

### Cyber fraudster poses as MD, cheats Manager of Rs 25 Lakh

Hyderabad: Cyber fraudsters duped a Manager of a private company of Rs 25 lakh after impersonating as the Managing Director of the company.

The Manager (Accounts) received a message from a new number on his phone with the sender claiming to be the Managing Director of the company, who was out on a foreign tour, and asking to send the details of the funds in the company account. Believing the message to be genuine, the Manager shared the details of the funds.

## Congress left no opportunity to loot people, even taxed those in low-income group, alleges PM



GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday (September 27, 2025) alleged that the Congress had looted the people of the country, claiming that the grand old party had even taxed people belonging to the low-income category.Addressing the 'Namo Yuva Samabesh' in Odisha's Jharsuguda, he cautioned people against the alleged loot by the Congress and its allies."The Congress left no opportunity to loot people, and even imposed tax on those with an annual income of ₹2 lakh. The BJP government raised the limit to over ₹12 lakh...Beware of the Congress and its allies, as they loot people," Modi said at the programme.He alleged that the Congress started abusing the BJP government after the Centre reformed the GST regime and provided relief to the people."When our government reduced the price of cement, the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh

## V.C. Sajjanar appointed new Hyderabad Police Commissioner



Hyderabad, Sept.27 (NSS): The State government on Saturday appointed senior IPS officer V C Sajjanar as the new Commissioner of Police for Hyderabad. The current Police Commissioner, C V Anand, has been reassigned to serve as the Special Chief Secretary for the Government's Home department.

## Telangana govt announces major reshuffle of IPS officers



Hyderabad, Sept.27 : The state government has made a series of transfers involving multiple IPS officers, assigning them to new roles, while some have been given the additional responsibility of overseeing specific divisions and agencies.Ravi Gupta, an officer from the 1990 batch who has been serving as Special Chief Secretary in the Home Department, has been reassigned as Executive Vice Chairman and Director General for Good Governance in Telangana.

C V Anand, a 1991 batch officer and the current

## For the sake of Rs 1.5 l crore loot, Revanth govt drowned hyd in floods - KTR alleges

Hyderabad, Sept.27 BRS working president KT Rama Rao today launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of deliberately pushing Hyderabad into Musi floods to push through the Rs.1.5 lakh crore "Musi Beautification Project" for commissions. Thousands of families have lost homes and properties due to the CM's 'criminal negligence', he alleged.KTR recalled that Osman Sagar and Gandipet reservoirs, built a century ago by the Nizam, were designed to prevent Musi floods. "Whenever the IMD issues flood alerts, water from these reservoirs must be released. But Revanth Reddy deliberately avoided it to justify his mega project. That is why, for the

imposed its own tax. When we reduced the GST rates, prices came down across the country, but the Congress does not want to give this relief to the common people," the Prime Minister alleged.The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council recently decided to rationalise the tax rates and have a two-rate structure of 5 per cent and 18 per cent. The revision, which was made effective from September 22, was expected to reduce the prices of a large number of products and services.Mr. Modi also asserted that Odisha is progressing rapidly under the 'double-engine' government.The term 'double engine' is used by BJP leaders to refer to the party being in power at the Centre as well as in a State.

"Odisha, which has witnessed poverty for several decades, is now on the path to prosperity," he claimed, adding that the government is focused on empowering the poor, dalits and tribals.Emphasising the need for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the Prime Minister said, "It is our resolve that from chip to ship, India must be self-reliant in everything." He also said the Centre has approved two semiconductor units for Odisha.The Berhampur-Udhna Amrit Bharat train, launched on Saturday, will benefit Odia people living in Gujarat, the prime minister said at the Jharsuguda rally.Modi unveils development projectsPrime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday (September 27, 2025) unveiled development projects valued at more than ₹60,000 crore in sectors such as telecommunications, railways and higher education, from Odisha's Jharsuguda.Mr. Modi laid foundation stones for the expansion of eight IITs across the country, which will create capacity for 10,000 new students over the next four years.

V C Sajjanar is a 1996-batch IPS officer who initially belonged to the Andhra Pradesh cadre but was subsequently assigned to the Telangana cadre after the state's division. He began his career as an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Jangaon, located in the Warangal district, and later in Pulivendula of Kadapa district. Following his promotion, he has held the position of Superintendent of Police (SP) in several important districts, including Nalgonda, Kadapa, Guntur, Warangal, and Medak. Additionally, he has served as SP for the Crime Investigation Department (Economic Offences Wing), SP for OCTOPUS (Organisation for Countering Terrorist Operations), and Commandant of the 6th Battalion of APSP in Mangalagiri.

After being promoted to Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and then Inspector General (IG) of Police, Sajjanar worked in the Intelligence department until March 2018. From March 2018 to August 2021, he held the position of Commissioner of Police for Cyberabad. In September 2021, he took on the role of Managing Director of TSRTC.

Commissioner of Police in Hyderabad, has been transferred to the position of Special Chief Secretary to the government.Shikha Goel, a 1994 batch officer and the Director of the TG Cyber Security Bureau as well as HFAC Director in Telangana and FSL in Hyderabad, has been moved to the role of Director General of Vigilance & Enforcement and will also serve as Ex-Officio Principal Secretary to the General Administration Department. Additionally, she will hold full additional responsibility for the position of Director of the TG Cyber Security Bureau in Hyderabad until further notice.Swati Lakra (1995), serving as the Additional Director General of Police for Organisation and Home Guards in Telangana, Hyderabad, has been given full additional responsibility for the role of Director General of the Special Protection Force in Telangana.Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat (1995), the Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) for Telangana, Hyderabad, has taken on full additional responsibilities as the Additional Director General of Police (Personnel) in Telangana.Charu Sinha (1996), currently the Additional Director General of Police for the CID in Telangana, has assumed full additional charge of the position of Director General of the Anti Corruption Bureau in Telangana.

first time in history, even the Imlibun Bus Stand went under water", he charged.Turning to Kodangal, KTR said people are furious with the 'Anumula brothers'. "Revanth may be the CM, but in Kodangal his brother Tirupati Reddy behaves like one. Without any post, officers are bowing before him. This is a disgrace", KTR thundered, and accused Revanth and his brother of cutting ribbons for projects built by KCR's government, while neglecting Kodangal's people. "Revanth, who became MLA with the blessings of this constituency, insulted it in the Assembly and is now grabbing farmers' lands for his son-in-law's factory. Is Kodangal his personal jagir?" he questioned.

### SARBOJANIN DURGOTSAV 2025

Hyderabad, Sept.27 The Bengalee Cultural Association of Hyderabad (BCAH) has announced "Sarbojanin Durgotsav 2025", a six-day celebration of devotion, culture and music from September 27 to October 2 at Banjara Function Hall in Banjara Hills in the city. The festival will run daily from 8 AM to 10 PM.

According to Festival Coordinator Dr. Trisheetaa Mukherjee, the event will feature traditional Durga Puja rituals, free bhog prasadam lunch, and evening cultural performances. Headline acts include Portia Sen, Aryan Tamang, Nilayam Chatterjee, and the Yarri Bollywood Band with singer Ankita Mukherjee, blending devotional music with modern rhythms.

"This year's celebration brings together tradition, community, and creativity - welcoming everyone in Hyderabad to be a part of it", Dr. Mukherjee said, recalling her personal connection to Durga Puja through her father's active role in its organization.

## Revanth instructs officials to evacuate people from low lying areas



Hyderabad, Sept.27 Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday took stock of the situation along the Musi river which is in spate due incessant rains and lifting of the gates of two overflowing major reservoirs of Osman Sagar and Himayat Nagar in Hyderabad.In view of increasing flood flow in river Musi , the Chief Minister ordered the officials to take appropriate precautions in all low-lying areas and evacuate people to safer places.

## BRS launches ‘Congress Dues Card’ campaign on Revanth Reddy Govt’s failures

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Hyderabad: Launching a Statewide campaign against the Congress government's failures ahead of the upcoming local body elections, the Bharat Rashtira Samithi on Saturday released the Congress Dues Card, a symbolic card detailing pending welfare dues owed to various sections of the society.The campaign, launched by BRS working president KT Rama Rao, aims to remind voters of unfulfilled promises made during the 2023 assembly polls. The Dues Card campaign lists the Congress government's lapses across key sectors, backed by figures and timelines. The arrears listed include Rs.2,500 assistance per month promised to women in the State. The government owed Rs.55,000 (Rs.2,500 × 22 months) to every woman in the State according to the card, which Rama Rao described as a counter to the guarantees of the Congress.Similarly, the Congress had promised to hike the old age pension to Rs.4,000 and it owed Rs.44,000 to each one of the old age pensioners. Same was the case with physically challenged persons, who were promised a pension hike to Rs.6,000. The Congress had promised one tola of gold to the newlyweds in the State under the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shadi Mubarak schemes. It now owed 8 lakh tolas of gold to over 8 lakh newlywed couples during the past 22 months.Unveiling the campaign's poster in the presence of former ministers, Rama Rao vowed to take the message to every doorstep in the State. He appealed to the people of Telangana to use upcoming local body elections and the Jubilee Hills bypoll as an opportunity to teach the Congress a lesson.



"The deceptions of the Congress have now become weapons in the hands of the people. We will knock on every door and lay bare the mountain of Congress's pending dues," he said, emphasizing that the campaign would be carried out in Telugu, Urdu, and English to reach all communities.He recounted former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao's pre-election warning: "If you get deceived, you'll face the consequences – and that's exactly what's happening today." He criticized Congress leaders, including Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Mallu Bharti Vikramarka, for signing bonds and promissory notes on unfulfilled guarantees."Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had promised that these promises will be given legal backing in the first cabinet meeting of the government. Over 30 cabinet meetings were held, but there's no progress," Rama Rao said, pointing out that the Congress had won on farmers' votes but was now trampling them at every step.

## CM Revanth announces Rs. 2,000 monthly stipend for ATC students



Hyderabad, Sept.27 : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has announced that the students who undergo training in Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) are being given a Rs.2,000 scholarship every month.For this, the Chief Minister suggested to IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu to convince Finance Minister Bharti Vikramarka for special funds and disburse the scholarship to the ATC students.Inaugurating ATCs ( upgraded ITI institutions) at Mallepally on Saturday, Revanth Reddy further said the trained students in the ATCs will also be provided an opportunity of apprenticeship in the TGSRTC. Transport Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar should provide the apprentice facility to the students in the RTC.The Chief Minister criticised the previous BRS government for neglecting the ITIs. Students were not provided technical training in the last government and ITIs became weak due to not upgrading the courses, he charged.

Sating that, as a brother, he was envisaging plans to create a bright future for the students, Revanth Reddy said a special department will also be established to provide job opportunities to those who underwent technical training in the foreign countries.The Chief Minister strongly desired the Telangana students to compete with Japan and Germany in developing technology soon. Japan is ready to teach our youth Japanese language and provide job opportunities in

the developed country, he said." Youth should play an active role in the reconstruction of Telangana and also achieve the state a 3 Trillion US dollar economy by 2047," the Chief Minister said.

## GSI plays pivotal role in mineral exploration & nation building - Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, Sept.27 : The Geological Survey of India (GSI), Southern Region, Hyderabad, organised "Swachhotsav" under the Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 campaign today at its office in Bandlaguda-Nagole, Hyderabad. Participating as a chief guest, Union minister of coal and mines G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated four innovative 'Waste to Wealth' models at the GSI office.

Addressing a gathering, the Union Minister lauded the GSI's Swachhata initiatives and expressed happiness over its active participation in the nationwide campaign under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Highlighting the indispensable role of GSI in mineral exploration, he particularly emphasised coal as the backbone of India's development.

"About 74 percent of electricity in India is generated through coal. Without coal, there can be no electricity; without electricity, there can be no industry, no development and no progress", Kishan Reddy asserted and praised GSI's 175 years of dedicated service in identifying coal reserves and other critical minerals which are vital for the Nation's growth. Later, he distributed sanitation kits to sanitation workers from GHMC and GSI. The programme began with a 'Swachhotsav' rally inaugurated by Basab Mukhopadhyay, ADG and HoD, SR, from Anand Nagar Junction to the GSI Office Main Gate, Mansoorabad Road.



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## CJI Gavai has unwittingly opened a Pandora's Box

It may not be a regular happening, but we have come across occasions when an off the cuff remark has snowballed into a major controversy, especially in politics and public life, with the person making the remark drawing flak from diverse sections and subject to a backlash, whose impact is lowered after the individual either apologises or withdraws the statement. This is being learnt the hard way by Justice B R Gavai, the Chief Justice of India (CJI). Ironically, this was triggered by an observation he made on September 16 while heading a Supreme Court bench that was dealing with a petition seeking repair and restoration of a seven-foot beheaded idol of Lord Vishnu at the Javari temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site, which is part of the famed Khajuraho group of monuments in Madhya Pradesh. As part of routine legal proceedings, he stated that the matter was within the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the court had nothing to do with the issue. Justice Gavai refused to entertain the PIL on those very grounds. However, on persistent pleas by the petitioner, Justice Gavai made a remark that has sparked a nationwide debate as seemingly 'hurts' religious sentiments.

Dismissing the plea, the apex court bench contended that it was an out and out 'publicity interest litigation' and added that as it was an archaeological find, it was for the ASI to take a call on the plea. Meanwhile, when petitioner, Rakesh Dalal, claimed that the idol was mutilated during Mughal invasions and has remained in that state despite repeated representations to the government to restore it, the first Buddhist to occupy the country's most exalted judicial position, remarked "Go and ask the deity himself to do something."

## Dr. Praveen Kumar Honoured with Prestigious Felicitation in Manthani.



"P. S. A. S H O K A N " Indian Chronicle "Manthani, September 26: "2025 National Awardee and Eminent Homeopathy Scientist Recognized for Lifetime Contributions" "In a ceremony imbued with reverence and admiration, Dr. Praveen Kumar, a distinguished homeopathy scientist and recipient of the prestigious National Award in 2025, was formally felicitated in Manthani on Saturday. The event marked a heartfelt tribute to his decades-long, meritorious service in the field of homeopathy and medical education. "Dr. Praveen Kumar, who served as the Principal of JSPGHMC (JSPGMC) College, retired after an illustrious academic career, leaving behind a legacy of excellence, integrity, and unwavering commitment to holistic healing. His exceptional contributions have earned him widespread acclaim and numerous accolades at both state and national levels. "As part of the Sharannavaratri celebrations, the felicitation took place within the sanctified premises of the Sri Mahalakshmi Temple, Manthani. In a ceremonial gesture symbolizing honour and gratitude, Dr. Praveen Kumar was presented with a traditional shawl and a commemorative memento. "Accolades from Distinguished Dignitaries "Prominent figures from Manthani graced the occasion and offered glowing tributes to Dr. Kumar's professional and personal stature. Manakanti Chandrasekhar, a well-known community leader, and Senior Advocate Loke Radha Kishan Rao extolled his visionary leadership, scholastic achievements, and deep-rooted compassion as a physician and educator. "They emphasized that Dr. Kumar's career stands as a beacon of inspiration, not only in the field of homeopathy but also in upholding the noble ethos of public service. "Guests of Honour "The ceremony was further dignified by the presence of esteemed personalities including: "Avadhani Mohan Sharma, Former Chairman, Kaleshwaram Devasthanam "Loke Manohar Rao, Senior Community Leader "Takkegari Radhakrishna, Renowned Social Activist "Their participation added gravitas to the occasion, underscoring the high regard in which Dr. Kumar is held by the community and professional peers alike. "A Legacy of Service and Scholarship "Dr. Praveen Kumar's journey reflects a rare confluence of scientific excellence, academic mentorship, and humanistic healing. His continued influence will undoubtedly inspire future generations of scholars, clinicians, and seekers of holistic health."

## KCR Pays tributes to Konda Laxman Bapuji

Hyderabad, Sept.27: BRS party chief KCR on Saturday said that the democratic spirit and sacrifice made by Acharya Konda Laxman Bapuji to the Telangana Swarashtra movement were unforgettable. KCR remembered the work of the freedom fighter, first-generation Telangana activist and Gandhian Laxman on the occasion of his birth anniversary. KCR paid tributes while recalling his association with Bapuji. In a statement, KCR said that the then BRS government had established a State Horticulture University in his name so that future generations would remember the greatness of Konda Laxman Bapuji's work and established a tradition of officially celebrating his birth anniversary. He also said that the then BRS government had implemented many welfare schemes by taking Bapuji's efforts for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society as an ideal. He clarified that continuing the ideals of Bapuji and working sincerely for the upliftment of the BC communities was a great tribute to him. (

## Vaarahi Silks Unveils its 4th Store at Patny Centre, Secunderabad



"Hyderabad, 23rd September 2025: "Vaarahi Silks, one of South India's most loved saree destinations, proudly announces the grand launch of its 4th store at Patny Centre,



Secunderabad on 27th September 2025. The inauguration will be graced by popular actress Samyukta Menon and renowned anchor Suma, adding star sparkle to the celebrations. "Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Manideep Yechuri, Owner of Vaarahi Silks, said: "We are delighted to bring Vaarahi Silks to Patny, a hub of culture and fashion. With this launch, we aim to offer our customers the widest range of bridal and festive saree collections, just in time for the upcoming Navratri season. "To mark the grand opening, Vaarahi Silks has announced an exclusive offer: "On every saree purchase worth ₹10,000 and above, customers will receive a free 22ct gold coin. "Vaarahi Silks has built a reputation for curating exquisite handloom, bridal, and festive wear sarees that celebrate tradition while embracing contemporary style. With its expansion into Patny, the brand continues its journey of weaving trust, elegance, and style for every occasion. "Join us at Patny Centre on 27th September and be a part of Vaarahi's grand festive celebrations.

## Veligugutta Sri Durga Parameshwari Temple: Sri Durga Parameshwari Devi Appears in the Form of Sri Lalita Tripura Sundari Devi



"Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 27 Indian Chronicle, "At the Veligugutta Sri Durga Parameshwari Temple, located beside the Uppal Cricket Ground, the sixth day of the Devi Sharannavaratri celebrations was observed with grandeur and devotion. On this day, Sri Durga Parameshwari Devi was adorned in the form of Sri Lalita Tripura Sundari Devi, and blessed devotees with her divine darshan in a splendid and enchanting decoration. "The day began with Panchamrita Abhishekam, followed by Durga Suktam and Sri Suktam recitations during the Maha Abhishekam. The goddess was then adorned with the Mahalakshmi Alankaram. Kumkuma Archana was performed by Suhasinis (married women), followed by 16 varieties of haratis (ritual aratis), Maha Mangala Harati, Mantrapushpam, and the distribution of Teertha Prasadam. A large number of devotees attended and witnessed the vibrant and devotional proceedings. Later, Chandi Homam



was performed by learned priests. Maha Mangala Harati, Teertha Prasadam, and Anna Prasadam (food offering) were distributed among the devotees with great devotion. In the evening at 6 PM, Sri Chakra Archana was performed using Tulasi (holy basil) leaves. Following this, Maha Mangala Harati and

Teertha Prasadam were offered, and at 8 PM, the Oonjal Seva (swing service) was conducted by the temple priests. These celebrations were successfully conducted with the cooperation of the temple priests, temple executive officer, committee members including Raghu, Murali Krishna, Srikant Reddy, and donors Vijay Kumar, Suresh Babu, Rajkumar Pandey, Gorige Mallesh (A.G.P), along with Manjula, Lakshmi, Kavitha, Sunitha and many other devoted devotees. The Saturday programs concluded successfully, and on Sunday, the Goddess will be adorned in the Maha Chandi Alankaram for darshan

## Konda Laxman Bapuji Jayanti Observed at Boduppall Municipal Corporation



"NSR, Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Medipally, Sept 27, Indian Chronicle: The Boduppall Municipal Corporation organized a program today on the office premises to mark the birth anniversary of Konda Laxman Bapuji.

The occasion was observed with patriotic fervor and

respect. Konda Laxman Bapuji, a noted freedom fighter, social reformer, and guiding force of the Telangana movement, was remembered on the occasion. Commissioner A. Shailaja, Assistant Municipal Commissioner E. Shyam Sundar Rao, along with municipal officials and office staff, paid floral tributes to the late leader.

## Film Director Nakkina Trinadha Rao Attends Dandiya Event as Chief Guest

"Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 27, Indian Chronicle "Film director Nakkina Trinadha Rao attended a Dandiya event held at NSL Apartments, Uppal, as the chief guest, under the supervision of Dr. Venkateshwara Rao. On this occasion, he inaugurated the event by participating in the Dandiya dance. Speaking at the event, Trinadha Rao said that as part of the Navratri celebrations, the city dwellers are set to immerse themselves in the festive spirit with vibrant Dandiya and Garba dance performances. He added that preparations are underway for organizing prominent DJs, food stalls, and flea markets, blending tradition with modernity. These events, designed with both cultural and contemporary elements, are attracting families and individuals alike. "The event was also attended by Gaddam Ravi



Kumar, Venkata Reddy, and NSL residents including Ravi and Hari Prasad, among others.



Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..September 27):- Triple R in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.. View of CPM leaders and activists holding a dharna under the auspices of CPM in front of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collectorate office demanding a change in the alignment.

## Major Accident Averted in the Nick of Time. "Palle Velugu Bus from Manthani Narrowly Escapes Tragedy.



"P. S. A. S H O K A N " Indian Chronicle "Manthani, September 26: "A potentially fatal accident was narrowly averted on Saturday when a Palle Velugu RTC bus belonging to the Manthani Depot lost control and veered off the road, tumbling into a roadside ditch. "The bus was on its scheduled route from Manthani to Arenda Venkataapur, and the mishap occurred on its return journey. The vehicle reportedly skidded off the poorly maintained road and slid into a ravine. Fortunately, no serious injuries were reported. The driver, conductor, and all passengers escaped unhurt, much to everyone's relief. "Local passengers and eyewitnesses expressed concern over the deplorable condition of the Arenda-Venkataapur road, which is riddled with deep potholes and uneven surfaces. They stated that such road conditions pose continuous risk to daily commuters and demand immediate intervention. "Civic and transport authorities are being urged to undertake urgent road repair and maintenance work to prevent future mishaps and ensure passenger safety.

