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Osman Sagar, Himayat Sagar gates opened amid heavy rains

Hyderabad, Sept.26: Due to significant rainfall in the regions upstream, there was a considerable increase in water levels at Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar on Friday. Authorities opened the gates of both reservoirs to discharge excess water into the Musi River while keeping a close watch on the situation. According to officials, four gates of the Himayat Sagar have been opened, releasing water at a rate of 3 feet each. Similarly, 10 gates of the Osman Sagar have been opened, releasing water at a rate of 6 feet each. The excess water is being released downstream, and the authorities have alerted people living in the Musi River catchment area to be cautious. The Rajendranagar police have closed the ORR service road due to the rising water levels.

Telangana H C grants permission for religious events amidst law and order concerns

GNS News Agency, Sept 26

The Telangana High Court Thursday granted permission to the Sajjadah of Khanqah-e-Nooria to hold a series of religious events scheduled for October 2 to 7, 2025, after his representations to the police and other officials went unanswered. The planned events include 'Burdah Shareef' and 'Jalsa Faizaan-e-Ghouse Aazam' at Dargah Shareef Noori Shah and 'Ziyarat-e-Aassaare-Mubarak' at Masjid-e-Noori in Bandlaguda. The petitioner, Jamia Ilahiyate Nooria, challenged the 'refusal to grant permission', claiming it was a violation of religious rights guaranteed under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. The issue was complicated because another party had already secured a permit for the same period. During the hearing, the Government Pleader for Home argued that granting permission to both the petitioner and another party, who had already secured a permit, would create a "problem of law and order".

However, Justice N V Shravan Kumar drew on a previous court order from September 3, 2025, which had addressed a similar matter. The court said both parties are permitted to offer prayers and perform their religious duties separately, as long as they do not disrupt the peace. The court, thereafter, stated that based on a November 2, 2022, order from the Telangana State Wakf Tribunal, the



petitioner is also permitted to offer prayers and must "confine only to the extent of offering prayers separately without disturbing or creating any law and order problem." The court further emphasised the need for cooperation and warned of strict consequences for any non-compliance: "Further, it is made clear that since respondent No.6 has already been granted permission, he shall cooperate in allowing the petitioner to offer the daily prayers. It is also made clear that if there is any deviation in the implementation of the directions of this Court while conducting events... by either of the parties, respondent Nos. 4 and 5 (Police) are directed to take appropriate action strictly in accordance with law."

Telangana govt issues GO to extend 42 percent reservations to BCs

Fake antique coin & currency collection scam - victim loses Rs.3.61

Hyderabad, Sept.26 A 57-year-old, resident of Bowenpally in the city, fell victim to an online scam and lost Rs.3.61 lakh after being duped through a fake advertisement about an antique coin collection on Facebook. Fraudsters posing as

officials of the so-called 'Indian Coin Company', allegedly based in Delhi, approached the victim after he responded to

their advertisement. They promised him a massive payout of Rs.95 lakh in exchange for his old coin collection. The gang

initially collected his coin images, photo and Aadhaar details. Later, they began demanding money under various pre-

texts, including documentation charges, GST, delivery fees, customs clearance, flight tickets, accident compensation,

GNS News Agency, Sept 26

Hyderabad: The State government on Friday issued GOMs 9 for providing 42 percent reservation of seats and positions in local bodies to Backward Classes. These orders will now set the tone for conducting the local body elections, which have been long due. The High Court has already set September 30 as the deadline for the State government to conduct the local body elections and announce the results. The State Election Commission is conducting a meeting with senior officials, including Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, District Collectors and SPs on Saturday over the arrangements to be made for conducting the elections. A notification is also expected to be issued later in the day. Elections are to be conducted for 12,760 Gram Panchayats, 1,12,534 wards, 565 ZPTCs and 5763 MPTCs in the State. This would be followed by elections for 565 Mandal Parishats and 31 Zilla Parishats Chairmen.

bribes to police, hotel and food expenses, and finally a processing fee.

In February 2024, the State government had decided to conduct the Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste (SEEEPC) survey. After it was approved in the Assembly and Legislative Council, GOMs 18 was issued on October 10 last year to conduct the survey. Additionally, in November 2024, the Congress government had set up a Dedicated Commission under the



chairmanship of retired IAS Officer Busani Venkateshwara Rao to conduct empirical enquiry into the nature and implications of the backwardness for specifying the proportion of reservations to be extended.

The Commission submitted its report to the government in March 2025 and observed that the BCs were relatively lagging compared to their population of 56.33 percent in the State. It had recommended at least 42 percent reservations in political representations, particularly in local bodies.

STATE MACHINERY PUT ON HIGH ALERT - MINISTER PONGULETI



Srinivasa Reddy on Friday directed all the district administrations to remain on high alert in view of IMD's warning of heavy to very heavy rains across Telangana in the next 24 hours. Acting on CM Revanth Reddy's instructions, the Minister held a teleconference with the district collectors, SPs,

GHMC, HYDRA, Irrigation, Transport and Electricity officials, along with Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao and DGP Jitender.

The Minister emphasized for taking preventive steps in Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Sangareddy and Hyderabad, which have already been battered by rains. He directed the officials to ensure coordination across the departments, safeguard lives and minimize disruption. With Dussehra festival travel underway, he instructed measures to regulate traffic and ensure safe movement of people. In Vikarabad, where Musi river is in spate, residents of low-lying areas are being shifted. Already, 55 people near Bhulakshmi temple under Shivaji Bridge were evacuated. Considering heavy inflows into Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar, authorities were told to release water cautiously and relocate people downstream if needed. Shelter homes are being kept ready. The Minister also instructed the officials to have vigilance around full reservoirs and ponds, deployment of police at causeways, prevention of youth from unsafe selfies near water bodies, and readiness of NDRF/STRF rescue

CM Revanth to inaugurate tourism conclave at Shilparamam today



Hyderabad, Sept.26: Telangana Government is set to redefine the definition of Tourism in the state. Apart from the regular visit of wildlife forests, waterfalls etc., the government is ready to introduce a slew of new services for the domestic as well as international tourists to have a delightful experience. The services include overnight stay in the forests and safaris, double decked boat riding, Helicopter tour, introduce traditional cuisine to every tourist and make available advanced state of the art medical services. In a bid to promote Telangana Tourism on a grand scale, the state government is organising "Telangana tourism con-

clave-2025" at Shilparamam on the World Tourism Day on Saturday. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will unveil the roadmap and vision to promote Telangana tourism in the conclave which is being attended by Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, and Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy and others. The State government set a target of attracting Rs 15,000 crore investments in the tourism sector and providing a large number of employment opportunities to the youth. As part of that, the government is inviting public-private partnership (PPP) and also 100 per cent private investments. Many investors who studied the state government's new tourism policy expressed their willingness to set up international-standard hotels, wellness centers, and hospitality projects in the state. These include a state-of-the-art wellness center in the Ananthagiri Hills in a joint venture with Jesom and Zen Megha, a wine making unit from grape harvest. Tai Safari in the forest area, waterfront resorts by Mahendra Company, five-star hotels, Ginger hotels in tier 2 cities in Telangana, a wellness retreat in Nagarjuna Sagar and Taiwan's Fo Guang Shan is ready to develop a wedding destination center at Buddhavan more attractive. These companies will sign agreements in the presence of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. The government is attracting Rs 15,000 crore investments which creates 50,000 jobs directly and indirectly through the agreements.

Rich tributes paid to Chakali Ilamma on her birth anniversary

Hyderabad, Sept.26 Telangana paid rich tributes to Chakali llamma, the valiant warrior of the historic Telangana Peasants' Armed struggle, on her birth anniversary Friday. Leaders from all political parties paid tribute to Chakali llamma, commemorating her bravery and dedication in the fight against feudal oppression.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy honored Chakali llamma by offering floral tributes at her residence in Jubilee Hills in celebration of her birth anniversary. CM Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, MP Raghuveer Reddy, and party leader Rohin Reddy also laid flowers at her portrait. The 130th birth anniversary celebrations took place at Ravindra Bharati on a grand scale, with BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar serving as the chief guest. During the event, he unveiled a song and book created by Inagurthi Madhu.

Former Rajya Sabha member V. Hanumantha Rao, Rajya Sabha Member Anil Kumar Yadav, MLC Baswaraju Saraiah, MLA Irlapalli Shankar, BC Commission Chairman Niranjan, Finance Commission Chairman Rajaiah, BC Corporation Chairman Nuthi Srikanth Goud, BC Commission members Tirumalagiri Surender, Balalakshmi, BC national leaders Jajula Srinivas Goud, BC Welfare Commissioner



Bala Mayadevi, other important leaders and officials were present in the programme. On the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar recalled the fighting spirit of Chakali llamma and said that she was a brave woman who fought against tyrannical rule for liberation for land. He said plans have been made to set up electric charging centers in 119 constituencies across the Telangana State.

KTR accuses CM Revanth for Rs 15k crore burden on Telangana over L&T Metro exit

Hyderabad, Sept.26 BRS Working President KT Rama Rao on Friday alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's 'reckless, arrogant and dictatorial' decision forced the L&T company to exit the Hyderabad Metro project, imposing a Rs.15,000 crore burden on Telangana people.

KTR, talking to newsmen, claimed the issue arose when L&T offered to repair the Medigadda barrage at its own cost, thwarting the CM's attempts to portray Kaleshwaram as a 'failure'. He accused the government of harassing L&T, canceling the Airport Metro project works, and with a 'conspiracy' seeking to grab 280 acres of valuable Metro lands for the CM's associates. Highlighting the BRS party's role, KTR noted that under their previous rule, L&T accelerated the Metro Rail construction, aided by a soft loan of Rs.3,000 crore during COVID, and expanded the network to 69 km with 5 lakh daily riders. He criticized the ruling Congress for creating a Rs.15,000 crore liability from a Rs.20,000 crore asset, bypassing Cabinet discus-



sion, and he demanded for a Central agency probe into possible commissions and kickbacks.KTR vowed to fight for public welfare, expose corporate blackmail, and said that the people of Hyderabad would continue to support BRS, including in the upcoming Jubilee Hills by-election.

Telangana High Court orders status quo on Waqf properties in Kodangal

GNS News Agency, Sept 26

Hyderabad: Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy of the Telangana High Court on Friday ordered status quo to be maintained on Waqf properties in Kodangal, bringing temporary relief to the local Muslim community after the recent demolition of religious structures during a road widening drive. The order was passed in Writ Petition, filed by Irshad Ali Khan, who challenged the action of the Kodangal municipality. Arguing for the petitioner, advocate Aashir Mehtab Khan submitted that the properties in question including three graveyards, an Ashoor Khana and a Dargah were notified Waqf lands, and that the demolition was carried out in violation of the Waqf Act and without following due legal procedure. He argued that the action amounted to an infringement of statutory protections as well as the constitutional rights of minorities. After hearing the submissions, the Court directed the authorities to maintain status quo over the scheduled property and adjoining Waqf lands until fur-



ther orders, restraining them from undertaking any further interference.

BRS announces Maganti Sunitha as Jubilee Hills bypoll candidate

Hyderabad, Sept.26: BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has announced that Maganti Sunitha, the widow of the late MLA Maganti Gopinath, will be the party's candidate for the forthcoming Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election. This by-election was prompted by the passing of the sitting MLA, Gopinath.

KCR on Friday convened a meeting with leaders, such as the party's working president KT Rama Rao, former ministers Harish Rao, Sabitha Indra Reddy, T. Padma Rao, and Mahmood Ali, at his farmhouse in Siddipet district. During this gathering, they confirmed the candidacy of Maganti Sunitha for the Jubilee Hills by-election.

In a statement, the BRS president stated that the decision was made to honour Gopinath's dedication to both the party and the people, as well as to address the hopes of the Jubilee Hills electorate. Even though there were many



potential candidates, this choice was made to recognise Gopinath's efforts and the support he received from the

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

It's time for Indian IT firms to reduce dependence on H-1B visas

New norm with regard to H-1B visa entry fee has reated more uncertainty for the Indian IT sector. At a time when AI wave is sweeping the world and trade tariffs have put technology investment on hold, Trump's latest salvo at Indian IT industry has added to the uncertainty. For decades, H-1B visa programme has been successfully leveraged by Indian IT services companies to send technology professionals to the US for working on client projects. However, this reliance has come down substanially over the years with local hiring gaining momentum.

During President Doland Trump's first term, Indian T firms had seen tightening of visa norms with low percentage of approvals. To derisk the operating model, big T companies have reduced their reliance on H-1B visa over the years. Meanwhile, global technology firms have been major beneficiaries of this immigration programme. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Amazon had 10,044 workers using H-1B visas as of June, 2025. While TCS has received 5,505 H-IB visas, Microsoft has 5,189 people working under this programme. Similarly, Meta has 5,123,

Apple at 4,202, Google at 4,181, Deloitte at 2,353, nfosys at 2,004, Wipro at 1,523 and Tech Mahindra Americas has 951 employees, who have got approval under H-IB visa programme. These data points indicate that global technology giant's reliance on H-1B visa programme s way higher than their Indian counterparts. Over the years, ndian IT firms have not only hired locals for manning their JS operations, many have been actively training American students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineerng, Mathematics) space for joining the tech world.

Festive Cheer Begins Early: Grand Shopsy Mela 2025 Fuels Shopping Spree Across Smaller Towns

Hyderabad; As households across the country prepare for the festive season, Shopsy by Flipkart has set the tone for celebration with a strong surge in value-driven shopping witnessed during its Grand Shopsy Mela. With over 70% of app installs and orders coming from Tier 3 and 4+towns, the event reaffirmed Bharat's growing appetite for affordable and quality products. Millennials and Gen Z, in particular, drove growth in household items, men's fashion, and footwear. Shopsy also reported a 44% increase in repeat buyers during the sale period.

With the festive season around the corner, the Grand Shopsy Mela enabled households to shop for everything they needed ahead of the festive season. The robust sale performance highlighted how value-conscious shoppers embraced Shopsy's expansive assortment of over 1 crore products priced under ?149/- across 1,300 categories. From festive kurtas for Durga Puja to home décor for Diwali, Shopsy anticipated the diverse needs of every Indian household by curating special festive collections for diverse cultural celebration and delivering a seamless shopping experience. This further strengthened its position as the go-to platform for value-conscious consumers across Bharat.

Marketplace, Flipkart, said, "With the Grand Shopsy Mela, we aimed to give our customers and sellers early access to the festive season. This year's response has set a new benchmark for Shopsy, reflecting our continued focus on delivering value for money, a wide quality selection, and expanding digital access to local sellers. We are thrilled by the double-digit growth across core categories and the record reach in previously underserved towns. Shopsy remains committed to democratizing e-commerce- deepening access, empowering local entrepreneurs, and delivering exceptional value to every Indian household."Household, Menswear & Footwear led the Festive DemandThe sale saw remarkable growth for household essentials, recording a 108% surge in demand, while men's casual wear and footwear grew by 95%. Women's kurta and pant sets, along with earbuds and men's analog watches, emerged as topselling products, reflecting Shopsy's strong appeal among

Power Shutdown Notice – Nacharam"

"Nacharam (Indian Chronicle), September 26:"There will be a power interruption/shutdown in the areas mentioned below due to 11KV feeder maintenance works. Nacharam Indoor SS (Kakatiya Karshak)11KV Karthikeya Nagar Feeder 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM Affected Areas Karthikeya Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Nacharam Main Road, part of Errakunta. "A press note was released by B. Nagaraju, Assistant Engineer, Operation Nacharam, TGSPDCL.

GHMC evacuates 55 residents from flood-prone areas under Shivaji bridge

Hyderabad, Sept.26 (In a swift and proactive measure to safeguard public safety, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has evacuated 55 residents from flood-prone localities under Shivaji Bridge and near Bhoo Laxmi temple following the lifting of gates at Hyderabad's twin reservoirs, Himayatsagar and Osmansagar.

The evacuated residents, including families and daily wage earners, have been relocated to the safe place Gode–ki–khabar GHMC community hall, where they are being provided with temporary shelter, food, and medical support.

With heavy rainfall continuing in the city and its outskirts, inflows into the reservoirs have risen significantly. To prevent overflow and flooding downstream along the Musi River, authorities released surplus water, prompting precautionary evacuation efforts.

Sunburn Festival 2025 announces the two-time Grammy winning EDM icon, David Guetta as first headliner



Hyderabad:The wait is over! Global dance music icon and two-time Grammy Award winner David Guetta has been revealed as the first headliner for Sunburn Festival 2025 and his return promises to make this the festival's biggest, boldest and most unforgettable edition yet. With new immersive experiences and the biggest names from the EDM world set to join the party in Mumbai this December, Sunburn Festival 2025 is where the world will come together to experience magic. With a festival theme that promises to take audiences Beyond Reality, Guetta's return marks

the perfect collision of legacy and ambition, unlike anything they've ever experienced.

This isn't Guetta's first Sunburn rodeo, but it's about to be his most massive one yet. From closing Sunburn 2015 with the unforgettable anthem, 'Titanium', to his #Guetta4Good charity tour in 2017 raising funds for underprivileged children, to countless anthems that have been the soundtrack to nights across India, his bond with our fans runs deep. Sunburn Festival 2025 will open with nothing less than a legend at the helm, a man whose name is etched into the DNA of modern dance music.

David Guetta has long been one of the pioneering names in global electronic music recently bringing hits like 'Man in Finance' and 'Supernova Love'. Renowned for his monolithic production style, Guetta's sound is instantly recognisable, massive and built for stadium-sized euphoria. His monolith stage is a towering spectacle that fuses sound, light and architecture into an immersive experience. With its colossal LED walls, pulsating visuals and striking vertical design, the structure transforms into a living, breathing canvas that evolves with every beat. More than just a backdrop, it mirrors the scale and energy of Guetta's music, turning each performance into a monumental journey for fans across the world. His appearance at Sunburn Festival 2025 marks a powerful return to one of his most passionate fanbases, promising a performance that blends global sounds with Guetta's signature high-energy production. As India's premier dance music festival, Sunburn Festival 2025 is proud to welcome back a legend whose influence continues to define and drive the global dance movement. Karan Singh, CEO, Sunburn, shared, "Sunburn has always been about creating world-class music moments in India and David Guetta embodies that vision perfectly. His association with us reflects how the festival has grown into one of Asia's biggest stages for global talent. Kicking off this edition with him sets the tone of unmatched energy, global calibre and experiences that truly connect India to the world, and this is just the start of what's coming

Heavy Rain in Hyderabad, Similar Conditions for the Next Two Hours – Commuters Alert..



!!""DNV Srikanth, "Manikonda, "September 26, "Indian Chronicle.""Heavy rains are lashing Hyderabad city. Since midnight on Thursday (September 25), it has been raining continuously. Areas such as Jubilee Hills, Banjara Hills, Khairatabad, Lakdi-ka-pul, Erramanzil, Nampally, Dilsukhnagar, Filmnagar, Panjagutta, Somajiguda, Ameerpet, SR Nagar, Sanathnagar, Erragadda,

Chandrayangutta, Falaknuma, Santosh Nagar, Kanchanbagh, Bandlaguda, Chatrinaka, Shalibanda, Begumpet, Ranigunj, Paradise, Secunderabad Railway Station, JBS, Bowenpally, Marredpally, Addagutta, Mettuguda, Sitaphalmandi, Bansilalpet, Monda Market, LB Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Uppal, Habsiguda, Tarnaka and several other parts of the city are experiencing heavy rainfall. "Because of the non-stop downpour since midnight, residents are facing severe difficulties. Commuters heading to offices in the morning are particularly struggling. Waterlogging on roads has caused traffic jams in several areas, making it hard for drivers and passengers to move around. In response to weather department warnings, GHMC, Hyderabad Disaster Response Force, and Monsoon Emergency teams have been put on alert. Relief operations are already underway in flood-affected and lowlying areas. The Meteorological Department has forecast moderate to heavy rainfall in Hyderabad for the next two hours.""Citizens are strongly advised to stay indoors, avoid non-essential travel, and continuously monitor official weather and traffic updates. The coming hours are critical as the city battles to manage the overflow and prevent any

Rachakonda Police Launch "Golden Care" Initiative for Senior Citizens"



"""NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Medipally, Sept 26, Indian Chronicle: Rachakonda Police Commissionerate has launched "Golden Care – Suvarna Samrakshana", a program dedicated to the protection, care, and dignity of senior citizens. The initiative emphasizes that elders are the roots of society who worked hard for future generations, and they deserve care and support. Under the guidance of Commissioner G. Sudheer Babu, IPS, the program will focus on regular visits to seniors, moral support,

awareness on cyber safety, medical and emergency assistance through tie-ups with hospitals, and guidance on welfare schemes such as health insurance and medical aid. The program also provides assistance in reporting financial frauds, addressing cases of physical or mental harassment, neglect, and abandonment. Support will be extended for tracing missing persons and recovering lost items. Police will also enforce provisions such as BNSS Section 144 for action against those neglecting senior citizens, and the Maintenance Act (Sections 4 & 5), which enables elders to claim financial support from their children. As part of this initiative, Medipally Police stated that "senior citizens are true pillars of society and repositories of wisdom, reflecting our culture. Through Golden Care, we will always stand by them as family members." In line with this, Medipally Inspector Govind Reddy distributed fruits and kits to senior citizens at Parvathapur Double Bedroom Colony and Devender Nagar in Boduppal. Senior citizens in need of assistance may contact the Helpline - 14567 or reach out via Rachakonda WhatsApp number

Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Attends Bathukamma Celebrations Organized by PJR Foundation""



"Kishore Vaddepalli, September 26, Uppal, Indian Chronicle"Uppal Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy attended the Bathukamma celebrations held at Necklace Road in the city, organized by the

She participated in the event upon the invitation of



Khairatabad Corporator Vijaya Reddy, daughter of PJR. "On this occasion, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy, along with Vijaya Reddy, Cherlapally Corporator Bonthu Sridevi, and other corporators, took part in the Bathukamma festivities, including singing and dancing. Everyone came together and played "Bathukamma.

Hon'ble Minister Shri Nara Lokesh Inaugurates Elista's 250 Crore Manufacturing Facility in Kadapa



Hyderabad Elista, one of India's fastest-growing consumer electronics brands under the TeknoDome group, inaugurated its new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility on 2 September in Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh. The inauguration was performed by Shri Nara Lokesh, Hon'ble Minister for Industries of the state.

