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Operation theatre technician allegedly sedates patient, rapes her in Karimnagar

Karimnagar: A patient was allegedly sexually assaulted by a hospital staff member at a private hospital in Karimnagar town. The woman, admitted to Deepika Hospital with typhoid fever, was allegedly assaulted by an operation theatre technician after he injected her with a sedative. Family members of the patient lodged a complaint with Town-III police on Sunday. Acting on the complaint, police registered a case and began investigation. They secured the scene, checked CCTV footage, and conducted the victim's medical examination. Commenting on the case on Monday, Commissioner of Police Gaush Alam said confirmation of sexual assault would be possible only after receiving the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report. Us:

COMMENCEMENT OF DARSHAN IN SRIVARI TEMPLE

Tirumala, Sept.8: Darshan for devotees began at 6 AM on Monday in the Srivari Temple. As the lunar eclipse lasted from 9:50 PM on Sunday till 1:31 AM on Monday, the temple doors were closed at 3:30 PM on Sunday as per the tradition. After nearly 12 hours, the temple doors were reopened at 3 AM on Monday. Following the temple purification rituals, Punyahavachanam, and other Kaikaryams, devotees were allowed for Darshan. Due to the lunar eclipse, the Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annaprasadam Complex, which was closed at 3 PM on Sunday, was reopened at 7:30 AM on Monday. After the purification of the kitchen, Annaprasadam distribution to devotees commenced from 8:30 AM onwards.

CM Revanth sets 100day development timeline for Medaram temple



Hyderabad, Sept.8: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has instructed officials to devise plans aimed at completing the development projects in Medaram within 100 days. The Chief Minister conducted a review meeting regarding the progress of the Medaram and Basara temples at his residence on Monday. During this meeting, officials presented the master plan for the development of both temples to him.Revanth Reddy also evaluated various design options related to the Medaram temple's development. He emphasised the importance of enhancing convenience for devotees ahead of the Medaram Mahajatara. Additionally, the Chief Minister recommended that measures be taken to ensure that all structures are constructed using entirely natural stone.

'There should be facilities for entry, exit, and parking to ensure the convenience of the devotees. Officials need to devise plans for the construction of check dams in certain areas to maintain water in the Jampanna stream, considering future requirements," Revanth Reddy said. The Chief Minister mentioned that he would visit Medaram this week for an on-site evaluation and recommended that the officials make the necessary preparations. In addition, Revanth Reddy presented several proposals concerning the expansion and development of the Basara Gyan Saraswati temple. He emphasised the importance of honouring local sentiments and suggested that the views of local experts and priests should be taken into account during the development of all temples. Ministers Konda Surekha, Seethakka, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Adluri Lakshman, CM principal secretary Srinivasa Raju, principal secretary (Endowment) Shailaja Ramaiyar and high officials participated in the re-

Uttam stresses importance of tangible outcomes in projects

Hyderabad, Sept.8: Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday directed senior officials to accelerate progress across all ongoing irrigation projects, stressing that the government must deliver "visible results" as it would complete two years in office this December. He chaired a two-and-a-half-hour review meeting at Jala Soudha, where he examined issues ranging from water allocation clearances and tribunal hearings to desiltation works, land acquisition and restoration of damaged barrages. Uttam Kumar Reddy placed top priority on the Sammakka Sarakka project, noting that the Central Water Commission has scheduled a meeting in Delhi on September 23 to decide on water allocation and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) clearance. The Minister asked officials to immediately submit the required simulation report on ayacut and pursue a no-objection certificate from the Chhattisgarh Government, which has already received the submergence report. He also instructed that applications for investment clearances for the Sitarama Sagar, Modikuntavagu, distributory systems of Chanaka-Korata, and the Chinna Kaleshwaram project be completed within a week so that the government can later approach the Centre for funding under the PMKSY scheme. Reviewing the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) issues, the Minister said another round of discussions would be held with Supreme Court lawyer C.S. Vaidyanathan ahead of hearings scheduled for September 23-25, which he himself will attend. He added that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy might also join if his schedule permits. On the restoration of Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages, Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated that the government's stand was "very clear" and rehabilitation works would proceed strictly as per the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) report. He directed that reputed institutions like IITs be engaged for structural testing and asked officials to be ready with action plans once floodwaters recede. "We must act before the next monsoon to ensure safety and usability of these barrages,"

BRS to abstain from Vice Presidential electi voting

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has decided to abstain from voting in the Vice Presidential election scheduled for Tuesday. BRS chief K Chandrashekhar Rao took the decision after discussions with party leaders and directed the party's Rajya Sabha MPs accordingly.

The Vice Presidential election was necessitated by the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar. Speaking to the media, BRS working president KT Rama Rao confirmed the decision

PM Modi to launch 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' on 75th birthday

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

New Delhi: Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi will launch the 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' on September 17, with an aim to enhance healthcare services for women and children across the nation, Union Health Minister J.P. said Monday. Under this initiative, 75,000 health camps will be organised at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and other healthcare centres in the country.PM Modi will launch the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan on his 75th birthday, which falls on September 17, from Madhya Pradesh.In a post on X, Health Minister JP Nadda announced, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Swasth Nari Sashakt



Parivar Abhiyaan on 17th September 2025. This initiative aims to strengthen healthcare services for women and children across India, ensuring better access, quality care, and awareness. "This Abhiyan is scheduled to run from September 17 to October 2. The Union Minister said that the health camps will provide essential services specifically designed to address

the healthcare needs of women and children. He said that this will support the Central government's "vision of inclusive healthcare.""As part of the nationwide abhiyaan, 75,000 health camps will be organised at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres (CHCs), and other healthcare facilities," he said.Nadda also mentioned that in addition to

observed at all Anganwadis to "promote nutrition, health awareness, and overall wellbeing.""Together, these measures aim to build healthier families and empowered communities across the country," he added. He also called on the private hospitals and healthcare stakeholders to come forward and be "an integral part of this Jan Bhagidaari Abhiyaan.""With 'India First' as our inspiration, let us strengthen our collective efforts for Viksit Bharat," Union Minister added.Additionally, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also participate in the Bhoomi Pujan of PM Mitra Textile Park in MP's Badnawar. This textile park, developed on 2,158 acres, is the first such park to be com-

this, Poshan Maah will be

Revanth assures world archery champion all support to win medals in Olympics Reddy, while addressing the would amend the Constitution led by Chief Justice of India arguments, declined to interfer should not be converted into bench further noted that the sensitive" to such remarks, a



Hyderabad, Sept.8: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy assured women archery champion Chikitha Taniparthi of all kinds of support including complete training to win medals in the next Olympic games. Chikitha has created a world record by becoming the first woman to win a gold medal for India at the 2025 Youth World Archery Championship held in Canada. She also won a silver medal in the senior world cup team event held in Shanghai, China. The world Archery champion paid a courtesy call to CM Revanth Reddy today. During interaction, the Chief Minister said that the government is giving priority to promote sports in the state. Aspiring sports persons will be encouraged to win medals in the Olympic games, the CM said.

Telangana stands number one in India in per capita income: Bhatti

Hyderabad, Sept.8 Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said Telangana has become the leading state in India, achieving this status through continuous growth in agriculture, industry, and services, thereby surpassing Karnataka and Haryana. Speaking at the State-level banker's meeting here on Monday, the Deputy Chief Minister said achieving 33.64 percent of the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) targets in just the first quarter is commendable and suggested that the banks must extend credit generously to Indiramma housing beneficiaries, self-employment schemes, and agriculture and allied sectors.

"The state government considers agriculture as the backbone of the economy. On behalf of farmers, the government has already deposited 30,000 crores into banks towards crop loan waiver and Rythu Bharosa. This is a record in the history of banking recovery," he said." I appeal to bankers to provide timely loans to farmers. Do not pressurise them by insisting on mortgages or fixed deposits. Show compassion and think with a human approach," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister said Telangana has now achieved the highest per capita income in the country (?3.87 lakhs per person), overtaking Karnataka and Haryana, and for the first time in five years has regained this top spot. With robust growth in agriculture, industries, and services, Telangana has become one of the most dynamic economies in India and a model for other states, he said."We must all draw inspiration from this progress and rededicate ourselves to the comprehensive welfare of our people. Bankers have a crucial role to play in Telangana's rising story,"



Bhatti Vikramarka said.In the first quarter of FY 2025–26, banks have performed well in the priority sector lending segment. Achieving 33.64 percent of ACP targets in the very first quarter deserves appreciation, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the state consistently maintains a high CD ratio, which is a matter of pride—standing at 126.50% this quarter and Telangana remains one of the fastest-growing states, with industrial, agricultural, and service sector growth, alongside multiple development initiatives by the government.Bankers must deal with farm loan disbursals with compassion. It is not right to force farmers to mortgage properties or make deposits as a condition for loans. This is essential for inclusive development of society." Bhatti added

Death toll climbs to 19, Nepal Home Minister tenders resignation

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

At least 19 people have been reported killed as police fired at protesters, mostly Nepal's tech-savvy Generation Z, on Monday (September 8, 2025) who took over the streets of Kathmandu and other major cities to protest against corruption and the government's recent ban on social media platforms. As the protest escalated, demonstrators marched towards Nepal's federal parliament building in New Baneshwor. Security forces reinforced barricades, but protesters broke through the police cordon and entered the parliament premises, chanting slogans against leaders, including Prime Minister K.P. Sharma 'Oli', and demanding he "leave the country." The Kathmandu District Administration Office imposed a curfew from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. in several areas, including Baneshwor, Shital Niwas (the

President's residence), Lainchaur (Vice-President's residence), Baluwatar (Prime Minister's residence), and Singha Durbar (the government complex). The United Nations demanded a swift and transparent investigation after Nepal police were accused of opening fire on protesters demanding the government lift a social media ban, killing dozens of people. "We are shocked by the killings and injury of protesters in Nepal today and urge a prompt and transparent investigation," UN rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said in a statement. Nepal's Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak has resigned following massive protests in the country. Mr. Lekhak submitted his resignation to Prime Minister K.P. Oli on Monday evening on "moral grounds," a Minister said, following the deaths of 19 people during Gen Z protests in Nepal.

SC DISMISSES BJP's DEFAMATION CASE FILED AGAINST CM REVANTH



New Delhi, Sept.8: In a relief to CM A Revanth Reddy, the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a defamation petition filed by the Telangana BJP unit against Revanth Reddy. As for the case, the BJP had approached the Apex court challenging a Telangana High Court order that had earlier rejected its plea over remarks made by Revanth Reddy during the election campaign. The party alleged that Reddy, while addressing the voters, claimed that the BJP would amend the Constitution if it came to power. A bench led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, after hearing the arguments, declined to interfere, by observing that the courts should not be converted into political battlegrounds. The bench further noted that the politicians should not be "too sensitive" to such remarks, and reiterated its reluctance to step into political disputes. With this, the Supreme Court upheld the High Court's dismissal of the BJP's petition.

AP GOVT ORDERS FOR TRANSFER OF IAS OFFICERS



Amaravati, Sept.8 (The Andhra Pradesh government headed by chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu has ordered for transfer of some senior IAS officers and given new postings. As per the GO, senior IAS officer G Anantha Ramu transferred as Special chief secretary to Governor, in place of Dr M Hari Jawaharlal (retired). Among those transferred included Anil Kumar Singhal who is waiting for the posting, is transferred as TTD executive officer in place of J Syamala Rao. Rao is transferred as Principal secretary (Political), GAD. Special CS to medical and health MT Krishna Babu is transferred to Special CS to transport, roads and buildings, thereby relieving N Yuvaraj who is additional FAC. The present Principal secretary (Political) GAD Mukesh Kumar Meena transferred as principal secretary to revenue (excise). The present principal secretary to transport, roads and buildings Kantilal Dande is transferred as principal secretary to EFS & T in place of G Anantha Ramu. While commissioner of civil supplies Saurabh Gaur is transferred as secretary to health, medical and family welfare. IAS officers Pravin Kumar, Ch Sridhar, MV Seshagiri Babu and M Hari Jawaharlal are transferred as Resident commissioner, AP Bhavan, secretary to minorities welfare, secretary to labour and factories and revenue secretary to government (en-

KTR demands Cong apology for 'Defaming' Kaleshwaram Project

Hyderabad, Sept.8: BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Monday lashed out at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress government, demanding an apology for 'defaming' the Kaleshwaram project. while simultaneously using its waters for new schemes. Reiterating Kaleshwaram's importance, KTR said the project has already irrigated 20 lakh acres and lifted 240 TMCs of water. "Calling it a failure insults the people of Telangana," he said, demanding that the Revanth Reddy government should apologise. Addressing newsmen at Telangana Bhavan, KTR termed the Congress' stand as 'shameful and hypocritical' by accusing it of inflating project estimates, favouring blacklisted contractors and ignoring farmers' woes.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

A ray of hope in Manipur

After two years of ethnic violence, misgovernance and official apathy, there is finally a ray of hope emerging n Manipur. The recent tripartite agreement between the Centre, the Manipur government and two prominent Kuki-Zo insurgent groups is expected to spur efforts for restorng peace and normalcy in strife-torn Manipur. Moreover, he proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi next veek, his first since the ethnic violence broke out between Meiteis and Kukis in May 2023, has also created a posiive atmosphere, which will hopefully lead to finding a lastng political solution. BJP Chief Minister N Biren Singh vho came under severe criticism for his inept handling of he situation, finally resigned in February this year, and since then, the State has been under the President's rule The relative calm in recent months is largely attributed to he fact that many militants have returned some of the ooted firearms to law enforcement agencies in response o appeals from the authorities.

The Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF) have signed a Suspension of Oprations (SoO) agreement with the government on re-neotiated terms and conditions under which they agreed on maintaining the territorial integrity of Manipur, relocatng designated camps away from vulnerable areas and vorking for a solution to bring lasting peace and stability in he State. Also, the opening of the national highway is seen s a positive step after a prolonged period of stalemate in Manipur. For two years, blockades have effectively partiioned Manipur between the Meitei-dominated valley disricts and the Kuki-Zo hill areas. The restoration of move nent on the National Highway is a crucial step toward formalising daily life and economic activity. But these steps alone cannot heal ethnic wounds. Manipur needs a political solution. For that, a popular government needs to be installed first

Even Though Generations Change, People Change!""



"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad.District Reporter Jade Srinivas.September, "08. ""Even though generations change, people change!Even after generations, "caste discrimination has not diminished among some people. Dalits are still being treated badly in some places. Some people are opposing a Dalit Anganwadi teacher who was transferred to Chinna Bendaram in Wankidi mandal of Asifabad district.The victim expressed her grief that since she is a Dalit woman, her children have not been sent to Anganwadi for five years.She said that she works in a rented building and she asked the authorities to take justice for this discrimination.

Waste Of Public Money: Built... Abandoned"

""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad.District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, "08." "Wankidi Public money is being wasted. Is that what they are doing. without a plan.. spending lakhs of rupees of public money.. building buildings and leaving them to rot..! RTC officials spent Rs.5 lakh rupees to build a bus stop for the convenience of 2005 to passengers in the Wankidi mandal center of Komuram Bheem Asifabad district. It has been 20 years since it was built.it has not been used till today. Due to the negligence of the concerned authorities and the indifference of the rulers, buses do not come to this bus stop located adjacent to the National Highway Road. Buses do not stop here..! Due to this, the bus stop built by the passengers has become a haven for beggars. Now, passengers have to stand on the road and wait for the bus, whether it is the dry season or the rainy season. RTC officials have responded and have taken the unused bus pass.

Supreme Court Ruling: 50,000 Fine and Five Years Jail for Threatening or Assaulting Journalists"



""NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Uppal, September 8, Indian Chronicle: The Supreme Court has ruled that anyone who threatens, abuses, or physically assaults working journalists will face a fine of ?50,000 and up to five years of rigorous imprisonment. This ruling came during a hearing on Thursday. With this judgment, several journalist associations and senior journalists expressed that the profession will now have stronger protection, allowing media professionals to carry out their duties without fear or intimidation while delivering factual information to the public

JSW MG Motor India Extends Full GST Benefits to Customers



Hyderabad: JSW MG Motor India today announced that it has passed on the full benefits of the recent GST reduction to customers across its entire ICE SUV portfolio including Astor, Hector and Gloster. The benefits on booking the popular MG SUVs came into effect from September 07, 2025.

"The government's decision to rationalise GST is a good move that directly addresses the affordability challenge for car buyers and builds positive consumer sentiment. By extending the full benefit of this reform across our SUV portfolio, we want to ensure customers experience the immediate value of this change. At a time when demand is set to strengthen, especially around the festive season, our focus is on making our SUVs — Astor, Hector, and Gloster — more accessible and attractive. More

than just passing on the benefits, this move reinforces trust, enables easier ownership, and encourages more customers to embrace MG." – shared, Vinay Raina, Chief Commercial Officer, JSW MG Motor India.

Revised Price Chart is mentioned as under:

Models Current

GST + Cess New GST Full GST Benefits Starting 7th Sept, 2025

45 (Petrol)

(Up to INR Lakh) *

ASTOR 45

54,000/-40 1,49,000/

50 (Diesel) GLOSTER 50

HECTOR

3.04.000/-

The price mentioned above is of a specific model. Benefits will vary depending on the model and variant. The carmaker is also offering 100% on-road funding and 03-Months EMI holiday options with added financial flexibility and peace-of-mind. About JSW MG Motor IndiaSAIC Motor, a global Fortune 500 company with a presence in over 100 countries and JSW Group (India's leading conglomerate with interests across B2B and B2C sectors) formed a joint venture - JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. in 2023. The joint venture aims to build a smart and sustainable automotive ecosystem while staying focused on developing a diverse portfolio of vehicles to give car buyers better access to advanced technologies and futuristic products with attractive value propositions. JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. is committed to introducing world-class technology, strengthening the manufacturing landscape, bringing the best of innovation across its business operations, and generating significant employment opportunities through

Asaduddin Owaisi Flags Off Grand Launch of Nilufer Luxury Fashion Store

Hyderabad: "Nilufer," a premium luxury women's clothing and lifestyle brand, celebrated the grand opening of its flagship store on 7th September 2025 at KHR Building, Masab Tank Road, Mehdipatnam, Hyderabad. The event was a grand affair, graced by the presence of Mr. Asaduddin Owaisi, MP and President of AIMIM, who inaugurated the store as the Chief Guest, along with Ms. Nilufer, Founder of Nilufer Luxury Women's Clothing Store. The occasion was further honored by Mr. Majid Hussain, MLA, Nampally, who attended as the Guest of Honor.

Rooted in the philosophy of "Embrace the Luxury," Nilufer seeks to redefine women's fashion with timeless elegance, refined craftsmanship, and the use of ultra-soft fabrics sourced from around the world. Every design reflects sophistication and comfort, ensuring that when a woman chooses Nilufer, she is not just wearing a garment but embracing a lifestyle. The store offers a diverse range of collections, including everyday luxury wear, bridal couture, and exclusive perfumes. The bridal line, with customized ensembles priced between ?1,000 and ?30 Lakhs, is tailored to suit the dreams of every bride. Adding to its appeal, Nilufer also brings premium non-alcoholic perfumes celebrated for their purity and sophistication, alongside a unique collec-



tion of outfits representing styles from every state of India, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Speaking at the launch, Ms. Nilufer expressed her vision for the brand, stating that Nilufer is more than just a fashion label; it is a statement of luxury made accessible to all. "Our philosophy is that true luxury should not be reserved for a select few—it should be experienced and celebrated by every woman," she said.

7th All India Prison Duty Meet – 2025 in TelanganaOver 1,300 prison staff from across the country to participate



Hyderabad:The 7th All India Prison Duty Meet – 2025, organized by the Telangana Prisons and Correctional Services Department, will be held from September 9 to 11 at RBVRR Telangana Police Academy, Hyderabad. More than 1,300 prison staff (including 184 women) from 21 states and 3 union territories will showcase their talent across 36 categories.

The competitions include professional events such as first aid, welfare schemes, quiz, and computer skills, along with sports and cultural contests like athletics, volleyball, kabaddi, basketball, karate, krav maga, music, dance, and painting. This prestigious national-level event is being hosted

by Telangana for the second time. The state first hosted the meet in 2015, and in the 6th edition held at Ahmedabad in 2022, Telangana emerged as the overall champion. For the first time, an All India Techno Expo and stalls showcasing prison-made products will also be organized. As part of the preparations, Telangana Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services Dr. Soumya Mishra, IPS, today distributed sports kits to 84 members of the Telangana contingent, encouraging them to perform with discipline and confidence at the national level. The department, in coordination with the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D), New Delhi, and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has completed all arrangements for the event.

Medchal Press Club (Print Media) to Hold New Committee Election Meeting"

"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, A.S Rao Nagar, September 8, Indian Chronicle: The Medchal District Press Club (Print Media) has scheduled a meeting on Tuesday, September 9 at 11 a.m. at Dr. A.S. Rao Centenary Bhavan, A.S. Raonagar. Senior leader Merugu Chandramohan announced that the press club is being set up beyond union affiliations and called on all district-level journalists to participate. During the meeting, a new executive committee of the press club will be elected.