## Sri Mahankali Temple: Goddess Adorned as Lalitha Tripura Sundari



"Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 27, Indian Chronicle "On Saturday, the presiding deity at the Sri Mahankali Temple in Uppal was adorned in the form of Sri Lalitha Tripura Sundari Devi. On this occasion, various special rituals and ceremonies were conducted with devotion and grandeur. Temple Chairman Telkala Mohan Reddy and several temple committee members participated in the rituals. The day's events began with Suprabhata Seva, followed by Devi Abhishekam, Tirumanjanam, Devi Alankarana, and Prabhata Darshanam. Other notable rituals included Ekadasa Harathis, Chatushtopachara Pujas, Kumbha Harathi, Theertha Prasada distribution, and Durga Homam. In the evening, Pradosha Kala Pujas, Chatushashtyupachara Puja, Samoohika Ashtottara Kumkumarchana, Nakshatra Harathi, Theertha Prasada distribution, Ekantha Seva, and various cultural programs were also held. Annadanam (community meal service) was organized for the devotees. Several temple committee members including Bikkumalla Anjaiah Gupta, Salla Rajireddy, Eega Anjaneyulu, Bhaskar, Gummadavelli Krishna, Murali, Annapu Reddy Krishnareddy, Naresh, Shaag Shekhar, Raghavendra, Pabbathi Shekhar Reddy, Kasireddy, Somireddy, and others



# Chilukanagar Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Pays Tribute to Acharya Konda Laxman Babuji



“Kishore Vaddepally, Uppal, September 27, Indian Chronicle”“On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Acharya Konda Laxman Babuji, a pioneer of the Telangana movement and an inspirational figure for the marginalized and underprivileged communities, a grand tribute event was organized at Chilukanagar Crossroads under the leadership of BRS party movement leader Sakinala Prasad.Chilukanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, along with BRS party leaders from the division, paid rich floral tributes to a portrait of Acharya Konda Laxman

Babuji.Speaking at the event, Corporator Geetha Praveen stated that Acharya Konda Laxman Babuji was a prominent freedom fighter, a first-generation Telangana activist, and a committed political leader who played a significant role in the Quit India Movement, the Non-Mulki agitation, and the Telangana movement. She emphasized that everyone should work towards realizing his ideals and dreams.Among those who participated in the program were BRS state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, movement leader Sakinala Prasad, senior leaders Eddula Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Ramanjaneyulu, advocate Pawan, Shyam, Banti, and others.



Manduva Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau (Indian Chronicle... September 27) :-



A scene of Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah garlanding the statue of Konda Laxman Babuji on the occasion of his birth anniversary in Aleru town.

# Minister Responds to Encroachments on Government Lands in Charlapalli“



““NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, Sept 27, Indian Chronicle: Young leaders

Budida Prem Kumar Goud and Kadiyala Nandkishore met Telangana state minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy at the state secretariat to raise complaints regarding the ongoing encroachments on government lands and nalas in the Charlapalli area. According to them, the Irrigation Department inspection report had already identified these encroachments, but despite this, the Kapra MRO and concerned officials failed to take any action. Responding to the issue, the minister instructed the Medchal district collector to take strict action. The young leaders pointed out that government lands worth crores of rupees are being neglected by officials, which could cause serious loss to public revenue. They demanded tough measures to protect government property. The minister assured that the government will take strict action against those who have encroached on government lands.

# Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen visits Durga Mata pandals in Chilkanagar Division“



““Kishore,Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 27, Indian chronical,““Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj visited several Durga Mata pandals set up in colonies and bastis across Chilkanagar Division, where she offered special prayers. She participated as a chief guest and took part in special pujas at Durga Mata pandals organized by Kalyanpuri, Indira Nagar Colony, and the Chikanagar Trolley Auto Association, receiving blessings from the Goddess.“Later, she took part in the annadanam (community meal) program and distributed prasadam (blessed food) to devotees.BRS Party state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, senior leaders Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Ram Anjaneyulu, Bunty, and Shyam were also present during the event.

# Boduppal Municipal Corporation Hosts Saddula Bathukamma Celebrations



““NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Medipally, Sept 27, Indian Chronicle: As part of the Telangana State Government’s Bathukamma celebrations, Boduppal Municipal Corporation organized the “Saddula Bathukamma” festival on Saturday. The event began with puja performed by Commissioner A. Shailaja and MEPMA Community Organizer Bhargavi. Municipal women staff, self-help group

members, and town women actively participated, celebrating the occasion with Bathukamma songs and dances.

# Plan to transform Telangana into skill capital of world: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, Sept.27 Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced that the State government aims to establish Telangana as the skill capital of the world.During a ceremony marking the inauguration of the Advanced Technology Centre (ATC) at the Mallepally ITI campus on Saturday, the Minister emphasised that the government is committed to closing the gap between industry and academia in the area of skills development.“The youth in Telangana possess remarkable talent, which is our greatest resource. Our government is dedicated to equipping them with the necessary skills, providing training for current skills.

# State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah inaugurated ITI Advance Technology Center



““Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau ... (Indian Chronicle...September 27):- The Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah inaugurated the Advance Technology Center at ITI in Aleru Pattam. First, he inaugurated the center, participated in the meeting and later visited the stalls set up. Then he participated in the puja program. After that, he watched the speech of CM Revanth Reddy. On this occasion, Beerla Ailaiah said that as part of Telangana Rising, “with the ideas of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, every ITI is being converted into an Advance Technology Center and students are being given good training, developed skills and moved



forward with the goal of job creation. He sincerely thanked Tata Technology for supporting this. He said that this center will be very useful for the youth and unemployed people of Aleru constituency. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Administrative Department Collector Bhaskara Rao and other officials participated in this program.

# Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilayya participated in the housewarming of Indiramma's house in Pallepadu village “



““Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau) “Indian Chronicle..September 27 :- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilayya participated in the housewarming of Indiramma’s house in Palle Pahad village of Atmakur mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. MLA Beerla Ayilayya, who arrived for the program, was



welcomed with a grand welcome, amidst dappu chappulas and kolatas.

Later, he cut the ribbon and wished the family. After entering the house, special pujas were performed in the house and milk was poured. As promised, Beerla Ayilayya also presented the family with silk clothes and a yata.



# Sri Acharya Konda Laxman Babuji's services for the achievement of Telangana state will never be forgotten



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao... (Indian Chronicle September 27):- Sri Acharya Konda Laxman Babuji's services for the achievement of Telangana state will never be forgotten, said Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao. On Saturday, the Collector garlanded his portrait and paid tributes on the occasion of the 110th birth anniversary of Acharya Konda Laxman Babuji, organized under the auspices of the District Backward Classes Development Department, at the Collectorate Conference Hall. Speaking, the Collector said that Acharya Konda Laxman Babuji had made a lot of efforts for the upliftment of BCs. Everyone should take Acharya Konda

Laxman Babuji as a guide and move forward. He said that Konda Laxman Babuji was a person who took Mahatma Gandhi's ideals as inspiration and moved forward.

He said that he participated in the Quit India Movement in 1942. He said that he stood by the first phase of the Telangana movement for the state of Telangana in 1969. He said that Acharya Konda Laxman Babuji was a role model for everyone, a person with social justice, discipline, dedication and determination. He said that Acharya Konda Laxman Babuji is an ideal for everyone. The district backward classes welfare officer, literature, district officials, leaders of various associations, collectorate staff and related officials participated in this program.

# Government priority for technical education.. Government opens ATC in Aleru.. Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah



... (Indian Chronicle..September 27):- Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah inaugurated the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) built at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Aleru town on Saturday. State Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy virtually inaugurated the ATCs in Hyderabad. As part of this, MLA Ailaiah inaugurated it in Aleru. Later, the MLA said that the CM has built ATCs in ITIs with the idea of ??bringing advanced technology within

the reach of rural youth. He said that job and employment opportunities will be provided to the youth trained in ATCs in national and multinational companies. He said that the government will give priority to the development of technical education. He said that students will be trained in advanced technical courses for one to two years in the ATC set up with a cost of Rs 40 crore. Later, the MLA inspected the advanced technical equipment in the ATC. Technical instructors explained the details of the machine performance training to the MLA. Aleru ITI Principal B. Harikrishna said that students should take advantage of the training courses in the ATC and rise to a higher level. The Principal asked the MLA to take the initiative to upgrade the ATC as a skill development center in the future. District Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao, State Women's Cooperative Development Organization Chairperson Bandru Shobharani, Municipal Commissioner Srinivas, Market Committee Chairperson Eanala Chaitanya Reddy, TPCC General Secretary Jangaon Upender Reddy Jangaon Upender Reddy, parents of students and officials of various departments participated in this program.

# People should be alert due to the incessant rains. Do not come out unless it is urgent.

.. In case of emergency, dial 100 and get the services of the police:SP Rohit Raju, IPS."

.....Kukkadapu Naresh Kumar, Kothagudem constituency, September 27, Indian Chronicle:Due to the incessant rains, there is a possibility that the rivers, streams, bends, and ponds in the district will overflow and flow violently, reaching the roads. Therefore, District SP Rohit Raju IPS advised people to be alert while crossing the roads on foot and in vehicles. He said that people should not go to places where there is violent flow for selfies and be exposed to accidents. Fishermen and people were advised not to go to rivers, streams, and bends for fishing. He was advised not to go near the surrounding areas of rivers, streams, and bends to graze livestock. He advised people to try to avoid going out except in emergencies. He informed us that the district police administration, along with other departments, is taking strong measures to prevent any accidents on the roads, ponds, streams, and rivers, which are already becoming dangerous due to the rains. The district police department has prepared DDRF teams to be available around the clock. If any people are facing any catastrophic situation, they are asked to immediately call Dial 100 and pro-



vide information and avail themselves of the services of the police. On this occasion, the SP appealed to the people to cooperate with the measures taken by the police to prevent accidents.

# Bhuvanagiri Hotel Vivera receives “Best Wayside Amenities” award at State Tourism Excellence Awards – 2025

From the hands of State Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao



\*A view of Bhuvanagiri Vivera Hotel Chairman Saddi Venkat Reddy receiving the “Best Wayside Amenities” award from the hands of State Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao. “ “ M a n d a v a

Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle September 27):- The Telangana State Tourism Excellence Awards – 2025 program organized by the Telangana Tourism Department was held grandly today

at Shilparamam, Hyderabad. It is well known that Telangana State Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy attended the program as the chief guest. On this occasion, Hotel Vivera, Bhuvanagiri was awarded the “Best Wayside Amenities” award. This award was presented in recognition of its outstanding contribution to the state’s tourism sector by providing modern facilities to tourists. The award was presented by Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao. Also, Special Chief Secretary for Tourism & Industries Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, State DGP Jitender, IPS participated and congratulated the awardees. On behalf of Hotel Vivera, Chairman S. Venkat Reddy, S. Raghavendra Reddy received the award. He said that this award is considered a source of pride for the efforts made by Hotel Vivera in developing tourism infrastructure and improving the tourist experience in Telangana.

# Unemployed youth will get employment and job opportunities after getting training in technical courses:-



Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy ... (Indian Chronicle September 27):- Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy said that one can get jobs by getting training in various technical courses. On Saturday, he inaugurated the Advanced Technology Center set up at a cost of about Rs 42.5 crore in the ITI premises in Bhuvanagiri district headquarters. State Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy inaugurated the ATC in Bhuvanagiri after virtually inaugurating 65 ATC centers at a cost of Rs 2400



crore across the state. Speaking at a meeting organized on this occasion, the MLA revealed that the ATCs were set up with the help of Tata and the Bhuvanagiri ATC was set up at a cost of about Rs 42.5 crore. The youth are being sidelined due to the unemployment problem in the society, and the Chief Minister of the state has recognized this and has set up ATCs to provide employment and job opportunities to the youth on a large scale. He said that while the government is providing government jobs to the youth through TSPSC, the state government is also providing job opportunities in the private sector. He said that the youth should study hard and thus get jobs. "Your future depends on your hard work, so if you study hard for two years, you will be happy for 40 years," MLA Kumbha Kumbha told the youth on this occasion. Bhuvanagiri District Collector M. Hanumantha Rao said that vocational training will improve job opportunities. He said that not only through other studies, but also through technical education, along with government jobs, you can get private jobs. He said that those who have been trained in ATCs will have job opportunities in industries in the future. Bhuvanagiri ATC Principal K.P.Jaya, Training Officer G.S.Ramanand, District Library Chairman A.V. Chisti, TGII Zonal Manager Bhavani, ITI staff and students and others participated in this program.

# Divine Adornment of Sri Lalita Tripura Sundari Devi



“ P . S . A S H O K A N “ I n d i a n Chronicle“Manthani,September 26:.....The Embodiment of Supreme Beauty, Infinite Power, and Eternal Grace.....> “She who reigns over the three worlds, whose beauty transcends all realms, whose form is the essence of Shakti itself — today, we celebrate the sacred adornment (Alankaram) of Sri Lalita Tripura Sundari Devi with devotion and reverence.”.....?? The Celestial Essence of Sri Lalita Tripura Sundari“Sri Tripura Sundari, also known as Mahatripurasundari, Shodashi, Lalita, and Rajarajeshwari, is the quintessential manifestation of Adi Parashakti—the primordial divine feminine. Her divine name Tripura Sundari denotes “The Most Enchanting One of the Three Worlds” — a title that reflects not just celestial beauty, but the omnipotent supremacy of her being.“The epithet Shodashi, meaning “Sixteen”, alludes to her eternally youthful form, symbolizing the fulfillment of sixteen desires (Shodasha Kalas), and the zenith of cosmic perfection.“The word “Tripura” encompasses profound metaphysical meanings, representing not only the three realms (Bhu, Bhuva?, Sva?), but also the three dimensions of her divine form:““??? Her Threefold Nature:““Sthula (Gross/Physical) – Worshipped through traditional external rituals and visualized in meditative verses.““Suk?ma (Subtle) – Accessed through the chanting of sacred mantras.““Para (Supreme/Transcendental) – Experienced through inner spiritual practices involving Yantra and Mantra.““She is described in scriptures as dwelling in Kadamba forests, radiating joy and bliss among sages, with a body darker than monsoon clouds, eyes like blooming lotuses, and the grace of the cosmic consort of Lord Shiva himself.““Her beauty is not merely physical but symbolic of divine consciousness, unbounded compassion, and spiritual power.““??? The Glory of Her Divine Manifestation““In the ancient scriptures, it is revealed that Lalita Devi emerged from the sacred fire of a grand Yajna performed by the gods to vanquish Bhandasura, a tyrant demon who terrorized the cosmos. From this cosmic flame, she appeared resplendent, her effulgence surpassing that of a thousand rising suns.““This divine manifestation was not merely for destruction but for universal regeneration — to reestablish righteousness, restore balance, and offer grace and liberation to all beings.““Her form is adorned with the sugarcane bow, flower arrows, noose (Pasha), and goad (Ankusha) — symbolic of mind control, love, attraction, and discipline.““Flanked by Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess

Saraswati, she sits on the Sri Chakra, governing all creation, preservation, and dissolution as a divine leela (play).““She is the Presiding Deity of the Panchadashakshari Mantra, the very heart of Sri Vidya worship — the most exalted and esoteric form of Devi Upasana.“““??? The Triune Powers of the Devi““Though appearing as a single Bindu (dot) in the center of the Sri Chakra, she embodies the three supreme Shaktis:““Ichha Shakti (Will) – Represented by Vamadevi, consort of Brahma.““Jñāna Shakti (Knowledge) – Represented by Jyeshtha Devi, consort of Vishnu.““Kriya Shakti (Action) – Represented by Raudri, consort of Shiva.““These are not separate goddesses but the multidimensional expressions of Sri Lalita Mahatripura Sundari herself.“““??? Grace and Liberation through Devotion““The sage Agastya, during his penance in Kanchipuram, sought a path to liberation for ordinary humans. In response, Lord Vishnu manifested as Hayagriva and proclaimed:““> “Only the Divine Mother Lalita, the supreme Parashakti, can bestow both worldly fulfillment and spiritual liberation.“““Through the sacred recitation of her names, Sri Chakra worship, and Kumkuma Archana, one gains her divine blessings — removal of suffering, prosperity, health, auspiciousness, and ultimately, liberation (Moksha).“““??? Sri Lalita Ashtottara Shata Namavali““108 Divine Epithets of Goddess Lalita Devi““> (A few select names translated below — full translation available upon request)““1. Salutations to Her who resides atop the silver mountains““2. To the purifier of the illustrious Himalayan lineage““3. To the one whose beauty graces the very body of Lord Shiva““4. To She who shines with the brilliance of emeralds““5. To the one of extraordinary beauty and charm““108. Salutations to the consort of Mahadeva, resplendent in eternal youth and auspiciousness““““??? Conclusion: Eternal Light of the Divine Mother““The worship of Sri Lalita Tripura Sundari is not a mere ritual—it is a sacred journey into the depths of consciousness. She is the infinite wellspring of beauty, wisdom, power, and compassion.““Her divine names, when chanted with devotion, purify the heart, elevate the soul, and transform life into a dance of divine grace.““May the Divine Mother, Sri Lalita Parameshwari, shower her boundless blessings upon you, today and always.““??? Om Aim Hreem Shreem Sri Lalitambikayai Namah

# CM Revanth Reddy to Inaugurate Amberpet STP on Sunday:PARAMESWAR REDDY“



“Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 27, Indian Chronical.““Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is scheduled to inaugurate the new Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Amberpet (Ramantapur–Ramreddy Nagar) on Sunday, September 28. The announcement was made by Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, Congress Party in-charge for the Uppal Assembly constituency.“The inauguration ceremony is set to take place at 4:00 PM. Speaking to media, Parameshwar Reddy called upon Congress party cadres from the Uppal constituency to participate in large numbers and make the event a grand success.“He appealed to leaders and workers from various divisions under the Uppal constituency — including Uppal, Habsiguda, Ramantapur, Nacharam, Mallapur, HB Colony, Kapra, Charlapally, Chilukanagar, AS Rao Nagar, and others



## BJP's Om Prakash Dhankar pens motivational book 'Give Your Best'



GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Om Prakash Dhankar also served as the national coordinator for the collection of iron and soil for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious Statue of Unity project. Om Prakash Dhankar also served as the national coordinator for the collection of iron and soil for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Statue of Unity project. Bharatiya Janata Party national secretary and former Haryana minister Om Prakash Dhankar has authored a book titled Give Your Best, aimed at inspiring individuals to lead meaningful lives. Dhankar shares that he has been working on the book for the past 12 years.

The book begins with a prayer he wrote: "the soul is

free; let consciousness be free" — which he continued to refine over time before shaping it into a full-fledged book. "This is not just a prayer; it's a direction, a way of living. It is a heartfelt inner call, woven in words, inviting every human toward their highest self. It belongs to no sect, no single ideology; it's a voice of universal human consciousness — longing for the soul's freedom, clarity of intellect, and meaningful action," says Dhankar, also a social activist. In one of the chapters, he writes, "Everyone should have a life mantra — a guiding principle, akin to the North Star, that consistently serves as a beacon in their life." He adds, "I call this a philosophy of life, which shapes one's worldview and guides the direction of life.

This philosophy determines the nature of your life's goal and the means and tools to achieve it." Reflecting on balanced behaviour, the former agriculture minister notes, "Perfection is not found at extremes but in the middle," and cites Buddha's middle path as the way to achieve equilibrium. According to Dhankar, the book is a distillation of his personal journey, his experiences across different stages of life, and travels to various parts of the world. During his tenure as national secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Dhankar published a black paper critiquing the 1986 education policy introduced by the then Rajiv Gandhi government. He has also served as the national coordinator for the collection of iron and soil for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious Statue of Unity project. Before entering politics, Dhankar spent 11 years as a geography lecturer, a role that laid the foundation for his intellectual and philosophical pursuits.

## Lawrence Bishnoi-linked gangster says he ordered firing on rival gang in Portugal, issues another warning

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Randeep Malik, a close associate of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, Wednesday claimed responsibility for the firing at a godown belonging to rival gang members Romi and Prince in Portugal. In a social media post, Malik, who is wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), also included a two-second video in which multiple gunshots can be heard. This is the first such firing incident involving members of two Indian gangs in Portugal. Before this, similar incidents have been reported in Canada. "Jai Shri Ram, Sat Sri Akal... The firing that occurred today in Odivelas, Lisbon, Portugal, was done by me, Randeep Malik, and the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Romi and Prince, who are involved in illegal work in Portugal, should stop such activities," Randeep Malik said in the purported post on Facebook. He added that if the warning is ignored, those individuals will be targeted, regardless of where they are in the world. The post also mentions the names of gangsters Ankit Bhadu Sherewala, Jitendra Gogi, Goldie Dhillon, Kala Rana, Arzoo Bishnoi, Shubham Lonkar, and Sahil Duhan from Haryana. A police officer said Randeep Malik, who is wanted by the Delhi Police in connection with the murder of Nadir Shah, a gym owner from Greater Kailash, was detained in the US two weeks ago but was released by authorities. The police suspect that the firearms used in the murder of Nadir Shah were supplied with the help of Malik, who was in the US at



the time. Malik, a resident of Jind in Haryana, has been living in the US for the past several years. His name has also surfaced in connection with the firing incidents outside Bollywood singer Badshah's clubs in Chandigarh and Gurgaon.

The NIA has chargesheeted him, along with Goldy Brar, a former aide of Lawrence, in connection with one of the firing cases outside a club. In July and August, these gangs allegedly opened fire outside a club owned by Indian comedian Kapil Sharma in Canada. Before this, members of Lawrence Bishnoi's gang were found to be involved in several firing incidents outside the properties of rival gang members and celebrities in Canada.

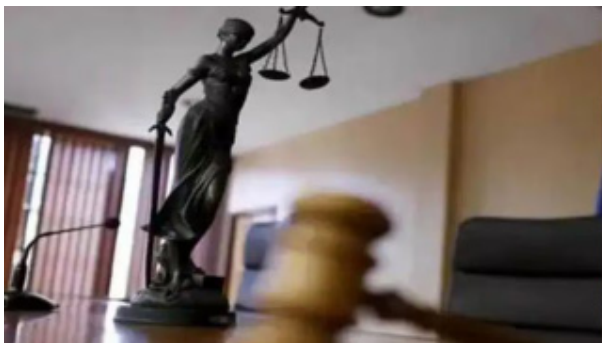
## 'Abuse of process of law': Telangana HC quashes dowry harassment case after learning couple already divorced in US

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

The case involved a criminal petition filed by a software engineer and his family seeking to quash the proceedings in a complaint lodged by his father-in-law. The case involved a criminal petition filed by a software engineer and his family seeking to quash the proceedings in a complaint lodged by his father-in-law. The Telangana High Court last month quashed a dowry harassment and fraud case, saying there was "deliberate suppression of facts" by the complainant, after finding out that the couple had already secured a divorce from a US court years ago. The continuation of the case would amount to an "abuse of the process of law", the high court stated.