The modern facility, built with a phased investment of ?250 crore, marks an important milestone in India's electronics manufacturing journey. Spread across 1.32 lakh sq. ft., Phase 1 of the plant is now operational with a capacity to produce up to 1 million Smart TVs and 1 million LED monitors annually. In Phase 2, Elista plans to expand production to include washing machines, dishwashers, and smart accessories. Located close to Chennai and Visakhapatnam ports, the Kadapa facility gives Elista a strong logistics advantage, cutting shipping times to Dubai to just five days. The plant includes automated assembly lines, robotics, and advanced quality checks. It also incorporates eco-friendly elements such as rainwater harvesting, solar energy integration, and ESD-safe zones, reflecting Elista's commitment to responsible manufacturing. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Nara Lokesh, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, said "Elista's new facility will make Kadapa a hub for world-class electronics manufacturing. It reflects the spirit of 'Make in India' and supports our vision for industrial growth in Andhra Pradesh. I am glad that this plant has come up here, as it will create jobs for our youth and strengthen the state's position on the global map."On the inauguration of the plant, Mr. Saket Gaurav, Chairman & Managing Director of Elista, said: "This is more than just a manufacturing launch, it is a defining chapter in Elista's journey. In just four years, we have gone from being a challenger brand to creating products that stand alongside the best in the world, and now we are making them in India. The Kadapa facility reflects our Make in India ambition, while strengthening our capacity, creating jobs, and helping us serve both Indian and global consumers better.'

Veeranarari Chakali Ilamma Jayanthi Celebrations Held Grandly at Habsiguda"



"Nacharam, (Indain Chornical) September 26: The Jayanthi celebrations of Veeranarari Chakali Ilamma were held in a grand manner at Habsiguda Division in Ramanthapur." As the chief guest, Habsiguda Division Corporator Kakkireni Chetana Harish attended the program and paid floral tributes to the statue of Ilamma. "On this occasion, Ramanthapur Rajaka Sangham President Boddupalli Danayya, General Secretary Boddupalli Jithu, Working President Boddupalli Ravi, Treasurer Boddupalli Satyanarayana, Advisors Boddupalli Krishna, Boddupalli Pedda Shankar, and Boddupalli Venkatesh along with several others participated in the celebrations.

Cyberabad CP visited the Gangaram water-logging point"



"Miyapur September 26 Cyberabad CP visited the Gangaram water-logging point and My Home Mangala Railway Under Bridge and several other key locations within the Miyapur Traffic Police limits.""In view of the ongoing rainfall and heavy water logging across Cyberabad, CP instructed that traffic staff should promptly implement traffic diversions wherever required. To ensure immediate coordination with GHMC/Hydraa for quick action. For clearance of water and to take all necessary steps to regulate traffic and ease congestion at bottleneck points.

MPR Participates in Chakkali Ailamma Jayanti Celebrations in Ramantapur and Habsiguda"



"Kishore Vaddepalli, September 26, Uppal, Indian Chronicle"On the occasion of the 130th birth anniversary of Telangana's armed struggle heroine, Chakkali Ailamma, celebrations were held at the statue of Chakkali Ailamma at Chinna Cheruvu Dobighat in Ramantapur and at the portrait of Chakkali Ailamma in Habsiguda, Street Number 8, Green Hills Colony. The Habsiguda Rajaka Sangham organized the floral tributes to her portrait, paying homage in a grand manner. During the event,

Parameshwar Reddy spoke about the bravery shown by Chakkali Ailamma in the armed struggle for land, freedom, and liberation from slavery. He emphasized that her courage symbolized the very essence of Telangana's existence and identity. Parameshwar Reddy also stated that Chakkali Ailamma's life is a testament to the Telangana struggle, and her spirit is an inspiration for all. He assured that efforts would continue to work towards realizing her ideals and goals. The event saw the participation of several prominent leaders, including leaders from the Ramantapur



Rajaka Sangham—Danayya, Jittu, Krishna, Ravi, Satyanarayana, Prasad, Vijay, Chitti, Arun Sai, Bhemesh, Rajesh, Shankar, Srinivas, Bikshapathi—as well as senior Congress leaders like Taufiq, Ramantapur Division President Rafique, Vallapu Srikanth Yadav, Garik Sudhakar, Jalil Pasha, Upender Reddy, Raji Reddy, Bhaskar Gangaputra, Lukas, Mutyala Jangayya, Mutyala Babu, Satti Reddy, Sudhakar, K. Swami, G. Swami, Aleem, Bullet Ashok, Sandeep, Bhaskar, Zillu, Jangayya, Sridhar, Kashamalla Shankar, Chintu Ganesh, Saleem, Gautam, Ambika, Menga Shoba, and senior Congress leaders from Habsiguda, including Boppannapalli Sudhakar Reddy, Habsiguda Division President Vijay, Pet Murali Krishna Mudiraj, Dharma Nayak, Rajanna, Vasu, Habsiguda Rajaka Sangham President Venkatesh, Vice President Devayya, General Secretary Munna, Cashier J. Nagaraju, and body members J. Nagaraju, Jai Srinivasulu, Shiva Rajulu, Srinivasulu, Komareddy Narendra, Srinivas, Nagayya, Nageswar Rao,

Depot Manager Utukuri inspected the Aswaraopet bus stand. Sunitha



Aswaraopet S. NAGA MANOJ KUMAR (September 26):- Utukuri Sunitha, who recently took charge as the new



Sathupalli depot manager, visited the Aswaraopet bus stand on Friday and gave appropriate instructions to the staff. Kaliya Tiri Garu walked around the bus stand premises. He gave appropriate instructions to the cargo agent. He called the auto drivers and gave them appropriate instructions that it is not good to keep autos blocking the entrance of buses at the ingate. He advised the owners to keep the stalls clean without littering. He said that continuous monitoring will be done to keep the bus stand clean. The depot manager was accompanied by Assistant Manager P Vijaya Sri, Village Bus Officer Kinnera Anand Rao, Controller R.V. Rao, and others.

Black jaggery seized at RTA checkpost

Ashwaraopet S NAGA MANOJ KUMAR: 4104 kg of black jaggery seized from a TATA Intra pickup vehicle at the RTA check post. As part of a special drive on the orders of Telangana Excise Enforcement Director Shri Shanawaz Qasim, Joint Khammam District Excise Deputy Commissioner G. Janardhan Reddy, Assistant Commissioner G. Ganesh, AES K. Tirupati, Excise Enforcement SI Ch. Sri Hari Rao, and staff conducted inspections at the Ashwaraopet RTA check post. A Tata Intra pickup with BS6 registration number AP 39 UY 8379 was stopped and inspected, and 4104 kg of black jaggery, 30 kg of alum, and 10 liters of natu sari were found in it. Further investigation revealed that this black jaggery was being smuggled by A1) Kodamanchili Kranthi, A2) Savarapu Ravi A3) Pulidindi Harish (who is absconding) from East Godavari to Bhadradri Kothagudem district via Aswaraopet from Tanuku in Andhra Pradesh. 2 cell phones were seized from them, and this



black jaggery, agarwood, natu sarai, cell phones, and the accused were handed over to the Aswaraopet excise station for further investigation. Head Constable Karim and Constables Sudheer, Venkat, and Upender participated in these inspections.

"Clean Public Service is the Main Goal of the Congress Party: Nemali Anil Kumar"





"As Promised, Completion of Underground Drainage Works in Mallapur SC Basti" Nacharam, (Indian Chornical) September 26: In line with the assurance given during the "Basti Baata" program earlier, the underground drainage works in Mallapur Division SC Basti have been successfully completed today with the support of Uppal Constituency Congress Party Incharge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy Garu. ""Speaking on the occasion, Greater Congress Senior Leader Nemali Anil Kumar Garu stated that delivering clean and transparent governance to the people is the primary objective of the Congress Party's public service. ""On this occasion, the residents of the basti warmly felicitated Nemali Anil Kumar Garu and expressed their happiness. A large number of basti residents, senior Congress leaders, and local youth actively participated in the program.

Parameshwar Reddy Participates in Devi Sharannavaratri Celebrations at Nacharam



"Nacharam (Indian Chornical)September 26: Part of the Devi Sharannavaratri Utsavams, Uppal Constituency Congress Party Incharge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy visited the Nacharam Mahankalamma Temple, offered special prayers, and sought the blessings of the Goddess.""On this occasion, the Utsav Committee members felicitated Parameshwar Reddy with great respect. He conveyed his wishes that the divine blessings of the Goddess be showered abundantly on the people of Uppal Constituency, bring-



ing happiness, prosperity, and well-being to all. "The event was attended by Temple EO Venkanna, Temple Committee members Methuku Srinivas Reddy, Krishna Yadav, Tanniru Rakesh, Balaraju, Narsing Rao, Uma, Sunil Reddy, leaders Krishna Reddy, Mahesh Yadav, Nacharam Division President Srikanth Goud, along with Ram Reddy, Mamidala Santhosh Reddy, Gadda Kranti, Prakash Reddy, Rakesh, Azeem, Venkatesh Goud, Prem Kumar Goud, Rajasekhar, Poornima, and several other committee members.

Unveiling of Veera Vanitha Chakali Ailamma Statue by MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen"



"Kishore Vaddepally, Uppal, September 26, Indian Chronicle-"Under the leadership of BRS Party State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, a statue of Telangana's Veera Vanitha (brave woman warrior) Chakali Ailamma was grandly unveiled on Friday by Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and Chilkanagar Division Corporator, former GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj. "Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy expressed happiness over the installation of Chakali Ailamma's statue at Raghavendra Nagar Colony in Chilkanagar Division by BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj. He emphasized the importance of working towards



the ideals and dreams of Chakali Ailamma, the brave woman fighter of Telangana. "Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen stated that many families from the Rajaka (washerman) community reside in the Chilkanagar Division and are considered the heirs of Ailamma. She encouraged them to strive to fulfill her aspirations and grow socially, economically, and politically while playing an active role in realizing her ideals. The event witnessed a large participation, including Malkajgiri Parliament in-charge Ragidi Lakshma Reddy, senior BRS leaders, colony association members, and members of the Telangana Madelayya Rajaka Sangham.

Uppal Congress Leaders Pay Glowing Tributes to Veeranari Chakali Ilamma""

Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 26, Indian Chronicle"On the occasion of the 130th birth anniversary of Veeranari Chakali Ilamma, senior Congress leaders paid floral tributes at her statue near the Chinna Cheruvu in Ramanthapur. Among those who offered their respects were Janampalli Venkateshwar Reddy, former PCC Youth General Secretary Gaddam Ravikumar, Ramanthapur Congress Party in-charge Tavidaboyina Giribabu, Uppal Congress A-Block General Secretary Survi Murali Goud, Vishwakarma Greater Hyderabad President Bikshapathi Chari, T. Praveen Kumar, and members of the Ramanthapur Rajaka Sangham. "Speaking on the occasion, Janampalli Venkateshwar Reddy, Gaddam Ravikumar, and Tavidaboyina Giribabu said that everyone must follow the path of courage and resistance demonstrated by Telangana's brave woman warrior Chakali Ilamma. They emphasized that it was her fighting spirit that inspired and



Hindustani maestros, Kuchipudi dancers, and children's festive Garba lit up the Sharannavarathri celebrations at Kohinoor



HyderabadKohinoor by Auro Realty, Khanamet, HiTech City, came alive with divine energy during the Dussehra Navarathri Celebrations organised by Mrs. Godi Vijetha Devi, Mr. Godi Satish Reddy, and The MedBridge Foundation. The spiritually enriching evening blended music, dance, and devotion, leaving the audience deeply moved.

The celebrations began with a soulful Sitar recital by Mrs. Poonam Bajaj (Crystal), setting a serene tone for the evening. This was followed by a mesmerizing Kuchipudi dance performance presented by the disciples of Jyothi Kalakshetram – School of Arts, under the guidance of Guru Jyothi Beddy

The young artists — Midhuna Samvedha R., Ellasiri Devaansha, Haadvi Kokkonda, A. Tarakeshwari, S. Jashwitha, P. Manvitha Reddy, Lalitha Sri Pinapala, Ameya Ramanan, K. Harshitha, Nagavanshi Akshara, Sannidhi Chintakunta, Thanvi Sarva, and S. Vaishnavi — captivated the audience with graceful performances of Pushpanjali, Rajarajeshwari Ashtakam, Dashavataram, Tarangam, and

Durga Stuthi. Their synchronised expressions and devotion-filled movements reflected the vibrant spirit of Dussehra Sharannavarathri. Adding to the grandeur of the evening was the special concert "Hindustani Music:

A Timeless Dialogue – Melodies for the Divine." Three renowned artistes from Bengaluru presented an immersive recital: Vidushi Kamala Bhat (Vocal): A Vidwat holder trained under Pt. Ganapathi Bhat Hasanagi and Pt. Parameshwar Hegde, she is a celebrated artiste and teacher through Kalashree Sangeetha Vidyalaya. Shri Vikas Naregal (Tabla): A B-High Grade AIR artiste, trained under Pt. Hire Gowdar and Pt. Ravindra Yavagal, he has accompanied legends like Pt. Vinayak Torvi and performed at prestigious festivals including Sawai Gandharva.

Power Shutdown Notice

– Mallapur""Nacharam (Indain chornical) September 26: Due to tree trimming works, power supply will be interrupted on 27 th Saturday in Mallapur areas."11KV NOMA Feeder: 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM(Chanakya Nagar, Surya Nagar, Gokul Nagar, Chanakyapuri, Modi Ventures, Chandniya Nagar, Baba Nagar)"11KV Laxmi Narsimha Feeder: 2:00 PM – 2:30 PM"(Mayflower Heights, Laxmi Narsimha Colony, B&C Estates, Mehul V. Mehta Ventures)"A press note was released by TGSPDCL – Mallapur Division, AE K. Nagaraju.

Ranga Reddy SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2025



As part of the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025 campaign, SBI Hyderabad Circle organized cleanliness activities in and around its Local Head Office today emphasizing the theme "Ek Din - Ek Ghanta - Ek Saath". The Five pillars of action under SHS 2025 (Transformation of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs), Clean Public Spaces, SafaiMitra Suraksha Shivirs, Clean Green Festivities, Advocacy for Swachhata) were carried out by State Bank of India, the Lead Bank in the State during the campaign period starting from 17th September 2025. The event was led by Chief General Manager, Shri S. Radhakrishnan along with General Managers, Deputy General Managers, and other senior officials.

The day began with cleanliness drive conducted around the LHO premises & busy commercial areas of Sultan bazar & Gujarati Galli reflecting their commitment towards creating a clean and hygienic community. Officers and staff actively participated in this drive, emphasizing the importance of cleanliness in public spaces. The activity spread the message of Swachhata (cleanliness) in an engaging and resonant manner. The activity aimed at creating awareness among participants about the significance of maintaining hygiene and cleanliness in daily life.

Speaking on this occasion CGM Shri S.Radhakrishnan

ANSWER DESTRUCTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP

said Cleanliness is not just about hygiene—it's a reflection of our values, discipline, and leadership. While the premises outside our branches may not be owned by us, it is our responsibility to ensure they are clean and welcoming. Clean restrooms for staff and customers, well-maintained signage, and tidy ATM rooms are non-negotiable. We must uphold clean systems and clean governance. As positional leaders, we must emulate real leadership by ensuring cleanliness in every sphere—inside, outside, and within our operations. Let us also recognize the unsung heroes—the cleaning staff who work silently before our day begins. Their contribution deserves honour, not invisibility. This is not a one-day affair. Let's make cleanliness a continuous culture—of pride, responsibility, and excellence."Shri Radhakrishnan appreciated and acknowledged the services of the Safaimitras in recognition of their contribution to the society. The goal of SHS is to instill a sense of responsibility and pride in maintaining cleanliness, not just as a onetime effort but as a continuous practice. The participation and enthusiasm of all the officials, staff, cleaning workers and security guards made this initiative a grand success. The event highlighted SBI's commitment to contributing to Swachh Bharat Mission and supporting government initiatives.RegardsM MukeshCM (M, C &

R.S. Brothers opens its 15th and Biggest Showroom yet in Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad*



R.S. Brothers, one of the most trusted names in family shopping, achieved a remarkable milestone with the grand launch of its 15th showroom in Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad. Located at Bommidi Elite Towers, near Old Panama Godowns, Vanasthalipuram, this outlet marked the brand's largest showroom so far, establishing itself as the biggest fashion destination for families in the region.

The launch turned into a special occasion as celebrity *couple Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala* graced the event with their presence. Their appearance added glamour and excitement to the grand opening, drawing immense attention from fans and shoppers alike.

Speaking at the event, *Naga Chaitanya* said: _"R.S. Brothers have always stood for tradition, trust, and fashion. With this new showroom, they've raised the bar, giving Hyderabad one of the finest shopping destinations."_Adding to his words, *Sobhita Dhulipala* shared: _"This store is not just about clothes, it's about celebrating occasions. From festive wear to wedding collections, R.S. Brothers have something for every family."_



Manduva Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...(Indian Chronicle.. September 26):- A view of Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah performing Bhoomi Pooja and laying the founda*Sri P. Venkateswarulu (Founder & Chairman)* said, _"We are proud to open our 15th and biggest showroom in Vanasthalipuram. This is more than just a store—it's a landmark fashion destination, bringing families the best of tradition, style, and affordability under one roof."_

Sri S. Bajamouli (Founder & Managing Director)

Sri S. Rajamouli (Founder & Managing Director) added, _"With this showroom, we have taken our promise of variety and value to the next level. From festive collections to curated wedding wear, every shopper will find something truly special here."_

Sri T. Prasada Rao (Founder & Whole-Time Director) shared, _"We are delighted to expand into Vanasthalipuram and look forward to welcoming families to experience grand celebrations in fashion, especially this Dussehra, Diwali, and wedding season."_

The Vanasthalipuram showroom unveiled a gran

d festive collection for Dussehra and Diwali, featuring premium Kanchi Pattu sarees, high-fancy sarees sourced from across India, designer bridal ensembles, authentic wedding wear, contemporary fusion styles, festive fashion, exclusive menswear brands, and kidswear. With the upcoming wedding season, shoppers were also introduced to a curated line of premium bridal sarees, elegant ethnic wear, and festive designer outfits, making R.S. Brothers the ultimate destination for every family occasion.

The R.S. Brothers team warmly invites shoppers to experience the grandeur of their biggest showroom yet at Bommidi Elite Towers, near Old Panama Godowns, Vanasthalipuram. With unbeatable prices, premium collections, and exclusive festive offers, the store promises a celebratory shopping experience like no other, perfect for Dussehra, Diwali, and the upcoming wedding season.



tion stone for the construction of godowns under the auspices of PACS at Turkapalli Mandal Center of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District.

Nadiminti Srinivas organized the 130th birth anniversary celebrations of Chakali Iilamma""



"Rangareddy September 26 The event was organized at the Jadcherla town center on the occasion of the 130th birth anniversary of Chakali Ilamma. The event was attended by Nadiminti Srinivas National Dhobi Reservation Convener, local 10th Ward Councilor Kummari Raju Pakirakkula Porata Samithi State President Jangir Pasha, local town committee president Sivakumar, local Rajaka Sangam leaders Kottani Narsimlu, Lakshmaiah Kotakada Krishnaiah, Nadiminti Gopal, Shekhar, Bonam Srinu, Amistapur Raju, Gopal, Prasad, and others. Nadiminti Srinivas said.. On the occasion of the 130th birth anniversary of Chakali Ilamma,

the great warrior who fought for the liberation of the people for land and livelihood of the weaker sections of the Telangana armed struggle, the state government is happy to officially organize the birth anniversary program. We want to create awareness in a way that fills the spirit of Chakali llamma. among the people. We want to install a statue of llamma on a tank bund, name the Janagama of Chakali llamma's own district as llamma district, and provide economic, social and political support to the Rajakulams. The entire people of Telangana are celebrating the llamma birth anniversary with great pride.

Habsiguda Corporator Kakkereni Chetana Harish Pays Tributes to Chakali Ailamma"

"Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 26 - Indian Chronicle "The birth anniversary celebrations of the brave woman Chakali Ailamma were held grandly at Ramanthapur. Habsiguda Telangana Kesari Division Corporator Kakkereni Chetana Harish attended the event as the chief guest and paid floral tributes at Ailamma's statue."On this occasion, the Corporator stated that the services of Chakali Ailamma are unforgettable and emphasized that everyone should draw inspiration from her struggle and move forward in life. She mentioned that Ailamma was a source of inspiration for the Telangana Peasant Armed Struggle, which fought against the Nizam, feudal landlords, and bonded labor for land and livelihood. "Chetana Harish described Ailamma as a heroic woman of Telangana who stood as a symbol of public resistance. "Several community leaders participated in the event, including Boddupalli Danayya, President of the Ramanthapur Rajaka Sangham Boddupalli Jittu, General Secretary Boddupalli Ravi, Working President Boddupalli Satyanarayana, Treasurer



Boddupalli Krishna, Advisor"Boddupalli Pedda Shankar Advisor Boddupalli Venkatesh, and others.

DCP issued the following instructions to the private travel



"Miyapur September 26 In view of the upcoming Dasara festival, a meeting was conducted today at Miyapur Police Station by DCP Medchal Traffic and Gama-7 Sir with all Private Travel Owners and officials from APSRTC and TSRTC. Able-4, Able-5, Able-6 Officers, Miyapur SHO, Kukatpally and Balanagar Traffic SHOs and myself participated in the meeting. During the meeting, DCP issued the following instructions to the private travel operators and APSRTC/TSRTC officials for strict compliance: "1. RTC Bus Operations i.e. APSRTC and TSRTC drivers shall halt only at designated bus stops and must move the buses immediately after passenger boarding to avoid congestion.""2. All private travel owners must ensure that no driver operates any vehicle under the influence of alcohol. ""3. All buses must be parked in a single column on the road and not side by side. ""4. Private travels must shift pickup points from busy traffic areas to normal-traffic locations. "5. Private bus travels shall shift their pickup and drop point from Miyapur X-Road to the Miyapur Metro Bus Stop.

Chakali Ailamma's aspirations should be taken as an example by today's youth and achieved development

:- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Avaiz Chisti""Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. (Indian Chronicle September 26):- Telangana armed struggle fighter Chakali Ailamma's aspirations should be taken as an example by today's youth and achieved development, said Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Avaiz Chisti. Chityala Chakali Ailamma Jayanti Jayanti programs were organized at the Amar Veerula Stupa in Bhuvanagiri town under the auspices of Challa Gurgula Raghu Babu

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Avaiz Chisti participated as the chief guest in this program. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the sacrifices made by the freedom fighter, the Telangana armed struggle hero Chakali Ailamma in the Telangana movement will never be forgotten. He reminded us that the land belongs to the brave, who fought against the aristocracy and the rulers for land and freedom. Chakali Ailamma, the hero of the Telangana armed struggle, is an inspiration to all of us to achieve our aspira-



tions. Potnak Pramod Kumar, former Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Barre Jahangir, leaders Manga Praveen Pradeep, actor Balaraj, Mazar, Dargai Hari Prasad, Dargai Devender, Sai and others participated in this program.

Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkatrao Participates in Veeranari Chakali Ilamma Jayanthi Celebrations"

"Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 26 – Indian Chronicle: "Under the aegis of the Rajaka Seva Sangham, Ramanthapur, the Jayanthi (birth anniversary) of Veeranari Chakali Ilamma, who fought against the tyrannical rule of the Nizam, the atrocities of the Razakars, and for the abolition of bonded labor and for land and livelihood, was celebrated in Ramanthapur."

On this occasion, Corporator of Ramanthapur, Bandaru Srivani Venkatrav, attended as the chief guest and paid floral tributes at the statue of Chakali Ilamma, located in front of the Rajaka Sangham building. The event was attended by Rajaka Seva Sangham Ramanthapur President Danayya, Honorary President Boddupalli Ravi, General Secretary Boddupalli Jittu, Treasurer Boddupalli Satyanarayana, and other members including Krishna, Shankar, Anand, Mutyam, Chinna Shankar, Bhemesh, Srinu, Lingam, Rajesh, Bikshapathi, Balaraj, Mahender, and several others.



On the instructions of the Director of Intermediate Education, Hyderabad, a mega parents and teachers meeting was organized in 14 government junior colleges in the district"



"Kukkadapu Naresh Kumar, Kothagudem constituency, September 26, Indian Chronicle: In this meeting, the parents of the students were informed in detail about the facilities provided in the government junior colleges, the funds released, online classes, etc. A large number of parents participated in this meeting. On this occasion, the Dis-



trict Intermediate Education Officer H. Venkateswara Rao visited the meeting of the district headquarters, Government Junior College, Kothagudem, and explained to the parents of the students the efforts being made in the junior college. The meetings of the 14 colleges across the district received a remarkable response.

District gets special recognition in Jal Sanchai Jan Bhagidari: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil.""



"Kukkadapu Naresh Kumar, Kothagudem constituency, September 26, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil said that it is a matter of pride that Telangana State is at the top in rainwater conservation programs across the country and that the district has received special recognition. The Collector said in a statement that it is a matter of pride that Bhadradri Kothagudem district has re-

ceived special recognition and a cash prize of Rs. 25 lakh under the "Jal Sanchai Jan Bhagidari - 1.0" program implemented under the auspices of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. He said that 32000 structures have been taken up in the district and 29103 water conservation works have been completed. The Collector said that rainwater conservation works such as rain gutters, water ponds, roof water harvesting, and spring ponds are being used not only in rural areas but also in urban areas. He explained that this recognition is the result of giving priority to rainwater conservation in programs like employment guarantee works and crop irrigation ponds. The Collector congratulated the district for achieving this success due to the cooperation of the people of the district, the participation of local bodies, and the efforts of rural development organizations. He said that this program will contribute greatly to conserving water resources, increasing groundwater storage, and achieving sustainability in crop productivity. In the future, more extensive rainwater conservation works will be continued, and steps will be taken to make Bhadradri Kothagudem district an example for the country in conserving water resources, Collector Jitesh V Patil said on this occasion.

Grand Manidweepa Varnana Puja Held in Manthani –

175 Arya Vysya Women Participate in Sacred Ritual with Devotional Fervor

""P.S.ASHOKAN"Indian Chronicle "Manthani, September 26: ""In a spiritually uplifting and culturally rich event, the Arya Vysya Association and the Arya Vysya Mahila Sangham of Manthani jointly organized a grand Manidweepa Varnana Puja, a revered devotional ceremony dedicated to the Divine Mother. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 175 Arya Vysva women, who offered prayers with deep devotion and adherence to sacred tradition. ""The hallmark of the ritual was the use of nine sacred items, each symbolizing divine energies, with 33 units of each item offered to the Goddess. The ritual offerings included: "33 Glass Bangles (Chitti Gajulu) "33 Cowrie Shells (Gavvalu) "33 Gomukha Chakras "33 Pearls (Mutyalu) "33 Coral Beads (Pagadalu) ""33 Lotus Seeds (Tamaraginjalu) ""33 Conch Shells (Shankhalu) "33 Gurijalu (traditional sacred beads) ""33 Black Beads (Nallapoosalu) """The meticulously conducted puja resonated with spiritual chants, creating an aura of sanctity and divine presence. The entire program was a visual and devotional spectacle, upholding the rich cultural heritage and spiritual ethos of the Arya Vysya community. ""Distinguished dignitaries and community leaders graced the occasion, including: "Sri Nalmass Prabhakar, President, Peddapalli District Arya Vysya Association "Sri Ellanki Vamshidhar, President, Manthani Town Arya Vysya Sangham "Smt. Racharla Tirumala, President, Arya Vysya Mahila Sangham""Sri Kotha Srinivas, President, Temple Committee""Sri Ollala Satyanarayana and Smt. Repala



Umadevi, Honorary Presidents "Smt. Ravikanti Renuka, District Women's Treasurer "Smt. Ravikanti Swaroopa, Secretary, Mahila Sangham "Smt. Ellanki Radhika, Treasurer Ravikanti Manohar, Sri Ollala Nagaraju, and Sri Racharla Nagabhushan "The event also drew widespread participation from community members, both men and women, reaffirming unity, devotion, and cultural pride within the Arya Vysya fraternity of Manthani. "The Manidweepa Varnana Puja served not only as a religious observance but also as a vibrant expression of feminine spiritual energy, community togetherness, and preservation of age-old Vedic traditions.

Drivers working in the police department should regularly check the condition of their vehicles, said District SP Rohit Raju IPS, who inspected the police vehicles.



"Kukkadapu Naresh Kumar, Kothagudem constituency, September 26, Indian Chronicle: Today, District SP Rohit Raju IPS inspected the vehicles used in the district police department at the district police headquarters. On this occasion, he made several suggestions to the drivers of such vehicles. He advised them to ensure that the condition of the vehicles is always good so that they are available to the public. He said that they should always be vigilant about their duties and strictly follow the rules and regu-



lations while driving. He advised them to act promptly when the vehicle suddenly stops and have minimum knowledge to resolve such problems. He said that those who work with discipline and commitment will get a good name in the police department. District Police Motor Vehicles Officer Sudhakar, SB Inspector Srinivas, Home Guards RI Narasimha Rao, Welfare RI Krishna Rao, Admin RI Lal Babu, and other officers and staff participated in the program.

Akarapu Arun Patel Participates in Chakali Ailamma Jayanti Celebrations



""Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 26, Indian Chronicle-"Under the leadership of B. Nursing, President of the Rajaka Seva Sangham, the birth anniversary celebrations of Telangana's valiant woman warrior Chakali Ailamma were held grandly. "Akarapu Arun Patel, Youth Congress President of Uppal, attended the event as the chief guest and paid rich floral tributes to the portrait of Chakali Ailamma. "On this occasion, Arun Patel stated that today's youth need to move forward inspired by the ideals of Chakali Ailamma. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of the younger generation to carry forward her mission and aspirations. "The event was also attended by Kishore, Medchal District General Secretary, and several members

of the Rajaka Sangham including General Secretary M. Anjaiah, Mallesh, Ramachandra, Madikatla Srinivas, Ramulu, Madduri Srinivas, G. Srinivas, Anjaneyulu, Yadayya, Satyanarayana, as well as local residents Gaddam Sai, Billakanti Chinna, Sudhakar, Anil, Shankar, Sudarshan, Venkatesh Gupta, Sai, Chota, Ambadas, and many others.

HYD WITNESSES SHAHEEDI NAGAR KIRTAN

Hyderabad, Sept.26: The state capital today witnessed a grand display of devotion during the 'Shaheedi Nagar Kirtan' held to commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Ninth guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib.

The procession, organised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), began from Gurdwara Sahib Sikh Chawni at Kishanbagh, and departed towards Vijayawada as part of its nationwide journey. It began from Gurdwara Dhobri Sahib, Assam, reached Hyderabad yesterday evening and today departed from Gurdwara Sahib Barambala, Sikh Chawni, en route to Vijayawada. Earlier, a Kirtan Darbar was held where Ragi Jathas recited Gurbani and scholars shared discourses on the life and teachings of the Ninth Guru.

Bathukamma celebrations on the sixth day...



"""Kukkadapu Naresh Kumar, Kothagudem constituency, September 26, Indian Chronicle: As part of the Dussehra celebrations, the 'Aligina Bathukamma' celebrations were held on the sixth day at the IDOC office under the auspices of the Zilla Parishad, District Cooperative Department, and AD Mining Department. On this occasion, the office premises were decorated with flowers and rangavallas. In a traditional atmosphere, women employees and staff decorated the Bathukammas and performed pujas together. District Additional Collector Vidya Chandana

and ZP CEO Nagalakshmi attended the celebrations as special guests and walked around the Bathukammas and sang Bathukamma songs with the women employees. The program continued to reflect the strength of women, Telangana tradition, and cultural unity during the festival.On this occasion, Additional Collector Vidya Chandana said.. "The Bathukamma festival is a symbol of respect for our Telangana girls. This traditional Bathukamma created with flowers is introducing our culture to the world. It is commendable that all the employees and staff enthusiastically participate and celebrate the festival.ZP CEO Nagalakshmi said... "Cultural and social unity is clearly visible in the Bathukamma festival. Such celebrations increase the bond between employees and officials. This Bathukamma made with flowers also reminds us of the importance of nature and environmental protection."Women employees participated in the program in traditional costumes and had a happy time singing songs with Bathukammas. Women and Child Welfare Department Officer Swarnalatha Leinana, DCO Rukmini, Tekulapalli Junior College Principal Sulochana Rani, TGO employees, District President Venkata Pullaiah, women employees, and others participated in these cel-

Change the alignment of the Regional Ring Road.. Celebrate the CPM dharna in front of the Collectorate Office from today:-

CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha """ Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. (Indian Chronicle September 26):- CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha has called for the Mahadharna being held in front of the District Collectorate Office to be celebrated. CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha has called for the Mahadharna being held in front of the District Collectorate Office on the 27th of this month demanding the change of the alignment of the Regional Ring Road (Triple R) and the provision of land in exchange for land to the displaced persons who are losing their lands. CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha has called for the participation of agricultural laborers in large numbers in support of the farmers who are losing their lands and celebrating the Mahadharna. On Friday, the CPM Bhuvanagiri Mandal Committee meeting was held at the local Sundarayya Bhavan, Bhuvanagiri under the chairmanship of District Committee member Dayyala Narasimha. Narasimha participated in the meeting and criticized the central and state governments for grabbing thousands of acres of land belonging to farmers in various mandals in the name of roads. He criticized that the proposal for the Regional Ring Road to be 40 kilometers from the Hyderabad Outer Road as proposed by the government was changed to protect the lands of MLAs, ministers, real estate companies and big businessmen and for their benefits. He questioned the government why the road that should have passed through the last villages of Bhuvanagiri mandal through Turkapalli, Rajapet Yadagirigutta and Motakondur mandals



in the northern part, according to the previous alignment, is passing through the middle. The farmers of this area have already lost their lands for the Yadagirigutta Temple, Hyderabad-Warangal main road and Kaleshwaram project canals and high-tension electricity lines, and expressed their concern about how the farmers will survive if even a little land is taken up in the name of the Regional Ring Road. Narasimha urged the government to withdraw its proposals, take up road construction as per the previously announced alignment, and give land to the displaced people who are losing their lands in exchange for land, and a large number of farmers, agricultural laborers and people should participate in the dharna being organized with the demands and make it a success. CPM Mandal Secretary Pallerla Anjaiah, Mandal Secretariat Member Konda Ashok, Mandal Committee Members Pandala Maisaiah, Abdulapuram Venkatesh, Kondapuram Yadagiri and others participated

Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilayya participated in the housewarming of Indiramma house in Theryala village "



"Mandava Srisailam...Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. (Indian Chronicle September 26):- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilayya participated in the housewarming of Indiramma house of Kancharla Lakshmi Siddhayya beneficiaries in Theryala village of



Motakondur mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. On this occasion, he handed over clothes and alms to the beneficiaries as promised. He wanted Indiramma house to be constructed in the constituency as soon as possible. He said that Indiramma house will be given to some more poor families in the second phase.

Minister Sridhar Babu Graces Grand Bathukamma Celebrations in Manthani.



"P.S.ASHOKAN"Indian Chronicle "Manthani, September 26: ""The culturally rich and vibrant Bathukamma festival was commemorated with grandeur on Thursday in Manthani town, orchestrated by the Reddy Seva Welfare Association. The venue, Reddy Bhavan, was adorned with a magnificent and elaborate Bathukamma floral arrangement, attracting scores of attendees.""The highlight of the event was the esteemed presence of Telangana State Minister for IT and Industries, Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, who attended as the chief guest, adding further significance to the celebrations. "In his address, Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized the profound cultural and spiritual importance of Bathukamma in Telangana's heritage, particularly for women. He lauded the enthusiastic participation of women in the festivities and extended his heartfelt wishes, praying that the divine blessings of Goddess Bathukamma remain with them eternally. ""Prominent dignitaries in attendance included Association President Mr.

Musukula Surender Reddy, Vice President Mr. K.K. Reddy, Honorary President Mr. M.S. Reddy, General Secretary Mr. Eluka Satyanarayana Reddy, and Assistant Secretary Mr. Musukatla Ramana Reddy. The event also witnessed the participation of former Manthani Municipal Chairperson Ms. Pendru Ramadevi, former ZPTC Member Ms. Mula Sarojana, along with several other community leaders and members. "The celebration stood as a testament to Telangana's rich cultural tapestry, communal harmony, and the enduring spirit of its traditions.

Bathukamma Kunta inauguration postponed to Sept 28

Hyderabad, Sept.26): The inauguration ceremony for Bathukamma Kunta in Amberpet has been rescheduled. The event was postponed due to continuous rainfall in Hyderabad since Thursday night (September 25).

GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi made this announcement via the social media platform X, indicating that the reopening ceremony is now set for September 28.Bathukamma Kunta has been beautifully renovated in the Amberpet area, which was once heavily encroached

The state government should expedite the ambitious construction of Indiramma houses: Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



""Mandava Srisailam...Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. (Indian Chronicle September 26):-The state government should expedite the ambitious construction of

Indiramma houses, said Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao. "On Friday, the District Collector, who inspected the construction of Indiramma houses in Muthireddygudem village of Motakondur mandal, inspected the house of a beneficiary named Vitthal, who is constructing Indiramma houses in the village. He asked the beneficiary how many days have passed since the construction of the house started and whether the first bill has been received after the construction of the house started. He asked whether money has been deposited in your accounts. He asked if sand was given, if so, at what rate did you buy bricks, and what rate is being charged for masonry work. He told the Collector that we have been waiting for a house for the last 10 years and that the local MLA has sanctioned houses after this government came to power. I took a loan of 1 lakh through Samabhavana Sangams and started housework. I told the collector that the bill even reached the basement. The concerned officials participated in this pro-

Parameshwar Reddy Participates in Devi Sharannavaratri Celebrations Organized by Uppal Navadurga Friends



Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 26, Indian Chronicle"As part of the Devi Sharannavaratri celebrations, Congress Party Uppal Constituency In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy visited the mandap set up near the Gandhi statue in Uppal and offered special prayers to the Goddess. "The celebrations were organized under the aegis of Uppal Navadurga Friends. On this occasion, the fes-

tival committee members felicitated Parameshwar Reddy with great honor. "Speaking on the occasion, he expressed his wish that the blessings of the Goddess be showered upon all the people of Uppal, and that everyone lives in happiness, prosperity, and peace. "The event saw the active participation of the mandap organizers from Uppal Navadurga Friends.

Devotees Observe 'Upanga Lalita Vratam' with Devotion on the Auspicious Occasion of Lalita Panchami.



P.S.ASHOKAN"Indian Chronicle"Manthani, September 26: ""As part of the ongoing Sharannavaratri festivities, the sacred occasion of Lalita Panchami was observed with utmost reverence and grandeur on Friday at Sri Lalitambika Devi Temple in Manchammi town. On this auspicious Ashwayuja Shuddha Panchami, devotees devoutly performed the Upanga Lalita Vratam, a spiritually significant observance that invokes the divine grace of Goddess Lalita. ""The presiding deity, Sri Lalitambika Devi, was exquisitely adorned in a white-hued ensemble, symbolizing purity and serenity. Devotees offered heartfelt prayers, engaged in devotional bhajans, and participated in jagarana (night vigil), filling the temple atmosphere with divine fervor. ""Spiritual Significance of Upanga Lalita Vratam" This sacred observance is believed to bestow the divine blessings of Goddess Lalita, the second form among the revered Tripura Traya (Trinity of Goddesses). She is venerated as Sri Lalita Parabhattarika, the supreme deity who eliminates all obstacles and grants Ashta Aishwarya (eight forms of prosperity) to her ardent devotees. ""Depicted with traditional attributes such as sugarcane bow, flower arrows, noose, and goad, the Goddess is flanked by Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Saraswati, symbolizing wealth and wisdom respectively. ""A Day of Deep Devotion for Women" "On this fifth day of Navaratri, unmarried girls observe the vratam praying for an ideal life partner, while married women seek long-lasting marital bliss and Akhanda Sowbhagyam (eternal good fortune). The ritual includes the Kumkumarchana (sacred red turmeric offering) performed with the chanting

Lalita Sahasranama and Ashtottara

Shatanamavali. ""Women invite Sumangalis (auspicious married women) to their homes, offer them tamboolam (betel leaves and areca nuts), and perform Suvasini Pooja, a tradition symbolizing respect for divine feminine energy.""Many women who have undertaken vows like the Kailasa Gowri Vratam or Grama Kumkuma Nomu complete their Udyapanam (ritual conclusion) on this day. Some organize Laksha Kumkumarchana (one hundred thousand kumkuma offerings) collectively at their homes, while others engage in Bommalakoluvu (display of dolls) and host Perantalu (ritual visits among women). "A Day of Divine Compassion and Grace"It is believed that sincere worship of Sri Lalita Devi on this day eradicates sorrow and poverty from devotees' lives. Performing Kumkum pujas is said to bestow immense Mangala Sowbhagyam (auspicious fortune). Devotees meditate upon the resplendent form of the Goddess by chanting: "> "Om Aim Hreem Shreem Sri Matre Namah" — as many times as possible, invoking her divine maternal compassion. ""As part of the naivedyam (offering), devotees traditionally present pulihora (tamarind rice) and pesara boorelu (moong dal sweet dumplings), enriching the ritual with flavor and tradition.

Former councilor AE requests installation of electricity poles in ward 30, Pahadnagar, Bhuvanagiri town

" " M a n d a v a Srisailam...Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. (Indian Chronicle September 26):-Former councilor Mohammed Laik Ahmed has submitted a request to the electricity AE Sainath to install electricity poles and new poles in ward 30, Pahadnagar, Bhuvanagiri town.

Former municipal councilor Congress party leaders, Mohammed Laik Ahmed, have informed the AE in the request that there is a lot of gap between the poles in Pahadnagar, which will cause problems during



the rainy season. Responding to this, he said that the AE has informed that he will install the middle poles in two to three days. On this occasion, former councilor Laik Ahmed thanked the AE.

Today's generation should take the spirit of Veera Nari Chakali Ailamma's struggle as an example:

- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



"Mandava Srisailam...Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. (Indian Chronicle September 26) :- Today's generation should take the spirit of Veera Nari Chakali Ailamma's struggle as an example, said Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao. On Friday, at the Chakali Ailamma Jayanti program organized by the District Backward Classes Development Department to commemorate Ailamma's birth anniversary at the Collectorate Conference Hall, the District Collector and Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao, along with the people of the Rajaka caste, leaders of other caste associations and officials, lit the lamp and garlanded the portrait of Ailamma and paid tributes. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that she was a great warrior who stood up for the people of the weaker sections of the Telangana region as a farmer's armed struggle fighter for land and livelihood,



and that the present generation should follow in her footsteps and contribute to social consciousness. She said that the rule of the nobles, who were women, inspired them by confronting injustices and irregularities, and that everyone in society is equal.

Everyone has the right to live, and she is a role model for the world. She said that the youth should rise to a higher position by excelling in education. Representatives of various associations who participated in this program remembered the struggles of Veera Nari Chakali Ailamma and the sacrifices they made for the struggle. District Backward Classes Development Officer Sahithi, JAC Chairman Upender Reddy, Administration Officer Jaganmohan Prasad, district officials, representatives of various associations, Collectorate staff and others participated in this program.

Minister Sridhar Babu Immerses in Sacred Rituals During Spiritual Sojourn in Manthani.

. S . A S H O K A N " I n d i a n Chronicle "Manthani, September 26: ""In a deeply spiritual gesture, Telangana Minister for IT and Industries, Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, actively participated in a series of divine and cultural programs held in Manthani town on Friday, as part of his ongoing commitment to upholding the region's spiritual and cultural ethos.""The Minister commenced his visit with a devout darshan of Goddess Sri Mahalakshmi at the Sri Mahalakshmi Temple, where he joined devotees in the ongoing nine-day devotional bhajan celebrations, being held with great fervour and discipline.""Moved by the sanctity of the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu engaged in the proceedings with evident devotion. As a mark of respect, Chief Priest Marupaka Prashanth, along with temple associates Avadhanula Srinivas and Marupaka Nataraj, honoured the Minister with a traditional shawl (shaaluva) and presented him with Teertha Prasadam. ""Participation in Sacred Ceremonies and Homam "The Minister then proceeded to the Sri Lalita Devi Temple, where he performed special pujas to the presiding deity and actively took part in the Homagundam ritual—a sacred fire ceremony believed to purify and empower the spiritual environment. ""At the event, he was felicitated by the Sri Seetharama Seva Sadan team. including President Karne Haribabu, coordinators Nalgonda Hari, Duddilla Ganapathi, Kollarapu Srinivas, and temple priest Palli Muralidhar, who commended the Minister's humility and spiritual involvement. ""Darshan at Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple""Minister Sridhar Babu concluded his spiritual tour with a visit to the Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, where he offered prayers and received blessings. He was warmly welcomed by temple priest Ramadugu Sai Srinivas, Temple Committee Chairperson Mahavadi Jalaja Satyanarayana, him with prasadam and felicitated him with a shawl, acknowledging his reverence and continued support of religious institutions. ""Minister's Reflections on Spiritual Life""Speaking to the media and gathered devotees, the



Minister expressed profound joy at being able to participate in the spiritually rich and traditionally rooted programs held across Manthani. ""> "Participating in such sacred ceremonies fills me with immense peace and joy," he said.""It is truly heartening to witness how Manthani continues to uphold our rich spiritual traditions with unwavering devotion. I sincerely pray for the health, happiness, and well-being of all the people of Telangana. Serving the welfare of the public is not just my responsibility—it is my dharma," the Minister remarked."""Distinguished Attendees""The Minister was accompanied by an array of prominent political and community leaders, whose presence added to the significance of the occasion: "Aili Prasad - President, Mandal Congress""Kotha Srinivas - Chairman, Single Window Committee "Vodnala Srinivas - Former Sarpanch, Manthani "Musukula Surender Reddy – President, Reddy Sangham""Kududula Venkanna - Chairman, Market Committee""Pendri Ramadevi Suresh Reddy - Former Municipal Chairperson "Mula Sarojana Purushottam Reddy – Former ZP I C***Senior Congress leaders: Shashi Bhushar Kache, Banda Kishore Reddy, Pentari Raju, Choppakatla Hanumanth Rao, Ekketi Anantha Reddy, Akula Kiran, Arelli Kiran, Ravikanti Satish Kumar, Ellanki Sadanandam, among

Manidweepa Varnana Puja Reverberates with Divine Grace in Manthani.



