their scams.

The cuckoo

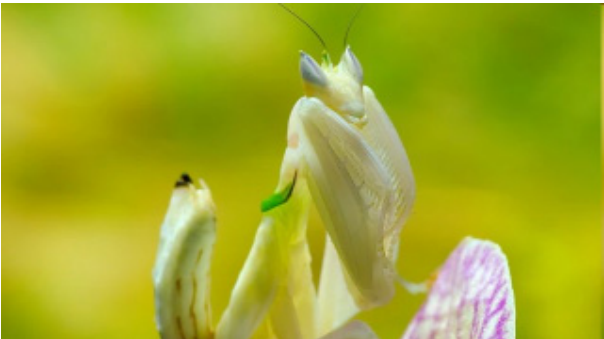
Imagine raising a child that isn’t yours, without ever knowing it. That’s the life of many songbirds tricked by the common cuckoo. This bird lays its egg in another species’ nest, and the unsuspecting parents raise the chick as their own. Some cuckoos even lay eggs so similar in colour and pattern to their host’s that it’s almost impossible to tell the difference. By the time the foster parents realise something is wrong, their own chicks are often gone.

The firefly

In the summer nights of North America, male fireflies flash signals to attract mates. But not all of them end in romance. Females of the Photuris genus copy these flashes to lure unsuspecting males closer. When the hopeful males arrive, expecting courtship, they are swiftly eaten. To make matters worse, the females steal the males’ defensive chemicals and use them to protect themselves from predators. Love, in this case, is literally deadly.

Bolas spider

Unlike most spiders, which build intricate webs, the bolas spider employs a different strategy. It releases chemicals that mimic the scent of female moths. Male moths, drawn by the “perfume,” come flying in, only to be caught by the spider’s swinging sticky line, much like a fisherman



casting a lure. It’s a deadly combination of disguise and patience. The alligator snapping turtle

Lurking in the muddy rivers of the American South is a turtle with a sinister trick. The alligator snapping turtle opens its mouth wide, showing a pink, worm-like tongue. Fish, fooled into thinking they’ve found a snack, swim right in. One snap of the turtle’s massive jaws, and the hunter becomes the hunted. Deep in Iran lives a snake whose tail ends in a bulb and wavy scales that move like the legs of a spider. Hungry birds swoop down to snatch the “spider,” only to find themselves in the strike zone of the waiting viper. This is one of the most extraordinary cases of deception in nature, an animal using its own body as bait. horned viper snake Deep in Iran lives a snake whose tail ends in a bulb and wavy scales that move like the legs of a spider (Source: Wikimedia Commons)

The false cleanerfish

Coral reefs are bustling cities, and like any city, they have cleaners. The bluestreak cleaner wrasse is famous for picking parasites off bigger fish. But the false cleanerfish has found a way to exploit this trust. It mimics the wrasse’s appearance and movements. Instead of offering a cleaning service, it sneaks in a painful bite, leaving its “clients” scarred and confused.

Danish drug major Novo Nordisk slashes 11 per cent of workforce to save \$1.3 billion



New Delhi: In a major restructuring drive, Danish drug major Novo Nordisk on Wednesday announced plans to slash 9,000 jobs or 11 per cent of its global workforce and save (\$1.3 billion) by the end of 2026. The company, in a statement, said that with the restructuring, it expects to simplify, improve decision-making speed, and reallocate resources toward growth opportunities in diabetes and obesity. Battling rising pressure from US rival Eli Lilly, the maker of blockbuster weight-loss drug Wegovy, announced its third cut of the year to its profit forecast.

The company’s Wegovy and its diabetes treatment Ozempic are reportedly losing market share and slow sales growth, especially in the US market. “Our markets are evolving, particularly in obesity, as it has become more competitive and consumer-driven. Our company must evolve as

well,” CEO Mike Doustdar, who only took the helm last month, said in the statement. “This means instilling an increased performance-based culture, deploying our resources ever more effectively, and prioritising investment where it will have the most impact – behind our leading therapy areas,” he added.

Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's inks pact with Johnson & Johnson to acquire vertigo treatment brand

New Delhi: Dr Reddy’s Laboratories on Thursday announced the completion of a definitive transaction with Johnson & Johnson to acquire Stugeron brand across the EMEA regions, with India and Vietnam as key markets.