The case involved a criminal petition filed by a software engineer and his family seeking to quash the proceedings in a complaint lodged by his father-in-law. The complainant had accused the son-in-law and his family of offences under Sections 498-A (cruelty) and 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code, and Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act. The complainant alleged that the son-in-law and his family demanded an additional dowry of Rs 1 crore and that he was planning a second marriage without a valid divorce. The complainant also stated that a temporary injunction was obtained to prevent the wedding.

The judgment, delivered by Justice J Sreenivas Rao on August 26, after examining the facts, found an entirely different turn of events. It was revealed that the couple had been living separately since October 2019 and had already secured a divorce decree from a Circuit Court in the United States on April 28, 2021. Justice Rao also highlighted the existence of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on October 27, 2021, a full month before the com-



plaint was lodged. Under this agreement, the complainant and his wife had received Rs 24 lakh and all gold ornaments as a "full and final settlement". The criminal case was filed after these events, with no mention of the divorce or the financial settlement. In his pointed remarks, Justice Rao noted that the complainant "has not mentioned about the execution of MOU" in his complaint, describing the act of suppressing such a significant settlement as a clear attempt to misuse the law. The court also observed that while the Supreme Court had previously granted the daughter the liberty to initiate proceedings, she had not done so, further undermining the father's complaint. The judge concluded that based on these facts, the continuation of the criminal case against the petitioners was "nothing but an abuse of the process of law". Citing precedents from the Supreme Court, the court determined that the allegations were "absurd" and "inherently improbable" given the existing divorce decree and financial settlement.

## Nagaland University's new research to aid advancement of quantum tech for devices, algorithms

New Delhi: Making significant strides in the field of quantum technology, researchers from Nagaland University have replicated the complex patterns of fractals found in nature — such as snowflakes, tree branches, and neuron networks — in the quantum world. With India already committed to advancing next-generation technologies through the National Quantum Mission, the new research could contribute meaningfully to the development of future quantum devices and algorithms, said the team. Fractals are not just mathematical curiosities, but blueprints found across nature — from the branching of rivers and lightning strikes to the growth of plants and neurons.

By bringing these naturally occurring patterns into the quantum realm, the research bridges the gap between fundamental physics and practical technology, demonstrating how lessons from nature can inspire the next generation of computing and electronics. The findings will help researchers explore how amorphous non-crystalline materials can be engineered for quantum technologies, thereby expand-

ing the material base for India's and the world's quantum innovation efforts. "Fractals are naturally occurring patterns that repeat themselves at different scales, seen in structures like coastlines, leaves, and blood vessels. In this research, I have used quantum mechanics to simulate how electrons behave under a magnetic field within such fractal systems. This approach is unique because most research in quantum devices relies on crystalline materials," said Dr Biplab Pal, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, School of Sciences, Nagaland University. "This work shows that non-crystalline, amorphous materials can also be effectively used to design nanoelectronic quantum devices," he added. The researchers noted that the study opens exciting possibilities in quantum devices: designing molecular fractal-based nanoelectronic devices. It may also aid in quantum algorithms and information processing: better control over electron states for future computing applications; and Aharonov-Bohm Caging effect: trapping electrons in fractal geometries, a phenomenon that could be harnessed in quantum memory and logic devices.

## After ABVP's late-night protest against Om Prakash Rajbhar, SBSP alleges 'attack on ati-pichhda', demands action



GNS News Agency, Sept 27

The SBSP, an ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in UP, demanded action against "ABVP leaders", alleging they also pelted stones on the house of the "ati-pichhda" leader. While the SBSP has sought action citing the BJP's claim of "rule of law" in the state, Congress also came out in Rajbhar's support pointing out that "most backward leaders" are being targeted. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad protested against Rajbhar's statement, reportedly referring to ABVP leaders lathicharged a day before while protesting outside Shri Ram Swaroop Memorial College, as "gunda". The statement was seen as the minister's backing of the lathicharge incident, where several students and ABVP volunteers were injured. Later, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered an inquiry into the lathicharge incident as well as the allegations over the validity of the law degree provided by the university.

However, after the ABVP's protest, the SBSP said in a statement that while it does not justify the lathicharge on the students and demands a fair inquiry into the same, as

well as allegations of anomalies in the university, it also demands a fair inquiry into the same, as well as accusations against the varsity. "Those who pelted stones at the house of the minister shouted abuses, and even manhandled a woman police personnel, there should be strict action against them. No one has the right to take the law into their own hands. As there is a rule of law in Uttar Pradesh, whoever breaks the law should also face strict action," the SBSP statement said. "Some individuals from a student organisation have pelted stones on the residence of the SBSP national president and also Cabinet Minister in the UP Government, Om Prakash Rajbhar ji. They also shouted abusive language at him. No one has the right to take the law into their own hands.

This country would run as per the Constitution given by Ambedkar ji and rights given to the deprived, but if anyone targets a most backward leader fighting for the rights of most backward, they would not be allowed to take the law into their own hands," said Arun Rajbhar, national general secretary of SBSP. "Ati pichhde neta ke ghar jaakar unhe neech kahiye.. Gali galauj kariye.. yeh thik nahi.. yeh gundagardi hai (Going to the leader of the most backward community calling him names and abusing is not right. It is hooliganism)," Arun Rajbhar. Anil Yadav, Organisational Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee, said, "Om Prakash Rajbhar comes from a backward community. He is a hardworking and grassroots leader. Many bigwigs of the BJP are mere pawns in front of him. Last night, goons supported by the BJP pelted stones at his house only because he comes from a backward community. This is the status of a backward community in the BJP-led Government".

## 60 food trucks, live performances: Night food markets, coming soon to heart of Delhi

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Connaught Place and India Gate will soon transform after dark, hosting night food markets inspired by Indore's Sarafa Bazaar and Ahmedabad's Law Garden. Under the plan, 50 to 60 food trucks and public vans will be rolled out — initially on weekends, and eventually on weekdays — operating between 10.30 pm and 1 am, officials said. "No-driving zones will be declared around the designated hours," said officials. "Departments such as the Delhi Police, Delhi Traffic Police, Art and Culture department of the Delhi government will coordinate to implement the plan," they added. Further, to create a vibrant cultural atmosphere, the night markets will feature live performances by artists from various state bhawans. Themes will change throughout the year — from festive celebrations like Diwali and Holi to those centered around seasonal delights such as mangoes. The proposal was put forward by New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) member Parvesh Sahib Singh during the council meeting on Wednesday. Directions were issued to the departments concerned to chalk out an outline of the plan before the next meeting. Meanwhile, several other proposals were passed. These included the construction of a foot overbridge in front of Gate No. 5 of the Delhi High Court on Sher Shah Road. NDMC vice-chairperson Kuljeet Singh Chahal said, "This facility will provide a safe and convenient passage for advocates, clients, litigants, and other visitors to the High Court, as well as for pedestrians in the surrounding New Delhi area."

He added that this will help reduce traffic congestion, prevent accidents, and ensure smooth pedestrian movement across the busy road. Another proposal that was approved was the resurfacing of 79 major roads in the NDMC area — including stretches near Parliament, the Prime



Minister's residence, Rashtrapati Bhavan, and Connaught Place — at an estimated cost of Rs 89.75 crore. This project will be executed in collaboration with CSIR-CRRI. In the Connaught Place division, major roads and radial roads, including Inner Circle, Middle Circle, Outer Circle, Regal compound back lane, and Panchkuian Road, will undergo resurfacing at a cost of Rs 10.65 crore. Chahal added that the resurfacing will use advanced technologies such as hot mix, cold mix, cold milling, bituminous concrete, and micro-surfacing. On 24 selected roads, the council will install automatic mist systems to help control dust and reduce vehicular pollution. Chahal also announced that the NDMC will celebrate 'Seva Parv,' where various camps and programmes will be held from September 17 till October 2, to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday.

The meeting was also attended by MP Bansuri Swaraj, NDMC chairperson Keshav Chandra, NDMC member and MLA Virender Singh Kadian, and council members Sarita Tomar, DP Singh and Anil Valmiki.

## Focus on AI, Quantum Tech: IIT-K hosts first DeepTech meet, Yogi says UP to lead

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

DeepTech conference, DeepTech Bharat 2025, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kanpur DeepTech conference, Lucknow news, Uttar Pradesh news, Indian express, Current affairs Adityanath recalled IIT-Kanpur's role during the Covid-19 pandemic and its contributions to the Defence Corridor and Med-Tech Centre, stressing that coordinated efforts would restore India's global leadership. As India's first national DeepTech conference — DeepTech Bharat 2025 — was inaugurated at IIT-Kanpur on Wednesday, the UP government unveiled its 'DeepTech Policy 2035', aimed at making the state the first to become deep-tech ready.

The conference, which focuses on Artificial Intelligence (AI), semiconductors, quantum technology, space technology, and biosciences, saw participation from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and over 200 venture capital firms, an official statement said. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who was at IIT-Kanpur to attend the "Samanyav" industry-academia engagement programme, said Uttar Pradesh "will lead the country in DeepTech". Highlighting the event's theme of "coordination," the chief minister said that stronger collaboration between industry and academia would accelerate research and translate technological advances into everyday benefits. "Industry-academia collaboration today is linked to solving global challenges and building a Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat," he said, noting that discussions on AI, cyber security, and sustainability would directly improve citizens' quality of life. The chief minister said that IIT-Kanpur will be developed as the "main centre for deep-tech innovation". "The initiative will also focus on boosting startups and preparing the youth for global technological competition to make Uttar Pradesh a leader in the technological revolution. Collaborations with institutions like DRDO and ISRO should be used for this purpose," he said. Under the 'DeepTech Policy 2035', the government will extend opportunities to startups and youths from the Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Stating that the significance of the summit is to make "Deep Tech Bharat 2025" a success, the chief minister said that IIT-Kanpur should lead the effort. He said that the state government has already allotted land for this project in the Gautam Buddha Nagar district. Praising IIT-Kanpur's role in technology over the past six decades, Adityanath sought the institute's support in strengthening cybersecurity, pointing out that Uttar Pradesh now has cyber police stations in all 75 districts and a State Cyber and Forensic Institute. Tracing India's economic arc, the chief minister said that recent re-



forms have helped the country recover lost ground on the global stage, from contributing 25 percent of world GDP until the 17th century to a low of 2 percent in 1947, and he expressed confidence that India, aided by technological leadership, could rise further in the coming years. Adityanath recalled IIT-Kanpur's role during the Covid-19 pandemic and its contributions to the Defence Corridor and Med-Tech Centre, stressing that coordinated efforts would restore India's global leadership.

## Household food expenses to drop significantly after tax on staples slashed

New Delhi: Ahead of the festive season, the GST Council, led by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, has announced significant reduction or tax exemption on several food items, packaged food and daily essentials. UHT milk, paneer, pizza bread, rotis, and khakhra will now have zero tax after GST 2.0, reduced from 5 per cent. Parathas and parottas, previously taxed at 18 per cent, are now in the nil bracket.

GST on key dairy items like butter, ghee, and cheese has decreased from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. Prices for condensed milk and various packaged foods, including jams, sauces, pickles, and fruit juices, will come down. Dry fruits and nuts, including almonds, cashews, pistachios, and dates, will now be taxed at 5 per cent instead of 12 per cent. Biscuits, cakes, chocolates, cornflakes, soups, and ice cream will also see a tax reduction to 5 per cent from 18 per cent.



# ‘Your govt should have stepped in’: Civil society to Bengal CM as Urdu Academy rolls back invite to Javed Akhtar



GNS News Agency, Sept 27

A group of intellectuals, comprising mostly Muslim scholars, from the state have written to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressing dismay over the postponement of eminent lyricist Javed Akhtar’s programme in Kolkata.In an open letter to the chief minister, the prominent personalities, including Mudar Patherya, Zeeshan Majeed, Taiyyeb Ahmed Khan and Rakesh Jhunjunwala, regretted the decision of the West Bengal Urdu Academy, and claimed it “evidently transpired on account of a protest by Muslim religious organisations that Javed Akhtar should not be invited because he is an atheist”.

The signatories emphasised that the government should have stepped in and directed the Academy to reverse its decision, “which it never did”.They expressed frustration, stating, “We are disappointed this happened in liberal Bengal under your leadership. Thousands who value free expression would have liked to see you stand up for it.”The West Bengal Urdu Academy had invited Akhtar as chief guest for a panel discussion on “Urdu in Hindi Cinema” between August 31 and September 3. The literary event was cancelled at the last minute after Islamic groups, including Jamiat Ulema Kolkata and Wahyain Foundation, objected to his invitation, citing his alleged anti-Islam remarks. A controversy began when Jamiat Ulema Kolkata’s general secretary Zillur Rahman Arif publicly criticised Akhtar and claimed that his remarks against Islam had

caused “unease among people”.The cancellation of the event has sparked a backlash from the literary and intellectual community in Kolkata. “As it turned out, West Bengal Urdu Academy (which does not have the word ‘Muslim’anywhere in its name) pandered to the fundamentalists and promptly withdrew its invitation,” the letter states.The intellectuals argued that “Urdu is a language for everyone”, and it should not be considered the “exclusive property” of a community.

The letter mentions, “A number of people in India harbour the feeling that secularism means appeasing Muslim fundamentalism and intolerance. Sadly, this instance has only deepened this conviction.”The members also claimed that the decision has “exposed that the religious leanings of a poet (or any individual) are more important than what the poet has to say about an unrelated subject”.In their letter to the CM, the group said, “The person protesting the inclusion of Javed Akhtar in the event called it a ‘qaumi mushaira’ on a social media post, which it was not,” adding, that the academy’s decision had damaged Kolkata’s reputation as a liberal city. “If the decision were taken to appease Muslim sentiment in view of the impending State elections next year (as is being rumoured), then there would always be some kind of an election in this State all the time (panchayat, municipal, State and national). By this yardstick, Javed Akhtar should ever be invited by anyone in Kolkata,” the letter mentions. “Withdrawing the invitation because some people object to the guest implies citizens can’t think for themselves and need fundamentalists to dictate what’s acceptable – it’s a form of censorship,” they wrote in the letter.Atri Mitra is a Special Correspondent of The Indian Express with more than 20 years of experience in reporting from West Bengal, Bihar and the North-East. He has been covering administration and political news for more than ten years and has a keen interest in political development in West Bengal. Atri holds a Master degree in Economics from Rabinradrabharati University and Bachelor’s degree from Calcutta University. He is also an alumnus of St. Xavier’s, Kolkata and Ramakrishna Mission Asrama, Narendrapur. He started his career with leading vernacular daily the Anandabazar Patrika, and worked there for more than fifteen years. He worked

# Felicitated for making Delhi safer: Woman cabbie who helped nab carjacker, auto driver who returned Rs 1 L



GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Sunita (38) is among the few women drivers in Delhi who can be seen behind the wheel in a BMW. A single mother to three daughters, she has been working at the Leela Palace Hotel as a chauffeur since 2016. She separated from her husband about two decades ago because of, what she calls, his “alcohol addiction”. As a driver, she has worked odd and gruelling hours to raise her daughters.Her story of strength was in the spotlight on Wednesday as she was honoured by the Delhi Traffic Police and the Highway Hero Trust — along with 19 other taxi, auto and bus drivers — for providing safe and reliable experience to their passengers. Sunita’s contribution that was acknowledged at the event was getting an alleged carjacker caught in 2015.

Back then, she was working with Sakhi cab service catering to women who worked night shifts. Recalling the night she came across the impostor, she said, “It was about 2.30 am. I usually worked odd hours. I parked near Nehru Place, and called my daughters to check on them.” It was a routine for her to call her daughters. That night, the call was, however, interrupted. “A man came and knocked on my window. He said he was a police officer,” said Sunita.The man told him to roll down the car window. But she felt something odd and opened the window only a little. “He said because of women like me, police officers get blamed for late night incidents with ‘ladies’. He then asked me to show my

papers. I found it weird, closed my window and drove ahead.” In the rear mirror, she could see him leaving on a motorcycle in a hurry.

A km away, Sunita spotted some patrolling officers. “I told the police officers about that man. They asked me if I was willing to drive along with them to the road where I saw him last. I did that,” she recounted, her eyes lit with excitement.The man on the bike was not far off, and they caught on to him. “The officers spoke to him, and then one of them came and told me that the man was probably trying to steal my car,” she said.Another awardee at Wednesday’s event was Sanver Khan (59), a father of four who has been driving his rented auto in Delhi-NCR for over 25 years.Last August, on a cloudy afternoon in the Capital, Sanver was at the Barakhamba Road when a man deboarded a government vehicle and boarded his auto. “The man said he was in a hurry to attend a meeting and the car was stuck in the traffic. He wanted to go near the Punjab Bhawan and asked me if I knew a shortcut. I nodded and eventually dropped him to the destination,” said Sanver.But after dropping the man, halfway through, Sanver noticed a bag in the passenger seat. “I opened it and saw some papers and two bundles of notes. On one of the papers, a phone number was written,” he said.Sanver, a member of Highway Hero Trust, then called Balwant Singh Bhullar, who runs the organisation working for the welfare and safety of member drivers and their families.“Bhullar sir asked me to dial the number. I did that. My passenger was an IPS officer and I returned the bag to him the next day at Punjab Bhawan. He told me that he didn’t expect that I would find him so soon. It was the proudest moment of my life,” he recalled. The bag had around Rs 1 lakh in cash in it.At Wednesday’s felicitation event, Special CP (Traffic) Ajay Chaudhary praised the big and small contributions of all the 20 awardees. “Any visitor in Delhi generally gets the first impression of the city during contact with taxi drivers. The impression of the visitor lingers on for the life as experience of the city,” he said.Balwant Singh Bhullar of the Highway Hero Trust, who was present at the event, said that the event motivated drivers like him to represent Delhi to the tourists from home and beyond.

# Month after constable nabs 3 robbers following intense chase, Delhi top cop grants him out-of-turn promotion



When told to stop, the suspects ignored Singh. In what turned out to be a scene straight out of a Bollywood action movie, he then chased the suspects for 35 minutes across 7 km and finally caught them

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

A month after a constable managed to nab three burglary suspects following an intense chase in South Delhi when he was out on the patrolling duty alone, he was granted an out-of-turn promotion on Wednesday by Police Commissioner Satish Golcha at a ceremony held at Delhi Police Headquarters. Golcha congratulated Constable Kartar Singh, who is now the Head Constable, and wished him a bright career.This is the first out-of-turn promotion that has

been granted by Gocha since he took charge as the Delhi Police chief last month. During a recent meeting, Golcha had emphasied on giving out-of-turn promotions and rewarding those who are doing good work at the junior level.

On August 1, around 4 am, Constable Kartar Singh was patrolling in Malviya Nagar when he spotted three men riding a motorcycle and suspected foul play. They wore small turbans, carried a backpack, and had their faces covered.Singh recalled that Station House Officer (SHO) Vinay Yadav had recently warned the personnel at the Malviya Nagar police station about three wanted criminals accused of carrying out multiple burglaries in the area. During briefings, Yadav had described the suspects and their attire in detail. The Constable remembered seeing the surveillance footage shown during the briefings. Like many of his colleagues, he was actively on lookout for the trio during the night patrols.

When told to stop, the suspects ignored Singh. In what turned out to be a scene straight out of a Bollywood action movie, he then chased the suspects for 35 minutes across 7 km and finally caught them. “When I spotted them, I tried to flag them down, but they sped off. They headed towards the Savitri Flyover, then the IIT Flyover, took a right turn, and moved towards Aurobindo Marg, eventually reaching near Hauz Khas and tried to enter Khel Gaon,” Singh recounted.The night had already been eventful. Earlier, Singh and his patrolling partner Constable Mainpal had tried to catch another suspect but he gave them a slip. Then the motorcycle they were riding had to be replaced.Singh spotted the three men after he replaced the motorcycle. He had dropped his colleague midway, as Mainpal needed to use the washroom.Despite being alone and sustaining an injury during the chase, he managed to nab the three men.

# A forbidden love, a buried body, and crime lessons from YouTube: Inside a Gurgaon tailor’s murder



GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Some love stories are etched in blood. This one, however, was written in crimson: it was a “forbidden” love.The story begins over a decade ago, in a village in Bihar’s Nawada district.It was 2010. A man and a woman were set to be married — an alliance arranged by their families. Like many such unions in the village, caste was taken into account before the match was finalised.She was 20, from another village in the same district. He was 22, a tailor by profession.Soon after, he left for Gurgaon in search of better opportunities. In 2012, they had their first child, a daughter. A year and a half later, they welcomed a boy.

In the early years of their marriage, he worked in the city while his wife remained in the village. But after their son’s birth, she moved to Gurgaon with the children. They lived in a four-storey brick building.Her two brothers were already in the city, earning a living through odd jobs — running vegetable carts, among other things.By the start of the new decade, the man’s tailoring business had grown. He earned around Rs 30,000 a month, getting clothes stitched and made at scale and charging companies on a per-piece basis.Apart from his own children, he also cared for his nephew — the son of his elder brother who had passed away recently.His disposition was amiable and humble — he stayed calm even when his subordinates and co-workers made mistakes.In late 2023, another man — 34, recently separated, with a boy and a girl of his own — shifted to the area. He was from Meerut, had dropped out before his Class 10 exams, and ran a small truck-hiring and booking business.

Physically, he was shorter — 5’0” to the husband’s 5’3” — but sported a fuller head of hair. He was clever, calculating.As fate would have it, the new neighbour moved into the room — a 10mx12m space — adjacent to the couple’s. Both rooms were perched on the open terrace of the building. They sat at right angles to each other, separated by a single common wall.By early 2024, an affair blossomed between the woman and her neighbour. There was no one to disturb them during the day — both sets of kids were at school, and her husband remained at his factory from 9 am-9 pm.Frequent visits to each other’s rooms grew. But they didn’t confine this romance to the terrace. When their pockets allowed, they would sometimes venture to places outside. The lover next door even let his workers handle his business to spend more time with her.