P.S.ASHOKAN "Indian Chronicle "Manthani, September 26: "Arya Vaishya Women Embark on a Sacred Journey Through Symbolic Offerings""In a resplendent celebration of divine femininity and spiritual devotion, the Arya Vaishya Association, in collaboration with its Women's Wing, orchestrated a profoundly sacred Manidweepa Varnana Puja in Manthani, drawing widespread participation and reverence from the community.""The ceremony witnessed the active participation of 175 Arya Vaishya women devotees, who performed an elaborate and deeply symbolic ritual invoking the divine presence of the Goddess as enshrined in Manidweepa — the celestial abode described in ancient scriptures. ""Ritualistic Offerings of Deep Symbolism""In keeping with sacred tradition, the puja was performed using nine spiritually significant items, each offered in sets of 33, symbolizing completeness, divine order, and cosmic balance. The items included: "33 glass bangles (Chitti Gajulu) – symbolizing beauty and strength "33 cowrie shells (Gavvalu) - representing wealth and protection "33 Gomukha chakras – signifying the sacred wheel of creation "33 pearls (Mutyalu) - denoting purity and wisdom "33 coral beads (Pagadalu) - invoking health and auspiciousness""33 lotus seeds (Tamara Ginjalu) - emblematic of spiritual awakening "33 conch shells (Shankhams) - carriers of the primordial sound "33 crystal stones (Gurijalu) channeling divine energy "33 black beads (Nallapoosalu) offering protection from negativity""These offerings were carefully curated and arranged as part of the Manidweepa Varnana, a devotional hymn describing the opulence and transcendental beauty of the Goddess's eternal abode.""Esteemed Dignitaries in Attendance""The spiritual ambience was further elevated by the presence of notable community leaders and dignitaries, who lent their support and reverence to the occasion: "Nalmas Prabhakar - President, Peddapalli District Arya Vaishya Sangham""Ellanki Vamshidhar – President, Manthani Arya Vaishya Association""Racharla Tirumala – President, Women's Wing""Kotha Srinivas – President, Temple Committee""Ollala Satyanarayana and Repala Umadevi – Honorary Presidents""Ravikanti Renuka – Treasurer, District Women's Wing""Ravikanti Swaroopa – Secretary, Women's Wing""Ellanki Radhika – Treasurer, Women's Wing""Bavikanti Manohar, Ollala Nagaraju, Racharla Nagabhushan – Senior Members of the Association""The event was a testament to the spiritual solidarity and cultural richness of the Arya Vaishya community. With its emphasis on sacred symbolism, collective devotion, and traditional values, the Manidweepa Varnana Puja served as a beautiful convergence of faith, community, and divine grace.

School Work Should Be Completed: Additional Collector (Local Institutions), In- charge DEO Deepak Tiwari"

""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. September, 26. "Infrastructure work in government schools to be completed immediately. District Additional Collector (Local Bodies), In-charge DEO Deepak Tiwari said.On a review meeting was held with education and engineering officials at the conference hall of the Integrated District Collectorate Building in the district center on the issues of infrastructure in schools, construction of classrooms, construction of additional rooms. Speaking on the occasion, he ordered the officials to take steps to immediately complete the infrastructure in government schools, Kasturba Gandhi Girls' Vidyalayas, drinking water, toilets, separate toilets for girls, electricity supply, construction of rooms, construction of additional rooms and other works. He said that the work being undertaken under the Prime Minister's Juga and Prime Minister's Jan Man schemes should be completed quickly. He said that the officials should take steps to quickly complete the work undertaken in the education sector in the district and bring it into use.

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos says corruption scandal protests justified



GNS News Agency, Sept 26

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said on Monday (September 15, 2025) he did not blame people for taking part in street protests "one bit" as anger mounts over a corruption scandal involving phony flood control projects. The infrastructure scandal has prompted a series of protests across the capital Manila in recent weeks, including one involving about 3,000 students at the University of the Philippines campus.

While most demonstrations so far have largely been small-scale, an annual protest tied to the 1972 declaration of martial law by Marcos's father is expected to draw large crowds on Sunday (September 14, 2025). The Southeast Asian nation's army has been placed on "red alert" as a precaution. At a Monday (September 15, 2025) press briefing where he named a former Supreme Court justice head of an investigatory body, Marcos said the public's anger was justified. Protesters stage an anti-corruption rally at

EDSA Shrine in Quezon City, metro Manila amid the anomalous flood control projects and infrastructure schemes. "To show that you are enraged, to show that you are angry, to show that you are disappointed, to show that you want justice... What's wrong with that?" Mr. Marcos said at at a press briefing. "I don't blame them. Not one bit". He also reiterated a pledge that friends and allies "would not be spared" when quizzed about his cousin, House Speaker Martin Romualdez, whose name was brought up by witnesses at hearings into the scandal last week.Mr. Romualdez, who has denied any involvement, is one of numerous lawmakers placed in the spotlight by the widening scandal.Last week, the owners of a construction firm accused nearly 30 House members and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials of taking cash payments.Mr. Marcos on Monday (September 15, 2025) announced former Supreme Court justice Andres Reyes would head a three-person commission tasked with looking into the past 10 years of flood control projects. While the body will have the power to conduct hearings and review evidence, they are not authorised to unilaterally levy punishments. The Philippines has a long history of scandals involving public funds, in which high-ranking politicians found guilty of corruption have typically escaped serious jail time. The Department of Finance has estimated that the Philippine economy lost up to 118.5 billion pesos (\$2 billion) from 2023 to 2025 due to corruption in flood control projects. Vince Dizon, an economist and political aide under multiple administrations, earlier this month took the reins of the DPWH, whose reputation has taken a severe hit. On Monday (September 15, 2025), he dismissed three agency officials in Bulacan province north of Manila, long-plagued by flooding, for misconduct and gross neglect of duty.

From Gaza to Europe, via jet ski: Muhammad Abu Dakha's daring escape story

GNS News Agency, Sept 26

LAMPEDUSA, Italy, Sept 15 It took more than a year, several thousand dollars, ingenuity, setbacks and a jet ski: this is how Muhammad Abu Dakha, a 31-year-old Palestinian, managed to escape from Gaza to reach Europe. He documented his story through videos, photographs and audio files, which he shared with Reuters. Reuters also interviewed him and his travel companions upon their arrival in Italy, and their relatives in the Gaza Strip. Fleeing the devastation caused by the nearly two-year-old Israel-Hamas war, in which Gaza health authorities say more than 57,000 Palestinians have been killed, Abu Dakha crossed the Rafah border point into Egypt in April 2024, paying \$5,000.

He said he initially went to China, where he hoped to win asylum, but returned to Egypt, via Malaysia and Indonesia, after that failed. He showed Reuters email correspondence with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Representation in China from August and September 2024. Abu Dakha then went to Libya where, according to multiple reports by human rights groups and the U.N., tens of thousands of migrants are routinely abused and exploited by traffickers and militias while trying to secure a spot on a boat to Europe.

According to data from Italy's interior ministry, more than 47,000 boat migrants have arrived in the country in the year to date, mostly from Libya and Tunisia. But Abu Dakha made it across in highly unusual circumstances. After 10 failed crossing attempts with smugglers, he said he purchased a used Yamaha jet ski for about \$5,000 through a Libyan online marketplace and invested another \$1,500 in equipment, including a GPS, a satellite phone and life jackets. Accompanied by two other Palestinians, 27-year-old Diaa and 23-year-old Bassem, he said he drove the jet ski for about 12 hours, seeing off a chasing Tunisian patrol boat, all while towing a dinghy with extra supplies.

The trio used ChatGPT to calculate how much fuel they would need, but still ran out some 20 km (12 miles) shy of Lampedusa. They managed to call for help, prompting a rescue and their landing on Italy's southernmost island on August 18. They were picked up by a Romanian patrol boat taking part in a Frontex mission, a spokesperson for the European Union's border agency said, describing the circumstances as "an unusual occurrence.""It was a very difficult journey, but we were adventurers. We had strong hope that we would arrive, and God gave us strength," said Bassem, who did not share his surname. "The way they came was pretty unique," said Filippo Ungaro, spokesperson for UNHCR Italy, confirming that authorities recorded their arrival in Italy after a jet ski journey from the Libyan port of al-Khoms and a rescue off Lampedusa. In a straight line, al-Khoms is about 350 km from Lampedusa.

Abu Dakha contacted Reuters while staying in Lampedusa's migrant centre, after being told by a member of the staff there that his arrival via jet ski had been reported by local media. From that point he shared material and docu-



ments, although Reuters was unable to confirm certain aspects of his account. From Lampedusa, the odyssey continued. The three men were taken by ferry to mainland Sicily, then transferred to Genoa in northwestern Italy, but escaped from the bus transporting them before getting to their destination. A spokesperson for the Italian interior ministry said it had no specific information about the trio's movements. After hiding in bushes for a few hours, Abu Dakha took a plane from Genoa to Brussels. He shared with Reuters a boarding card in his name for a low-cost flight from Genoa to Brussels Charleroi, dated August 23.

From Brussels, he said he travelled to Germany, first taking a train to Cologne, then to Osnabrueck in Lower Saxony, where a relative picked him up by car and took him to Bramsche, a nearby town. He says he has applied for asylum, and is waiting for a court to examine his application, with no date set yet for a hearing. He has no job or income and is staying in a local centre for asylum seekers. Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees declined to comment on his case, citing privacy reasons. Abu Dakha's family remains in a tent camp in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, their home destroyed. "He had an internet shop, and his work, thank God, was comfortable financially and everything. He had built things up, and it all collapsed," said his father, Intesar Khouder Abu Dakha, speaking from Gaza. Abu Dakha hopes to win the right to stay in Germany, and bring over his wife and two children, aged four and six. He said one of them suffers from a neurological condition requiring medical care. "That's why I risked my life on a jet ski," he said. "Without my family, life has no meaning." Additional reporting by Hussam al-Masri in Gaza and Friederike Heine in Berlin, Editing by Keith Weir and Timothy Heritage

Russia warns Europe: we will go after any state which takes our assets

GNS News Agency, Sept 26Russian service members attend a ceremony to receive new vehicles and military equipment handed over by the Russian movement "People's Front" for the military involved in Russia-Ukraine conflictRussian service members attend a ceremony to receive new vehicles and military equipment handed over by the Russian movement "People's Front" for the military involved in Russia-Ukraine conflict, in Rostov-on-Don, Russia February 23, 2025. REUTERS/Stringer/ FILE Photo Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab

MOSCOW, Sept 15 (Reuters) - Russia on Monday warned European states that it would go after any state which sought to take its assets after reports that the European Union was floating the idea of spending billions of dollars worth of frozen Russian assets to help Ukraine. After President Vladimir Putin sent his army into Ukraine in 2022, the United States and its allies prohibited transactions with the Russian central bank and finance ministry and blocked \$300-\$350 billion of sovereign Russian assets, mostly European, U.S. and British government bonds held in a European securities depository. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here. Reuters reported that European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen wants the European Union to find a new way to finance Ukraine's defence against Russia using the cash balances associated with Russian assets frozen in Europe. Politico reported that the European Commission is mulling the idea of using Russian cash deposits, opens new tabat the European Central Bank



from maturing bonds owned by Russia to fund a "Reparations Loan" for Ukraine." If this happens, Russia will pursue the EU states, as well as European degenerates from Brussels and individual EU countries who try to seize our property, until the end of the century, "former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev wrote on Telegram. Russia will pursue European states in "all possible ways" and in "all possible international and national courts" as well as "out of court", said Medvedev, who serves as deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council. Russia says any seizure of its assets amounts to theft by the West and will undermine confidence in the bonds and currencies of the United States and Europe

Czech opposition ANO party widens lead before October election



GNS News Agency, Sept 26

PRAGUE, Sept 15 (Reuters) - Czech billionaire and former Prime Minister Andrej Babis's ANO party increased its lead over the main ruling parties before an October 3-4 parliamentary election, according to the latest opinion poll. The centre-right SPOLU (Together) coalition, led by Prime Minister Petr Fiala, trails the main opposition ANO party by more than 10 percentage points, at 20.2% support versus 31.3% for Babis's ANO, according to the poll by STEM agency for CNN Prima News, which was released on Sunday. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here. Polls show as many as seven groups winning seats in the lower house of parliament, although none is forecast to win a

majority. If it does win next month's vote, ANO is expected to lead coalition talks to find votes from smaller parties to form a cabinet. The party is promising more spending, tax cuts and opposition to the European Union's green policies.Babis, an ally of Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban and the French far-right in the eurosceptic Patriots for Europe group in the European Parliament, may turn for support to the anti-EU and pro-Russian SPD and Stacilo! parties or the Motorists party. ANO officials have said the party will not accept demands threatening the country's place within the EU or NATO.** ANO (YES, Action by Dissatisfied Citizens) - centrist, populist; main opposition party of billionaire and former Prime Minister Andrej Babis; part of the anti-Brussels Patriots for Europe group in European Parliament** SPOLU (Together)- centre-right coalition led by the Civic Democrats of Prime Minister Petr Fiala; main government party** SPD (Direct Democracy Party) - farright, wants to quit NATO and EU, pro-Russian** STAN (Mayors and Independents) - liberal, centrist pro-EU party, wants closer integration and adoption of the euro; junior government party** Pirati (Pirates) - liberal, centrist party with focus on anti-graft and transparency agenda, pro-European integration, pro-euro; were part of current government until last year** Stacilo! (Enough!) - far-left grouping around the former Communist Party; anti-EU, anti-NATO, pro-Russian; includes the diminished former ruling Social Democrats party; not represented in current parliament* Motoriste Sobe (Motorists for Themselves) - right-wing party fighting EU's green policies; not represented in current par-

Stop paying more for being a woman: avoid Pink Tax

GNS News Agency, Sept 26

Same haircut, yet different price tags. Ever observed why your daughter's haircut often costs more than son's? Do the scissors charge extra for braids and bows? Nope. It's just a markup born out of gender-based price discrimination! And it's not just haircuts. Pink toys are heftier than other toys, and women's shampoos, conditioners and razors are often expensive than men's variants. This gender-based price disparity is subtle, yet real. Welcome to the world of pink tax, where being a woman could mean paying extra. But wait, the Pink Tax is not a problem meant for women alone. It can silently erode a significant portion of a family's savings, especially in households where women are not part of the workforce.

What is Pink Tax?

Pink tax is neither a real tax, nor is it a government-imposed fee. It's just a pricing phenomenon wherein women pay more for buying a product exclusively made for them or enjoying a service tailor-made for them. As there is no outright ban on pink tax, firms reap benefits by pocketing extra revenue generated out of selling the items, without contributing to government's coffers. Pink toys, haircuts, drycleaning, razors, shampoos, body lotions, deodorants, facial care, skincare items, beauty care, clothing, T-shirts, jeans, salon services etc. suffer the tax. The term "Pink Tax" is believed to have originated in the U.S. in California in 1994. As per a study done in the U.S., personal care products targeting women were 13% costlier than men's. Further, women's accessories and adult clothing were 7% and 8% more expensive.

The study showed that in their entire lives, women pay thousands of dollars more than men for buying similar products. It further said since many women earn less than men on an average, the Pink Tax throws additional burden on them, economically. Another study in the U.S. said the price for dry cleaning women's shirts were 90% more expensive than those of men's. In the U.K, an analysis showed women's deodorant was at least 8.9% more expensive than men's variant and women's facial moisturiser was 34.28% more expensive. In 2017, the United Nations urged its member states to put an end to this gender-based price discrimination and to help women gain equal access to economic participation

Pink Tax in IndiaThe problem of Pink Tax is yet to bother most Indian families. As per International Finance Students Association's (IFSA) research 'The Gender Tax:

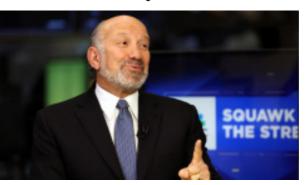


Assessing the Economic Toll on Women,' almost 67% of Indian individuals have never heard of the Pink Tax.In July 2018, the Union Government exempted sanitary napkins and tampons from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Prior to this rule, these hygiene items were levied 12% GST. Probably, this was the time when Indian women took notice of this gender-based disparity in pricing.

How to avoid Pink Tax?

With a little awareness, you can outsmart the Pink Tax. Choose gender-neutral products or men's variants whenever possible. Compare the quality and if the men's variant is better, skip the pink packaging or choose unisex products. Instead of comparing prices of the entire package, check the price per unit. For example, compare cost per ml or gram before buying. This can lead to huge savings over time. Often, salons charge more for girls/women even for "basic" short haircuts. Bargain to save a considerable amount. Ask for gender-neutral pricing or visit unisex salons that offer fair and transparent pricing. Compare the cost of men's and women's variants in e-commerce websites before rushing to buy. Do some research. There are some Indian start-ups that market themselves as gender-neutral and pocket-friendly brands. Further, there are several consumer advocacy groups that campaign for the cause; supporting them could encourage a shift toward fair pricing.NCDRC rulingWhile there are no specific laws in India to address the issue of Pink Tax, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission ruled that companies must follow fair pricing policies and avoid gender-based price discrimination. The Pink Tax exists because you pay quietly. If people started comparing prices and switched smartly, markets might ensure fair pricing. Avoiding the pink tax is not just about saving money, it's also about claiming equality in the marketplace.

India brags about having 1.4 billion people but won't buy one bushel of U.S. corn: Lutnick



GNS News Agency, Sept 26

India brags about having 1.4 billion people but won't buy even a small amount of American corn, United States Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has said, asserting that New Delhi must bring down its tariffs or face a "tough time" doing business with the U.S.Mr. Lutnick made the comments during an interview on Saturday (September 13, 2025) when he was asked whether the U.S. is mismanaging "very valuable relationships" with "important allies" like India, Canada and Brazil with the tariffs imposed on these countries. "The relationship is one way, they sell to us and take advantage of us. They block us from their economy, and they sell to us while we are wide open for them to come in [and] take advantage," Mr. Lutnick said. "The president says, 'fair and reciprocal trade'," he added. "India brags that they have 1.4 billion people. Why won't 1.4 billion people buy one bushel of U.S. corn? Doesn't that rub you the wrong way that they sell everything to us and they won't buy our corn. They put tariffs on everything," Mr. Lutnick said.He added that President Donald Trump has said "bring down your tariffs, treat us the way we treat you". The Commerce Secretary further added "we've got to right years of wrong so we want a tariff going the other way until we fix this". "That's the President's model, and you either accept it or you're going to have a tough time doing business with the world's greatest consumer," Mr. Lutnick said. The Trump administration has imposed 50% tariffs on India, including 25% for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, among the highest imposed on any country in the world. India has described the U.S. action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable". Defending its purchase of Russian crude oil, India has been maintaining that its energy procurement is driven by national interest and market dynamics.

North Korean hackers use Al deepfakes in spearphishing attack on South Korea

Seoul: A North Korea-linked hacking group has carried out a cyberattack on South Korean organisations, including a defence-related institution, using artificial intelligence (AI)-generated deepfake images, a report showed on Monday. Kimsuky group, a hacking unit believed to be sponsored by the North Korean government, attempted a spear-phishing attack on a military-related organisation in July, according to the report by the Genians Security Center (GSC), a South Korean security institute, Yonhap news agency reported. Spear-phishing is a targeted cyberattack, often conducted through personalised emails that impersonate trusted sources. The report said the attackers sent an email attached with malicious code, disguised as correspondence about ID issuance for military-affiliated officials. The ID card image used in the attempt was presumed to have been produced by a generative Al model, marking a case of the Kimsuky group applying deepfake technology. Typically, AI platforms such as ChatGPT reject requests to generate copies of military IDs, since government-issued identification documents are legally protected. However, the GSC report noted that the hackers appear to have bypassed restrictions by requesting mockups or sample designs for "legitimate" purposes, rather than direct reproductions of actual IDs.

| Prenatal testing: A window to the future, a burden of choice



On August 25, Alfiya* in consultation with her husband decided to medically terminate her pregnancy a couple of weeks after a prenatal genetic testing revealed their child would be born with Thalassemia and would most certainly live a life overshadowed by blood transfusion appointments and constant care. In their late 20's, the couple after receiving the test results, spoke to several friends and family. But, a conversation with a 42-year-old Thalassemia patient, who shared her life-long struggles, ultimately convinced them to take this step. Her husband Mohsin, who works in an IT company in Ahmedabad, said, "On one hand, I was busy with my father's cancer treatment and on the other, the suspicion, that something could go wrong with the pregnancy as my wife has always had a low haemoglobin count, was bothering me. We had an inkling that my wife could be Thalassemia minor (carrier) because her sister is, but we didn't realise that we would both turn out to be carriers. With the help of genetic testing, we got to know that our child would be born with Thalassemia. While we have convinced ourselves it was the right thing to do, we have also accepted that healing will take time.