Stugeron contains Cinnarizine, an antihistamine indicated for the treatment of vestibular disturbances and vertigo. The acquisition presents a strategic opportunity for the Hyderabad-based drug firm to expand its footprint in the anti-vertigo space as well as strengthen its Central Nervous System (CNS) portfolio, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories said in a statement. Dr Reddy’s acquisition of the brand reflects a steady advancement in the company’s efforts to expand into the anti-vertigo therapeutic segment, contributing to the continued development of CNS portfolio, said MV Ramana, CEO, Branded Markets (India and Emerging Markets), Dr Reddy’s Laboratories. “Backed by our strong market access, we intend to extend the reach of Stugeron and its associated products across 18 key markets in the APAC and EMEA regions, including India and Vietnam,” he added.

Asia Cup 2025: Krishnamachari Srikanth says, ‘Making Sanju bat at 5, they are making way for Shreyas Iyer...would warn him by saying that this is his last chance’



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Batting at number five for India, Sanju Samson has scored 62 runs at an average of 20.62, which is a dip when compared to his opening numbers, where, from 11 innings, he managed to amass 522 runs at an average of 32.63, including three centuries. Former Indian selector Krishnamachari Srikanth predicted that by making Samson bat at number five, India are making way to get Shreyas Iyer into the team.“I somehow feel by making Sanju bat at 5, they are making way for Shreyas Iyer to return to the side. Sanju hasn’t batted much at 5 and he shouldn’t bat at that position either. It will dent his confidence batting at No. 5. I am not too happy for him. To Sanju, I would warn him by saying that this is his last chance. I would

also tell him if he fails to score in the next or three innings at this position, Shreyas Iyer will replace him,” Srikanth said on his YouTube channel.

“They are playing Sanju Samson in the middle-order. Are they going to use him as the finisher? No. That’ll be Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube. So, Samson will play at 5. Will he deliver? That’s a question mark. You’ve accommodated Sanju Samson ahead of Jitesh Sharma. It is fine for this Asia Cup but what will happen in the T20 World Cup?” he added.

“No chance of winning the T20 World Cup:” SrikanthIndia will look to defend their T20 World Cup crown next February. The showpiece event is co-hosted in both India and Sri Lanka, and before that, the side has an opportunity to test their strengths in weaknesses in the ongoing Asia Cup in the UAE. Srikanth opined that while this set of players might end up winning the Asia Cup, they might not win the T20 World Cup coming up.“We might win the Asia Cup with this team, but there is no chance of winning the T20 World Cup with this bunch. Are you going to take this team to the World Cup? Is this the preparation for the T20 World Cup, which is hardly six months away?” Srikanth said on his YouTube channel.“They have gone backwards. Axar Patel has been axed from vice-captaincy. I don’t know how Rinku Singh, Shivam Dube, and Harshit Rana have come in. IPL is considered the main criterion for selection, but the selectors seem to have considered performances before that,” he added.

‘Babar Azam needs quality players around him like Virat Kohli did,’ says ex-Pakistan star

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Babar Azam had long been projected to hit the highs that Virat Kohli did in his career across formats but it hasn’t quite turned out that way. (Reuters Photo)Babar Azam had long been projected to hit the highs that Virat Kohli did in his career across formats but it hasn’t quite turned out that way. Pakistan are without two of their biggest names in the on-going Asia Cup in Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan. The pair aren’t out with an injury or rested though, they have lost their place in the team’s T20I squad and there seems to be no way back for now for either. It is an extraordinary fall for Babar and Rizwan, who were both the faces of the team across formats not too long ago. Former Pakistan batter Mohsin Khan believes that Babar remains a great batter but he needs to have better support from the rest of the batting lineup, the way India great Virat Kohli had over the course of his glittering career.

“Babar isn’t a bad batter,” Mohsin is quoted as saying by PTI. “But you need a clutch of quality players around him to support him. Look at Virat Kohli — in Tests he had Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, KL Rahul. In ODIs he had Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan. A great player is made even greater when surrounded by other strong players.”Mohsin also said that the never-ending pressure on Babar and Rizwan won’t help the players. “If you are always put under pressure that you have to score centuries every time you step out, they are humans too — hence at times you aren’t able to play the game the team requires you to play,” he said.“During our time there was Majid Khan, Javed Miandad, Zaheer Abbas, and later Saeed Anwar, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Yousuf and Younis Khan.