Make Use of National Lok Adalat – District Legal Services



Authority Secretary "Kukkadapu Naresh Kumar, Kothagudem constituency, Septmber 6, Indian Chronicle: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Secretary M. Rajender has appealed to the public to make the best use of the upcoming National Lok Adalat scheduled to be held on September 13 at the Bhadradri Kothagudem District Court.""In a statement, he informed that individuals who are facing cases, or whose relatives and acquaintances have cases pending in various courts, can utilize this opportunity to resolve them through compromise and settlement. Cases related to motor accident claims, civil disputes, cheating, chit funds, property issues, matrimonial and family matters, minor thefts, traffic challans, drunk and drive, domestic conflicts, banking transactions, telephone bill arrears, assault, cybercrimes, cheque bounce, and disputes through mediation can all be settled in this Lok Adalat. "Secretary Rajender emphasized that once a case is settled in the Lok Adalat, it is completely closed and no further litigation will continue. He urged litigants to take advantage of this golden opportunity to resolve their disputes amicably, save time, and reduce legal expenses

Man Attempts Suicide After Being Harassed By Finance Staff"

""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, "08.""A man attempted suicide due to harassment by a private finance company. Details given by the victim's son.. Ashok, a resident of Jendaguda, Asifabad (Mandal), bought a lorry in 2008. He took a loan from a private finance company. He paid installments for 4 years. Later, when he did not pay, they took the lorry away in 2013. After 12 years, the finance company came again and threatened him to pay Rs. 6.74 lakhs, so Ashok drank insecticide.

Meeting of political party representatives chaired by Aswaraopet MPDO"

"Aswaraopet, S NAGA MANOJ KUMAR, September (08): A meeting was held at the Aswaraopet Mandal Praja Parishad office under the chairmanship of the MPDO with representatives of all recognized political parties in the mandal on the draft water list and objections to draft polling stations during the MPTC/ZPTC 2025 elections. In the context of local body elections in Telangana, the Panchayat Raj department is ready for arrangements. Because the government has recently taken a key decision regarding ZPTC, MPTC, and Panchayat seats. On this occasion, the state government has finalized the number of Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies, Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies, and Panchayat seats. The government has issued official orders to hold elections for a total of 566 ZPTC and Mandal Praja Parishad seats, as well as 5,773 MPTC seats. At the same time, the number of gram panchayats in the state is 12,778, and the number of wards is 112,000.



Panchayat elections have been held only once since the formation of Telangana, in 2019. In that election, there were 570 MPP and ZPTC seats, 5,817 MPTC seats, and 12,848 gram panchayats. This decision can be said to have paved the way for local body elections in the state. The Congress government led by Chief Minister

A. Revanth Reddy has decided to implement a 42% reservation for BCs in local body elections. This decision can be said to be a step taken to provide appropriate representation to BCs, who constitute 56% of the state's population. Under this reservation system, Gram Panchayat Sarpanchs and MPTCs are considered as Mandal units, MPPs and ZPTCs are considered as District units, and ZP Chairpersons are considered as State units. Thus, a meeting was held in each Mandal Parishad office to discuss these objections. Representatives of political parties participated in this meeting.

Muslim Peace Rally In Wankidi"





"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad.District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, "08." "Muslims held a peace rally (jalus) in Wankidi, Mandal on Monday to mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad. Muslim Minority Committee President Sheikh Hameed inaugurated the rally. He called for moving forward with the spirit of equality and peace, which are the teachings of Prophet Muhammad. A food distribution program was also held at the mosque on this occasion. Police provided security for the rally. Muslim minority leaders and youth participated in the program in large numbers.

Green Bhadrachalam's **Eco Initiatives Lauded"**



"""Shaik Sharief,Bhadrachalam, September 8,Indian Chronicle: "A tree plantation drive was organized on Monday at the Motor Vehicle Inspector's Office in Bhadrachalam under the aegis of Green Bhadrachalam. Speaking as the chief guest, Sangam Venkata Pullaiah, Motor Vehicle Inspector, praised the organization's relentless efforts in environmental conservation. "Day by day, our environment is deteriorating rapidly. Deforestation, shrinking wildlife habitats, and the extinction of several species are the result of ing greenery. By planting and nurturing thousands of saperal staff members of the Motor Vehicle Inspector's Office

lings, the organization has transformed Bhadrachalam into a green haven," he said. He further expressed hope that Green Bhadrachalam would continue initiating more ecofriendly programs in the future and assured his full support for all their environmental activities. Among those present at the event were Chitte Lalitha (President, Green Bhadrachalam), Pamaraju Tirumalar Rao (Coordinator), G.S. Shankara Rao (Past President), Bogala Srinivasa Reddy, Kamisnetti Krisnnarjuna Hao, Muvva Damayantni, human greed. However, for the past 14 years, Green Bhadrachalam has been tirelessly working towards restor
Kunchala Rajaram, Adabala Venkateswara Rao, Rasamalla Ramu, A. Ramireddy, Priyanka, Suresh, Bhaskar, and sev-

Strict Measures To Prevent Sexual Harassment Sgainst Women: District Welfare Officer Aadepu Bhaskar"



""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad.District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, "08." "District Welfare Officer Aadepu Bhaskar said that strict measures will be taken to prevent sexual harassment of women in the workplace and in society. On Monday, the District Women and Child Welfare Department and the District Women Empowerment Center jointly attended an awareness program organized at the government hospital in the district center along with District Medical and Health Officer Sitaram. The District Welfare Officer said that the POSH Act 2013 will be implemented to prevent sexual harassment of women employ-

ees at work places and create a respectful working environment. "Strict action will be taken against misbehavior and sexual harassment of women, the law will apply to all women working in non-government organizations, not only government employees, he said, every organization will set up an internal complaints committee, and those who have been harassed will have the right to complain to the committee. He said that every woman needs physical and mental health, she should complain about harassment without fear, and should be aware of the laws. District Coordinator Sharada, Dr. Anusha, Rani, Deputy Demo Martha, concerned officials and others participated in the program..

Telangana urges revival of Adilabad CCI cement plant

Hyderabad, Sept.8: Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu has reiterated the State government's firm demand that the union government take up the revival of the defunct Cement Corporation of India (CCI) plant at Adilabad. The Minister recalled that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and he himself had on several occasions personally appealed to Union Steel and Heavy Industries Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy for the revival of this major

industrial unit.

At a high-level meeting in the Secretariat with Chief Secretary A. Ramakrishna Rao, CCI CMD Sanjay Banga, Adilabad MLA Payal Shankar, and senior officials, proposals for the plant's restoration were reviewed. The CCI management indicated that around ?2,000 crore would be required to modernise the plant with advanced machinery.

Vinod Sharma Wins Laddu Auction for 1.02 Lakh at Kakatiya Colony Ganesh Festivities""

"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter Chengicherla, September 8, Indian Chronicle: As part of the Ganesh festivities, a laddu auction was held at Kakatiya Colony. The highest bid of ?1,02,000 was made by Vinod Sharma, while the kalasham was secured by Dr. Vasanth for ?33,000. The event was attended by colony president Umesh Chari, general secretary Praveen, vice president Madhukar Reddy, joint secretary Dr. K. Naveen Kumar, treasurer Sheetal, along with Balaji, Sandeep Kumar, Rajinikanth Reddy, and other colony members. The winners of the auction were congratulated and offered Ganesh





Gaddam Ravikumar Condoles Allu Arjun atAlluKanakratnamma's Ceremony"

"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Uppal, September 8, Indian Chronicle: At Jubilee Hills JRC, Gaddam Ravikumar, Telangana State Yuva Kapu Nadu President and State President of Icon Star Allu Arjun Association, attended the 10th-day ceremony of Allu Kanakratnamma, wife of late legendary actor Padma Shri Allu Ramalingaiah and mother of noted film producer Allu Aravind. Ravikumar paid floral tributes to Kanakratnamma's portrait and expressed condolences to Allu Aravind and Icon Star Allu Arjun. Speaking on the occasion, Ravikumar said that he wished peace for Kanakratnamma's soul and praised her service and dedication to her family. Large numbers of Allu Arjun fans, including Ammadapuram Raju Goud, also participated in the ceremony and paid homage to

ATCs to Shape Students Bright Future: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil"



"Kranthi Kumar Dasari | Pinapaka Constituency | Indian Chronicle"Manuguru, September 8: "District Collector Jitesh V. Patil urged the youth to make the best use of government-provided opportunities to secure a strong and successful future. On Monday, the Collector made a surprise inspection of the Government ITI College and the newly established Advanced Training Centre (ATC) in Manuguru, Bhadrachalam district. "Speaking on the occasion, he said that the government has set up ATCs to modernize ITIs and enhance technical training standards. He emphasized that students who undergo ATC training will gain access to better employment opportunities in the industrial sector. Every student completing ATC training will be supported in securing suitable job placements across various industries, the Collector assured. ""He also encouraged students to focus on skill development and make the best use of the training period. To facilitate their learning, free books and study materials will be provided. The Collector further stated that all necessary facilities would be made available at the ITI campus. He instructed officials to prepare detailed proposals for providing modern equipment and infrastructure to improve the quality of technical education. ""Later, the Collector visited the Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential De-

gree College in Manuguru, where the 11th Telangana NCC Khammam Battalion had organized a 10-day NCC training camp. The camp, which began on Monday, will continue until September 17 and involves 700 cadets.""During the visit. Collector Patil interacted with Camp Commandant Colonel Sanjay Kumar Bhadra and Administrative Officer Colonel Naveen Yadav, gathering details about the training modules and the career opportunities available to cadets after completing their NCC training. He instructed the concerned departments to ensure all necessary facilities are provided for the smooth conduct of the camp. ""The Collector also inspected the medical camp arranged at the training site and appreciated the organizers for their efforts. Speaking to the cadets, he highlighted the importance of NCC training in instilling values of discipline, leadership, and patriotism among students. He further suggested utilizing scenic locations like Ratham Gutta in the district to organize NCC adventure camps which would not only provide better exposure for cadets but also help promote tourism in the region. "The inspection and review were attended by MPDO Srinivas Rao, MPO Venkateswara Rao, ITI Superintendent Jyothirani, ATC Officers G.V. Krishna Rao and Venugopal, along with several ATC staff and district offi-

Grand Birthday Celebrations of MLA Koram Kanakayya in Yellandu"

"""Rayala Kishore, Yellandu Constituency, September 8, Indian Chronicle: "Yellandu MLA and people's leader Koram Kanakayya, known for his simplicity and goodwill, was given a warm public reception on his birthday celebrations held on Monday under the leadership of Arya Vysya Sangham Mandal President Prodduturi Nageswara Rao. The event took place at Nehru Chowk in Yellandu, where citizens enthusiastically conveyed their greetings and prayed for his long life. ""MLA Kanakayya himself attended, cut the cake, and expressed that the affection shown by the Arya Vysya community, businessmen, and the public strengthened his commitment to serve them regardless of being in power or not. He emphasized that he would always remain among the people as their servant. ""On the occasion, he personally distributed sarees to 50 poor women. Business leaders and community representatives honored him with shawls, and the venue was filled with festive spirit. Locals praised him as a leader who always stands by the people and works for Yellandu's development, resolving issues promptly.

""Several dignitaries, including Market Committee Chairman Banothu Rambabu, Koram Surender, Chittibabu, Town President Dodda Daniel, Madugu Sambamurthy, Bolla Suryam, Chilla Srinivas, Mandala Ramu, Gande Sadanandam, Pingali Naresh Naidu, Jugal Kishore, Arvapalli Radhakrishna, Kande Ramesh, Narendraulu Anu, Yeluguri Mallikarjun, Tatipalli Subbarao, Saifa Rajasekhar, Yeluguri Madhubabu, Ayitha Srinivas, Chanda Bhadran, Kumar, Pulluru Satish, Akula Satish, Gande Suresh, and Ramidi Shankar participated.



Scientists Crucial for Nation's Development: District Collector Jitesh V Patil"



"Kranthi Kumar Dasari | Pinapaka Constituency | Indian Chronicle | "Kothagudem, September 8 - District Collector Jitesh V Patil emphasized that scientists play a vital role in the nation's development and in shaping the future of its citizens. On Monday, the Collector conducted a surprise inspection of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Karakagudem, reviewing the school's infrastructure, facilities, and overall environment.""During the inspection, he visited classrooms. kitchen sheds, storerooms, dining halls, washrooms, and the school surroundings, interacting with students and staff. While speaking with students, he inquired about their career aspirations. Many students expressed their ambitions to become doctors, engineers, IAS, and IPS officers. Addressing them, the Collector advised that along with personal success, students should focus on contributing to nation-building through education, innovation, and scientific research.""India needs scientists who can address societal challenges and develop innovative solutions, he said, urging students to work towards research and inventions that benefit the country's progress.""Later, the Collector inspected the dining hall and instructed the contractor to install protective mesh to prevent flies and mosquitoes from

entering. Responding to the staff's request for a refrigerator to store vegetables and dairy products, he directed officials to take immediate action. He stressed the need to maintain a clean and hygienic environment to ensure students have access to healthy and nutritious meals. ""Highlighting the prestige of Navodaya Vidyalayas across the nation, the Collector stated that these institutions have earned a unique reputation and that authorities must maintain their standards. He instructed the school administration to keep the premises clean, provide essential facilities, and ensure students have the resources they need. He also assured that sports equipment and library books would soon be provided to support the students' physical and mental development. "The Collector held a detailed review meeting with the school staff, discussing existing facilities and addressing concerns raised by teachers. He assured them that any issues related to students' welfare and school development would be resolved on a priority basis. ""School Principal Bhaskarachari, along with teachers Nayanadevi, Chanchal, and Anita, staff nurse Radhika, and other department officials, accompanied the Collector during the

GHMC Standing Committee Member Reviews Development Works in Charlapally Division



"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, September 8, Indian Chronicle: GHMC Standing Committee member and Charlapally Division corporator Bonthu Sridevi Yadav held a review meeting with officials on development works in the division. During the meeting, she appreciated the officials for ensuring the recent Ganesh immersion program was completed smoothly and peacefully. She also conducted a detailed review of the pending development.

opment works, particularly roads, drainage, streetlights, and sanitation. Bonthu Sridevi Yadav instructed officials to immediately resume and complete the stalled works to avoid inconvenience to the public. She emphasized that urgent measures must be taken to improve civic amenities in the division. The meeting was attended by DE D. Balakrishna, AE Abhishek, and officials from the concerned departments including Praveen and Prashanth.

Minor Fire Accident in Bhagat Singh Colony"



""NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Peerzadiguda, September 8, Indian Chronicle: A minor fire accident occurred in Bhagat Singh Colony under Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation, Division-1, when flames broke out in a hut due to a lamp lit during a prayer. Some essential household items were partially damaged in the incident. Upon learning about the accident, Peerzadiguda Congress president and R.V. Foundation chairman Tungaturthi Ravi visited the site, enquired about the cause of the fire, and consoled the affected family. As immediate relief, R.V. Foundation provided 50 kilograms of rice to the family. Ravi noted that timely intervention by local residents

helped prevent the fire from spreading further and causing major damage. During his visit, Ravi also observed several civic issues in Bhagat Singh Colony, including drinking water shortages, poor drainage facilities, lack of streetlights, and tree branches hanging over electricity lines. He contacted the concerned officials over phone and appealed for urgent action to resolve these problems. Congress Division-1 in-charge M.D. Mazar, Barre Nagaraju, colony residents, and others participated in the program.

Fake Gold Stir In Kerameri.. Two Lakhs Found"

""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad.District Reporter Srinivas.September,"08.""An unidentified person cheated a tribal family from Kerameri mandal of Komuram Bheem Asifabad district with fake gold. He tricked the victims for months, making them believe that it was ancient gold found in excavations, and finally stole Rs. 2 lakh by attaching fake gold. When it was tested at a gold shop, it was found to be fake, and the victims approached the police. District National Human Rights Committee

Chairman Rathod Ramesh



appealed on Monday to the people to be vigilant so as not to fall prey to such fraudsters. Show less

Draft Voter Lists and Polling Stations Reviewed Ahead of 2025 MPTC/ZPTC Elections""

"Bhukya Ranjith Naik,Bhadradri Kothagudem, September 8, Indian Chronicle: In preparation for the upcoming second ordinary MPTC/ZPTC elections 2025, District Collector Jitesh V. Patil held a review meeting with recognized political party leaders on Monday at the IDOC conference hall. The meeting, conducted alongside Additional Collector Venugopal, focused on finalizing draft voter lists and polling station arrangements across the district. ""Addressing the gathering, the Collector informed that the district comprises 471 panchayats with a total of 6,69,048 registered voters, including 3,25,045 men, 3,43,979 women, and 24 others. To facilitate smooth polling, 4,242 polling stations have been set up across 4,168 wards.""Collector Patil stressed that eligible voters should register immediately as no new names will be added after the election notification is issued. He clarified that transferring votes from one village to another will not be permitted and confirmed that all previously identified polling stations will remain unchanged."

"Emphasizing the importance of a free, fair, and peaceful election, the Collector appealed to all political parties to extend full cooperation. He assured that necessary measures are being taken to ensure that every eligible voter can exercise their right to vote.""The meeting was attended by Additional Collector for Local Bodies Vidyachandana, ZP CEO Nagalakshmi, Deputy ZP CEO Chandrasekhar, and representatives from various political parties, including Bal Prasad (INC), Anudeep (BRS), S. Srinivas (CPI), A. Satyanarayana (CPM), Nomula Ramesh (BJP), and A. Rambabu (AAP), among others.





Road Works Inspected at Parvatapur Pochammakunta""



"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Pavatapur, September 8, Indian Chronicle: Former Peerzadiguda Ex Mayor Amar Singh, senior Congress leaders Bodige Krishna Goud, Bandari Ravinder, and Yasaram Mahesh, along with the road contractor and colony members, inspected the ongoing road works at Parvatapur Pochammakunta. This long-pending road project, once completed, will establish



direct connectivity between Parvatapur, Medipally, and Peerzadiguda. The new road is expected to ease transportation, reduce travel time, and provide residents with smoother and more convenient commuting options. During the visit, the leaders interacted with local residents and reviewed the progress of the works, stressing the need for timely completion so that the road can be opened for public use as early as possible.

Medchal Constituency Congress In-Charge Totakura Vajresh Yadav congratulates TPCC President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud on completing one year in office""





"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Medipally, September 8, Indian Chronicle: On the occasion of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud completing one successful year in office, Medchal Constituency Congress In-Charge Totakura Vajresh Yadav and Uppal Constituency Congress In-Charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy met him at his residence on Sunday. They felicitated him with shawls and conveyed their congratulations. Senior Congress leader Narsa Reddy Bhupathi Reddy was also present. Speaking on the occasion, they said that since

assuming charge, Mahesh Kumar Goud has been actively working to strengthen and rebuild the party across the state. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Congress government's development and welfare programs are being widely promoted among the people, with Mahesh Kumar Goud providing direction to party cadres to take these initiatives to the grassroots. They expressed confidence that the measures being taken by Mahesh Kumar Goud to consolidate the party at the village level will yield even stronger results in the coming days.

DIABETES COMPLICATIONS 2025 - CLINICAL UPDATE

Hyderabad, Sept.8: The Dear Diabetes Academy on Sunday evening successfully hosted "Diabetes Complications 2025 – Clinical Update" along with the Clinical excellence awards 2025 at Hyatt Place, Banjara Hills in the city. The event brought together leading physicians, healthcare professionals and organizations committed to advancing diabetes care, research and innovation.

2 members of Lawrence Bishnoi gang arrested in Delhi after exchange of gunfire



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Hours after India pulls diplomats, Canadian Police allege Indian govt 'agents' collaborated with Lawrence Bishnoi gangBishnoi, 31 is a gangster from Punjab, and is currently lodged in the Sabarmati Central jail in Ahmedabad. Two members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang were arrested after a brief exchange of fire in Delhi's New Ashok Vihar area late Wednesday night, the police said.

The police identified the arrested men as Kartik Jhakkad and Kavish, who allegedly work for US-based Harry Boxer, who claimed to have commissioned the recent firing outside comedian Kapil Sharma's cafe in Canada's Surrey. According to the police, Sub Inspector Vijender received information about the presence of Jhakkad, a key

henchman of Boxer. "A team led by Inspector Sanjay Gupta and Inspector Pawan reached the area and spotted two suspicious men on a bike. When they were asked to stop, the pillion rider opened fire," a Special Cell officer said. The police recognised the man on the pillion as Jhakkad and fired back in self-defence as the accused tried to escape. "One of the bullets struck Jhakkad's left leg, causing the bike to become unbalanced. Both accused were then detained. The bike rider was identified as Kavish, who had recently joined the Boxer gang," the officer said. Jhakkad, the police said, has more than 10 cases against him, including that of extortion. "He recently demanded Rs 2 crore from a businessman at Ganga Nagar in the New Ashok Vihar area. The reason for the presence of the two in the capital is being probed," the officer added. Boxer, who hails from the Alwar district in Rajasthan, is known to be close to Bishnoi's brother Anmol and is believed to have reached the United States via 'dunkey' route in 2024."The Bishnoi gang has used him to oversee their extortion business both in the US and in Punjab, Delhi and Rajasthan. He allegedly called a businessman in GTB Enclave on August 23 and on August 25 to demand an extortion payment of Rs 5 crore," the officer said. Bishnoi is currently housed in a high-security cell at Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad. Despite being imprisoned, he has been connected to several high-profile crimes, including the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala in 2022 and threats against actor Salman Khan.