This Ahmedabad couple is among the growing number of parents opting for prenatal genetic testing to detect inherited genetic conditions in the foetus, often classified as rare diseases with limited or costly treatment options or poor prognosis. The most common genetic disorders for which PND is routinely being used include sickle-cell anaemia, Thalassemia, Inborn Errors of Metabolism (IEM) disorders, neurological disorders such as Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), as well as other uncommon genetic conditions such as cystic fibrosis. Early diagnosis has facilitated timely medical information and provided options for prevention, such as MTP in affected cases after genetic counselling. For all foetuses with a confirmed diagnosis for a genetic disorder, the clinical management involves a multidisciplinary approach. A child born in Ahmedabad died within two days of birth. Genetic testing at the Institute of Kidney Disease and Research Centre (IKDRC) revealed that the parents carried an enzyme-defect disease that would have hindered the child's digestion of breast milk, likely causing the infant's death. Several geneticists confirmed that the lack of awareness amongst paediatricians and gynaecologists, especially in rural areas, leading to rare diseases goes undiagnosed till symptoms get worse. While in most rare diseases symptoms show up in childhood or by adolescence, there are genetic disorders that can show up even at the ages of 20, 30 and 40 years. Ahmedabad-based Clinical Geneticist and Counsellor Dr Sheetal Sharda said, "Awareness about genetic testing only comes when there is somebody in the family who either has a rare disease or has experienced it and they have the knowledge that it is genetic, then the couple will go for testing". She stated that in the last two decades, awareness has grown but there are still multiple factors involved such as the type of disease, how rare it is, the type of doctor they are visiting, what is the education status of the couple and accessibility in terms of rural or urban areas. "For example, there is a lot of awareness about sickle cell anemia in Gujarat's Tapi and the Dang districts and many couples come from screening because they have a better understanding of the issues. However, in some very rare diseases, it can so happen that doctors may also not realise that genetic screening and diagnosis may be required and the couple may need to be counselled accordingly",

A 25-year-old woman from Kheda, Gujarat, with a rare genetic musculoskeletal degenerative disease, underwent a heart transplant on March 9 and is now recovering postsurgery, having only discovered her condition during family planning. The woman, Seema, suffers from Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy (LGMD), one of the nine variations of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy . Despite her condition, she had minimal symptoms and led a relatively normal life, getting married and planning a family. However, in 2022, she and her husband, a local businessman, discovered her heart was weak. Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is a genetic disorder characterized by progressive muscle weakness and degeneration. It primarily affects males due to its X-linked recessive inheritance pattern, occurring as a result of mutations in the dystrophin gene. "We conducted a complete evaluation and she was kept in home minimum therapy because of repeated hospital admissions. However, even during this period, she had to be admitted a couple of times. She was put on the organ waitlist in December 2024 and luckily she got the heart in March 2025," said Dr Dhiren Shah, Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgeon and Director of Marengo CIMS Hospital in Ahmedabad.

Dr Shah, who also performed the transplant surgery, says her age coupled with relatively good mobility, was an encouraging factor. "This variant of DMD, neuro-physicians said, is very slow progressing in Seema because most other patients, by the age of 20 years, are wheelchair bound or have lost their lives before reaching the age of 25 years. But this woman is still living a normal life, she still has 15-20 years of life ahead of her. That is why we decided to take up her case."Due to lack of awareness not just among the public but also among doctors, it is rare to see people actively going for genetic testing before marriage, and before conceiving, and unless they have one child who has suffered or died due to a genetic disorder. "Once a child is diagnosed with a rare disease, and the mother comes with another pregnancy, we carry out the exome sequencing to see if the foetus has the same mutations, using amniotic fluid. We inform the parents either way so that they can make an informed decision of wanting to continue or terminate the pregnancy," said Dr Pritti Priya, Assistant Professor and Head of the Genetics Lab at the IKDRC in Ahmedabad. However, doctors have also seen couples lose several children to rare diseases before they are advised to go for genetic testing. Dr Priya said, "In the case of a migrant worker couple from Jharkhand, who had already lost four children within the first year of their births to Thalassemia, they had gone to the hospital to abort the fifth pregnancy. When doctors decided to test the foetus, it turned out to be a carrier (with one mutation), instead of homozygous (inheriting one mutation each from both parents), so they didn't need to terminate the pregnancy. The woman subsequently gave birth to a healthy child, which would not have been the case had there not been genetic testing available at the hospital." In 2018, after having a child who seemed healthy for eight months, my daughter's health

declined. We never knew that my husband and I were both

Thalassemia minor (carriers). We realised something was wrong only when my daughter became yellow within a month of her birth. We thought she had contracted jaundice but when we conducted testing, we found out she suffered from Thalassemia," said 27-year-old Payal, whose husband is a businessman in Dahod.

In 2020, Paval and her husband came to Ahmedabad for prenatal testing during their second pregnancy. To their relief, the foetus was found to be just a carrier or Thalassemia Minor patient. Born during the Covid lockdown, their daughter will complete 5 years now. As of September 2025, Payal has just completed the first trimester of her third pregnancy. She just underwent prenatal testing and is now awaiting the results with hope. Dr Vishwas Amin, the Executive Director of Red Cross Ahmedabad said, "We can convince parents to prevent the birth of Thalassemia major children and prevent lifelong stress to them and constant blood transfusion to the child across their lifetime." The Red Cross Ahmedabad itself has 1,250 registered Thalassemia major children and of these, 600-800 children get blood transfusion at the Red Cross per month. Speaking about their project, Dr Amin said, "We began our testing outreach in 2007-08 in Ahmedabad's Sanand taluka. We tested the expectant mothers and if the results came positive for Thalassemia minor, we tested their husbands also. If both were carriers, we conducted PND of foetus and prevented the birth of four Thalassemia major children out of 6,500 pregnant couples. Today, this testing is mandatory in the state. Till date, we have prevented 650 such births by screening and counselling."Thalassemia Founder of FRIGE Institute of Human Genetics Dr Jayesh Sheth says, "Impetus must be given to awareness regarding prenatal diagnosis"Dr Sharda says "Unfortunately, when a couple loses their child, they start looking for options on what they can do to prevent genetic diseases after six months or so. Then we have to do genetic screening of the couple. When we don't have samples from the first child, it becomes difficult to know about the disorder. We lose initiative in narrowing down on the affliction that could be in the current foetus." She notes that to-be parents go for testing at 12-13 weeks of pregnancy which makes it tougher. "We don't know what to test because humans have 20,000 genes, 5,000 disorders, we can't test for everything in the foetus. We focus on really lethal diseases, if the child may not survive after birth or will require critical surgery or will put a significant financial burden on the family. Then a decision is taken because the woman has to carry the child and if they are going to die in some months or a few years, prenatal diagnosis is to avoid such situations", she says.

Founder of FRIGE Institute of Human Genetics Dr Jayesh Sheth says, "Impetus must be given to awareness regarding prenatal diagnosis, carrier screening and family counselling to make sure that two carriers of the same rare diseases genes do not marry and if they marry, then go for prenatal diagnosis to make an informed choice." However, in many cases, genetic testing may not be carried out even if there is ample medical cause, due to the cost of the tests which can be between Rs18.000 and Rs 24.000. In one such case, a couple from Rajasthan who had lost one child to complications, declined testing due to financial constraints in the second pregnancy which also resulted in the child dying within a month of birth. They were given the choice to terminate the third pregnancy after they got tests done and they finally welcomed a healthy child in the fourth attempt. In their first pregnancy, the child was born and had to be operated for intestinal obstruction within a month. The child died a few days later due to infection. The 23-year-old again visited the hospital during her second pregnancy. This time, the ultrasound showed echogenic bowel loops, suggesting abnormality. When advised for a mutation study, the couple refused due to financial constraints. The female child was born at term and on the sixth day of her life, the ultrasound showed proximal ileal atresia, a congenital abnormality. After a month she was operated upon but died after two months due to septicemia. Dr Pritti Priya said the couple sought a mutation study done for the second deceased child. The test found homozygous mutations for Cystic Fibrosis. The test could only be carried out because the child's DNA had been preserved by the doctors through biobanking. The couple was also counselled about the risk of having another affected foetus in a future pregnancy. During her third pregnancy PND was carried out and the result, unfortunately, was again positive for the same mutation. The couple opted for MTP. An autopsy of the foetus confirmed doubts about the congenital abnormality. The fourth time the PND showed that the child was only a carrier. The child was born

Time to reorganize Jana Sena Party's structure

When the matinee idol of the Telugu film industry, Konidela Pawan Kalyan — fondly called PK — launched his political party, Jana Sena Party (JSP), in March 2014, political pundits had written him off as a 'political novice.' They even went so far as to claim that he, like his elder brother K. Chiranjeevi, would fade away within a few years.

Chiranjeevi, a superstar in Tollywood, had burned his

fingers by launching his own political party, Praja Rajyam Party (PRP), in August 2008, only to later merge his party with the Congress.But Mr. Pawan proved them wrong. Not only did he hold on to his party, but he has also become a force to reckon with — today, not just in Andhra Pradesh's political landscape, but at the national level, as his party is a key alliance partner of the NDA at the Centre. Today, Mr. Pawan is the Deputy Chief Minister of the State. However, it appears he is losing his grip over the party. In a recent Senatho Senani' meeting with party workers in Visakhapatnam, he candidly expressed his dissatisfaction with the party's cadres and leaders, vowing to personally steer it forward from here. From a political rookie, Mr. Pawan has grown into a politician with a purpose. His clean image still helps him maintain unity within the party and gain political mileage in A.P.'s political fabric. However, there is growing concern that since he won the elections and became Deputy CM, Mr. Pawan has distanced himself from the party activists and leaders. Reports of intra-party tensions and dissatisfaction among the cadres are on the rise. There is a sense of quiet discontent among the once-vocally supportive ranks. Many have voiced frustration over delays in local appointments, being sidelined in coalition politics, and the lack of representation. There is also serious concern regarding the dominance of the alliance over JSP. Some even question Mr. Pawan's assertiveness in governance, amidst the opinion that he is playing second fiddle to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). But PK seems to have understood the message early and is now on a mission to reorganise and restructure his party. He admitted in the meeting that due to over concentration on governance, he had been forced to distance himself from party activities. However, he assured that things would change in the com-

Positioning India in an unruly world



An article, in Foreign Affairs, titled "India's Great Power Delusions – How New Delhi's Grand Strategy Thwarts Its Grand Ambitions" (July/August 2025), is creating a storm in the proverbial tea cup. The article's key point is that India had 'delusions' of grandeur, and about becoming a Great Power, and that this lacked substance. More to the point, the article talks disparagingly about India, stating that it stood nowhere in the race between China and the United States, as far as the Great Power sweepstakes are concerned. Not unexpectedly, this has ruffled feathers, at a time when India had begun to believe that it was on the cusp of overcoming the 'middle income trap' and emerging into the category of a Big Power. This may be termed delusional by some, but India's belief in its future is not new and has strong foundations. What may be faulted is the writer's premise that India and China are on the cusp of a conflict, and that India would need the United States' assistance to counter Chinese aggression. Both India and China are civilisational powers, though they have adopted different paths to progress. Neither country is, however, ready for a round of conflict, notwithstanding the existence of certain border issues between them. However, given India's experience in 1962 and 1971, when the U.S. went out of its way to remove any doubts that India might have had about U.S. support, the former is not looking for its aid in any future conflict. The tenor of this article would suggest that the U.S. currently thinks that it can wield the big stick of the 'tariff war' to compel India to fall in line with its wishes. Lost in translation, however, is that Donald Trump's America is unable to comprehend the fact that the more advanced civilisations of the east, such as India and China, are not thinking of war or conflict at this time. Recent events and the meetings in Tianjin confirm this, and further demonstrate that India and China, along with Russia, constitute a strong phalanx against those anxious to disrupt the current world order — at least as far as Asia is concerned

A closer look at the India storylt may, nevertheless, be worth analysing whether India's Big Power ambitions are indeed out of sync with reality. Also, whether it is wrong for India to start believing that achieving Great Power status is within reach. The first mistake made by critics is that India has never made the claim that it was about to overtake China in the near future. Or that it was within striking distance of the U.S. The worst that India can be accused of is to start believing that it had indeed pulled well ahead of a pack of nations that had started with similar hopes, and that India had succeeded in overcoming the 'middle income trap'

reaching striking distance of their main objective. The derisive tone adopted by the writer of the article does seem to reflect an element of outrage at India's claims to progress. There is, however, a great deal to be said in favour of India's growth story, and, even more so, in the manner in which it has been achieved, in sharp contrast to that of countries such as China. The Americans cannot be faulted for not reading or understanding history since this is not in their DNA. But India's spectacular transformation, from a 'famine affected' nation, through the Green Revolution, to becoming an exporter of food grains is, perhaps, unrivalled in the history of modern or even ancient times. Economic progress, rather than accumulating military strength, was the sine qua non of India's existence during its early years of independence, and provided the backbone for future progress. Butter before guns was the motto. Nevertheless, and throughout this period, India exercised a degree of moral seldom exercised — to emerge as a balancing factor in Governor of West Bengal

international relations. This has few, if any, equals in politics post the Second World War. It is India that coined and propagated a new philosophy in international relations, viz., the concept of Non Alignment, at a time when the world was split into two rival and conflicting orthodoxies; it helped safeguard the identity and hopes of newer nations post 1945, that did not wish to be aligned with either of the two rival blocs headed by the U.S. and Russia, respectively. India often acted as an arbiter in conflicts at the time (such as the Korean War in the 1950s), gaining international acclaim.

In the eyes of the WestThe U.S.-China 'bromance' in the 1970s — achieved through the mesmerising diplomacy of then U.S. Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, and his friendship with China's Deng Xiaoping — which transformed the attitude of the U.S. and of the West to China's potential as a market, had the effect of diminishing India's importance in western eyes, especially that of the U.S. Simultaneously, India's close friendship with Russia proved to be an irritant, further cemented with the signing of the India-Soviet Treaty of 1971. The 1974 nuclear test in the Pokhran desert — 'Buddha is Smiling' — aggravated this situation further. The imperious tone of the Foreign Affairs article betrays a lack of understanding about India's ability to manage contradictions of every kind. India's relations with the U.S. vastly improved since the turn of the century, reaching a high point following the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement in 2008. But this happened even as India-U.S. relations were still far from warm. Many irritants remain, the most nagging of them being India's reliance on Russian weapons, and, more recently, Russian oil, despite U.S. opposition. This is despite India having more than made up for this by joining the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, the U.S.). Managing contradictions is among the key strengths that this country has derived from its civilisational past, which is little understood by countries in the West, specially those in the far West such as the U.S. The mandarins in the U.S. are, hence, unable to comprehend how India and China despite being embroiled in a border dispute, can also be friends, as evidenced during the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit. Even more confusing for the West is the 'entente cordiale' between China, India and Russia, as demonstrated on this occasion.

Technological superiority is the driverWhat is truly delusional, however, is the failure of the West to recognise the real impetus in world affairs today, which stems from the 'empires of the mind'. In this respect, the U.S. today has far fewer cards to deal. This is the age of the 'cybernated generation' and the digital fortress is being breached today by countries with evolved civilisations such as China, India, Japan and Vietnam.

Harvesting data is today the main weapon of choice and this is very different from employing 'laser weapons'. Technological superiority is leading to new digital colonies, and the U.S. can at best, and only for now, claim a marginal advantage over countries such as India. India's intrinsic capacity in this area, meanwhile, shows strong and steady growth. Those like the writer of the Foreign Affairs article, who scoff at India's strength may, hence, have to repent at leisure. Rather than casting stones at India, the U.S. and the West would do well to contemplate whether their current lead in critical technologies may soon prove illusory. As a new wave of technology 'geeks' storm and overturn the citadels of the past, and usher in a new world order, this is a real possibility. The West would also do well to realise that the 'Sherpas' that dominate Silicon Valley today, are mainly of Indian and Asian origin. The U.S.'s lead of today is, thus, at best, ephemeral. India, for its part, is betting on this leap of faith as far as technologies of the future are concerned, and the West would do well to understand them rather than depend on hackneyed themes of countries seeking U.S. support to protect themselves. The sun may well set on the U.S., and much earlier than it realises, even as an India, steeped in the virtues of an ancient civilisation and based on knowledge derived from centuries of civilisational existence, gains ground. Better positioning is more important today rather than indulging in vague concerns.M.K. Narayanan is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former

How serious is the global plastic pollution crisis? | Explained

Rapidly increasing plastic pollution is a serious global environmental issue as it significantly impacts ecosystems, their functions, sustainable development, and ultimately the socio-economic and health dimensions of humanity. With this realisation, this year's World Environment Day (June 5) focused on "Ending Plastic Pollution" and encouraging worldwide awareness and action against it.

How serious is the issue?

The OECD's 'Global Plastic Outlook' reveals that global plastic consumption has increased significantly due to the growth of emerging economies and markets. Plastics production doubled from 2000 to 2019, reaching 460 million tonnes, while waste generation grew to 353 million tonnes. Nearly two-thirds of plastic waste has a lifespan of less than five years, with 40% coming from packaging, 12% from consumer goods, and 11% from clothing and textiles. Among this waste, only 9% is recycled. Another 19% is incinerated, 50% ends up in landfills, and 22% evades waste management systems, often entering uncontrolled dumpsites, being burned in pits, or ending up in terrestrial or aquatic environments, especially in poorer countries. According to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, in 2024 alone, 500 million tonnes of plastic were produced or used, generating around 400 million tonnes of waste. If the current trends continue, global plastic waste could almost triple by 2060, reaching 1.2 billion tonnes. The Ocean Conservancy data reveal that each year, 11 million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean, in addition to the estimated 200 million tonnes that already flow through our marine environment. According to a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) expert, if the current rate of plastic production and waste generation continues, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by the mid-century. Why is plastic pollution such a grave problem? The non-biodegradable character of plastics is a serious challenge. It simply breaks into smaller and smaller pieces over time, creating micro- and nano-plastics that infiltrate and contaminate every part of the planet, from the summit of Mount Everest to the depths of the oceans. Plastics account for 3.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions. UNEP has stated that plastic production, use, and disposal could account for 19% of the total global carbon budget by 2040. What are the health impacts of plastics? There are health impacts at each stage of the plastics life cycle. Plastics have thousands of hazardous additives (including carcinogens, neurotoxicants, endocrine disruptors) that can leach from products and waste, and persist in the environment, threatening humans and ecosystems. Studies also proved that plastics have affected re-productive abilities in animals. In this context, over 18 million health professionals, represented by 63 health



organisations across 88 countries, and more than 1,000 individual signatories, urge Plastics Treaty Negotiators to protect the planet and people from plastic pollution and demand urgent global actions through an Open Letter.What remedies are being proposed? At the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (2022), all 193 UN member states agreed to end plastic pollution through a legally binding international agreement. This is critical to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including climate action, sustainable consumption and production, protection of oceans, and the restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity. UNEP's ambitious goal of reducing plastic waste by 80% within two decades requires serious action and international cooperation, innovation, better product design, and environment-friendly alternatives, as well as efforts to improve waste management and increase recycling. As plastics and their chemical additives are primarily made from petrochemical feedstock, limiting their production and eliminating unnecessary items, especially single-use plastics, is urgent. Governments should permit production only within existing legal frameworks. Most plastics used today are virgin (primary) plastics, while global production of recycled (secondary) plastics is only 6%. Improving recycling technologies and building profitable markets for recycled plastics are crucial. Imposing landfill and incineration taxes can incentivise recycling. Extended Producer Responsibility schemes, landfill taxes, deposit refunds, and pay-as-youthrow systems need to be introduced. Finally, people must adopt greener alternatives that have been used in the past. The media, too, has a significant role to play in shaping awareness.Prakash Nelliyat is Former Fellow, Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law at the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, and the co-author of the books: Biodiversity Conservation through Access and Benefit Sharing' and 'Biodiversity and Business' published by Springer Nature, Switzerland

Rajeev Ram reflects on his unique journey, tennis success, thoughts on doubles and mentoring young talent.



For Indian tennis fans, Rajeev Ram at once seems a close cousin and a distant relative. The 41-year-old's parents were from India and his biggest doubles successes - Australian Open 2020 and a hat-trick of US Opens from 2021 to 2023 — have resonated in the sub-continent.But he is also proudly American, and is mentoring the next generation there. He sat courtside as fellow Indian-American Nishesh Basavareddy, then 19, took on Novak Djokovic in the first-round of the 2025 Australian Open.Incidentally, Rajeev and Venus Williams beat Rohan Bopanna and Sania Mirza in a close semifinal at the Rio 2016 Olympics, and Rajeev [with Joe Salisbury] also overcame Bopanna [and Matthew Ebden] in the 2023 US Open final. The six-time Grand Slam champion and two-time Olympic medallist spoke to The Hindu on his tennis journey, the state of doubles, the mixed doubles rejig at the upcoming US Open and more. Excerpts:

How do you assess your year so far?

In professional sport, it's a lot of up and down. My results this year haven't been what I've gotten used to over the last few years. But I'm 41 and have been very fortunate to have played at a pretty high level for the better part of 20 years. So, I'm taking it in my stride. The US Open is my favourite tournament, so I am really looking forward [to it].Base shift: Doubles has 'changed over the last three or four years', Rajeev observes, with more teams finding 'comfort from the baseline'.Base shift: Doubles has 'changed over the last three or four years', Rajeev observes, with more teams finding 'comfort from the baseline'. | Photo Credit: Getty Images

What has kept you going for so long?

I played singles as a priority until 2017. We, as tennis players, begin with aspirations to play at the top level in singles. I'm very proud of the fact that I became a top-60 player and won two titles on the Tour. My doubles-only career started in 2017, and even though it was much after I turned pro, it still was fresh when Joe and I won the Australian Open in 2020. It's a lot about attitude. The thing that's always been important is consistently trying to improve. If you have that attitude, you can sometimes take even losses as a positive. As heartbreaking as some of them are, sometimes they're the biggest motivators. I used them as fire and fuel. I've actually had to be more aware of myself when I've been winning a lot because you get a little bit satisfied.

How has the doubles game evolved?

It's changed a lot. When I started, players, especially those who transitioned from singles, would try to develop their net game a bit more. In the last three or four years, I've seen a big shift where that's really not the case. Most teams now have at least one player who serves and stays back all the time. There's more comfort from the baseline. A lot of the players don't really worry about serving and volleying anymore. From the returner's perspective, it's a lot more about pace, being aggressive and trying to get a hold on the point straight away. Whereas, when I started playing, there was a little bit more feel, more finesse. Doubles is very en-

tertaining and popular as a recreational sport. But it doesn't get good broadcast slots or matches on the show courts, especially in the first week of a Major. Are these hindering the growth? Absolutely. Anything that is put on the backburner in terms of promotion and marketing is going to be treated that way by people who watch it. I'm not saying by any stretch that it needs to be at the same level as singles. But there are definitely stories that could be marketed a lot more. Like Rohan having so much success at such a late age [World No. 1 and 2024 Australian Open title]. Croatia's Mate Pavic won the French Open last year and completed the career Golden Slam [along with Tokyo 2020 Olympics gold]. But I don't think it got the push that a truly rare achievement in our sport should have got. Next is to highlight the partnerships. There could be quite a bit more of that, just to get to know the players at the personal level. In such a scenario, how does the move by the US Open to completely transform its mixed doubles feel? It is being played in the week before the Slam and has more singles players than doubles.It's two parts for me. I applaud their idea to innovate. As much as doubles was on the back-burner, mixed doubles was behind even more. So putting it in its own week, with fanfare, is great. Tennis could use mixed doubles as the flag-bearer, as men and women play men and women for Olympic medals and Grand Slam titles. But they [US Open] made it such that doubles players couldn't even enter. You can't unless you have a singles ranking. That's where I feel opposed. They should [have] just let everybody enter. A lot of the players that got in from singles would have still gotten in. It would have been a bit more legitimate to give a Grand Slam trophy for. More of this please: Rajeev believes that more people would be drawn to doubles if tennis does a better job of showcasing the format and its sto-

If you were in a position of power, what would you do to increase traction for doubles?