Teams are built on numbers — you need a group of players who are more or less of the same quality. Right now, there is a big gulf between Babar and the rest.”

The idea was to move on from Babar and Rizwan, says Wasim AkramPakistan fast bowling great Wasim Akram has said that the side is doing well so far without Babar and Rizwan. “I think this team is doing OK. They have given enough chances to Babar and Rizwan as openers for 4 or 5 years. They did well, but not as well, not as consistently, and hence the new boys,” Wasim Akram said, speaking on Sony Sports.“Babar is not there, Rizwan is not there. I think the idea was to move on from them, to go to these youngsters. They’ve done well, haven’t been consistent, but at least they have the right mindset. They don’t have a fear of losing. When you have a fear of losing, you buckle under pressure. So these guys, they might lose, but I think Salman Agha is a good captain,” he added.

Faf du Plessis reacts to political activist Charlie Kirk’s assassination: ‘I’ll never understand America and why everyone can just have a gun’



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Charlie Kirk, who was a political activist and co-founder of Turning Point USA, was shot dead in the Utah Valley. The incident took place when Kirk was speaking at Utah Valley University (UVU) in Orem. Kirk was speaking under a tent on the university campus during his American comeback tour when the incident occurred. The shooter has still not been caught by the authorities, and they are investigating. President Donald Trump called the killing of Kirk ‘a dark moment for America.’Former South African skipper Faf du Plessis has also chimed in with his opinion and questioned the law of Americans to have guns. “RIP Charlie Kirk. I’ll never understand America and why everyone can just have a gun,” Du Plessis wrote on X (Formerly known as Twitter).Du Plessis, from 69 Test matches, has scored 4163 runs at an average of 40.03 with 21 half-centuries and 10 centuries. In ODIs, he amassed 5507 runs from 143 games at an average of 46.67, including 12 centuries and 35 half-centuries, and in T20Is, he scored 1528 runs from 50 games at 35.53, bagging one ton and 10 half-centuries to his name in the format.

The United States Senate has passed a gun safety bill in 2022, the most significant action against rising gun violence in the country. The bill was passed on Thursday (June 23), hours after the US Supreme Court ruled that Americans have a constitutional right to carry firearms in public for their safety and self-defence. The bipartisan bill was passed with a majority of 65-33 votes in the Senate. At least 15 Republicans voted for the measure, a surprisingly high number for a party that has largely voted against gun control over the years, and Joe Biden who was president at the time has approved the bill.Current Federal law allows licensed dealers to sell handguns only to people aged 21 and above, but they can sell long guns (like rifles) to those 18 and older, according to Everytown for Gun Safety. Pri-

vate sellers can sell handguns to 18-year-olds, and there is no minimum age for long guns.However, Trump said he would handle such laws if re-elected, but during his campaign before getting elected as president for the second time, he told an NRA event: “No one will lay a finger on your firearms,” as reported by AP. Speaking earlier today on the killing of Kirk Trump recalled the assassination attempt against him in July last year and the killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson in 2024. Trump said, “Radical left political violence has hurt too many innocent people.”

Mixed fortunes for Haryana Steelers in Pro Kabaddi League Season 12

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

HYDERABAD: As the Vizag leg of Pro Kabaddi League Season 12 concludes, the league table depicts a mixed bag of results for Haryana Steelers with two wins and two losses from their opening four encounters.Kicking off their campaign on 31st August 2025 against the Bengal Warriorz, the team showcased flashes of brilliance and resilience that signal greater things to come this season.

Currently placed 6th on the points table, the Steelers have laid steady foundation as they prepare for the challenges ahead. Shivam Patare emerged as the team’s standout performer in attack, amassing 32 raid points in four matches and consistently leading the charge with his agility and precision.

On the defensive front, Rahul Sethpal and Rahul Ahri proved to be a formidable duo, contributing 11 tackle points each and reinforcing Haryana’s growing strength in defence.

While the Vizag leg brought its share of challenges, the Steelers demonstrated determination and depth in their squad. With key players finding form and a balanced performance on both ends of the mat, the team looks poised to climb the league table in the upcoming leg.

