

TWO-DAY WATER SUPPLY DISRUPTION IN HYD FROM SEPT 9

Hyderabad, Sept.6 :The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) announced a 48-hour disruption in water supply across several parts of the city. The shutdown will be in effect from 6 AM on Sept 9 to 6 AM on Sept 11. The disruption is required to carry out valve replacement works on the Godavari Drinking Water Supply Phase-I project. Engineers will be replacing 900 mm diameter valves installed on the 3000 mm diameter MS pumping main at Murrmur, Mallaram and Kondapak pumping stations.- SR Nagar division: SR Nagar, Sanathnagar, Borabanda, Erragadda, Banjara Hills, parts of Jubilee Hills, Somajiguda and Fatehnagar0-Kukatpally division: Kukatpally, Bhagyanagar, KPHB, Moosapet, Bharatnagar and surrounding localities- North Hyderabad: Chintal, Suchitra, Jeedimetla, Shapur Nagar, Alwal, Moula Ali, Kapra and Charlapally- IT corridor: Kondapur, parts of Madhapur, Gachibowli, Nallagandla, Miyapur and Hafeezpet

LOCAL TEMPLES TO CLOSE ON LUNAR

Tirupati, Sept.6 Many local temples under the umbrella of TTD including Tiruchanoor, Govindaraja Swamy, Sri Kodandarama Swamy, Srinivasa Mangapuram, Appalayagunta and many more will remain closed from the afternoon session that is 2pm onwards on September 07 following Lunar Eclipse. The eclipse will last from 9:50pm of September 07 to 1:31am of September 08. As a traditional practice, the temples remains closed almost six hours before. After performing the Suddhi pujas, the temple reopens Darshan for devotees. In Tiruchanoor the temple closes by 2:15pm on September 07 and opens by 8am on September 08 while in Govindaraja Swamy closes by 3:30pm and opens up darshan from 9:30am onwards. At Srinivasa Mangapuram the temple door closes by 3:30pm and darshan commences by 8:30am. In Kapilatheertham the temple closes by 3pm and opens doors for darshan by 7am on Monday.

Lakhs of devotees join Ganesh immersion processions in Hyd

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Hyderabad: Lakhs of devotees poured onto the streets of Hyderabad on Saturday to participate in the massive centralised Ganesh idol immersion processions, turning the city into a vibrant sea of colour and devotion. The processions, which began late on Friday night, continued through the early hours of Saturday, with fresh groups joining at various points and converging at immersion sites across the city and suburbs. By around 2 pm, the main routes were packed with crowds as idols lined up one after another, awaiting immersion.

The biggest gatherings were witnessed at Charminar, Afzalgunj, Begum Bazar, MJ Market, Hyderabad GPO (Abids), Taj Mahal Hotel crossroads, SBI, Basheerbagh, Liberty, and Secretariat, marking the grand culmination of the 10-day festivities. Lord Ganesha idols in myriad forms and sizes, ranging from one foot to towering 50 feet, were carried on handcarts, trucks, goods vehicles, and even tuskers. On either side of the routes, devotees thronged to catch a glimpse, chanting prayers and cheering the celebrations. The air reverberated with



the rhythmic sounds of drums, cymbals, and dhol-tasha troupes as devotees danced and sang hymns in praise of Lord Ganesha. Processions from mandapas across the city made their way towards Hussain Sagar, artificial ponds, and other water bodies, accompanied by gular sprays and devotional fervour. Adding a colourful touch, participants came dressed in traditional attire. At several places, pandal organisers distributed prasadam, snacks, jalebis, and drinking water bottles to devotees, enhancing the festive spirit.

Congress Janahita padayatra faces urea shortage and rain hurdles



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Hyderabad: Fearing backlash from farmers over the urea crisis and from residents affected by recent rains, the Telangana Congress seems to have postponed the next phase of the Janahita padayatra. Ever since the Janahita padayatra was launched on July 31, it has been plagued with issues. Initially, it was announced that AICC incharge Meenakshi Natarajan would take up the padayatra.

However, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy took strong objection and after a few deliberations, it was declared that TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud would undertake the padayatra. After the ego clashes, the padayatra commenced and continued till August 4. But it was suspended abruptly as the State cabinet and Congress legislators headed to New Delhi to stage a dharna at Jantar Mantar seeking approval for 42 per cent reservations to BCs. The Congress

resumed the padayatra after legislators and leaders returned from the national capital. On August 22, the AICC incharge took State Congress leaders by surprise when she visited Indravelly, Adilabad without any notice and interacted with local tribal people. The last padayatra was held in Wardhannapet for two days on August 25 and since then there has been no word on resuming the event. Meanwhile, farmers have been staging protests for urea across the State. The farming community is up in arms against the Congress government for failing to provide sufficient urea stocks this season. To make matters worse, a couple of Ministers charged that farmers were not standing in queues and that opposition parties were making their workers create ruckus. These remarks have not gone well with the farmers.

Besides, many districts in the State have been badly affected by heavy rains and several agriculture fields have been submerged. Many residential colonies were also flooded, resulting in severe property loss. Amidst these challenges, there is uncertainty and the Congress cadre is clueless about the prospects of resuming the padayatra. After the first phase, the second phase of the padayatra was to be taken up in the erstwhile districts of Khammam, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar and Hyderabad. Considering the prevailing situations and the "mood" of different sections, the State leadership may postpone the next phase for a few more days. This apart, there is no clarity on conducting local body elections and extending BC reservations, a senior Congress leader said. "At this juncture, it will not be wise to resume the padayatra. We have to wait for things to settle down," the leader added.

New GST regime from September 22 to slash daily bills; Finance Minister calls it ‘People’s Reform’



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

New Delhi: Calling the landmark GST overhaul a 'people's reform', Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that rationalisation of rates for a wide swath of products will benefit every family, boost consumption, and bolster the economy. In an interview to PTI, the Finance Minister said she will personally monitor passing on of goods and services tax (GST) rate cuts in the form of price reduction but hastened to add that industry has shown positivity towards such cuts. Within days of the decision, from car makers to public sector insurance companies and shoe and apparel brands have already announced significant price cuts and the rest are likely to follow suit by the time new GST rates are implemented, she said. Nearly 400 products – from soaps to cars, shampoos to tractors and air conditioners – will cost less when the regim of the GST is effective from the first day of Navaratri on September 22. Premium paid on individual health and life insurance will be tax-free. A third rate of 40 per cent has been earmarked for a small list of sin goods and ultra-luxury items.

"This is a reform which touches the lives of all 140 crore people. There is no individual in this country who is untouched by GST. The poorest of the poor also have something small that they buy, touched by GST," she said. Starting September 22, the GST slab structure will change – 5 per cent for common use goods and 18 per cent for everything else. The existing slab of 12 and 28 per

cent rates has been done away with. In the revamped GST structure, most daily food and grocery items will fall under the 5 per cent GST slab, with bread, milk and paneer attracting no tax at all. Sitharaman said the reform – the single biggest since the 2017 rollout of the one-nation, one tax regime – has been carried out with a focus on the common man. Every tax on daily use items has gone through a rigorous review and in most cases, the rates have come down drastically.

While the significant relief in income tax that she gave in her Budget in February this year left more money in the hands of common people, the GST rejig will allow for greater spending, making things more affordable. "People do understand for example, Rs 100 with which they go to the shop to buy something. Today, the same Rs 100 can buy one and a half units of the commodity. Earlier, they bought one," she said.

TPCC chief meets CM Revanth

Hyderabad, Sept.6 (To commemorate one year since he took office as TPCC President, Mahesh Kumar Goud visited Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee Hills on Saturday.

During this visit, Revanth Reddy extended his congratulations to Mahesh Kumar Goud on completing his first year in office. The two leaders engaged in discussions regarding several important topics, including an upcoming TPCC extended meeting scheduled for September 8.

This meeting will be chaired by TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud and will include AICC In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, TPCC vice presidents, general secretaries, DCC presidents, joint district in-charges, chairpersons of affiliated associations and corporations, as well as coordinators and authorised representatives from various community committees.

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday (September 6, 2025) conveyed to French President Emmanuel Macron New Delhi's support for a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict even as the two leaders "positively" assessed the India-France strategic ties. Following a phone conversation with Mr. Macron, Mr. Modi said the strategic partnership between New Delhi and Paris will continue to play a key role in fostering global peace and stability.

The two leaders deliberated on ongoing efforts to bring an early end to the Ukraine conflict with the Prime Minister reiterating India's call for early restoration of peace and stability in the region. Mr. Macron was among the European leaders present during U.S. President Donald Trump's talks with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy in White House last month. "Had a very good conversation with President Macron. We reviewed and positively assessed the progress in bilateral cooperation in various areas," Mr. Modi said on social media. "Exchanged views on international and regional issues, including efforts for bringing an early end to the conflict in Ukraine. The India-France Strategic Partnership will continue to play a key role in fostering global peace and stability," he said. It is not known whether the implications of Washington's tariff policy figured in the Modi-Macron conversation. According to an Indian readout, Mr. Modi thanked Mr. Macron for accepting the invitation to the AI Impact Summit to be hosted by India in February and that he looked forward to welcoming the French President. It said the two leaders reviewed and positively assessed the developments in bilateral cooperation across different sectors including economic, defence, science, technology and space. "The leaders also reaffirmed their commitment towards further strengthening of the India-France strategic partnership, in line with the Horizon 2047 Roadmap, the



Indo-Pacific roadmap and the defence industrial roadmap," the readout noted. "They exchanged views on recent efforts towards bringing an end to the conflict in Ukraine. PM Modi reiterated India's consistent support for peaceful resolution of the conflict and early restoration of peace and stability." It said both leaders agreed to continue to remain in touch and work closely together to promote global peace and stability. The discussion between Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron on the Ukraine conflict appears to be significant. The prime minister met Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in China's Tianjin this week. In the meeting, Mr. Modi conveyed to Mr. Putin that India welcomes all the recent efforts towards establishing peace in Ukraine and that it is humanity's call to find a way to resolve hostilities as soon as possible. Mr. Zelenskyy had dialled Modi last Saturday, two days before the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr. Putin. After the phone conversation with Mr. Modi, Mr. Zelenskyy said India is ready to make the necessary efforts and to deliver the appropriate signal to Russia.

Total lunar eclipse to be visible in India on September 7 and 8



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Hyderabad: The third eclipse of 2025, a total lunar eclipse, will occur on September 7 and 8. The Planetary Society, India, in a press release on Saturday said that in 2025 there will be four eclipses, two lunar (March 14 and September 7) and two solar (March 29 and September 21). However, only one eclipse will be visible in India. The eclipse

on September 7 and 8 is a total lunar eclipse visible in India. The timings of the phases are from 8.57 pm on September 7 to 2.26 am on September 8. The noticeable umbral phase begins at 9.57 pm and ends at 1.27 am.

This is the period when people across India can see the Moon's disk darken as the Earth's shadow engulfs it. The Moon will begin to enter the Earth's darker shadow at 9.57 pm and start leaving at 1.27 am, N Sri Raghunandan Kumar, Director of The Planetary Society, India, said in the press release.

The totality phase will last from 11.00 pm to 12.23 am. During this period, the entire disk of the Moon will appear darkened with a reddish or orangish hue, or a mix of both, depending on local atmospheric conditions. The lunar eclipse can be seen with the naked eye, without telescopes, contrary to what some event organisers promote. The Society also cautioned against attempts to create fear by calling it a "Blood Moon" through social media videos and sought action against non-medical persons giving unsolicited advice to pregnant women.

KCR govt failed to build 2-bedroom houses for the poor - Minister Ponguleti



Wanaparthi (Mahabubnagar), Sept.6 Telangana minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy today vehemently criticised former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for failure to provide double-bedroom houses for the poor despite receiving huge commissions in the massive Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project.

Addressing a gathering after a housewarming ceremony for Indiramma housing beneficiaries in Mangapalli village of Peddamandadi mandal, Wanaparthi district, the revenue minister accused the former CM for deliberately stalling the housing project. On the other hand, the present Congress government has been implementing various welfare and developmental programmes collectively. The BRS party has treated the poor merely as a vote bank. During the BRS rule, not a single new ration card was issued. After coming to power, the Congress government sanctioned 7 lakh new ration cards and added 17 lakh new names to existing cards. Had the previous KCR government had constructed at least 2,000 double-bedroom houses each year, several eligible families would have benefitted, he noted.

Ponguleti assured that under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, houses would be constructed in all villages in three

phases and will be distributed to all eligible families. Criticising the BRS government's financial mismanagement, the minister alleged that KCR's government had left the state with a debt burden of Rs 8.19 lakh crore over a decade.

CM VISITS GANESH IDOL IMMERSION AT TANK BUND



Hyderabad, Sept.6 Ganesh Nimajanam at Tank Bund in Hyderabad went on peacefully today, drawing thousands of devotees from different parts of Telangana. After the immersion of the iconic Khairatabad Ganesh idol, devotees bid farewell with chants of 'Bye Bye Ganesha'. During the idols immersions at Tank Bund and Necklace road, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy made a surprise visit to NTR Marg (near State Secretariat), arriving without a convoy and with only a limited number of vehicles. The CM personally inspected the immersion arrangements at Crane Sambar-4 and interacted with GHMC and other senior officials on-site. He inquired about the number of idols yet to be immersed and reviewed the security measures in place.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Karnataka's move to use ballot paper for local body polls, contentious

Legally, the action is clear and above reproach. The recent cabinet decision of the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in Karnataka to replace EVMs with ballot paper for local body elections is well within acceptable parameters of functioning. Yet, given the massive trust deficit between the warring Opposition group – BJP, JD(S) combine – and that of the GOP, this move has at once raised a lot of questions, invited controversies and brought the impartial role of Election Commission into focus. The alacrity with which the State Election Commissioner welcomed the Cabinet decision and assured the government of having to face no legal obstacle in this regard means that the existing government wants to check out two things: the political mood at the ground level after the ruling party has witnessed a series of domain warfare and group politics, not to speak of the Dharmasthala debacle and an assorted set of unresolved problems at every level. Secondly, it wants to show to the country that polls can be held in a 'fair and free' manner using the erstwhile method of paper ballots, despite the complaint of malpractices plaguing it over the decades the EVMs replaced this method. The consensual, even pliant tone of the local election official G S Sangreshi reveals it all. "If the state government brings an enactment legally and guidelines are framed, we will have to implement it. Whether it is justifiable or not has been decided by them. They have considered public opinion and held discussions on the matter. Hence, there will be no hindrance to using ballot papers," Sangreshi has said. Of course, the combative Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar used the opportunity rather expectedly to taunt the BJP and ask them why are they worried if ballot papers are used

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 Bhadradi 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

We Will Provide Information Only If RTI Is Filed.

““Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad. District Reporter Jade Srinivas. September, "06. "“We will provide information only if RTI is filed. "“Asifabad There is widespread criticism of the functioning of the government hospital in the district headquarters of Kumram Bheem Asifabad. Last week, a tribal youth from the Asifabad mandal died in the hospital while undergoing treatment. Earlier, when a pregnant tribal woman came to the hospital after consuming alcohol, the staff behaved negligently, and her family members immediately informed MLA Kova Lakshmi. The MLA, who responded, left for the hospital in a hurry. When the DMHV and the hospital superintendent were called, the MLA did not even pick up the phone. The superintendent replied that he did not have the MLA's number, which led to widespread criticism. The plight of not having money even to fill the ambulance with diesel was a disaster. "“Confidentiality over details?"“The hospital staff is keeping the details of the government hospital in the district headquarters confidential. If you want any details about the hospital, you can ask through RTI and provide information for newspaper articles, said the hospital's deputy superintendent Dr. Krishna. However, keeping the details of the patients confidential is leading to many suspicions. Every month, about 150 to 200 patients are referred to other hospitals in the hospital. The hospital is limited to viral fever only. No other services are available here. However, when Namaste Telangana contacted the hospital's deputy superintendent Dr. Krishna on Friday to provide the details of the referral, he refused to provide the details. Instead, he gave free advice that information can be obtained through RTI.

Shashank Pasupuleti Appointed as Coordinator for TPCC Legal, Human Rights & RTI Department



Hyderabad: The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has officially appointed Shashank Pasupuleti as the Coordinator for its Legal, Human Rights & RTI Department with immediate effect. The appointment was confirmed through an official letter issued by Sri Ponnamm Ashok Goud, Advocate and Chairman of the TPCC Legal, Human

Rights & RTI Department. Expressing confidence in the new appointment, he stated that Shashank's role will further strengthen the party's efforts in upholding justice, transparency, and accountability. The communication emphasized the party's vision under the leadership of Smt. Sonia Gandhi Ji, Sri Rahul Gandhi Ji, Hon'ble AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge Ji, Hon'ble AICC Legal Cell Chairman Abhishek Manu Singhvi Ji, and TPCC President & Hon'ble CM Sri A. Revanth Reddy Garu.

Shashank Pasupuleti reaffirmed his commitment to work diligently for the safety of women, protection of fundamental rights, and promotion of RTI awareness. He expressed his strong faith in Dr. Kota Neelima, TPCC Vice President & Legal Cell Incharge, and Ponnamm Ashok Goud, acknowledging their guidance and leadership. Chairman Sri Ponnamm Ashok Goud also expressed happiness in working with Shashank, describing him as a dedicated professional who will inspire young advocates to follow the Congress party's principles. This appointment marks an important step for TPCC in strengthening its organizational framework in the legal and human rights domain, ensuring proactive engagement in addressing citizens' concerns.

Bus Stand Center Lakshmi Ganapathi Swamy's Anna Samaradhana Program in Splendor



“More than 9000 devotees”“MLA Jare participated in the Anna Samaradhana Program.”“Aswarapet, Naga Manoj Kumar, September (05): The Maha Anna Samaradhana Pro-



gram was held in the Lakshmi Ganapathi Temple at the Bus Stand Center in the Aswarapet Mandal Center. The Anna Samaradhana Program was held with thousands of devotees. The Ganesh Chaturthi festival is celebrated with great pomp at the Bus Stand Center Lakshmi Ganapathi Swamy Temple, which has a history of many years. Local MLA Jare Adinarayana participated in the Maha Anna Samaradhana Program and performed special pujas, after which the Anna Samaradhana Program was inaugurated by him and the Tirtha Prasad was distributed to the devotees. MLA Jare also visited the huge Ganesha temple in Danda Battula Wari Street and performed pujas. Mandal President Thumma Rambabu, Jupally Ramesh, Congress Party leaders, and thousands of devotees participated in the program.

Tight Security Measures for Ganesh Idol Immersion at Bhadrachalam“



““Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, September 6, Indian Chronicle: “Elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure smooth conduct of Ganesh idol immersion at the Godavari river in Bhadrachalam, District Superintendent of Police (SP) Rohit Raju, IPS, said. ““After the conclusion of Ganesh Navaratri festivities, thousands of devotees from various parts of the state are expected to arrive in Bhadrachalam for the immersion rituals. To prevent inconvenience and ensure public safety, the SP personally inspected the immersion ghats on the riverbanks today and issued instructions to the officials on duty. ““SP Rohit Raju appealed to festival committee members to strictly follow police guidelines during the processions and immersion. “Organizers must cooperate fully so that the immersion ceremonies are conducted peacefully and without any untoward incidents,” he said. ““To strengthen security, CCTV surveillance has been arranged across the district, covering idol processions and immersion points. Authorities have also banned the use of DJs, fireworks, and other disruptive activities during the processions. ““The SP cautioned that strict action would be taken against anyone violating rules or dis-



turbing law and order. He urged all devotees to participate with a spirit of devotion, communal harmony, and discipline. ““Special traffic management plans have been implemented to avoid congestion in busy areas, ensuring that devotees arriving from across the state face no inconvenience.

69-foot Khairatabad Ganesh idol immersed in Hussain Sagar lake

Hyderabad, Sept. 6 : The Khairatabad Maha Ganapati, one of the most prominent idols in Hyderabad, was on Saturday successfully immersed in the Hussain Sagar as part of the grand Ganesh immersion celebrations. The event was conducted amid elaborate arrangements, ensuring safety and smooth proceedings. The 69-foot Ganesh idol was immersed at crane number 4 on NTR Marg at 1:45 PM following the final prayer ceremony. With the devotees chanting “Jai Bhola Ganesh Maharaj ki Jai,” the idol was gently lowered into the water.