No one got a whiff of their secret rendezvous, not family or neighbours. The other residents hardly ventured to the terrace, not even to dry their clothes, as the building landlord had installed clotheslines on every floor. Even the labourers who lived in the locality — a peri-urban village near the Delhi-Gurgaon border — did not interact much with either family.In March, the neighbour captured a private, intimate video of the two on his phone.On July 25, the woman’s daughter — now 13 years old — stumbled upon the video recording while idly handling the neighbour’s phone. That evening, she revealed what she’d found to her father — in the woman’s presence.Alarmed, the woman immediately sent a message to her lover next door: their secret had been exposed.Whether the husband confronted his wife that night or the next morning remains unclear. But he neither uprooted his family nor confronted his wife’s lover. He appeared outwardly unaffected, carrying on as if nothing had happened. Colleagues recall him as his usual calm self, even on July 26.The neighbour, meanwhile, was glued to his Chinese smartphone. Something sinister was brewing in his mind. He watched — and rewatched — a particular set of videos. He and the woman allegedly remained in frequent contact over the phone that day, scheming.Two days later, around 10 pm on July 28, the woman went to a police station with a written complaint — her husband had been missing since July 27.The station registered a case under the relevant sections, but the police smelled something fishy. “How could she have been silent for all of 27th (July) and the better part of 28th July?” asked Station House Officer (SHO), Inspector Balraj, who goes by his first name. “We found out that she had spoken with the neighbour over the phone on the 28th for a minute, and deleted the call log. That was the first sign that something seemed off, that her story might not be true,” Balraj told The Indian Express.The next day, her family and neighbours started calling up the police, saying they should do more.“Eventually, I told her brother — your sister knows exactly what happened to her husband, and where he is,” said Inspector Balraj.Her brothers kept pressing her for the truth. But she deflected their questions.Then, on July 31, she returned to the police station — this time with another written complaint.“Now her expression had changed. She was nervous and afraid,” said Balraj, also the case’s investigating officer (IO).Referring to the March video — the one

her daughter inadvertently saw — she told the police that her neighbour allegedly raped her while her husband was at work and recorded the act.She claimed he had threatened her — that he would make the video viral if she told anyone and have her husband picked up.Then came the final startling claim. She told police she suspected that the neighbour had abducted her husband from near his workplace.Based on this complaint, police lodged another FIR for rape, criminal intimidation, and house trespass with preparation for hurt, assault, or wrongful restraint.On August 1, police arrested the neighbour.When he was told why he had been arrested, he was shocked.“Isse woh ekdum toot gaya. Itne saath rehne ke vaado ke baad bhi yeh. (This broke him. Even after they had made promises of being with each other...)”, said the SHO.During preliminary questioning, the neighbour told the police he had been in an ‘illicit relationship’ with the woman. “But that’s all he admitted to initially,” said the officer.Hours later, he finally broke down.“He recalled how the woman had told him she wouldn’t leave his side, even if everyone found out about the affair. He said it (their relationship) started with just keeping her company during the day, but over time, he began to believe it was love — even for her. She had given him the impression that they would eventually settle down and live together, perhaps after the children finished school. He would share all this with his uncle,” said Balraj.The neighbour then told the police about what went down on July 26.He claimed that he and his three accomplices grabbed the deceased from the road, stuffed him into a vehicle, allegedly strangled him with a rope inside, and killed him, police said.They buried the body in a field behind several high-rises in Sector 36.Police took him to the spot the same day, around 11 pm. He could not bear the stench and covered his nose when the body was being dug up — and fainted when it was taken out.“Maine usse kahan tune hi toh dafnaya tha, abhi dikkat kyu? Ab pachtayega (I told him, you buried it, why is it troubling now? Now you will regret it),” said Inspector Balraj.

When the police checked his phone, they found further clues of his alleged involvement. His recent YouTube search history was replete with videos of two crimes — the brutal murder of Raja Raghuvanshi in Shillong, and the killing in Meerut, where a husband’s dismembered body was disposed of in a drum by his wife and her lover.“He watched those videos over and over — trying to understand how he could commit a similar crime and avoid the mistakes that led to the arrest of the accused in those cases,” said Balraj.Further questioning revealed how calculated the plan had been. “The idea was that if the body was ever discovered, they could pass it off as a suicide. That’s why they used a rope and left the deceased dressed in the same clothes he wore at the factory,” said the officer.

“But there was one flaw in their plan — how would a man who committed suicide bury himself?” he said.Over the next few days, more arrests would follow.At 5.30 am on August 2, Inspector Balraj and his team arrived at the paddy fields of Bastaura, a village in Meerut — they were tracking a lead that two other suspects involved in the murder were around.“We found them and gave chase through the fields. They ran hard and did not stop until I threatened to fire,” said Balraj.Police arrested the two. During questioning, the duo admitted that they had travelled to Gurgaon at the request of a person known to the neighbour. Acting on his instructions, they — along with others — abducted the victim.Finally, on August 2, police arrested the woman.They also arrested the neighbour’s uncle from Gurgaon, who had allegedly advised him on how to hide the evidence — bury the body deep in a pit and cover it with soil to mask the odour.Police questioning revealed that the ‘illicit’ affair had been going on for about a year.

The woman stayed in constant contact with her neighbour over the phone throughout the execution of the crime, police said, adding that the woman filed a missing person’s complaint to mislead the police.She even blocked the numbers of those calling on her late husband’s phone after the incident.The man, in turn, had sold dreams to his uncle about his love to legitimise the affair, police said. “Voh unhe sapne dikhata, ki ghar mein nayi bahu ayeegi, roti pakaegi, budhape mein aapko sambhalegi (He would tell the uncle that with a new bride at home, there would be someone to make food and take care of them in old age),” said Inspector Balraj.The final arrest was made on August 3. It was the neighbour’s friend, the one who had enlisted the others for the crime.“Unka planning tagda tha (their planning was solid). It wasn’t a spur-of-the-moment act, or they wouldn’t have used a rope and made other preparations... We managed to nab everyone involved, despite the body being discovered days later,” added Inspector Balraj, expressing pride in his team’s efforts.He said the woman’s family has stopped talking to her.One of her elder brothers, though, maintained there was a possibility of her innocence. “The police did their bit and worked hard, but we still await concrete evidence that my sister was involved. We did not know anything about the accused or their alleged affair.”He remained guarded when asked about his sister’s personality and childhood. “It’s not what you might assume — that she was a certain kind of person in childhood and that led to all this. We didn’t interact much back then, as I was often working in different cities,” the brother said.For now, his thoughts are with his nephew and niece, wondering who will look after them while the legal battle and police investigation drag on.Meanwhile, as she was led away to judicial custody, the woman fired a parting shot at her former lover.

# Time for youth to become warriors of nation in digital age: Delhi CM

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday called upon the youth to become “warriors of the nation and culture,” urging them to play an active role in defending Indian civilization and values in the digital age.Speaking at ISKCON’s Content Creators’ Summit in the Capital, she said the responsibility of safeguarding cultural identity now extends beyond the battlefield to platforms like mobile phones and social media.

“It is not acceptable that someone points fingers at our country and we remain silent. The time has come to respond,” she said, adding, “Today is the time for youth to become warriors of the nation. This battle, whether fought through mobile phones and computers, is just as important as the one fought with weapons on the border.”“If each of us contributes, even in small ways, to the nation and society, change is inevitable,” Gupta said.

The event, which brought together over 500 content creators, was also attended by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Delhi’s Minister of Languages, Tourism, Art & Culture and Water Kapil Mishra.Mishra said the summit aimed at guiding young voices with influence across the world, describing it as “the need of the hour”.



ISKCON announced that it will host a mega youth event in Delhi on October 12, dedicated to the Prime Minister’s ‘Drug-Free India’ campaign and the ‘Viksit Bharat’ initiative. Around 15,000 youth are expected to be in attendance.

Mishra also said that “such events send a strong message about the essential role of youth in advancing culture, spirituality, and national interest”. “Only when the new generation embraces these values will the dream of a developed India be realised,” he said.



# Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy calls for European air defence system as Russian strike wounds 13 in Zaporizhzhia city



GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Russian forces bombarded the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia with rockets overnight, wounding 13 people, including two children, officials said Tuesday (September 16, 2025), as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged European leaders to make the continent safe by building an ambitious air defence umbrella. With the war grinding on since Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbour more than three-and-a-half years ago, there has been no let-up in Russian strikes on civilian areas of Ukraine and its army's push on the roughly 1,000-kilometre front line. A peace settlement appears to be no closer despite months of U.S.-led peace

efforts. U.S. President Donald Trump's ultimatums and deadlines for Russian President Vladimir Putin to engage with proposals to stop the fighting have passed without obvious consequences.

Just over the past two weeks, Mr. Zelenskyy said on Telegram, Russia has launched more than 3,500 drones, more than 2,500 powerful glide bombs and almost 200 missiles at targets inside Ukraine. Russian glide bombs, usually dropped by jets at high altitude and far behind the front line, and drone swarms are a major challenge for Ukrainian defences. Glide bombs aren't very accurate, but they leave big craters, and Ukraine has no effective countermeasure against them. Russian drones also recently landed on Polish soil, prompting NATO to beef up the alliance's European air defences as tensions with Moscow mounted. "Now is the time to implement the joint protection of our European skies with a multi-layered air defence system. All the technologies for this are available," Mr. Zelenskyy said on Telegram. "We need investments and desire, we need strong actions and decisions from all our partners." In Zaporizhzhia, the Russian barrage struck more than 20 apartment buildings, starting fires, regional head Ivan Fedorov said on national television. "We hadn't yet recovered from enemy strikes on Aug. 30. We are currently repairing those buildings, those windows, but now the enemy has added more work for our municipal workers," Mr. Fedorov said.

# Kash Patel to face U.S. Senate amid questions over probe into Charlie Kirk's killing, internal FBI upheaval

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Kash Patel will confront sceptical Senate Democrats at a congressional hearing Tuesday (September 16, 2025) likely to be dominated by questions about the investigation into Charlie Kirk's killing as well as the recent firings of senior officials who have accused the FBI director of illegal political retribution. The appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee represents the first oversight hearing of Mr. Patel's young but tumultuous tenure and provides a high-stakes platform for him to try to reassure wary lawmakers that he is the right person for the job at a time of internal upheaval and mounting concerns about political violence inside the U.S.



Mr. Patel will be returning to the committee for the first time since his confirmation hearing in January, when he sought to reassure Democrats that he would not pursue retribution as director. He'll face questions Tuesday (September 16) about whether he did exactly that when the FBI last month fired five agents and senior officials in a purge that current and former officials say weakened morale and contributed to unease inside the nation's premier federal law enforcement agency. Three of those officials sued last week in a federal complaint that says Mr. Patel knew the firings were likely illegal but carried them out anyway to protect his job. One of the officials helped oversee investigations into the January 6 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol and another clashed with Justice Department leadership while serving as acting director in the early days of the Trump administration. The FBI has declined to comment on the lawsuit. Republican lawmakers who make up the majority in the committee are expected to show solidarity for Mr. Patel, a close ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, and are likely to praise the director for his focus on violent crime and illegal immigration. They are also likely to try to elicit from Mr. Patel fresh details about the investigation into Kirk's assassination at a Utah college campus last week, which authorities have said was carried out by a 22-year-old man

who had grown more political in recent years and ascribed to a "leftist ideology." Mr. Patel drew scrutiny when, hours after the killing, he posted on social media that "the subject" was in custody even though the actual suspected shooter remained on the loose and was not arrested until he turned himself in late the following night. Mr. Patel has not explained that post but has pointed to his decision to authorise the release of photographs of the suspect, Tyler Robinson, while he was on the run as a key development that helped facilitate an arrest. A Fox News Channel journalist reported Saturday (September 13) that President Trump had told her that Mr. Patel and the FBI have "done a great job." Mr. Robinson is due to make his first court appearance in Utah. Another line of questioning may involve Democratic concerns that Mr. Patel is politicising the FBI through politically charged investigations, including into longstanding grievances of Mr. Trump. Agents and prosecutors, for instance, have been seeking interviews and information as they reexamine aspects of the years-old FBI investigation into potential coordination between Russia and Mr. Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. Mr. Patel has repeatedly said his predecessors at the FBI and Justice Department who investigated and prosecuted Mr. Trump were the ones who weaponised the institutions.

# Indian man's gruesome murder was 'preventable', Biden administration released accused into country: Agencies

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

U.S. law enforcement agencies said the "savagely" and gruesome killing of an Indian-origin motel manager in Dallas would never have happened if the accused was not released into the country by the Biden administration. "A hotel manager was beheaded in front of his family by a convicted predator, an illegal alien from Cuba. Cuba refused to take him, so the Biden admin released him onto the American streets a week prior to President Trump taking office," U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a post on X Monday. A hotel manager was beheaded in front of his family by a convicted predator illegal alien from Cuba. Cuba refused to take him so the Biden admin released him onto the American streets a week prior to President Trump taking office. Chandra Nagamallai, 50, was killed at the Downtown Suites motel by co-worker Yordanis Cobos-Martinez, a 37-year-old Cuban national with a violent criminal history.



The federal agency said that the criminal illegal alien should never have been in America in the first place. Describing Cobos-Martinez as a "vile monster", the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said that he beheaded Nagamallai in front of his wife and child and proceeded to kick the victim's head on the ground. "This gruesome, savage slaying of a victim at a motel by Yordanis Cobos-Martinez was completely preventable if this criminal illegal alien had not been released into our country by the Biden Administration since Cuba would not take him back," it said. DHS added that this is exactly why the agency is removing criminal illegal aliens to third countries. President Trump and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem are "no longer allowing barbaric criminals to indefinitely remain in America. If you come to our country illegally, you could end up in Eswatini, Uganda, South Sudan, or CECOT," the agency said, referring to the maximum security prison Terrorism Confinement Centre in Tecoluca, El Salvador.

spected person" and said the accused in the case will be charged with first-degree murder. "I am aware of the terrible reports regarding the murder of Chandra Nagamallai, a well respected person in Dallas, Texas, who was brutally beheaded, in front of his wife and son, by an illegal alien from Cuba who should have never been in our country," Mr. Trump said in a post on Truth Social Sunday, in first comments on the heinous killing of the 50-year old Indian-origin individual.

Mr. Trump said the criminal, who is in custody, "will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Law. He will be charged with murder in the first degree." Mr. Trump added that the accused in the case was previously arrested for "terrible crimes", including child sex abuse, grand theft auto, and false imprisonment, but was released back into the homeland under "incompetent" former President Joe Biden because Cuba did not want "such an evil person in their country." "Rest assured, the time for being soft on these illegal immigrant criminals is over under my watch! Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Border Czar Tom Homan, and many others in my Administration, are doing an incredible job in making America safe again." Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said he is horrified by Nagamallai's brutal murder, stressing that he was a hardworking Indian-American immigrant killed in front of his wife and son. "My deepest condolences go to his family.

# U.S. judge won't intervene in Trump administration's deportations of West Africans to Ghana

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

A U.S. judge said that she was powerless to stop the return of four men in Ghana's custody to countries where U.S. immigration judges determined they faced torture or persecution, declining to intervene in a victory for the Trump administration. U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan said that the administration appeared to be circumventing the UN Convention Against Torture by sending the West Africans to Ghana, but that her "hands are tied." Ms. Chutkan wrote that she was "alarmed and dismayed by the circumstances under which these removals are being carried out, especially in light of the government's cavalier acceptance of Plaintiffs' ultimate transfer to countries where they face torture and persecution."

The ruling Monday night in federal court in Washington clears the way for 14 West Africans to be sent to their home countries from Ghana, including the four covered by the ruling. They appear to be destined for Nigeria and Gambia, despite U.S. immigration judges finding they have reason to fear persecution or torture. Ms. Chutkan said it was the latest example of the Trump administration evading prohibitions on deportations by sending people outside the country anyway and claiming that U.S. judges had no power to order them back. The judge distinguished it from the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, whom the administration wrongly sent to a prison in his native El Salvador. In the Africa case, unlike in Abrego Garcia, she wrote, the administration could legally send them to Ghana. Lee Gelernt of the American Civil Liberties Union, which joined the lawsuit, said in a statement: "We are obviously disappointed by the ruling, but there's no reason why the administration should require a court to tell them to obey the laws prohibiting the transfer of individuals to countries where it's likely

they will be tortured and persecuted." The U.S. Department of Homeland Security didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. Lawyers for the four West Africans said earlier Monday that they remained in Ghana, contradicting a Ghanaian official. Felix Kwakye Ofori, Ghana's Minister for government communications, told The Associated Press that all 14 — 13 Nigerians and one Gambian — "have since left for their home countries." The administration, faced with decisions by immigration judges that people can't be sent back to their home countries, has increasingly been trying to send them to third countries with which the administration has created agreements to take deportees. Ghana has joined Eswatini, Rwanda and South Sudan as African countries that have received migrants from third countries who were deported from the U.S. The lawsuit filed on behalf of some of the migrants said they were held in "straitjackets" for 16 hours on a flight to Ghana and detained for days in "squalid conditions" after they arrived there. It said Ghana was doing the Trump administration's "dirty work." Ghanaian Foreign Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa pushed back on criticism that the decision was an endorsement of US President Donald Trump's immigration policies. Ablakwa said on Monday that Ghana didn't receive any financial compensation from the US over the deportation. "We just could not continue to take the suffering of our fellow West Africans," the minister said. "For now, the strict understanding that we have with the Americans is that we are only going to take West Africans." Nigeria's government said that it wasn't briefed about its nationals being sent to Ghana and that previously it had received Nigerians deported directly from the US. "We have not rejected Nigerians deported to Nigeria. What we have only rejected is the deportation of other nationals into Nigeria," said Kimebi Imomotimi Ebienda, a spokesperson for Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

# Qatar's Emir accuses Israel of working to 'ensure Gaza is no longer livable'

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Qatar hosted a summit of leaders of Arab and Islamic nations in the hopes of presenting a united response to Israel's attack on Hamas leaders in Doha last week. But the group has few ways to restrain Israel as its war in the Gaza Strip grinds on. Qatar's ruling Emir opened the summit by accusing Israel of not caring about its hostages held in Gaza and instead only working to "ensure Gaza is no longer livable." Israel has said the goals of its war include bringing all the hostages back and defeating Hamas.



"If Israel wishes to assassinate the Hamas leaders, why then engage in negotiations?" Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani asked. "If you wish to insist on the liberation of hostages, why then do they assassinate all negotiators?" The speech was unusually fiery for the 45-year-old ruler of Qatar, which has served as key mediator in an effort to reach a ceasefire in the war. "There is no room to deal with such a party that's cowardly and treacherous," he added. "Those who work consistently to assassinate the party in these negotiations will certainly do everything to ensure the failure of these negotiations. When they claim that they seek the liberation of hostages, that's a mere lie." Sheikh Tamim also denounced Israel over what he called the "genocide" it is committing in Gaza. Israel vehemently denies it is committing genocide. It says Hamas is prolonging the war by not surrendering and releasing the hostages.

Israel launched its invasion of Gaza in response to Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack, and since then it has also retaliated against the militant group and other members of Iran's so-called Axis of Resistance elsewhere, including in Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and now Qatar. That's led to wider anger among Mideast nations already enraged by the over 64,000 Palestinians killed during the war in Gaza — and a growing concern that the U.S. commitment to protect Gulf Arab states may not be strong enough.

However, it remains unclear just what the summit will be able to achieve. Significant tensions among the nations meeting could blunt cooperation — and they also have few levers they can pull. Condemnations from countries that Israel considers enemies, like Iran, will mean little. Meanwhile, the nations attending that have diplomatic recognition deals with Israel may be reluctant to sever ties. "Considering the deep tensions between the Gulf states and other regional actors, assembling the summit in less than a week, especially given its scale, is a notable achievement that underscores a shared sense of urgency in the region," the New York-based Soufan Center said. "The key question is whether ... (the summit will) signal a shift toward more consequential measures against Israel, including diplomatic downgrades, targeted economic actions and restrictions on airspace and access." A variety of regional leaders attended the summit, including Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Syria's interim president, Ahmad al-Sharaa. Iran's presence in summit

Iran, which hit a base in Qatar in June, is attending the summit. After the U.S. bombed Iranian nuclear sites in June, Iran struck Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, a major hub for

American forces — a move that angered Qatar. Nevertheless, Iran sent President Masoud Pezeshkian to attend Monday's meeting. Before leaving Tehran, Pezeshkian noted the wide breadth of nations Israel has attacked since October 7. "This regime has attacked many Islamic countries," he said. "It does whatever it wants, and unfortunately, the United States and European countries also support these actions." Writing on the social platform X, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi added: "Iran stands with Qatar and indeed all Muslim brothers and sisters, particularly against the scourge that is terrorising the region." Mr. Araghchi and Mr. Pezeshkian did not mention Iran's attack on Qatar and received an honour guard welcome when landing in Doha. Qatar in Israel-Hamas ceasefire talks

Qatar, an energy-rich nation on the Arabian Peninsula that hosted the 2022 World Cup, long has served as an intermediary in conflicts. For years, it has hosted Hamas' political leadership at the request of the U.S., providing a channel for Israel to negotiate with the militant group that has controlled Gaza for years. But as the Israel-Hamas war has raged on, Qatar increasingly has been criticised by hardliners within Netanyahu's government. Mr. Netanyahu himself has vowed to strike all those who organised the Hamas-led attack on Israel in 2023. And since last week's strike, the Israeli leader has doubled down on saying Qatar remains a possible target if Hamas leaders are there. "We're with them. You know, they've been a great ally," Mr. Trump said. "A lot of people don't understand about Qatar. Qatar has been a great ally, and they also lead a very difficult life because they're right in the middle of everything." U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio was in Israel on Monday (September 15, 2025) for meetings with Mr. Netanyahu and other Israeli officials to express America's concern over the attack on Qatar and talk about Israel's planned new offensive on Gaza City. Mr. Rubio declined to address Israel's strike while speaking to journalists in Jerusalem, but said that America wanted to work with all its partners in the region on stopping Hamas and reaching a ceasefire in the war. "We're going to continue to encourage Qatar to play a constructive role in that regard," Mr. Rubio said. Mr. Netanyahu again added that Israel's decision to attack Qatar "was a wholly independent decision by us." Mr. Netanyahu faces increasing pressure from the Israeli public to end the war and bring home the 48 hostages still held in Gaza, whom 20 are believed by Israel to still be alive.