As the League continues to give us more exciting and nail-biting encounters, the Dhaakad Boys are ready to commence the Jaipur leg against Gujarat Giants at the SMS Indoor Stadium on 15th September.

Arshad Nadeem talks about rivalry with Neeraj Chopra before World Championships showdown: ‘I compete against myself’



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

The showdown between the two is one of the most anticipated events of the Athletics World Championships but Arshad Nadeem played down his contest with Neeraj Chopra, saying ‘I have my competitions against myself’. The World Championships begin in Tokyo on Saturday but Chopra, the reigning world champion, will defend his title on Thursday, September 18. He returns to the venue — the National stadium — where he became the Olympic champion four years ago. However, Nadeem dethroned him in Paris last year. It was Pakistan’s first Olympic gold in 40 years with a record throw of 92.97m.

‘Arshdeep Singh has better numbers than Jasprit Bumrah’: Former opener says India have ‘Champions Trophy hangover’ in Asia Cup

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Arshdeep Singh being left out of India’s Asia Cup 2025 opener against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was among the more surprising elements of their squad for the match. In the end, it mattered little as India steamrolled UAE in Dubai, racing to the paltry target of 58 in just 4.3 overs with nine wickets to spare. India went with just one full-time pacer in Jasprit Bumrah and former opener Aakash Chopra feels that they seem to be going with the formula that worked for them earlier this year in the Champions Trophy that was also played in the UAE.“I think it has a Champions Trophy hangover in this playing XI, that was March, that was dusty, I have never seen that square as dry as I saw in March in Dubai,” Chopra said on ESPNcricinfo. “But, this is September, but they have gone with the same tactic, albeit in a different format. Is that actually the way India are going to plan? You have to pick your best team.”

Arshdeep has been pivotal to India’s success in T20Is for the past couple of years and is also the record wicket-taker for the country in the format. He is also one strike away from becoming the first Indian to take 100 T20I wickets. “Arshdeep Singh. 99 wickets, Arshdeep Singh has got more wickets, better numbers than Jasprit Bumrah in T20s for India,” said Chopra.UAE coach Lalchand Rajput had said after the match on Wednesday that the fact that Arshdeep was left out shows the quality and depth that India have at



their disposal. Kuldeep Yadav foxed the inexperienced UAE batters to end with a match-winning four-wicket haul. UAE had a fairly good start but Jasprit Bumrah (1/19) and Varun Chakravathy’s (1/4) powerplay strikes started their collapse. Shivam Dube (3/4) also played his part in the demolition job that the Indian bowlers did in the middle overs, as did Axar Patel (1/13).“World champions will crush teams. It was good till powerplay but once spinners started operating, it changed. There was not much turn but if it’s Kuldeep and Varun, even top batters struggle against them. Also, if Arshdeep can’t make it to playing eleven, it tells you about the (Indian) team’s depth,” said Rajput.

R Ashwin reveals conversation between Sanju Samson and Gautam Gambhir: ‘Told him that even if he makes 21 ducks, he will be picked for the 22nd game...’

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Coming into the Asia Cup with the inclusion of Shubman Gill in the squad, there was speculation whether Sanju Samson would make it into the playing XI. However, after the first game against the UAE on Wednesday, the dust has settled down as the keeper-batter found his spot in the middle order. Will he play as a finisher or come in if an early wicket falls in the powerplay? Only time will answer, but former Indian off-spinner R Ashwin predicted that Samson could be used as a powerplay enforcer if a wicket were to fall early, and also revealed how Gautam Gambhir assured him that even if he gets dismissed for 21 ducks, he will get the 22nd game.“I am surprised, but happy and pleasantly surprised with the backing that Sanju is getting. The kind of care the coach and captain are taking of him, it’s amazing. Suryakumar said at the press conference that ‘we are looking after him’ and that is visible. If Sanju has to play, he has to be a powerplay enforcer. If a wicket falls in the powerplay, then Sanju goes in,” Ashwin said on Ash ki baat.