The procession commenced at 7:30 AM, with the idol making its way to Tank Bund via the Telugu Talli flyover and the Secretariat. After aarti was performed for Lord Ganesha, the Khairatabad Maha Ganapati immersion event was concluded by 2 PM. Thousands of devotees bid farewell to Lord Ganesha with the words “bye bye.” During this immersion, the areas surrounding Tank Bund became bustling with devotees, and large cranes were employed for the immersion process.

The Khairatabad Ganesh, a significant figure in Hyderabad, has once again attracted considerable attention, both locally and nationally. As part of the celebrations marking the 71st anniversary of the Ganesh festival, this year showcased an impressive 69-foot-tall idol. Through-



out the 11-day celebration, millions of devotees and visitors flocked to pay their respects to Maha Ganapati. The Khairatabad Ganesh Utsav Committee conveyed their sincere appreciation to the Hyderabad police, state government, GHMC staff, and other civic authorities for their essential cooperation and assistance in ensuring a successful immersion. In addition, over 50,000 police personnel were assigned to manage the smooth immersion of nearly 200,000 Ganesh idols on Saturday, which marked the conclusion of the 11-day Ganesh Chaturthi festivities.

Young Environmentalist Vishwamitra Chauhan Honored with Environmental Icon Award“



““Kranthi kumar Dasari, Pinapaka Constituency, September 6, Indian Chronicle : “In recognition of his relentless efforts towards environmental conservation, young nature enthusiast Vishwamitra Chauhan was conferred with the Environmental Icon Award during the Journalist Day celebrations organized by the Burgampadu Press Club. “For the past three years, Chauhan has been diligently planting saplings every single day as part of his “Walk for Trees” initiative, inspiring many with his commitment to protecting the environment. “The award ceremony saw Zabardast fame Dorababu Rising Raju present the honor to the young environmentalist, along with a ceremonial shawl, amidst loud appreciation from the gathering. Following the felicitation, Chauhan continued his mission by planting saplings as part of the event, symbolizing his unwavering dedication to nature. “Organizers lauded the young boy's efforts, noting that his example highlights the importance of individual responsibility in combating climate change and preserving ecological balance.

Darshan Suspended at Bhadrachalam Temple Today



““Kranthi Kumar Dasari | Pinapaka Constituency | Indian Chronicle | Bhadrachalam, September 7: On account of the partial lunar eclipse today, the renowned Sri Sitarama Chandra Swamy Temple at Bhadrachalam, popularly known as the Dakshina Ayodhya, will remain closed for devotees. Temple authorities announced that the temple doors will be closed today at 1:00 PM and all rituals, pujas, and darshan will remain suspended until the eclipse concludes. Following the eclipse, the temple will reopen on Monday, September 8, at 3:00 AM with the Suprabhata Seva. Subsequently, traditional rituals including temple purification, Samprokshana, Aaradhana, Seva Kaala, and Nivedana will be performed. After completing these sacred procedures, darshan for devotees will resume at 7:30 AM. Temple authorities have requested devotees to take note of these changes and plan their visits accordingly.

Keerthi Richmond Villas laddu fetches Rs. 2.32 crore

Hyderabad, Sept. 6 Setting a new record, the Ganesh laddu at Keerthi Richmond Villas in Sun City, Bandlaguda Jagir, Rajendranagar was auctioned for a staggering Rs. 2.32 crore here on Saturday. Weighing 10 kilograms. This marks an increase of Rs. 45 lakh from previous year price. Last year, the laddu was sold for about Rs. 1.87 crore.

This price is said to be the highest ever recorded in the Telugu States. Every year, the Richmond Villas residents organise auctioning of Ganesh laddu as part of the festivities. A total of 80 villa owners, divided into four groups, participated in the auction with more than 500 bids. It is noteworthy that the auction lasted for about two and a half hours. The organisers said the money will be donated to a trust that manages 42 NGOs. This trust, which is run entirely by volunteers, is helping 10,000 people, and they say that every penny goes directly to the field level. The money raised from the auction is used for charity purposes. Balapur Ganesh laddu fetches record Rs. 35 lakh Meanwhile, the highly sought-after Balapur Ganesh Laddu set a new record this year, selling for Rs. 35 lakh during an open auction held just before the Ganesh immersion procession on Saturday. Lingala Dasharath Goud from Karmanghat emerged as the successful bidder. The auction was competitive, with 38 participants registering to take part. Ultimately, the laddu's final bid reached Rs. 35 lakhs.

Following the auction, the festival committee honoured Goud for his victory. This year's price was Rs. 4.99 lakh higher than the previous year's auction. The organisers initiated bidding starting at Rs. 1,116, and the bids quickly surpassed last year's Rs. 30.01 lakh mark before Lingala Dasharath Goud claimed the laddu. In his remarks, Dasharath Goud expressed joy over his win, stating he had participated in the laddu auction for six consecutive years and was grateful to finally acquire it this time. He also extended his thanks to the organisers for allowing him to take part in the event. Meanwhile, police made elaborate arrangements for the peaceful conduct of the auction.

Honouring Journalists' Service""Burgamphadu Electronic Media Press Club Felicitates Journalists""



“By Kranthi Kumar Dasari | Pinapaka Constituency | September 6 | Indian Chronicle”“On the occasion of Journalists' Day, the Burgamphadu Electronic Media Press Club organized a grand felicitation ceremony to honour the relentless efforts of journalists who strive to bring truth to society. The event, presided over by Honorary President Thaluri Srihari babu, witnessed the participation of several prominent guests, dignitaries, and press club members, who felicitated journalists with mementoes and shawls, acknowledging their invaluable contribution to the field of journalism.”“Speaking on the occasion, Thaluri Srihari babu said that journalists act as the mirror of society by highlighting public issues and exposing corruption. Press Club President Pothireddy Venkatarani Reddy emphasized that journalism is not just a profession but a noble service dedicated to society.”“Congress leader and former Society Chairman Pothireddy Venkateshwara Reddy praised journalists for acting as a bridge between the people and the authorities, ensuring that public grievances reach those in power. Similarly, former Lakshmiapuram Deputy Sarpanch Pothireddy Venkateshwar Reddy stressed that bringing the truth to light is the sacred duty of every journalist.”“BRS Party leader and former ZPTC member Kamireddy Srilatha lauded journalists as fearless public servants who raise their

voices on behalf of the people. Current Society Chairman Bikkasani Srinivas highlighted the significant role of journalists in influencing key government decisions and shaping policies for public welfare.”“BRS leaders Valluri Vamsi Krishna and Jalagam Jagadish expressed that honouring journalists is a shared social responsibility and said that such recognition motivates them to continue their mission with greater determination.”“Press Club General Secretary Gurra Ravikumar acknowledged the growing challenges faced by journalists today and emphasized the need for unity and mutual cooperation within the profession. He assured that the Press Club will continue to fight for the rights, welfare, and professional growth of journalists.”“Founding members Kunduru Srinivas Reddy, Sambba reddy, Vinod Kumar Naik, Kota Ramesh, and others appreciated the vital role journalists play in the development of society, stating that their tireless efforts contribute significantly to social awareness and reform.”“The event was attended by Kranthi Kumar Dasari, Srinivasa rao, Akula Satish, Maheshwar Reddy, Tirumala Reddy, Aninash Reddy, and several other members. The felicitation ceremony not only strengthened unity, harmony, and cooperation among journalists but also stood as a memorable recognition of their dedicated service, inspiring them to continue their pursuit of truthful and responsible journalism.

Gaddam Ravikumar Felicitates TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud on Completing One Year in Office



““NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Uppal, September 6, Indian Chronicle: Former State Youth Congress Secretary Gaddam Ravikumar, PCC General Secretary Komurayya, Satyanarayana Murthy, Pingali Prasad Yadav, Pasha and others felicitated TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on the occasion of completing one year as TPCC chief. Speaking on the occasion, Gaddam Ravikumar said that ever since Mahesh Kumar Goud took charge as TPCC President, he has been giving due recognition to leaders and party workers from all sec-

tions and ensuring justice within the party. He praised Goud for strengthening the party over the past year, working for its progress, and actively promoting government schemes while maintaining a positive approach with everyone. Ravikumar further said that Mahesh Kumar Goud has been striving hard for the implementation of BC reservations and that BC communities would extend full support to him. He expressed confidence that the efforts of Mahesh Kumar Goud would play a key role in ensuring the Congress Party's victory in the upcoming local body elections.

Illegal Cattle Transport: Case Against Five,43 Cattle Seized““



"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad.District Reporter Jade Srinivas.September,"06.““Illegal cattle transport: Case against five, 43 cattle seized Police seized 43 cattle in three Bolero vehicles illegally transporting them from Maharashtra towards Jagtial at Gudem check post in Sirpur

constituency of Asifabad district.A case was registered against five people in this incident, and 9 cows died. A panchnama was conducted in the presence of veterinary doctors and the dead cattle were handed over to the village panchayat. Sub- Inspector Islawat Naresh and police personnel participated in this program.

CBI Director Praveen Sood hospitalized

Hyderabad, Sept.6 CBI Director Praveen Sood became unwell while on his way back from Srisailem on Saturday morning. His staff quickly sprang into action and transported him to Apollo Hospital in Jubilee Hills.Senior police officers who learned of the situation arrived at the hospital to visit him. They engaged with the medical team to inquire about his condition.It has been reported that Praveen Sood came to review the investigation into the Kaleshwaram

project case. He arrived in the city on Friday and held discussions for over two hours with senior officials at the Hyderabad Zone CBI office. On September 1, the Telangana government officially sent a letter to the Centre requesting a CBI investigation into irregularities concerning the Kaleshwaram project. Following this, the CBI director personally visited Hyderabad, which has since attracted considerable attention.

170 trainee IPS officers visit TGICCC

Hyderabad, Sept.6: A total of 170 trainee IPS officers from the National Police Academy visited the TGICCC building in Hyderabad on Saturday.During their visit, they interacted with C.V. Anand, Director General and Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad. On the occasion, C.V. Anand shared his 10 years of experience serving in the city of Hyderabad and the 13th time he is doing this Ganesh bandobust and the 4rth time as CP Hyderabad, with the officers.

He stated that Hyderabad is one of the most sensitive and sprawling cities in the country, home to people from all walks of life and all religions. Therefore, festival management is most important here.Explaining how police security for Ganesh is managed in the city, C.V. Anand mentioned that approximately 25,000 Ganesh idols are expected for immersion this year on the last day. He emphasised the

importance of ensuring a safe environment for such a massive event and preventing any stampedes.Through a detailed PowerPoint presentation, he explained the Hyderabad Police's plan of action, preparation, tactics, and measures taken to prevent stampedes during festivals like Ganesh Utsav, Milad Un Nabi, Bonalu, Dussehra Navaratri, Hanuman Rally, and Sriram Navami Rally.The city police chief also explained how technology and IT is harnessed to make online permission forms , geotagging of idols and use of drones, apps and cctvs , the multi-agency command control centreThe event was attended by Ram Nivas Sepat, DIG, Deputy Director, Basic Course-2, Kalmeshwar Singenwar, Assistant Director of Training, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy; and Pushpa, DCP, IT Cell, TGICCC Building, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

CANCER AWARENESS RUN ON OCT 12

Hyderabad, Sept.6 Film actress Aishwarya Rajesh and actor Ali unveiled the T-shirt and Medal of the 8th Edition of Global Grace Cancer Run - 2025, the world's largest cancer awareness run, at Hotel Daspalla here in Jubilee Hills. The event is graced by Dr. Chinnababu Sunkavalli, Founder of Grace Cancer Foundation, along with Narendranath of Quambiant Developers, Prashanthi (Evernorth), Ramesh Kaza (SCSC) and several dignitaries. The proposed run with the theme 'Run for Grace and Screen for Life', is scheduled for October 12, 2025, in hybrid mode - both physical and virtual participation.

On this occasion, Aishwarya Rajesh said, “Cancer is nothing compared to the daily challenges of living in a world which is polluted with negativity. People may judge me, but I know who I am. My true hero is Dr. Chinnababu Sunkavalli, who founded the Grace Cancer Foundation. If I am free, I will not only attend the run but also participate in the 10K category.” She urged the women to love themselves, care for their health and get screened for cancer.Actor Ali said, “If parents give us birth, the doctors give us life. A run spread-

ing a positive message about cancer is truly laudable. I celebrate my birthday on October 10. With the 8th edition happening on October 12, I want the Grace Cancer Foundation to hold a run in my birthplace, Rajahmundry. I'll do everything possible to make that happen.”

Founder Dr. Chinnababu Sunkavalli emphasized: “The Run aims to make a meaningful impact by raising cancer awareness, promoting physical activity as a preventive measure, and enabling access to free doorstep cancer screening for the underprivileged.”The program also featured three cancer survivors - Vimala Prasad, Vasantha Kumari and Geetha Kumari who have shared their inspiring journeys, affirming that the cancer is curable if detected early and fought with confidence.According to the foundation, the proposed Cancer awareness run is scheduled on Oct 12 at Gachibowli in Hyderabad. About 40,000 runners, including 10,000 Navodaya students (mobilized by Bharanendra Nallamotu) are expected to take part. The run is categorized into 2K, 5K and 10K. For online registration visit www.gracecancerrun.com

Ganesh Idol immersion peaceful across Telangana - DGP Jitender

Hyderabad, Sept.6 Director General of Police Jitender on Saturday asserted that the Ganesh idol immersion process is being carried out peacefully across Telangana state, including Hyderabad city. While the idol immersions have been completed in several districts of the state, the process in Hyderabad is expected to continue till Sunday morning, he noted.The DGP, talking to newsmen after the successful immersion of Khairatabad Maha Ganapati in Hussainsagar lake, said that the event has been conducted smoothly for the past five years. He said that the immersion is being held under the close supervision of senior police officials. Thousands of idols are being taken for immersion to Hussain Sagar lake. The DGP appealed to the devotees to bring their Ganesh idols from mandapams without

delay and cooperate with the police by following the instructions.

To ensure safety and smooth conduct of the event, about 8,000 police personnel from other districts have been deployed in Hyderabad. Security arrangements have been strengthened across Hyderabad, Rachakonda and Cyberabad commissionerates. The immersion is being monitored round-the-clock from the DGP office and the Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC) at Banjara Hills.The DGP also informed that the idol immersion was completed peacefully in Nizamabad, Kamareddy, Nirmal and Bhainsa, while Warangal district conducted the immersion process on Friday. Out of 1.6 lakh idols installed across the state, about 80,000 have already been immersed.

MAN DUPED OF Rs 28.76 LAKH IN ONLINE TRADING AND IPO SCAM

Hyderabad, Sept.6 A 40-year-old resident of Yousufguda in Hyderabad, fell victim to a massive online trading and IPO investment scam, losing a total of Rs.28,76,715. The victim was initially contacted through Facebook and later added to a WhatsApp group named "F55 - Fortune Skye" with over 200 members. The group appeared genuine, with members posing as successful investors.

According to the police, the victim is lured by promises of high returns, and he began investing in trading and IPO schemes as instructed by the fraudsters. They provided him with account details claiming to be SEBI-registered. At first, he was shown fake profits to gain his trust. Later, he was allocated shares worth Rs 25 lakh, after which

he was pressured to pay an 18% brokerage fee of Rs.3.11 lakh. When he tried to withdraw the funds, the fraudsters demanded further payments, including a 20% tax. Despite his trading account on a fake app (RCL-PMA) showing a balance of Rs.42,86,947, the scammers blocked all the withdrawals. They even threatened that the funds would be transferred to charity if he failed to pay additional taxes.

Investigations have revealed that most members of the WhatsApp group were fraudsters impersonating genuine investors to mislead new victims. Authorities have warned the citizens against joining suspicious online trading groups and urged the investors to verify SEBI registration details directly from official sources before making any financial commitments.

Service to humanity is the true path to progress - Minister Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, Sept.6 : Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu today emphasized that the public participation, alongside government efforts, is essential for a holistic development. “Society can truly progress only when individuals come forward with the spirit of ‘Service to Humanity is Service to Divinity’ and extend support to fellow citizens. With a growing population and rising demands, the governments alone cannot address every challenge”, he noted and stressed the crucial role of voluntary organizations like the Kamaraju Annapuramma charitable trust.

Addressing a gathering at the "College Fee Renewals Programme for 2025–26" and a student interaction session organized by the Kamaraju Annapuramma Charitable Trust at Bachupally here on Saturday, Sridhar Babu highlighted the importance of community-driven initiatives. Commending the Trust for supporting the education to 300 underprivileged students, he said that education is not just a degree

but a force that can transform lives. “The real question is not what society has given us, but what we have contributed to it. Food donation is noble, but the gift of education is transformative,” he observed.

The minister further noted that social service need not be limited to financial assistance. “A smile, a kind word, or a small gesture of help also counts as service. Such good deeds inspire our children and future generations,” he added.Talking to the students, the Minister urged them to identify their interests, set clear goals and pursue them with patience, perseverance and determination. “Great achievements never come easily. Move forward with courage despite obstacles, and success will surely follow,” he advised.MLC Surabhi Vani Devi, BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao, Trust Chairman and Praneeth Group CMD Narendra Kumar Kamaraju, former MP G.V.L. Narasimha Rao, former MLAs Voditela Satish and Malladi Vishnu and others are present. (

MUMBAI POLICE BUST Rs 12,000 CR DRUG RACKET IN HYD

Hyderabad, Sept.6 :In one of the biggest drug busts in the country, the Mumbai Police today uncovered a massive narcotics operation being run from the Cherlapalli industrial area on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The gang, operating under the guise of a chemical factory named 'Waghdevi Labs', was found to be manufacturing Mephedrone (MD) on an industrial scale. Drugs and raw chemicals worth nearly Rs.12,000 crore were seized.

According to senior officials concerned, the Mira-Bhayander and Vasai-Virar police of Maharashtra has been tracking the gang for several years. After weeks of surveillance and intelligence gathering, a swift raid was conducted at the Cherlapalli unit. The police arrested 12 people, including the factory owner, a chemist identified as Srinivas, his aide Tanaji Pathe, and a foreign national.

The initial bust yielded 100 grams of MD and Rs.25 lakh in cash. A follow-up search of the factory premises led to the seizure of around 32,000 liters of precursor chemi-



cals and high-end production equipment used for large-scale drug manufacturing. Investigations revealed that the contraband is being supplied to Maharashtra and other states.Authorities have expressed concern that such a vast narcotics hub is functioning as a centre in Hyderabad. The probe has now been widened to identify other links in the syndicate.

BBMB clean chit notwithstanding, Haryana blames Punjab flood woes on summer standoff



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) may have emphasized that release of extra water from Bhakra dam in summer months to Haryana — beyond its allocated quota — may not have made much of a difference on the severity of the floods in Punjab now, but the BJP-ruled state begs to differ.Citing the minutes of a BBMB Technical Committee meeting, a senior Haryana government official asserted that Punjab should not have withheld water from Haryana, Delhi, and Rajasthan in summer months — particularly with the monsoon season approaching and the IMD forecasting over 105% rainfall this year. “An analysis of historical data indicates that releasing water during May and June has been a consistent practice, with a discernible correlation between these releases and subsequent flooding events,” the Haryana official said.

The official emphasized that it is technically advisable to de-stress dams through annual water release. Such measures not only alleviate structural pressure but also help mitigate silt accumulation, which accelerates in stagnant reservoirs — an issue that even BBMB chairman Manoj Tripathi has flagged (Blaming the partner states for not allowing dams to be emptied for desilting, Tripathi said, “In Bhakra dam alone, 25 per cent of capacity is occupied by silt”). Tripathi also said that Bhakra and Pong dams have a huge carrying capacity and “had it not been for the dams, Punjab would have faced floods as early as June due to the extraordinary rainfall”. The Haryana official, however, added that this raises a troubling contradiction: if flood control is a core function of dams, why does Punjab continue to suffer from recurring floods despite its extensive network of dams and barrages? “The inconsistency is stark, and it demands serious scrutiny and accountability.”However, Punjab Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal said: “When our farmers are short of water, then Haryana stakes claim on extra water. When we are flooded, then Haryana writes to us to cut down on water release. That time (in summer) we did not have extra water. Now, we have all the water but they do not want it.”The Haryana government, through its Irrigation and Water Resources Department, on August 29 had written to the Punjab government and the BBMB, requesting to reduce the release of water into the state’s canals by around 2,500 cusecs, citing the ongoing heavy rainfall and reduced water demand. The request, however, did not go down well with Punjab, which asked if Haryana wants “Punjab’s people to drown” in the floodwaters.Responding

to questions about water release to Haryana in April, BBMB’s Tripathi Friday said that even if water had been released then, the dam’s level would have dropped by only three feet — insignificant compared to the current inflow.According to the minutes of a meeting of the BBMB held on April 23 this year, Haryana Chief Engineer (ML Rana) requested that “in order to resolve ongoing water crisis particularly drinking water situation, Haryana may be allowed release of 8500 cusecs up to May 1, 2025”.