# India-US trade talks resume amid renewed hopes over tariffs

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

New York: The trade talks between India and the United States resumed here on Tuesday, as US Assistant Trade Representative Brendan Lynch reached Commerce Ministry, amid the thaw in the relations between the two nations. The India trade negotiators are led by Rajesh Agrawal, Special Secretary in the Department of Commerce. According to Commerce Ministry sources, trade discussions are going on at several levels and further course of action will be decided after the trade talks with the US Chief Negotiator Lynch. There is a positive frame of mind on both sides while approaching trade issues. The teams are set to discuss all the pending issues related to the trade deal. Certain issues are in the diplomatic realm where the MEA is also engaged. Lynch's visit comes as expectations of a trade deal have been boosted by positive messages by US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi after days of bitter stalemate. Trump said on a Truth Social post on September 9, that talks were continuing and "I feel certain that there will be no difficulty in coming to a successful conclusion for both of our Great Countries." Calling PM Modi a 'great friend', he said he would be talking to



him. PM Modi responded to Trump's post, saying "I am confident that our trade negotiations will pave the way for unlocking the limitless potential of the India-US partnership." He added that he was looking forward to talking with Trump. US nominee to be ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, told a Senate panel considering his nomination last week that India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal was expected in Washington, DC, and he will meet with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.



# Dead drops, Nigerian suppliers: Syndicate targeting Kerala, Bengaluru busted; 6 held



On July 19, an officer of the Delhi Police's Crime Branch received a phone call from the Kerala Police. Amid an ongoing probe into a drug supply chain, they had identified a suspect, Suhail (31), who was wanted in multiple cases lodged under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. He was allegedly peddling drugs in parts of South India and was in the Capital for restocking his supply.As a search for the suspect ensued in Delhi, an extensive narcotics network was uncovered, involving six persons, including two Nigerians.

All six accused have been arrested and drugs worth Rs 21 crore seized, police said on Wednesday.The accused were identified as Suhail and Sujin (32), both from Kerala; Nigerian nationals Tobi Nwoyeke alias Deco (35), and Chikwado Nnake Kingsley (29); as well as Bengaluru-based couple Md Zaheed (29) and his wife Suha Fatima alias Neha (29).The murky details of the operation, said officers, were revealed, as the probe deepened, including a unique modus operandi to supply drugs.“Suhail used the method of dead drops, where the drugs are dropped at a secluded place in bushes or roadside and a picture and location is shared with the receiver to evade arrest. He disclosed that he intentionally used to sell in non-commercial quantities (less than 50 gm) to avoid strict legal action. In 2024, many of his syndicate members were arrested by Kerala Police in three cases,” DCP (Crime Branch) Harsh Indora said.

Suhail's loyal customers — the husband and wife — also played a key role in the operation, according to the investigators. The syndicate allegedly targeted students, IT professionals and other youth across South India, he added.When the first tip-off was received from Kerala, Suhail's location was traced in South Delhi. “After relentless effort, Sub-Inspector Ravi Bhushan, along with his team, traced the accused to a guest house in Southwest

Delhi. A raid was conducted resulting in the arrest of Suhail and Sujin (on July 20), both residents of Kannur, Kerala, who had a massive 5,950 gm of Methamphetamine on them,” Indora said.A scrutiny of Suhail's phone revealed that he was in contact with a Nigerian national via WhatsApp. As per his statement, this man, his supplier, lived in Chattarpur. He sold the drugs procured from him in Bengaluru, Kerala and other cities of South India.“After checking every street and suspected houses, another suspect, Toby Deco, the Nigerian national, was arrested and 64 gm of methamphetamine (an illegal recreational drug) was recovered from him. Upon detailed questioning, he disclosed that he has been living in Bengaluru for many years and used to supply drugs to Suhail,” DCP Indora said.“Deco used to procure these drugs from a person named Ogo alias Obichi (also a Nigerian) who runs a drugs syndicate and is based in Greater Noida. After the Bengaluru Police arrested a few of his fellow drug suppliers, he came to Delhi,” Indora added.Suhail, who earlier worked in Dubai, returned to his home in Kerala in 2019. By then, he was allegedly addicted to meth, said police. He was also arrested in 2020 with 5 grams of meth. He then moved to Bengaluru to run a small-time supply network, a police officer said.As the investigation intensified, it was revealed that one of Suhail's most loyal customers in Bengaluru were Fatima and Md. Zaheed, a couple who bought drugs only to sell them further. The couple had initially tried to get in touch with Deco directly but when Suhail resisted, they started financing his venture instead and bought drugs in huge quantities, the police officer said.With inputs from Suhail, the Delhi Police then conducted a raid in Bengaluru and nabbed the couple from their alleged den.“Suha Fatima and Mohd Zaheed were arrested from a PG accommodation in a densely populated area full of guest houses and PGs in the area of Bommanahalli, Bengaluru Karnataka. Fatima married Zaheed in 2023 after divorcing her MDMA addict husband, whose contacts she used to get into the business,” DCP Indora said.The police were now after Deco's source of drugs. Deco's phone records showed another Nigerian number he was in contact with, an officer said. The number was then traced by the police and on August 25, a man named Chikwado Nnake Kingsley was arrested from Sector 1 of Greater Noida.“Accused Chikwado Nnake Kingsley disclosed that he came to India in 2015 on the pretext of getting medical treatment and stayed in the country. He was introduced to the business of drugs by two of his fellow Nigerians — Chigmo and Ajuko. Ajuko is based in Nigeria and is operating his business from there through WhatsApp and other social media,” DCP Indora said.

# Building a library of all the books in the world



The intellectual property (IP) world — the complex labyrinth of laws, lobbyists, court rulings, corporate interests, and legal treatises that protects creativity — can be bewildering at times. This is the world where Disney lobbied Congress to extend the copyright term, helping keep Mickey Mouse out of the public domain as the U.S. copyright term grew from 28 years to 95 years. This is also the world that has stood in the way of the Internet's holy grail: a universal digital library — every book findable, preserved, and lawfully accessible. Tech has long chased the “all the books in the world” dream. Google pursued it with Google Books, which co-founder Sergey Brin dubbed, “A library to last forever.” Today, Anthropic, Meta, and other AI companies are making fresh runs at comprehensive digital text collections to train their large language models (LLMs). Many of them, as the array of copyright cases against them show, have been trained on collections from shadow libraries such as LibGen.

In June, the U.S. District Court (N.D. Cal.) in?Bartz v Anthropic PBC?noted that Anthropic, maker of Claude, had amassed a central library of “all the books in the world” to retain “forever”, built from collections from shadow libraries such as LibGen and mass scanning. In August, closer home, the Delhi High Court, in?Elsevier Ltd. v Alexandra Elbakyan, passed an interim order blocking access to Sci-Hub, another shadow library. There is a stark, structural inevitability to shadow libraries today: either you open the stacks yourself, or you consult an AI model that already has.Shadow libraries such as LibGen and Sci-Hub now power much of AI training — and they are in courts on both sides of the Atlantic: U.S. cases focus on model training; India's on access to knowledge. It is a tragedy of our times that despite our technology, there is no central, digital library of all the books of the world — the grand collection of mankind's creative works in a remotely accessible form — because of one obstacle: copyright laws.

The closest we got to in creating one was with the creation of the Library of Congress — the world's largest collection of printed books — which ironically was the byproduct of a provision of the U.S. Copyright law of 1790 called the “mandatory deposit rule”. The legal deposit system that originated in France is a rule that requires publishers to give free copies of every published work to a national library so that they can be collected and preserved for the future. This system was later adopted by many countries in building their national libraries. Some of them have provisions for collecting non-print (digital) copy of publications. Japan — an early mover on flexible AI training rules — has used electronic legal deposit since 2013 to funnel digital works into the National Diet Library. As for searchable digital collections, the European Patent Office boasts the “world's largest prior art collection”, which had to be built to satisfy a requirement in the patent law — the need to examine patent applications with all the knowledge that has gone before.Cost of a legal copy

In?Bartz v Anthropic PBC, Anthropic had to destructively scan the print copies it purchased to create a legal digital copy which it could use for training. It “stripped the bindings from the print books, cut the pages to workable dimensions, and scanned those pages — discarding each print copy while creating a digital one in its place”. The court held this format change as fair use. Fair use is a copyright rule that lets one use a copyrighted work without permission. However, the court held that downloading from shadow

libraries was not lawful access and did not amount to fair use.

So, you will now have to “strip the bindings” of every book you have purchased, “cut the pages”, “scan” them, and “discard each print copy”, if you need to create a legal copy that qualifies for fair use. What a staggering waste of trees, water, electricity, and other resources — just to satisfy the mandate of a broken law. But there is hope: as Disney's lobbying to extend the copyright terms show, in the IP world anything is possible. A country should be able to legislate provisions for treating access to knowledge as fair use, allowing AI models to train on material, regardless of their origin and mandate legal deposit rules for building its national digital library.Knowledge is a public good

The Delhi High Court in Elsevier Ltd. v Alexandra Elbakyan has grappled with the question whether shadow libraries such as Sci-Hub and LibGen can lawfully operate. In August, it issued an interim order directing the Department of Telecommunications and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to block access to Sci-Hub for alleged copyright infringement. But the better question would have been why such libraries exist. LibGen and Sci-Hub fill a gap left by the state's failure to build large-scale, digitally accessible libraries for every citizen — precisely what shadow libraries attempt to provide. In economic terms, they are a response to a public-goods problem: a market failure to provide access to knowledge.Any nation that accepts the moral responsibility for this failure will not cut access to knowledge for its citizens till it builds its own digital library of all books of the world. And it is not hard to build such library using copyright laws. If a country sets out to build the next Library of Congress, it will very likely use the mandatory deposit rule to cover submission of DRM-free digital copies and enable gifting digital copies to the libraries, just as the Library of Congress did.

The unification of administering different IPs through one office — as has happened in India, the U.K., Singapore and Saudi Arabia — is yet another reason to go for these changes. The mandatory deposit allows you to collect a copy of everything published using the copyright laws, which will, in turn, serve you to discharge the examination function under the patent law (which requires large databases for searching prior art).

The surest thing any country can do to improve its human capital is to provide unhindered access to knowledge.

# Rocks’ carbon storage capacity vastly overestimated: study



Many scientists and policymakers are counting on storing CO2 deep underground as an important way to fight climate change. Such known as geological carbon storage involves capturing CO2 from sources like power plants or directly from the air and injecting it into rock formations, where it can remain for centuries. However, so far, most discussions have treated underground storage as if it were limitless.A new study in Nature has challenged this assumption, warning that the earth can only safely hold about 1,460 billion tonnes of CO2 underground. If countries design climate strategies without knowing how much storage is really available, they may rely too heavily on an option that can't deliver. Setting a limit forces governments to plan more carefully, reduce emissions faster, and carbon storage as a scarce resource, and acknowledge the need for a more realistic response.

To calculate this limit, the researchers, from Europe,

the UK, and the US, built a global map of sedimentary basins, which are large rock formations most suitable for CO2 storage. Then they systematically ruled out areas where storage would be too risky, e.g. basins near earthquake zones, in polar regions, and in biodiversity hotspots. Finally, the team considered practical constraints like storage depth and offshore drilling limits. By adding up what remained, they found that only a tenth of the previously estimated global capacity, of around 11,800 billion tonnes, was suitable.

Nearly every climate scenario that aims to keep global warming below 2° C assumes large amounts of CO2 will be stored underground. But at today's pace, storage use would grow so rapidly that this new planetary limit could be crossed by 2200. The study also showed that countries don't share this capacity equally: it's higher in Russia, the US, and Saudi Arabia and lower in India and many European countries.The study also capped the maximum possible temperature reversal through storage to about 0.7° C, meaning underground storage alone can't fix global warming. Second, treating storage as a finite resource raises questions about whether it should be used to keep burning fossil fuels a little longer or to remove carbon from the air to benefit future generations. Finally, the study is clear that emission cuts remain the most viable way forward. Carbon storage may help but it won't replace faster transitions to renewable energy, changes in industry, and conservation of natural carbon sinks.A press note issued by Nature clarified: “The authors note that a key limitation of this analysis is not accounting for the obstacles of scaling up carbon capture and storage technology or considering any other technologies that might be developed in the future.”

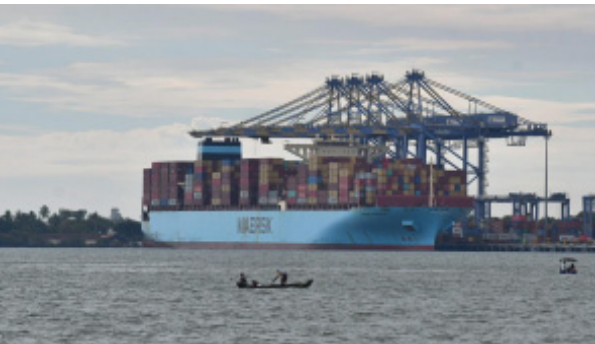
# India’s recent maritime reforms need course correction

The passage of the Indian Ports Bill, 2025 in the Rajya Sabha, on August 18, marks a pivotal moment in India's maritime legislative history. Intended to repeal and replace the Act of 1908, it comes alongside the newly enacted Coastal Shipping Act, 2025, the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, and the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, a legislative package that the government hails as critical to streamlining maritime governance and bringing India's shipping regulation in line with global practices.Progress but with pitfalls

At first glance, these new laws represent a comprehensive attempt to modernise India's maritime governance. India's maritime regulation is fragmented and outdated, with modern shipping finance, offshore operations and international conventions long having outpaced the legal and operational frameworks in place. For India to expand its trade, attract foreign investment and enhance its maritime standing, aligning with global best practices is indeed necessary. In particular, the Indian Ports Act has been hailed as a facilitative law — one that enables ease of business, promotes sustainable port development, and brings coherence to India's otherwise disjointed regulatory environment. Even so, the Bill's passage without a serious parliamentary debate or referral to a standing committee raises questions, underlining the absence of political consensus and public scrutiny.

Notably, the Ports Act, 2025, has been criticised for centralising power at the expense of the States, diluting safeguards meant to protect Indian sovereignty. Critics point to its main feature, the Maritime State Development Council (chaired by the Union Minister of Ports) as a centralised policy-making authority with the power to direct States to follow central guidelines. Far from an illustration of cooperative federalism, they contend, the new Ports Act is an example of federal subordination, designed to ensure that States align their port development with central plans, such as Sagarmala and PM Gati Shakti regardless of their own priorities. Critics point to the Maritime State Development Council's structure and intent, where State maritime boards cannot adjust their own frameworks without central approval, as stripping coastal States of fiscal autonomy and flexibility, even while burdened with tight port management responsibilities.The criticism is not confined to federal concerns. Experts warn that the new law introduces vague, discretionary regulatory powers that could saddle smaller operators with unmanageable compliance burdens. Equally troubling is the approach to dispute resolution: Clause 17 of the Bill bars civil courts from hearing port-related disputes, forcing parties into internal dispute resolution committees created by the very authorities they are contesting. Analysts caution that the absence of impartial, independent judicial review could deter private investment and erode trust in the regulatory system.

The Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, is not free from flaws either. It seeks to modernise registration, ownership rules, safety standards, environmental obligations, and liability frameworks, with some admittedly notable pluses: expanding vessel definitions to cover offshore drilling units and non-displacement crafts; tightening oversight of maritime training institutes; and aligning India's liability and insurance rules with international conventions. Yet tucked into the fine print is a loophole in ownership safeguards. Under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, Indian-flagged vessels had to be fully Indian-owned. The new Act permits “partly” Indian owner-



ship including by Overseas Citizens of India and foreign entities while leaving the actual thresholds to be decided later by government notification.

The law also formally recognises Bareboat Charter-Cum-Demise (BBCD) registration, intended to let Indian operators lease foreign vessels with a view to eventual ownership. While legitimate as a global financing tool, the BBCD could test India's regulatory capacity to ensure that transfers actually occur. Without clear, enforceable rules, foreign lessors may retain effective control indefinitely. Further, the Act mandates registration of all vessels, regardless of size or propulsion, without regard to the bureaucratic burdens that this places on small operators. What is most troubling is that it hands the executive a blank cheque to dilute ownership requirements whenever convenient, raising the risk of India sliding into a flag-of-convenience jurisdiction where foreign owners control ships flying the Indian flag.Endangering smaller players

The final component of India's maritime reform package, the Coastal Shipping Act, ostensibly aims to clarify and strengthen cabotage rules, ensuring that only Indian-flagged vessels engage in domestic coastal trade. Though well-intentioned, it gives the Director General of Shipping sweeping discretion to licence foreign vessels on vague grounds such as “national security” or “alignment with strategic plans” — open-ended clauses that invite arbitrary or selective application. The real burdens are likely to fall on small operators, particularly in the fishing industry, who will struggle to comply with mandatory voyage and cargo reporting requirements in the absence of clear guidance on how such data will be used or protected. Members of Parliament from the Opposition have warned that the Act hands too much control to the Centre, potentially undermining local autonomy — a concern that applies equally to the centrally mandated National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan.

None of this is to deny the need for an updated legal framework. India certainly must modernise its maritime legislation. But reform should not come at the expense of federal balance and fair competition. Ownership thresholds and licensing rules ought to be clearly specified in law, not left to executive discretion. As it stands, too many of the provisions are arbitrary — from dispute resolution that lacks judicial independence to excluding States from any meaningful role in planning. These measures may be a beginning, but without significant amendments, they risk delivering ease of doing business for the few while eroding the federal compact and weakening India's long-term maritime security.

# Reviving MGNREGS in West Bengal

On June 18, 2025, the Calcutta High Court ordered the resumption of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in West Bengal from August 1, in a case filed by Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity (PBKMS). The order offered hope. However, according to reports in regional media, the Union government has since appealed to the Supreme Court, where the matter is yet to be listed. Reporting on the High Court's order, The Hindu noted that the court observed the scheme “cannot be kept in cold storage for eternity” and directed the Centre to resume implementation while allowing it to impose “special conditions” in West Bengal. Yet, after three years of silence, the resumption risks being a hollow gesture unless urgent groundwork is laid to restore the scheme to function.

MGNREGA is predominantly funded by the Union government. Enacted in 2005, it guarantees 100 days of paid employment per year to every rural household that demands it. For millions — especially women, Dalits, Adivasis, and landless workers — it is a vital buffer during lean agricultural seasons and economic distress.When the Centre halted MGNREGA funds to West Bengal in March 2022, it cited “widespread irregularities.” However, an RTI filed by the author revealed that this sweeping suspension

was based on findings from just 31 worksites, even though the State had received over 710,000 crore under MGNREGA in 2020–21. Halting a lifeline for millions on such limited evidence was not only disproportionate but also devastating.The fallout has been immense. In the first year alone, West Bengal's rural workforce lost over 74,000 to 6,000 crore in potential wages, according to policy research group LibTech India.But the deeper damage is institutional. Restarting MGNREGA requires more than a green signal — it demands trust-building, logistical preparation, and administrative muscle.A foundational task is the identification and planning of work. Each year, State governments must prepare a shelf of works at the village level well in advance. Whenever works are eventually resumed, these preparatory measures will be essential to ensure that the scheme is meaningful and not a hollow gesture. Without identifying feasible works, no projects can be undertaken.This task is further complicated by national-level changes introduced during West Bengal's exclusion. Over the past three years, the Centre has implemented several technology-driven reforms aimed at transparency and accountability.

Chief among them is the Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS). Under ABPS, workers are paid only if their Aadhaar is correctly linked, authenticated, and mapped

through the National Payments Corporation of India.As of June 21, 2025, official data show that over 43 lakh of West Bengal's 2.56 crore registered workers are not ABPS-compliant. Even among the 18.5 lakh marked as active — those who worked at least once in the last three years before the suspension — over 2.3 lakh remain ineligible. Without a rapid compliance campaign, lakhs could be excluded. A practical step would be for the Centre to temporarily allow account-based payments alongside ABPS until full compliance is achieved.

Worker deletions are another pressing concern. In 2022–23, over 83 lakh workers were removed from West Bengal's rolls — nearly 15% of national deletions. Identifying and reinstating them is essential. Yet, with only one login per block, district, and State, processing this backlog is unmanageable. The Centre must expand login access and streamline reinstatement.Meanwhile, the National Mobile Monitoring System — a mandatory attendance app requiring real-time, geo-tagged photos — remains a bottleneck. In West Bengal, where frontline officials have not supervised worksites for three years, expecting them to adapt overnight is unrealistic. A temporary exemption and paper-based attendance are necessary until training and infrastructure catch up.



# How older adults can continue doing what they love with the right lifestyle



As the global population continues to live longer than ever before, the challenges are changing. The concern is no longer about increasing life expectancy—it is about improving the quality of life in those added years. The answer lies in the theme for World Physiotherapy Day (which fell on September 8) this year: ‘Healthy Ageing and Falls Prevention’. Active or healthy ageing is a lifestyle approach that encourages older adults to remain physically active, mentally sharp, socially engaged, and emotionally fulfilled. It is a proactive strategy designed to preserve independence, dignity, and well-being well into the later years of life. Ageing is inevitable—but dependence doesn’t have to be; with the right lifestyle, older adults can continue doing what they love for as long as possible. Active ageing is not just about avoiding illness. It is about making conscious, daily choices that promote: physical fitness through regular exercise; mental agility via reading, puzzles, or lifelong learning; social connections by staying involved in the community; emotional wellness through fulfilling relationships, and purpose-driven living.

The goal is simple: to stay healthy, strong, and self-

reliant. Research shows that older adults who embrace an active lifestyle enjoy numerous health benefits, including a reduced risk of falls and chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and arthritis; improved memory and cognitive function; lower rates of depression and loneliness and an enhanced ability to perform daily tasks independently. Practice meditation or yoga for emotional balance. Lessons from the past While modern society often turns to technology and trends for health solutions, previous generations thrived on simpler, more natural routines. These included: Fresh, home-cooked meals: Their diets were rich in whole grains, vegetables, lentils, and fermented foods. Meals were seasonal, portion-controlled, and free from the processed ingredients commonly used today.

Everyday movement: From farming and walking to cycling and household chores, physical activity was part of daily life—no gym memberships required. Strong social bonds: Living in joint families and close-knit communities offered constant emotional support. Shared meals, festivals, and rituals nurtured mental well-being. Harmony with nature: Early to bed and early to rise, clean air, minimal pollution, and low exposure to harmful habits such as smoking and junk food contributed to lower rates of lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and obesity.