Valmiki Corporation case: ED attaches Rs 5crore worth properties, including assets of ex-Karnataka minister Nagendra's aides

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

ED initiated an investigation based on the cases registered by the Karnataka Police and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).ED initiated an investigation based on the cases registered by the Karnataka Police and the CBI.The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has provisionally attached properties, in the form of immovable properties and bank balance, worth Rs 5 crore under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the Valmiki Corporation Valmi scam case, in which two aides of former Karnataka minister B Nagendra are allegedly involved.

ED stated on Wednesday that the attached immovable properties are in the form of land and flats worth Rs 4.45 crore belonging to Nekkenti Nagaraj, Chandra Mohan, Golapalli Kishore Reddy, Etakeri Satyanarayana, and movable property is in the form of bank accounts to the extent of Rs 50 lakh in First Finance Credit Cooperative Bank Limited. Nagaraj was identified as the personal assistant of Nagendra, while ED had mentioned Etakeri Satyanarayana as his "key associate". The scam in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Limited (KMVSTDCL) came to light after an officer died by suicide on May 26, 2024, alleging pressure from a minister to divert funds. The ED's chargesheet in the case named Nagendra as the mastermind behind the scam.ED initiated an investigation based on the cases registered by the Karnataka Police and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). It was alleged that the accused people illegally transferred the money from the account of KMVSTDCL and misappropriated the funds to defraud the Corporation of public money worth Rs 89.63 crore by forging valuable securities and documents.ED investigation revealed that KMVSTDCL's account was transferred to a fraudulently opened account at the MG Road branch of Union Bank of



India in collusion with bank officers. Subsequently, funds from other accounts and the treasury were pooled into this account. From the pooled funds, Rs 89.63 crore was allegedly diverted from this fraudulently opened Corporation's accounts to 18 fake bank accounts opened with First Finance Credit Cooperative Bank Limited in Hyderabad, in connivance with the bank's chairman. The diverted funds were then allegedly layered through fictitious and shell accounts, with cash and bullion distributed among the accused.

ED said that a significant portion of these funds was used in the general elections. Additionally, luxury vehicles, including a Lamborghini, were bought using proceeds from the scam. These facts were corroborated by the accommodation entry providers, bullion traders, gift card traders, and luxury car dealers. Moreover, the Proceeds of Crime acquired by the accused out of the siphoning off of funds have been utilised by them for personal purposes. Further investigation is in progress. Last year, ED arrested Nagendra, who was the minister for Scheduled Tribes Development, for allegedly misappropriating the Corporation's funds.

Final List Of Polling Stations For Territorial Voters On The 10th"



"District Election Officer,Collector Venkatesh Dhotre" Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, "08. ""In the context of the local body elections, the final list of territorial voters and polling stations will be published on the 10th of this month, said Komaram Bheem District Election Officer and Collector Venkatesh Dhotre. Komaram Bheem, along with Zilla Parishad Chief Executive Officer Lakshminarayana, at the conference hall of the Integrated District Collectorate Building in Asifabad district center. Speaking on the occasion of a review meeting with officials and representatives of recognized political parties along with the Chief Executive Officer of the Parishad, Lakshminarayana, the District Election Officer and Collector of Komuram Bheem said that the



list of territorial voters and the list of polling stations will be prepared clearly without any mistakes and the final list will be announced on the 10th of this month. He said that there are 15 3.2.6.2., 127 2.2.3.2. territorial constituencies in the district, and there are a total of 3 lakh 53 thousand 895 voters. He said that 708 polling stations have been set up in the district for the local body elections, and the draft voters list will be sent to the polling stations on the 6th.and the objections received on these lists will be examined and the final list will be announced on the 10th of this month. He said that officials and representatives of political parties should work in coordination and take steps to prepare a clear list. The concerned officials, representatives of recognized political parties and others participated in this program."

Srihari Enclave Ganesh Laddu Goes to Rajneekar Reddy–Rajitha Family for 78,000"



"NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Chengicherla, September 8, Indian Chronicle: Srihari Enclave Colony witnessed vibrant Ganesh Navaratri celebrations organized by the Bhagavan Utsav Committee. As part of the festivities, the traditional Ganesh laddu auction was conducted with enthusiastic participation from residents and devotees. This year, the highest bid was made by Rajneekar Reddy Rajitha's family, who successfully secured the laddu for ?78,000. The auction created a festive atmosphere, with community members actively taking part in the spirited bidding. Organizers expressed happiness over the overwhelming response, noting that the funds raised through the laddu auction would be utilized for community welfare and future religious events. The celebrations highlighted unity and devotion among the residents of Srihari Enclave.

Swept away, 'Sher-e-Punjab' was once residential premises that took a beating in 1995 flash floods



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

A strong water current from the swollen Beas river swept away the iconic 'Sher-e-Punjab', a two-storey restaurant on Rohtang Road near Manali, leaving only the front wall bearing its name as a testament to its presence. The washed-away restaurant was an extension of the renowned 'Sher-e-Punjab' on the Mall Road in Manali, which had been in operation for over three decades. The two-storey building, where the restaurant opened in 2021, was a residential structure and had faced calamities earlier, too. In 1995, when floods hit the Manali valley, the building took a beating from the raging Beas. Then, during the flash-floods of 2023, too, the overflowing Beas had hit the rear boundary wall of the structure, but didn't cause any harm. The Sher-e-Punjab's building had a basement, a ground floor, and an upper floor with six rooms, and had the capacity to serve food to as

many as 125 people at a time. Videos and photos of the standing lone restaurant wall went viral on social media. Saravjeet Singh Gulati, 58, who runs Sher-e-Punjab in Manali, had hired the two-storey building on Rohtang road for the restaurant. Gulati, the third generation of a family which migrated from Peshawar in Pakistan to Mandi, then undivided Punjab, in 1947, said, "I opened a branch on Rohtang road in 2021 after hiring the property from Sukhbir Mehta in 2020. My daughter Sehaj was managing the branch."Usually, staff close the restaurant by 10 pm, but on Monday, they shut it around 8.30 pm. The last customers were a senior administrative officer and his driver, who were on a routine patrol. Luckily, no one was inside when the building collapsed in the early hours of Tuesday."Gulati said in 2023, the Beas had hit the rear boundary wall of the building, but no damage was done. "The landowner informed us that the property was severely damaged by the flash floods in 1995."Gulati, who used to pay an annual rent of Rs 3.5 lakh, claimed that he suffered a loss of around Rs 1 crore in the tragedy.

Along with Sher-ePunjab, two more shops — a snow-

dress rental outlet and a daily-needs store -were also swept away by the river. The two adjoining stores were makeshift structures, but 'Sher-e-Punjab' was a concrete building.Gulati said, "My grandfather migrated from Peshawar (Pakistan) to Mandi (undivided Punjab) in 1947. My father Amar Singh Gulati started selling various things, including shoes, umbrellas, slipper, etc. Later, we also moved to Manali, and I established myself here." Gulati said, "The telecommunication connectivity in Manali was hit severely. I am talking to you over the phone because I am in Mumbai with my relatives. I am unable to contact my children and staff since Tuesday evening." A senior district administration officer from Kullu told The Indian Express, "The two adjoining shops were temporary structures. All three were located on the Rohtang road in Bahang village of Manali sub-division, which is part of the National Highway. We will determine whether these swept-away structures were within the permissible limits after our revenue teams submit their report. For now, our priority is to restore connectivity. Indeed, the restaurant building was severely damaged by the Beas in 1995, and compensation was provided."In September 1995, flash floods claimed 65 lives and caused severe damage across Himachal Pradesh, especially in Kullu and Manali and Mandi.

Discussion on revenue and forest land disputes in Ramannagudem""



Aswaraopet Naga Manoj Kumar, September (08): A discussion was held today on the forest and revenue land disputes that have been going on in Ramannagudem village of Aswaraopet mandal for the past few days. The discussion on these land disputes was held under the auspices of the police department. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Kothagudem; the Forest Divisional Officer, Palvancha; the Tahsildar, Ashwaraopet; the Forest Range Officer,



Ashwaraopet; the Plantation Manager (TSFDCL), Ashwaraopet Range; and the Circle Inspector of Police, Ashwaraopet, discussed with the villagers of Ramannagudem the forest and revenue disputed lands in survey numbers 30, 36 & 39 and said that they will take appropriate steps to resolve the land issue by bringing it to the notice of the District Collector for a joint survey. Revenue, Forest, and Police personnel and Ramannagudem villagers participated in this program.

Man attacked on suspicion of practicing black magic in Nandipadu"

"Aswaraopet, Naga Manoj Kumar, September (08): An incident took place in Nandipadu village of Aswaraopet mandal where a tribal man was attacked on suspicion of practicing black magic. Bhayam Venkateswara Rao, a resident of the village, alleged that some people deliberately attacked him and injured him. He was seriously injured in the attack and approached the Aswaraopet police and filed a complaint. The police have registered a case and are investigating. I request the people to create awareness about



Bhu Bharati Applications Should Be Resolved Quickly""





District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre ""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, "08. ""Komuram Bheem District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre said that the concerned authorities should take steps to resolve the applications received in the Bhu Bharati Act Revenue Conferences quickly. District Additional Collector (Revenue) David, Kagaznagar Sub-

Collector Shraddha Shukla, Asifabad Revenue Mandal Officer Lokeshwar Rao, Land Survey Officer Someshwar along with Tahsildars, Nayab Tahsildars, Girdhawars, Mandal Surveyors and Data Entry Operators held a review meeting on the resolution of the applications received in the Bhu Bharati Revenue Conferences at the Integrated District Collectorate Building Conference Hall in the Komaram Bheem Asifabad district center. Speaking on the occasion, Komuram Bheem Asifabad District Collector said. Bhu Bharati"Act Revenue Conferences and the Bhu Bharati Portal, and each application should be checked with the records, examined at the field level and steps should be taken towards its resolution immediately. He said that more services will be provided to the people by appointing village administrators and licensed surveyors at the village level. He said that a full investigation should be conducted on each application and reports should be submitted, and the officials should work to resolve 100 percent of the applications received in the Bhu Bharati Revenue Conferences for the past 10 days.

BRO to complete strategically important road in Arunachal by March 2026



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Itanagar: Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Project Brahmank Chief Engineer S C Looniya has said that the double-laning of the 32-km Pene-Tato stretch of the strategically important Aalo-Mechuka road in Arunachal Pradesh's Shi-Yomi district will be completed by March 2026. Admitting that the project has been delayed, Looniya attributed the delay to land acquisition on a stretch of the road.He said, "We want to complete the formation-cutting immediately, to ensure that commuters don't face problems like road closure due to formation cutting and equipment movement. The stretch with all parameters will be completed, so that people get a safe, secure, satisfactory-level road connectivity."Looniya said our aim is to at least provide allweather connectivity from Kaying in Siang district to Tato soon."We are committed and are working vigorously to extend NH-13 to far-flung areas of Tato," he said. The chief

engineer, however, maintained that black-topping of the road will take some time. On the Tato-Mechuka stretch, Looniya said the 14 bridges along the Tato-Mechuka stretch have been awarded to a contractor and work on these bridges are in various stages. He said the work on the 12-km Yarlung-Trijunction road, including the 140 ft steel modular bridge has started and will be completed within two years, while the 16-km Yarlung-Lamang road has already been completed. The DPR for the 14-km Lamang-Lola Road is under preparation, he said. He said the roads under the National Highway Single Lane (NHSL) will provide road connectivity to forces stationed in forward areas. The chief engineer also said that the Migging-Tuting road will be completed soon. Only 15 km of formation cutting is left, and the surfacing work is being planned this year, he said, adding that if weather permits, the work will be completed by March 2026. The chief engineer also said that if the government allows, they are willing to take up the maintenance of the NH-13, Akajan-Likabali-Bam road. It will be beneficial for movement of BRO personnel stationed in Daporijo (Upper Subansiri), Aalo (West Siang), Yingkiong (Upper Siang), Mechuka (Shi-Yomi), he said. The Akajan-Likabali-Bam-Aalo road was constructed by BRO in the 1960s before it was awarded to the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd in June 2015 for doublelaning. Several portions of the road are in pathetic condition and in many places, the road is not fit for traffic movement and has invited the ire of the locals. The NH-13 connects Likabali in Lower Siang district to Aalo in West Siang. It further connects Mechuka in Shi-Yomi district. The Project Bhahmank under BRO is headquartered in Pasighat in East

Soon, apply for a marriage certificate or driver's licence — on WhatsApp

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Need to apply for a marriage certificate, caste certificate, or driver's licence? Soon, Delhi residents will be able to access all these services through their phone — via WhatsApp.Officials said the Delhi government is planning to launch the initiative called 'WhatsApp governance', and residents will be able to apply for services, verify documents, and download certificates — all from the comfort of their homes.

"Through this service, citizens of Delhi can avail multidepartmental services from the convenience of their WhatsApp account, without the need for additional applications or physical visits to government offices, thereby improving accessibility, transparency, and governance efficiency," said a senior official. The previous AAP government had launched a similar "doorstep delivery" scheme, which provided access to more than 30 services — across government departments — from the convenience of a person's home. The Indian Express reported in June that the scheme, which has been inactive for over a year, is likely to be discontinued soon."For the past year, people have struggled with long queues and touts just to get basic certificates. To ease this, the government is working to launch the 'WhatsApp Governance' initiative, using AI and modern technology to make public services more accessible," said a senior government official. The new project aims to strengthen citizen service delivery by integrating key services with the WhatsApp platform using its API and Generative AI (Gen AI) capabilities, a senior official said.

How will it work

Officials said initially, 25-30 services available on the district portal and other departments will be added to the WhatsApp governance platform. More services will be added gradually. They explained: "A dedicated mobile number will be generated for the platform. Citizens can send a 'Hi' to the number on WhatsApp to begin the process. They will be directed to different departments where they can apply for a service and fill out forms. Following a verification process, the certificates can be downloaded from WhatsApp through a QR code."The platform will also feature an Alpowered multilingual chatbot — initially in Hindi and English — for improved user experience, service automation, and intent recognition. It will also be used to share information



about departmental schemes via text messages, images, and videos to the public, said officials. "This is part of Delhi's broader Digital Transformation Strategy to make public services more intuitive, responsive, and available 24×7. Initially, the platform will integrate with key departments and later expand across all others. Services will also be linked with Delhi's e-District Portal and other platforms for unified access," said the official. Officials said the government is also likely to rope in Meta (formerly Facebook) for the project. Officials said the IT department, which is working on this project, will invite bids from qualified WhatsApp Business Solution Providers (BSPs) and Meta partners to design, develop and implement the "WhatsApp-based e-Governance platform". The success of this project will be measured by citizen satisfaction and transparency in governance, added officials. To ensure inclusivity, especially for those who don't know how to use WhatsApp and who don't have smartphones or internet access, the government plans to set up Common Service Centres (CSCs) across all districts. Citizens can visit any CSC to access e-district services for a nominal fee of Rs 50, said officials. The AAP's doorstep delivery scheme ended in November 2023 and was extended until March 31, 2024. A proposal for further extension from the Administrative Reforms Department was sent to the Cabinet ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. However, the scheme was never extended as the then Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was arrested in the excise policy case. The scheme's helpline number, 1076 — which had logged over 1.4 lakh calls in 2023 — has since gone inactive, officials

'City has over 300 villages': PIL seeks HC directions to implement Delhi Panchayati Raj Act



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Delhi Panchayati Raj Act, Panchayati Raj Act, delhi high court, delhi news, India news, , current affairs The PIL has also claimed that Delhi, despite being a union territory with a legislature, has failed to implement the Panchayati Raj system in its village areas, and contrary to general perception of the city being entirely urban, "several notified rural villages still exist in the National Capital Territory".

The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought a note from the Delhi government on the legislative history of the Capital, and also asked if the provisions of Delhi Panchayat Raj Act are applicable or if it stands repealed. The bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela was dealing with a public interest litigation by Satish Aggarwal, former vice-president of Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, seeking the court's directions to the authorities to immediately implement the Delhi Panchayati Raj Act in the villages of NCT of Delhi.

Submitting that the Act has been in existence since 1954 with elections to Delhi's panchayats held only up to 1989, the PIL claims that the municipal corporations in the Capital have "encroached upon the territorial jurisdiction of gaon panchayats, and municipal laws are being applied to rural areas/villages of Delhi", depriving villagers of their constitutional rights, including of self governance. The PIL has also claimed that Delhi, despite being a union territory with a legislature, has failed to implement the Panchayati Raj system in its village areas, and contrary to general perception of the city being entirely urban, "several notified rural

villages still exist in the National Capital Territory". As per the available data, it added. more than 300 villages are notified as rural or partially urbanised, where residents are engaged in agriculture and other "allied village activities".

State women commission member meets family, assures fast-track probe

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Greater Noida dowry death, Greater Noida, dowry death, Sirsa village, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs Vipin's cousin Devender Bhati, who admitted Nikki to the hospital, said on Wednesday, "I was at my shop... Around 5.45 pm, Vipin came running to me saying that Nikki has burnt herself and needs to be taken to the hospital."The family of a 26-year-old Nikki Bhati, who was allegedly set ablaze over dowry demands in Greater Noida's Sirsa village, met a member of the Uttar Pradesh State Commission for Women on Wednesday, seeking a fasttrack probe into the case. Meenakshi Bharala, a member of the commission, met Nikki's family at their residence in Roopwas village of Dadri. On August 21, Nikki had died after allegedly being set ablaze at her in-laws' home. The police have since arrested her father-in-law, brother-in-law, brotherin-Rohit law and husband Vipin. The arrests came after Nikki's sister Kanchan — who is also Rohit's wife — filed a police complaint. Speaking to mediapersons, Bharala said, 'The family wants justice... I asked them why both the sisters stayed with their in-laws despite being tortured, they said they were afraid of societal pressure... Kanchan said they were also assaulted a day before Nikki's death." According to Kanchan, she was unwell that day... Nikki had gone to the upper floor to iron clothes when Vipin attacked her on the stairs... He allegedly poured some inflammable substance on Nikki and set her on fire," Bharala

Burning effigy to protesting atop buses: Lawyers' strike against virtual police deposition plan in Delhi enters day 5



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

In the vicinity of Northeast Delhi's Karkardooma Court are four parked buses. Two of the buses are painted green, while the other two buses are donning the blue color. Atop these buses are four dozen lawyers. This was day five of the strike called by the Coordination Committee of all District Court Bar Associations in Delhi last Thursday to oppose a notification issued by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on August 13, allowing police to virtually present evidence in courts from police stations.

Chants of "Kaale kanoon waapas lo"(take back the black law) and "waqil ekta zindabad" (long live the lawyer) echo across the street. While some lawyers are sloganeering from the rooftops of the buses, others are chanting near the buses. Some are chanting in unison while other lawyers are following the last chant like a chain reaction. A few kilometres away is the Rouse Avenue Court in Central Delhi. Outside gate number 6, a group of black coats led by advocate and secretary of the Bar Association Vijay Bishnoi, are busy burning the effigy of LG VK Saxena. As per the LG's notification, Delhi Police officers have been allowed to provide evidence to the court via

videoconferencing from police stations, a departure from the current requirement for officers to be physically present in court.

This reform was made under the draft model rules (Nyaya Shruti) on video conferencing under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, which recommends for inclusion of police stations as a "designated place" for deposition through video conference for police personnel/ officers. The lawyers who have called the notification "antilaw" have stated their opposition to the directive, claiming that if officers appear via video conferencing from police stations, contradictions in their statements can be rectified, and it can pave way for manipulation. Delhi's lawyers have been taking to the streets and abstaining from work for the last four days seeking the withdrawal of the law. Now, they are gearing up to hold a massive demonstration on Friday outside the LG's house in Civil Lines. "All esteemed members are requested to assemble before Central Hall, Tis Hazari courts, New Delhi on 29.08.2025, Friday at 11:30 am from where we shall proceed to the Lieutenant Governor House. Arrangement of Bus shall also be made which will proceed from Gate no. 6, Patiala House Courts to Tis Hazari Courts at 11:00 a.m. for the members who will proceed from Patiala House Courts," read a circular issued by the Committee on August 27.

"We've taken to the streets for the public...this law is against them. We'll continue our protest till our issue is resolved," said advocate Tarun Rana, Secretary of the New Delhi Bar Association, protesting outside Delhi's Patiala House Court. A lawyer has shared a picture from Tis Hazari Court which is doing rounds on social media mainly in lawyer's circles. A cardboard poster can be seen taped outside a metal gate. "Nyay ke liye LG House jaaye, vakeel hadtaal pe hain (go to the LG's house for justice, lawyers are on strike)", the poster reads.