However, Punjab Chief Engineer/canal (Sher Singh) emphasized that “Haryana should not be allowed release beyond their share quota” and stated that “earlier they had bilaterally decided releases of 4,000 cusecs for drinking water requirements”.In the meeting, Tripathi had informed that “as per the technical requirement based on rule curve the reservoir level has to be brought down and there should not be any objection to partner states in this regard”. He had also stated that if needed, matter may be discussed bilaterally by the states — Punjab and Haryana.According to a note prepared by Haryana officials on May 2, the Technical Committee meeting held on April 23, resolved that Haryana would be allocated 8,500 cusecs of water for the period April 24 to May 1 (eight days), to meet its drinking water requirements and to distribute water to its partner states. In line with this decision, Haryana submitted an indent of 8,500 cusecs to the Punjab authorities, requesting delivery at the Haryana Contact Point (HCP).However, the Haryana note mentioned that Punjab did not forward the indent to the BBMB as agreed in the meeting. According to the note, this lapse led to a critical water shortage across multiple districts in Haryana, causing widespread distress and disruption in essential water supply.Under Clause 79(1)(c) of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, the BBMB is legally responsible for the administration, maintenance, and operation of key irrigation headworks at Ropar, Harike, and Ferozepur. However, the Haryana note mentioned, Punjab retained control over these headworks, rather than transferring them to BBMB as mandated. As a result, the note further mentioned, Haryana received less water than its allocated share.On his part, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on April 30 had said that his state does not have a single drop of water to share. He accused the BJP of exerting pressure on the Punjab government through BBMB to meet Haryana’s demand.Mann also said that as a humanitarian gesture the Punjab government generously allotted 4,000 cusecs of water daily to Haryana from April 6, 2025. He said that though the population of Haryana is three crore and as per estimates 1,700 cusec of water is enough to meet the needs of people of state.According to Haryana officials, the water supply was never halted in 2022, 2023, or 2024. Every year in April, May, and June, 9,000 cusecs of water is supplied, with 500 cusecs allocated to Delhi, 800 cusecs to Rajasthan, 400 cusecs to Punjab, while Haryana fulfils its drinking water needs from the remaining share.As Punjab refused to share extra water with Haryana, the BBMB moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court. At that time, the AAP volunteers led by Punjab minister Harjot Bains locked the gates of the Beas dam on May 8. The activists had also locked up Tripathi at a guest house in Nangal.

‘Assembly polls tickets for cash’: Man held in Kolkata for using TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee’s name, cheating people



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The police identified the accused as Sheikh Najmul Hoda and said he was arrested from a hotel in Park Street.The police identified the accused as Sheikh Najmul Hoda and said he was arrested from a hotel in Park Street.

The Kolkata police arrested a man late on Friday evening for allegedly cheating people using the name of Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Abhishek Banerjee by promising to get them party tickets for the upcoming Assembly polls.The police identified the accused as Sheikh Najmul Hoda and said he was arrested from a hotel in Park Street.According to police sources, Hoda posed as a close aide of Banerjee and convinced people that he could secure them tickets for the Assembly elections. He allegedly

attempted to extort money from several individuals.A case of cheating and fraud was lodged against Hoda at the Shakespeare Sarani police station.A senior police officer said that the preliminary investigation suggests that Hoda had been contacting people over the phone and in person, luring them with the promise of election tickets, to swindle lakhs of rupees. The police are investigating how many people he duped or tried to dupe.Hoda will be produced in court on Saturday, and the police will seek custody for further investigation.The officer said Hoda will be questioned to ascertain if others were involved in the racket. The police are also looking into his call records, his financials, and whether he has a prior criminal record.TMC sources have stated that Hoda has no connection with the party and sought strict action against him.In December 2024, three people had been arrested in Kolkata for allegedly attempting to extort TMC leader Ananda Dutta by impersonating officials from Banerjee’s office. Dutta, the chairman of Kalna municipality in East Burdwan district, grew suspicious and contacted senior party officials, who confirmed the attempt to scam him. After filing a complaint, the police conducted a sting operation, leading to the suspects’ arrest.Those arrested from the MLA hostel were identified as Junedul Haque Chowdhury, Subhadip Malik, and Taslim Sheikh. One of the accused was arrested from a room booked by an S K Imran. The police also alleged that the guest room in Imran’s name was booked by BJP MLA Nikhil Ranjan Dey, who denied the allegation.

Palaniswami should save his faction-ridden AIADMK, instead of criticising DMK: Udhayanidhi Stalin

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin took strong exception to AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami for criticising the DMK-led alliance and advised the former CM to save his faction-ridden party that was disintegrating.Referring to the latest rift in the opposition AIADMK with its senior leader K A Sengottaiyan on September 5 asking Palaniswami to take into the AIADMK fold all those who left the party, Udhayanidhi said this was a new group that has emerged in the AIADMK.“When the members of two AIADMK factions meet, they would only enquire who belonged to which faction — EPS (Edappadi K Palaniswami), OPS (O Panneerselvam), TTV (T T V Dhinakaran), Sasikala (ousted interim general secretary), Sellur Raju or the newly emerged Sengottaiyan group,” Udhayanidhi sarcastically remarked while addressing party workers here on Friday evening.Though the AIADMK was disintegrating into many groups, Palaniswami went around claiming that the DMK would swallow its allies. “But he (Palaniswami) should first resolve the crisis in his party rather than criticise the DMK,” he said.Both the AIADMK and the BJP were on the same page, especially in being “self-destructive” and “swallowing each other.” “Palaniswami has no right to talk about our alliance which is based on principles and not formed with



the Assembly election in mind,” Udhayanidhi, who is DMK youth wing secretary, said.He warned that if the AIADMK-BJP coalition came to power in Tamil Nadu, it would pave the way for imposing Hindi through the three-language formula, redefine the constituencies, introduce the NEP and give up the state’s financial rights.

Therefore, in the battle to defeat the BJP-AIADMK combine, I urge all of you to stand in the forefront as front-line players in the 2026 assembly elections and ensure we achieve the target of winning 200 seats set by our president and Chief Minister M K Stalin,” he said.

1 of 9 payment gateways linked to Karnataka MLA K C Veerendra Puppy’s illegal betting business got ? 2,000 crore, ED tells court



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Multiple firms operated by arrested Karnataka Congress MLA K C Veerendra Puppy, 43, and associates received proceeds from illegal online betting websites through nine payment gateways, and the funds received from one payment gateway alone are ? 2,000 crore, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has claimed.The ED, which obtained four additional days of custody of Puppy, the Chitradurga MLA, on September 5, argued during the remand proceedings that it needs to further investigate his financial activities since the probe of one of nine payment gateways alone had revealed a transfer of 2,000 crore.The counsel for Puppy had opposed the extended remand, citing a September 3 press release by the agency, which detailed the findings of the probe. The counsel argued that there was no further probe left since the ED had provided the details of its findings in its press note.

The ED’s custody of Puppy is set to conclude on September 8, even as a high court plea filed by his wife, Chaitra R D, against his arrest is set to be heard. The high court is also expected to pronounce its verdict in a challenge to a summons issued to a business associate of the MLA, Anil Gowda H, an advocate with connections to Congress leaders.The ED has, meanwhile, stated that the money collected from betting sites like King567, Raja567, Lion567 operated by Puppy and his associates “through a single gateway alone is more than 2,000 crore in a short span of time”.“It has also been revealed that several gateways have been used for routing payments collected through these websites. It has been revealed that K C Thippeswamy, brother of the accused, is operating three business entities

Gold and diamond-studded ritual pots stolen during religious event across Red Fort



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Two gold-and-diamond-studded kalash (ritual pots) were stolen from a religious event held Tuesday at a park opposite the Red Fort complex, police said.Deputy Commissioner of Police (North Delhi) Raja Banthia clarified that the theft occurred during the event that took place opposite the Red Fort complex and did not occur inside the historical fort.Police said the theft took place during a Jain religious

event, organised by the Jain Parv Pandal in the 15 August Park, that was attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The ritual pots disappeared from the stage amid the rush during the ceremonial welcome.The kalash, worth crores, had been brought for daily rituals by a local businessman, Sudhir Jain. According to Jain’s complaint, the stolen items include a large gold jhari weighing approximately 760 grams, a coconut made of gold, and a smaller jhari studded with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds.CCTV footage from the venue reportedly showed suspicious movements of an individual. Investigators said they have identified the suspect and are hopeful of an early arrest.

The religious gathering of the Jain community has been underway at the Red Fort’s 15 August Park and will continue until September 9. The missing pots were considered a key part of the daily rituals.Police have increased security in and around the venue and are questioning those present near the stage at the time of the incidentOfficials said teams are scanning CCTV recordings from multiple angles to trace the movements of the suspect after the theft. A case has been registered, and efforts are on to recover the stolen urns.

To ‘implicate’ friend in terror case, Noida astrologer sent ‘34 human bombs carrying RDX’ threat to Mumbai Police; arrested



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

South Delhi doctor murder case: Absconding for over a year, 2 men arrested near India-Nepal border after 3,000-km chaseOfficers said that Ashwini allegedly sent the threat message in his friend’s name to implicate him in a terror case.Ashwini Kumar (51) had been nursing a grudge against his friend, Firoz, for two years. In 2023, Firoz had lodged a case against him, and he spent three months in jail.On Friday, Kumar, an astrologer, set his revenge plan into motion.

He allegedly shot off a message to the official WhatsApp number of the Mumbai Traffic Police — in Firoz’s name — that 34 “human bombs” carrying “400 kg of RDX” have been planted in 34 vehicles for a blast that will “shake the entire city”. The message, which claimed to be from the ‘Lashkar-e-Jihadi’ organisation, also said that 14 Pakistani terrorists have entered India.In the early hours of Saturday, Kumar was arrested in Noida by the Mumbai Police for allegedly sending the message threatening to blow up the city.According to police, the accused originally hails from Patliputra colony of Patna. “The accused,” police said, “has been living in Noida’s Sector 79 since 2020 with his parents.”Officers said that Kumar allegedly sent the threat message in his friend Firoz’s name to implicate him in a terror case. “In 2023, he was jailed for three months after Firoz, a Bihar resident, lodged a case against him at Pulwari Sharif police station in Patna,” said officials.According to the FIR filed against Kumar, he sent the terror threat message to “frame” Firoz, because of whom he was jailed in

2023.Police have also seized seven mobile phones, three SIM cards, six memory card holders, one SIM slot external, two digital cards and four SIM card holders from Kumar’s possession.Mumbai was put on high alert, as the threat was issued while police were making security arrangements for Anant Chaturdashi, the 10th day of the Ganesh festival.A case was registered at the Worli police station, and the Crime Branch took over the probe, an officer said.The Crime Branch traced the sender’s mobile phone number to Gautam Buddha Nagar, following which a police team travelled to Noida and apprehended the accused, the officer said.The arrested accused is being brought to Mumbai and will be produced before the court, later in the day, he added.

Burma Burma unveils ‘From Burma, With Tea’ – A Burmese Tea Shop experience

Hyderabad: This monsoon season, Burma Burma has come up with ‘From Burma, With Tea’ – a one-of-a-kind Burmese Tea Shop experience available across all our restaurants from September 1 to 30.One can enjoy a limited-edition menu featuring rich Burmese Pulled teas – both hot and iced, alongside crackling bites and flavourful shared plates. Each offering is thoughtfully created so you can bring your favourite people together over great food and warm conversation.

In Burma, tea is more than a drink; it’s a way of life, a bridge between people. From the bustling streets of Yangon to the quiet corners of rural towns, tea shops are where life unfolds, full of laughter, connection, and the comforting aroma of sweet milk tea and spiced snacks.A press release said that for The Tea Shop promotion, every item on the menu draws inspiration from authentic Burmese tea shops and one can expect bold flavours, hearty bites, and aromatic teas

Telangana High Court flays procedural flaw, directs TGSPDCL to restore electricity connection to house owner



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The case involves a dispute between a property owner and the Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPPCL). The case involves a dispute between a property owner and the Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPPCL). The High Court of Telangana has recently set aside the disconnection of an electricity connection, emphasising that service providers must follow proper legal procedures, including providing adequate notice, even in cases of disputed dues. The court ordered the immediate restoration of power to a consumer whose connection was cut off over a former tenant's outstanding bill of over Rs 23.8 lakh.

The case involves a dispute between a property owner and the Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL). The power company had disconnected the owner's service after a former lessee, Meghana Pharma, left the premises with outstanding electricity dues of over Rs 23.8 lakh. The owner was held liable

for these dues by the writ court, leading to the appeals. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Apasresh Kumar Singh and Justice G M Mohiuddin heard arguments from both sides regarding the owner's liability under the Electricity Act, 2003. While the electricity company argued that the owner falls within the broad definition of a "consumer" and is therefore responsible for the dues, the owner's counsel maintained that liability did not transfer since no indemnity bond was signed. Without issuing a final judgment on the question of the owner's liability, the High Court focused on a procedural flaw.

It noted that TGSPDCL disconnected the power without providing the owner with the mandatory 15-day prior written notice, as required under Section 56 of the Electricity Act and Regulation No. 7 of 2013. The judges concluded that this lack of proper notice rendered the act of disconnection improper in the eyes of the law. Subsequently, the court set aside the earlier writ order and directed the TSSPDCL to restore the electricity connection. The court's judgment, however, leaves the legal question of the owner's liability open. The power company is now free to issue a fresh notice to the owner for the dues of Meghana Pharma and decide on the matter after receiving a reply, in accordance with the law. Rahul V Pisharody is an Assistant Editor with the Indian Express Online and has been reporting from Telangana on various issues since 2019. Besides a focused approach to big news developments, Rahul has a keen interest in stories about Hyderabad and its inhabitants and looks out for interesting features on the city's heritage, environment, history culture etc. His articles are straightforward and simple reads in sync with the context. Rahul started his career as a journalist in 2011 with The New Indian

Saini leads from front as ministers highlight key reforms, development agendas in Question Hour

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Chief minister Nayab Singh Saini and his cabinet colleagues addressed queries of the members of the 90-member House on the questions centered on school and college upgradation, BPL card reforms, healthcare improvements, infrastructure development and also paid tribute to state's former chief minister Bansi Lal, here Tuesday, in the ongoing monsoon session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha. During the Question Hour, the assembly's proceedings reflected BJP government's focus on improving service delivery, promoting transparency and ensuring inclusive growth across education, health, water resources, public infrastructure and social welfare. Before beginning of Tuesday's proceedings, Saini, Vidhan Sabha Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, cabinet ministers, and MLAs cycled from the MLA Hostel to the Vidhan Sabha. The event, aimed at supporting the 'Fit India, Healthy India' movement and promoting a drug-free Haryana, to encourage youth for avoiding substance abuse and adopt a healthier lifestyle.

During the Question Hour, responding to a query about education upgrades in Hathin Block, Saini confirmed that three secondary schools located in Sapanki, Maluka, and Swamika have received administrative approval for upgradation. He said the required student strength has been met in these schools, and approvals have been granted with relaxation of standard norms. He also reiterated the government's commitment to deploying adequate teaching staff, adding that recruitment is being expedited through the Haryana Public Service Commission.

In line with the government's larger educational vision, the CM highlighted that the promise to establish a Sanskriti Model School every 10 km has been successfully fulfilled this year. Further strengthening the higher education infrastructure, he noted that seven government colleges are currently operational near village Janauli in Palwal district, supporting the state's policy to establish a government college within every 20-kilometer radius, especially benefitting girl students. On the topic of social welfare, Development and Panchayat Minister Krishan Lal Panwar informed the House that the process of identifying BPL (Below Poverty Line) beneficiaries has been made more accurate and transparent through the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) system. Between January 1, 2024, and July 31, 2025, a total of 8.73 lakh families were added to the BPL list, while 9.68 lakh families were removed. As of August 22, 2025, the state has 41.93 lakh active BPL families. Saini clarified that beneficiaries can now self-declare income via an open portal, which is automatically verified to ensure that only eligible households receive benefits. Meanwhile, addressing infrastructure concerns, Irrigation and Water Resources Minister Shruti Choudhry said that canal construction projects in



Sirsa district, specifically the Dhingantia and Bhamboor minors have faced delays due to land acquisition hurdles. "While only 68 per cent of land has been procured for the Dhingantia Kharif Channel, negotiations are ongoing with landowners of villages including Rangri Khara and Shahpur Begu. For Mangala village, where acquisition has stalled, the department is exploring the construction of an Open Trough Channel to reduce land dependency. Similarly, discussions are ongoing with landowners of five villages involved in the Bhamboor Salarpur Channel, with some demanding rates well above collector value," the minister said.

In a related development, the Shruti Choudhry said, "Around 56.5 million litres per day (MLD) of treated waste water is being discharged from sewage treatment plants in Hisar district, with a proposal under consideration to utilize 25 MLD of this water for irrigation. In addition, administrative approvals have been granted for the renovation of 24 watercourses — nine in Nalwa and 15 in Adampur Assembly constituencies — at a combined cost of over Rs 59 crore. More renovation proposals are in the pipeline for the next financial year." Healthcare improvements also formed a major part of the discussions. Health Minister Arti Singh Rao addressed concerns regarding the availability of anti-snake venom in Nuh district and assured the House that there is no shortage. She stated that under Saini's direction, the government is upgrading civil hospitals across all 22 districts. On infrastructure development, Public Works Minister Ranbir Gangwa announced that patchwork on 15,000 km of state roads has been completed. Energy Minister Anil Vij revealed that the government has approved the establishment of a power sub-station in Sector-33, Hisar. He added that coordination is underway with HSPV for land finalization, and groundwork is expected to start shortly after. Urban Local Bodies Minister Vipul Goel also addressed land and tenancy issues. He said that of the 21 shops in Lal Chowk (Uchana constituency), only two tenants have submitted applications for ownership transfer, which will be processed within a month.

Delhi Govt makes presence of officers at public hearings mandatory, absence without permission to face action

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The Delhi Government has directed all officials concerned to be present during weekly public hearings, and those found absent will face disciplinary action to ensure that such meetings held under the district revenue offices are more effective and meaningful, officials said Tuesday. Officials said the divisional commissioner has issued an order in this regard, and copies have also been sent to all department heads, as well as to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), and the Delhi Cantonment Board. "Attendance of designated officers at these camps has now been made compulsory. If a designated officer is unable to attend, they must obtain prior permission from the district magistrate concerned. Absence without such permission will invite disciplinary action," said an official.

"It was recalled that on April 7, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, in a meeting with the divisional commissioner and all district magistrates, had directed that at least one public hearing camp be held every week in each revenue district. She had also instructed that inter-departmental coordination committee meetings be convened regularly in various subdivisions," the official added. The Delhi chief minister made it clear that only designated officers must attend these forums for direct dialogue with the public. Sending representatives or subordinate staff would not be acceptable under any circumstances, the officials added. Meanwhile,



Chief Minister Gupta's weekly Jan Sunwai (public hearing) will not take place this Wednesday. According to sources, Gupta announced last week that the Jan Sunwai will now be conducted across all Delhi Assembly constituencies, instead of being limited to her camp office.