In a world grappling with rising obesity, stress, and chronic illness, the wisdom of the past may offer the key to a healthier future. Experts suggest that by returning to whole foods, active living, and meaningful human connection, modern society can address many of its current health challenges. Our grandparents’ greatest health secret wasn’t found in expensive gyms or trendy diets; it was in their simple, balanced way of living. As populations age, policymakers, families, and individuals are being encouraged to promote active ageing—not just as a health goal, but as a cultural mindset.

# Tamil Nadu leads in road accidents yet again, highlighting need for urgent policy reform

After a rap on the knuckles from the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) recently released its much-delayed Road Accidents in India 2023 report. Worryingly, the data shows that things are not improving for Indian road users. A total of 4,80,583 accidents were reported in 2023 – a 4.2% increase from 2022. These resulted in 1,72,890 deaths (up 2.6%) and 4,62,825 injuries (up 4.4%). On average, this translates into 1,317 accidents and 474 deaths every day. Vulnerable road users, defined as pedestrians, bicyclists, and two-wheeler users, account for 68% of the total fatalities. In 2023, 35,221 pedestrians died – an increase of 2,396 from 2022. These figures indicate that the problem of road safety in India is a disaster that is unfolding before our eyes. T.N.’s continuing burden Tamil Nadu once again reported the highest number of road accidents. In 2023, the State recorded 67,213 accidents, accounting for 14% of the national total. This represents a 4.6% increase compared to 64,105 accidents in 2022. Fatalities also increased, from 17,884 in 2022 to 18,347 in 2023 – a 2.5% increase. While Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest absolute number of fatalities (23,652), Tamil Nadu ranked second, contributing 10.6% of all deaths from road accidents nationwide. The speed factor The MoRTH report makes clear that overspeeding is the most significant factor behind road crashes and fatalities. In 2023, speeding accounted for 68.1% of road accident deaths nationwide, compared to 71.2% in 2022. On National Highways in particular, overspeeding was responsible for 72.4% of accidents and 72.5% of deaths in 2023. In million-plus cities, it accounted for 63.7% of accidents and 60.8% of deaths. In Tamil Nadu, speeding caused a total of 13,363 crashes and 3,932 fatalities, including both highways under NHAI and the State PWD. The presence of urban traffic on long stretches of high-speed highways in Tamil Nadu makes the lack of clear speed guidelines particularly dangerous. While speeding remains a critical and unresolved issue, the data also shows that other systemic issues continue to claim lives. Potholes caused 5,840 accidents and 2,161 deaths in 2023, representing increases of 31% and 16% respectively compared to 2022. Wrong-side driving contributed to 5.5% of fatalities nationwide. Not using helmets and seatbelts contributed to over 54,000 and 16,025 deaths respectively. All these lives could have been saved with consistent maintenance of roads and strict enforcement of the law.

The Motor Vehicles Amendment Act (MVAA) of 2019 was intended as a landmark reform, with stronger penalties and State-level safety councils. Yet, five years on, the data shows it has not addressed the structural causes of crashes. Three gaps are glaringly obvious. At the State level, there is still a lack of a uniform, scientific framework for speed limits. Current limits are inconsistent and often unrelated to road design. The MVAA must mandate such a framework to make enforcement consistent and



effective. Enforcement on overspeeding remains uneven, largely targeting cars while two- and three-wheelers – linked to 44% of road deaths in 2023 – often escape scrutiny. The Act should bring all vehicles under speeding laws, with a tiered penalty system where fines rise with the degree of violation. Moreover, the current provisions on child safety are vague, allowing either a seat belt or child restraint system (CRS) for those under 12. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) must issue guidelines for CRS, which must be made mandatory for children under 12 or shorter than 150 cm. The BIS must also urgently issue norms for helmets that can be used by children on two-wheelers. In Tamil Nadu, where two-wheeler use dominates, these protections are overdue. International comparisons make the urgency of reform even clearer. The World Health Organization (WHO) advocates the “Safe System” approach, which assumes human error is inevitable, and designs roads, vehicles, and laws to minimise the consequences. Countries that have adopted this model, including Sweden and the Netherlands, have steadily reduced fatalities to some of the lowest rates in the world.

When Tamil Nadu released its Road Safety Policy in 2007, it set an example for the country. The State demonstrated that road safety required a coordinated policy approach rather than piecemeal measures. But since then, the lack of follow-through has left Tamil Nadu vulnerable, and the MoRTH report reflects the continuing crisis on the State’s roads. Tamil Nadu thus needs to do two things urgently: first, adopt a State Road Safety Action Plan that sets measurable targets for reducing crashes and fatalities by 2030, coinciding with global deadlines, backed by consistent enforcement and investment in safer road design. Second, issue clear speed management guidelines backed by science and bring a much-needed discipline to our chaotic roads. The figures in the MoRTH report are not just numbers; they represent preventable deaths and injuries. Let us remember that 5.5% of the total number of fatalities in India are lives below 18 – 9,489 children have died on our roads. By adopting a State-level action plan, Tamil Nadu can demonstrate that it values the lives of its youngest residents and regain its stature as a leader in road safety policy.

# India is keen to preserve its relations with the U.S. but not at any cost: Tirumurti



The U.S. has to decide first where they see India fit into their scheme of things, says T.S. Tirumurti, India’s former Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the U.N., New York. In an interview with The Hindu, Mr. Tirumurti spoke about the foreign policy challenges and opportunities India is facing in an uncertain world, including its ties with China, the U.S. and Russia. Edited excerpts. What are your thoughts from Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent visit to China to attend the SCO summit? Can we say India and China are now settling into a “new normal” despite persisting differences?

I think we are still quite far from reaching a new normal in our relations with China. Yes, it is true that both sides have signalled an intention to move forward. We have certainly taken some initial steps, which are important but probably more symbolic than substantive, to bring about a thaw like resuming airlinks, Kailash-Manasarovar yatra, liberalising the visa regime, etc. However, we still need to address larger issues like trade imbalance, market access to Indian goods and services, de-escalation and early harvest issues on the border, construction of their largest dam on their side of the Brahmaputra near the Indian border, etc. Moreover, the Chinese have become active again in our neighbourhood. For example, their critical support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor and their attempt to encircle India through our neighbours either physically or through groupings are all manifestations of this. In addition, we now have to deal with China both a neighbour as well as the No.2 power. For the first time, we have a superpower sharing a border with us. All this is changing the complexion of our relationship with China. The old template is not enough to deal with China in both these avatars. So, lot more needs to be done to restore trust before we can reach a new normal in our relations. As of now, our relations with China are highly securitised, which constrains progress to this new normal. Some argue that global disruptions since Donald Trump came to power have nudged India and China closer. Do you see U.S. tariffs and trade policies shaping India’s approach to China, or it is part of a policy taken independent of U.S. pressure tactics?

While it is true that President Trump has disrupted the trajectory of India-U.S. relations, I doubt that the U.S. tariffs nudged us closer to China in any substantive way, since it was becoming clear to both India and China that the four-year stand-off at the border was becoming counterproductive for both. Consequently, we have stepped back a bit in October 2024 and worked on the first tranche of some symbolic steps. However, what we have done in Tianjin is to show the U.S. that we have options, we can manage our differences with China and should not be taken for granted. But how serious these options are is debatable given the more systemic problems we are currently facing with China as I mentioned earlier. That said, while countering China where necessary, we should also find common cause where possible. Neither country is doing enough to find synergy in regional, plurilateral or global issues.

That takes us to the U.S.-India ties, which now face turbulence — 50% tariffs, frictions on trade and repeated public criticisms from U.S., etc. How do you read these developments?

The U.S. has to decide first where they see India fit into their scheme of things. Secondly, they will have to make sure that our relations are not episodic by which I mean that every episode cannot subject our relations to trial by fire. You will also notice that the countries which have capitulated to the U.S. tariff threats and agreed to one-sided deals are the closest allies of the U.S. like the European Union, Japan, South Korea, etc. They paid that price not for the trade deal but for keeping their alliance alive. Without it, they are rudderless in the so-called liberal world order. The challenge to that order is real since, for the first time, it is coming from within – from the U.S. However, when the U.S. tried the same tactics with non-allies like India, it is not working out well. That’s because we are keen to preserve our relations with the U.S., but not at any cost. Further, naming and shaming doesn’t work well with our leadership, as we saw when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi walked out on President Nixon. The way the U.S. cosied up to Pakistan after Operation Sindoor has muddied the waters even more. Levying punitive tariffs for buying Russian oil has brought in a completely extraneous geopolitical element into the trade issue. The U.S. is also asking the EU and G7 to levy 100% tariffs on India and China. We are also waiting to see how the U.S.-China deal impacts the Indo-Pacific and, of course, our geopolitical interests. This will in turn impact

QUAD and so on. I am convinced both countries see value in our partnership and that’s why the trade negotiations are resuming. With the U.S. asking NATO countries to stop buying Russian oil, maybe the Damocles sword over us on punitive tariffs will finally lift.

The tensions in Indo-U.S. relations also bring India’s ties with Russia under the spotlight. With no end in sight for the Ukraine war, Indian position comes under great criticism from the U.S. How do you assess India’s Ukraine policy?

I am convinced that we took the right decision in 2022 to abstain on the U.N. Security Council resolutions on Ukraine and call for a return to diplomacy where the legitimate interests of all parties are addressed. But what I have been consistently arguing for, including in my writings, is that India should play a more active role on the Ukraine front, at the very least as a tactical move to deflect criticism. This does not mean mediation but to remain actively engaged, especially when we knew that the West has been upset with us. I had pointed out to the active role India played in the Korean war in U.N. Security Council between 1951 and 1952, in recognition of which we were made Chair of Neutral Nations Repatriation Committee after the armistice. Operation Sindoor shows us that if we seek greater engagement of our partners with our conflicts and issues, we need to engage more with their conflicts and issues, especially when geopolitics is determining economic and technological outcomes. When I see the current parleys between India and the EU, France, Russia, the U.S., etc, I only wish we had done this earlier.

West Asia is another flashpoint. India, unlike most other Global South members, has avoided strong criticism of Israel over Gaza, but joined SCO and BRICS members in condemning Israel’s attacks in Iran. What explains these positions?

I am not sure whether Global South has really been vocal or impactful on the Gaza war. Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE have remained on the sidelines of Gaza war. Their larger interest was to remove the threat of Iran and its proxies from the region, which Israel largely accomplished. The Gulf countries also want to normalise relations with Israel after signing of the Abraham accords with U.S. help. You have seen how they rolled the red carpet out for President Trump without exerting pressure on him to stop the Gaza war. India saw all this as a vindication of its pro-Israeli tilt given our close bilateral relations with Israel. However, with the devastation happening in Gaza and the rapid deterioration in the West Bank, our position is becoming untenable. While we may not want to get ahead of Gulf and the Arab world on the Palestine issue, we have big interests in that region though our interests may not necessarily coincide with theirs. Let us hope that our recent more balanced articulation translates into a more active engagement by India in West Asia.

Critics say India’s policy of “strategic autonomy” is under strain amid U.S.–China rivalry and the Ukraine war. Do you believe strategic autonomy still works for India, or does it require redefinition?

Strategic autonomy has worked for India so far from the time of PM Nehru’s non-alignment, where we refused to join either of the two Cold War blocs – led by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, right till today’s multi-alignment, where we engage with both the big powers – the U.S. and China. It has given us the space for independent decision-making. Just imagine if we had been an “ally” of the U.S. or China now, we would have been struggling in their clasp. Further, strategic autonomy for a big power like us is the path to emerge as a potential pole in an emerging multipolar world. It is also about leadership – showing the world that there is another path other than joining one of the two camps, just as our non-aligned stand did for the developing world then. How do you look at the shifts in the global order? What guiding principles should shape India’s foreign policy in such uncertain times? There are certainly serious disruptions to the global order. On the one hand, forces are tearing each other apart in conflicts and violating international law with impunity. On the other hand, global challenges like climate change, energy security, pandemics, AI and digital issues, cyber threats, etc. are forcing the same countries to cooperate and work together. That’s the irony. At which point these two forces meet will determine the trajectory of the global order. Also, let us not get too nostalgic about a world order which we neither shaped nor did it really help us even if we learnt to use it to our advantage despite all odds. An example is our rise as a nuclear power, where every conceivable hurdle was put in front of us at every point, including sanctions, and we still managed to overcome all that and emerge as a nuclear power. We were never for status quo and always called for meaningful reform whether in UN Security Council or other 1945 architecture linked institutions like World Bank, IMF or WTO. Looking ahead, I can only say that as a rising power, we need to be proactive. We have been second to none to contribute to the global commons like vaccine maitri during COVID-19 or to combat climate change, etc. However, the world expects us to play a bigger role in conflicts and geopolitics. No more can we just put our head down, mind our own business and expect to become the third largest economy or Viksit Bharat by 2047. That template is broken. We need to get our geopolitics right.

# Recognition of sunscreens, moisturisers as essential medicines: a welcome step forward in prioritising skin health

World Health Organization (WHO) announced a landmark update to its Essential Medicines List (EML), adding sunscreens for individuals with albinism and moisturising creams containing urea and glycerin for patients with atopic dermatitis. This decision comes after the adoption of a resolution on skin diseases at the World Health Assembly earlier this year, and signals a profound shift, with skin health being deemed not a luxury or cosmetic concern, but a fundamental part of human well-being. Affordability and access Rashmi Sarkar, director- professor of dermatology, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi and regional director, International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS), called the announcement ‘transformative’. “At present, dermatology medicines are rarely covered by insurance. For many families, especially daily wage earners, the costs are prohibitive. Recognising sunscreens and moisturisers as essential medicines paves the way for improving quality of life, particularly for chronic and lifelong conditions,” she said.

Prof. Sarkar stressed that making this recognition meaningful would require coordinated efforts at the national level. “We need strong partnerships among governments, NGOs, and the private sector, coupled with patient awareness and education. Ultimately, the skin which is the body’s largest organ, must be treated with the same seriousness as any other organ system,” she emphasised. Jennifer Aus-

tin, CEO of GlobalSkin, a global alliance serving patient organisations to improve the lives of dermatology patients worldwide, described these developments as historic steps forward for patients. “Access to basic skin health has been minimal, especially in low- and middle-income countries. After receiving a diagnosis, patients often cannot afford treatment, meaning they suffer not for days or months, but for a lifetime. The inclusion of sunscreens and moisturisers is an important first step, but we want to see healthcare systems expand coverage to include a wider range of essential dermatology medicines at affordable prices.” Ms. Austin emphasised that wide-ranging recognition of skin diseases as seen in the recently-adopted WHO Resolution is just the beginning, not the end. “We are now helping to shape a global action plan with patient groups, dermatologists, and others in civil society. By the third quarter of next year, the framework will be submitted by the WHO for consideration to the WHO Executive Board. The aim of the framework will be [to] operationalise the resolution to make its commitments a reality.” The advocacy behind this milestone has been civil society-driven in close collaboration with member states. The World Skin Health Coalition, co-founded by GlobalSkin and the ILDS, is a patient-led, multi-stakeholder network that brings together patient advocates, clinicians, researchers, and industry. With over 4.86 billion cases of skin and subcutaneous diseases reported globally, the

coalition’s mission is to ensure that skin health is recognised as integral to overall health and that those affected have equitable access to effective care. The coalition played a pivotal role in championing the 2025 World Health Assembly resolution recognising skin diseases as a global health priority. Together, the resolution and the new EML inclusions lay a foundation for long-term change, both in global policy and in the lived experiences of patients. For patients and families, knowing how to use these essential medicines is just as important as having access to them. In tropical climates such as South India, lightweight, non-greasy moisturisers are often most comfortable. Urea- or glycerin-based creams can be applied twice daily, ideally after bathing, to lock in hydration. In humid weather, gels or lotions may be preferable, while thicker creams or ointments provide better relief during drier months. When it comes to sunscreens, it’s important to choose a broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher, with UVA, UVB and blue light protection). In Chennai’s hot and humid conditions, gel-based or matte-finish sunscreens are well tolerated, especially for oily or acne-prone skin. Apply generously, 15–20 minutes before sun exposure, and reapply every 2–3 hours when outdoors, after sweating, or after wiping the face. Daily use, even on cloudy days is critical to prevent long-term sun damage and to control conditions such as melasma or post-inflammatory pigmentation. By choosing the right for-



mulations and using them consistently, patients can maximise the benefits of these essential medicines. Skin patient organisations, including GlobalSkin members based in India, can be great resources in educating patients on self-care. The inclusion of sunscreens and moisturizers on the WHO’s EML and the adoption of the resolution are both a symbolic victory and a practical tool to reduce inequities in skin health. These moves reflect a growing global recognition that chronic skin diseases, which affect billions, deserve the same attention as other noncommunicable diseases. The next challenge is implementation: ensuring that these essential medicines are available, affordable, and understood by the patients who need them.



# We should keep AI ‘under our reins’ for the common good: Sitharaman



The NITI Frontier Tech Hub report said India could capture 10-15 per cent of global AI value by 2035 through faster adoption across industries and AI-led R&D. The NITI Frontier Tech Hub report said India could capture 10-15 per cent of global AI value by 2035 through faster adoption across industries and AI-led R&D. Artificial intelligence (AI) should be kept “under our reins” for the common good and with the technology rapidly evolving, regulations should also keep equal pace, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday. Her remarks at a NITI Aayog event came after Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw noted that India’s approach to technology leans more towards innovation than regulation.

“India is a country which can understand the implication of a good that comes our way, although a good is never unmitigated. A good is never without riders. A good is never good on its own. It is for us all to use it in such a way that it is for the common good,” Sitharaman said at the launch of a report by the NITI Frontier Tech Hub on using AI to make India a developed economy. Sitharaman likened AI and technology to Asuras in the Puranas, who had to be “kept in hold” to do good for humanity. “But once that is left without much of a control, that’s when it comes to hit at people who have created it. We all know the stories of how various Asuras have not kept up the promise, which was a boon given with a little rider — you are given this boon so long as

you don’t do certain things. But the moment he starts doing a certain thing which is under the ‘don’t do’ category, it gets out of control,” she said. “I think AI is something which we, because it is in our DNA, should know how to keep it well under our reins and serve for the common good,” Sitharaman added.

Her comments came after Vaishnaw, who spoke at the report launch before her, said, “In our entire approach, our bias in technology is more towards innovation. When there is a trade-off between regulation and innovation, we tend to tilt more towards innovation.” “That’s very different from, let’s say, Europe and many other parts of the world, where the tilt is more towards regulation, passing a law, creating a regulatory body. We believe that technology is something which will innovate and we will evolve into getting the right regulatory structure rather than prescribing it through a law,” according to Vaishnaw. The NITI Frontier Tech Hub report said India could capture 10-15 per cent of global AI value by 2035 through faster adoption across industries and AI-led R&D. It recommended building sovereign infrastructure, skilling people to future-proof jobs, embedding AI in key sectors such as banking, pharmaceuticals, and automotive, and strengthening governance frameworks for responsible deployment.

At the launch, Sitharaman said, “We do not want regulations that literally wipe off the technology itself. We want regulations because we want a responsible application... But that has to be kept up because AI is not static. As we heard now on the datasets and so on, AI is a rapidly progressing, dynamic thing.” “I see the challenge not just in jobs but also in the way in which (AI) can be used for not so much of a betterment of the society. So we need to be clear that regulation has to be running this race equally, as much as the technology is running it. If the technology is on a sprint, regulation should also be on a sprint. You cannot be thinking that we’ve done something about regulation and therefore that’s over and done with,” she added. The report launch comes ahead of India’s hosting of the AI Impact Summit in February 2026, after earlier editions in Bletchley Park, Seoul and Paris.

# Hospital industry body AHPI seeks restoration of basic cashless care by Star Health Insurance

Hospitals across India are facing a major crisis after Star Health Insurance denied cashless treatment facilities to many members of the Association of Healthcare Providers of India (AHPI), including some of the country’s largest tertiary care chains, the association has said. In a statement issued on Monday, AHPI has asked Star Health to immediately restore cashless services in all affected hospitals and expedite the empanelment of new institutions. Only then, it said, can patients be assured of uninterrupted access to medical care and spared unnecessary financial and emotional distress.

AHPI said this suspension has left hospitals dealing with angry and distressed patients who are shocked to find that the most basic benefit of their health insurance—cashless admission and treatment—is no longer available. Hospitals and nursing homes under the Indian Medical Association’s Hospital Board are reporting the same problems, it said. The situation has been made worse by Star Health’s slowdown, and in many cases outright stoppage, of new hospital empanelments, AHPI alleged. This means that patients in several regions are being denied wider access to cashless treatment facilities. Together, these two moves—suspending existing cashless services and blocking new empanelments—are not only creating avoidable hardship for patients but also shaking public confidence in the health insurance system, AHPI said. AHPI has clarified, in response to the General Insurance Council’s (GIC) press statement, that its stand is neither arbitrary nor unilateral. Instead, it is a direct and necessary reaction to the arbitrary actions of Star Health in de-empanelling hospitals and withdrawing cashless facilities without adequate consultation. While AHPI remains open to dialogue with all stakeholders, it has made clear that the welfare of patients must come first. The General Insurance Council (GI Council) had asked the AHPI to withdraw its threat to suspend cashless services for Star Health Insurance policyholders. The council asked AHPI to return to the negotiating table and engage constructively to ensure uninterrupted care for patients. Information available with AHPI shows that cashless facilities have been suspended in several leading hospitals, including Care Hospitals in Ramnagar and Vizag, Manipal Hospitals in Delhi and Gurugram, Max Hospitals across North India, Metro Hospital in Faridabad, Medanta Hospital in Lucknow, Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Hospital in New Delhi, Sarvodaya Hospital in Faridabad, and Yatharth Hospitals.