“This is project Sanju Samson. When I interviewed him, he revealed that Gautam Gambhir told him that even if he makes 21 ducks, he will be picked for the 22nd game. That

20-man selection committee, one-year-long rope to players: Shoaib Akhtar on how he would fix Pakistan cricket as PCB chief

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Pakistan’s Sahibzada Farhan looses grip on his bat while playing a shot during the Asia Cup cricket match between India and Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025. (AP Photo)Pakistan’s Sahibzada Farhan looses grip on his bat while playing a shot during the Asia Cup cricket match between India and Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Sunday. (AP Photo)

Former Pakistan pacer Shoaib Akhtar has been scathing in his criticism of the Pakistan team’s performance at the ongoing Asia Cup in the UAE where the team has lost two games to arch-rivals India already. At one point after Pakistan’s recent defeat to India in the Super 4 stage, Akhtar said on Pakistan TV: “The Pakistan coach (Mike Hesson) should be asked the questions – where are his brains? It is just senseless coaching and senseless selection of the team. It is beyond me – it feels like I am the one who is a fraud, who doesn’t understand a thing after playing 15 years of cricket.”

During the same show, the pace legend, who is fondly

known as the Rawalpindi Express, was asked if he would take the responsibility of fixing the Pakistan cricket team if the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) asked him.Akhtar, while expressing his reservations about being asked in the first place by the Pakistan board, said he would have to consider how much time he could dedicate to the job considering he has young kids.

“First of all, PCB will never ask me to do this job. The reason is that I’m going to do the right thing, whatever is necessary. I’m not saying give me the power. I believe in teamwork. I believe in logic. I believe in working together. It’s not about ‘give me the power and I’ll fix it’. No, no, no, it’s not like that. I would rather have a 20-member selection committee. I will take their advice: ‘What do you guys say? Tell me.’” Akhtar said.Akhtar drew up a comparison between India’s Abhishek Sharma, who smashed a 39-ball 74 against Pakistan in the Super 4 game, with Saim Ayub, who scored 21 runs off 17 balls against India in the same game. The former Pakistan pacer said that Ayub had looked “scared” of failing on the big stage, even though he plays really well in the local Pakistan Super League (PSL).“To fix Pakistan cricket, if I am given three years and handed the command, the children (players) must be given confidence. ‘

Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan are ‘like brothers’, says Suhasini Maniratnam: ‘If Kamal gets injured, Rajini sir will immediately call me and ask...’



Reports of Tamil cinema’s biggest icons, Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, reuniting on screen after 46 years have set the internet abuzz. The news was confirmed at the recently held SIIMA festival in Dubai, where Kamal Haasan himself hinted at their much-awaited collaboration. According to reports, the duo will be joining hands for a film directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, the filmmaker behind films like Leo (2023) and Coolie (2025). The last time the two actors shared the screen was in Allaiddinum Albhutha Vilakkum (1979), based on the One Thousand and One

Nights tale of Aladdin. In the film, Kamal played the protagonist Alavuddin, while Rajinikanth essayed the role of his rival, Kamaruddin.

Over the decades, both actors have carved their own unmatched legacies, but their bond has remained intact. Actor Suhasini Maniratnam, who is also the wife of filmmaker Mani Ratnam and cousin of Kamal Haasan, spoke about this relationship at SIIMA, describing them as “like brothers.” She recalled: “If Kamal gets injured while shooting, Rajini sir will immediately call me and ask, ‘Is Kamal in a lot of pain?’ If I say yes, he will reply, ‘If Kamal says pain, it must be true because he never complains.’ That shows their closeness.” Speculation around their reunion first began when Rajinikanth, at the trailer launch of Coolie, playfully asked, “Did Kamal Haasan make a cameo?”

When Kamal Haasan confirmed film with Rajinikanth at SIIMA, Kamal addressed the rumours with his trademark humour. When the host, actor-comedian Sathish, asked the veteran star if the news doing the rounds holds any truth, Haasan replied in the affirmative. “We were united long ago, but chose to remain apart because they kept splitting a biscuit and giving us only half each. We wanted a full biscuit each, and we got it and relished it well. Now we are content with just half a biscuit again, so we have come together.”