Officials said that suitable venues are currently being identified to accommodate the event's logistical and security requirements. "The Jan Sunwai programme needs large open spaces and adequate security arrangements. The process of locating appropriate venues is underway. The chief minister will soon begin meeting people and hearing their grievances at these weekly events across constituencies," an official said. The decision to expand and relocate the public hearing comes after an incident at last week's Jan Sunwai at the CM's camp office, where a man from Rajkot, Gujarat, allegedly attacked the Chief Minister. I

Bandhs breached, Tarn Taran residents carry soil bit by bit to save selves from Beas



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Residents of Sabhra village in the Patti Assembly constituency of Tarn Taran district have been working tirelessly for the past two weeks to strengthen the Beas river embankments (bundhs) after the water level rose to 2.5 lakh cusecs, and the inflow is expected to reach 3 lakh cusecs. However, the strong water current of the swollen river breached bundhs at several locations, washing away the efforts of the past two weeks. Many videos of villagers exposing breaches in the under-repair bundhs have gone viral. However, in Sabhrawan village, locals are working on a war footing to contain the situation. Bagha Pehlwan, a local, said, "The situation is under control. We have put up barriers, filling gabion crates. Around 400-500 people are engaged at two stretches near villages." Deputy Commissioner Rahul Sindhu said the administration is providing support for embankment work, including fuel, bags and soil, while kar sewa volunteers led by local saints are engaged in plugging weak points. "We are providing fuel for the vehicles, we are providing bags, and we are also getting the material for making embankments. But stones cannot be arranged in the rainy season," the DC said.

Sindhu, however, said, "So far, floodwater has not entered houses or any settlement in the district, though damage was reported in Firozepur and Kapurthala." Sindhu said, "Relief centres have been identified, and within three hours, we can have relief centres ready. Besides, the Army can be called in if evacuation is required." However, Harmel Singh, who is associated with Baba Sukha Singh of Sarhaliwale and the Baba Avatar Singh Bidhi Chand sect, said, "We have only received baskets and some diesel from the administration. None of the officials is working with us. It's just the community work and we are living on a prayer." Villagers alleged that after the embankment breached in 2023, they repeatedly requested the government for repair, but no work was done. Cabinet minister Laljit Singh Bhullar represents the Patti constituency. "Had the government worked on the embankments, we would not have been required to work today," said Pehlwan, who has also been making videos to motivate more volunteers to come to the site and support manually. "This will continue until the water recedes," he added. Muthianwala villagers, however, lost the fight against floodwater. Videos of the moment when the bundh gave up went viral on social

93% cases solved, over 1.3L held in 6 yrs: what crime statistics show

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

As many as 6,949 murders, 11,273 rapes (including gang rapes), 23,954 kidnappings, 844 cases of dacoity, 684 cases of crimes against traders, and 8,716 crimes against people belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SC) were reported in Haryana from January 1, 2019, to July 31, 2025. The government tabled these figures in the Legislative Assembly Tuesday during the ongoing Monsoon Session. As per the data, 57,490 cases of crimes against women, including rape, gang rape, kidnapping, molestation, dowry death, and crimes under the Pocco Act, were reported during this period in the state. The government said 1,03,018 cases were registered, 95,723 (92.91 per cent) of them were solved, and 1,03,858 accused were arrested. The government tabled the crime figures in reply to the question raised by the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) MLA from Dabwali, Aditya Devial. In his reply, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who also heads the Home portfolio, said, "The state government has adopted a firm zero-tolerance policy against crime, empowering law enforcement agencies with full autonomy to maintain law and order." "This proactive stance has led to a range of initiatives aimed at ensuring safety and security for all citizens, including traders, while modernising the police force to meet evolving challenges. To tackle rising crime and population, the government has increased police manpower and formed specialised units focused on combating heinous and emerging crimes," he added. Highlighting the government's crackdown on criminals, Saini said, "A key initiative in this effort is the establishment of the Special Task Force (STF), tasked with targeting hardened criminals. From 2019 to July 31, 2025, the STF arrested 2,482 individuals, including 633 most-wanted criminals, 407 gangsters, and 1,442 individuals involved in serious crimes." He said the annual arrest numbers have steadily risen from 81 in 2019 to 404 in 2025 (up to July), showing growing operational efficiency and successful dismantling of criminal networks. Specific action against gangsters has also been intensive, he said.

"In 2024, authorities apprehended 405 gangs, arrested 465 most-wanted criminals, and detained 4,520 proclaimed offenders and 6,072 bail jumpers. In 2025 (up to July), 293 gangs were caught, along with 241 most-wanted criminals,

Power outage leaves dialysis patients in distress at Vikarabad government hospital

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Hyderabad: Dialysis patients at the Government General Hospital in Vikarabad faced severe hardship on Wednesday after a prolonged power outage and lack of generator backup at the Dialysis Centre. Patients said there was no power supply for over three hours, and despite repeated complaints to hospital staff, no steps were taken to restore electricity. "It has been three hours since dialysis has not commenced and we are facing a lot of problems. I appeal to the officials to restore power immediately," one patient said in a video that has since circulated on social media. Meanwhile, heavy rains have been lashing Vikarabad district since Tuesday night, disrupting electricity in several areas and affecting traffic. Agricultural fields were inundated at multiple locations. In Bomraspet mandal, nearly 70 sheep were killed when a speeding vehicle ran into the flock on the road. The shepherds, Yellappa and Malkappa, said they could not note down the vehicle's registration number due to heavy rain, and the vehicle sped off without stopping.

media. "For 28 days, we carried soil bit by bit with our hands and tractors," villager Harjinder Singh said, adding: "The administration only provided 250 litres of fuel through the sarpanch after the bund overflowed." Villagers alleged that even a breach in 1988 remains unrepaired. "They gobbled cores of rupees for the repair. If they had given Rs 5-10 lakh to strengthen the bundh, it could have been saved," Harjinder Singh alleged. Villagers claimed that standing paddy crops at the ripening stage on around 45 acres were submerged. "Now, they'll give compensation and bring fuel. What will we do with that fuel when damage has been done?" a farmer said.

Villagers in Kapurthala district also made videos when their month-long hard work was undone. "We have been bearing expenses from our pockets to protect bundhs along the Beas and Sutlej rivers, with little help from the administration," said Shaminder Singh Sandhu of Aali Kalal village. Sandhu said religious leaders and the local community have been supporting them. "All the Babas — Baba Sukha Singh, Baba Avatar Singh, the people of the area, and the local sangat supported us, but in vain," he said. Sandhu, who was born in 1947, said villagers had been demanding a permanent solution for decades. "We have been asking the administration since 1947 to find a solution. The river should be de-silted. A lot of sand has deposited, the silt bed has risen, lowering the surrounding land." He explained that while farmers attempt to maintain bundhs, they cannot afford stone pitching. "It will take crores of rupees to lay stones along the banks. Only the administration can do it," he said. Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh's team has set up a camp at the Baupur embankment in Sultanpur Lodhi. At this camp, fodder for cattle, food (langar) for people, medicines, drinking water, and all essential items are being provided. "In addition, considering the worsening conditions in other areas, another camp has been established near Harfke village on the Makhu-Firozpur road, where the Firozpur team of Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De) is also serving the people with dedication," said Shamsher Singh Padhari.

Continuous rise in water level at Harike HeadworksAt the confluence of the Beas and Sutlej rivers, the Harike Headworks is witnessing a continuous rise in water level, which has turned into a major disaster for Tarn Taran and Firozpur districts. The water level was 2.44 lakh cusecs in the morning, but increased to 2.73 lakh cusecs by 4 pm, while 2.60 lakh cusecs is being released. Along with the inflows from the Pong and Bhakra dams, the rainfall across Punjab and Himachal is also adding water to the Harike Headworks, suggesting the situation is unlikely to stabilise soon. Notably, in 2023, floods in the Harike Hatha region devastated crops and left behind deep sand deposits and pits in farmland. Two years on, people are yet to fully recover from that loss when the present disaster struck, displacing families from their homes. Due to nature's fury and continuous rains, people are now forced to live under the open sky.

2,293 proclaimed offenders, and 3,684 bail jumpers. These numbers highlight the aggressive enforcement strategy undertaken by the state.¹⁶ He said the government successfully implemented the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), popularly known as Dial-112. This system consolidates ten emergency services, including police, fire, medical, traffic, and cybercrime helplines, into a single, accessible platform.

“A fleet of 630 Toyota Innova Crysta Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs), staffed by trained personnel, ensures swift response across the state. As of July 2025, the system received over 2.5 crore calls, with approximately 51.95 lakh calls leading to actionable outcomes. The average police response time was an efficient 8 minutes and 3 seconds, and 91.63 per cent of callers reported satisfaction with the service,” Saini added. Maintaining that women’s safety has been a priority, he said the government has established 33 dedicated women police stations and integrated helpline 1091 with Dial-112. The Durga Shakti app, launched in 2018, provides instant police support to women in distress, he said. The Durga Shakti Rapid Action Force (DSRAF) with 46 vehicles and a Durga Battalion comprising 540 women police personnel stationed in Sunaria, Rohtak, have been deployed at strategic locations to strengthen women’s security, the chief minister said. On the issue of cyber crimes in Haryana, he said, “Haryana has also emerged as a national leader in cybercrime prevention. Several technological and procedural innovations over the past two years have yielded remarkable improvements. Compared to the previous year, July 2025 saw a 50 per cent reduction in monthly defrauded amounts.” “The percentage of money held and recovered increased from less than 10 per cent to 45 per cent, and the number of daily cybercriminal arrests quadrupled from 5 to 22 per day. Haryana is currently ranked first in India across major parameters related to cybercrime control and continues to set benchmarks in cyber safety,” he added. Additional measures to safeguard traders and shopkeepers include regular co-ordination with business associations, increased patrols at sensitive locations, monitoring of suspicious individuals, installation of surveillance cameras, deployment of police response vehicles, and thorough training for police personnel, he said.



Dialysis patients at Vikarabad Government General Hospital suffered after a three-hour power outage with no generator backup, halting treatment. Heavy rains disrupted electricity, traffic, and agriculture across the district, while nearly 70 sheep were killed in a road accident during the downpour.

Leaving Punjab reeling under floods, CM goes to Tamil Nadu, Opp slams Mann



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Lashing out at Mann, several senior Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leaders issued strong statements on social media. The Leader of Opposition in Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, posted on X: "Farmers and poor families across Punjab are crying for help as their homes, fields and livelihoods drown in unprecedented floods and... CM Bhagwant Mann has flown to Tamil Nadu for yet another PR event... This shameless abandonment... is nothing short of betrayal." State Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring said Mann should have cancelled all engagements and focused on flood control and relief measures in Punjab. "The AAP government has completely failed the people of Punjab as no preparations were made in anticipation of heavy rains." Warring said that while this is not the time for politics, the government and the administration should be held accountable. The PCC chief said that "although advance flood preparation is the standard norm... the AAP government failed even in the standard practice". He also said the government and the bureaucracy failed to take note of the prediction that warned of more than normal monsoon rain. "...at least now the government should wake up from the slumber and take relief measures. I hope that Chief Minister Mann will cut short his visit to Tamil Nadu and return home to Punjab," he said. Congress MLA Pargat Singh (Jalandhar) said that Punjab, apart from floods, is also facing fear, loss and helplessness. "Families are stranded on rooftops, crops lie destroyed and homes are washing away. This is a humanitarian crisis, not just an environmental one. In this hour of pain, people expect their Chief Minister to stand with them. It is deeply unfortunate that while Punjab is under red alert, our CM is in Chennai..." he said in a statement issued on Tuesday. Demanding immediate action, the Jalandhar MLA also demanded im-

diate supply of clean drinking water, medical aid, fodder for livestock and shelters for displaced families. "This tragedy must be met with relief today and a credible long-term flood management plan tomorrow."

“Girdawari (damage survey) must be completed within seven days, with compensation of Rs 60,000 per acre for destroyed crops, Rs 10 lakh to families who lost loved ones and Rs 5 lakh plus full treatment for the injured,” he said, adding that the government should also provide rehabilitation for those who lost homes and shops. The Congress MLA also said Punjab deserves urgency, compassion and accountability, not silence and absence. Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira also wrote on X, “The quote ‘Nero played the flute while Rome burnt’ aptly fits on Bhagwant Mann who’s busy touring... while Punjab is suffering from fury of statewide floods! We @INCIndia demand immediate flood relief measures including compensation for crop losses, livestock and property damage.”

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal also hit out at the CM for being out of state when "Punjab is drowning in floods". He posted on X: "Homes are ruined, crops destroyed, loss of lives and... He is vacationing in Chennai with his family! This is utterly disgusting and shameful. Punjab ruddh rehahai, Mukh Mantri mauja lutt rehahai..." "The SAD chief also appealed to the party cadre to provide manpower, diesel, plastic pipes, tractors, food packets and fodder in flood-affected areas" I have visited Fazilka, Abohar and Sultanpur Lodhi in the past few days and am visiting Tarn Taran today. There are reports of flooding in Hoshiarpur also for which I have deputed SAD team to help the distressed", he said. The party MP and former union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said: "It is a matter of grave sorrow that Bhagwant Mann is... leaving Punjab submerged in floods, and the people of Punjab are regretting making him the CM today!" National president of Youth Akali Dal (YAD) Sarabjeet Singh Jinjier wrote on X: "Punjab is reeling under severe floods, with the situation only projected to worsen in the coming days. Farmers are fighting with their own hands to save their crops and homes, yet our CM Bhagwant Mann is busy holidaying with his family in Tamil Nadu. Such spineless and insensitive leadership is pushing Punjab into deeper misery!" Ashwani Sharma, the Punjab BJP working president, also lashed out at Mann and said: "With nearly half of Punjab submerged... Stoves have gone cold, food has become scarce — yet Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann chose... breakfast with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin... Instead of cancelling his programs and rushing to flood-hit villages... Bhagwant Mann abandoned Punjabis in crisis. This exposes his complete lack of empathy or concern."

Punjab's Fazilka village rejoices amid grim flood situation — welcomes 4 newborns

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Surrounded by floodwaters for more than a week and facing the threat of being washed away by the swollen Sutlej, Fazilka's Teja Ruhela village has a reason to rejoice — the village welcomed four newborns over the past week amid these grim conditions. According to the families, the mothers and their newborns are doing fine. Out of these, three deliveries took place in government hospitals, while the fourth was carried out in a private hospital empanelled with the department. Sunita Rani delivered a boy on August 19 at the government hospital in Khui Khara. Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) Sundra and Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) visited her home for the postnatal check-up on Tuesday. Both mother and baby are healthy and safe, Sundra said. All women are from the same village, but except for Parveen, the trio delivered babies at the government hospital in Fazilka. "Looking at the grim flood situation, families have sent the mothers and newborns to their relatives' places at safer locations in the district. After the delivery, they had come to the village, but Veena and Seema went to their relatives' places on Monday, while Sunita and Parveen left the village on Tuesday afternoon," health department authorities said.

“The water level in the Sutlej is rising, and the village is surrounded by floodwater. More water is expected to reach Fazilka by Wednesday afternoon, hence families found it safe to send the mothers and newborns to their relatives’ places,” they said. As per the direction of Deputy Commissioner Amarpreet Kaur Sandhu, Health Department teams have been identifying pregnant women in villages across the creek and shifting them to safer locations. There are 45 pregnant women in villages across the Sutlej creek, of whom four delivered babies in the past week. Dr Rinku Chawla, Senior Medical Officer at Community Health Centre,



Dabbwala Kalan, said, "The department remains in contact with the families of pregnant women in every village through ASHA workers, ensuring all necessary assistance is provided to them. Deliveries in government hospitals are free of cost, and the 108 ambulance service is also available free of charge for the patients." Mass Media in-charge Divesh Kumar said, "ASHA workers and ANMs are conducting home visits before and after the delivery to provide essential medicines and ensure care to the mother and child. In addition, a list of pregnant women who are likely to deliver babies shortly and those categorised as high-risk (requiring special medical attention during delivery) has been prepared. Assistant Civil Surgeon Dr Rohit Goel said, "Ten beds have been reserved at the Civil Hospital for people coming from flood-affected areas. Health department teams have been regularly visiting these villages to provide medicines and sensitise people about seasonal and waterborne diseases. On Tuesday, three teams waded through floodwaters to reach Donan Nanka, Teja Rohela and Patan Post. Muhar Jamsher villages to distribute medicines door to door."

Verbal duel between Congress, BJP in Assembly over law and order; Congress walks out

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The Haryana Assembly on Tuesday witnessed a heated exchange between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress during a discussion on the state's law and order situation. The Haryana Assembly witnessed a heated exchange between BJP and the Congress during a discussion on the state's law and order situation. The Haryana Assembly on Tuesday witnessed a heated exchange between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress during a discussion on the state's law and order situation. The BJP strongly refuted allegations of a rising crime graph, while Congress legislators, led by former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, staged a walkout in protest while strongly objecting to a "poetic and sarcastic comment" of the Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

In their Adjournment Motion, Congress members alleged that “an atmosphere of insecurity has emerged due to the surge in criminal incidents and the breakdown of law and order.” They added, “Murders of contractors in broad daylight and threats to ordinary citizens and public representatives have become routine.” Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mahipal Dhanda countered these claims, asserting that “heinous crimes such as murder have declined during the BJP’s ten-year tenure from 2014 to 2025, compared to the Congress rule from 2005 to 2014.”

Saini later responded directly to Hooda, recalling incidents of crimes against women during the Congress administration. However, the Congress legislators, led by Bhupinder Singh Hooda, strongly objected and rose to stage a walkout after the CM delivered a "poetic and sarcastic remark" targeting those who, in his view, were lecturing the government on morality. Hooda objected to the remark, saying: "I have been an MP four times and an MLA six times. I have never seen anything like this. Ye ko tarika

Haryana Vidhan Sabha: Want to pursue medical education in Haryana? Tuition fees can range from Rs 4.2L to Rs 1.25 cr



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The cost of pursuing a medical degree in Haryana can be anything between Rs 4.22 lakh at government colleges and to a jaw-dropping Rs 1.25 crore at private institutions under deemed universities. While government and government-aided medical colleges offer more affordable options, students opting for private or deemed universities face significantly higher tuition fees, often increasing annually. Haryana health minister Arti Singh Rao revealed these figures in the reply tabled to the question raised by Indian National Congress' Jhajjar MLA Geeta Bhukkal in the ongoing monsoon session of Haryana Vidhan Sabha. Bhukkal had sought details from the government on — "a) the total number of Medical Colleges in State together with the district-wise details of Private and Government Colleges; b) the number of seats sanctioned in such Government and Private Colleges separately; c) the number of seats reserved for SC/Handicapped/EWS categories in MBBS and Post Graduate degree courses in above said colleges; and d) the annual fee structure for MBBS in Government Colleges and Private Colleges?"

In her reply, Rao said that six government medical colleges (Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak; Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Government Medical College, Nuh; Bhagat Phool Singh Government Medical College for Women, Sonapat, Kalpana Chawla Government Medical College, Karnal; and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Gov-

As Haryana battles paddy dwarfing virus; minister says damage under control

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The estimated crop loss in the affected fields has remained relatively low, about 5 to 10 per cent., said the Haryana minister. The estimated crop loss in the affected fields has remained relatively low, about 5 to 10 per cent., said Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana. Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana told the Assembly Tuesday that out of approximately 40 lakh acres, the dwarf virus has affected around 92,000 acres of sown paddy crop in the state.

The minister said uprooting and destroying the infected plants were effective in controlling the contamination. "The estimated crop loss in the affected fields has remained relatively low, about 5 to 10 per cent." According to farmers, the 'southern rice black-streaked dwarf virus' (SRBSDV) is responsible for dwarfing. During a Calling Attention Motion in the Assembly, Congress MLA Aditya Surjewala raised concerns over the virus' impact on paddy crops in Karnal, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar and Kaithal. He also demanded compensation for the affected farmers. INLD MLA



Arjun Chautala also voiced similar concerns. In response, the agriculture minister said the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (Hisar) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research took immediate action upon outbreak detection. The minister also said teams from the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Haryana Agriculture Department conducted a survey on August 6 and 7.

‘False case foisted upon accused, trampling of rights’: Court acquits 6

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Acquitting six men accused of arson near Azizia Masjid at Gamri Extension during the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots, a court on Monday pulled up the Delhi Police for “trampling” on the rights of the accused. Calling for action by the Delhi Police commissioner, the court also noted that there had been an “egregious padding of evidence” by the case’s investigating officer (IO). Additional sessions judge Parveen Singh acquitted the six men – Ishu Gupta, Prem Prakash, Raj Kumar, Manish Sharma, Rahul and Amit – accused of being a part of a mob which was allegedly involved in rioting and arson on February 25, 2020. “I must observe that there has been an egregious padding of evidence by the IO and this has resulted in serious trampling of the rights of the accused, who have been probably chargesheeted only in order to show that this case is worked out,” Judge Singh of Karkardooma court said.