19 from Nepal lured with jobs in Serbia, duped of Rs 70 L; 2 held

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

delhi Visa fraud busted, Visa fraud busted, Visa fraud, Seelampur, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs"Acting on inputs, the Crime Branch team arrested Jayakab (41) from Noida and found Serbian visas shown by the accused were forged and fabricated," DCP Singh said.Last April, Sujan Khadka (22), a Nepalese national, along with 18 of his fellow countrymen, thought that they were on the brink of an opportunity of a lifetime. He had met a man named Jayakab in Northeast Delhi's Seelampur who allegedly lured them with job opportunities in Serbia. He said that all the formalities would be taken care of by him. "To win their confidence, he showed scanned copies of purported Serbian employment visas and job offer letters, thereby convincing the victims of the authenticity of his claims," a police officer said. It was a well-planned fraud with Jaykab and his associate, Rupesh, allegedly duping the 19 aspiring job seekers of Rs 70 lakh as part of "visa processing fees", the Delhi Police said. The duo were nabbed on Tuesday. According to the police, on August 22, a written complaint was received by the team of Crime Branch (Eastern Range) from Khadka. "A Nepali national, currently residing at Neel Gagan Hotel, Pahargani, alleged that he, along with 18 other Nepali citizens, had been duped by a fraudulent visa racket allegedly operated by Jayakab," DCP (Vikram Singh) said. Jaykab, after taking the 19 men into confidence, took their Nepali passports for visa processing last April, the police said. Over a month later, Jaykab allegedly demanded that the 19 Nepali nationals pay •3,500 each for the processing of the documents. "Acting on the



instructions of the accused, all 19 victims travelled from Nepal to Delhi in July, hoping they could collect their passports, Serbian visas and board their onward flights," DCP Singh said. However, once they reached India, Jaykab started avoiding them, the police said. After staying in lodges in India for over a month, the Nepali citizens finally tracked Jaykab to his Seelampur residence, where he threatened them and flatly refused to return their money, the police said."

Acting on inputs, the Crime Branch team arrested Jayakab (41) from Noida and found Serbian visas shown by the accused were forged and fabricated," DCP Singh said.During questioning, Jayakab revealed the involvement of his associates Sachin, George aka Bijoj and Rupesh. Rupesh was then arrested from Trishul Colony in Chhawla, the police said. Further investigation to arrest the other accused is ongoing, officers added.

Supreme Court committee nod to remove 25 trees for NDRF headquarters in Delhi's Ridge-like area



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Supreme court, Central Empowered Committee, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), NDRF, Morphological Ridge, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs"Considering the national importance of the project...", it may be recommended for approval, the committee underlined. The Supreme court-enabled Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has given a nod to the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for setting up its head-quarters in South Delhi's Vasant Vihar falling under the Morphological Ridge, an ecologically sensitive zone. The NDRF had sought the apex court's permission to get approval for

construction activities in the area. A total area of 1.673 acres of land has been allotted to the Ministry of Home Affairs for setting up the headquarters and a budget of Rs 92.64 crore has also been approved. According to a CEC report dated August 25, the site was inspected on August 5. Based on the documents and site observations, the committee found that "not all 37 trees standing on the site require removal or transplantation. Specifically, 12 trees (which have been numbered) need not be disturbed.""The project site has a periphery of approximately 400 meters. A green belt shall be developed along the entire periphery with a double-row plantation of about 250 indigenous tree species...Additionally, another 50 indigenous trees shall be planted along the internal roads proposed to be constructed," read one of the conditions set up by the Committee. Other conditions include depositing the mandated Ridge Management Board fund, which is 5% of the project cost, proportionate to the area falling within Ridge, permissions need to be obtained before felling or transplantation of trees as per the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994. This also needs to be carried out under supervision of the Delhi Forest Department.Compensatory plantation of 10 saplings of indigenous species on non-forest land which are 10-12 feet tall also need to be undertaken for each tree felled, transplanted or pruned.

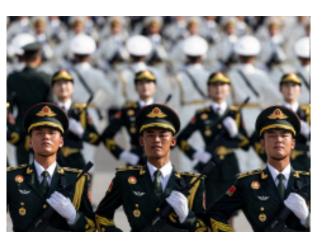
Day after ED raids at home, AAP's Bharadwaj alleges coercion, tampering of statements

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Saurabh Bharadwaj, Saurabh Bharadwaj raid, ed raid Saurabh Bharadwaj, Enforcement Directorate, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs Saurabh Bharadwaj carried a printer from his home to back up his claims at a press conference A day after Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out searches at his residence, Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Delhi unit chief Saurabh Bharadwaj on Wednesday accused the central probe agency of coercion, tampering with his statement, and seizing public documents as "incriminating evidence". Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva later countered Bharadwaj's allegations, claiming that he was trying to deflect the attention. The ED action against Bharadwaj has stemmed from an FIR registered by Delhi's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) on June 26, which had alleged cost escalations and corruption in the

construction of hospitals across the Capital. Addressing a press conference at the party office, Bharadwaj on Wednesday carried a printer of his home as "evidence," claiming that it contained logs of the original statement he gave to ED officers. "Today I will expose an agency — the Enforcement Directorate — that has been spreading terror in India for several years," he said. The ED officials, he said, questioned him for nearly 14 hours on Tuesday and pressured him to sign a "doctored statement". "I answered 43 questions calmly, but when I accused L-G VK Saxena of hatching a conspiracy against me, the officers refused to record my words. They cut out entire portions and returned with a 'pre-written script' asking me to sign," the AAP leader alleged. He further claimed that ED seized only two documents from his residence — his election affidavit and an affidavit filed by the Delhi Health Department in the High Court. "Both are public documents.

Putin, Kim Jong Un to attend Chinese parade in show of defiance to the West



BEIJING, -NS News Agency, Sept 8 Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un will attend a military parade in Beijing, marking the first public appearance of the two leaders alongside President Xi Jinping in a show of collective defiance amid Western pressure.

No Western leaders will be among the 26 foreign heads of state and government attending the parade next week with the exception of Robert Fico, prime minister of Slovakia, a European Union member state, according to the Chinese foreign ministry on Thursday. Make sense of the latest ESG trends affecting companies and governments with the Reuters Sustainable Switch newsletter. Sign up here. Against

the backdrop of China's growing military might during the "Victory Day" parade on September 3, the three leaders will project a major show of solidarity not just between China and the Global South, but also with sanctions-hit Russia and North Korea.

Russia, which Beijing counts as a strategic partner, has been battered by multiple rounds of Western sanctions imposed after its invasion of Ukraine in 2022, with its economy on the brink of slipping into recession. Putin, wanted by the International Criminal Court, last travelled in China in 2024. North Korea, a formal treaty ally of China's, has been under United Nations Security Council sanctions since 2006 over its development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. Kim last visited China in January 2019. Those attending the parade marking the formal surrender of Japan during World War II will include Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko, Iran's President Masoud Pezashkian, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and South Korea's National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik, said Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Hong Lei at a news conference.

The United Nations will be represented by Under-Secretary-General Li Junhua, who previously served in various capacities at the Chinese foreign ministry, including time as the Chinese ambassador to Italy, San Marino and Myanmar.On the day, President Xi Jinping will survey tens of thousands of troops at Tiananmen Square alongside the foreign dignitaries and senior Chinese leaders.The highly choreographed parade, to be one of China's largest in years, will showcase cutting-edge equipment like fighter jets, missile defence systems and hypersonic weapons.

Shooter kills two Minneapolis school children in Catholic church, wounds 17 others

MINNEAPOLIS, GNS News Agency, Sept 8- An assailant armed with three guns fired through stained-glass windows into a Catholic church where parish school students were attending Mass on Wednesday, killing two children and wounding 17 other people, officials said. The shooting ended when the lone suspect, identified as Robin Westman, 23, "took his own life" at the rear of the church, according to Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara, who declined to offer a possible motive for the attack. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.

A videotaped message by the suspect showed Westman struggled with depression and was fascinated by the perpetrators of past mass shootings.FBI Director Kash Patel said his agency was investigating the attack as an "act of domestic terrorism and hate crime targeting Catholics."Two victims, aged 8 and 10, were slain where they sat as the gunfire turned the morning Mass into pandemonium. It sent worshipers diving behind pews for cover while older children scrambled to shield younger ones, officials said. At least two of the church exits were blocked by wooden planks barricaded outside the doors, O'Hara said. The violence struck at the start of an all-school Mass held annually on the first Wednesday of the academic year at Annunciation Catholic School."This was a deliberate act of violence against innocent children and other people worshiping. The sheer cruelty and cowardice of firing into a church full of children is absolutely incomprehensible," O'Hara said. In addition to the two children killed, 17 other people were struck by gunfire - 14 of them students ages 6 to 18 and three parishioners in their 80s, O'Hara said. All the injured were expected to recover, according to the chief.

A 2017 yearbook from the school showed that Westman, who went by the first name Robert at the time, had been a student there, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported."I have no information to share on a motive, other than to say there was some kind of manifesto timed to come out on YouTube," O'Hara said, adding that it had been taken down by authorities. Online videos reviewed by Reuters showed the text of a suicide note in which the shooter expressed feeling depressed and wanting to carry out a mass shooting. Names of previous school shooters were scrawled on a rifle magazine, along with erratic and wide-ranging political grievances.In a statement on X, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristie Noem said the suspect was "claiming to be transgender." She continued: "This deranged monster targeted our most vulnerable: young children praying in their first morning Mass of the school year. "Court records showed Westman's name was changed from Robert in 2020 because Westman identified as female. Appearing with the police chief and other officials at a news conference on Wednesday afternoon, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey cautioned against bringing gender politics into the



tragedy. "Anybody who is using this as an opportunity to villainize our trans community, or any other community out there, has lost their sense of common humanity," he said. Frey also cited the easy availability of firearms as a root cause of the mass shootings that are commonplace in the United States. The shooting at Annunciation, a parochial of gun violence at a place of primary or secondary education since January, according to the K-12 School Shooting Database. But Wednesday's carnage differed in one notable respect from most school shootings: The assailant fired from outside into the building. Westman fired dozens of rounds with a rifle, shotgun and pistol, all legally and recently purchased, O'Hara said. Authorities said more weapons were recovered at other locations associated with the suspect.Fifth-grader Weston Halsne told CBS News his friend was wounded while trying to protect him. "The shots were like, right next to me," Halsne said. "I think I got like gunpowder on my neck."Public records showed Westman's mother. Mary Westman, had worked as an administrative assistant at Annunciation Church. Relatives contacted by Reuters declined to comment.Officials said Westman did not have a criminal record and appeared to have acted alone. The suspect was employed for several months this year at a Minnesota cannabis dispensary, but was no longer working there, the company, RISE, said.

U.S. President Donald Trump ordered U.S. flags to be flown at half-staff nationwide as a sign of mourning. Authorities said the attack did not appear to be related to three other shootings over the past 24 hours in Minneapolis, including one at a Jesuit high school. Homicides have risen in Minneapolis since the 2020 police killing there of George Floyd, which prompted nationwide civil disturbances and staff shortages in the city's police department. Minnesota experienced political violence in May. A gunman posing as a police officer killed the Democratic state House speaker and her husband and wounded a Democratic state senator and his wife, in what authorities said were targeted assassinations. The suspect has pleaded not guilty to federal murder charges.

Two Microsoft workers fired after occupying president's office to protest ties to Israel

WASHINGTON, GNS News Agency, Sept 8 Two Microsoftemployees were fired on Wednesday after taking part in a sit-in at the office of the company's president to protest the firm's ties to Israel as it wages war in Gaza.A Microsoft spokesperson said the workers were terminated following "serious breaches of company policies and our code of conduct" stemming from "the break-in at the executive offices."Anna Hattle and Riki Fameli received voicemails informing them that they were fired, the protest group No Azure for Apartheid said in a statement. They were among seven protesters who were arrested on Tuesday after occupying the office of company President Brad Smith. The other five were former Microsoft workers and people outside the company."We are here because Microsoft continues to provide Israel with the tools it needs to commit genocide while gaslighting and misdirecting its own workers about this reality," Hattle said in a statement on Wednesday. No Azure for Apartheid, whose name references Microsoft's Azure software, has demanded that the company cut its ties to Israel and pay reparations to Palestinians. Smith said on Tuesday: "we respect the freedom of expression that everyone in this country enjoys as long as they do it lawfully. "has said an Israeli military surveillance agency was making use of Microsoft's Azure software to store countless recordings of mobile phone calls made by Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. The investigation, conducted by the Guardian, Israeli-Palestinian publication +972 Magazine and Hebrew-language outlet Local Call, also said Israel relied on Microsoft cloud for expansive surveillance of Palestinians.

In April, Microsoft AI CEO Mustafa Suleyman's remarks were interrupted by a pro-Palestinian protesting



employee during the technology company's 50th anniversary celebration over the firm's ties with Israel. That employee and another protesting employee were also fired. Other firms and educational institutions have faced protests over ties with Israel as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza from Israel's military assault has mounted, and images of starving Palestinians, including children, have sparked global outrage.

The latest bloodshed in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict was triggered in October 2023 when Hamas militants attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostages, Israeli tallies show.Israel's subsequent assault on Gaza has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, caused a hunger crisis, internally displaced Gaza's entire population and prompted accusations of genocide and war crimes at international courts that Israel denies.

Trump administration moves to tighten duration of visas for students and media



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

The Trump administration aims to tighten the duration of visas for students, cultural exchange visitors and members of the media, according to a proposed government regulation issued on Wednesday (August 27, 2025), part of a broader crackdown on legal immigration. President Donald Trump, a Republican, kicked off a wide-ranging immigration crackdown after taking office in January. The latest move would create new hurdles for international students, exchange workers and foreign journalists who would have to apply to extend their stay in the U.S. rather than maintain a more flexible legal status. The proposed regulation would create a fixed time period for F visas for international students, J visas that allow visitors on cultural exchange programs to work in the U.S., and I visas for members of the media. Those visas are currently available for the duration

of the program or U.S.-based employment.

There were about 1.6 million international students on F visas in the U.S. in 2024, according to U.S. government data. The U.S. granted visas to about 355,000 exchange visitors and 13,000 members of the media in fiscal year 2024, which began on October 1, 2023. The student and exchange visa periods would be no longer than four years, the proposed regulation said. The visa for journalists - which currently can last years - would be up to 240 days or, in the case of Chinese nationals, 90 days. The visa holders could apply for extensions, the proposal said. The Trump administration said in the proposed regulation that the change was needed to better "monitor and oversee" the visa holders while they were in the United States. The public will have 30 days to comment on the measure, which mirrors a proposal put forward in 2020 at the end of Trump's first term in office.NAFSA, a non-profit organization representing international educators at more than 4,300 institutions worldwide, opposed the 2020 proposal and called on the Trump administration to scrap it. The Democratic administration of then-President Joe Biden withdrew it in 2021. The Trump administration has increased scrutiny of legal immigration, revoking student visas and green cards of university students over their ideological views and stripping legal status from hundreds of thousands of migrants. In an August 22 memo, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said it would resume long-dormant visits to citizenship applicants' neighborhoods to check what it termed residency, moral

Iran says return of IAEA inspectors not full resumption of cooperation

GNS News Agency, Sept 8Iran said that the return of U.N. nuclear inspectors did not represent a full resumption of cooperation, which was suspended in the aftermath of June attacks by Israel and the United States.

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency began work at the key nuclear site of Bushehr in southwestern Iran, the nuclear watchdog's chief Rafael Grossi said, the first team to enter the country since Tehran formally suspended cooperation with the U.N. agency last month. "No final text has yet been approved on the new cooperation framework with the IAEA and views are being exchanged," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, quoted by state television.

The agency's inspectors left Iran after Israel launched its unprecedented attack on June 13, striking nuclear and military facilities as well as residential areas and killing more than 1,000 people. Washington later joined in with strikes on nuclear facilities at Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz. Iran retaliated with missile and drone attacks that killed dozens in Israel. A ceasefire between Iran and Israel has been in place since June 24. Iran subsequently suspended its cooperation with the IAEA, citing the agency's failure to condemn the Israeli and US attacks.

But on Wednesday Mr. Grossi said the inspectors were "there now", adding: "Today they are inspecting Bushehr. "Under the law suspending cooperation, inspectors may access Iranian nuclear sites only with the approval of the country's top security body, the Supreme National Security Council. Tehran has said repeatedly that future cooperation with the agency will take "a new form". The spokesman for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Behrouz Kamalyandi, said the IAEA inspectors would oversee the replacement of fuel at the Bushehr nuclear power plant. He made no mention of whether inspectors would be allowed access to other sites, including Fordo and Natanz, which were hit during the war. Threats of reimposition of U.N. sanctionsMr. Grossi, on a visit to Washington, said discussions about inspecting other sites were underway with no immediate agreement."We are continuing the conversation so that we can go to all places, including the facilities that have been impacted," he said. He said that Iran cannot restrict inspectors only to "non-attacked facilities."

"There is no such thing as a la carte inspection work."The return of inspectors came after Iranian diplomats



held talks with counterparts from Britain, France and Germany in Geneva on Tuesday. Their second round of talks since the Israeli attacks included discussion of European threats to trigger the reimposition of U.N. sanctions against Iran before they are permanently lifted in mid-October. The window for triggering the so-called "snapback mechanism" of a moribund 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major powers closes on October 18. During their previous meeting with Iran in July, the three European powers suggested extending the snapback deadline if Tehran resumed nego tiations with the United States and cooperation with the IAEA, the Financial Times reported. Iran later dismissed the Europeans' right to extend the deadline, and said it was working with its allies China and Russia to prevent the reimposition of sanctions. Iran's deputy foreign minister Karim Gharibabadi on Wednesday said that if the snapback is triggered, "the path of interaction that we have now opened with the International Atomic Energy Agency will also be completely affected and will probably stop. "On Tuesday, Russia circulated a draft U.N. Security Council resolution aimed at pushing back the deadline for triggering snapback sanctions by six months, according to the text seen by AFP. The Russian proposal does not set preconditions for the deadline extension Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy, said that the updated proposal was designed to "give more breathing space for diplomacy", adding that he hoped it "will be acceptable". "It will be kind of a litmus test for those who really want to uphold diplomatic efforts, and for those who don't want any diplomatic solution, but just want to pursue their own nationalist, selfish agendas against Iran," he told media.

Denmark summons U.S. diplomat over Greenland 'interference'

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Since returning to the White House in January, Mr. Trump has repeatedly said the United States needs the strategically located, resource-rich island for security reasons, and has refused to rule out the use of force to secure it.At least three U.S. officials close to Mr. Trump have been noticed in Greenland's capital Nuuk trying to identify people they could use in anti-Denmark influence campaigns, according to Danish public television network DR.Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said in a statement to AFP he was aware of "foreign actors" showing an interest in Greenland's posoition within Denmark." Any attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of the Kingdom will of course be unacceptable," he said, adding that he had "asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to summon the U.S. charge d'affaires for a meeting at the Ministry". Most of Greenland's 57,000 people want to become independent from Denmark, according to a January poll, but do not wish to become part of the U.S.Both Denmark and Greenland have repeatedly insisted the Arctic island is not for sale and that it will decide its future itself. Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said she was taking the matter seriously." I note that the Americans have not clearly rejected the DR report today, and that is of course serious," she told Danish television. The Wall Street Journal reported in May that U.S. intelligence agencies had been ordered to find out more about Greenland's independence movement and opinions on American exploitation of resources. According to the newspaper, intelligence agencies had been asked to identify people in Greenland and Denmark who supported U.S. objectives.Ms. Frederiksen reacted angrily to that report at the time, saying: "You cannot spy against an ally. "Like the United States, Denmark is a founding member of NATO and has recently fought alongside America in its wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Sowing

According to the DR report on Wednesday, the U.S. officials were trying to gather information on issues that have created tension between Greenland and Denmark — which could be used to present Denmark in a bad light. These include Denmark's forced removal of Greenlandic Inuit children from their families, as well as its forced contraception of at least half of all fertile Inuit women from the 1960s until 1992.Ms. Frederiksen on Wednesday presented a long-

awaited apology to the 4.500 Inuit women who had to wear



At least three U.S. officials close to Mr. Trump have been noticed in Greenland's capital Nuuk trying to identify people they could use in anti-Denmark influence campaigns, according to Danish public television network DR

a contraceptive coil — or intrauterine device (IUD) — without their or their family's consent. "We cannot change what has happened. But we can take responsibility. Therefore, on behalf of Denmark, I would like to say: I am sorry," she

said in a statement. In March, U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance made an uninvited visit to Greenland that was widely seen as a provocation both on the island and in Copenhagen. He was initially due to tour several towns but following angry reactions across Europe, he shortened his itinerary to a oneday visit of the U.S. Pituffik military base. During a speech there, Mr. Vance castigated Denmark for not having "done a good job by the people of Greenland", alleging it had neglected security. The Pituffik base is an essential part of Washington's missile-defence infrastructure, its location putting it on the shortest route for missiles fired from Russia at the United States. The Arctic has gained geostrategic importance as the race for rare earths heats up and as melting ice caused by global warming opens up new shipping routes. Copenhagen in January announced a \$2-billion plan to boost its military presence in the Arctic region. Ahead of Greenland's March 11 general election, Denmark's intelligence service said it was concerned about possible foreign interference, particularly from Russia, but said no at-

tempts were ever detected.