Stephen Colbert, Chris Pratt and Jimmy Kimmel react to activist Charlie Kirk’s death: ‘Hope these are the actions of a mad man’



Conservative activist Charlie Kirk was shot dead on Wednesday at the age of 31 while hosting a college event in Utah. Following the tragic incident, numerous creators, celebrities, and influencers took to social media to express their condolences and extend their prayers to Kirk’s family. The Late Show host Stephen Colbert and Guardians of the Galaxy actor Chris Pratt also acknowledged the gruesome nature of Kirk’s death. Just before getting into his opening monologue, where Colbert usually tears into president Donald Trump, he prepared a separate video addressing the Trump ally’s death. He said, “After the scripts of our tonight’s show were finalised, we learned that Charlie Kirk, a prominent

right wing activist, was killed at a speaking engagement in Utah. Our condolences go to this family and loved ones. I am old enough to personally remember the political violence of the 1960s, and I hope it is obvious to everyone in America that this brand of violence doesn’t solve anything. I pray with all my heart, that this is the aberrant actions of a mad-man and not a sign of things to come.” Actor Chris Pratt took to social media and wrote on X (formerly twitter), “Praying for Charlie Kirk right now, for his wife and young children, for our country. We need God’s grace. God help us.”

Jimmy Kimmel, who along with Stephen Colbert has been extremely vocal against the Trump administration, wrote a long message on Instagram urging his followers to stop pointing fingers. He wrote, “Instead of angry finger-pointing, can we just for one day agree that it is horrible and monstrous to shoot another human? On behalf of my family, we send love to the Kirks and to all the children, parents and innocents who fall victim to senseless gun violence. On this day I remember Mellisa and Mark Hortman. On this day I remember the kids that were murdered in school shootings. On this day I remember the domestic abuse busting killed by their partner. May they rest in peace. Their deaths are endlessly ignored. Gun violence is awful.” Even though Jimmy Kimmel and Stephen Colbert did not see eye to eye with Charlie Kirk in terms of their political ideology, they appealed to their viewers to raise their voice against political violence of any kind. Even talk show host Rosie O’Donnell, who is one of the people who left America after Donald Trump became president condemned Kirk’s shooting and said, “No just no. Do not become the murderer. This is wrong on every level.”

Pahlaj Nihalani accuses Anurag Kashyap of leaking his own films for money; takes dig at Prasoon Joshi: ‘He doesn’t even come to office’



Producer Pahlaj Nihalani, who served as the chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) between 2015 and 2017, had a controversial tenure marked by multiple clashes with filmmakers. One of the most publicised battles during his term was with Anurag Kashyap over the cuts suggested for his hard-hitting film Udta Punjab. In a recent interaction, Nihalani revisited the issue. Speaking to Pinkvilla, Nihalani alleged that the film’s co-producers Ektaa Kapoor and her mother Shobha Kapoor were ready to accept the cuts, but Anurag, who was also a co-producer, opposed it. He said, “They were going to accept the cuts. His (Anurag Kashyap) film was not turning hot enough, despite creating so many controversies around it. Then Jeetendra (father of Ektaa Kapoor and veteran star) and CEO of the production company even came to get the certificate in the office, they came to get the cuts. We even had passed the language where it deserved, but wherever we found it unnecessary, we imposed cuts. We removed cuss words, but we remove even one single frame of the film.”

Blaming Anurag for orchestrating controversy to gen-

erate buzz, Nihalani added, “He thought six days are left for the film’s release, but it is not gaining any traction. This was Anurag’s play, and he did it all the time.” Accusing Anurag of deliberately leaking his own films, Nihalani further claimed, “He would leak videos, this was his business point, and he cashes on that.” Nihalani also took a direct dig at Prasoon Joshi, the current chairperson of CBFC. He remarked, “There are a lot of problems in censor board now as Prasoon Joshi doesn’t go to office, so it’s a free for all. He has been the longest serving chairman of the board as he has been the chairman for 7 years but he doesn’t come to office.

Taapsee Pannu flaunts aerial yoga skills with humour ‘like a boss’

Mumbai: Bollywood actress and fitness enthusiast Taapsee Pannu gave a glimpse of her aerial yoga practice with a dollop of humour. Taapsee took to her Instagram Stories to share a series of pictures and videos, capturing different stages of her workout with aerial silks.