“This is more saddening because despite the glaring defects, supervising officers, i.e. SHO and ACP, had forwarded the chargesheet in a mechanical manner. Such instances lead to serious erosion of the faith of the people in the investigating process and the rule of law and therefore, I deem it appropriate that the copy of this judgment be sent to worthy Commissioner of Police for his perusal, with a request to take remedial action,” he added. The court noted that after looking at the case diary, it seemed as though the IO had cooked up the case and “foisted” it upon the accused. “...it is apparent that merely in order to work out a case, a false case has been foisted upon the accused and PW 10 HC (witness 10 head constable) Vikas, the only



eyewitness of the case, is completely unreliable qua these accused persons. All the accused are entitled to be acquitted of all the charges,” the judge said, adding that the investigation was “shoddy”. The court said that five of the six accused, who had allegedly disclosed their involvement in the case of arson, had already been arrested in another 2020 Northeast Delhi riots case....when the accused were already in custody, why the process of identification of accused through photographs was conducted instead of having their judicial TIP (test identification parade) conducted,” the judge said, adding that the entire case was “falling apart”. “What is more surprising is that it records that ASI Karan Singh was present at the site. If that be the case, then it completely contradicts the claim of ASI Karan Singh that when he reached the place of incident, he found that the houses near about the mosque and a scooter were still burning,” the judge said.”

Swadeshi slogan gets a renewed push

As the new American tariff regime draws closer, the “swadeshi” slogan gets a renewed push with India staying firm and gearing up to absorb the impact. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call to the people to buy indigenous goods and to the business establishments to display boards selling swadeshi products must be seen as an expression of defiance and a political message for the country. A throwback to the “swadeshi” strategy is designed to unite people around an emotional narrative built on India’s core strengths and also to pre-empt criticism over the impact of the American levies on the economy. Modi’s assertion — while addressing a gathering in Ahmedabad — that he would never let harm come in the way of small entrepreneurs and farmers must be seen as part of the government’s efforts to protect the home turf amid tensions over the imminent implementation of the new tariffs. ‘Atmanirbharata’ is going to be the weapon to fight the trade war imposed by US President Donald Trump. The PM used the most recent episode of

his monthly radio show 'Mann ki Baat' to say that true service to the nation lies in promoting indigenous goods. The Ahmedabad pledge came less than a week before a 25 per cent additional tariff kicks in — besides an already-imposed 25 per cent — which the US calls a penalty for India's buying of oil from Russia. India has rightly rejected the diktat and continued to buy oil and other goods from Russia, thereby stressing its sovereignty. An interesting consequence of this assertion has been a marked thaw in India's diplomatic relations with China. Modi's unambiguous message that India would never bow to pressures from any quarters came a day after US Vice President JD Vance said Trump had applied aggressive economic leverage, including secondary tariffs on India, to make it harder for the Russians to get rich from their oil economy and force Russia to stop bombing Ukraine. Though the NDA government has been talking about 'Vocal for Local' and 'Make in India' over the last decade, tariff tensions with America have given these ideas a renewed focus.

UN General Assembly creates scientific panel and global dialogue to govern artificial intelligence



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

United Nations: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warmly welcomed the UN General Assembly's decision to establish two new mechanisms within the United Nations to promote international cooperation on the governance of artificial intelligence (AI), his spokesman Stephan Dujarric said. The establishment of the United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance marks a significant step forward in global efforts to harness the benefits of AI while addressing its risks, Dujarric said at a daily briefing on Tues-

day, Xinhua news agency reported. "This pathbreaking milestone underlines Member States' commitment to build on the Global Digital Compact adopted as part of the Pact for the Future in September 2024," he said.

Dujarric said the Global Dialogue on AI Governance will provide an inclusive platform within the United Nations for states and stakeholders to discuss the critical issues concerning AI facing humanity today, and the Scientific Panel on AI will serve as a crucial bridge between cutting-edge AI research and policymaking. By providing rigorous, independent scientific assessments, it will help the international community to anticipate emerging challenges and make informed decisions about how we govern this transformative technology, he said. Dujarric said the secretary-general will shortly be launching an open call for nominations for the Scientific Panel, which will present its annual reports at the Global Dialogue on AI Governance scheduled to take place in July 2026 in Geneva and 2027 in New York. The UN chief "calls on all stakeholders to support this historic initiative and contribute to building a future where artificial intelligence serves the common good of all humanity," said the spokesman. The UN General Assembly passed resolutions early Tuesday on the establishment of the two new mechanisms.

Trump administration asks U.S. Supreme Court to halt foreign aid payments

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

President Donald Trump's administration asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday (August 26, 2025) to intervene in its efforts to withhold billions of dollars from foreign aid organisations and lift an injunction that is forcing it to keep making payments. The U.S. Department of Justice, in an emergency filing with the 6-3 conservative majority court, noted that a 2-1 panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit earlier this month ruled the injunction should be overturned. Despite that ruling, the injunction issued by Washington-based U.S. District Judge Amir Ali remains in effect, after the full federal appeals court last week declined to put it on hold. Mr. Ali rejected a similar request on Monday (August 25, 2025). Mr. Trump imposed a 90-day pause on all foreign aid on January 20, the day that he was inaugurated for a second term in the White House.

His executive order was followed by aggressive moves to gut USAID, the main U.S. foreign aid agency, including placing much of its staff on leave and exploring bringing the formerly independent agency under the State Department. Two nonprofit groups that receive federal funding, AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition and Journalism Development Network, brought litigation alleging Trump's funding freeze was unlawful. The Trump administration in its filing to the Supreme Court said the congressionally appropriated funds subject to the injunction comprise tens of billions of dollars, some \$12 billion of which would need to be spent by the U.S. Department of State before September 30, when they expire. The Republican president's ad-



ministration said that without the justices' intervention, it will be forced to keep making payments before the expiration date, "overriding the Executive Branch's foreign-policy judgments regarding whether to pursue rescissions and thwarting interbranch dialogue." Lawyers for the plaintiffs did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Mr. Ali, an appointee of Democratic President Joe Biden, ordered the Trump administration to pay nearly \$2 billion in outstanding aid to its humanitarian partners worldwide. The U.S. Supreme Court, in March, by a 5-4 vote, declined to let the administration avoid making those payments. But the D.C. Circuit panel ruled that the nonprofit groups failed to satisfy the requirements for an injunction. U.S. Circuit Judge Karen Henderson, writing for the majority, said only the U.S. Government Accountability Office, a watchdog agency, could challenge Trump's efforts to withhold the funding.

'Somebody is not very happy with you': Fiji PM Rabuka to Modi on U.S. tariff row



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Against the backdrop of the U.S. imposing 50% tariff on Indian goods, Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka said he has conveyed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that somebody is "not very happy with you". "But then you are big enough to weather those discomforts," Mr. Rabuka told PM Modi during their recent meeting. Mr. Rabuka shared details of his conversation with Mr. Modi during an interaction with the audience after delivering a lecture on 'Ocean of Peace' at the Sapru House in New Delhi, hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

The Prime Minister of the South Pacific nation arrived in Delhi on Sunday on a three-day trip to shore up Fiji's ties with India in a range of areas such as maritime security, trade, health, digital technology and capacity building. India and Fiji on Monday firmed up an action plan to boost defence ties and agreed to jointly work for a peaceful and inclusive Indo-Pacific as Mr. Modi and Mr. Rabuka held talks to expand the overall bilateral cooperation. After the ICWA lecture, a member of the audience asked him about his bilateral dialogues with leaders of various countries and what they conveyed to him about the vision of 'Ocean of Peace'. "I have not had any personal interaction with the President of the United States. I have asked for a bilateral meeting with the President of Russia. I have had bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of the U.K....," Mr. Rabuka said. "Prime Minister Modi echoed our sentiments and the concept, when we spoke yesterday," he added. Chinese President Xi Jinping in our discussion earlier this year and also last year

has taken it up, he said. "A lot of people, big leaders of big nations have... and that's why I brought this concept of the 'family', and the youngest or the smallest member of the family not comfortable, and everybody sits up and listen," Mr. Rabuka said. Because, whatever is "happening out there, is impacting us", the Fijian leader said.

"Now, what is happening out there is impacting your relationship with the United States. The recent announcements of tariffs and some things that are coming towards Prime Minister Modi's direction... I told him the other day, somebody is not very happy with you, but then you are big enough to weather those discomforts," he said, without elaborating. The relations between New Delhi and Washington are on a downturn after U.S. President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods including a 25% additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. The steep 50% tariff on Indian goods entering the U.S. will take effect from August 27, severely impacting several labour-intensive export sectors such as shrimp, apparel, leather and gems & jewellery. Prime Minister Rabuka is on his first visit to India in his current capacity. On Monday, Mr. Modi and Mr. Rabuka held "comprehensive and forward-looking discussions" on the full spectrum of bilateral matters, and regional and global issues of mutual interest, according to a joint statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs. "Prime Minister Rabuka highlighted the concept of the 'Ocean of Peace' which emphasises building a peaceful, stable, secure, and sustainable future and well-being for our region. Prime Minister Modi commended Prime Minister Rabuka for his leadership in championing 'Ocean of Peace' in the Pacific Region," the statement said. At the ICWA event, Mr. Rabuka said, "Our job is to take it to the world that we have declared this concept of 'Ocean of Peace' in the Pacific. It is up to the United Nations... to embrace it and take it up, for regional leaders to embrace it and take it up... in regional concepts and regional leaders' meetings, and, hopefully, we can spread peace."

"In this effort, India is an important partner... Fiji and India can work together to ensure that the vision of the Pacific as an 'Ocean of Peace', becomes a reality not only for our region, but as a contribution to global peace and stability," the Fijian PM said.

UN creates Artificial Intelligence advisory panel

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The UN General Assembly created an Artificial Intelligence (AI) advisory body to help countries make decisions about the revolutionary technology. Member States said they were concerned about the swift development of a life-changing tool they fear could threaten democracy and human rights. So in September United Nations member states agreed to form an expert-level panel of scientists to facilitate dialogue among governments about AI. In a resolution approved Tuesday (August 26, 2025), the General Assembly created what is called the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence. Among other activities it will "issue evidence-based scientific assessments syn-

thesizing and analysing existing research related to the opportunities, risks and impacts of artificial intelligence." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will now seek people to serve on the 40-member body for a three-year stint. The resolution also foresees what it calls an annual global dialogue among governments and other stakeholders on Artificial Intelligence governance. These parties will discuss international cooperation, share best practices and lessons learned, and talk about AI governance so as to help the world achieve UN global development goals, among other objectives, the text states. The first of these dialogue sessions will take place in Geneva next year at a world summit on AI.

U.S. to change green card: Commerce Secretary Lutnick says H-1B visa system 'terrible'



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

United States Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick said that the U.S. intends to alter the current immigration system, specifically the H-1B visa program and green cards, local media reported. According to Mr. Lutnick, the Trump administration plans to introduce a "gold card" programme, which would allow wealthy foreigners to invest \$5 million in exchange for U.S. residency. "I'm involved in changing the H-1B visa program. We're going to change that programme because that's terrible, right? We're going to change the green card," Mr. Lutnick said during an interview with Fox News. "That's the gold card that's coming. And that's when we're going to start picking the best people to come into this country. It's time for that to change," he

added. The proposed Gold Card would offer permanent residency to foreigners who invest \$5 million in the United States. Mr. Lutnick claims there is strong interest in the programme, with 2,50,000 people supposedly waiting in line and potentially generating \$1.25 trillion in revenue.

In January 2025, Mr. Trump reaffirmed his stance to support the H-1B visa program, which allows employers in the U.S. to hire non-immigrant workers for speciality occupations, stating that the country needs "competent" and "great" individuals to come to the U.S. and that this can be achieved through the H-1B visa program. While addressing the media at the White House on Tuesday (August 26, 2025), Mr. Trump emphasised his belief in the importance of attracting skilled individuals to the country, citing the H-1B visa program as a key tool in facilitating this. He further argued that allowing "quality people" to come into the U.S. further helps in bolstering the economy by supporting various industries. "You have to get the best people... We have to have the quality people coming in... By doing that, we're expanding businesses, and that takes care of everybody... But what I really do feel is that we have to let really competent people, great people, come into our country, and we do that through the H-1B," Mr. Trump said. Notably, during Mr. Trump's first term, the administration imposed restrictions on H-1B visas, citing concerns over "abuse" and "economic strain". In 2016, Mr. Trump condemned the programme, describing it as a means for companies to replace American workers with lower-paid foreign employees.

ISRO completes first integrated air drop test for Gaganyaan

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out its first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1), a critical milestone in preparations for the country's maiden human spaceflight programme, Gaganyaan, on August 24, 2025. "ISRO successfully accomplishes first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) for end-to-end demonstration of parachute based deceleration system for Gaganyaan missions," ISRO wrote on X. The IADT is a specialised trial to ensure the parachute system designed for the Gaganyaan crew module performs reliably in real-world conditions.

During the test, a dummy crew capsule weighing around five tonnes was lifted up through the air before being dropped by a Chinook helicopter. As it descended through a few km, its main parachutes had to open in a specific sequence to decelerate the capsule to a safe splash-down speed. During an actual flight with astronauts, the main parachutes will have to deploy after the capsule has re-entered the atmosphere and has been slowed first by the heat shields and drogue parachutes. The ascent, descent, and post-splashdown phases of the Gaganyaan mission are expected to be the most risky for the astronauts. According to ISRO, the effort brought together multiple national agencies — the Air Force, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Navy, and the Coast Guard — in what officials described as a coordinated step towards human-rating India's launch and recovery systems.

Earlier this week, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh told the Lok Sabha that major preparatory work for Gaganyaan had already been completed. "The propulsion systems for the crew module and service module have been developed and tested. Environmental control and life support system engineering model realised. Crew escape system (CES): five types of motors developed and static tested," Mr. Singh said in a written



reply. He added that infrastructure had been established for "orbital module preparation facility, Gaganyaan Control Centre, Gaganyaan control facility, crew training facility, [and] second launch pad modifications". He also said a series of precursor missions, including test vehicle flights, are currently underway. Ahead of Gaganyaan's first uncrewed mission, designated G1, Mr. Singh said, "the C32-G stage and the CES motors" had been realised. "The HS200 Motors and CES fore-end, up to crew module jettisoning motor, stacked. Crew module and service module structure realised. Crew module phase-1 checks completed," he added. The Minister also said the human spaceflight programme is part of a longer roadmap in which, after demonstrating basic capabilities for human spaceflight in Gaganyaan, the programme will pursue extended missions in low-earth orbit. The government has set out a timeline that includes building the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) by 2035 and undertaking an Indian moon landing by 2040. The successful completion of the IADT-1 test will be followed by additional test vehicle flights, including TV-D2 and the G1 mission. Together they will validate crew escape mechanisms, parachute systems, propulsion units, and ground recovery operations before any human is cleared to fly.

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expire. The Republican president's administration said that without the justices' intervention, it will be forced to keep making payments before the expiration date, "overriding the Executive Branch's foreign-policy judgments regarding whether to pursue rescissions and thwarting interbranch dialogue." Lawyers for the plaintiffs did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Mr. Ali, an appointee of Democratic President Joe Biden, ordered the Trump administration to pay nearly \$2 billion in outstanding aid to its humanitarian partners worldwide. The U.S. Supreme Court, in March, by a 5-4 vote, declined to let the administration avoid making those payments. But the D.C. Circuit panel ruled that the nonprofit groups failed to satisfy the requirements for an injunction. U.S. Circuit Judge Karen Henderson, writing for the majority, said only the U.S. Government Accountability Office, a watchdog agency, could challenge Trump's efforts to withhold the funding.

Residents of hunger-racked Myanmar region say junta air strike kills 12

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

A Myanmar junta air strike on a rebel-held town in the country's hunger-ravaged west killed at least 12 people, witnesses of the overnight bombing said. Rakhine State has been blockaded by Myanmar's military as it battles ethnic fighters in a many-sided civil war that has consumed the country since the junta toppled the democratic government in a 2021 coup. Agriculture has withered and hyperinflation has spread, with suffering exacerbated by U.S.-led aid cuts. The United Nations warned this month of a "dramatic rise in hunger". A junta spokesman could not be reached for comment on the air strike, which residents said hit the northern town of Mrauk U around 11:00 pm (1630 GMT) on Monday. Maung Than Chay said the 12 fatalities included

three of his grandchildren, who were buried in the wreckage of his home and those of his neighbours destroyed by two bombs. "It is terrible — like the end of my life," he said. "I have lost everything." "I have no food to eat, no place to stay, no pots to cook, no money to buy, because everything has been destroyed," he said. "I don't know how to express my anger." At least 10 bodies were laid out in public on Tuesday, some draped in their finest or favourite clothing as funeral outfits. Mourners keened in grief, dabbed the faces of bodies and clutched photo portraits. The junta controls only three out of the 17 townships in coastal Rakhine, where it is battling to claw back ground ahead of a disputed election it plans to start in territories it controls in December.

The elderly in India: past, present and future



In India, the highest population of senior citizens reside in the southern and western States. The number of people aged 60 and above in the country was 14 crores and 90 lakhs in 2022, accounting for 10.5% of the total population. This is expected to rise to 15% by 2036. If this continues, by 2046, in India, the elderly population will surpass the number of children aged 0 to 14. What does this mean? Currently, there is one elderly person for every 12 people in India. By 2050, one in five could be a senior citizen. At this juncture, it would be prudent to go back and see what the conditions were like, for someone who was a senior citizen about 30 years ago, what it is like for the 60+ age group today, and imagine what it will be like, 25 years from now. When I started the Geriatric Medicine department, at the Government General Hospital in Chennai in 1978, geriatrics was an unfamiliar field not only to the elderly it was meant to serve, but also to doctors. Back then, of course, people were living only up to the age of 60 or 65, in general.

Whenever an elderly patient (aged 60 to 65 in most cases) fell ill, in those days, we used to see an entire contingent — of children, in-laws, and grandchildren — accompanying them to the hospital. It was the era of strong joint family systems. Espousing deep concern for the elder's health, the family would plead with the doctor to somehow cure their relative's illness. It is another issue that there was not much that healthcare infrastructure at that time could do for these patients. They were lucky if they went back home. For example, surgical procedures for heart attacks, modern treatments for bone fractures, remedies for blood vomiting, kidney issues, liver failure, antibiotics for infections, and appropriate treatments for cancer were not widely available then, leading to many elderly people passing away without suitable care. Back then, government hospitals were few and far between in rural areas. Highly-trained doctors were not available in rural areas, and there were no government healthcare facilities in small villages. In serious cases, doctors would refer patients to the nearest taluk hospital. In those days, if there was an emergency, the doctor himself would visit the patient's house and render appropriate treatment. Since infectious diseases were more common back then, this was what many seniors were afflicted with. In cases where death did not occur, the patients would usually make a full recovery: it was quite rare for patients to be bedridden for several months or years.

That was an era when traditional joint family structures held strong, and when many of our senior citizens had support systems in place from younger generations in their family. Today, with the rise in the non-communicable disease burden in India, there is a corresponding increase in the number of senior citizens affected by disorders such as dementia, Parkinson's Disease, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, osteoporosis, cancer and falls. These non-communicable diseases often require treatment for several months or in some cases, treatment may be lifelong. Infectious diseases such as pneumonia, influenza, urinary tract infections, and fungal diseases have become less common now, and are usually treatable with proper antibiotics, if diagnosed early. Due to increased awareness, many elderly citizens are now also getting vaccinated against pneumonia and influenza. In the nearly 50 years since the field of geriatric medicine first began in India, there are now many cities that have treatment centres exclusively for the elderly.

The problem now lies not so much in healthcare services, the availability of which is increasing, though accessibility often remains an issue, but in family and care structures. With the erosion of the traditional joint family set up,

both in urban and rural settings and a change in mindsets, what is afflicting the elderly population now, is ageing-related ailments, loneliness, poverty, and lack of safety. We have also noticed the reliance on home-cooked meals waning, and more senior citizens now consuming food from outside, which may or may not be healthy, or adequately meet their nutritional needs. When seniors live alone, they often battle isolation, hardship, and insecurity. With changes in the traditional family structure becoming more common, and the number of nuclear families rising, there is an increasing number of professional caregivers for the elderly. Assisted living facilities too, are growing in number for elderly people. Some seniors who cannot be continuously cared for at home or those who suffer from chronic illnesses are placed in these facilities, while many others choose to live in community residences, which provide them with a sense of peace and security. However, at present, only a few can afford these facilities. When I was chairman of the Senior Citizens Bureau, I launched the Geriatric Housecall Project on February 17, 2008 — a novel initiative to provide medical care to elders at their doorstep. This would enable senior citizens or their family members to call doctors who would visit the patient at home, and this came to the rescue of a number of senior citizens living alone. The future

What will the condition of elderly people in our country be like, 25 years from now? And what can be done to safeguard their physical and mental health and safety? All evidence points to the rising tide of non-communicable diseases in the country. These conditions require long-term treatment, putting great financial stress on seniors and their caregivers. As life expectancy increases, we may see more people living into their 90s, even going past this mark. Medical advancements will become more robust, allowing for treatment of a number of illnesses and age-related issues. The elderly will dominate society demographically. The younger population will shrink. Hence, the government will have to step in with comprehensive social security systems to care for the elderly. Senior citizen marriages may rise in number as the elderly seek companionship.