Ranga Reddy / TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

"I wasn't brave. I did not have a choice," says Arundhati Roy in an interview about her memoir



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Arundhati Roy had never planned to write a memoir. That changed when she lost her most captivating and complicated subject: her mother, Mary Roy. Mother Mary Comes to Me is a window into Mary Roy's world: a woman who built a school from scratch, fought for women's equal rights under Christian inheritance laws, and navigated life in Kottayam like a superhero with the edge of a gangster till the age of 89. Arundhati wanted to write about her mother without any resolution, leaving the loose ends flying. But it is also about what made Arundhati: hunger, cruelty, stigma, and generational violence, her mother's bouts of asthma and violent rage. Arundhati left home at 18 to be on her own; and continue loving her mother. She slogged, worked, understood different loves, won a Booker prize, went to jail, still battles legal cases and shares her money to fund other people's works.

In a world distraught by so much emotional, physical, social violence, this book is a stunning, honest reminder that we are all broken but capable of love, anger, horrible things, and extreme generosity. As Arundhati says: "Because people are not ideologies, they are wild. Some cannot be put under neat divisions, categories, or 'faux-therapy' labels, and yet need to be part of literature and history." Excerpts from an interview:

In a world, where is a term for everything and everyone, where only pure revolutionaries are accepted, how important is it to write about your mother, Mary Roy?Because people are pretty wild, everybody is rushing to judgment now. When I was writing this book, I had many moments when I felt that I was a little ashamed of my own sorrow. When she passed, she was 89, I'm in my 60s. I thought why?And to understand the fact that just to manage somebody in your life, you had to become a peculiar shape, and now that shape doesn't make sense. For example, you could be so progressive and so assertive in some ways, and then suddenly, you can turn around with some completely casteist ideas, and all these things — how do you hold them together? But that is what people are. They are like little pieces of disparate things held together by their muscles and blood.

What does it take to accept our parents as they are?

I told somebody the other day that I think the truth is that I was her mother. I was the one that was indulging this wild, genius, cruel, mean, wonder child. I was the one who had to hold my peace because of her illness all the time. In many ways, our roles were completely reversed. I felt that ultimately, we were just two adults who were sort of dealing with each other in some way. I stopped being a child or having any expectations of her as a mother long ago. I left. Because I would have been crushed if I hadn't...But I never wanted to defeat her. I never wanted to win. I wanted her to go out, like a queen. And she did.

You do that for your father as well, you let him be when you met him for the first time.

As I write in the book, I did spend a whole night away looking at myself, wondering, God, what am I going to need, and then it was just like beyond everything I could have possibly imagined. I was 25. I was already a pretty political being. It took me three seconds to shift between shock at seeing him in the complete mess that he was — peeing in his clothes, his ear bitten off and all that. And then suddenly being like, 'Oh, God, thank God he's not a CEO!' I would have been more distressed dealing with that.

You write about your mother that to escape her violent father, she married the first person who proposed to her. What does it say about generational violence? What kind of individuals and societies does it create?

It's not only that my mother experienced the violence of her father, but she also inherited that violence. It wasn't just a reaction to that violence. She was also like that. I can see how both my brother and I made a very conscious effort not to replicate that. But I think intergenerational violence and trauma are very real things. Not just intra-family, but also caste, ethnicity and religion and all of that. You can feel it trapped in your muscles sometimes. I feel that if there has been violence, and you have been the victim of it, emotional or physical or sexual or social, you have to find the strength to not think of yourself as a victim. The minute you do that, you circumscribe yourself. That's not easy to do in our social systems. That's not easy to do in today's India, [if you are] a Muslim, woman, whatever, but even if it's not easy to do, it is the task that you have. No one else can sort you out.

You have a towering personality. Who would have thought that you also had your struggles of coming from a small town and being in this big city?

For me, the guiding principle has been the search for real liberty, real freedom. Obviously, freedom from whatever was going on at home. People say, "you were so brave." I say, "no. I wasn't brave. I did not have a choice. My choice was to be crushed and killed." So it's not bravery, it's desperation. But once you make that choice then the point is why? Because I want to be happy, not because I want to suffer...It's been a constant search for some sort of ideal freedom in your head. I'm following some sort of chemical trail in my head, which is the trail of freedom. That means freedom from being trapped by your attachment, from having a lot of money or wanting to be famous forever, or indeed wanting to look young forever or wanting to Botox my way into youth. I don't want to. I just want to be, just let me be. Arundhati Roy at Jamia Millia Islamia to show solidarity with students during an anti-CAA protest in New Delhi, India, on January 11, 2020. You mention a number of times that you 'make your safest place the most dangerous, when it is not, I make it so.

Once childhood has been totally unsafe... I mean, it can be that you live in Kashmir or you live on the streets, and you have external dangers. But it's a different matter if your own mother is the danger. Then you don't trust anything. I'm always drawn towards the unsafe. It's easy for me to understand that. It's harder for me to understand this happy family s**t. So sometimes, even when there is a relationship which seems very secure, it makes me almost feel like I can't breathe. Like, "where's the danger? Let me go!In this context, how do we understand love? Not just from people, but like those you mention in the book — squirrels, dogs, the tree outside your window.

ventional love, which is just like maa-baap (mother, father), or beta (son), or baccha (child). Then if that's not something that you've chosen or that's not something on offer for you, then are you going to get bitter? Or are you going to just find a whole spectrum of things outside of that, of friendships, of nature, of the world, which becomes a very intimate thing. So for me, it is like the political stuff that I write about. Or this book that is written in the backdrop of what's going on in Gaza. For me, that is as personal as anything else. And especially to women, I don't have any lectures — 'don't do this'; 'don't get married'. No. But there's so much else also to choose from. There are so many other ways in which you can live your life. Apart from these standard little kind of roadmaps that are given to you.

You mention in the book how after you won the Booker Prize, people started talking about The God of Small Things in other ways and deracinating it of its politics. Is there a machinery at work that wants to remove politics or ground reality from literature?

I think there definitely is; that doesn't mean it works, but there is definitely that effort. At some point, maybe up to five or six years ago, there was a sense that literature is something else, and politics is something else. I think now things have changed because the world has moved into some other space. We cannot deny that there was a whole industry of writers who thought that literature and politics are two separate things, and who did not see that even if you think you're writing something which isn't political, your politics shines through it.

In the 2000s, you were accused of 'celebrityhood' while talking about people's movements. Now you live in a world dominated by social media influencers where everyone wants to be a celebrity. How do you assess this world?

When I wrote The God of Small Things, I suddenly became this celebrity on the cover of every magazine. Then there was this rage when I wrote The End of Imagination, and then I started writing on Narmada. You do have to go through a period where people misunderstand you, call you names, attribute motives to you and all of that. I think my Mary Roy training of not responding helped me there. I was like, I'll just keep doing what I'm doing until they get bored, or tired, or realise that at least they aren't true. What's very interesting is that while writing those essays, I knew that I was going to get a hate attack. I wasn't necessarily writing to be liked. The like button didn't exist. I wonder where that is anymore, because now, even if you're in the alternate media, you have to be liked. You have to belong somewhere. Whereas at that time, I belonged nowhere. I was just saving what I thought.

Now, it is very temporary, but there's a level of democratisation because of online. But it's still a corporate space, still controlled. You move everybody online and then you shut off the internet. For months, like they did in Kashmir. It's like you're forcing everyone economically in terms of media, everything online, and then you control it. So the minute things are not to your liking, you switch it off, and here we are, all of us thinking they're free and so on.Arundhati Roy slogged, worked, understood different loves, won a Booker prize, went to jail, still battles legal cases and shares her money to fund other people's works.Arundhati Roy slogged, worked, understood different loves, won a Booker prize, went to jail, still battles legal cases and shares her money to fund other people's works. | Photo Credit: Getty Images

In the book, you write of wanting to think alone. How does one think alone in the time of social media?

I would say switching off for at least some days week. I have nothing against social media. I have nothing against Facebook, or whatever, forgetting the politics of Mark Zuckerberg. The reason I'm not on social media is not a moral judgement. It is that fear that your head will just be full of noise and there'll never be that time to contemplate, even if you're alone, because you're never alone. As it is obvious in my book, I grew up near a river, with squirrels and no shops and no restaurants and no theatre and no phone. And that's fundamental to my makeup, and it's a privilege. People, are growing up suckling on mobile phones, even before their brains are formed. Other people are pouring more information than any human brain can possibly process. So I feel like we are heading toward a mass mental health crisis. Earlier, they used to say that psychosis had to do with hearing voices in your head. Now, you can never be alone. All the time there are just these voices. Talk us through the Trust you formed to share money. You talk about the work that needs to be done which is not funded by big money.

I wrote an essay once, 'Capitalism: The Ghost Story' - how charities, and these are ways of corporates gaining more traction, are actually influencing or owning the process of policy-making itself. So one developed a pretty solid critique and a hostility towards these corporate entities. You knew that they were up to turning rights into charity, turning activists into employees, all of that was going on. When my books began to earn more money than I needed, the first thing is that people are unable to say that I don't need this much. I'm happy. I'm not sacrificing. I'm wearing all the clothes I want, I'm having all the fun I want, but why not share it? Now that's a delicate process of how to do that. How do you make it clear that it's a political act of solidarity, not charity. It's not some guilt trip. It is not my baap ka paisa (father's money). It's what I have earned with my work. It is just the same thing as feeling that the political is personal and vice versa. So we set up this Trust with people who I love and who I agree with politically.

The whole point of it was that we would not be throwing money at people. We would help if someone was already doing something, and needed a little push. You wouldn't give money for someone to start doing something. They should have already been doing that thing. Secondly, there are so many people who don't know how to work this NGO machine and make proposals and write in English. There are so many people, so many wonderful people who are working, who just need that little bit of help, of transport, or just to survive. It's not something you are doing for yourself. It's public money, but it has to be used responsibly. And I feel like people — writers and all — nobody writes about money.

Hindu nationalism and corporate interests. In the last 11-12 years, how has it shaped not just India but the world around us?

In The Doctor and the Saint, I wrote, if you just look at who these corporations and what castes these families belong to...what does it show?

It's not just Hindu nationalism. It's like modernising and corporatising caste in that way. It's absolutely shocking. Then you look at the judges, you look at the media, the ownership, it's like you're running an apartheid society, but it's not colour coded, it's got some other kind of code. What is the aim of this? The aim of this is that those particular castes continue to rule disguised as nationalists. And that wealth continues to be concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. Recently your book, Azadi, was banned in Kashmir. You have had UAPA cases, you've been to jail.

Falls and their impact on the elderly: causes and prevention



Meenakshi was an active senior citizen who enjoyed her morning walks and led a busy, independent life. One morning, the 76-year-old, after finishing her daily prayers, got up to head to the kitchen. Unaware that the granite floor had just been mopped, she slipped and fell. A single fall can shatter not just bones, but also one's confidence, independence, and dignity, often marking the beginning of a decline in quality of life. Meenakshi sustained a hip fracture and a head injury. She was confined to bed for several months. Her busy son and daughter could not take care of her themselves, owing to their tight work schedules and so, they had to hire help. Meenakshi stopped going out for walks and to all the usual places she used to go to with her friends. She stopped cooking her grandson's favourite dishes. Once cheerful and energetic, she became quiet, dejected and lonely. This is not an isolated incident but reflects a reality in Indian homes. It highlights the need to address the causes and risks of falls among the elderly in India's rapidly ageing society. Globally, 28-35% of individuals aged 65 and over, experience a fall each year, and this number rises to over 40% among those aged 70 and above. Of these, up to 30% suffer from fractures, trauma and soft tissue injuries. In India, falls affect 30% to 50% of adults over 60 years.

The situation is particularly concerning due tolow awarenessand delayed treatment, often caused bylimited access to care. Falls are one of the prime reasons for hospital admissions among the elderly. Most require a hospital stay of 10 days or more, and months of home rehabilitation. This can be avoided with education and increased awareness about fall prevention. Falls are a heavy burden on the individual as they lead to long hospital stays, followed by rehabilitation, causing a significant financial burden. A fall also directly impacts hospitals, especially government hospitals, as they are already understaffed and struggle to give specialised geriatric care in general wards. Preventing falls is not just a health imperative but an economic pages its.

Age-related body changes: It is natural for elders to experience declining vision and hearing, as well as weakened muscles and stiffening joints, leading to unsteady gaits. A misstep in such a situation will most likely lead to a fall. Chronic illnesses: Conditions such as arthritis cause joint pain and stiffness. Osteoporosis weakens the bone to the extent that a simple fall can lead to a serious fracture. Parkinson's Disease affects movement control, causing tremors. A stroke can lead to poor coordination and imbalance. Dementia impairs judgement and spatial awareness. Diabetes causes numbing and tingling in the feet, affecting balance. Vestibular disorders too, can cause imbalance. Medications: Sedatives, antihistamines, drugs for vertigo/nausea and anti-depressants can cause drowsiness, poor reaction time and poor coordination.

Psychological factors: Depression in some elders causes inattentiveness, lack of focus and poor coordination, all of which increase fall risk. Environmental hazards: Poor lighting, slippery floors, steep stairs and objects lying around are the most common external causes of falls in elders. An elder who has suffered a fall should not only receive physical treatment, but also counselling and emotional reassurance. The fear of falling again restricts their movement and decreases their confidence. Let's go back to Meenakshi: after her bad fall, she first lost her confidence and independence. Her dependency on family members and hired help increased. The guilt associated with this dependency resulted in social withdrawal, which in turn led to depression and anxiety. A mere fall had turned an active and cheerful senior citizen into someone battling emotional grief. Now that we understand the serious consequences of a fall, it is important to take proactive measures towards prevention. Regular fall screenings are essential to identify individuals who are at risk, and to implement timely interventions.

Public places should also try adopting elder-friendly designs, such as ramps, smooth pavements and railing to prevent falls. File photograph used for representational purposes onlyPublic places should also try adopting elder-friendly designs, such as ramps, smooth pavements and railing to prevent falls. File photograph used for representational purposes onlyNeed for assessment A comprehensive review of chronic diseases and past fall incidents is necessary. A thorough and detailed examination of all the drugs taken by the individual, with an assessment of side effects, especially those that induce dizziness and low blood pressure needs to be undertaken. Check for high-risk

medications: Identify drugs known to increase fall risk, such as sedatives (e.g., benzodiazepines, sleeping pills); antidepressants (tricyclics, SSRIs); antipsychotics; antihypertensives (especially when causing postural hypotension); diuretics (can cause dehydration or electrolyte imbalance) and opioids or strong painkillers Review polypharmacy: Taking more than four medications increases the risk of falls. Check for: duplicate therapies; drug—drug interactions; inappropriate combinations. Assess dosage and timing: High doses increase side effects. The timing (e.g., night doses of sedatives) of medications can affect balance during night-time bathroom trips. Check for postural hypotension: Assess if the patient feels dizzy or lightheaded when standing up and review and adjust blood pressure medications accordingly.

How it is done: The elderly person is asked to get up from a chair, walk three metres (10 feet), turn around, walk back and sit on the chair. The patient wears regular footwear and if needed, can use a walking aid. Results: >12 seconds: increased risk of falls If the screening test turns out positive, a detailed assessment should be done, which can be either a short physical performance battery or a Performance Oriented Mobility Assessment. Muscle strength testing: Different groups of muscles are tested, such as the thighs, calves, hip and arms. The doctor asks the patient to push or pull against resistance and grades the strength. Cognitive assessment: Cognitive screening is a simple evaluation used by doctors to check a senior's thinking abilities, including memory, attention, problem-solving, and judgement. These mental skills are essential to safely navigate daily activities and avoid hazards that could lead to falls. Doctors may also use quick, standardised tools such as: Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE): Assesses memory, language, and orientation. Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA): Screens for mild cognitive impairment.

Eye and ear assessments: Hearing loss and reduced vision are natural consequences of ageing. Poor vision is directly responsible for falls, and inner ear imbalances can cause dizziness and unsteady gait. Both these impairments should be regularly assessed. An effective way to prevent falls in the elderly is by improving balance, strength, flexibility, and body awareness. File photograph used for representational purposes onlyAn effective way to prevent falls in the elderly is by improving balance, strength, flexibility, and body awareness. File photograph used for representational purposes onlyAt home, here are some safety tips to prevent falls in the elderly: Flooring: Avoid slippery flooring -- granite and marble in homes -- as well as staircases. These surfaces increase the risk of falls.

Bathrooms: Wet bathrooms are a major hazard. Instead of bucket/mug bathing, encourage the use of a shower cubicle. Soapy water on the floor is dangerous. Avoid sitting on a stool and leaning over to pick up a fallen soap bar - this could cause the stool to topple over. Install grab bars near toilet seats, inside the shower cubicle, and near the wash basin. Use anti-skid mats in bathrooms. Climbing into a bathtub is highly risky for elders and should be avoided. Bathroom door mats should be firm and not slide easily. Furnishings: Carpets and rugs on the floor should be avoided, especially if the elderly person uses walking aids. Too much furniture, as well as clutter such as stools and toys lying around, increases the risk of falls. Lighting: Bright lighting in all parts of the house is very important. Motion sensor lighting helps in corridors as well as bathrooms, especially when the senior citizen gets up several times in the night. Steps and raised flooring should be marked brightly with tape or paint. Replace broken floor tiles and loose floorboards promptly to avoid falls.

Posture: Reaching for things out of reach is a fall haz-Elderly people should never climb onto a stool to reach high shelves in the kitchen or elsewhere. Sitting on the floor and getting up suddenly can cause dizziness and a fall Footwear: Always wear footwear that fits well and never use ones with worn-out soles. Exercise regimens that could help prevent falls include: Standing on one leg: This exercise strengthens the legs and core. Practicing it regularly helps elders improve balance and prevents falls. Tandem walking: This involves walking in a straight line, placing the heel of one foot directly in front of the toes of the other foot, as if walking on a tightrope. This improves coordination and balance. Tai Chi: A gentle martial art that improves balance and prevents falls by strengthening muscles and mindbody awareness. Yoga: An effective way to prevent falls in the elderly is by improving balance, strength, flexibility, and body awareness. It also reduces anxiety and fear of falling, helping seniors move more confidently and steadily in their daily lives. Recommended poses include: the tree pose (vrikshasana), the warrior pose (virabhadrasana), and the chair pose (utkatasana). Resistance training: Thisinvolves using weights, resistance bands, or body weight to strengthen muscles, especially in the legs and core, which are vital for stability. For older adults, regular resistance training improves balance, posture, and the ability to recover from a stumble, significantly reducing the risk of falls.

UGC's Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Framework: What it proposes and why Kerala is pushing back | Explained

The story so far: On August 20, the University Grants Commission (UGC) issued a public notice on its development of a draft Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF). LOCF is intended to serve as a model curriculum to "promote flexibility and innovation in programme design and syllabi development." The regulatory body also released the draft LOCFs prepared for nine undergraduate subjects, i.e., Anthropology, Chemistry, Commerce, Economics, Geography, Home Science, Mathematics, Physical Education and Political Science, that it has developed so far. It has presently sought feedback from stakeholders on the draft documents.

What prompted the LOCF?

The move aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 that aspires to shift focus from rote learning to a holistic, multidisciplinary and (OBE) model. It also lays stress on ushering in a "forward-thinking approach", while integrating the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into the curricula of multidisciplinary courses.

Why is the Kerala government opposing the UGC

move?

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala has strongly objected to the proposed curriculum reforms,

calling them a ploy to impose the Rashtriya Swayamsevak

Sangh's (RSS) Hindutva ideology under the guise of OBE.Kerala's Higher Education Minister R. Bindu, while asserting that her views are based on an initial assessment, said the LOCF aligns closely with the ideological positions of the Sangh Parivar. She expressed concerns over the inclusion of ancient texts such the Upanishads, Mahabharatha and Arthashastra as sources for sustainable development studies. Equally troubling, according to Dr. Bindu, is the recommendation to include the biographies of ideologues, including V.D. Savarkar and Deendayal Upadhyaya, as suggested reading in certain courses. She also criticised proposals to examine concepts such as 'Ram Rajya' in the context of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and environmental, social and governance (ESG) frameworks. Such inclusions, she cautioned, contradict the stated objectives of NEP 2020, which aims at fostering academic flexibility, and instead promote ideologically driven content.

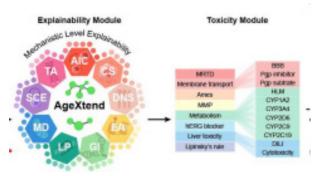
How has the academic community responded to LOCF?

While teachers' organisations are yet to finalise their stance on the LOCF, some in the academic community fear that the proposed curricula may undermine the scope for multidisciplinary possibilities at the undergraduate level. Concerns have also been raised about a potential decline in teaching opportunities for language faculty.