In the first picture, as she began the exercise, the actress wrote: “We start well.” The next image showed her holding the pose as she captioned it: “Still there.” The third frame featured the 38-year-old actress suspended mid-air with the help of aerial silks, where she jokingly captioned: “Trying to straighten up.” She then shared a video of herself attempting to wrap up the sequence and hilariously said: “Tried to finish in style but... with the most ungraceful exit.” Finally, Taapsee ended on a high note with a picture of herself comfortably seated on the silks, and captioned it: “But still sitting like a boss.” Talking about acting, Taapsee was last seen in Khel Khel Mein, a 2024 comedy drama film directed by Mudassar Aziz. Based on the 2016 Italian film Perfect Strangers, the film stars Akshay Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Vaani Kapoor, Ammy Virk, Aditya Seal, Pragya Jaiswal and Fardeen Khan. The film follows the story of three married couples who decide to play an innocent game where they openly reveal their text messages and emails to each other. However, complications arise when secrets begin to unravel.

Sacred Games fame Kubbra Sait says she doesn’t want kids, recalls getting ‘pregnant by mistake’ at 30 and man wanted nothing to do with her: ‘Got an abortion done’



Sacred Games fame Kubbra Sait has opened up about her personal struggles several times in the past, including her experience of getting a medical abortion and its effects on her mental health. In an episode of Ashneer Grover’s show Rise And Fall, the actor, who is also a contestant, revealed that the father of the unborn child was least bothered about taking responsibility.

Kubbra also expressed that she doesn’t wish to have kids in the future. While talking to the fellow participants, she admitted, “I don’t want kids. I didn’t even have any interest. When I was 30 years old, I got pregnant by mistake and got an abortion done. That period was very difficult for me.”

When asked if she was comfortable in having the personal conversation, the actor replied, “I have written it in my book. I sat with that man, he said that I can do whatever I want. I felt that if this man doesn’t care, then what will I do? How can I take this on my myself alone?” She also had to understand if I am responsible enough to bring this child.” A contestant asked if the man accepted the child, would she have had it? “Then, that would have been a completely different conversation. But after that, I was very disturbed within myself, because I didn’t even share this with anyone. I made so much peace with myself with all these things,” she said. Kubbra continued, “When you get abused during your childhood only and there’s an imbalanced family, you tend to lean on external support, whether that support is right or wrong, you don’t think it through. I fell and got up that way by myself.” The episodes of Ashneer Grover hosted reality show Rise And Fall stream free on Amazon MX Player at 12 PM and air on SET at 10:30 PM. Besides Kubbra Sait, it also has Sangeeta Phogat, Arjun Bijlani, Nayandeep Rakhith, Aarush Bhola, Aahana Kumra, Kiku Sharda, and many more.

Salman Khan poses with soldiers in Ladakh as he shoots for Battle of Galwan,



Salman Khan is in Ladakh shooting for his upcoming film Battle of Galwan. In viral pictures, Salman Khan was seen posing with several soldiers in Leh. Even as filming for the new season of Bigg Boss is underway, Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has taken time out to travel to Ladakh, where he has begun shooting for his next film, Battle of Galwan. The first images from the set have already surfaced on X (formerly Twitter), showing the actor in Leh, posing with soldiers. In one widely circu-

lated photo, Salman is seen smiling alongside a group of uniformed soldiers. Another touching image shows the actor standing with the family of a soldier, while the man holds a baby in his arms, his wife stands beside him and Salman. Just two days ago, Salman Khan formally announced the shoot of the film on social media. The post featured Salman standing behind a clapperboard, with the title Battle of Galwan prominently displayed. Directed by Apoorva Lakhia, the film is based on the 2020 Galwan Valley clash between India and China.

In an earlier interview with news agency PTI, Salman Khan described the film as physically demanding. “It is physically demanding. Every year, every month, every day it gets more and more difficult. I’ve to give more time now (for training). Earlier, I would do it (train) in one or two weeks; now I’m running, kicking, punching, and all that stuff. This film demands that,” he had said. There are high expectations riding on Battle of Galwan, especially after a string of underwhelming performances from some of Salman’s recent big-ticket films. Most notably, YRF’s Tiger 3 and Sikandar, which released earlier this year, failed to impress at the box office. Meanwhile, there had been talks of Salman reuniting with Sooraj Barjatya for an action film. However, Barjatya recently revealed that the project has been shelved. The veteran filmmaker explained that he is now considering something more age-appropriate for the superstar and is exploring new ideas.

Ba**ds of Bollywood song ‘Tenu Ki Pata’: Aryan Khan makes his singing debut, collaborates with Diljit Dosanjh.