The need for homecare services will rise, and this is where the government and NGOs could step in to run such facilities. Corporates have already begun such services, but they need to be of high quality and standardised. Geriatric hospitals will become more common in the country. Private hospitals may also open geriatric units as a business venture. As the number of disabled elderly people increases, special counselling centres and medical institutions for them will be needed. Specialties within geriatric medicine will grow; for example, geriatric cardiology, geriatric neurology, and geriatric psychiatry. Discourse around end-of-life care may increase, and this should be handled with sensitivity and clarity. And so, it is perhaps time for politicians, economists, and the younger generation to seriously reflect on this issue. As the number of disabled elderly people increases, special counselling centres and medical institutions for them will be needed. File photograph used for representational purposes onlyAs the number of disabled elderly people increases, special counselling centres and medical institutions for them will be needed. File photograph used for representational purposes onlyA separate Ministry should be formed by the State and Central governments to look after the welfare of the elderly. The government should enforce a policy requiring children to take responsibility for the care of their elderly parents, especially those living below the poverty line. If the parents are admitted to a home for the aged, the cost of their care should be borne by the children. The path ahead is clear: there are numerous models that can be scaled and replicated in other parts of the country. For instance, as part of the Dr. V.S. Natarajan Geriatric Foundation's outreach work, from February 17, 2017, we have managed to create a sustainable ecosystem that supports the elderly in leading a comfortable life in their twilight years. The foundation works in three core areas: media to create awareness, including a Tamil monthly magazine and a YouTube channel; community development; and academics and skill development. These, and other such measures, combined with social welfare measures by the government, alongside sensitisation of the public and all stakeholders, could go a long way towards helping the elderly live comfortable, dignified, healthy lives.

There is Pressure as our former goalkeepers have set the bar high: Pathak



Having travelled to two Olympics as a stand-bye and an understudy to P.R. Sreejesh, Pathak now has a chance to prove himself a worthy successor to the long list of distinguished Indian hockey goalkeepers. Sreejesh' retirement pushed him to being the Indian team's main goalkeeper and the 28-year old is ready to step into the large shoes of his predecessor. Excerpts from an interaction ahead of the all-important Asia Cup:Tell us about the last one year — the responsibility, the official stamp that you are now a senior and the Number One goalkeeper, the changes overall...Yes, there is definitely more responsibility. Earlier Sree bhai was there, he used to handle a lot of things. We could ask him anything, he has played so much hockey, we could get answers to all our questions. Now I have to do it on my own, try and find them myself. So yes, the responsibility has increased. Handling the players on field, managing and guiding the defence, analysing the opposition and preparing accordingly during penalty corners, telling the players what to do, make them understand — it's a continuous process. But I believe if you want to be the number one goalkeeper, or in any area for that matter, these things will come and you have to know how to handle them.Sreejesh's retirement after the Paris Olympics was announced much before that so mentally, you had time to prepare for the role. But how was the feeling when you stepped on the field for the first time, knowing you have actually reached where you always wanted to be?Honestly, it wasn't like a Eureka! moment or anything. We had trained together for the Olympics, Sreejesh had already announced his decision and we knew we had to plan for the Asian Champions Trophy in two months' time after Paris. So it just moved organically. It was a very different team that had to play very different opposition compared to the Olympics. The Asian teams play with totally different structures and skills and we hadn't played them in a while. It was a little tough handling and analysing them so we used videos from the last Asian Games and Sree bhai was also there. We talked and I used the help in China.

It's very good. Suraj and I have been together since we started in our junior days and we have been playing together for a long time both in seniors and juniors. I think it's good when you play at junior level together and then come into the national team. We keep telling each other what to do. It's not like I improve secretly or one of us does

not know something — we share everything with each other, point out mistakes also. I believe at the moment we all have to improve a lot so whenever we are free or have some extra time or a rest day, if we feel the need, we have our goalkeeper sessions with (coach) Shivendra Singh.I don't think there is much change because we have played together for a long time and we are almost the same age also. But yes, the coach has said that you have been playing for a long time, and have more international matches, so you have more responsibilities. That's when I feel that I have a little more responsibility and I have to handle it. all these former players have set the bar so high, it is difficult to reach there and you have to work really hard. I always say that there will be pressure, there will be ups and downs for every player and there will be times you are not able to give 100 percent in a tournament. The important thing is to be mentally prepared for that and know how to move forward.Our home matches were, I think, very good. We also kept a clean sheet in 2-3 matches, which in modern hockey is very difficult and so gives a lot of confidence to a goalkeeper. The coach also always tells us that margin of win or number of goals scored doesn't matter so long as we do not concede in the defence.

In the away matches, the results were not in our favour but most were close games. There were defensive mistakes, there were some major mistakes made by the goalkeepers also but we talked about it. We know that the Asia Cup is a qualifying event for the World Cup, there will be pressure and we don't want to repeat those mistakes here. Like goalkeeper sessions, we have also had separate PC defence sessions to work on the shortcomings — soft goals and PCs conceded, tackling — we don't want to give any chances to the opponent so overall, it was a good learning experience.Is it a little frustrating, especially as a goalkeeper, because losses bring the focus on you when you keep losing?

Yes it does get a bit frustrating and there is pressure also, specially when you are continuously losing. I feel worse because I feel I could have stopped many of the goals, I could have done better. The good thing was as a team, we were very positive and there was no blame game, all 18 players were in it together. As for pressure, I have learnt it all from Sree bhai. I have seen how he handled it in his life and I have seen it in my own life a lot so you learn how to handle it, how to prepare mentally and avoid outside factors.The Asia Cup, obviously, the target will be to win it and qualify for the World Cup. But how important is this for long-term planning because the planning for the next 18 months will depend on results here?Personally, there won't be much change. I always try to assess our performances in the past, things we did good or bad, what we can do to improve. For myself, I always try to focus on the good things I did. Also, the teams will be almost the same as the Asian Champions Trophy last year, where I went as the main goalkeeper for the first time, so I watch the videos whenever I get time, try to understand the opponent and plan accordingly.As for the tournament itself, yes it is important to win. Even in the Pro League, our target was to finish in the top-four but we couldn't do it. But you should always have a Plan B, know what next? Looking long-term, we also have the Asian Games next year and again, the teams will mostly be the same and not much time after the World Cup. That makes this all the more important not just in terms of result but also knowing the opponents.

The ECI's ring fence is the Constitution and the law

Two major press conferences held in recent weeks have attracted a good deal of national attention. The first was held by the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on August 7, 2025, in New Delhi, where he highlighted specific instances of manipulation of the voter list in the Mahadevapura Assembly segment of the Bangalore central parliamentary constituency during the 2024 general election. His disclosures included the fact that a large number of voters were enrolled in the voters list having the same address. In some cases, the 'father's name' was given as 'xyz' and the house number as '0'. According to Mr. Gandhi, these facts were unearthed by his team after painstaking research of the Election Commission of India (ECI) documents over six months. These disclosures by Mr. Gandhi have created consternation among the citizens of India — if these are true, the entire electoral system in India would lose its credibility and India's democracy will cease to be a genuine democracy.

The second press conference, also in New Delhi, was held by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and his colleagues on August 17, 2025. It was expected that the CEC would clarify the issues raised by the LoP. However, the statements made by the CEC were a kind of a pushback against what the LoP had said in his press conference. As a matter of fact, the press conference by the CEC left citizens none the wiser as many basic questions were just ignored. The press conference ended with the CEC issuing an ultimatum to the LoP — to either submit the details of his disclosures with a sworn affidavit or apologise to the nation. This unusual stand of the ECI shows that it too has joined the political slugfest. This is a stand that will continue to rattle political parties for a long time.

The ECI is a high constitutional body that is entrusted with the task of superintending, directing and controlling the preparation of electoral rolls and conducting elections to Parliament, State legislatures and to the offices of the President and the Vice President of India. Article 324 of the Constitution vests enormous powers in the ECI to perform this task. It is mandated to conduct elections in a free and fair manner, which is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. The Supreme Court of India has held that Article 324 is a reservoir of powers which the ECI can draw from in order to ensure that the elections are free and fair. However, it has to function within the Constitution and law.Issuing an ultimatum to the LoP is not a part of the exercise of power under Article 324 or the election statutes. It is also not a part of the exercise of the powers of the ECI to join the adversarial political discourse in India.

The episode in Bangalore clearly points to the possibility of electoral lists being tampered with at some level. It is true that Mr. Gandhi's disclosures months after the general election do not fit into the procedural mould created by the Representation of The People Act, 1950. This Act and the rules made thereunder contain a just, fair and transparent procedural framework which provides for multiple layers of scrutiny and public inspection and a just procedure for resolution of disputes. Further, the election statutes assume that there is a finality about elections. Therefore, these statutes cannot deal with the issues which Mr. Gandhi has raised.The question is how to deal with it. Attempts to counter it with senseless technicalities and a demand for



sworn affidavits are non-productive. Article 324 confers enormous powers on the ECI so that it would prepare the rolls and conduct elections in a fair manner. Article 324 implies responsibilities and obligations to exercise that power judiciously. So, when a citizen makes a complaint or a disclosure highlighting serious irregularities in the preparation of the electoral rolls, it is the constitutional obligation of the ECI to examine this carefully and fix the faults in the system. How could 80 voters be registered under the same address when it is clear that they cannot be ordinarily resident there? They voted because their names were on the roll. Who enrolled them and under whose directions are serious questions which need an answer. A person can be registered in a voters' list only if he is ordinarily resident there. This term has been defined as permanent stay at a place. Are all these 80 people residing at one address permanently?The Representation of The People Act 1950 provides for the revision of the electoral rolls. These rolls can be revised before every election or every year on the direction of the ECI or a special revision in a few constituencies or part thereof for which the ECI needs to record the reasons (Section 21 of The Representation of The People Act, 1950). Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 shows that the revision done annually can either be summary revision or intensive revision (intensively or summarily or partly intensively and partly summarily).The ECI is presently engaged in a special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, a State where Assembly elections are due later this year. Actually, neither the Act nor the Rules contain any term such as special intensive revision.

There are separate provisions for intensive revision and special revision. This writer is of the view that the SIR suffers from certain legal infirmities. Intensive revision can be done only in January which is the qualifying date whereas a special revision can be done at any time; but this will be limited to certain constituencies or parts thereof.The Bihar SIR has the qualifying date as July 1, which is in violation of Section 14(b) in The Representation of The People Act, 1950, which says that the 1st day of January shall be the qualifying date. Qualifying date is the date on which the revision or preparation of the roll begins.There are a number of media reports on the chaotic conditions in Bihar as a result of the SIR. Intensive revision within a month is a contradiction in terms. Rule 25(2) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, says that intensive revision means rolls have to be prepared afresh and Rule 8 says that the registration officer shall have to visit every dwelling house in the constituency to prepare the roll.

Why has the import duty on cotton been suspended? | Explained

The story so far: Cotton, which is the main raw material for the textile industry, is grown by nearly six million farmers in India. In the wake of declining production, the Central government has withdrawn the 11% import duty it introduced in February 2021. However, the last year saw a steep increase in cotton imports, even with the duty in place. On August 18, the government said it is withdrawing the duty till September 30 when the current cotton season will end.

Why was the duty introduced?

The import duty was announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2021 Budget, when the country was producing 350 lakh bales of cotton annually against the requirement of 335 lakh bales. While the country was exporting cotton, there were imports too and the duty was aimed at protecting the interest of cotton growers.

In a move to address the raw material (cotton) shortage faced by the textile industry, the government exempted all varieties of cotton from import duty from April 14, 2022 to September 30, 2022, later extending the exemption until October 31, 2022. According to the Global Trade Research Initiative, cotton imports surged 107.4%, rising from \$579.2 million in FY2023-2024 to \$1.20 billion in FY2024-2025.

What is the current situation?

The overall domestic cotton production is down to 294 lakh bales, the lowest in the last 15 years, against the requirement of 318 lakh bales (including non-mill use). Cotton production in the 2024-2025 cotton season (October to September) is estimated to be nearly 20 lakh bales lesser than the last cotton season. Imports are also likely to be highest at about 40 lakh bales, with major supplies coming from Australia (\$258.2 million), the U.S. (\$234.1 million), Brazil (\$180.8 million), and Egypt (\$116.3 million). The Cotton Corporation of India purchased nearly 100 lakh bales of cotton from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) during the ongoing cotton season spending ₹37,500 crore, and has sold 73 lakh bales in the market. For the 2025-2026 cotton season that will start on October 1, the government has hiked the MSP by 8%. Farmers in the north are expected to start bringing cotton to the market in October and those in central and western States are likely to start supplying after Deepavali.



What does the withdrawal imply?

It is said that only about two lakh bales of imported cotton that are in transit will be available without the duty as it will reach Indian shores by September 30. Several international brands are highlighting that cotton suppliers and garment manufacturers need to use cotton from these suppliers. When garment exporters compete in the international market, the raw material price was higher because of the duty. They will have a level-playing field without the duty.However, cotton farmers are not in complete agreement with these views. According to Ravichandran, who cultivates cotton at Thiruvavarur in Tamil Nadu, the removal of the duty discourages farmers from cultivating cotton. The removal of the import duty will not help cotton farmers who do not get any support from the government, said Kurubur Shanthakumar, south India convenor of Samyukta Kisan Morcha.

What is the long-term solution?

The industry is looking at two major support measures from the government — it wants a stable policy so that the industry can plan for raw material procurement. The government should suspend the duty every year during the non-peak season (April to September) as the farmers would have sold majority of the produce by then.

It also wants 5% interest subvention for working capital that textile mills need to purchase cotton during the peak season. If the mills, especially MSME units, have adequate funds, they can cover the required cotton and government need not spend on MSP operations, says industry.

Blame not the messenger in India’s diplomacy



History and literature are replete with references to not ‘shooting the messenger’ for bringing bad news. In Shakespeare’s Antony and Cleopatra, the Egyptian queen assaults a messenger and threatens to have him “whipped with wire and stewed in brine, smarting in ling’ring pickle”, for bringing her the news that the Roman General Mark Antony has married another. “I that do bring the news made not the match,” the messenger replies, before making a hasty exit. Over the past two months, India’s ‘diplomatic messengers’ too have faced an ire that is unprecedented — criticised not for the message they bring, but for failing to convey effectively enough, the message New Delhi has sent out after Operation Sindoor (May 7-10, 2025).

Public commentary that is critical of the Ministry of External Affairs and its missions has focused broadly on three counts. First, that India received condolences and statements condemning the Pahalgam terror attack from all quarters, but not the kind of unequivocal support, especially from the neighbourhood, for retaliatory strikes on Pakistan, of the kind seen in 2016 (post-Uri) and 2019 (post-Pulwama). In 2016, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives backed India’s decision to stay away from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit in Pakistan after the Uri attack. In 2019, global solidarity with India forced even China to back a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) terror designation for Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar. Earlier, in 2008, there was international consensus in India’s favour after the Mumbai attacks, when Hafiz Saeed and a number of Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists were designated by the UNSC, and Pakistan was put on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list for the first time. Instead, this time, unfavourable comparisons have been made to Pakistan for the lines of support it received from China, Turkiye, Azerbaijan, Malaysia and the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC).Second, the perception is that Pakistan has scored some diplomatic wins, despite widespread global understanding that Pakistan uses terrorists as state proxies. In April, Pakistan, a non-permanent member of the UNSC, managed to amend the resolution on Pahalgam to delete any reference to The Resistance Front (TRF), that claimed responsibility for the heinous attack.

Earlier this month, Pakistan was chosen as chair of the Taliban Sanctions Committee and vice-Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee at the UNSC, and secured loans from the International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank despite New Delhi’s opposition. Next was the White House’s lunch invitation to Pakistan Army chief (now Field Marshal) General Asim Munir, despite the belief in India that his “jugular vein” speech was a virtual green signal for the Pahalgam attack. In July, as Security Council President for the month, Pakistan will try to schedule meetings on the India-Pakistan conflict and Kashmir, even as India accelerates efforts to designate the TRF at the UNSC, and place Pakistan on the FATF greylis. India’s diplomats will be tested again.The third aspect pertains to United States President Donald Trump, who, despite official denials from India, has chosen to muddy the narrative of how the May 10 ceasefire was achieved, hyphenating India and Pakistan in more than a dozen public statements, and offering to mediate on Kashmir. His latest iteration of the comments this week, just hours after a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and just before his meeting with Gen. Munir, was possibly the most blatant. Thus far, Mr. Trump’s statements, post-ceasefire, have not had a single word on the scourge of terrorism itself, showing just far apart the understanding between Delhi and Washington is at this time.A flurry of diplomacy does not seem to

Why India should address its propulsion gap

The story so far: There has been growing excitement in military and industrial circles over the fast-tracked indigenous fifth generation stealth Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). Touted as a multi-role fighter with supercruise capability, internal weapons bays, advanced avionics, and diverter-less supersonic intakes enhancing stealth and reliability, the AMCA is being hailed as a milestone in Indian aerospace history. However, a dose of historical realism is warranted particularly since India has a persistent propulsion gap, and is overly reliant on imported engines. Nearly seven decades of fighter development reveal cautionary lessons, starting with India’s first indigenously designed fighter jet, the HF-24 Marut (Spirit of the Tempest).

What happened to the HF-24 Marut?

Launched in the 1950s by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under famed German engineer Kurt Tank — designer of several WWII Luftwaffe fighters — the twin-engine, swept-wing Marut was, like the AMCA, an ambitious project of its time. Sleek and capable of transonic speeds, it embodied post-colonial India’s drive for self-reliance and entered service amid high hopes in the late 1960s.However, the Marut never reached its full potential, not because of design flaws, but entirely due to its underpowered British Bristol Siddeley Orpheus 703 turbojets. Although Tank had envisioned a more powerful engine, it never materialised, leaving the Marut’s performance underwhelming. And, while it performed reasonably well in ground-attack roles during the 1971 war on the western front, its propulsion limitations ultimately proved crippling. HAL produced only 147 of these high-maintenance, low-output fighters, which were eventually ‘number-plated’ or retired by 1990.Indian Air Force (IAF) veterans who flew the Marut consistently cited the lack of a powerful engine as its Achilles’ heel — highlighting the enduring reality that high-end fighters live or die by propulsion technology. Engines, after all, are not mere technical parts but the core of sovereign aerospace capability, shaping a combat aircraft’s power, range, and mission effectiveness.

Did India develop its own engines?

Following the Marut’s disappointing engine performance, the Defence Research and Development

have moved the needle on these criticisms. After Operation Sindoor, special delegations of Members of Parliament and former diplomats travelled to 32 countries. The most time (six days) was spent in the United States. After the G-7 meet, Mr. Modi has meetings ahead with BRICS leaders. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is visiting the U.S. for the Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting soon, after several visits to European capitals recently. The government had not essayed such a campaign after the 2016 or 2019 actions against Pakistan, indicating that it too feels that diplomatic efforts by the Ministry of External Affairs and missions abroad have been found wanting and need bolstering.But much as the messenger in Shakespeare says, India’s diplomats do not decide the message that India wishes to send after Operation Sindoor, and cannot be held responsible for its resonance. It is necessary for the government to study the contents of that message, the shift in geopolitical narratives and in how India is perceived, in order to build a more realistic assessment of how far international diplomacy can ensure the outcomes New Delhi desires vis-a-vis Pakistan.