I think that is a choice that one makes. There's a con-

Ranga Reddy **TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2025 INDIAN CHRONICLE**

Indian researchers develop AI-based platform to identify age-defying molecules rapidly



Longevity has always been the Holy Grail of medicine, and extending life beyond its conceivable end has driven kings, researchers and pharma companies alike through a roller-coaster ride that invariably stops at ground level, no wonder the search continues. Now, it is an Indian group from the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi that has used a platform based on Artificial Intelligence to discover molecules that promote healthy ageing. Researchers at IIIT-Delhi have developed AgeXtend as a tool to efficiently cut down the time taken to identify viable molecules with geroprotectors, or age defying properties, through conventional research. The authors who have published the experiment in a recent issue of Nature Aging, have said that they screened over 1.1 billion compounds. over a period of two years, and the platform had uncovered several promising candidates validated through experiments on yeast, worms (C. elegans), and human cell models. A fraction of them, less than 1%, have been identified with anti-ageing properties.

Gaurav Ahuja, one of the authors, from the department of Computational Biology, IIIT- Delhi, says, "AgeXtend uses AI to predict and identify compounds with anti-ageing properties, assess their safety, and understand their biological effects. It looks at the structure of new molecules and can predict accurately if they have gero-protective characteristics. But where this product diverges from others that might already have been employed by researchers is that it can explain why it considers certain compounds as antiageing, it reveals why it chose these components — the mechanisms. This will help to guide further research and indicate the particular direction in which validation needs to proceed."How exactly does it work? "The chemical space is like a universe, and I do not know the co-ordinates for my intended destination. What AgeXtend does is to serve as the GPS, pointing out to us where exactly we need to go, Dr. Ahuja explained. Apparently, it had successfully identified the benefits of well-known molecules like metformin and taurine, even without prior knowledge of these compounds, he added. IIIT-D PhD scholar Sakshi Arora who is also the lead author in the journal paper, described AgeXtend as "a discovery engine unlocking new possibilities for promoting health and longevity." Scanning 1.2 billion molecules makes this the largest study so far on the subject, Dr. Ahuja claimed. Candidates scanned included compounds from commercial drugs, Chinese drugs, ayurveda and molecules approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The research team has made available its code and data on open source on the website, free for researchers and students, and at a charge for companies. They have also reached out to pharma companies to further investigate the viable compounds. Dr. Ahuja added.

Marius, the man who named Jupiter's Galilean moons

ugly head worldwide. The act of representing someone else's ideas, thoughts, language, or expression as original work, plagiarism not only discourages creativity, but also steals from the actual creators. In a world with artificial intelligence (AI) that we live in, more checks and balances are currently being sought after as it has become easier than ever to plagiarise. Plagiarism, however, hasn't been a concern just now and has probably been around for as long as ideas and expressions have been exchanged. Charges of plagiarism, when proven, can tarnish a person's reputation, dealing them a blow from which they can probably never stand up again. On some occasions, just the charges are enough to sideline someone, even if they aren't proven beyond doubt. German astronomer Simon Marius was at the receiving end of one such episode over 400 years ago.

This portrait of Marius appeared as a frontispiece (illustration facing the title page of a book) to the Mundus lovialis. In addition to containing the first printed image of a telescope, it also shows Jupiter's moons in orbit around the planet - something that Galileo didn't include in his book. This portrait of Marius appeared as a frontispiece (illustration facing the title page of a book) to the Mundus Iovialis. In addition to containing the first printed image of a telescope, it also shows Jupiter's moons in orbit around the planet something that Galileo didn't include in his book. | Photo Credit: WIKIMEDIA COMMONSAn astronomer, mathematician, physician, and calendar maker, Simon Mayr was born in Gunzenhausen in 1573. Marius was his Latinised name for the international scientific community, as was the fashion of the times. Starts with a songThe story goes that when George Frederick, Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach, heard young Marius singing, the regent took a liking to him. As a result of this, Marius was enrolled in the Fürstenschule at Heilsbronn, where he studied until 1601. Even though his plans to study at Königsberg didn't fruition, he managed to meet celebrated Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe at Prague in 1601. His career also took shape through the time he spent south of the Alps, as he studied medicine in Padua until 1605 before becoming a medical practitioner. It was probably during his time at Padua that his path first crossed with Galileo Galilei and the two men might have met. From 1606, until his death in 1624, Marius served as the court mathematician at Ansbach in Germany. Belgian spyglassHaving settled in Ansbach in 1606, Marius' first attempts to construct a telescope weren't successful owing to the poor quality of the glass. By 1609, however, he possessed a Belgian spyglass, thanks to his friend and military man Johannes Philipp Fuchs von Bimbach. As

Plagiarism is a big area of concern that is rearing its someone who had already observed the comet of 1596 and established the position of a supernova in 1604 with his unaided eye, Marius didn't need telling twice to employ the telescope for astronomy. He took a look at Jupiter using this on December 29, 1609 according to the Julian calendar in use in his region (January 8, 1610 according to the Gregorian calendar) and saw "... four tiny stars, sometimes behind, sometimes in front of Jupiter, aligned in a straight line with the planet." If this were true, Marius had, in fact, independently discovered the four major moons of Jupiter. Flame of a candle Nearly three years later, on December 15, 1612, Marius became the first person to use a telescope to observe the Andromeda Galaxy. In the interim years, he had observed the phases of Venus and also sun spots. He published his scientific results in his 1614 Mundus lovialis (The World of Jupiter). In this, he described his sighting of the Andromeda Galaxy as "like a candle seen at night through a horn" - the horn being a reference to the horn lanterns that were in common usage back then. Additionally, the book also mentioned his sightings of the Jovian satellites, including the dates. Galileo's outrageGalileo, who had observed Jupiter's four major moons (now also called as the Galilean moons) on January 7, 1610 (Gregorian calendar), had already published Sidereus Nuncius (The Sidereal Messenger) in Venice in 1610 and was the first to announce the discovery. He was incensed by Marius' claims four years later of observing these moons just a day after him and saw it as an attempt to usurp his priority. He retaliated in his 1623 book II Saggiatore (The Assayer), accusing Marius of plagiarism. More than four centuries on, debate on the validity of Marius' claims still persists. The shadow of plagiarism looms so large over Marius' works that credit isn't given even where it is due. This not only includes his observation of the Andromeda Galaxy, but also is nigh impossible for us to determine if Marius does deserve credit for independently discovering the four major satellites of Jupiter, there's no doubt that he was the one who gave them the names that are now in use. Galileo had called them the Medicean moons in honour of his patrons (the Medici family), but Marius mulled on the suggestions provided to him by renowned German astronomer and mathematician Johannes Kepler and decided on calling them Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto - Jupiter's companions from Greek mythology. While astronomers preferred calling them as just I, II, III, and IV - just as Galileo had referred to them numerically - for over 300 years, the names that Marius suggested finally won over when these moons got more character thanks to advances in as-

Magnets deliver shot in the arm for making oxygen in space

Wherever humans go, they need oxygen to breathe — and soon enough humans are going to go to new parts of space and stay there for longer. On long-term space missions like the International Space Station (ISS), the gas is stored in tanks carried from the earth or made by passing a large current through water, splitting it into hydrogen

In a study in Nature Chemistry on August 18, scientists from Germany, the UK, and the US have reported a way to use a certain kind of magnet to make this process, called electrolysis, a lot more efficient. The electrolyser device has electrodes at two ends, one positively charged (anode) and the other negatively charged (cathode). Water is a poor conductor of electricity, so it's mixed with a small amount of a substance that helps electrons pass through it. This substance is called the electrolyte and is usually some salt, acid or base. The scientists wanted to check how magnetic fields influence water electrolysis in microgravity. To this end they conducted an experiment at the Centre of Applied Space Technology and Microgravity in Bremen, where there are facilities to simulate these conditions.

They studied two reactions: one that produced hydrogen using platinum electrodes and another that produced oxygen using iridium oxide electrodes, both in a liquid electrolyte solution. They compared how the reactions worked with and without microgravity and with and without a powerful neodymium magnet placed beneath the electrode. Neodymium magnets are strong, permanent magnets made of the rare earth metal along with iron and boron. The magnet was oriented to maximise its effect on the setup.

The main problem with electrolysis in microgravity is that a 'lack' of gravity causes gas bubbles to stick to electrodes instead of rising to the water's surface and away from the electric apparatus. Thus operators resort to complicated, energy-intensive processes to remove these



gases. During their tests, the scientists found that for hydrogen production, the magnet's presence increased the density of current through the electrolyte by 25% with microgravity conditions and 26% without. When they used platinum mesh electrodes in the electrolyser, the current density increased by around 240% in microgravity conditions. This meant the bubbles could detach and move away

The team reported similar results for the oxygen-producing reaction, although they were less pronounced. With the magnetic field, the current density in microgravity conditions increased by about 23%. Using a magnetic field during electrolysis also significantly slowed the rate at which electrical current passing through the electrolyte decreased

"The demonstrators provide a proof-of-concept for the utilisation of magnetically induced flow control as a lightweight, energy-efficient and reliable phase-separation approach in electrolytic cells that pave the way for the development of next-generation electrolytic water-splitting devices for application in space environments," the scientists wrote in their paper

Poliovirus found in wastewater in Spain, Germany, and Poland



In 1988, the World Health Organization (WHO) called for the global eradication of polio. Within a decade, one of the three poliovirus strains was already virtually eradicated - meaning a permanent reduction of the disease to zero new cases worldwide. Polio, also known as poliomyelitis, is an extremely contagious disease caused by the poliovirus. It attacks the nervous system and can lead to full paralysis within hours. The virus enters through the mouth and multiplies in the intestine. Infected people shed poliovirus into the environment by the faecal-oral route. About one in every 200 infections results in irreversible paralysis (usually affecting the legs). Of those who become paralysed, 5-10% die due to immobilised breathing muscles.

Since 1988, the global number of poliovirus cases has decreased by over 99%. Today, only two countries — Pakistan and Afghanistan — are considered "endemic" for polio. This means that the disease is regularly transmitted in the country. Yet in recent months, poliovirus has been detected in wastewater in Germany, Spain and Poland. This discovery does not confirm infections in the population, but it is a wake-up call for Europe, which was declared polio free in 2002. Any gaps in vaccination coverage could see a resurgence of the disease. Poliovirus strains originating from regions where the virus remained in circulation led to outbreaks among unvaccinated people in Tajikistan and Ukraine in 2021, and Israel in 2022. By contrast, in the UK · where poliovirus was detected in wastewater in 2022 no cases of paralytic disease were recorded. This information highlights the varied effect of poliovirus detection. Why? In areas with under-immunised populations, the virus can circulate widely and cause paralysis. But in communities with strong vaccination coverage, the virus often remains limited to symptomless ("asymptomatic") infections or is detectable only in wastewater. In this sense, the mere detection of the virus in the environment can serve as a canary in the coal mine. It warns public health officials to check vaccination coverage and take measures such as boosting vaccination campaigns, improving access to healthcare and enhancing disease surveillance to prevent outbreaks. Rich source of information

Wastewater surveillance, an approach reinvigorated during the COVID pandemic, has proven invaluable for early detection of disease outbreaks. Wastewater is a rich source of information. It contains a blend of human excrement, including viruses, bacteria, fungi and chemical traces. Analysing this mixture offers valuable insights for public health officials. Routine wastewater testing in the three councases were reported in any of the three countries. Vaccinederived poliovirus strains emerge from the weakened live poliovirus contained in oral polio vaccines. If this weakened

virus circulates long enough among under-immunised or unimmunised groups, or in people with weakened immune systems (such as transplant recipients or those undergoing chemotherapy), it can genetically shift back into a form capable of causing disease. In this case, it is possible that the virus was shed in the sewage by an infected asymptomatic person. But it is also possible that a person who was recently vaccinated with the oral vaccine (with the weakened virus) shed the virus in the wastewater, which subsequently evolved until re-acquiring the mutations that cause paralysis. A different type of vaccine exists. The inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) cannot revert to a dangerous form. However, it is more expensive and more complex to deliver, needing trained health workers to administer and more complex procedures. This can limit the feasibility of deploying it in poor countries — often where the need to vaccinate is greater. This does not mean that the oral polio vaccine is not any good. On the contrary, they have been instrumental in eradicating certain poliovirus strains globally. The real issue arises when vaccination coverage is insufficient. In 2023, polio immunisation coverage in oneyear-olds in Europe stood around 95%. This is well above the 80% "herd immunity" threshold — when enough people in a population are vaccinated so that vulnerable groups are protected from the disease. In Spain, Germany and Poland, coverage with three doses ranges from 85-93%, protecting most people from severe disease. Yet underimmunised groups and those with weakened immune systems remain at risk. The massive progress in polio eradication that happened over the past three decades is the result of the global effort to fight the disease. But mounting humanitarian crises — sparked by conflict, natural disasters and climate change — are significantly disrupting vaccination programmes essential for safeguarding public health. If we consider that already 30% of all countries in the world have a vaccine coverage of less than 80%, with immunisation coverage as low as 36% in some countries, any further delay or disruption in vaccination programmes may be catastrophic. More is needed to safeguard immunisation programmes and prevent undoing decades of progress. The COVID pandemic has reminded us that viruses know no borders. Ensuring widespread, sustained vaccination is our best defence against polio's resurgence. The alert triggered by wastewater surveillance systems in Spain, Poland and Germany highlights how wastewater-based surveillance provides public health authorities with another weapon in the fight against infectious diseases. Mariachiara Di Cesare is a professor in population studies and global health, University of Essex. Francis Hassard is reader, public health microbiology, Cranfield University. This article is republished from The Conversa-

Play-based learning for India's future

If we are to build a Viksit Bharat, we must start where life begins — by nurturing the potential of our youngest citizens. It is in the joyful laughter of a child at an Anganwadi centre, in the rhymes they sing and the blocks they build, that the promise of our nation's future takes shape. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has placed its youngest citizens at the heart of its development iourney. Mr. Modi has redefined our national priorities not only by investing in universities and digital infrastructure, but by recognising the critical importance of the first classroom a child steps into: the Anganwadi. In today's India, play is no longer just a pastime; it is policy. And the results speak for themselves. Over the past decade, the Modi government has fundamentally reimagined its approach to early childhood development. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognises that 85% of brain development occurs before the age of six. If we seek a smarter, healthier, and more productive population, we must invest where in the first six years of life.

Scientific evidence supports this shift. A study by the Department of Clinical Epidemiology at CMC Vellore found that children who received 18 to 24 months of structured early childhood care and education (ECCE) showed significant and lasting IQ gains — up to 19 points by age five, and 5 to 9 points by age nine. These findings are aligned with global research. As Nobel Laureate Dr. James Heckman famously said, "The earlier, the better — and the smarter the return." His research estimates that investments in early childhood yield returns of 13-18%. A child's first schoolRecognising both the economic and social importance of ECCE, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi — an initiative that transforms Anganwadi Centres into vibrant early learning hubs. For the first time, Anganwadi workers are being systematically trained in ECCE, focusing on activity-based and play-oriented approaches using local and indigenous materials. Budget allocations for teaching-learning materials have also been significantly enhanced, and monthly ECCE days have been institutionalised. Today, the Anganwadi Centre is not just a place for nutrition — it is every child's first school, nurturing curiosity, creativity, and holistic development in the most critical years of life. Holistic develop-

To guide this transformation, the Ministry has introduced Aadharshila, the National Curriculum for Early Child-



hood Care and Education for children aged 3-6 years. Aadharshila focuses on the holistic development of children emphasising not only intellectual growth but also emotional, physical, and social well-being. It approaches learning through structured play, allowing children to grow and thrive in a nurturing environment. Children are instinctively drawn to play — turning every corner of their world into a space for discovery and joy. With the right environment, this instinct becomes the foundation for lifelong learning. Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi nurtures this spirit by providing safe, structured, and stimulating settings where children can thrive through guided play and learning. ECCE plays a foundational role in shaping the future of our nation.

Under the Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi initiative, Anganwadi Centres across the nation are being transformed into nurturing spaces for holistic early learning. A structured Aadharshila's 5+1 weekly plan ensures that the day begins with 30 minutes of free play, followed by structured activities that enhance language, creativity, motor skills, and social interaction. After a nutritious lunch and rest time, the day concludes with outdoor play and conversation that reinforce values and build emotional connections. This balanced approach to structured and unstructured play is critical, especially in the light of NEP 2020 which has raised the formal school entry age to six years. Structured ECCE ensures that children are ready for school — emotionally, socially, and cognitively. What is truly heartening is the growing trust of parents across the country. Families who once viewed Anganwadis as just nutrition centres now see them as the first stepping stones in their child's educational jour-

Trump aide Peter Navarro dubs Ukraine conflict 'Modi's war', says peace runs through New Delhi



US President Donald Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro on Tuesday dubbed the Russia-Ukraine war "Modi's war", adding that the road to peace between Russia and Ukraine partly runs through New Delhi. This comes a day after the US dramatically raised tariffs on Indian products to 50 per cent, leaving low-margin products such as textiles and footwear unavailable in the US market.

"Everybody in America loses because of what India is doing. Consumers, businesses and workers lose because India's high tariffs cost us jobs, factories and income. And then the taxpayers lose because we've got to fund Modi's war. The road to peace runs at least partly right through New Delhi," Navarro said in an interview with Bloomberg TV. Navarro reiterated "Modi's war" after the interviewer said "you mean Putin's war".Responding to a question on whether or not India is sending signals that it is going to stop buying Russian oil, Navarro said, "They [India] are not," adding that he is "puzzled" because Prime Minister

Narendra Modi is a "great leader". "Look, it's really easy. India can get 25 per cent off tomorrow if it stops buying Russian oil," Navarro said. Reiterating US concerns over India's purchase of Russian oil, Navarro said: "When Indian refiners, in partnership with Russian refiners, sell oil at a premium to the rest of the world, Russia uses the money it gets to fund its war machine to kill more Ukrainians. And then the next thing that happens, of course, is Ukraine comes to the US and Europe and says, give us some more money. So everybody in America loses because of what India is doing." Meanwhile, officials in the Indian government have maintained that India will buy energy from wherever it gets the best deal. Vinay Kumar, Delhi's Ambassador to Moscow, said: "We have clearly stated that our objective is the energy security of 1.4 billion people of India, and India's cooperation with Russia, as with several other countries, has helped to bring about stability in the global oil market, Kumar told Russian news agency TASS

His remarks follow those of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar who, while in Moscow earlier this month, said he was "very perplexed" by the additional 25 per cent US tariff on India because "it was the Americans" who said, "we should do everything to stabilise the world's energy markets, including buying oil from Russia". Echoing Jaishankar, Kumar reiterated that "the US decision is unfair, unreasonable and unjustified", adding that the Indian government will continue taking measures to protect the national interest. "Trade takes place on a commercial basis. So if the basis of commercial transactions is right, Indian companies will continue buying from wherever they get the best deal. So that's what the current situation is," he was guoted as saying by TASS.

Govt extends import duty exemption on cotton till Dec 31 as 50% US tariffs come into effect

A day after steep 50 per cent US tariffs came into effect that has raised concerns of job losses in the textile industry, the Finance Ministry on Thursday extended the exemption on cotton import duty till December 31, a move that would help the Indian textile industry place long-term cotton import orders. The move comes after manufacturers flagged that the duty exemption given till September 30 was too short a window to place fresh orders and would only help in-transit shipments.

"To augment the availability of cotton for the Indian textile sector, the Central Government had temporarily exempted the import duty on cotton from 19 August 2025 till 30 September 2025. In order to support exporters further, the Central Government has decided to extend the import duty exemption on cotton (HS 5201) from 30 September 2025 till 31 December 2025," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement. The import duty exemption on cotton has been a long-standing demand of the Indian industry, but the government has maintained an 11 per cent duty largely to protect small cotton farmers. Notably, cotton was among the four items that saw the sharpest increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the government in May this year as cotton production has been declining over the years.

However, the exemption extended till December 31 would impact farmers as plucking of cotton starts from October and is offloaded in the market by March. The period between October and March is known as the peak season. While the elimination of duty is largely aimed at addressing the challenges faced by the industry—ranging from steep US tariffs to high cotton prices—it could also act as a signal to US negotiators that India may be willing to negotiate imports of cotton from Washington, an industry executive said. In a letter to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) chairman, Sudhir Sekhri, on Wednesday said that the recent tariff hike by the US, doubling the duties on the export of apparel and other goods to 50 percent, is indeed a "huge challenge for merchandise exporters".

"However, we are of the firm belief that India's principled and measured stand will ultimately benefit our nation's economic interests in the long term. Your government's commitment to safeguarding the nation's progress and self-reliance is commendable. Our industry is already experiencing the effects of the tariff hike, with potential losses and order cancellations. We are exploring alternate markets and



strategies to mitigate the impact of the US tariffs. We are also in active discussions with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and have been assured of their best possible support," the letter read. New Delhi-based think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that almost all of India's \$1.20 billion cotton imports in FY2025 were of staple length 28 mm or above, and that under the India–Australia ECTA, 51,000 MT of such cotton already enters duty-free. This means the biggest winner from India's new duty-free window will be the US, GTRI said.