I mentioned Rohan winning so late. Joe and I won three US Opens on the trot. So the stories are there. They just need to be told. Secondly, social media is such a big part of our world. We have exciting points happening every day. They don't need to be necessarily in the main stadiums or even on TV. If we could do a better job of showcasing them, people would be drawn to the game. Most of those who are watching are doubles players themselves and they can have a little bit of a relationship there. The third thing is to just tell the story of the partnerships. Joe and I played together for six years. We can do a little bit more of getting outside tennis and highlighting the personalities.

You have been mentoring Nishesh, among the brightest talents to emerge from the United States. What do you think India can do to develop such a player?

I wish there was some magic recipe. Nishesh and I... our relationship is unique. Of all the places in the US, he moved to the little town that I'm from [Carmel, Indiana]. We have the same coach, Bryan Smith, and I have to give him a lot of credit. He not only teaches us to be good tennis players but also teaches us to give back to the next group. It was always something I was going to do for him [Nishesh] and a few others. Also, coming from the exact same background as I have, an America-born kid with Indian heritage... a lot of pieces came together. What India can do... I think it is very important for a player to feel that he or she is not alone and not feel like they have to reach a certain level for it to be successful. Just the effort of trying to be the best you can be is success in itself. I was really lucky that my dad had the foresight to realise that in the US, sports can actually open doors. I would have never gone to the colleges that I went to if I wasn't a tennis player. So, maybe, just a slight shift in mentality for what it really means to be a high-level athlete and what success really is [can help In-

Understanding fertility health: growing the green flags and working upon red flags

Your fertility journey is uniquely intimate, but it doesn't have to be a mystery. Consider your body an advanced communication network that continually sends signals regarding your reproductive well-being. Educating yourself to read between the lines, both the supportive green flags and cautionary red flags, gives you the power of proactive action towards your fertility. The elegance of fertility health is its responsiveness to positive change. Fertility is one of the few health states that can transform significantly with directed lifestyle changes and early treatment. Knowing what to rejoice over and what to repair can convert your reproductive wellness journey from responsive to proactive.

Healthy metabolic function -- properly working metabolism is the best friend your fertility could ask for. If your body properly digests nutrients and keeps blood sugar levels stable, it provides a healthy context for hormone output and egg quality. Some of the indicators of a healthy metabolism are consistent energy all day, an even temperament, and the capacity to achieve a healthy weight without going to extremes.Ideal weight range: A BMI of 18.5-24.9 dramatically increases fertility potential. This range promotes regular ovulation, balanced hormone secretion, and uncomplicated pregnancies. Keep in mind that "healthy" is relative—aim to feel strong and full of energy instead of trying to reach a particular number. Balanced hormones: Hormonal balance is reflected in regular menstrual cycles, consistent moods during your cycle, healthy patterns of libido, and glowing skin. Your energy levels will be high, PMS symptoms under control, and there will be regular ovulation. All these indicate that your hormones are balanced and thus can be considered as a green flag for your fertile

Basal body temperature patterns uncover more than most blood tests. An increase in temperature for less than 10 days after ovulation is a sign of luteal phase defects, seen in 35% of women with recurrent early pregnancy loss. Another sign to look for is the colour of the period, brown spotting prior to menstruation suggests progesterone deficiency, while shiny red bleeding with menstruation suggests optimal hormonal balance. Frequent dark or clotted bleeding suggests circulatory compromises that can interfere with implantation. Paying close attention to these seemingly trivial details can make a tremendous difference in the incidence of pregnancy. Severe menstrual pain -- often women just "deal with" period pain, but if a period pain requires prescription medication, causes you to miss work, or gets worse over time then it isn't something to just "deal with." Underlying condition like endometriosis or fibroids can impact fertility and thus requires proper evaluation and treatment.

Skin and hair changes -- sudden growths of facial or body hair, particularly accompanied by adult-onset acne along the jaw, may warn of insulin resistance or PCOS (polycystic ovarian syndrome). Unexplained weight gains or losses may also signal thyroid dysfunction, which in turn



The elegance of fertility health is its responsiveness to positive change. Fertility is one of the few health states that can transform significantly with directed lifestyle changes and early treatment

impacts reproductive function directly. Men's reproductive health provides equally significant indicators. Alarming indicators include sexual dysfunction changes, pain or swelling in the testes, or lack of normal morning erections. Up to 50% of global cases of infertility have been found by recent research to be caused by male factors, making men's health equally essential to tackle. This is the empowering reality about fertility health: many red flags can be turned into green flags with the right strategies and timing. While there are various warning signs to recognise, there are also effective avenues to overcome these hindrances. Hormonal imbalances adapt wonderfully to lifestyle modification where habits like regular moderate exercise, regular sleeping habits, good stress management skills, and not drinking too much alcohol or smoking can contribute tremendously to good fertile health. Abnormal cycles can often normalise with dietary change by incorporating foods that are full of antioxidants, good fats, and lean protein, omega-3 fatty acids and foods rich in folate. If your diet has these fertility-enhancing foods at all times, you're giving your reproductive system the building blocks it requires to function well. Even conditions such as PCOS can be well controlled by metabolic support and weight optimisation. The secret is prompt identification and regular, evidence-based intervention. Your fertility path isn't already determined by your red flags; it's moulded by your response to them. With each beneficial adjustment you make today, you create ripple effects that bolster your reproductive power three months down the road. Whether you're fine-tuning already-optimal fertility or you're working through specific issues, keep in mind that your body has an impressive ability to heal and adapt.

Why is there no Palestine state?



The King David Hotel of Jerusalem is one of the landmarks of the contested city. Built with locally sourced pink limestone and opened in 1931 by Ezra Mosseri, a wealthy Egyptian Jewish banker, the hotel, overlooking the Old City that is holy for all three Abrahamic faiths, stands as a symbol of both Israel's Jewish roots and its bloody history. From its earliest days under the British Mandate of Palestine, the hotel hosted royalty and prominent dignitaries. During the Mandate, the British turned the hotel's southern wing into their administrative and military offices. On July 22, 1946, members of Irgun, a right-wing Zionist militia, entered the hotel disguised as Arab workers and waiters. Their mission: plant explosives in the basement of the main building. The powerful explosion brought down the western half of the southern wing, killing at least 91 people. The bombing, the deadliest attack carried out by Zionists against the British, was one of the earliest terrorist attacks in modern West

The British found it increasingly difficult to continue their rule of Palestine after the Second World War. Seeking a way out, London turned to the UN, saying it wanted to vacate the Mandate. In 1947, the UN General Assembly decided to set up a Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), which proposed to divide Palestine into 'an independent Arab State, an independent Jewish State, and the City of Jerusalem'. The Jewish Agency accepted the plan, while Arab nations opposed the partition. On May 14, 1948, on the eve of the expiry of the British Mandate, the Jewish People's Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum (today known as Independence Hall). David Ben-Gurion, leader of the Jewish Agency, declared the establishment of the state of Israel from the podium.Independence, Nakba

The next day, the armies of four countries — Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, and Iraq — entered Palestine and clashed with the Jewish army, triggering the first Arab-Israeli war. The war continued for a year, and when a ceasefire was signed, Israel was controlling more territories of historic Palestine than even the UN plan offered for the Jewish state. For Israel, it was the 'war of independence', but for Palestinians, it was Nakba (catastrophe). Roughly 7,50,000 Palestinians were violently displaced from their homes and lands by Zionist militias. Thousands of Palestinians were killed. Hundreds of Arab villages and towns were depopulated and destroyed. West Asia suddenly looked like a different region. In 1967, during the Six-Day War, Israel captured the entire Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt; the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem from Jordan; and the Golan Heights from Syria. The UN Partition plan promised 55% of historical Palestine to the Jewish state; Israel controlled some 75% after the 1948 war, and after the 1967 war, the whole of Palestine came under Israel's control.

What is the Green Line?

Palestinians today demand an independent state based on the 1967 border (Green Line) — which means the whole of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. Different Palestinian factions, including Fatah, which runs the Palestine Authority based in the West Bank, and Hamas, which is the main force in the Gaza Strip, have either directly or indirectly accepted the 1967 border. Israel, in the past, had committed itself to the two-state solution, but it has never made its position clear on the border. In recent years, Israel's position has further shifted to the right, with its rulers, inluding Prime Minister Benjamin N owning the two-state plan. After the 1967 war, Israel for years refused to accept Palestinian nationalism. The first Israeli recognition of Palestinian nationalism came in the 1978 Camp David agreement. Under the agreement, signed five years after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Israel agreed to withdraw completely from the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, also agreed, under the Framework for Peace in the Middle East agreement, to abolish Israel's military rule over the West Bank and Gaza, and establish a Palestinian self-governing authority with elections and local policing. The Framework Agreement was not immediately implemented. But it set the agenda for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The outbreak of the first intifada brought Israel under greater pressure and pushed the momentum in favour of the Palestinians. On November 15, 1988, Yasser Arafat read out a declaration in Algiers, Algeria, proclaiming the birth of 'a state of Palestine in our Palestinian territory with its capital Jerusalem'. Weeks later, at least 100 UN member states, including India, acknowledged the declaration of the state of Pal-

Israel faced two major challenges at this juncture. One was the growing difficulties in governing the Palestinian territories amid continuing protests. The other was the global recognition the Palestinian leadership was drawing. The Palestine Liberation Organization's policy was also undergoing changes. If earlier it called for 'the liberation' of the whole of historical Palestine, it was now sending signals of

compromise for a deal with Israel. The peace bid gained momentum after Yitzhak Rabin, of Labour, became Prime Minister in 1992. Rabin joined secret talks in Oslo based on the Framework Agreement. On September 9, 1993, both parties exchanged Letters of Mutual Recognition, signed by Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat. Four days later, on September 13, 1993, Rabin and Arafat shook hands in Washington in the presence of U.S. President Bill Clinton and signed the Oslo Accord I. Rabin was forthright in his message to the Palestinians. "Let me say to you, the Palestinians: we are destined to live together, on the same soil in the same land," he said. According to the Oslo II Agreement, reached between the Palestinian leadership and Israel in 1995, the West Bank was divided into three areas — A, B, and C. Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem and some towns and villages that do not border Israeli settlements are in Area A, which comprises some 18% of the West Bank. Area B, which comprises around 22% of the territory, is under Palestinian civil administration, while Israel retains exclusive security control. Area C is the largest division in the West Bank, comprising some 60% of the territory; it is under full Israeli civil administration and security control. The Oslo Accords were initial agreements aimed at taking some preliminary steps towards resolving the Palestine question in five years. But the resolution never

The permanence of conflicIn the history of Israel and Palestine, there is always a U-turn after a serious push for peace. On November 4, 1995, Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist. His immediate successor, Shimon Peres, called for an election hoping that he could mobilise the peace dividend and take the Oslo process further. But in the 1996 election, Likud returned to power and Mr. Netanyahu became Prime Minister for the first time.Mr. Netanyahu initially refused to honour the commitments of the past governments. The rise of Hamas, which never accepted the Oslo process, and suicide attacks by Palestinian militants, further complicated the peace process. When the interim five-year period since the Oslo agreements was over in May 1999, a comprehensive agreement between Israel and Palestine was still elusive. The Palestinian authority was running parts of the West Bank and Gaza. Israel, instead of directly ruling over West Bank and Gaza, started controlling territories indirectly, and continued to build Jewish settlements on Palestinian lands. The status of Jerusalem and the right of return of Palestinian refugees remained the crux of the problem with no meaningful efforts from either side to settle the issues.President Clinton tried to revive the stalled peace process in 2000 in a Camp David summit in which he hosted both Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barack and Arafat. All key components of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict came up for discussions during the summit. But the summit collapsed as the two sides failed to agree on the status of Jerusalem and the right of return. There were several attempts to revive peace talks since the failure of the second Camp David negotiations, but none of them has taken off.October 7, 2023 and afterIsrael's record shows that it made limited concessions only in the face of external pressure or Palestinian violence. During the Suez war, Israel was forced to pull out of Sinai amid threats and pressure tactics from both American President Dwight Eisenhower and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in 1956. In the late 1970s, constant pressure from the Carter administration, and also the growing threat perception from Egypt following the Yom Kippur War prompted Israel to come to Camp David and finally sign both the Sinai pull-out and Framework Agreements. In 1993, the Oslo process was triggered by the First Intifada. Ariel Sharon's Gaza disengagement happened against the backdrop of the Second Intifada. During the years that followed the Second Intifada, Israel thought the status quo was manageable. The Palestinians were a divided lot. The West Bank was run by Fatah and Gaza by Hamas. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas lacked the charisma and command of Arafat. The Palestinian authority was flush with corruption. There was no organised resistance in the West Bank. There was no international pressure to make peace. And Arabs were ready to sidestep the Palestine question to make bilateral peace with Israel. The Israelis thought they could continue the occupation without consequences. Then came the October 7 attack. Did the Palestinians achieve anything from the October 7 attack? Initial signs suggest that Hamas's attack and Israel's subsequent war on Gaza have further set back the push for a two-state solution. But at the same time, the war in Gaza brought the Palestine guestion back to the centre of West Asia's geopolitics. Israel wanted to localise the Palestine question, and Hamas has re-regionalised it. When Israel launched the war on Gaza, it said it would dismantle Hamas. But after 22 months of fighting, Hamas is far from destroyed. Israel, on the other side, faces serious allegations of genocide and mass starvation, which have prompted more countries in the West. all of them Israel's allies, to offer recognition to Palestinian sovereignty. If anything, October 7 and its aftermath are a reminder that occupation is not a solution. Israel wants to continue the occupation without consequences. But Palestinian militants seem determined to keep fighting, with whatever available tactics they have, including the means of terror. Unless the Palestine question is addressed, neither Israel nor West Asia is going to enjoy durable peace and stability. And a lasting and just solution to the Palestine question is either the creation of a state of Palestine, with all the rights other nation states enjoy, or the acceptance of the Palestinian people as equal citizens in a single state that's purged of its apartheid ideology and architecture. Such a settlement looks remote today. But the alternative is the unsustainable and untenable path of violence.

Arunachal gets ISRO-backed space lab in Mechuka; NE students to visit Bengaluru under NE-SPARKS

Itanagar: In collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), a state-of-the-art space laboratory was set up at remote Mechuka in Arunachal Pradesh's Shi-Yomi district to provide students with practical experience in space science and technology, officials said Arunachal Pradesh Education, Tourism and Libraries Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona inaugurated the laboratory on Friday afternoon to provide students with practical experience in space science and technology, to boost their inquisitiveness and innovation besides to generate a scientific thoughts among the students and youths. In a series of posts on his X handle, Sona said: "Today marks an emotional and proud moment for me as I inaugurated the Pasang Wangchuk Sona ISRO Space Laboratory at Government Higher Secondary School, Mechukha – dedicated to my late father, Shri Pasang Wangchuk Sona."He said that this laboratory is not just an educational facility; it is a tribute to his unwavering belief in the power of education and curiosity."I hope it becomes a place where our children dream bigger, explore science fearlessly, and reach for the stars. May this space lab inspire generations of young minds in Shi-Yomi and beyond to innovate, discover, and lead our state into a brighter future," the minister said. Shi-Yomi Deputy Commissioner Liyi Bagra, Deputy Director of School



Education Tade Dabi, Muskaan Chief Operating Officer Pranesh Debnath, students, teachers and community leaders attended the event. Meanwhile, according to an official in Manipur, at least 100 science students from each of the eight Northeastern states would get an opportunity to visit the ISRO in Bengaluru to ignite curiosity and foster awareness about space science and technology. The official said that talented science students from the Northeastern states would visit the ISRO headquarters in different batches. The programme is being implemented by North East Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC) under the initiative of the Ministry of the DoNER (Development of North Eastern Region).

CBIC clarifies **GST** levy on post-sale discounts, to help reduce disputes



GST levy, GST levy on post-sale discounts, GST, Goods and Services tax (GST), GST revision, Goods and Services tax (GST) revision, tax structure, revised tax structure, Indian express business, business news, current affairsTax experts said the CBIC's clarification provides certainty and will help in reducing legal disputes. Ahead of the implementation of GST 2.0 from September 22, the government has clarified that post-sale discounts given by manufacturers to dealers through competitive pricing or promotional activities to push sales will not attract GST. The indirect tax, however, would be levied in cases where a dealer undertakes sales promotional activities, such as advertising campaigns, co-branding, customisation services, exhibitions or customer support services as part of an agree-

In a clarification issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on various doubts related to treatment of secondary or post-sale discounts under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, the Board has also clarified that the buyers need not reverse the input tax credit (ITC) — deduction of the tax paid on inputs from the overall GST liability on output — when they make discounted payments to the supplier of goods. The Board said the supplier of goods can issue financial or commercial credit notes and so, the seller won't be eligible to reduce his or her original tax liability, which in turn, will not result in reversal of ITC and hence, the GST charged from the buyer will also not get reduced. A GST credit note is a legal document by which the value of the goods or services in the original tax invoice can be amended or revised.

"Section 16 (1) of the CGST Act, 2017 provides that every registered person shall be entitled to take credit of input tax charged on any supply of goods or services or both, which are used or intended to be used in the course or furtherance of his business... it is clarified that the recipient will not be required to reverse the input tax credit attributed to the discount provided on the basis of financial/com-

mercial credit notes issued by the supplier, as there is no reduction in the original transaction value of the supply and accordingly the corresponding tax liability would also not get reduced," the CBIC stated in the circular dated September 12 that has been issued to all central tax principal chief commissioners and chief commissioners across the country. The Board also said that when a dealer engages in promotional activities to boost sales after receiving postsale discount from a manufacturer, such activities should not be included in the consideration for a separate transaction of supply of services. These activities ultimately enhance the sale of goods that the dealers own and the discount reduces the sale price of the goods without being linked to any independent service rendered to the manufacturer, it said. Similarly, in cases where there is no agreement between the manufacturer and the end customer. there are two independent sale transactions, one from the manufacturer to the dealer and the other from the dealer to the end customer. The dealer takes ownership of the goods purchased from the manufacturer and subsequently sells manufacturers to dealer operates on a principal-to-principal basis. "These discounts are simply given for competitive pricing to push sales and merely reduce the sale price of the goods and are not linked to any independent activity rendered to the manufacturer. Therefore, it is clarified that monetary value of the inducement of further supply of these goods," the CBIC said. Tax experts said the CBIC's clarification provides certainty and will help in reducing legal disputes. Abhishek Jain, partner & national head, Indirect Tax at KPMG in India, said, "The clarification will help industry and trade execute such transactions with greater certainty and reduce disputes around what has long been a contentious issue. At the same time, for scenarios involving agreements with end customers for passing on specific benefits to end-consumers through dealers in the supply chain, businesses may need to carefully revisit and evaluate their positions." More importantly, it draws a clear distinction between routine trade discounts in principal-to-principal transactions, which merely reduce the price of goods, and situations where a manufacturer has an arrangement with the end-customer in which case the rebate becomes an inducement and forms part of the dealer's consideration, Manoj Mishra, partner and tax controversy management leader, Grant Thornton Bharat. "The guidance also settles the debate around marketing support, clarifying that post-sale discounts are not taxable as services unless the dealer is contractually bound to perform defined promotional activities. From a practical standpoint, this puts the onus on businesses to carefully document agreements, credit notes, and

On Govt table: How to help exporters not lose market share due to 50% US tariff

TO PREVENT loss of market share following the high 50% US tariffs, the government is ready to extend a series of mitigating measures such as subsidised interest rates, collateral-free loans and credit guarantee, to labour-intensive exporters. Exporters also want government support in facilitating access to big domestic buyers — both public like the Railways, and private like Reliance Retail and Aditya Birla Group. In the first half of this year, and just weeks before the 25% reciprocal US tariffs kicked-in on August 7, India managed a 12% growth in shipments of textiles and apparels to the US. This was, however, far lower than the export growth clocked by competitors Vietnam, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Cambodia.

With the additional 25% secondary tariffs for Russian oil purchases becoming effective August 27, there is little doubt the comparative advantage has reversed sharply for India, impacting shipments of leather and shrimps, apart from textiles and apparel. In New Delhi, policy makers had multiple rounds of deliberations with affected exporters, and a constant refrain in these meetings is: Shore up market share, whatever it takes... Losing market share will make it really difficult to recover it back as and when the tariff situation normalises. The message has been distilled down by government officials, who have tried to impress this upon exporters in their meetings. This exhortation, of course, has been alongside an assurance that the government is formulating a broad-based plan to mitigate, at least in part, the loss of competitiveness of exporters. This assertion is borne out of the implicit calculation within sections of the Central government that the 25 per cent secondary tariffs on account of Russian oil imports would be drawn down at some point, sooner than later. But whenever that happens, the loss of market share would be difficult to recover as buyers and importers in the US would have already factored in strategies that look beyond India. Among the likely policy measures are several pandemic era schemes that were earlier targeted at addressing a demand shock. This includes a broad support package aimed at providing liquidity through collateral-free loans and subsidised interest rates, and likely credit guarantees offered on loans overdue by up to 3months for small exporters. The reintroduction of a provision modelled on an earlier interest equalisation scheme, as demanded by the industry, is also being considered. The challenge for the government is to ensure that measures formulated for relief to exporters to tide over the impact of the American tariff, is not specific to the US. These need to be general measures, since an incentive aimed at one particular market, such as the US, could lead to the imposition of a corresponding countervailing duty by Washington something that has happened in the past.