Further, Star Health has denied empanelment to many prominent institutions, including Care Health City in Vizag, Care Hospital in Malakpet (Hyderabad), Fortis Hospital in Manesar, Jupiter Hospital in Indore, Max Hospital in Dwarka,



and Medanta Hospital in Noida, among others, AHPI alleged. This refusal has forced patients into the reimbursement route, which not only delays treatment but also defeats the very purpose of health insurance, it said. Girdhar Gyani, director general, AHPI and Abul Hasan, chairman, IMA Hospital Board, in a joint statement, said “Patients buy health insurance with the clear expectation of receiving cashless treatment at quality hospitals. It is unjust for insurers to withhold this facility after collecting premiums, leaving families to scramble for funds at the time of hospitalization. Patients deserve seamless access, and hospitals deserve fair treatment as service providers. Star Health must act urgently to restore trust and ensure that its insured members are not penalized for choosing the hospitals best suited to their medical needs.” In a statement, Star Health and Allied Insurance said, “we have not received any case of cashless suspension from our network partners with whom we have bilateral agreements. AHPI has chosen to issue threats of suspending cashless services in a manner that is arbitrary, lacking clarity or actionable details.” “AHPI’s abrupt press statement has only prejudiced the interests of policyholders across the country and created unnecessary confusion at a time when the government is promoting healthcare as a basic necessity by exempting GST on health insurance,” Star Health said. “We reassure our customers that their access to healthcare through Star Health Insurance will not be impacted. Even if this were to happen, we will ensure that customers get their claim payments before paying the hospital,” it said. The larger problem lies in the widening gap between rising medical costs and insurance payouts. Hospitals point out that prices of medical consumables, equipment, and staff salaries have surged in recent years. Yet, insurers have not revised their approved treatment rates in line with inflation. Hospitals also complain of abrupt rejection or reduction of claims, which leaves them in a financial bind and patients stuck with unexpected bills.

# IndiGo to operate direct flights to Greek capital Athens from January 2026 using its first Airbus A321XLR aircraft

In line with its continued focus on growing its overseas network and expanding its footprint in Europe, India’s largest airline IndiGo plans to launch direct flights to Athens in Greece in January and will be using its first Airbus A321XLR aircraft for these flights, the carrier announced Monday. IndiGo expects to take delivery of its first A321XLR—the extra-long-range variant of the Airbus’s popular narrow-body jet A321—by the end of the year, after which it plans to operate thrice-weekly Delhi-Athens and Mumbai-Athens services from early January. Given that the airline is using damp-leased wide-body aircraft to operate flights to other points in Europe, Athens is slated to be the first European destination that IndiGo will fly to using its own aircraft. “The airline is all set to bring home India’s first A321XLR by the end of 2025 and begin six weekly direct flights to Athens by early January 2026, subject to regulatory approval. This milestone will make IndiGo the only Indian carrier to offer direct flights between India and Greece,” IndiGo said. Notably, Greek carrier Aegean Airlines also plans to launch direct flights between Athens and Delhi from March, and Athens and Mumbai from May. Aegean Airlines, too, will also use the A321XLR for its India flights.

The A321XLR is a next-generation narrow-body aircraft designed for longer ranges, allowing IndiGo to expand deeper into Europe while maintaining the cost-efficiency of

a single-aisle fleet. With a range of up to 8,700 km, the A321XLR opens access to destinations previously beyond reach of narrow-body operations, enabling non-stop flights from India to Southern Europe with greater efficiency, IndiGo said. According to Airbus, the A321XLR can operate non-stop flights of up to 11 hours, which is not possible for any other narrow-body, or single-aisle, commercial airliner.

After dominating the Indian skies with a market share of over 60 per cent, IndiGo has been focusing on its “internationalisation” strategy, which entails a rapid expansion of its international network—including its foray into the long-haul segment with flights to Europe—given the robust overseas travel demand from India. Over the past two to three years, IndiGo has expanded its international network by adding destinations in regions including Central Asia and the Caucasus, Southeast Asia, and Africa using its narrow-body fleet. IndiGo recently forayed into Europe, where Air India was the only Indian carrier operating flights, with services to Amsterdam and Manchester using damp-leased Boeing 787 aircraft. IndiGo sees significant potential in the international segment, given that Indian airlines account for 45 per cent of India’s international air passenger traffic, while overseas carriers account for around 55 per cent. In the case of India-Europe passenger traffic, overseas carriers have an even higher share of around 70 per cent.

# ‘Gentle parenting left me drained’: Why more Indian parents are embracing ‘FAFO parenting’ to let kids learn the hard way



“One winter, I kept insisting they (the children) wear sweaters and was met with endless resistance. Finally, I let it be. Within minutes of stepping out, they were cold and reached for the sweaters themselves. That day I realised that one real experience was worth ten lectures,” said Gayatri Sethi Jain, a 34-year-old mother, in a conversation with indianexpress.com. This moment marked her shift from endless explanations to letting consequences do the teaching. She had, unknowingly, tapped into what the internet now calls ‘FAFO parenting’, short for ‘F\*\*\* Around and Find Out’. The approach is gaining traction online among parents exhausted by constant negotiations and ready to let natural repercussions do the teaching. It operates on a deceptively simple principle: parents can ask and warn, but if a child breaks the rules, mom and dad aren’t standing in the way of what follows. The gentle parenting fatigue

The rise of FAFO comes in response to the challenges of gentle parenting. “Gentle parenting became very popular, but many parents are finding it difficult to make it work in real life,” explained Jitendra Karsan, chairman of Safari Kid. “It’s great in theory, but some feel it leaves kids without clear boundaries.” Jain experienced this: “Gentle parenting alone left me drained and my kids unprepared.” Over time, she found balance in blending gentle guidance with natural consequences. “It respects their intelligence, teaches accountability, and prepares them for real-world systems where not everything comes with a warning.” Concurring, Karsan stated: “FAFO parenting can frustrate children, but it quickly teaches them cause and effect. Done thoughtfully, it builds resilience and decision-making. Done harshly, it risks denting confidence or fuelling rebellion.” Learning through experience

FAFO also aligns with developmental psychology. Rajvi Turakhia, a counselling psychologist, said: “Jean Piaget spoke of how children construct knowledge through active exploration, while Lev Vygotsky emphasised ‘scaffolding’—offering just enough support, but letting the child climb on their own.” But, she stressed, “FAFO is not about neglect, it is about trust. It says, ‘I believe in you enough to let you try, even if you fail a little.’ What matters is the parental response. Meeting failure with shame breeds fear; meeting it with warmth builds responsibility without rupture.”

Real-world implementation For Shweta Sharma Bhardwaj, a single mother, the approach proved practical. “Time and energy are limited. If children experience the consequences of their actions, they learn faster,” she said. Her example: “My son often delays meals while playing. One day, I stopped reminding him. When his food went cold, he realised cold food doesn’t taste as good. Gradually, he started eating on time.” Similarly, working mother Chetna Israni follows what she calls the “75-25 rule”: “About 75 per cent of parenting is conscious—gentle guidance and communication. The remaining 25 per cent is about letting consequences play out. If my teen prepares last-minute for a

test, I don’t rescue her. A lower score is her lesson.” FAFO parenting can frustrate children, but it quickly teaches them cause and effect. FAFO parenting can frustrate children, but it quickly teaches them cause and effect. (Source: Freepik) The cultural context In India, where protecting children often equates to love, FAFO can feel counterintuitive. Yet Turakhia points to cultural parallels: “‘Jaisi kami, waisi bharai’ (as you sow, so shall you reap).”

Parenting coach Jayati Agarwal called FAFO a modernised form of this wisdom. “It’s time to break generational patterns where obedience comes at the cost of individuality. Respect should flow both ways, and children deserve to be respected for their choices.” She also said, “Children raised with FAFO may appear outspoken or independent, unsettling elders who equate compliance with respect. But these kids are better prepared for the future.” Mental health experts offered nuanced views and shared challenges one might overlook. Gauri Joshi, founder of The Soul School Mental Health, warns about implementation pitfalls, “In cases of avoidant parents adopting this approach, they may steer clear of responsibility or taunt the child if something goes wrong. This will lead to the child hiding truths to protect themselves from hurt or shame.” The key lies in emotional availability, she said, adding that having children take some stake in their own upbringing, while being understanding at the core, is what is “the right balance between gentle and FAFO parenting.”

Parenting coach Agarwal highlighted a crucial distinction. “Parents must remember that consequence is not equal to punishment, else it can collapse back into authoritarianism. Rather, it should be used as an opportunity to learn important life skills such as self-awareness, accountability, learning from mistakes, and accepting failure,” she said. Karsan, however, shared some practical limitations: “Not everything can be left to consequences; for example, you wouldn’t let your child play with an electric socket just to ‘learn the consequence.’ FAFO needs to be age-appropriate because as children grow, their appetite for risk increases, and not all risks are worth taking.” Compassion must always remain central—consequences should teach, not crush a child’s spirit. Compassion must always remain central—consequences should teach, not crush a child’s spirit. (Source: Freepik) Striking the right balance Most parents and experts find themselves gravitating towards a middle path. Pallavee Dhaundiyal Panthry, mother of two teens, explained: “Gentle parenting nurtures emotional security, while FAFO prepares children for the rigour of life. Both empathy and resilience are needed.” Her own example: “When my elder one slacked on studies, instead of nagging, I told him, ‘I trust your sincerity.’ When his results didn’t match, I encouraged him to self-reflect and improve.” Agarwal noted that children raised with balanced FAFO often show stronger problem-solving skills and resilience. Turakhia used a gardening metaphor, saying, “Parenting is like gardening. Too much water (over-explaining) drowns roots; too little (absence) leaves them dry. The right balance helps them reach for the light on their own.”

Why letting go may be the answer The consensus is that FAFO is effective when rooted in learning, not in proving children wrong. “The key is not to weaponise it with ‘I told you so’ moments,” Agarwal said, adding, “FAFO is about learning, not about shaming.” For parents exhausted by endless explanations yet uncomfortable with authoritarian control, FAFO offers a third way. “My first thought is that this approach is not about harshness but about realism. In India, where family and community bonds are strong, children do need to learn that actions have consequences. Shielding them too much weakens resilience. That said, compassion must always remain central—consequences should teach, not crush a child’s spirit. Children should always feel they are loved, even when being corrected,” said Panthry.

# Boss shares ‘devastating’ post about fit 40-year-old colleague who died 10 minutes after requesting for sick leave due to ‘heavy back pain’; expert explains the link



In a now viral post that is being discussed online, a manager expressed disbelief at the “devastating” death of a “fit 40-year-old” colleague who died 10 minutes after requesting sick leave owing to “heavy back pain”. The account, KV Iyer on X, stated, “One of my colleagues, Shankar, texted me today morning at 8.37 am with a message: ‘Sir, due to heavy back pain, I am unable to come today. So please grant me leave.’ Such type of leave requests, being usual, I replied, ‘Ok take rest’. And the day continued normally. At 11 am, I received a call that shook me like never before. The person calling me told that Shankar has passed away. I didn’t believe it in the first instance. I called another colleague to reconfirm and to get his residence address. Got the address and rushed to his house. He was NO MORE.” According to the manager, the colleague has been a part of his team for the last 6 years. “Just 40 years of age, healthy & fit. Married with a child. No Smoking and Never tasted Alcohol,” he added. He continued, “He suffered a cardiac arrest. What’s shocking is he texted me for leave at 8.37 am and he breathed his last at 8.47 am. A man, while he was conscious, messages me 10 minutes before his last breath. COMPLETELY SHOCKED. Life is so unpredictable. Be kind to people around you & live life happily till it lasts, for you never know what’s in store the next minute.”

But is back pain really a sign of heart trouble?

Yes, heart attacks and cardiac arrests don’t always start with the “classic” chest pain. “In some cases, especially among younger or healthier individuals, symptoms may show up as discomfort in the back, shoulders, or even the jaw. This can easily be mistaken for muscle strain, gastric trouble, or fatigue,” said Dr Parin Sangoi, consultant interventional cardiologist, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central.

Why are such cases so dangerous? Dr Sangoi said that the danger lies in misinterpreting the warning signs. “When symptoms are subtle, people tend to ignore them or delay seeking medical help. Cardiac emergencies progress rapidly, and without immediate attention, survival chances drop significantly. Experts often point out that the first hour is the most critical for intervention,” said Dr Sangoi. If back pain is intense, comes on suddenly, and is accompanied by sweating, nausea, breathlessness, or fatigue, it should be treated as a possible red flag. Dr Sangoi said that calling emergency services immediately can make all the difference. Even if it turns out not to be heart-related, it is always better to be safe. “Don’t ignore unusual or sudden pains, especially in the upper body. Family members can benefit themselves and others by being informed about basic CPR and having emergency contact numbers readily available. Developing a few simple lifestyle practices, like regular health checkups and stress limits, can also aid in reducing risk,” said Dr Sangoi.

# Starlink suffers fresh outage; over 50,000 users hit across US

New Delhi: Thousands of users of Starlink on Monday experienced internet issues and total outage as billionaire Elon Musk’s satellite internet service is down yet again. According to outage-tracking website Downdetector, there were nearly 50,000 outage reports by 10:01 a.m. “Starlink is currently experiencing a service outage. Our team is investigating,” the company said on its website. However, it did not provide any reasons for the outage. Downdetector reported that 59 per cent of users experienced internet issues, while 40 per cent faced a total blackout, with 1 per cent facing poor reception. The issue affected customers majorly across the US, including Virginia, Louisiana, Indiana, and Washington state. Some users in Colombia also reported losing connectivity. Some said the service was down for several minutes, and others noted outages lasting more than 20 minutes. While Musk is yet to share a comment, users took to his social media platform X to complain of the outage. “Starlink is down again. These outages are getting more frequent,” wrote a user. “Another Starlink outage AGAIN.... Thought it was mine. Now I see everybody getting problems too,” added another user.



# ‘Antim 2.0 ready to challenge for gold’: A year after Paris Olympics setback, wrestler takes centrestage at World Championships



Siyanand Dahiya doesn't even pause for a breath as he gives a peek into what went behind the scenes to transform a 'broken' wrestler into a 'faster, fitter, upgraded' version of herself. An estimated 15,000 repetitions of leg attacks just this year (roughly 200 per technique training, twice a week), hundreds of situational practice drills, rope climbs, strength sessions, leg work, cross country running... "She has never been this well prepared," Dahiya says of his most famous student, Antim Panghal. On Wednesday, Antim, who wrestles in 53kg, will return to the big wrestling stage at the World Championship a year after making an unceremonious exit from the Paris Olympics. It's a chapter of the 21-year-old's nascent career that Dahiya hopes is 'well and truly behind her'.

For Antim, Paris, the city of love and romance, ended with a heartbreak. She went there as one of India's biggest, brightest medal hopes. She returned in disgrace, not because her maiden Olympics ended in just six minutes after losing 10-0 to Türkiye's Zeynep Yetgil. But, in the manic 24 hours that began with Vinesh Phogat's tragic disqualification ended with Antim being deported from France after she was accused of sneaking her sister into the Olympic village by breaking rules, leading to the cancellation of her accreditation. "Toot si gayi thi (She was broken)," Dahiya says. "There were a lot of hopes from her. But her morale was shattered after not being able to live up to those expectations."

At some level, Antim was a victim of her own early success. Wherever she had competed until then, the young wrestler hadn't returned empty-handed. By 19, she was already a two-time under-20 world champion and the Asian champion in the same age group. The transition to seniors was seamless — winning the bronze medals at the World Championship and Asian Games in 2023, her first full senior year, and topping it up with a silver at the Asian Championship. Antim Panghal in action at the Budapest Ranking Series against Felicity Taylor of USA. (United World Wrestling / Kadir Caliskan) FILE: Antim Panghal in action at the Budapest Ranking Series against Felicity Taylor of USA. (United World Wrestling / Kadir Caliskan) Surrounded by greatness at the Olympics, however, Antim — her coach says — was gripped by imposter syndrome. "When she landed in Paris, she suddenly felt, 'Where am I?' She put herself under a lot of pressure," Dahiya, the head of Inspire Institute of Sport's (IIS) Hisar Centre, says. Antim took 'five-

# PSG set to find out why retaining the Champions League is harder than winning it

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

As the revamped Champions League format enters its sophomore year, defending champions Paris Saint Germain are about to find out that while it's hard to win the title in the first place, it's even harder to retain it. With Real Madrid the only team to have done so in the Champions League era, PSG will look to join them in that elite list. But it's easier said than done. The unpredictable UCL format is the first challenge that PSG have to navigate through to reach the promised land. They have surely not forgotten last year's competition when they were almost close to being eliminated in the group stage itself but hung on to finish 15th which required them to take part in a knockout phase play-off fixture to qualify for the Round of 16. In that match, they absolutely demolished Brest 10-0 on aggregate to do it.

They then faced off against Liverpool who had finished as the No. 1 team in the group stages and edged past them 2-0 on aggregate in the Round of 16, highlighting how little finishing on top of the league stages mattered in the competition. After the Liverpool win, there was no looking back for Luis Enrique's side as they marched on to win their elusive first title, leaving teams like Aston Villa, Arsenal and Inter Milan, who they crushed 5-0 in the final, in their wake. So, this time around, the French champions will be wary. The pitfalls of the new format are well documented with every match counting in the long run. PSG start with a match against Atalanta at Home on Wednesday night, followed by clashes with Barcelona (A), Bayer Leverkusen (A), Bayern Munich (H), Tottenham (H), Athletic Bilbao (A), Sporting CP (A) and Newcastle United (H). None of these fixtures are a cakewalk with all the matches requiring PSG to be on their toes all the time. The Donnarumma saga A positive thing about PSG coming into the new season is that they have managed to keep hold of most of the players who helped them win the Champions League earlier this year. But there's just one glaring exception: Italian shot stopper Gianluigi Donnarumma. The lanky goalkeeper was one of the main architects of last year's UCL triumph having pulled off timely saves to keep his team in tight matches. But over the summer, the relationship soured. According to reports, the keeper earning €850,000 a month, wanted a pay raise and even refused to accept the new salary structure at the club which left no other choice for PSG but to end the relationship.

The Italian wasn't at all happy about the decision and with the arrival of new keeper Lucas Chevalier from Lille coupled with getting axed from PSG's UEFA Super Cup squad vs Tottenham, he did what many modern footballers do nowadays to vent their frustration. Put up a statement on Instagram. "Unfortunately someone has decided that I can no longer be part of the group and contribute to the team's success. I am disappointed and disheartened," he wrote. A relationship which had looked to be unbreakable after the highs of the UCL final, was now broken beyond repair. Gianluigi Donnarumma was one of the main architects of last year's UCL triumph having pulled off timely saves to keep his team in tight matches. (Photo: Reuters) Gianluigi Donnarumma was one of the main architects of last year's UCL triumph having pulled off timely saves to keep his team in tight matches. (Photo: Reuters) Donnarumma eventually left the club in September on the last day of the transfer window and joined Manchester City where he recently showed his mettle by keeping a clean sheet against Manchester United in a

six months' to snap out of it. When she finally returned to the mat — 'fresh and fit after the setback and an injury', Dahiya adds — her team set afoot plans to make her more accustomed to the intensity and pressure of international wrestling. It was one of their takeaways from the Paris Olympics, which, Dahiya surmises, came a little too early for Antim. Antim was flown to different parts of the world, including the World Championship host city Zagreb, in search of better sparring and competition experience. And wrestlers from different countries were flown to her training base at the IIS.

At home, Antim continued sparring with male wrestlers at the Hisar akhada where they worked on adding variety to her leg-attacks. A counter-attacking wrestler by nature, 'Antim 2.0' has developed at least three different ways to execute the same move. "On the face of it, it's a plain ankle attack. But there can be different ways to get a grip of the opponent's ankle. You can dodge and get hold of it, attack from the outside or counterattack from a defensive position," Dahiya says. "Her counters were always strong, but she is now good at launching attacks from the outside as well." The idea, Dahiya says, was to make Antim 'comfortable' in her weight category. "You can see the difference now. She is able to identify her biggest challengers; their strengths, weaknesses... her awareness is better now than a year ago," Dahiya says.

That knowledge might come in handy over the next two days. Antim will have to navigate a tricky draw to stand on the podium. Seeded fourth, the Indian wrestler finds herself in the same half of the draw as the top seed and Paris Olympics silver medalist Lucia Yopez of Ecuador. If the draw holds, Antim is likely to run into her in the semifinals. To reach that far, a potential quarterfinal showdown with China's Jin Zhang, a former under-20 world champion or Natalia Malysheva, the fifth seed from Russia, awaits. Antim, who has lost just one out of her 10 bouts this year, has beaten both wrestlers this year. Dahiya isn't too bothered by the draw, showcasing faith in their preparation for the World Championships. He points to one result that fills him with confidence. "She lost to a Turkish wrestler 10-0 at the Olympics," he says, of the bout against Yetgil. "This year in July, she defeated the same wrestler 10-0. That's the transformation I am talking about. She is ready to challenge for the gold." Second round: Spain's Carla Jaume Soler, who is expected to beat Lithuania's Laura Stanelyte. A 21-year-old, like Antim, Soler won bronze at the U-23 European Championship this year. Quarterfinals: China's Jin Zhang, a 2024 World Championship silver medalist at 55kg who has dangerous double-leg attacks. Antim defeated her when they last met at the Asian Championship; OR Natalia Malysheva of Russia, whom she defeated in the final of the Budapest Ranking Series in July and twice in the Ulaanbaatar Open in May. Semifinals: If she gets past the quarters, Antim is likely to run into the top seed and Paris Olympics silver medalist Lucia Yopez of Ecuador. Yopez is known for her explosive style, which has troubled even the Japanese wrestlers. The duo is yet to face each other this year.



derby. PSG, however, looked to have moved on from him, starting the French domestic season like always, with 3 wins out of 3. The shock 4-0 loss against Chelsea in the Club World Cup a couple of months ago now seems like a fever dream. But the ramifications of playing a long season last time out, looked to have spilled over in the new one.

The defending champions, who returned to pre-season training 7 days before their first match of the season, will start their Champions League campaign without the services of Ousmane Dembele and Desire Doue, both of whom suffered injuries during international duty for France. There are also injury clouds hanging over Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Lucas Beraldo which might pose a problem against Atalanta but with the likes of Nuno Mendes, captain Marquinhos, Bradley Barcola, Goncalo Ramos, Achraf Hakimi and new signing Illia Zabarnyi in their ranks, Enrique might still be able to work his magic. But the road ahead will not be easy for the defending champs with the season expected to get trickier as it progresses. With their European rivals strengthening their squads exponentially with Manchester City, Arsenal and Liverpool having splashed the cash to bring in big name signings, Real Madrid and Barcelona looking ominous at the start of the new season, PSG will find out first hand that heavy is the head that wears the crown.