An analysis by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) said that US textile and apparel imports have begun surging from countries such as Vietnam and Bangladesh, "In June 2025, the USA's textile and apparel (T&A) imports from Vietnam and Bangladesh surged significantly by 26.2 per cent and 44.6 per cent, respectively, over June 2024, reflecting strong momentum in sourcing from these countries," CITI said. India, after a promising performance in the first quarter of 2025, witnessed a notable slowdown in T&A exports to the USA. In June 2025, India's exports grew by only 3.3 per cent compared to June —much lower than its earlier growth trajectory and sig nificantly below competitors such as Vietnam and Bangladesh, CITI said. Meanwhile, China continued to see a sharp decline in June 2025, with imports from China dropping by 41 per cent compared to June 2024—extending the downward trend observed since April 2025, the industry body said.India's textile sector is dominated by cotton. The cotton value chain provides direct employment to nearly 35 million people and contributes around 80 per cent to India's total textile exports. India aims to more than double textile and apparel exports to \$100 billion by 2030.

Almost half of all Class 11th and 12th students in urban areas take private coaching

Almost half of all urban Indian students in the 11th and 12th standard have taken private coaching classes in the current academic year, according to a new survey by the statistics ministry released. As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MoSPI) Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education, released on Tuesday, 44.6 per cent of all urban students in the higher secondary segment were taking or had taken private coaching during the year, with the proportion for rural areas lower at 33.1 per cent. On the whole, 37 per cent of all Indian students in classes 11th and 12th took private coaching this year.

In terms of expenditure, urban students in classes 11th and 12th are spending Rs 9,950 per year on average on private coaching, more than twice as much as their rural counterparts, who are spending Rs 4,548. At an all-India level, the average expenditure per student on private coaching in the higher secondary segment is Rs 6.384, survey data showed. The amount of money being spent on private coaching by Indian households will be a concern to policymakers, with India seeing a boom in online and offline classes in recent years amid a race to secure high marks and coveted seats in the top educational institutions of the country. As per data provided by the education ministry in July 2024 to the Rajya Sabha, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from coaching institutions had risen to Rs 5,517.45 crore in 2023-24, more than double the Rs 2,240,73 crore collected in 2019-20. Big chunk of household spending

As per MoSPI's most recent Household Consumer Expenditure Survey (HCES), released last year, the annual consumption expenditure of Indian households in rural areas in 2023-24 was Rs 49,464. Urban households, meanwhile, spent Rs 83,952 on average in a year on all goods and services. As such, households whose children are in 11th and 12th may be spending as much as 9-12 per cent of their annual consumption expenditure just on private coaching classes, per calculations by The Indian Express. As per the 2023-24 HCES, 'education' accounted for 3.24 per cent of rural households' monthly per capita consumption expenditure, almost half the urban households'

figure of 5.97 per cent.

Across all levels, the MoSPI survey data released on Tuesday showed 27 per cent of all Indian students were taking or had taken private coaching during the year, with the proportion being higher in urban areas at 30.7 per cent compared to 25.5 per cent in rural areas. In terms of the costs, the average annual household expenditure on private coaching per student in urban areas was Rs 3,988, Rs 1,793 in rural areas, and Rs 2,409 at a national level. The survey, part of the 80th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS), was conducted during April-June and covered 52,085 households in total - 28,401 in rural areas and 23,684 in urban areas – with data collected from 57,742 students currently enrolled in schools across India. "Although the survey mainly aims to generate national-level estimates to support the requirements of the Department of School Education and Literacy, wherever possible, disaggregated estimates at the sub-national level have also been presented in the report," MoSPI said. To be sure, the survey does not cover private coaching for skills such as coding and foreign language classes or extracurricular activities like art, dance, music, and sports. The last time a survey on household consumption of education was conducted was from July 2017 to June 2018, which showed that 19.8 per cent of students attended private coaching centres. However, the statistics ministry cautioned on Tuesday that the findings of that survey "cannot be directly compared" with those of the latest one as anganwadi centres were previously not classified under pre-primary education and expenditures on school education earlier included private coaching. Private coaching classes apart, school-going children spent as little as Rs 2,639 in a year on a government school education in rural areas to as high as Rs 35,758 in unaided private schools in urban areas. "Across all types of schools, the highest average expenditure per student during the current academic year was on course fees (Rs 7,111), followed by textbooks and stationery (Rs 2,002) at the all-India level, MoSPI said, adding that urban households pay "significantly more across all categories". Parents, interestingly, spend more on getting their kids to and from school than on uni-

18-year-old dies after taking period-delaying pills, says Bengaluru vascular surgeon: Why taking them without medical advice can be risky



By taking these pills a few days before your expected period, you keep your progesterone levels high, mimicking a pregnancy state and delaying menstruation. By taking period-delaying bills pills a few days before your expected period, you keep your progesterone levels high, mimicking a pregnancy state and delaying menstruation.

Bengaluru-based vascular surgeon Dr Vivekanand, while explaining the many reasons that cause blood clots in the veins or thrombosis, recently recounted the case of an 18-year-old girl who died of such complications. In a podcast, he said the girl came in with severe leg pain and swelling, the result of her taking hormonal pills to delay her periods for a ceremony. This condition usually becomes life-threatening when a part of the clot can break off and travel to the lungs or brain, preventing blood flow there.

Many women make similar requests for period-delaying medication to Dr Neelam Suri, senior consultant, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi. "Hormonal medicines that can delay or reschedule periods are widely available and often used before exams, weddings, travel or a big event. But while these pills may seem like a convenient option, they are not free from risk. Their unsupervised use can lead to serious complications, including blood clots in the vein or what we call deep vein thrombosis," she says.

How do period-delaying pills work?

short article insert Most pills prescribed to postpone periods contain synthetic hormones, either progesterone alone or in combination with estrogen. These artificially maintain levels of progesterone in your body, which prevents the womb lining from shedding and starting your period. By taking these pills a few days before your expected period, you keep your progesterone levels high, mimicking a pregnancy state and delaying menstruation. These tablets, therefore, shift the timing of bleeding.

What is the hormonal effect on blood clotting?

A key side effect of hormonal pills is their influence on

the blood. These can increase clotting tendency, thickening blood and coagulating it inside veins. In most healthy women, this risk remains low. But in some individuals with hidden health issues or family history, the clotting can become dangerous. If a clot blocks a deep vein, the condition is called deep vein thrombosis (DVT). If part of the clot breaks off and travels to the lungs, it can cause pulmonary embolism —a sudden blockage of blood flow in the lungs. This may result in chest pain, severe breathlessness, collapse, or in extreme cases, sudden cardiac arrest.

What are hidden risk factors you must know about before taking such pills?

The risk is not uniform for everyone. The vulnerable groups include those with a personal or family history of clotting disorders, obesity and sedentary lifestyle, smoking, which further damages blood vessels, uncontrolled diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, hormonal conditions like polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), liver disease, heart disease and stroke. Because these risks are not always obvious, doctors review medical history and sometimes order tests before deciding whether period-delaying pills can be safely prescribed.

Are they safe?

If prescribed in the right way, they can be effective and safe for short-term use. But when taken without medical guidance, they can affect the body in ways that are hard to predict

What about self-medication?

In India, women buy hormonal tablets directly from chemists without consultation. But unlike common over-the-counter medicines, hormonal drugs affect multiple organ systems including blood vessels, liver and the body's hormonal balance. Doctors tailor the dosage and duration depending on an individual's profile. What may be safe for one person could be harmful for another. That is why unmonitored self-medication increases the chances of complications.

Are there warning signs of side effects?

Women taking hormonal pills should be aware of danger signals like sudden swelling, pain or redness in the leg (possible clot in deep veins), sharp chest pain or difficulty breathing (possible pulmonary embolism) and severe headache, dizziness, or blurred vision (possible clot in the brain). If any of these occur, urgent medical attention is required, as delays can be life-threatening. Doctors may also suggest alternatives for those who frequently need to manage their cycle. For example, regulated contraceptive pills can provide more controlled cycle management. In addition, adopting lifestyle changes — such as a healthy diet, exercise and stress management — helps improve menstrual regularity.

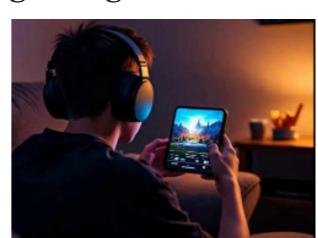
16-year-old took loans to play games, 13-year-old used mom's UPI PIN: Inside teen online gaming addiction

A 16-year-old girl from Indore had signed up for a fantasy gaming app as it was a free download. But as she topped every score in the free games, it whetted her appetite for more. She borrowed money, joined paid contests with entry fees and won prizes, albeit virtual money. She made in-app purchases to buy virtual tools to enhance her gameplay. Then she began losing and suffered the casino syndrome, where she gambled away more money to play the next levels, make up for her losses and pay back her lenders. In six months, the teen had accumulated a debt of

By the time her parents got her to Urvashi Musale, the Mumbai-based child and teen psychologist and parental coach, she had lost weight, skipped meals, stopped studies and was on the verge of an emotional breakdown. "First, she would ask money from her parents on one pretext or the other. Such was her greed and addiction to win more games that she asked money from friends and relatives, playing the victim card by saying her parents were too strict and never understood her. Then she took loans from smalltime loan apps into her student account and used it to play more games. She did it because her wins gave her validation among her peers and co-players, made her feel good," says Musale, who took months to get her back on rails. But the one patient who shocked her most was a 13-year-old boy from Pune, who had memorised his mother's UPI PIN number, and cleaned her account of Rs 2 lakh to buy virtual weapons for gaming apps.

It is because of the thin line between addictive gaming and obsessive gambling among young people that the government's new Online Gaming Bill has been enacted to protect young citizens from both financial and psychological risks. "In fact, studies have shown that gaming gives a dopamine hit similar to substance abuse. The brain's pleasure pathway is activated and creates a loop of repetitive behaviour. With excess gaming, everyday activity loses meaning for teens," says Musale, who has seen a sharp spike in teen gambling online over the last one year though it has been picking up pace since the Covid years.

How gaming impacts the brainDr Harsha GT, psychiatrist at Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru has seen gaming addiction wreak havoc among engineering students in their early 20s over the last five years. "Playing games, especially violent ones or those that encourage betting and risktaking behaviour, are as powerful as opioids in changing your brain. They can result in lower activation in limbic areas, the part of the brain that regulates your emotions, behaviour, motivation and memory. Long-term or pathological gaming has been linked to changes in brain regions and its reward pathways. Addiction then leads to emotional and social detachment, ultimately sinking the person into depression," he says. The triggers behind a kick "For teens, it is about getting socially acclaimed within a small amount of time. And the monetary gains, albeit virtual, give them power," says Rituparna Ghosh, clinical psychologist at Apollo Hospital, Mumbai. Musale says none of her student patients had self-esteem issues or were lacking something in their lives. "In fact, they are smart-brained but in that small community of gaming, they are fiercely competitive. Gaming is just an extension of a social media boast. Since most games are played in a group, with most provisioning for inapp voice chats with your squad, peer superiority is what every teenager is seeking. They make fake IDs, fake their age, fool their families," she adds. In fact, the 16-year-old confessed to Musale that she knew she was going too far but winning a game was a bigger emotion that made her feel euphoric and in control. Worst of all, she saw the mon-



etary gains as a ticket to a luxurious lifestyle. That's because she had seen her favourite Bollywood icon endorse the game, which is why the Bill clamps down on "misdirectional advertising." This is what gaming companies thrive on. Besides, they first let you win easy and once you are hooked, make it tough for you to win while they keep earning. But the gamer is then in a vicious trap, thinking they can replenish that money only by playing more," she says. The 13-year-old boy from Pune, who cleaned out his mother's account, told Musale he wanted the money to upgrade virtual weapons, kill his targets faster in the game and acquire badges. "He told me, 'I feel strong with these weapons and they seem real to me.' It had warped his mind and sense of reality. This is what we call dissociative personality disorder, where your altered identity can control your real world behaviour," says Musale.

What about therapies?

Musale first used empathy to get through to the 16year-old. They are very vulnerable at the time and blame themselves, so first is to get them back from that zone. Both Dr Ghosh and Dr Harsha have seen older addicts gravitating towards self-harm. Musale used cognitive behavioural therapy to help the girl challenge her beliefs and restructure thought patterns. "Since gaming addiction is equivalent to a dopamine hit, the affected person has similar withdrawal symptoms. That's why we made her mother sleep in her room at night for the initial weeks as she would play at night. It is important to negate the denial by absorbing an alternate interest. She liked music, so we replaced gaming with music therapy. We also let her see how her parents struggled to repay her loans, so that she could realise the value of money," says Musale. For the 13-yearold boy, she focussed on building the boy's confidence in the real world by counting all his good qualities, made him aware of what people appreciated in him. He played football, so developing that skill and appreciation from his football coach moved the needle away from online to offline. "All youngsters are looking for is validation of who they are. So once they get social recognition through positive behavioural patterns like art, dance, blogs and even taking up community causes, it builds their self-worth," says Ghosh.

What should parents do?

Can parents do the gatekeeping themselves? First, Musale advises all of them to block their child's digital access to their account apps. "The cardinal mistake that parents make is to ask them to replace addiction with studies. First find the next best healthy source of entertainment. Do not stop their tech access but explain the risks and educate them about red flags.

Praggnanandhaa loses dramatic 3-way tiebreak at Sinquefield Cup but qualifies for Grand Chess Tour Finals



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Indian teenage prodigy Praggnanandhaa lost a dramatic three-way tiebreak at the Sinquefield Cup early on Thursday but qualified for the four-player Grand Chess Tour Finals later this year. American grandmaster Wesley So won the Sinquefield Cup title in the tiebreaks, edging past Fabiano Caruana and Praggnanandhaa. Meanwhile, world champion Gukesh Dommaraju ended eighth in the 10-player event, winning just one game, drawing six and losing two at Sinquefield Cup. Despite winning the title at Saint Louis, So

did not make the cut for the four-player Grand Chess Tour Finals by half a point. Praggnanandhaa will be joined by Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Caruana and Levon Aronian in Sao Paulo, Brazil for the season-finale from September 28 to October 3.

How the three-way tiebreak was forced

There was drama in the air in the final round of the event as Caruana and Praggnanandhaa held a half-point lead over the field. Wesley So needed a win over Nodirbek Abdusattorov while hoping Pragg (vs Levon Aronian) and Fabi (vs Gukesh) would end up drawing. And that's just what happened as a three-way tiebreak. In the tiebreaks. the three players were asked to play a single round-robin with a blitz time control of 5+2. Wesley So later revealed that he had suggested — only half-seriously — that the three players slit the title, just like Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi had controversially done at the 2024 FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship or Carlsen, Aronian and Caruana did in the 2018 Sinquefield Cup. Chess.com quoted So as saying that the three players were okay with it, but chief arbiter for the event. IA Chris Bird, refused to allow it.Praggnanandhaa started the tiebreaks well, beating Caruana in 33 moves after the Aemrican resigned with mate-in-two moves being possible for the Indian prodigy.

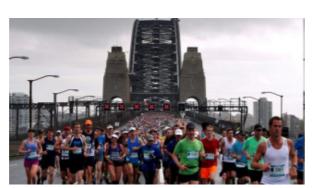
Olympic winner Sifan Hassan opts for Sydney Marathon over Tokyo's World Athletics Championships

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

For Sunday's Sydney Marathon, more than 35000 runners will take part, and alongside them for the first time, two sporting greats will step on the track. Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge and current Olympic champion Sifan Hassan are the major names that will participate in the marquee event. Hassan has said that she has skipped the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, which are a couple of weeks away, to participate in Sydney. "I don't think I'm going to recover (in time for World Championships). The first couple days, I barely walk after the marathon," Hassan said. "It was so hard hard decision for me because since 2015, I have never skipped any World Championships."

Hassan, although she has won two gold medals and a bronze at Tokyo she said her heart was always at the Sydney Marathon. "I really thought about what to do, but my heart really wants to be in this marathon in Australia," she said.

In addition to the aforementioned athletes, three-time Olympian Jessica Stenson also opted to participate in the Sydney event. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and my family will be out there watching this and the Australian community, so I think there's something really special about that," Stenson said. The winner of the competition will win



\$30,000 in prize money and \$10,000 bonus if they manage to break the Australian record. "That certainly is something that helps you when you're making those decisions," Stenson said. "But for me, it's just a privilege to compete against such a world-class field on the domestic and international front, so it's exciting that those sorts of factors have attracted such a strong field," she added.Leanne Pompeani, who made a record earlier this year by running the fastest marathon by an Australian woman on her debut and qualifying for the Tokyo event, also opted to ply her trade in Sydney this coming Sunday.

Almost three months after horrific stampede RCB responds: 'The Silence wasn't Absence. It was Grief...June 4th changed everything'

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

The franchise also mentioned the silence was due to grief and promised more than a response. "In that silence, we've been grieving. Listening. Learning. And slowly, we've begun to build something more than just a response. Something we truly believe in. That's how ?????? ?????????? came to life. It grew out of a need to honour, to heal, and to stand beside our fans. A platform for meaningful action shaped by our community & fans," the Tweet read. "We return to this space today, not with celebration but with care. To share. To stand with you. To walk forward, together. To



continue being the pride of Karnataka," it further added. After the death of the 11 people at the stampede the secretary and the treasurer of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) resigned. A statement by KSCA secretary A Shankar and treasurer ES Jairam read: "This is to inform that due to the unforeseen and unfortunate events that have unfolded in the last two days and though our role was very limited, but owing moral responsibility, we wish to state that last night we have tendered our resignation to our respective posts as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Karnataka State Cricket Association, by way of a letter dated 06.06.2025 to the President of Karnataka State Cricket Association."

'You've been slapped by the fish': Manchester United embarrassed in League Cup by 4th Division Grimsby Town

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

"You've just been slapped by the fish" posted Grimsby Town, a club in the fourth tier of English football, on its X account after they dumped out 20-time English champions Manchester United from the second round of the League Cup via a dramatic penalty shootout needing 26 penalties. It was one of the most embarrassing losses ever for Manchester United . A livid United manager Ruben Amorim took a dig at his own players by praising Grimsby for being "the only team that was on the pitch."

Grimsby won 12-11 on spot-kicks with Bryan Mbeumo missing the decisive penalty. Manchester United were trailing 2-0 at halftime before goals by Mbeumo and Harry Maguire leveled the score at 2-2 and sent the game into penalty shootout at the modest Blundell Park on England's east coast, a stadium with just a 9,000-seat capacity. A look at Manchester United's woes: Why this loss is so painful

Manchester United had new signings worth 200 million pounds (\$270 million) just in its attack for the game in the form of Mbeumo, Matheus Cunha and Benjamin Sesko. Cunha failed in the shootout by having his weak attempt

saved and Sesko took United's 10th penalty — only ahead of goalkeeper Andre Onana. According to a report on the BBC, Grimsby's highlights are the Second Division titles the club won in 1901 and 1934. It's most recent silverware is the 1998 Auto Windscreens Shields Trophy. BCC quoted Transfermarkt's report as saying that Grimsby's squad is worth £3.1m, compared to United's £765m players.After finishing 15th last season in their worst league campaign since being relegated in 1974, United had gone on a spending splurge in the transfer window. United are yet to earn a win in three games this season, after a loss to Arsenal and a draw at Fulham in the league. United had never lost to a fourth-tier team in the EFL Cup. The club was playing in the second round for the first time since 2014. Grimsby Town's Charles Vernam celebrates scoring their side's first goal of the game during an English League Cup second round soccer match against Manchester United. (PA via AP) Grimsby Town's Charles Vernam celebrates scoring their side's first goal of the game during an English League Cup second round soccer match against Manchester United. (PA via AP)What Amorim said about the humiliating defeat"

Aakash Chopra after R Ashwin's exploring other leagues statement: 'Does it mean other Indian players can also go to play in other leagues?'



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

On Tuesday, Ravi Ashwin announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League; however, in his post on X, he mentioned exploring new leagues, and soon reports from England emerged that Ashwin might be part of The Hundred for the next season. Former Indian cricketer Aakash Chopra, if Ashwin has taken this step, will other Indian players follow? "Ravichandran Ashwin has said goodbye to the IPL as well, and he is now saying that he will go play the different leagues across the globe. He is charting a new course. His IPL career has been terrific, but all good stories come to an end, and his story ends here. Does it mean other Indian players can also go to play in other leagues?" he said

However, Chopra believes that players could lose money from playing leagues other than the IPL. "Wherever he puts his name, he is going to get picked, and he will do very well. Indian players aren't allowed to play in the other leagues to save the novelty of the IPL. If you have to go and play elsewhere, you have to retire not just from international cricket, but also from the IPL, and that's a slightly big caveat. You can go and play somewhere else only if you say tata bye-bye to IPL money," he observed.