The industry has been asking to restore the Interest Equalisation scheme (IES), which has been one of the most effective instruments to remove cost disability of Indian exports. This scheme - which provided the much-needed competitiveness to exports, particularly to the MSMEs, since the interest costs in India are much higher than in competitors' countries - was inexplicably wound up by the Central government last year. It was a relatively small scheme, with some Rs 2,500 crore annual expenditure available mostly to the MSMEs. Also, some of the bigger exporters have started talks with big domestic retailers such as Reliance Retail and the Aditya Birla Group for an entry into the domestic market, at least to ride out the secondary tariffs. Exporters have also asked the government for facilitating access to big domestic buyers, including the Indian Railways and procurement by various government departments and undertakings. With Trump's new tariffs kicking in, trade experts estimate that the value of India's merchandise exports to the US could drop substantially in 2025-26 (FY26) from FY25 levels. According to an analysis by the Delhi-based think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative, India's product exports to the US could fall to \$49.6 billion in FY26 from nearly \$87 billion in the last financial year, as two-thirds of the India's US exports by value will



customer-level pricing arrangements," he said.

be hit by 50 per cent tariffs, taking effective tariff rates to over 60 per cent in a few product categories. Around 30 per cent of India's exports to the US-valued at \$27.6 billion in FY25—will remain duty free as product categories like pharmaceuticals, electronics, and petroleum products have been exempt from Trump's tariffs, while 4 per cent of the exports-mainly auto parts-will face a 25 per cent tariff rate. The impact of the tariffs could be broad-based, as the US accounts for 20 per cent of India's merchandise exports and slightly less than 2 per cent of its overall GDP. Product categories that are likely to be hit the hardest by high US tariffs include textiles and apparel, gems and jewellery, shrimps, machinery and mechanical appliances, some metals (steel, aluminium, copper), organic chemicals, agriculture and processed foods, leather and footwear. handicrafts, furniture, and carpets. The US accounts for 48 per cent of revenue for India's shrimp exporters, which means that the marine exports sector would also see a sharp decline in volumes.

Gold jumps Rs 3,300 in a week, Silver crosses Rs 1.28 lakh

New Delhi: Gold and silver prices witnessed a sharp rally this week, keeping both precious metals close to their all-time highs. According to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), the price of 24-carat gold stands at Rs 1,09,707 per 10 grams, compared to Rs 1,06,338 a week ago — reflecting a rise of Rs 3,369.

Prices of 22-carat gold have climbed from Rs 97,406 to Rs 1,00,492 per 10 grams, while 18-carat gold has risen from Rs 79,754 to Rs 82,280 per 10 grams. Silver prices also gained significantly, rising by Rs 4,838 during the review period. The white metal now trades at Rs 1,28,008 per kg, up from Rs 1,23,170. The rally in precious metals is being attributed to rising global uncertainties. Recent tariff measures imposed by US President Donald Trump on multiple countries have heightened concerns worldwide. Traditionally seen as safe-haven assets during times of uncertainty, both gold and silver have witnessed higher demand, while limited supply has further pushed prices upward. Jatin Trivedi of LKP Commodities noted that gold prices have continued their bullish run, driven by increasing expectations of a US Federal Reserve rate cut. Despite the metal being overbought, ongoing tariff disputes and the global de-dollarization theme are supporting higher prices. He added that gold is likely to trade between Rs 1.07 lakh and Rs 1.12 lakh per 10 grams in the coming sessions. Since January 1, gold prices have jumped by 44.04 per cent — from Rs 76,162 to Rs 1,09,707 per 10 grams — marking an increase of Rs 33,545. Silver has seen an even sharper rise of 48.81 per cent, moving from Rs 86,017 to Rs 1,28,008 per kg during the same period.

'I changed tampons every 1 hour for 48 hours straight': Chhavi Mittal on experiencing 'severe' period pain, 'most probably' related to post-cancer hormone therapy



Chhavi Mittal, who has time and again highlighted the various aspects of fighting breast cancer, recently opened up about experiencing severe period pain at 45. "Not enough is being said about this. Period pain is compared to breaking bones or having a heart attack in extreme cases. Some women are blessed (like me) to endure it strongly, but some simply cannot. I experienced this at 45! All my life, I have thought periods are just another part of my day/month/life. This is a general belief. But I knew something was wrong when I couldn't get out of bed to make @arhamhussein sleep, or pack tiffins and send the kids to school. Hell, I haven't gone to the gym in 5 days! I changed tampons every 1 hour for 48 hours straight, dying in pain, and collapsing due to weakness & tingling in limbs. My brain function was hampered, my eyes were closing, and I felt my whole system shutting down," Mittal shared her ordeal on Facebook. According to her, the main reason for a heavy flow is thickening of the endometrium (which has many reasons too), "most probably in my case, is the post-cancer hormone therapy. (I get them heavy since 3 years but never like how I experienced this month).

Fibroids, polyps, etc, are common reasons too. "Just want to put it out there that no way a woman should go through this alone and be expected to behave like nothing's wrong! That as a man, you cannot do anything about the physical pain, but as a partner for your woman, you can show sensitivity rather than irritability around her during this time. Give her a hot water bag, give her your arms, a kiss, and some jokes, help too to cheer her up. Let her rest, ruffle her hair, make her a cup of tea," she added. She continued, "But even if you're not physically present, be patient when

she complains. Tell her it's OK to cry, to give herself time to recover, that this will pass, and that YOU'RE THERE WITH HER. I'm super proud to raise a sensitive lil man in my own house. Arham hugged me and cried to let me know that he's worried, he pressed my feet, kissed my forehead, and told me to stay in bed coz he'll sleep on his own tonight ?? He learns from the best @mohithussein, who always somehow magically takes care of everything when I'm suddenly out of action. He canceled everything to just be available in case I need to be rushed to the hospital. But for women who feel alone through any kind of pain & suffering, join the space I'm creating. UR not alone."

Is there a link between severe period pain and postcancer hormone therapy?

Dr Shruti Chandak, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, KIMS Hospitals, Thane, concurred and shared that hormone therapies after cancer can affect the menstrual cycle. "They may change the thickness of the endometrium, lead to irregular cycles, increase flow, or cause more painful periods. Each woman reacts differently, but it's not unusual to experience menstrual changes after such treatment," said Dr Chandak.

Does severe pain and bleeding happen to all women? Not at all, said Dr Chandak. "Some women have mini-

mal discomfort during their cycles, while others face pain or heavy bleeding for years. Factors like age, underlying issues (fibroids, polyps, endometriosis, adenomyosis), or ongoing treatments can make symptoms worse. It's crucial not to normalise extreme pain; if it feels unmanageable, it should be checked by a doctor," said Dr Chandak.

What should women look out for?

If you are changing a pad or tampon every hour, passing large clots, feeling dizzy, or struggling with daily tasks due to pain, these are warning signs. "Ongoing fatigue or tingling in your limbs, like Chhavi mentioned, can also indicate anemia or other effects of blood loss. These are solid reasons to see a gynecologist promptly," said Dr Chandak. The first step is to have a thorough check-up, which may include an ultrasound, blood tests, and hormone evaluations. "Treatment can range from medications and hormone regulation to minimally invasive procedures, based on the cause. For women undergoing post-cancer therapy, the approach should be personalised and closely moni-

'For the next 1.5 years, I drank every day': What Aamir Khan's struggle after divorce from Reena Dutta tells us about how even success can't shield you from emotional collapse

After his divorce from Reena Dutta, actor Aamir Khan opened up about how deeply the separation affected him emotionally. In an interview, he said, "When Reena and I separated that evening, I finished an entire bottle of alcohol, and for the next 1.5 years, I drank every day. I never slept. Main behosh ho jata tha daaru peeke (I used to pass out after drinking alcohol). I was trying to kill myself." At a time when his career was soaring, after the release of his superhit film Lagaan, he shared how isolating that experience truly was. "I was not even working then. Neither did I care to meet anybody. The same year, 'Lagaan' released and a newspaper article called me 'Man of the Year, Aamir Khan'. I found it very ironical," he told The Lallantop. Despite public drawing from people and turning to alcohol to escape the pain. The contrast between his inner world and outer success is a reminder that emotional struggles don't always look the way we expect them to.

How common is it for individuals to turn to substance use after a painful separation, and what are some early signs that someone might be struggling?

Psychologist Rasshi Gurnani tells indianexpress.com, "I often see people turning to substances like alcohol or drugs after a painful separation, not because they want to become addicts, but because they're simply trying to numb the overwhelming emotional pain. It's more common than we think. People who appear 'fine' on the outside might actually be silently crumbling inside. They might overcompensate by keeping busy, partying more, or becoming extra social — when in reality, they're avoiding sitting with their feelings." She adds that early signs include "withdrawal from close relationships, changes in sleep or appetite, mood swings, or even a subtle sense of disconnection from things they once enjoyed." These might seem like personality shifts, but they're often distress signals that go unnoticed. When emotional numbness starts to replace copingWhen Aamir Khan said he felt like he was trying to kill himself through drinking, Gurnani says, it reflects a very real and dangerous emotional numbness many experience.



that's where things can spiral. "If someone you love begins to shut down emotionally, avoid talking about what's going on, or starts showing self-destructive behavior (even passively), it's important to gently intervene. Don't judge — listen. Help them connect with a therapist, stay present with them in their silence, and encourage them to express their pain rather than bury it. Often, just having one person truly see and acknowledge their suffering can shift the course,'

At this point, the goal is no longer healing but escape

Can emotional trauma during major life events impact professional performance or creative output in unexpected

Emotional trauma like divorce can absolutely impact someone's creativity, clarity, and work ethic. Gurnani explains, "The person might find themselves uninspired, anxious, or simply unable to connect with their own work. On the surface, it may feel like laziness or burnout, but it's often a symptom of deeper emotional unrest. Rebuilding focus starts with giving yourself permission to grieve. That grief must be processed — not avoided."Once acknowledged, healing often brings clarity. This is the time to return to the 'why' behind one's work, reconnect with the original purpose, and create a routine that blends emotional care with small wins. In moments of chaos, regaining structure, no matter how basic, can help a person slowly return to

Is it true that eating vegetables before carbs can prevent sugar spikes by up to 75 per cent?

Many people with diabetes tend to worry about sudden blood sugar spikes after meals, but small lifestyle changes can make a big difference. So, we asked experts to share the best ways. "One very effective method is eating fibre-rich vegetables. The fibre coats the walls of the intestine, slowing down the absorption of sugars. This means when you eat carbs afterward, they don't shoot into the bloodstream like a bullet, but instead enter more gradually," said Dr Manjusha Agarwal, senior consultant, internal medicine, Gleneagles Hospital, Parel, Mumbai. This is a simple dietary technique that can help people with diabetes and those at risk, as mentioned by Dr. Vijay Negalur, HOD, Diabetology, KIMS Hospitals, Thane.

Some social media posts claim that eating vegetables reduces the sugar spike by 75%. Is that true?

That number is an exaggeration, contended Dr Negalur. "Studies do show improvement, but the degree of benefit depends on many factors, such as the type of food eaten, portion size, cooking method, and individual response. In some people, the reduction may be significant; in others, it might be more modest. So while the benefit is real, stating a fixed percentage like 75 per cent is misleading," said Dr Negalur. What are other ways?

Likewise, adding protein or healthy fats, like nuts or

eggs, to meals slows digestion and prevents sharp sugar spikes. "Even chewing food slowly makes a difference (provided there are no other distractions like phone and TV), because it allows the body more time to process the meal," said Dr Agarwal. Experts also suggest that drinking a glass of water before meals can slow digestion and help you feel full, so you may eat a bit less. "This indirectly helps reduce post-meal sugar spikes. But again, this is just a small tool, not a complete solution," said Dr Negalur. While food order does matter, it is not a quick fix, remarked Dr Negalur. "It works best when combined with other healthy habits such as portion control, balanced meals, and regular exercise. If you have diabetes, do not stop your medications just because you see better readings after changing your food order. Instead, continue monitoring your sugar levels and discuss changes with your doctor," said Dr Negalur. Moreover, not all carbohydrates are the same, "Whole grains and millets act very differently from refined carbohydrates like white rice or sweets," said Dr Negalur. People can also reduce their blood sugar levels by going for a short 10-minute walk after a meal. "Muscles use up some of the sugar in the blood, which brings levels down naturally, and it is possible to manage the blood sugar levels. Beyond this, reducing sugary drinks and replacing them with water or herbal tea also helps to control blood sugar levels," said Dr Agarwal.

'Ahead of sportsmen's spirit also': What did Suryakumar Yadav say at press conference after beating Pakistan at Asia Cup?



GNS News Agency, Sept 26

India's captain Survakumar Yadav, right, and Pakistan's captain Salman Agha walk onto the field before the start of the Asia Cup cricket match between India and Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium. (AP Photo)India's captain Suryakumar Yadav, right, and Pakistan's captain Salman Agha walk onto the field before the start of the Asia Cup cricket match between India and Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium. As he emphasised in the post-match presentation ceremony, India captain Survakumar Yadav dedicated India's sevenwicket win "to our brave armed forces who took part in Operation Sindoor." In an emotional tone, he reflected on the decision to not shake hands with Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha: "I feel few things, few things in life are ahead of sportsmen's spirit also." He then paused and explained: "I have already answered it. I have told it at the presentation as well that we actually stand with all the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. And we stand with their families also, expressing our solidarity. Also, as I said at PC, that we dedicate this win to our brave armed forces who took part in Operation Sindoor. And as they continue to inspire us all, we will try our best whenever given an opportunity to inspire them as well, if possible," he said.

This was the second time he was asked about the handshake in the press conference. On the first instance, he revealed the genesis of the decision. "I think the BCCI and our government were aligned. We came here, we took a call and we came here just to play the game. And we gave them the proper reply."The next probing came much later. The media manager intervened, but Surya told him not to and patiently explained. A related question was posed on whether sport should stay clear of politics. He said, saying that he has told his teammates to cut off at least 75 percent of social media usage: "Not just India-Pakistan. So I feel this is a good rivalry. And I don't know what you are saying about politics. Because I am completely off social media. I have deleted everything from my phone. So whatever it is, others watch it and the voice gets cut there." He then said people follow the other rivalries in the game too. "People like to watch games between England and Australia, or Australia versus South Africa."

India's captain Suryakumar Yadav, right celebrates with batting partner Shivam Dube after their win in the Asia Cup cricket match against Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025. (AP Photo) India's captain Suryakumar Yadav, right celebrates with batting partner Shivam Dube after their win in the Asia Cup cricket match against Paki-

stan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Between these questions, though, he was his usual merry self, dropping cheeky lines. Sample. "Happy Birthday, Surya!" Suryakumar: "Where is the cake, sir?" It left the floor in splits. Between, he waxed eloquent on Jasprit Bumrah, the spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel and India's shape-shifting middle order. "Didn't spinners give you the perfect birthday gift?" In characteristic humour, he said:" I let the spinners bowl 12 overs and it was a return gift for me." "Spinners have been working hard, you can see it in their practice, they want to prepare really well. Watching them on the ground, you can see how well they are prepared. And they are very clear with their plans and it makes my job easier. They are happy with the fields, they are happy with the ends which they are bowling from. And it's good to see all the three spinners firing and very well supported by Hardik and Bumrah," he added.

Even bowling Bumrah for three straight overs was not an in-the-moment decision, but well thought out. "Till today, he's never bowled three overs in the power play. So, we just wanted to try how things go ahead," he pointed out. "And we're very happy we're using him as an attacking option. If he picks two wickets or even if he bowls a tight spell of three overs, then later on, we have good cushion for all the spinners to come over and make our job a little easier. So, we want to use him as an attacking option. And he is very happy with it. For a few days or some days, if he has bowled only two overs, he'll bowl only two overs. But at least me and the support and the management, we want to use him as an attacking option. And that gives a good platform for someone like Hardik and Shivam Dubey also to raise their hand to bowl crucial overs in the end and also in the middle."He praised Axar's smarts, his efforts in improving his bowling against left-handed batsmen, a match-up he is determined to win. "Whenever I see him at practice, he bowls a lot to the left-handers because that's a proper match-up. You feel if a left-hander is walking in, you can't bowl a left-arm spinner. But he practices more to the lefthanded batters. And when he bowls to the right-handers, he has his own plans," he said. He explained the logic behind a flexible batting line-up. "Everyone should know how to bat well everywhere. Prepare accordingly. And basically, in T20 cricket, I feel that if you are playing with 7 batsmen, then it is important to impact everyone. So, I want everyone to go and impact their positions. And everyone has accepted it well. And according to me, everyone is flexible. And if you are flexible to bat at any number in the team, then I think it becomes a dangerous team. It's coming."India coach Gautam Gambhir too echoed his skipper's words and said the team stands in solidarity with the families of the victims of the terror attack, thanking the Indian armed forces for Operation Sindoor. "The match was important for us because as a team we wanted to show our solidarity to the families of the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. For everything they have gone through. More importantly, we want to thank our armed forces for their successful Operation Sindoor, and I'm sure we will try and make our country proud and happy," Gambhir said to the Sony Sports

R Ashwin: 'Don't think this Pakistan team has a lot of class... India in a different league'

Former India cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin has said that the Asia Cup game between India and Pakistan, which the Men in Blue won by seven wickets on Sunday, was a clear indicator that this current Pakistan team "has a lot of class" and that the Indians were in a "different league" altogether. Pakistan never put up a fight against India at the Dubai International Stadium in Sunday's group stage clash, managing to score a paltry 127/9 in their quota of 20 overs before the Indians chased it down with 25 balls to spare. The game was the first of what could be three clashes between the arch-rivals in the Asia Cup. That is if Pakistan can even make it to the Super 4s and the final.

"Perhaps the Asia Cup organizers should have three India and Sri Lanka games next time. I feel that India and Sri Lanka would be a much tighter contest," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel Ash Ki Baat."I actually feel very, very sorry for the Pakistan cricket team. They don't have the exposure to play in all the cricket leagues in the world. They're not able to ply their trade in most of the leagues. I will not get too much into these political things. For Pakistan, I felt that only Saim Ayub has a great temperament. He also bowled a great spell, especially the way he took the wickets of Shubman Gill and Tilak Verma. It was class apart because Abhishek Sharma took him down, but besides Saim Ayub, I don't think this Pakistan cricket team has a lot of class," Ashwin said before adding: "Of course, India is in a different league in every way—practically, technically, and strategically. So it's very unfair to compare."When asked if this is the weakest Pakistani cricket team that we have seen. Ashwin said: "I would say this is the strongest T20 team that India has ever put on a park. It is just unfair to even compare both teams." Ashwin pointed out that players like Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Verma had been forged in the constant caldron of pressure that the Indian Premier League is while the Pakistan play-



ers were not used to playing under such conditions.

Ashwin then went on to explain his comments with examples of what had transpired in the game. "In the batting today, look at Abhishek Sharma. This is why I rate him the most. Sharma used his feet on the very first ball against Shaheen Shah Afridi. In stark contrast, Mohammad Haris stood his ground and hit Jasprit Bumrah across the line, and the ball went straight up. You can't play such a shot against Bumrah. This is not the Oman team. You can hit those kinds of bowlers, but it's not the same against Bumrah. What did I say in the preview? If Pakistan were 75 for one at the end of 10 overs, they could have easily made 150, 160, or even 165. Because let's just look at the previous games against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Even Bangladesh was able to make 140, and they came back much later with the partnership of Zakir Ali and Shamim. But Pakistan has been practically very, very poor. I told you, in the chakkar of giving it your all, you don't want them getting bogged down. They got bogged down again."He added: "Until Shaheen Shah Afridi came to bat, they just could not pick Kuldeep Yadav. They could not middle deliv-

Jwala Gutta donates 14.5 litres of breast milk to save premature babies

GNS News Agency, Sept 26

Hyderabad: In a novel act, champion badminton player from Hyderabad, Jwala Gutta has donated 14, 500 ml of breast milk that will save lives of premature and severely sick infants whose mothers struggle to produce breast milk. The ace badminton player donated 70 breast milk packets, a total of 14.5 liters, to the Government-run Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children (ICH), Egmore, Chennai through Chennai-based voluntary organization Amirtham Foundation.

Jwala received high praise for the selfless act. "Champions Are Not Made In Stadiums But Also In Milk Banks' posted Amirtham Foundation on its X handle, recently.

The badminton player herself highlighted the importance of donating breast milk through her various social media accounts. In a post on X, she wrote "Breast milk saves lives. For premature and sick babies, donor milk can be life changing. If you are able to donate, you could be a hero to a family in need. Learn more, share the word and support milk banks". Amirthan Foundation, which is a group of over 5000 lactating mothers, praised Jawala Gutta for



the donation. "Every ounce you give is a heartbeat of hope for a baby in need. We are happy to share that we have successfully collected 70 milk packets (14, 500 ml) from our new donor mother Jwala Gutta," Amirtham Foundation posted. The top badminton player is married to actor Vishnu Vishal and both had welcomed their daughter in April, 2025. They have named their daughter Mira.

Gold medallist talks Paris loss, Captain Hawa Singh legacy and LA Olympics plans



GNS News Agency, Sept 26

Having scored a win over Paris Olympics silver medallist Julia Szeremeta of Poland in the women's 57kg final in the World Boxing Championships in Liverpool, Haryana boxer Jaismine Lamboriya became the ninth Indian woman boxer to win a Worlds title and only the second to do so in an Olympic category. The Indian boxer, who suffered a loss in the first round at the Paris Olympics, became the world champion within a year of that exit. In an interview to The Indian Express, Lamboriya talks about winning the Worlds title, what she learnt from the Paris Olympics, carrying the legacy of Captain Hawa Singh, her paternal great-grand-uncle, and the dream to win the Olympic title at Los Angeles in 2028. Excerpts from the Interview:

What are your first thoughts after becoming the world champion?

It feels special. I believe it's the result of all the ups and down I saw in the last four years of my international career. There were moments when I would lose close bouts or would be lacking something in my body. But then each loss teaches one to come back stronger and that's how I see this world title. Even if I had lost here, I had gone with the belief to give my best and if I am able to execute my plans, then I have achieved the best. I see this title as the result of the hard training as well as work done over the years.

Talking about the lows, what went wrong for you at the Paris Olympics, where you lost in the first round match against Nesthy Petecio?

Paris ka Paris main hi beh gaya. Yahi thought tha. I did understand that I needed to work more on myself. And that's why I started training ten days after the Paris Olympics. I returned to ASI, Pune and understood that I needed to work on my strength as well as change my mindset. While coaches Chhote Lal Yadav and Mohammad Ehteshamuddin would make me box against men too to help me with the physical aspects of the 57kg division, I also worked with psychologist Vikram Mahajan and would read his books Goal is gold and Go Elite. I always believe that apart from the body being in a strong position, a boxer needs to work constantly on the mental aspect. Sometimes, some losses remain in our mind so we need to forget them and get better.

Here in Liverpool, what was your biggest challenge and how do you see yourself in the 57kg division in the coming years?

The work we did in the last one year at ASI as well the national camp, I wanted to extend that here at Liverpool. The toughest challenge of course was the final against Szeremeta. She is the kind of boxer who relies heavily on power and I needed to trust my long range boxing. Talking of the challenges ahead, I know the Paris Olympics champion Lin Yu-ting was not here and that some boxers from 60 will shift to 57. I believe 60kg is more about strength but 57kg brings a lot in terms of foot movement and utilising the height advantage in this division. The Asian Games and Commonwealth Games will take place next year and the

aim is to win a medal there too. Winning the Olympic gold at the LA Olympics is definitely the biggest target.