The ‘new normal’With reference to the content of the message, Mr. Modi’s three-pronged “New Normal” has raised eyebrows in some capitals. The first prong — ‘Any act of terror is an act of war’ — lowers the threshold for future conflicts, passing the trigger for Indian strikes into the hands of any terrorist, acting on orders on their own. The second — ‘India will not bow to nuclear blackmail’ — is not necessarily new, but has been left unarticulated thus far because it gives the appearance of a heightened nuclear risk for the region. The third — India will not distinguish between state and non-state actors henceforth — sends out an escalatory message, indicating that the next terror attack could well invoke ‘Armageddon’, rather than the controlled four day conflict in Operation Sindoor. While India’s partners have not asked for evidence of Pakistan’s links to Pahalgam, they look askance at other aspects — like why India has been unable to trace the terrorists responsible yet.Next, it is necessary to note that global shocks in the past few years have changed how the world views India’s tough messaging. Take for example, a growing number of statements by Indian Ministers about “taking back Pakistan occupied Kashmir” by force if necessary. These make many of India’s interlocutors uncomfortable, given the current number of conflicts over territorial aggression underway, from West Asia, to Ukraine to the South China Sea. In the light of Israel’s retaliation for the October 7, 2023 terror attacks, few wish to give any state a free hand for “retribution”. New Delhi’s refusal to criticise Russia for its invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and to raise its oil imports from Russia in the face of sanctions, lost it some support in the western world, especially Europe. The Modi government’s silence on Israel’s devastation of Gaza has also been met with disappointment in the Global South.India, as Mr. Modi told Mr. Trump this week, views terrorism emanating from Pakistan, “not as a proxy war, but as a war itself”. India’s diplomats have been left explaining why their stock responses that “this is not an era of war” and that “dialogue and diplomacy” are the only way forward do not apply to India and Pakistan. Thus, it may be necessary for New Delhi to re-think how it frames its message in view of these changes, notwithstanding the global double standards inherent in the expectations from India.Finally, there is need for introspection over how the Modi government’s image itself has altered in the world since 2019, leading to diplomatic challenges on a number of fronts. These range from concerns abroad over laws such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the amendment of Article 370, Internet bans and summary arrests in different parts of the country, and accusations against Indian government agents of involvement in transnational attacks in the U.S. and Canada. Questions over the broader decline in democracy and the status of minorities within India have also increased in the past few years. India’s delegations abroad (Operation Sindoor) had to field some of those questions during their travels.India’s right to defend itself from decades of Pakistan-backed, trained and funded terrorists is unassailable. But carrying a tough message on terror is easier for the diplomats tasked with the role, if in a strife-roiled world, the government plays to India’s advantages, and what differentiates it from Pakistan — as a secular, stable, pluralistic, rule-abiding democratic and economic power.

Organisation (DRDO) assigned its Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) laboratory in 1989 to develop the Kaveri GTX-35VS afterburning turbofan for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), which had been under design development since 1981-82.Over the next 35 years, GTRE spent around ₹2032 crore, as of 2020, on the project, but without success. Despite producing nine full-scale prototypes and four core engines — logging over 3,000 hours of ground testing and 73 hours of flight trials on an Ilyushin IL-76 flying test bed in Russia — the Kaveri failed to meet the LCA’s performance benchmarks. It struggled with thrust-to-weight ratio, reliability, and thermal management under sustained high-performance conditions. Though spinoff versions were proposed for tanks, ships, and locomotives, none have so far entered operational use.A revival attempt in 2016, in collaboration with French engine-maker Snecma (linked to offset obligations from the IAF’s Rafale deal) also collapsed. A parallel proposal by its partner Safran to co-develop a new engine for the Tejas MkII and AMCA met a similar fate, reportedly rejected by the DRDO due to institutional pride.

Meanwhile, Kaveri’s failure forced the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), responsible for the LCA’s design, to adopt the U.S.-made General Electric (GE) F404-IN20 afterburning turbofan engine (producing 78-80 kN of thrust) around 2004. Although barely adequate — restricting Tejas’ payload and high-angle-of-attack capabilities — the engine was eventually approved by the IAF, which inducted two Mk1 squadrons from 2015 onwards, with one squadron operating without full operational clearance, nearly 34 years after the LCA programme’s inception.

How is India affected by engine dependency?

India’s engine dependency issues resurfaced recently when GE delayed delivery of 99 F404 engines by 13 months for the upgraded LCA Mk1A — a lighter, more capable variant equipped with an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESa) radar, advanced electronic warfare suites, and mid-air refuelling capability. Under a \$716 million contract signed in 2021, engine deliveries were scheduled to begin by March 2024, but the first power pack arrived only in April 2025,

Indian students and the death of the American Dream



Kabir has spent the past few months running. Every morning, before the California sun begins to glare on the cracked sidewalks, he slips on his shoes and bolts out the door. The run, he says, is what keeps him sane. “It’s the only time I can make a plan. What to say to the lawyer. Which papers to organise. Who to call for help.” How not to fall apart.Kabir (name changed on request), who had arrived from Pune to study at the University of California, had his student visa revoked along with thousands of others across the country. The email had come without warning. It had given him no time to prepare. Just a sudden vanishing of the ground beneath his feet. He hasn’t stopped running since. “I got this news on April 2, just a day after Eid. I had wanted to go home, but couldn’t in these circumstances,” he says.

And now, it may be a long while before he can. His Eid kurta and suit are still on the hanger, waiting to be worn. His apartment still carries the remnants of a celebration that didn’t last. A few half-deflated balloons cling to the ceiling — a bittersweet memory, as just a few days before his visa revocation, he had won the H-1B lottery (a random selection process by which a limited number of H-1B visas are allotted every year).Many Indian students have been targeted as a part of the Trump administration’s actions against universities and immigrants.

In the weeks that followed, Kabir’s days became a blur — mornings on the pavement, afternoons in legal and immigration offices, evenings in community centres where other students like him sat huddled on plastic chairs, comparing legal notes, wondering what they had done wrong. Each time, the same questions, the same uncertainty, hung like static in the air.“I run, I walk, I travel. Anything to escape my thoughts,” says Kabir. And yet, they are everywhere. In the faces of the other students who are caught in the same dragnet. In a mural stretched across a wall in Los Angeles that says, ‘My brother and I are my parents’ American Dream.’In the eye of the stormKabir’s story is not his alone. Thousands like Kabir have been left in limbo, their futures upended by the shifting tides of immigration law and political mood in the United States.In March, the Trump administration announced that it was cancelling \$400 million in federal funding for Columbia University “due to the school’s continued inaction in the face of persistent harassment of Jewish students” and other alleged violations. Similar action was also directed against other Ivy League institutions such as Cornell, UPenn, Harvard, Brown, and Princeton.More than 1,800 students from nearly 250 colleges in the U.S. have had their visas revoked and their SEVIS records terminated without notice or due process.The American Immigration Lawyers Association estimates that 50% of those affected are from India.“We are seeing many Indian students being targeted: Megha Vemuri and Prahlad Iyengar of MIT, Ranjani Srinivasan of Columbia, Badar Khan Suri of Georgetown University. This has had a chilling effect on the psyche of Indian students. They are carrying passports from the dorm to the classroom, which is not something typical. They are having conversations around what to do if ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] shows up on campus,” says Akil Kasubhai, an alumnus of the University of Michigan and co-president of SAATH, a community that empowers South Asian youth to drive political change.What began as visa revocations of students who participated in or supported pro-Palestine protests had metastasised by April. Suddenly, hundreds of international students had their visas revoked. Denying student visas based on social media vetting is the latest step in this quickly unravelling saga.

OpenAI and Microsoft: A partnership under strain

A ‘head over heels’ relationship between a tech titan and an AI startup that began over six years ago is turning sour. Microsoft and OpenAI’s pact powered the startup’s artificial intelligence engine to build generative pre-trained models and de-aged the software maker for the AI era.Now — after cumulative investments swelling to \$13 billion — the couple is battling between mutual reliance and burgeoning autonomy. This recalibration carries weighty implications for both firms.Recent reports suggest Microsoft is prepared to halt discussions over the future contours of its OpenAI alliance if disagreements on critical terms — like Microsoft’s future equity stake — persist. The Windows software maker would then rely on its existing commercial contract, ensuring access to OpenAI’s technology until 2030. This marks a potential inflexion point in a relationship that saw Microsoft’s capital and cloud infrastructure propel OpenAI to the vanguard of AI.At the heart of the current negotiations are fundamental differences in strategic outlook. OpenAI has been overtly seeking to lessen its dependency on Microsoft for cloud computing, a move underscored by new partnerships. Notably, OpenAI finalised a deal in May to use Google Cloud’s infrastructure, a significant step to diversify its computing resources beyond Microsoft’s Azure — its current exclusive provider. It has also partnered with CoreWeave and is exploring arrangements with Oracle as part of Project Stargate to further expand its compute capacity. Such diversification provides OpenAI with technical alternatives and, presumably, greater negotiating leverage.The shifting personal ties between the firms’ leaders, Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Sam Altman of OpenAI, mirror these corporate recalibrations. Once in near-constant communication, with Mr. Nadella reportedly texting Mr. Altman five or six times a day, their interactions have become more formalised, primarily consisting of scheduled weekly calls, per news reports.This devolution from spontaneous chats to structured exchange began after Mr. Altman’s brief ousting from OpenAI in late 2023 — an event that led Mr. Nadella to rearchitect his company’s AI future. While Mr. Nadella backed Mr. Altman, the Microsoft CEO also made his controversial decision to bring DeepMind’s Mustafa Suleyman on board. At that point, Mr. Suleyman was running Inflection AI. And as part of the deal, the entire team at Inflection AI joined the software maker.Despite these undercurrents, public pronouncements

Rohan Soni, an alumnus of Columbia University and co-president of SAATH, says it is unfortunate that Indian students are targeted when they really just want to focus on their education. “Most Indian students are quite reserved when it comes to politics. They keep a low profile so that they can get their degrees, join the workforce, and make a better life for themselves,” he says.“We are seeing many Indian students being targeted. This has had a chilling effect on their psyche. They are going from dorm to classroom carrying their passports.”Akil KasubhaiUniversity of Michigan alumnus and co-president of SAATH

A larger ideological campaign

The Trump administration’s move to ban international students has been unfolding alongside a systematic roll-back of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programmes across the country.In January 2025, an executive order directed all federally funded institutions to terminate all race- or gender-based diversity programmes, claiming they were in violation of meritocratic ideals and civil rights law. Soon after the order, the Department of Education launched investigations into 45 colleges for “race-exclusionary practices”. The Department of Homeland Security also imposed stricter limitations on student visas: narrower Optional Practical Training (OPT) eligibility, intensive background checks, and increased scrutiny of STEM graduates, most of whom are from countries like India and China.

Solidarity with Harvard

The cloudy skies on Harvard’s graduation day on May 29 were not new for Boston summer. But the bright blue globes held against the darkening sky were. These globes belonged to Harvard graduates who had raised them as a sign of solidarity with the international student body at the institution. Alan Garber, president of Harvard, echoed the sentiment as he opened his speech: “To the class of 2025, from down the street, across the country, and around the world. Around the world — just as it should be.”

As his words drew a standing ovation, just eight kilometres away, a judge was working to extend a court order allowing Harvard to enrol international students. Only a week earlier, on May 22, the Department of Homeland Security had revoked that ability. This had come on the heels of billions frozen in funding by the government and threats to strip Harvard of accreditation and tax-exempt status. The administration cited concerns over campus activism and alleged antisemitism.

Even as Harvard fought back, arguing that these were retaliatory moves undermining institutional autonomy and academic freedom, Trump issued another proclamation on June 4 barring Harvard-bound international students for six months. This time, when the federal judge granted a temporary restraining order to halt enforcement, she also acknowledged “immediate and irreparable injury” — a phrase that is more than just legalese for the thousands of international students caught in the dragnet.According to the Community Explainer by the South Asian American Policy Working Group, a network of organisations that address policy issues affecting South Asian communities, “More than 1,800 students from nearly 250 colleges have had their visas revoked and their SEVIS records terminated without notice or due process. Only about half of them received actual notice of their visa revocations, so many might not even be aware of their visa termination.” SEVIS, or the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, maintained by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, keeps an electronic record of the immigration status of international students and exchange visitors.“A lot of students got nervous and self-deported. Who knows when they will be able to come back now. At the same time, there are others who are not leaving the U.S. for that very reason. It is a double-edged sword. They are afraid to go, they are afraid to stay.”Sonjui KumarChair of Board, Asian Americans Advancing Justice (one of the organisations advocating for students’ rights in Georgia)Indian students have been hit the hardestAll these changes in the past few months, however, have not impacted all international students equally. Indian students, the largest single group of foreign students in the United States, have been hit especially hard. The American Immigration Lawyers Association estimates that 50% of those affected are from India.



remained diligently choreographed. Earlier this year, Mr. Altman posted a picture with Mr. Nadella on X, announcing the next phase of their partnership to be “much better” than anyone is ready for. Mr. Nadella echoed the optimistic sentiment. Such displays were aimed at reassuring investors amidst intricate private negotiations and mounting competition from other AI players, as well as increasing regulatory scrutiny globally.A pivotal point of disagreement between the duo is OpenAI’s corporate structure. In May, OpenAI announced it would restructure into a Public Benefit Corporation (PBC), while keeping its non-profit parent in control, retaining the authority to appoint board members . This was a significant shift from earlier considerations of a more conventional for-profit transition that might have diluted the non-profit’s oversight and authority. The move, amidst criticism from OpenAI early investor and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, was aimed to better align its operational structure with its stated mission of developing AI for humanity’s benefit, while still attracting substantial investment.This restructuring requires Microsoft’s assent as a key stakeholder — with the tech giant having provided billions of dollars in funding. Microsoft is said to be negotiating the size of its own potential stake in this new PBC, with discussions reportedly ranging from 20% to 49%. Failure to finalise this restructuring by year-end could jeopardise funding from other investors, including a significant investment from SoftBank.Microsoft, for its part, is not standing still. Its AI strategy is visibly broadening beyond its OpenAI relationship. At its Build 2025 conference, Microsoft showcased integrations of models from Anthropic and Musk’s xAI, signalling a move towards a more diversified AI portfolio.

Trump’s 50% tariffs kick export of textiles, gems and jewellery worst hit



WITH THE US deciding to implement the steep 50 per cent tariffs on merchandise from India starting Wednesday, exports of low-margin and labour-intensive goods ranging from apparel, textiles, gems and jewellery to shrimps, carpets and furniture, are set to become unviable in the American market, jeopardising low-skilled jobs in India. With Trump’s new tariffs kicking in, trade experts estimate that the value of India’s merchandise exports to the US could drop by as much as 40-45% in 2025-26 compared with the previous year. Think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) estimates product exports to the US could fall to \$49.6 billion this year from nearly \$87 billion in 2024-25, as two-thirds of exports by value to the US will be hit by 50 per cent tariffs, taking effective tariff rates to over 60 per cent in a few product categories. Around 30 per cent of exports to the US — valued at \$27.6 billion in FY25 — will remain duty free as product categories like pharmaceuticals, electronics, and petroleum products have been exempt from Trump’s tariffs, while 4 per cent of the exports — mainly auto parts — will face a 25 per cent tariff rate.

Meanwhile, competitors like Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia, and even China and Pakistan, which currently face lower tariffs from the Donald Trump administration, are set to benefit from India’s potential losses in various export-oriented sectors. The 50 per cent tariff imposed on the majority of Indian goods exported to the US includes the 25 per cent tariff rate announced by Trump late July, and an additional 25 per cent tariff announced early August as a “penalty” for New Delhi’s purchases of Russian oil, apart from its defence imports from Moscow. The additional 25 per cent tariff will take effect from Wednesday. The sky-high tariffs mean that goods exporters would be rendered uncompetitive in the US market, which is among the handful of trade partners with whom India has a net goods trade surplus. India runs a sharp trade deficit with China, Russia and the UAE, its other top trading partners in the goods category. The impact of the tariffs could be broad-based, as the US accounts for 20 per cent of merchandise exports from India and 2 per cent of the GDP. Sensing a deeper challenge for semi-skilled workers, the textile and gems and jewellery sectors have sought COVID-19-era support for the industry to prevent job losses, as nearly 30 per cent of exports from these sectors go to the US market. Product categories likely to be hit the hardest by high US tariffs include textiles and apparel, gems and jewellery, shrimps, machinery and mechanical appliances, some metals (steel, aluminium, copper), organic chemicals, agriculture and processed foods, leather and footwear, handicrafts, furniture, and carpets. Trade experts said that the diamond-polishing, shrimp and home textiles sectors may see sales volume decline due to their high reliance on US trade. The US accounts for 48 per cent of revenue for shrimp exporters, which means that the marine exports sector would also see a sharp decline in volumes. Moreover, home textiles and carpets are both significant export-oriented sectors, with exports accounting for 70–75 per cent and 65–70 per cent of total sales respectively. Of this, the US accounts for 60

After Trump notifies additional tariff, textiles units in Tirupur, Noida & Surat halt production, say exporters



The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said Tuesday that textiles and apparel manufacturers in Tirupur, Noida, and Surat have halted production amid worsening cost competitiveness due to US President Donald Trump’s decision to impose an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian exports, taking the cumulative tariffs to 50 per cent — the highest globally.

“Textiles and apparel manufacturers in Tirupur, Noida, and Surat have halted production amid worsening cost competitiveness. This sector is losing ground to lower-cost rivals from Vietnam and Bangladesh. As for seafood, especially shrimps, since the US market absorbs nearly 40 per cent of Indian seafood exports, the tariff increase risks stockpile losses, disrupted supply chains, and farmer distress,” FIEO President S C Ralhan said in a statement. “However, leveraging the negotiating window for urgent diplomatic engagement with the US still remains the key. Yet another approach could be the promotion of Brand India and innovation through enhanced global branding, investment in quality certifications, and embedding innovation in export strategy to make Indian goods more attractive globally,” FIEO said. Ralhan said that 50 per cent US tariffs will severely disrupt the flow of Indian goods to its largest export market. He added that the development is a setback and could severely impact India’s exports to the US. “With approximately 55 per cent of India’s US-bound shipments (\$47–48 billion) now exposed to pricing disadvantages of 30–35 per cent, Indian goods have been rendered uncompetitive compared to competitors from China, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, and other Southeast and South Asian countries,” Ralhan said. Meanwhile, the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) said that textile manufacturers are looking for immediate upfront support from the government to address the enormous challenge posed to India’s textile and apparel exporters through the 50 per cent US tariff on Indian goods, which is to come into effect from August 27. “The government has been discussing with industry how it can come to our aid during this critical juncture. But given the gravity of the situation, it is our expectation that concrete measures in the form of fiscal support and policy decisions related to raw material availability will be taken immediately,” CITI Chairman Bakesh Mehra said “At stake are not just the future of India’s

per cent of exports for home textiles and 50 per cent for carpets, according to a Crisil estimate. Crisil Ratings, earlier this month, said there would also be a second-order impact on the earnings of sectors such as diamond polishing, shrimp, home textiles and carpets, which will bear the brunt of US tariffs due to a “structural shift in demand in the US, with reduced discretionary spending driven by expectations of rising inflation”.

American economist Paul Krugman, winner of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Economics, said in a post on Substack on August 8 that key US data are looking increasingly ‘stagflationary.’ There is almost complete consensus among economists that tariffs are inflationary, and that the only dissenters are economists who work, directly or de facto, for the Trump administration, he said. “While 30% of (India’s US) exports will remain duty-free and 4% will face a 25% tariff, the bulk—66% covering apparel, textiles, gems & jewellery, shrimp, carpets, and furniture—will be hit with a 50% tariff, rendering them uncompetitive. Exports from these sectors could plunge 70%, dropping to \$18.6 billion, causing an overall 43% decline in shipments to the US and endangering hundreds of thousands of jobs.” GTRI said in a recent report. Amid fears of distress in the most-affected sectors like apparel, textiles, gems and jewellery, shrimp, carpets, and furniture, exporters have been knocking on the government’s door, seeking support as they begin to grapple with Trump’s tariff tantrums. Gems and jewellery exporters, citing their high dependence on the US market, have expressed fears of job losses, as steep 50 per cent tariffs would render Indian exports uncompetitive. The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said the US tariffs would have far-reaching repercussions across the economy — “disrupting critical supply chains, stalling exports and threatening thousands of jobs”— given that the US is the sector’s single largest market, accounting for over \$10 billion in exports, nearly 30 per cent of the industry’s total global trade.