The new song Tenu Ki Pata from the upcoming Netflix series The Ba**ds of Bollywood” is sung by Diljit Dosanjh. The Ba**ds of Bollywood looks like an over-the-top takedown of Bollywood. Just days after breaking the internet with the trailer of his much-anticipated directorial debut The Ba**ds of Bollywood, Aryan Khan has unveiled the third song from the series, titled “Tenu Ki Pata”. The track is sung by none other than Diljit Dosanjh, composed by Ujwal Gupta, and features vocals by Aryan himself, marking his first-ever singing appearance.

Much like the bold and stylized tone of the series, evident from the trailer and earlier glimpses, the visual treatment of “Tenu Ki Pata” is equally over-the-top. Veteran actor Manoj Pahwa leads the song’s performance, seen doing everything from action sequences to lip-syncing and

dancing. While the clip doesn’t give away much of the storyline, it does hint at an intense showdown, both verbal and physical, between Manoj Pahwa and rapper Badshah, who also features prominently in the song. Following the earlier releases of “Tu Pehli Tu Aakhri” and the buzz-generating “Badli Si Hawa Hai”, “Tenu Ki Pata” is the third song from the show’s soundtrack to drop. Launching the track on X (formerly Twitter), Shah Rukh Khan shared his excitement, writing: “Irada? Clear hai. Vibe? Killer hai. #TenuKiPata x @diljidosanjh out now. Watch The Ba**ds of Bollywood, out 18 September, only on Netflix.”

Last month, during the first official preview of the show in Mumbai, Shah Rukh Khan introduced Aryan to the public in an emotional moment. Reflecting on his own journey and his son’s new beginnings, he said: “I’m deeply grateful to the sacred land of Mumbai, to this country, which has given me 30 years to try and entertain you. Today is a very special day, because on this very same land, my son is now taking his first step. He’s a very good boy, as all fathers believe about their sons, and he’s hardworking. At home, we’ve only taught him a few things: box office success isn’t guaranteed, nor are positive reviews from critics. But giving your 100% through hard work, that’s the one guarantee you can control. So today, when he stands before you, please clap for him. But along with those claps, send him a small prayer too.” Set to release globally on Netflix on September 18, The Ba**ds of Bollywood is co-created by Aryan Khan, Bilal Siddiqi, and Manav Chauhan. The series seems to be a trashy takedown on Bollywood, starring Bobby Deol, Lakshya, Sahher Bambha, Raghav Juyal, Manoj Pahwa, Mona Singh, Manish Chaudhari, Anya Singh, Vijayant Kohli, Gautami Kapoor, and Rajat Bedi.

Tamannaah Bhatia shares ‘with food vs without food’ moods with Diana Penty

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Tamannaah Bhatia revealed how she and her co-star Diana Penty’s moods are like “with food” and “without food”. Tamannaah took to her Instagram story, which is a collage of two photos. Tamannaah looked stunning in a sleeveless green dress with a plunging neckline while Diana looked every-inch-gorgeous in a strapless dark denim dress. The first image had the text overlay, which read: ‘With food’. In that, the two ladies looked happy seated in front of a table full of delicacies. The second picture, which was captioned as ‘Without food’, had the two looking grumpy as they looked sadly at the empty table placed in front of them. The picture seems to be taken between the promotions of their upcoming show “Do You Wanna Partner?”

“Do You Wanna Partner”, which is set to premiere from

September 12, is a quirky, new-age comedy-drama that follows two spirited best friends Shikha and Anahita (played by Tamannaah Bhatia and Diana Penty) on an audacious mission to launch their own alcohol start-up. Set against the vibrant chaos of urban life, the series captures the duo’s journey to carve a niche in the male-dominated world of craft beer. As they defy norms, bend rules, navigate eccentric encounters, and ‘brew their destiny with style, tenacity, and a whole lot of jugaad. The show also stars Jaaved Jaafari, Nakuul Mehta, Shweta Tiwari, Neeraj Kabi, Sufi Motiwala, and Rannvijay Singha. “Do You Wanna Partner” is produced under the banner of Dharmatic Entertainment and produced by Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla and Apoorva Mehta and executive produced by Somen Mishra and Archit Kumar, who has also directed the series alongside Collin D’Cunha.