"There are very few players like that. Ravichandran Ashwin is doing something incredibly different. He is writing a different story as he is leaving despite having a ?9.75 crore contract. Everyone cannot do that. If someone is bought for less money, no one buys him outside either. If someone is getting good money here, why would he leave? Ashwin is charting a new course, and too many Indian players will not be a part of this course with him," Chopra reasoned. And Ashwin is not the first player to do something like this. Earlier, Wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik retired from Indian cricket and appeared for Paarl Royals in the last edition of the SA20 league. Getting top Indian names for their domestic competitions has been the aspiration of boards around the cricketing world to attract eyeballs, social media attention and advertisers, but BCCI doesn't allow its players to turn out in leagues in direct competition with the IPL unless they retire from all forms of Indian cricket - international as well as domestic.

Krishnamachari Srikkanth on Ashwin's IPL retirement: 'Money, fame or name is not an issue. He has all of those in abundance...'

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

R Ashwin, on Tuesday, announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League, and it has been speculated that he might move and ply his trade in various franchise leagues as he mentioned his willingness to explore various global leagues on his retirement post on X. Former Indian selector Krishnamachari Srikkanth felt that Ashwin could have played another couple of years in the league and then should have moved on. "I am not sure why Ashwin retired. If I were in his place, I would have continued playing IPL for atleast another two years. Ofcourse for Ashwin, money, fame or name is not an issue. He has all of those in abundance. But, he could have played in the IPL for another two years and then gone on to play in the other leagues."

"Probably, other Indian cricketers will also follow this approach of playing in other leagues once their time in the IPL is up. However, the recognition and visibility a player gets in the IPL, is much higher than those from all leagues. So, one can play other leagues for the sake of it but what you get in the IPL, other leagues don't come close to it." "Ashwin has been one of the best IPL cricketers India has produced. His name to fame itself was through the IPL. Though he had done well in the domestic competitions and for India in Tests, but he was first recognised through the



IPL and CSK, especially when he kept dismissing Chris Gayle for fun," said Srikkanth (via the aforementioned

"He was both an attacking and an economical bowler in the IPL. I am only surprised that he is walking away in the middle of a three-year cycle after the Mega auction last year. In a way, it's a good sign that players retiring from India can become coaches or players in foreign leagues." With the ball overall, Ashwin picked up 187 wickets from 221 games at an average of 30.22 and economy of 7.20 in IPL, and with the bat, he scored 833 runs coming down the order with a solitary half-century to his name.

Mohammed Shami on his retirement: 'If someone has a problem, tell me...have one dream left, that is to win the ODI World Cup'

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Indian cricketer Mohammed Shami has recently been overlooked for the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, and his performances in the Indian Premier League 2025 for the Sunrisers Hyderabad were underwhelming. In addition to that, the Bengal-pacer, after the long-term injury he sustained after the World Cup in 2023, has not been himself with the ball. On Thursday, he will start bowling with the red ball in the Duleep Trophy, and a decent performance in the tournament might open Indian red-ball doors for him. However, the tricky part for Shami is making a comeback at 34 as a fast bowler is not an easy task, and when asked about his retirement, Shami responded strongly.

"If someone has a problem, tell me, if it is like their lives become better if I take retirement. Tell me whose life have I become a rock in that you want me to retire? The day I get bored, I will leave. You don't pick me, but I will keep working hard. You don't pick me in international, I will play domestic. I will keep playing somewhere or the other. You have to make these decisions when you start feeling bored. That is not the time for me now," Shami told News24.

Shami also mentioned that he has the aspiration to win the World Cup, which is in 2027. In the 2023 World Cup, the pacer played a pivotal role in India reaching the final.



His spell against New Zealand, where he picked up seven wickets. He also ended up as a leading wicket-taker with 24 wickets. I only have one dream left, that is to win the ODI World Cup. I want to be a part of that team and perform that wins the ODI World Cup and brings it home. We were very close in 2023. We had a gut feeling, but we also had a fear that we were winning non-stop, and it was the knockout stage. There was some fear. But the enthusiasm and belief of the fans motivated us. This was a dream that could have been fulfilled, but maybe it was not in my luck," he

Novak Djokovic overcomes ailing American qualifier in US Open second round

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Novak Djokovic cleaned up his game after early mistakes to outlast ailing American qualifier Zachary Svajda 6-7(5) 6-3 6-3 6-1 in the second round of the US Open on Wednesday. The maestro of Arthur Ashe Stadium held his racket up like a violin after closing out his 92nd win at the US Open with a satisfying overhead smash to keep his latest quest for a record 25th major title on track.

Svajda, playing in only his seventh major main draw match, put up a good fight before an apparent leg injury limited his movement. "Wasn't happy about my tennis the first part of the match but also credit to Zach for playing some really high quality tennis," said Djokovic, who next plays the winner of a match between Briton Cam Norrie and Argentina's Francisco Comesana. Svajda saved two break points in the first game, an early sign that he would not hand the four-time champion the win, and he survived a 27-shot rally in the tiebreak before sending a superb backhand shot out of Djokovic's reach on set point.

But the Serbian seventh seed upped his level across the board from there, making just four unforced errors in the second set compared to 14 in the first, and he got the break in the sixth game as Svajda whacked the ball into the net. There were more signs of trouble for the American as



The maestro of Arthur Ashe Stadium held his racket up like a violin after closing out his 92nd win at the US Open with a satisfying overhead smash to keep his latest quest for a record 25th major title on track.

he met with the physio to have his left thigh massaged briefly before the third set and again after the third and fifth games, while his on-court speed diminished. Djokovic got the critical break from the baseline in the seventh game of the third set with a well-placed forehand winner down the line and ran away with the contest from there. He converted on his fourth break point in the second game of the fourth set and broke again for a 5-1 lead before wrapping up the win.

Govinda's wife Sunita Ahuja says even God can't separate them, shuts down divorce rumours for good: 'Govinda sirf mera hai, kisi aur ka nahi'



Actor Govinda and his wife, Sunita Ahuja, have been making headlines for months. They've been rumoured to be going through a difficult patch in their marriage, and it was recently reported that Sunita filed for divorce for the second time, alleging adultery, cruelty and desertion. Now, on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, the couple made a joint appearance and had an interaction with the media to shut down the speculation.

On Wednesday, Govinda and Sunita interacted with the media, and confirmed that everything is fine between

them. She said, "Aaj itna close, close... agar kuch hota toh hum itne nazdeek hotey? Humaari dooriyan hoti! Koi hum dono ko alag nahi kar sakta hain, chahe upar se koi aa jaaye bhagwan aa jaaye, koi shaitaan aa jaaye. Koi nahi alag kar sakta hai (If something had happened between us, would we be so close today? There would have been distance between us. No one can separate us, not even if God or a devil comes down)."

"Ek picture tha na Mera Pati Sirf Mera Hai, waise hi mera Govinda sirf mera hi hai aur kisi ka nahi hai. Jab tak hum moonh na khole tab tak aap log please koi bhi cheez mein na boliye. (My Govinda is only mine and no one else's. Until we speak up, please don't say anything on this matter)," she added. Meanwhile, in a video, Govinda promoted Sunita's recently launched YouTube vlog. "She has started her vlog and it is successful. I wish her well. I request you all to keep supporting her vlogs," he mentioned. In her latest vlog, Sunita Ahuja had addressed the divorce rumours while breaking down in tears. She said, "When I met Govinda, I prayed to the Goddess that I should get married to him and have a good life. The Goddess fulfilled all my wishes—she even blessed me with two children. But not every truth in life is easy; there are always ups and downs. Still, I have so much faith in the Goddess that whatever I am witnessing today, I know that whoever tries to break my home, Maa

Maa: In case you didn't know killing babies is wrong, Kajol's movie is here to educate you; phew

The problem with Hindi horror movies used to be that they'd sabotage their scares with music and romance. This was done mainly as a promotional tactic to lure (family) audiences to theatres, and to then give them an opportunity to use the washroom or get a popcorn refill during the interval. Neither the music nor the romance had any business being in those movies, but they were left intact anyway. They contributed nothing to the plot; in fact, they actually brought it to a standstill. The music and romance issue with Hindi horror has now been replaced with an even more irritating trend: social messaging. The latest film to fall prey to this bizarre, self-defeating strategy is Maa.

It would, however, be a stretch to even describe it as a horror film, seeing how far it strays from the genre in its final act. This is when Kajol's grieving single mother, Ambika, discovers that her teenage daughter has been kidnapped by a forest-dwelling demon, who intends on impregnating her to carry forward his 'vansh' or some nonsense. Ambika rushes into the lion's den, so to speak, determined to rescue her daughter from the demon's clutches. But before she leaves on her mission, she is told by the superstitious locals that she must perform a ritual, and seek the blessings of Goddess Kali. Kali is the only one who can vanquish the demon, she is told. And so, Ambika... does a song-and-dance number.

This is where the concept of internal logic comes into play. Why do we forgive gravity-defying car stunts in the films of Rohit Shetty? Why do we anticipate a joke in even the most serious moments of a Marvel movie? Why is it okay for Tamannaah Bhatia to dance in the middle of Stree 2, but not for Kajol to in Maa? The answer: internal logic. In Stree 2, it is established that the protagonists will try and lure the Sarkata demon by essentially using Tamannaah as bait, and so, when she dances seductively, you buy it. Not because something like this could happen in the real world, but because it is consistent with the movie's internal logic. However, when Maa teases a ritual and gives us a song-and-dance number instead, the only thing you're going to feel is narrative whiplash.

It takes you out of the film immediately, whereas a scary ritual sequence might have been the perfect appetiser for a final-act showdown. The climax itself is watered down because of director Vishal Furia's habitual instinct to lecture his audience. He broke out with the Prime Video film Chhori, which was a remake of his Marathi horror movie Lapachhapi. For the third time, Furia allows a social message that should've remained in the subtext to take the centre stage. During the climax — an ugly, CGI mess — Ambika delivers a sermon to the villain (and us) about what a terrible thing it is to murder young girls. In its final moments, vou see. Maa reveals itself to be a film about female infanticide; it's like a spiritual sequel to Chhori, which was about female feticide. It is one thing to make a movie like Pad Man, and hope that it would be watched in remote villages where menstrual hygiene isn't commonly practiced. Perhaps some of the folks who come across it might even be guilted into buying pads for the women of the family. But ask yourself this, could a baby murderer's mind be changed by the second instalment of a horror movie franchise? Bizarrely, it seems as if the intended audience for this movie isn't fans of scary movies, but potential baby murderers. This is the



only explanation for why Maa addresses them at the end and not you, unless, of course, you were planning on murdering babies. In which case, shame on you.

The movie's priorities are all over the place. It doesn't need a musical interlude at all, especially at a point when children need to be rescued. Nor does it need to preach. But it does both things. Instead of revealing (or gradually teasing) that Ronit Roy's character was the villain all along, the movie announces it in minute one. There was an opportunity there to subvert expectations, to examine ideas of betrayal and honour. How scary, for instance, would it be to find out that your well-wisher was the one secretly conspiring against you the whole time? But the movie doesn't even entertain this notion; in fact, casting Roy in the role suggests that Furia never even thought of hiding the villain's

None of it matters, because Maa isn't interested in telling a compelling campfire story. With an air of city-bred superiority, it seems to be saying that sexism exists only in rural India, and that it is the job of the educated class to 'save' the backward villagers from their own beliefs. At no point does the film suggest that Ambika might be out of her depth, treading as she is on uncharted territory. But, once you imbue a character with magic powers, nothing is off the table. Once a film's internal logic is broken, everything is fair game. There can be no surprises. It's not that Ambika shouldn't 'save' her daughter from certain death at the end; she must, because that's what a movie like this demands. Maa even pushes her to the very brink of madness, when she raises a machete to kill the kid (don't ask). But this is empty tension, because you know that she isn't really going to harm her daughter. Ironically, even though Maa is against the idea of murder, it seems to be quite comfortable with the idea of massacring the grammar of horror filmmaking. It does this by shoehorning in a message that, to be entirely honest, shouldn't be up for a debate anyway. Plus, slotting your audience in the same category as criminals isn't the smartest of moves. Post Credits Scene is a column in which we dissect new releases every week, with particular focus on context, craft, and characters. Because there's always something to fixate about once the dust has

Shilpa Shirodkar on Jatadhara: it's so complex and intriguing

Mumbai: The makers of Jatadhara have unveiled Shilpa Shirodkar's look from the upcoming film, and the actress said that her character is "complex and intriguing." Shilpa said: "I am so happy and thrilled to be a part of Jatadhara. It's a film that will surely take the audience on a supernatural and mysterious ride! It has incredible, stunning visuals and a storyline that will definitely leave an impact on all of you!" She added: "One can tell how passionate she is about storytelling! My character, Shobha, is quite a powerful one. It's so complex and intriguing. I have put my heart and soul into bringing this character to life and I am excited for everybody to watch it on screens!" Shilpa noted that everyone is unique and has their own quirks.

"It feels amazing to be in front of the camera and portraying such a unique and powerful character. I'm sure it will leave you shocked, surprised and will shine!" she said.Going by the first look, the actress seems to play a tantric. She is seen dressed in a black saree, sitting in front of a fire pit. Shilpa looks fierce and has an intense expres-



sion, with her mouth wide open and tongue sticking out, giving a powerful and almost supernatural aura. The makers took to Instagram, where they shared the poster and wrote: "She isn't just driven by greed, she defines it. Presenting @shilpashirodkar73 as Shobha."

Param Sundari advance booking: Sidharth Malhotra, Janhvi Kapoor's romantic comedy sells 10,000 tickets in the first 24 hours, likely to open at Rs 10 cr



It's been raining romances at the box office over the past couple of months. After Mohit Suri's Saiyaara, starring Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, made history last month by becoming the highest grossing Indian film with newcomers, Shazia Iqbal's Dhadak 2, starring Siddhant Chaturvedi and Triptii Dimri, received wide critical acclaim despite its lacklustre commercial performance. Now, after multiple delays, Tushar Jalota's romantic comedy Param Sundari is finally set to hit cinemas this Friday.

Param Sundari revolves around the blossoming crosscultural love story of a North Indian Punjabi man Param (Sidharth Malhotra) and a half-Tamilian, half-Malayali woman Sundari (Janhvi Kapoor). It's produced by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films, which has doled out memorable romances over the years, including Love Aaj Kal (2009), Cocktail (2012), Luka Chuppi (2019), Zara Hatke Zara Bachke (2023), and most recently, Bhool Chuk Maaf earlier this year. It's also the production house which has delivered two of Hindi cinema's biggest domestic hits in Stree 2 last year and Chhaava earlier this year.But don't expect Param Sundari to open at those gigantic numbers this week. While Stree 2 opened at Rs 51.80 crore last August, Chhaava scored Rs 31 crore on its opening day back in February. As per trade tracker Sacnilk, Param Sundari is likely to open at a fraction of both these figures, at around Rs 10 crore this Friday.

The advance booking of the film kicked off three days before the release on Tuesday, August 26. Param Sundari sold over 10,000 tickets in the first 24 hours. But even within the confines of its genre, it's no Saiyaara. That film, backed by Aditya Chopra's Yash Raj Films, opened at Rs 21.50 crore, which is more than twice of Param Sundari's estimated box office opening. If compared to the last romance produced by Maddock Films, Param Sundari is likely to gain an edge over Karan Sharma's Bhool Chuk Maaf, starring Rajkummar Rao and Wamiqa Gabbi, which earned Rs 7 crore on its opening day back in May. It's also more than twice of the opening day earnings of Sidharth's last release, the 2024 action thriller Yodha, which collected Rs 4.10 crore on its day 1.It's also higher than how much Janhvi Kapoor's last release, Koratala Siva's pan-India action thriller Devara: Part 1, made on its opening day in the Hindi market. The Hindi version of the Jr NTR tentpole opened at only Rs 7.50 crore. Interestingly, the teaser of Janhvi's next, also a romcom, Shashank Khaitan's Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, will be dropped this Friday, coinciding with the release of Param Sundari. Param Sundari will also mark director Tushar Jalota's maiden theatrical release. His directorial debut, Dasvi, released directly on Netflix in 2022. The movie will enjoy an opening week sans any major competition, before new entrants will enter the market on September 5 in the form of Vivek Agnihotri's The Bengal Files and Ahmed

boAT CEO Aman Gupta says becoming rich strained relationships with family, friends; Kapil Sharma explains why he moved to Netflix from 'the other channel'

The latest episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show featured some of the country's top entrepreneurs — Vijay Shekhar Sharma (CEO of Paytm), Aman Gupta (Co-Founder & CMO of boAt), Ritesh Agarwal (CEO of OYO Rooms), and Ghazal Alagh (Co-Founder of Mamaearth). During the interaction, they opened up about the judgments they face from relatives and friends for being rich. Kapil recently shared a behind-the-scenes clip from the show on his YouTube channel, where he asked the entrepreneurs if relationships get sour after money comes in and if people and family members change after seeing their success. Aman Gupta took this up and said, "When money starts coming in people around you start judging you, they say, 'ab to yeh bada aadmi ban gaya hai.' They don't know that I was always a bada aadmi in my eyes. But you should not be pompous, my mother says that even Ravan's pride did not last. This keeps me down to earth. It is important to stay humble. Your downfall starts when you let it get to your head.

During the conversation, the show's director interrupted the chat so the crew could fix Vijay's shirt. In that moment, Kapil jokingly reprimanded the director and said, "Don't take cut for all these things like something is stuck on the shirt, nobody will even see that. They will be calculating how much money these people have. Don't take break for all these things, it is because of these things that I came



here from the other channel."Later in the chat, Vijay also spoke about his love for pani puri. He shared that people often get surprised after looking at the place he eats golgappas from, but he tells them, "I grew up eating here and that's why my immunity is so strong." He also revealed that he is a pani puri enthusiast and has tried the much-loved chaat at several places, but he declared, "Delhi ki golgappe best hai"

Sonu Sood sells his luxury apartment for Rs. 8.10 crore in Mumbai, makes a neat Rs 3 cr profit



Actor Sonu Sood has sold his apartment in Mahalaxmi, Mumbai, for Rs. 8.10 crore. He earned a profit of Rs 3 crore by selling the the high-end property, that spans 1247 sq ft. According to property registration documents reviewed by SquareYards, the transaction was registered in August 2025. As per the documents from the Inspector General of Registration (IGR), the apartment sold by the actor is located in Lokhandwala Minerva. It has a carpet area of 1,247 sq.ft. (116 sq.m.) and built-up area of 139.07 sq. m. (~1,497 sq. ft.). The deal also includes two car parking spaces. The transaction includes a stamp duty amount of Rs. 48.60 lakh and registration payment of Rs. 30,000. The analysed documents also suggested that he bought the apartment in 2012 for Rs. 5.16 crore, so now, after 13 years, he earned a profit of Rs. 2.94 crore.

Square Yards' analysis of IGR property registration documents suggests that Sood bought the property in 2012 for Rs. 5.16 crore, the documents showed. The area of Mahalaxmi is well-established in South Mumbai, and is known for its residential, commercial, and cultural landmarks. The locality also has connectivity with Lower Parel, Worli, and Nariman Point. It has many luxury high-rise developments, featuring amazing views of the Arabian Sea and the racecourse. On the professional front, Sonu Sood was last seen in Fateh, which hit the big screens in January this year. The film is now available to watch on Netflix. It was written, produced, and directed by the actor himself. It received mixed reviews from critics and earned a total of

Rs. 13.35 crore at the box office. Currently, Sonu has no films lined up that have been officially announced. While talking about his directorial debut with the film, the actor had told ANI, "I truly enjoyed directing the film, and it is about the experience and satisfaction you get as a director, so of course, get ready for the second soon." Meanwhile, he recently welcomed Ganpati Bappa to his house and dropped pictures from his Ganesh Chaturthi celebration.

Trailer of Mirai promises a gripping fantasy thriller in store

Chennai: The makers of director Karthik Gattamaneni's eagerly awaited pan-Indian film Mirai, featuring actor Teja Sajja in the lead, on Thursday released a trailer that promises an exciting and gripping film.

Taking to its X timeline, People Media Factory, the production house backing the film, wrote: "

The trailer of the fantasy action thriller begins with a voice-over warning that the nine books are now at risk. Fascinating and intriguing visuals showing dark powers in action follow. We then see a young woman telling Teja Sajja, "Before you get it, you must first reach the Mirai."

Initially, Teja Sajja refuses to acknowledge that he is the Superyodha destined to take on the dark forces. He believes nothing in this world belongs to anyone as everything keeps changing hands. Over time, he comes to terms with the fact that he is indeed the Superyodha. The woman is again seen approaching Teja Sajja, saying: "You have helped several people without even knowing it. Now, help those who trust in you."

We then realise that an evil person (Manchu Manoj), who wields control over dark powers, is looking to claim the nine books. "If the antagonist gets all nine books, what will run in the Ganges is blood," a sage warns the Superyodha.

The Superyodha is told that he must first attain a weapon forged during the time of Lord Sri Rama. "If you need to succeed in this mission, you will need the help of someone who will exceed your strength," he is advised, as the trailer promises a fascinating film with a gripping story.

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