# PM Modi congratulates Vaishali Rameshbabu on FIDE Women's Grand Swiss title

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday congratulated Vaishali Rameshbabu on winning the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss, and said her passion and dedication are exemplary.

The Indian Grandmaster won the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss for the second time in a row and made it to the women's Candidates tournament after a hard-fought draw against former world champion Zhongyi Tan of China in the 11th and final round in Samarkand on Monday.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Outstanding accomplishment. Congrats to Vaishali Rameshbabu. Her passion and dedication are exemplary. Best wishes for her future endeavours." In another post, lauding a sporting achievement, Modi said he was proud of Anandkumar Velkumar for winning the gold at the Senior Men's 1000m Sprint in the Speed Skating World Championships 2025.

# ‘My job is to be the judge’: Meet Andy Pycroft, match referee under fire for Asia Cup game between India and Pakistan



GNS News Agency, Sept 27

Andy Pycroft is the match referee under fire right now for the events that unfolded in the Asia Cup game between India and Pakistan. Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi removed a post on his Twitter wall saying that board has lodged a formal complaint against match referee Andy Pycroft with the ICC because he had allegedly requested the captains "not to shake hands during the toss". Pycroft has officiated over 100 Test matches since 2009, and is the fourth-most experienced match referee. And he has had his fair share of controversial matches that he has presided over during his career thus far. Here are some of the incidents.

What's Pycroft's connection with the infamous ball tampering Test between Australia and South Africa in 2018?

Andy Pycroft was the match referee during Australia's infamous Sandpaper-gate Test in Cape Town against South Africa. It was Pycroft who handed Australia's captain Steve Smith a one-Test ban and a fine of 100 percent of his match fee. He also fined Cameron Bancroft 75% of match fee and three demerit points. The cameras had caught Bancroft with a piece of sandpaper that he was applying on the ball to tamper it. It led to a huge furore in Australia with Cricket Australia eventually banning Smith and David Warner for 12 months each, while Bancroft was handed a nine-month suspension.

When did he get to know about the tampering?

Here it is in his own words: "No, we didn't know what was going on. We picked from TV. Every single ball tampering incident we have had in the last 10 years has been picked up by TV, I am afraid to say. And 90% of the time it's been by the host broadcaster against the visiting side. Never has a local side caught ball tampering." Pycroft told a podcast 'Dean at Stumps': "When TV picked it up (in the Cape Town Test), I was immediately like, 'oh this is not alright'. The Australian manager was outstanding. He came right through and said, 'that doesn't look too right'. [The manager was Gavin Dovey]. Let me say this to you, they (Australians) admitted what they had done very quickly — in the circumstances where they weren't only people messing with the ball over that period of time and there is no need to go further into that. We didn't even know Steve Smith was involved as we didn't know about it. If he hadn't admitted, we wouldn't have fined him. Yes, it's disappointing when ball tampering happens. There are big advantages to sides if we don't police it. Sides have lots to gain, there is lots of money at stake, and these things happen when you want to win at all costs, which is unfortunate at times.

Didn't he also officiate Australia's return series in South Africa a couple of years later?

He did, and he had planned how to go about it. Here it is in his own words: "This was the first visit after Warner and Smith's bans. I knew how sensitive the situation was going to be. I knew how Smith and Warner were going to be subject to stuff from spectators. So I sat with Australians pre tour and discussed what their fears were. Similarly with South Africa and security, trying to work out a protocol what was going to be acceptable. In the first game at Wanderers, I see banners with references to 'where you can buy sandpaper' — that is humorous. There were also banners with abusive messages. So I immediately sent security to confiscate it," Pycroft said in that podcast.

Was Pycroft involved in the Kohli shoulder barging Sam Konstas incident?

Yes, he was the match referee during the Boxing Day Test in December between Australia and India. It's the game when Virat Kohli shoulder-barged Sam Konstas and a cer-

tain section of Australian media, former players and fans were miffed that Pycroft didn't hand Kohli a one-Test ban at the very least. But it was because of a development post Sandpaper-gate that had led to Pycroft charging Kohli with a more lenient level-one offence for "inappropriate physical contact".

Story continues below this ad

Just after the ball tampering scandal Test, a raft of changes were made to the game, and one of them was about physical contact. Until then, it was an automatic level-2 offence which comes with a possibility of a ban. But now level-one was the only option available to Pycroft as that was changed in the months after the Cape Town Test. The authorities had placed heavier penalties for ball tampering post that incident, but also introduced lesser charges for physical contact. So Pycroft was right, playing according to the rules to slap a light punishment on Kohli.

Why didn't he penalise Marlon Samuels vs Ben Stokes incident in 2015 Test?

Yes, he was the match referee during England's second Test in Grenada against West Indies in 2015 when Ben Stokes and Marlon Samuels had an episode. During the first innings, when Stokes holed out, hitting Bishoo to deep midwicket, Samuels clasped his sunhat on his chest, and gave him a salute. Pycroft himself has spoken about it in the 'Dean at Stumps' podcast. "Ben Stokes was one of those who got red mist quickly, and could overstep. He was always the one we had to advise to pull back. On the other side we had a West Indian cricketer who was cool and calm but could provoke Stokes. Stokes was getting rattled. I don't want to name that West Indian cricketer. I remember telling Ben Stokes that you have to pull yourself back. When he came to bat, that West Indian came to bowl — I will give you a clue, he was an offspinner. He blocked everything. But got out caught at boundary next over to another spinner. And he got red mist, we could see. But now Stokes has to walk past that cricketer, who is standing in position of rear admiral taking a salute, and he was literally saluting as Stokes walked past. I am on the radio with the umpires, 'watch watch, something is going to happen'. Nothing happened. They passed. It was funny. Within 5 minutes, I got a call from ICC. What am I going to do? I said nothing, we are still laughing here."

Why didn't Pycroft initially fine Jos Buttler after his foul-mouthed abuse at Philander in a Test in 2020?

Pycroft was the match referee during a game between England and South Africa, when Jos Buttler, who was the wicketkeeper, abused the South African Vernon Philander, with words like F\*\*\*\*\* Knobhead" and such used, and could be heard on stump mike. But Pycroft presents an interesting twist. "My job is to be the judge of any situation. It's the umpires who make the reports. The third umpire was next to me in the room, right next to the monitor but he couldn't hear what was said even though Buttler was right behind the stumps and there was a stump microphone there. The players all know that if there is any swear word that comes through that mic, particularly if there is a capital F and capital C, they would be coded, and you will lose at least 15% of your fee. Buttler is right behind there, giving him grief but we don't know what's being said. "Next morning I get a mail from the ICC office, 'what you going to do about this' and I go 'what you talking about?'. To cut a long story short, even though we couldn't hear anything, it had to come over on TV and I don't know why there was a difference between what came over from the stump mic to us, and what went to TV. There is an explanation, but it's quite technical. It was all over social media, by the time I saw it for the first time, those words were audible and those words weren't the ones you don't want to be publicising with kids hearing. So we had to grab the umpires who were leaving the airport for home, and told them you have to file. We need to take action. So, sometimes you don't know what is happening at the moment."

What were the highlights of Pycroft's playing career?

He played just three Tests and 20 ODIs for Zimbabwe. Incidentally, his Test debut was in Harare against India, where he scored 39 and 46 runs respectively in the two innings. It was also Zimbabwe's first Test, and he was past his prime by then. His ODI debut had come almost 10 years earlier in the 1983 World Cup. Incidentally, Pycroft played in the game where Kapil Dev starred with his 175.

# Asia Cup: Just because the ball is spinning, it doesn't automatically mean we're going to win games, Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott



Particularly in T20 format, where Bangladesh have historically struggled, Afghanistan have been a dominant force when ever these two teams have met. Armed with world-class spinners and aggressive batsmen, they have overcome Bangladesh with ease in recent times, which has made Trott believe that they start as favourites.

GNS News Agency, Sept 27

As Afghanistan prepare to lock horns with Bangladesh in a crucial Group B fixture in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, their coach Jonathan Trott believes they start as slight favourites. Since becoming a regular in the Asia Cup, Afghanistan have grown from strength-to-strength and during last year's T20 World Cup, where they made it to the semi-finals, overcame Bangladesh to be the second best Asian side behind eventual champions India. Particularly in T20 format, where Bangladesh have historically struggled, Afghanistan have been a dominant force when ever these two teams have

met. Armed with world-class spinners and aggressive batsmen, they have overcome Bangladesh with ease in recent times, which has made Trott believe that they start as favourites.

"Since I've been with the side, we've had some memorable moments," Trott said on the eve of the game. "I think back to when we beat Bangladesh in a 50-over series in Bangladesh for the first time [in 2023]. It had never been done before, and given how strong Bangladesh have been at home, to go there and do that gave us a lot of confidence and positivity," he said. Trott specifically picked their T20 World Cup win St Vincent last year, where there was plenty of drama on the field with net run-rate equation in play, as a fixture that gave them plenty of confidence. "Then there was the win in St Vincent at the [2024] T20 World Cup, which helped us qualify for the semi-final. That was such a tight, historic game, and it gave us great belief. This group I'm currently working with is not shy about achieving new things or breaking new ground. Whenever there's something that hasn't been done before, like a big obstacle or a big challenge, this Afghan side rises to the occasion. They're not only setting new standards for themselves but also paving the way for future players to keep pushing those boundaries," Trott said. After beating Hong Kong in their opening fixture, Afghanistan have enjoyed a six-week break before they face Bangladesh which has already lost to Sri Lanka. For Bangladesh to stay alive in the tournament, a win against Afghanistan is a must on Tuesday.

Though the conditions have been spinner friendly, Trott cautioned that just because it suits Afghanistan, victory may not be a certainty. "We saw during the triangular series that just because the ball is spinning, it doesn't automatically mean we're going to win games. We still have to do everything else well, and I stress that. Yes, our spinners have played a lot of franchise cricket and plenty of international T20 and ODI cricket, but we've got to be consistent across all departments. That's why we work so hard as a side," he said.



## ‘Now you are worthy of being called my bahu,’ Archana Puran Singh tells Yogita Bihani; actor replies, ‘I did get engaged to your son, left my home’



The latest vlog of Archana Puran Singh's son Aaryamann Sethi captured a glimpse of his lazy morning, but what truly stole the spotlight was his fiancée Yogita Bihani's brand-new look. The actor recently got a chic hair-cut, and the vlog showcased the live reactions of Aaryamann's parents, Archana and Parmeet Sethi, along with his brother Ayushmaan Sethi. Yogita opted for a shorter hairstyle, trimming her hair up to her ears, which gave her a fresh, youthful vibe. Reacting to the change, Parmeet

complimented her saying, "Ye angrez lag rahi hai (She looks like a foreigner). This has got a very young feel to it." Archana too loved Yogita's new look and was pleasantly surprised to see her hair cut short. She said, "Oh my god, I love this. I saw your advertisement or something and I told you had this much hair-length in that and I told you that this much hair-length will suit you. It's very chic. This is going to be a new look on the internet. It has got a retro look also somehow." Adding her trademark wit, Archana made a cheeky remark that had the entire family in splits. She told Yogita, "Now, you are worthy of being called my bahu. Can't get over how cool you are looking." Yogita joined in the fun, joking, "Yes, I did engagement with your son, I left my home but now that I have gotten a new haircut, I am worthy of being your bahu." Parmeet quickly chimed in and teased Archana, saying, "Don't try to save yourself after saying these lines, now you have said it." Archana doubled down on her admiration and added, "I can't get over how cool you look." Ayushmaan also praised Yogita, quipping, "You are looking less like a bahu but more like his chill girlfriend." Aaryamann and Yogita's relationship has been at the heart of his vlogs, with the two getting engaged in the second season. Since then, the couple has been living together in a house gifted to them by Archana Puran Singh and Parmeet Sethi after their engagement.

## Bollywood producers are ‘cheap imitators’ who have no idea about Demon Slayer, they’ll start making Lokah rip-offs now: Anurag Kashyap

Having made his opinions about Bollywood's unoriginality clear already, filmmaker Anurag Kashyap predicted that the Hindi film market will soon be flooded with rip-offs of the recent Malayalam-language blockbuster film Lokah: Chapter 1. The superhero film is on track to become the biggest hit that the Malayalam industry has ever produced, having grossed over Rs 250 crore at the global box office so far. Produced by Dulquer Salmaan and starring Kalyani Priyadarshan and Naslen, the film is directed by Dominic Arun. Lokah is intended to start a new franchise, something that several major Hindi, Tamil and Telugu films have failed to in recent years. Anurag, meanwhile, has shifted base from Mumbai to Bengaluru. He said in a new interview that Bollywood producers are probably not even aware of how popular the Japanese anime franchise Demon Slayer is in India. "Whenever you open BookMyShow, Demon Slayer is playing. Bollywood producers have no idea about it; they're happy seeing posters of their own films," he said.

In an interview with Entertainment Live, Anurag described Bollywood producers as 'cheap imitators', and said that their understanding of cinema is limited to the 'hit films' that they watch, and that they are completely clueless about the different kind of films out there. "Hindi cinema is lacking good producers. They see their counterparts from the South producing massive hits packed with violence and action, and the only thing they can think of doing is making the same films in Hindi. South filmmakers have conviction, Hindi producers don't; they're cheap imitators. It's the producers' fault. They also get in the way of directors who actually have the conviction," he said. He added, "Look at how well Lokah is doing... Filmmakers there are very collaborative, but the Hindi industry has gone in a different direction. Just wait and watch, they'll make 10 Lokah rip-offs now."

In a past interview with Galatta Plus, Anurag cited the example of Yash Raj Films, and said that the studio is suffering from 'the trial room effect', where films are made in offices and not by filmmakers. "The industry is such that people will continue walking in from all walks of life," he said, adding, "Here, cinema is largely controlled by those people, and that too second generation, that has grown up in trial rooms. They have not lived life. So, they're referencing is based on cinema. What is not on screen can't be cinema to



them. The biggest problem with YRF is the trial room effect. You take a story and you want to make a Pirates of the Caribbean out of it and it becomes Thugs of Hindostan. You take a story, and you want to make a Mad Max: Fury Road out of it, and it becomes Shamshera." Anurag made another jibe at Hindi filmmakers at the Synapse Conclave recently, where he was asked about the influence of artificial intelligence on cinema. "If you are talking about influence of AI in Hindi cinema, they have not made anything original recently. It is mostly remakes, and honestly, AI can help them with better copies and better remakes," he said.

At a masterclass even held at the Annapurna College of Film and Media, Anurag spoke about the line of clones that SS Rajamouli's Baahubali movies inspired. "There's one Rajamouli. And then there are 10 cheap versions of Rajamouli. And all 10 cheap versions of Rajamouli can't be Rajamouli because Rajamouli is an original, no? So everybody thinks he's working so they try to copy him. But his ideas are coming from where, he knows. Similarly, one KGF works, everybody starts to do the same thing," said Anurag. The filmmaker is currently promoting his new movie Nishaanchi, which will be released in theatres on Friday.



Taking to Instagram to share an old photo of her, she wrote that there are moments when certain such pictures make her realise that she wasn't a "bad-looking girl" after all. "Now if I happen to say these words out loud, I am usually met with an annoyed groan and a dramatic roll of the eyes from whichever of the three millennials whose company I keep happen to be around," she quipped.

arrogant, and felt it far too vain and indulgent to consider myself beautiful. Most likely it's a combination of all these things and then some." Asserting that this wasn't because she had impossible beauty standards, since she often spots beautiful people around her, Zeenat noted that even they face self-doubts. She pointed out, Every compliment is met with a redirection to some perceived physical flaw. I'm quite sure you do it too! The legendary actor emphasised, "Physical beauty, no matter how widely acknowledged, is meaningless without self-validation." "If you want to truly feel beautiful, step out of your mind, and look at yourself from the perspective of someone who loves you. Hopefully, then you will see your own light and realise that no cream, collagen or facelift

## Akshay Kumar-Arshad Warsi's Jolly LLB 3 receives U/A certificate by the CBFC, alcohol brand blurred and word 'f\*\*\*\*r' removed



Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi are gearing up for their upcoming courtroom comedy drama Jolly LLB 3. The Jolly LLB franchise's biggest face-off has been cleared with a U/A certificate by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). Moreover, a word 'F\*\*\*\*r' was removed and an alcohol brand name was blurred in the movie. As per the censor certificate in a report by Bollywood Hungama, it was issued on September 2. Jolly LLB 3 has a total runtime of 2

hours 37 minutes and 16 seconds – 157.16 minutes. The CBFC gave the film a U/A 16+ rating along with a series of small changes and suggestions that won't have a significant effect on the story.

The modifications included an old disclaimer which replaced with a new one, an alcohol brand name in the film was blurred. The makers were also suggested to include a fictional place and year in the beginning of the film. The word 'f\*\*\*\*r' was removed from the movie, wherever it appeared, a shot of police officers assaulting an old male was dialed down a bit, a dialogue was changed to 'Emergency Clause', and a logo in the same sequence was modified, another logo on a file carried was blurred, and in the second part of the movie, a dialogue was altered to 'Janki amma ka gaon sirf ek...cheque muh pe fek ke mara'. After these instructions have been followed, much-awaited Jolly LLB 3 will release at the theatres on September 19. Helmed by and written by Subhash Kapoor, who also directed the first two instalments, the film also stars Saurabh Shukla, Huma Qureshi,

Amrita Rao, Seema Biswas and Gajraj Rao. Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi will face-off against each other as rival lawyers named 'Jolly'. According to the industry tracker Sacnilk, the film has already collected approximately Rs 62.7 lakh for its first day in advance sales, and Rs 1.99 crore with blocked seats. The number is expected to reach Rs 10 crore by the end of Thursday.

## Jackie Shroff shares video of ambulance stuck in Mumbai traffic, slams commuters for lacking sense: ‘Raaste pe hie dum tod dega’

Veteran actor Jackie Shroff took to Instagram today to share a video in which he is seen stuck in heavy Mumbai traffic alongside an ambulance. In the clip, the visibly frustrated actor highlights the dire consequences of traffic congestion. Pointing to the ambulance, he says, "Raaste pe hie dum tod dega" (He will die on the way) Expressing his anger at the lack of road discipline, he adds, "Toh road banana chahiye ya inn log ko samajha chahiye, aage driver log ko. Magar itna khopdi kidhar hai" (The drivers ahead should understand and make way. But where is the sense?)

The video quickly gained attention, with actor Ananya Panday liking the reel shared by the veteran star. Jackie Shroff was last seen in Tanvi The Great and Housefull 5. He will next appear in Tu Meri Main Tera, which also stars Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday in lead roles. The film, produced by Karan Johar, recently wrapped up shooting and is slated for release on December 31, 2025. In addition to this project, Jackie also has Welcome to the Jungle lined up. In a recent interview with journalist Vicky Lalwani, Jackie Shroff reflected on working with Shah Rukh Khan during the early years of SRK's career, particularly during King Uncle. Speaking candidly, he said: "He always had an 'akelapan' (a sense of loneliness). He's a great guy... very deep. As happy as he looks, he's equally lonely. He's a king after all. Go to the top of a mountain, you'll see, he came from the bottom, and today, he's holding the peak. And he's carried himself like a true king."



## Guns N' Roses from Pawan Kalyan's OG is a different kind of hero track,



Pawan Kalyan starrer OG is one of the most anticipated Telugu releases of the year. The makers of the gangster drama, directed by Sujeeth of 'Saaho' fame, have released the fourth lyrical song video from the film titled "Guns N' Roses". The lyrical video offers a glimpse into the larger-

than-life world of OG. Opening with the English verses "Rise for the warrior, Bow to the saviour," the song stands out for its distinctive instrumentation and style, setting it apart from the previously released tracks. The video showcases a gun-wielding Pawan Kalyan, with Arjun Das making a brief appearance. The striking animation and visual effects are also noteworthy.

Composed by National Award-winning music director Thaman S, the rap portions of "Guns N' Roses" are written by Advitiya and performed by Harsha D. Earlier, while speaking about OG, Thaman S told The Hollywood Reporter, "OG is a complete gangster film; Pawan Kalyan holding a gun is my favourite genre. I saw some rushes and my blood is boiling! While I'm working on the background score, I convert my studio into the OG movie zone with Pawan Kalyan's photos all over and I work obsessively." OG, bankrolled by DVV Entertainment, follows ex-gangster Ojas Gambheera (OG) as he returns to his old gang to seek revenge on his former boss. The film has been steadily gaining traction with each update, including the recently released character introduction video of Emraan Hashmi as the antagonist. Priyanka Arul Mohan, Arjun Das, Sriya Reddy, and Prakash Raj also play key roles. The movie is slated for a worldwide release on September 25.

## Anurag Kashyap says Mohit Suri waited 7 years to make Saiyaara: ‘So many producers refused...’

Have you ever wondered how long a filmmaker would wait for the right opportunity to bring their vision to life? For Mohit Suri, it was nearly seven years of persistence, despite facing rejection after rejection for his recent blockbuster Saiyaara. Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap recently praised Suri for holding on to his guns and staying committed to his "story" despite facing numerous challenges and rejections along the way. While speaking to ANI, Kashyap shared that the filmmaker was determined to make the film with newcomers and in his own style, even when producers didn't see the potential.

"Very few people hold on to their stories like Mohit Suri did with 'Saiyaara'. So many producers refused; nobody understood it. Usko naye logon ke saath banani thi, jaise banani thi waise banani thi, lekin usne chhodi nahin picture, usne suffer kiya uske liye, 6 saal 7 saal suffer kiya, banayi usne. (He wanted to make it with new actors, in his own way, and he did not give up. He suf-

fered for 6-7 years but still made it.)" The film, which starred newcomers Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, went on to become a surprise hit. Anurag also opened up about why so many filmmakers struggle to bring "fresh ideas" to the big screen. He pointed out that while writers and directors have a lot to offer in terms of new stories, the real "roadblock" is the producers. According to him, they are more focused on playing it safe and opting for "safe bets," always looking for the next guaranteed hit rather than taking a chance on something original. "Fresh stories hain, aisa nahin hai. Humari industry mein sabse badi dikkat hai producers. Humare jo producers hain, woh decide karte hain kya chalega aur kya nahin chalega, kyunki woh sirf hit filmein banana chahte hain (In our industry biggest problem are the producers. They decide what film will work and what won't. They just want to make hit films). They don't understand anything new or nuanced. Writers and directors have a lot of fresh ideas,