You have since long been a boxer who relies on her height as well as range. How has this developed?

When I was a child, my uncles Parvinder Lamboria and Sandeep Lamboria would tell me that my hands almost reached my knee (laughs). I've always had good strength in my legs as a boxer. And I worked on it through sand running and hill training under my uncles. I would rewatch bouts of Vijender Singh, who relied on his range a lot and later I would develop a habit of watching bouts of heavyweight boxer Bakhodir Zalalov as well. I believe being is as mental as physical and hence repeating the moves in my mind helps me. Talking about the tag of a long range boxer, I am ready to adapt too. During the World Cup final against Nishinaka Yuna at Astana, I was relying only on long range but then the opening round was split. In the third round, I knew I had to come with a plan to fight from close range and utilised upper cuts as well low jabs to score points.

Bhiwani has been the boxing hub of India with boxers like Captain Hawa Singh, part of your extended family, and Vijender Singh. Do you see the extra pressure of being from the mini Cuba of India?

I have always seen it as my strength. Nupur too has been carrying the legacy of Captain Hawa Singh and we are glad to play our part in creating a legacy for Bhiwani as well India. This World title only reaffirms that idea for us but overall I want to be known as a boxer with a heart and the willpower to dominate the world. Most of the people I meet often tell me that I don't look like a boxer but then I tell them that no matter how somebody may look, it's about how we fight in the ring as well within ourselves that makes us stand out in the boxing world.

Lastly, how will the new world champion celebrate the win?

(Laughs). Well during the bouts, I try to relax and think about my next moves. But like my mother tells me, Chinu, kabhi bhi negative nahi sochna. So be it a win or a loss, I always try to be in a relaxed state of mind and that's what I was last night as well as today. Yes, there will be some dancing on Haryanvi and Punjabi songs but then that's something I enjoy everyday between sessions of boxing too.

Nitin Sharma Indian Express professional bio image

Nitin Sharma is an Assistant Editor with the sports team of The Indian Express. Based out of Chandigarh, Nitin works with the print sports desk while also breaking news stories for the online sports team. A Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award recipient for the year 2017 for his story 'Harmans of Moga', Nitin has also been a two-time recipient of the UNFPA-supported Laadli Media Awards for Gender Sensitivity for the years 2022 and 2023 respectively. Nitin mainly covers Olympics sports disciplines with his main interests in shooting, boxing, wrestling, athletics and much more. The last 17 years with The Indian Express has seen him unearthing stories across India from as far as Andaman and Nicobar to the North East. Nitin also covers cricket apart from women's cricket with a keen interest Nitin has covered events like the 2010 Commonwealth Games, the 2011 ODI World Cup, 2016 T20 World Cup and the 2017 AIBA World Youth Boxing Championships. An alumnus of School of Communication Studies, Panjab University, from where he completed his Masters in Mass Communications degree, Nitin has been an avid quizzer too. A Guru Nanak Dev University Colour holder, Nitin's interest in quizzing began in the town of Talwara Township, a small town near the Punjab-Himachal Pradesh border. When not reporting, Nitin's interests lie in discovering new treks in the mountains or spending time near the river Beas

Siddarth fight for South with 192-run stand, but Central close to winning Duleep Trophy

GNS News Agency, Sept 26

South Zone's Ankit Sharma and Andre Siddarth produced a masterclass in defensive batting but Central Zone are poised to land their first Duleep Trophy title in 11 years, ending the fourth day here on Sunday needing just 65 runs to seal the moment of glory. Overnight 129 for two, South braved a brittle first session but were eventually bundled out for 426 in their second innings as spinners Kumar Kartikeya and Saransh Jain shared seven wickets between

South leads by a mere 64 runs, and Central should be able to surmount the target without much fuss on the fifth day on Monday. Ankit (99, 168 balls) and Siddarth (84 not out, 190 balls) shared an impressive 192-run alliance for the seventh wicket that saved South from a precarious 222 for six — then 141 runs adrift of 363, the mark they needed to go past to avoid an innings defeat. Ankit's innings was emblematic of blunting the bowlers with a broad bat and an unflappable mind. Central pacers — Deepak Chahar and Kuldeep Sen — tested his awareness of off-stump and the reflexes with a slew of snorters, but the left-hander was up to the task each time. There were a couple of occasions when spinners — Kartikeya (4/110) and Jain (3/130) — beat them with slow but appreciable turn, but the 34-year-old moved on quickly from those thorny moments to continue

But then he had a wonderful partner in Siddarth at the other end, showing situational awareness far beyond his tender 19 years. It would not be an exaggeration to trace the traits of his uncle Sridharan Sharath, former Tamil Nadu batter and the current national selector, who was a crisis man for his state in the 90s, in the young Siddarth. Generally focussed on keeping his end going, the right-hander also showcased streaks of elegance when he decided to flick or drive the bowlers. The despair in Central bowlers also grew manifold as the pair went on adding runs diligently, without losing a wicket in the second session — 86/0.But all that good work was undone when Ankit, when he was on 99, uncharacteristically tried to clobber Kartikeya to give Rajat Patidar a simple catch. Once Ankit was dismissed, Central managed to pluck the remaining three South wickets with ease. But before they found the fight inside of them, South lost four wickets in the first session despite adding 120 runs, placing themselves perilously close to an innings defeat. Ricky Bhui (45) was the first to depart, edging Chahar to Shubham Sharma in the cordon, and Ravichandran Smaran, the other overnight batter, followed the suit soon after. Smaran moved on from 37 and completed his fifty (67) but the Karnataka left-hander could not kick on as a rather aimless sweep off Kartikeya ended with Yash Rathod in the deep. South skipper Mohammed Azharuddeen (27) lived a charmed life, enjoying reprieves on 19 and 27 off Kartikeya, eventually perished to the left-arm spinner playing an ugly pull to Kuldeep Sen to mid-on. Salman Nizar (12) fell to Kartikeya before Ankit and Siddarth shored up South



with a resolute stand until the fag end of the day when flurry

of late wickets hampered them.

Sarvesh Kushare qualifies for high jump final at World Championships

Tokyo: Sarvesh Anil Kushare on Sunday became the first Indian to qualify for the high jump final at the World Athletics Championships, while national record holder Gulveer Singh finished 16th in the 10,000m race with a below-par performance. The 30-year-old Kushare, who entered the championships ranked 34th among 36 competing athletes through the world ranking quota, scaled 2.25m to finish joint seventh in Group B of the qualification round. He ended at joint ninth in the overall rankings across both groups. Those who touched the automatic qualifying mark of 2.30m or ranked among the top 12 best performers advanced to the final round, scheduled for Tuesday. Kushare has a personal best of 2.27m (recorded in 2022) and a season best of 2.26m. He won a silver medal at the 2023 Asian Championships. He has been a consistent performer this season, having dipped below 2.19m only once in 10 outings before Sunday. The son of an onion farmer from a small village near Nashik in Maharashtra, Sarvesh used to practice on makeshift fodder mats early in his career. He went on to become the first Indian high jumper to qualify for the Olympics at the 2024 Paris Games. However, he failed to get past the qualification round in the French capital last year. In the men's 10,000m race, Gulveer Singh could not make a final push after staying in the leading group of more than 10 runners till the last two laps of the competitive race. The 27-year-old Indian completed the race in 29 minutes 13.33 seconds under humid conditions - well below his personal best of 27:00.22, which he had clocked in

Jeethu Joseph: The director who proved that a strong script can make audiences overlook even a film's most obvious flaws



The memories of picking my brain off the floor after watching the climax of the whodunnit murder mystery Detective (2007) are still vivid in my mind. Not just the identity of the murderer, but even the modus operandi detailed in it felt so novel and out of the box that the movie showed audiences like me the untapped potential of locked-room/impossible crime mysteries, which weren't very frequent in Malayalam cinema back then. The name of the director, however, was unfamiliar, although it etched itself into the hearts of Malayalees with ease. Since then, audiences have always looked out for movies helmed by Jeethu Joseph, a name that has also turned into a brand in itself in recent years, guaranteeing a certain degree of quality in films. Now, he is gearing up for the release of his 19th directorial venture, Mirage, a thriller starring Asif Ali and Aparna Balamurali, and the excitement among moviegoers is naturally high.

To have directed 18 movies in 18 years, and that too across various languages, is no small feat in the current era. And what makes this achievement even more monumental is that he has rarely tasted failure. Although he has crafted films in other genres too, thriller has been his forte, with crafting suspenseful and nail-biting scripts being his superpower. A testament to this is the Mohanlal-led Drishyam franchise. However, Jeethu's career also exemplifies the concept of the "curse of the masterpiece", where one's most celebrated work hinders them in their onward journey, as people hesitate to accept or discuss them or their other projects. Though he has been trying to avoid being victim to this legacy trap, the success of Drishyam (2013) and Drishyam 2 (2021) has been so impactful and widespread that escaping its shadow is becoming increasingly difficult for him. With Drishyam 3 also in the pipeline, this challenge will only intensify. Although he could easily embrace it and live off Drishyam's legacy forever, Jeethu has repeatedly demonstrated that this is not his aspiration. While even his thrillers that aren't part of the franchise illustrates this, he has tried to make the same point with his efforts in other genres too. However, what holds him back is his shortcomings as a director, as he has yet to master the visual language. In other words, had Jeethu been even half as strong a director as he is a screenwriter, he might have been able to break free from the tyranny of his masterpiece by now. Since the beginning of his career, Jeethu Joseph has shown that he isn't interested in chaining himself to either his success or a particular genre. Despite Detective turning out to be a moderate success and offers coming his way to create something similar, he chose to make a diametrically different film next — Mummy & Me — a family drama starring Urvashi and Archana Jose Kavi in the lead roles. Interestingly, Jeethu once shared that his friends warned him against making a movie headlined by a woman. "They told me it was woman-oriented and that it wouldn't work, but I went ahead anyway. Detective was easy compared to the struggle I had to go through for Mummy & Me. But I wanted to do a different film," he told The Hindu in 2014, adding that this was why he went ahead with it despite having the one-liner for Memories also ready.

Jeethu's decision to follow his heart paid off once again, as Mummy & Me emerged a hit. In contrast to Detective,

where he focused entirely on maintaining suspense utilising the Rashomon effect as well and crafting a unique modus operandi for the murder in focus — but missed creating an impactful emotional core, Mummy & Me was the exact opposite. Here, he did not concern himself with logic or making the screenplay watertight. Instead, he aimed to craft only moments that were as emotionally resonant as possible. Considering this was also an era when Malayalam cinema was at its worst, with the industry producing nothing substantial or worthwhile, the film impressed audiences, thanks in large part to Urvashi's stellar performance. Even though Detective and Mummy & Me were polar opposite movies, there was one similarity between them: the lack of finesse in direction. Had Jeethu's script faltered even a bit, both films would have crumbled completely, as they lacked visual aesthetics otherwise and appeared soap opera-ish. In his journey forward, Jeethu showed this well. Whenever his writing fell short, his movies collapsed entirely, not even getting a breather due to the substandard quality of direction. In other words, had Jeethu's screenwriting been less impressive or just average, with no standout scripts to his credit, it's doubtful he would have managed to survive in the Malayalam industry so effortlessly for so long.

Nonetheless, Jeethu Joseph's brilliance and mastery lie in his ability to enchant audiences so much that they don't even notice his filmmaking limitations, or, better yet, not care about them at all, as he has already captured their undivided attention. He managed to achieve this even in the romantic comedy My Boss (2012), an adaptation of Ryan Reynolds and Sandra Bullock's The Proposal (2009). Here, he did not simply remake the Hollywood movie. Instead, he carefully rooted it in the local grounds, packed it with hilarious one-liners, and ensured uproarious dynamics between various characters. A closer look at the movie's unrefined camera angles and editing patterns, nevertheless, reveals Jeethu's lack of a firm grasp on filmmaking. But none of that stopped him from impressing the audience and turning My Boss into one of the few recent movies with high rewatch value. Drishyam's Tamil remake Papanasam features Kamal Haasan in the lead role. Writer-director Jeethu Joseph with Kamal Haasan on the sets of Papanasam. (Credit: Facebook/@JeethuJosephOnline)

If there's one movie in his career where Jeethu demonstrated jaw-dropping directorial skills, it's in the Prithviraj Sukumaran-starrer Memories (2013), where even the camera movement and colour garding radiated excellence. However, this raises a question: how did he achieve this level of craft only once; neither before nor after? From Drishyam, Kamal Haasan's Papanasam, Life of Josutty (2015), Oozham (2016) and Aadhi (2018) to Thambi (2019), Drishyam 2, 12th Man (2022), Kooman (2022), Neru (2023) and Nunakkuzhi (2024), he never managed to create a visual world that transcended what he had already written on paper in any of these movies. Simply put, not even once before or after Memories — did he manage to uplift his scripts further using his directorial skills, or capture or express more than what he already had on paper through his frames. Even the cuts in his scenes, except in predominantly high-octane actioners like Oozham and Aadhi, often feel like punctuation marks in his scripts; functional, but rarely offering a spellbinding experience. Although his Hindi directorial The Body (2019) was technically better compared to his other works, it was totally forgettable remake of the 2012 Spanish original of the same name. In a recent interview with Galatta Plus, Jeethu Joseph shared that he prefers audiences to discuss the quality of his films and whether they liked them, rather than how much money they made. "A movie should be talked about based on its quality, the performances and such aspects. But nowadays, everyone is talking about box office collections.'

I'm not happy with that. All that I want to hear is people say 'it's a good movie', and the producer say, 'I didn't lose my money'. If the movie makes anything above (the budget), I'm happy. But my priority is that the producer doesn't lose money," he stated. One of the major drawbacks of such a mindset is the un/conscious tendency to play to the gallery. Although Jeethu has maintained a sense of variety in his movies, with each of his thrillers (excluding remakes of his own films) being distinct from his other films in the same genre, his stories predominantly carry a patriarchal mindset and gaze. He often taps into the trope of fridging, frequently using crimes against women as narrative devices and then reducing female characters to "victims."

Ameesha Patel reveals Bollywood insiders don't like her as she doesn't 'suck up' to people: 'I don't drink, smoke and maska-lagao for work'

Although Ameesha Patel shares a warm bond with actors such as Sanjay Dutt and Hrithik Roshan, she recently revealed that not all industry insiders like her. Stating that she isn't part of any Bollywood camps, Ameesha Patel also asserted that she has never indulged in sycophancy.

Although she has been part of some mega blockbusters such as Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai (2000), Badri (2000), Gadar: Ek Prem Katha (2001), Bhool Bhulaiyaa (2007) and Gadar 2 (2023), Ameesha Patel's career has also seen its share of colossal disasters. Having been embroiled in several controversies as well, Ameesha's name has made headlines even when her career was proceeding towards rock bottom. Meanwhile, although she shares a warm bond with actors such as Sanjay Dutt and Hrithik Roshan, her first co-star, she recently revealed that not all industry insiders like her. The Gadar actor maintained that this was due to her no-nonsense attitude.

Stating that she isn't part of any Bollywood camps, Ameesha also asserted that she has never indulged in sycophancy. She further said that her teetotaler nature has also come at a price. "At the end of the day, the audience needs to love you, no matter what camp you belong to. Yes — because I don't belong to certain camps, don't drink, smoke and maska-lagao for work — I get whatever I get on my merit. People do not like me for that reason. I am not going to suck up to you," she said during a chat with Zoom.

Mentioning that even in Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai, which eventually became her debut movie, she wasn't the first choice, Ameesha said that she received the role only after Kareena Kapoor, who was supposed to be launched along-side Hrithik, exited the project. "After he had Kareena leave the film because of their differences and him being upset with her behaviour that I got the opportunity. Had I come



Although Ameesha Patel shares a warm bond with actors such as Sanjay Dutt and Hrithik Roshan, she recently revealed that not all industry insiders like her.

from the film industry, maybe I would've been the first choice "

Opening up about the struggles of surviving alone in the industry, without having a partner for support, she said, "It's worse when you don't end up having a boyfriend or a husband from the industry. When you don't share your other 'half' as a power couple, it's very hard. You don't have people backing you. There's no reason to back you, you are an outsider."

Who is Adolescence star Owen Cooper? The youngest Emmy winner who defeated Javier Bardem; was chosen from 500 auditions after giving up football dream



The 15-year-old Adolescence actor, Owen Cooper, has made television history by becoming the youngest male actor ever to win an Emmy Award. Marking his first Emmy win, he bagged the trophy for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie for his role in Adolescence. But how did the breakout star from England step into acting, eventually bagging an Emmy Award in his acting debut? Let's take a look.

Owen Cooper left established veterans behindCooper won the Emmy, leaving behind veterans who were nominated in the same category, including Javier Bardem, Bill Camp, Peter Sarsgaard, and Rob Delaney, as well as his own Adolescence co-star Ashley Walters. Owen Cooper also became the youngest ever to bag the Emmy Award. This honour was previously held by 16-year-old Scott Jacoby, who had won the Best Supporting Actor award in 1973 for his role in That Certain Summer. On the other hand, Roxana Zal remains the youngest actress to win an Emmy, as she bagged the award in 1984 at the age of 14 for Best Supporting Actress in Something About Amelia.

Born in England to middle-class parents, his mother is a carer and his father works in IT. Growing up, Owen wanted to be a footballer but was inspired by Tom Holland's performance in The Impossible and decided to enrol in drama school. "To be honest, I don't know. It was a day when I

woke up and it just clicked in me that I wanted to start doing it. I don't know where it came from, but I asked my mom and dad if I could start going to drama [classes], and I think they were a bit shocked by it because I've always wanted to become a footballer. I still play football now, and then asking them if I wanted to start drama lessons, it was a bit out of the blue, really," he told Tudum in an old interview.

After joining a small agency, Owen submitted a selftape for Adolescence and was selected from over 500 auditions. The show's casting director Shaheen Baig recalled seeing his tape and being amazed by his talent. Calling him a natural, she said, "He looks great on camera, but also his improv was really smart. It felt very natural. It was really [about] trying to find somebody with the emotional register to be able to play Jamie." Earlier, the show's director Philip Barantini also gave fans a peek into Owen's audition tape, where he brought the emotional depth needed to play the flawed yet vulnerable Jamie. Owen's speech at the Emmys reflected the heart of his performance and revealed the reason behind his success at such a young age — he isn't afraid to be embarrassed. Addressing the audience after his big win, the 15-year-old said, "Honestly, when I started these drama classes a couple years back, I didn't expect to be in the United States, never mind here, but I think tonight proves that if you listen and you focus and you step out of your comfort zone, you can achieve anything in life. I was nothing about three years ago and I'm here now. Who cares if you get embarrassed? Anything can be possible." Adolescence has emerged as one of the most talked-about shows of the year worldwide, exploring hardhitting themes such as toxic masculinity, online hate speech, pornography, and their impact on teenagers. Inspired by real events, the series is co-created by Stephen Graham, who also plays Eddie Miller, the father of Owen Cooper's character Jamie. The story follows Jamie as he is accused of stabbing a girl and killing her. During a conversation, Stephen revealed that a real-life incident where a young boy allegedly stabbed a girl inspired him to create the show. He explained that the incident had shocked him and made him reflect on society. He said, "I really just wanted to shine a light on it and ask, 'Why is this happening today? What's going on? How have we come to this? What is happening to our young men these days, and what are the pressures they face from their peers, from the internet and from social

Manoj Bajpayee breaks silence on losing National Award to Shah Rukh Khan; says awards are losing respect: 'It's a loser conversation'

The announcement of Shah Rukh Khan winning the Best Actor National Award for Jawan was met with massive celebration among his fans as social media was flooded with congratulatory messages for the star. However, a section of the audience felt the decision was unfair and pointed out how Manoj Bajpayee delivered a far more powerful performance in Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai and deserved the award instead.Now, Manoj has addressed the comparisons with SRK and the latter's National Award win. He told India Today, "It is useless conversation because it is gone. When it comes to Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai, yes, it is a very special film in my filmography and so was Joram. They are going to be on top of my filmography. But I don't discuss these things because it is a very loser conversation. It is in the past and it should be left alone."

Speaking about how National Awards are losing their relevance and moving more towards commercial cinema, Manoj, who is himself a National Award recipient in the past, shared his opinion and said, "It's not just about national awards. It's about all the awards that were revered. They should seriously think about how they are operating. Because it is not about my respect. I take care of my respect very cautiously when I'm choosing a film and I'm very responsible to the actor that I am. But each and every organisation have to think of themselves, that's not my job. If somebody else is losing their respect, they should think about it."Manoj admitted that he does not believe in the very idea of an award show because of the vast diversity of films and performances across genres and languages. "I think for me, the idea of an award show is wrong," he said. Manoj also explained that he attends award shows only out of respect for the organisers but does not take winning one too

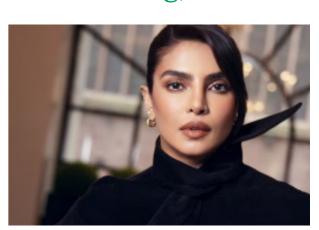


seriously. "It is just a piece of decoration in your house. Everyday you are not going to stand in front of it and say 'wow, I got this'."This marks the first time Shah Rukh Khan has won a National Award. Manoj, on the other hand, has won the honour for his debut film Satya, as well as for Pinjar in 2003, and later for Aligarh in 2016.

Priyanka Chopra says Bollywood is 'extremely closed off' to outsiders; says her struggles inspired her to enter film production: 'I didn't like failing, so...'

Priyanka Chopra recently claimed that Bollywood is "extremely closed off" to those trying to find their way into show business without having flashy film family names attached to theirs. Priyanka Chopra opens up about her decision to venture into film production. (Credit: Facebook/@priyankachopra)

A look at the titles backed by Priyanka Chopra and her Purple Pebble Pictures highlights one thing: she does not see or approach movie production as a means to merely churn out large sums of money. Instead, she focuses on lending a helping hand to those meaningful projects that could soar to great heights with just a slight push. With the Priyanka Chopra brand label attached, these works have been travelling across the world, allowing a broader audience to witness their splendour. Recently, Priyanka herself opened up about her decision to venture into film production, which, she said, was inspired by her struggles as an outsider in Bollywood. In a video from the event that has since gone viral on Reddit, she was seen stating that the industry is "extremely closed off" to those trying to find their way into show business without having flashy film family names attached to theirs.



She said, "I won a beauty pageant in the year 2000, and that kick-started me into the entertainment industry and catapulted me into it. Thus, I started working in Indian movies, particularly in Hindi and Tamil... This was in 2002. But Bollywood is kind of... was, at least, extremely closed off to people coming from outside." "There are generational actors, directors, and producers.

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