Exporters have urged the government to introduce a targeted scheme, such as duty drawback or reimbursement, covering approximately 25–50 per cent of the new tariffs imposed on gems and jewellery exports to the US from August to December 2025. The labour-intensive textile industry has also appealed for immediate cash support and a moratorium on loan repayments to withstand the shock of steep 50 per cent US tariffs that could lead to widespread job losses. During a meeting at the Ministry of Textiles earlier this month, the industry also sought fast-tracking of free-trade-agreement (FTA) negotiations with the EU, which could cushion against losses in the US market. About 30 per cent of India’s exports, which amounted to \$27.6 billion in 2024-25, will remain duty-free in the US market, according to GTRI’s estimates. Major product categories include pharmaceuticals, which account for approximately \$12.7 billion worth of exports to the US. However, Trump has warned pharmaceutical companies they must produce within the US or face tariffs rising to 200 per cent within two years. A bulk of electronics exports are also exempt, yet Trump has threatened tariffs on Apple if it continues to export products from India. India’s tariff-exempted electronics exports to the US were \$10.6 billion last year. These exports included smartphones, switching and routing gear, integrated circuits, unmounted chips, wafers for diodes and solid-state storage devices. Other exempted items include refined petroleum fuels and products (\$4.1 billion in 2024-25), as well as books, brochures, plastics, cellulose ethers, ferromanganese, ferrosilicon manganese, ferrochromium and computing gear such as motherboards and rack servers. Metals such as unwrought antimony, nickel, zinc, chromium, tungsten, platinum, palladium, gold dore, gold coins, technically-specified natural rubber, coral, echinoderms and cuttlebone are also exempt.

textile and apparel exporters and the consequent loss of foreign exchange earnings for the country, but also countless jobs in the textile and apparel sector, as well as the chances of achieving the national target of textile and apparel exports worth \$100 billion by 2030,” Mehra said. On other labour-intensive export sectors such as leather, ceramics, chemicals, handicrafts, and carpets, FIEO said that the industry faces a sharp erosion of competitiveness, particularly against European, Southeast Asian, and Mexican producers. “Delays, order cancellations, and negated cost advantages loom large over these sectors,” FIEO said. “There is a need for immediate government support, which includes a push for interest subvention schemes and export credit support to sustain working capital and liquidity. To further support this, low-cost and easily available credit with emphasis on MSMEs — backed by banks and financial institutions under special government and Reserve Bank of India directives — is essential,” Ralhan said.

Dr Reddy’s expects new GST framework to address critical issues in pharma sector

New Delhi: Dr Reddy’s Laboratories on Tuesday expressed hope that the new GST structure will take care of existing challenges and aid in ushering a rationalised, industry-friendly tax framework for the pharmaceutical industry. For an extended period, the pharmaceutical sector has faced structural challenges, including higher GST rates and an inverted duty structure, which have impacted the cost efficiency of domestic manufacturing and the affordability of medicines, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories Chairman Satish Reddy said in a statement. “We are optimistic that the forthcoming reforms will address these critical concerns and introduce a rationalised, industry-friendly tax framework,” he noted. Such measures will significantly improve the affordability and accessibility of essential medicines for every citizen, while also enhancing the global competitiveness and innovation capacity of the Indian pharmaceutical industry, Reddy said. The industry remains fully committed to working in close partnership with the government to ensure that these reforms translate into tangible benefits for patients and the broader healthcare ecosystem, he said. In an increasingly complex and uncertain geopolitical environment, these steps will not only reinforce India’s healthcare security but also strengthen the country’s role as a trusted partner in global health supply chain, he added. In a separate statement, the Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMedD) sought retaining of 12 per cent GST for majority of consumables and 5 per cent rate on costly equipment.

Pune woman donates liver to husband, dies: What every living liver donor should know about post-transplant recovery



Death of a liver donor is extremely rare and so when a tragic incident occurred in Pune — a 42-year-old woman died of low blood pressure and multi-organ failure after donating a part of her liver to her husband — questions have been raised about how risk-proof the transplant procedure is. As reported, 42-year old Kamini Koamkar had donated a part of her liver to husband Babu Balkrishna Koamkar on August 15. Babu passed away after the transplant surgery as his body could not tolerate it well enough. Kamini recovered and was doing well initially till she, what the Sahyadri Hospital authorities claim, developed hypotensive shock (when the body’s circulatory system fails to move oxygenated blood and nutrients to cells) and multi-organ failure despite advanced treatment. While the health department is conducting a review, transplant surgeons and doctors reiterated that liver donation was a safe option. “With proper evaluation of the donor’s medical status and care, it is completely safe. By donating, you are not losing anything — instead, you are giving someone a new life, and that is the greatest blessing,” says Dr Bipin Vibhute, liver and multi organ transplant surgeon, Jupiter Hospital, Pune. “If there’s any risk, that’s too small. By that logic every surgery has that tiny risk,” says Dr Harshal Rajekar, liver transplant surgeon at Medicoover Hospital, Pune. The chance of serious complication in liver donors is less than one per cent. Donor death is an extremely rare event. “Globally, the chance of serious complications is less than 1% and the risk of death is extremely rare — only 0.1– 0.2%,” says Dr Vibhute. That’s because, he explains, the liver is a unique

organ. It has the power to regenerate. This means the portion left in the donor and the portion given to the patient both grow to normal size in a few weeks. With a strict medical evaluation of both the donor and recipient and an experienced team, liver donation is safe and standardised. As per the International Liver Transplantation Society, 3,183 living donor liver transplants were done in India in 2022, the highest in the world.

Who can be a donor? The donor selection process is very strict. “The donor should be between 18 and 55, healthy, with no diabetes, hypertension or liver disease. The blood group must match the patient’s and the donor must pass detailed blood tests, CT scan/MRI, heart health and psychological evaluation. Only completely fit individuals are accepted as donors,” says Dr Vibhute. Even after rigorous testing for heart and lung function, Dr Rajekar explains why a thorough psychological assessment is done. “This is a major surgery and the donor should rightly feel proud of themselves for having done a good deed. It is not an easy thing to do,” he says.

What complications can a donor face? Donors usually do very well after a transplant surgery. Some may experience pain, bleeding, infection or bile leakage in the early days. Rarely, severe problems such as blood clots or poor liver function may occur. However, such complications are uncommon, and more than 95 per cent of donors recover completely and return to their normal lives.

Eat a healthy diet and stay active with light exercise. Follow all instructions before surgery. Take medicines regularly and attend follow-up visits after surgery. Don’t smoke, drink alcohol or take unnecessary medicines that may harm the liver. Avoid lifting heavy weights for at least three months after surgery. Experts insist donors can live a completely normal and healthy life without restrictions in the long run. “The donor recovers fast and can usually be discharged from the hospital within 10 days. The liver will grow back in size and should reach a nearly normal size in four to six weeks,” says Dr Rajekar, who encourages cadaveric organ donation (harvesting organs from a brain dead person) equally.

Fasting blood sugar too high despite drugs, low carb diet & discipline: What was driving it up in my patient?

The body’s blood sugar levels spike between 4 am and 8 am because the body releases hormones like cortisol, which sets your body up for a new day. The body’s blood sugar levels spike between 4 am and 8 am because the body releases hormones like cortisol, which sets your body up for a new day. One of my patients, Ganesh, is what we would call a very disciplined patient, doing everything to keep his blood sugar levels in range. “My morning readings are not coming down at all. I eat protein and vegetables. Have less than 70 gm carbs a day (70 gm of carbohydrates contain 280 calories). I drink a lot of water. I take all my medicines on time and track my blood sugar levels regularly. But my fasting blood sugar level does not come down below 140 mg/dL (normal is less than 100 mg/dL),” he told me.

Sometimes your fasting sugar levels can spiral out of control even with a strict diet, routine and medicines. What triggers such spikes? This condition is called the dawn phenomenon. The body’s blood sugar levels spike between 4 am and 8 am because the body releases hormones like cortisol, which sets your body up for a new day. As a result, the liver releases glucose early in the morning. But in people with diabetes, the pancreas may not produce enough insulin to counteract the increased glucose production by the liver, leading to high blood sugar. So fasting sugar goes high.

Did my patient do anything wrong? Not at all, his body was just responding strongly to early morning glucose response. Now this is affected by many factors like stress, poor quality of sleep or even minor changes in medication timing. For example, the type and timing of your long-acting insulin or tablets can be adjusted to counteract the dawn phenomenon. Continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) can be helpful in managing this situation. It gives you a complete picture of your glucose trends



in real time over 24 hours. So your medication, meals and exercises can be adjusted based on your CGM report. You can also try taking a post-meal walk for 15 minutes. This helps your body use glucose more efficiently and improve insulin sensitivity. In the long run, this helps reduce your fasting sugars as well. If it is very high or too low, check your 3 am blood sugar. If 3 am blood sugar is lower than 70mg/dl, your fasting blood sugar may rise in response to the low levels. Low sugar might have occurred because of overdose of night time insulin or tablet. It might also be due to low food intake at dinner. Your body reacts in response by releasing stress hormones like adrenaline and cortisol, elevating sugar in the morning. In this scenario, a night dose of insulin or tablet can be reduced after getting a consent from your doctor. In order to prevent the dawn phenomenon, you could have a light protein snack like protein bar, half-a-cup of legume salad or two egg whites before bed time. Dawn phenomenon is just your body’s natural response. Your numbers need a bit of small moves to get aligned with your body’s natural rhythm.

A medical college in every district: Telangana’s quiet revolution in health and human capital

From five government medical colleges in 2014 to full district coverage in a decade, Telangana has turned distance into dignity and built a doctor pipeline that serves where people live. There is a before and after line in Telangana’s public health story. Before, advanced care and medical education were privileges clustered around a few cities. After, every district hosts a government medical college with a teaching hospital, bringing specialists, training, and affordable care within reach of ordinary families. This is not a promise. It is a network. Not a token expansion. A state-wide redesign of how care is delivered, where talent is grown, and who gets access to opportunity. This is how a State builds dignity, by ending the postcode penalty.

- Here’s the scale of change
 - At the time of Telangana’s formation in 2014, the State had just 2,850 MBBS seats.
 - ?Under KCR’s leadership, that number rose to 9,000 seats, a threefold jump within a decade.
 - ?During six decades of united Andhra Pradesh, only 5 government medical colleges were set up. In just 9 years of Telangana, the number stood at 34.
 - Telangana is now the only State in India with a government medical college in every single district.
 - ?In the 2023–24 academic year, Telangana accounted for 43 per cent of all new government MBBS seats added nationwide.
- What this really did, beyond the headline
 - Ended stigma as destiny: Education and advanced care are now embedded where people live. Ambulances have a reliable 24x7 public referral point in every district.
 - Built a pipeline, not a patch: Interns, residents, and faculty increased daily clinical bandwidth, speciality services became routine rather than episodic, and district hospitals

- became teaching hospitals.
 - Kept talent at home: Seats in newly established government colleges primarily serve Telangana students; those trained in local hospitals are more likely to serve in them, stabilising the public workforce.
 - ?Made public care credible: ICUs, diagnostics, blood banks, and infection control operate continuously. Government facilities have become a first choice, not a last resort.
- What Changed, Where It Matters Most
 - Access: Emergencies, paediatric crises, trauma, stroke, and cardiac events now meet specialists and protocols, not closed doors and distant referrals.
 - Affordability: As public capacity expands, families shift inpatient care from costly private facilities to government hospitals, cutting catastrophic out-of-pocket spending.
 - ?Equity: A student from Rajanna Sircilla, Nirmal, Kamareddy, or Asifabad can study medicine without leaving home. Nurses and technicians advance on local ladders of skill and seniority.
 - Local economies: Teaching hospitals anchor jobs and services. Diagnostics, hostels, housing, transport, med-tech vendors, and turn district towns into growth centres. When Infrastructure Connects to Outcomes Colleges alone don’t change outcomes unless the ecosystem is connected. Telangana wired the expansion to everyday health: Basti Dawakhana for primary care, T-Diagnostics for free tests, KCR Kits for maternal health, Kanti Velugu for vision, ambulances for first response, free dialysis centres, advanced labs, and financial protection through Aarogya Sri and the Employee Health Scheme. The point was not to scatter assets, but to connect them, so training, diagnostics, referral, and treatment speak to each other. The C Section That Didn’t Need a City Nirmal, monsoon midnight.

Alia Bhatt lashes out at fans and paparazzi for sharing videos of her Rs 250 cr under-construction bungalow: ‘This is a serious security issue’



Inside bRanbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's new bungalow, Krishna Raj, which is named after his late paternal grandmother and the wife of late legendary filmmaker Raj Kapoor, Krishna Kapoor. Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's new Bandra bungalow is nearing completid

Actors Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's new house in Mumbai has been under construction for several months. Recently, a video of their Rs 250 crore Krishna Raj bungalow went viral on social media, offering a full frontal view of the six-storey property in Bandra. On Tuesday, Alia Bhatt shared a strong note, emphasizing the need to respect personal boundaries and refrain from any invasion of privacy.

Taking to her Instagram handle, she shared a post which read, "I understand that in a city like Mumbai, space is limited – sometimes the view from your window is another person's home. But that does not give anyone the right to film private residences and push those videos online. A video of our home – still under construction – has been recorded and circulated by multiple publications, without our knowledge or consent." She added, "This is a clear invasion of privacy and a serious security issue. Filming or photographing someone's personal space without permission is not 'content' – it's a violation. It should never be normalised." "Think about it: would you tolerate videos of the inside of your home being shared publicly, without you knowing? None of us would. So here's a humble but firm request – if you come across such content online, please don't forward it or share it further. And to our friends in the media who have carried these images and videos: I urge you to take them down immediately. Thank you," the actor concluded the note.

On the work front, Alia Bhatt will next be seen in Yash Raj Films' Alpha, directed by Shiv Rawail. The film also stars Sharvati Wagh, Bobby Deol, and Anil Kapoor in pivotal roles. The action-thriller is slated for a theatrical release on December 25, 2025. Alia also has Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love and War in the pipeline, which co-stars her husband Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal in lead roles. The movie is scheduled to hit the big screen in March 2026.

New Harry Potter shops at Diagon Alley in set pictures from HBO show; Ron Weasley gets ready to board Hogwarts Express.

These are exciting times for all Harry Potter fans around the world, as shooting for the new HBO show based on the books has already begun. HBO recently revealed the three actors chosen to play Harry, Hermione Granger, and Ron Weasley. Now, new photos from the sets of the show have found their way online, and fans finally have a clearer idea about the show and its setting. It seems as if the new Harry Potter series will be set in the 1990s, which is when the books were set.

Just a few days ago, a picture of Harry, played by actor Dominic McLaughlin, along with Rubeus Hagrid, played by Nick Frost, was shared on the internet. The two characters could be seen crossing the Borough High Street, or in the context of the story, Diagon Alley. Nick could be seen rocking the classic Hagrid costume, along with a long beard and slightly dishevelled hair. Ron will be played by Alistair Stout, and new images of scenes being shot at King's Cross Station gave fans a chance to meet the entire Weasley family. Pictures revealed actors Katherine Parkinson, Gracie Cochran, Tristan and Gabriel Harlan, playing the characters of Molly, Ginny, Fred and George Weasley, respectively. Actor Ruari Spooner has also been cast as Percy, and the show will also include the character of Charlie Weasley, who wasn't a part of the films. The movie series happens to be one of the most successful movie franchises of all time. The films famously starred Daniel Radcliffe as Harry, Emma Watson as Hermione, and Rupert Grint as



Ron. They were all cast before they'd even hit teenage. The first film, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, is now nearly a quarter-century old. It grossed \$974 million worldwide, which, when adjusted for inflation comes to about \$1.7 billion (Rs 1490 crore). Naturally this creates an even greater challenge for HBO, who don't just have to match the legacy of the books but also the films.

The production of the show began just last month, and other cast members include Arabella Stanton as Hermione, John Lithgow as Albus Dumbledore, Janet McTeer as Minerva McGonagall, Paapa Essiedu as Severus Snape and Lox Pratt as Draco Malfoy.

‘Vivek Oberoi is anyway not getting work; if he likes vulgarity, he should keep it to his personal life’: Pahlaj Nihalani

Pahlaj Nihalani says Vivek Oberoi should keep vulgarity to his personal life. Pahlaj Nihalani says Vivek Oberoi should keep vulgarity to his personal life. If there's anything veteran producer and distributor Pahlaj Nihalani is known for more than his hits in the 1980s and '90s, it's his controversial reign as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) from 2015 to 2016. It peaked when he refused to grant certification to Abhishek Chaubey's Uda Punjab, veteran actor Jeetendra and Balaji Motion Pictures CEO had visited the CBFC office to receive the certificate along with the cuts, but it was co-producer Anurag Kashyap of Phantom Films who didn't want the film to release then because it wasn't "hot enough" till six days before its release. "We even passed the language of the film, wherever it deserved to be. Wherever it was necessary, you'd naturally get cuts, right? We just removed cusswords, didn't alter even a single frame of the film," claimed Nihalani in an interview with Pinkvilla. He alleged that it was part of Kashyap's marketing strategy to stir a controversy to amplify the buzz for his film.

Nihalani added that nobody at CBFC is working towards streamlining the system like he did back in his day. He claimed that the 'A' (Adults Only) certification should be further divided into three subcategories because in early days, even a bikini scene would warrant an 'A' certificate. "There's so much tension at the CBFC today because Praseen Joshi (current Chairperson, screenwriter,



and lyricist) doesn't go to the office. The CEO, who has come in, is good. At least there's some regularization at the CBFC because of him. Praseen is the first Chairperson to have a reign of over seven years without attending office. It'd be a stretch to say he's gone to the office even for seven days," added Nihalani.

After Nihalani was sacked in 2016, it coincided with the advent of streaming in India. At that time, actor Vivek Oberoi, who was part of Prime Video India's first Original show Inside Edge, claimed to Pinkvilla that it's a relief that he's now doing OTT shows because then he wouldn't have to deal with Nihalani. "Whenever Vivek Oberoi meets me, he greets me very warmly. Now, if he has to say something... is he even getting any films anymore? If he likes vulgarity, he should keep it to his personal life. Why do it in films?" added Nihalani. He claimed that he was offered to resume his role at the CBFC once before in 2002 and another time just last year. But he turned it down because he always felt it's a "thankless" job.

Batra. The film also stars Deepika Padukone, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Dhairya Karwa, with supporting performances from Rajat Kapoor and Naseeruddin Shah. The film is set against a contemporary urban backdrop, the narrative explores themes of infidelity, trauma, and emotional complexity through the intertwined lives of four individuals navigating love, ambition, and betrayal. Ananya will next be seen in 'Chand Mera Dil' and 'Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri'. "Chand Mera Dil", which was announced last year in November, is a passionate love story. The film is directed by Vivek Soni, who has previously made "Meenakshi Sundareswar", starring Sanya Malhotra and Abhimanyu Dassani in 2021. Meanwhile, 'Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri', also features Jackie Shroff, Neena Gupta and others in pivotal roles.

Madhuri Dixit refused to be cast opposite newcomer Govinda, was replaced by Neelam, reveals Pahlaj Nihalani: ‘Her films kept shutting down after that’



Madhuri Dixit made her debut back in 1984 with Hiren Nag's Abodh, produced by Sooraj Barjatya's Rajshri Films. Before she became a sensation after the 1994 blockbuster romantic musical Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!, she experienced quite a rough patch of about five to 10 years. Producer Pahlaj Nihalani recalled how, in her quest to become successful, she refused multiple films opposite fellow newcomer Govinda. "I cast Madhuri opposite Govinda in a film. Other producers made a group in order to keep Madhuri away. She kept choosing other films, so I cast Neelam instead. But Madhuri's films kept shutting down. I still offered her Aag Hi Aag (1987) and Paap Ki Duniya (1988), but she kept saying no because she didn't want to work with a newcomer. Then I got angry," recalled Nihalani in an interview with Pinkvilla.

In the interview, he revealed he helped appoint Rikku Rakesh Nath, who later also became a film producer, as the secretary of Madhuri. "Rikku kept making excuses on

behalf of Madhuri to back out of my films. So I court martialled her. Her films, whichever released, flopped. On the other hand, all my three films were golden jubilees," claimed Nihalani. Nihalani recalled detailing this in a film magazine interview, after which Nath approached him "crying," begging him to make a film with Madhuri. He said if not a film, Nihalani should at least do the mahurat clap for a Madhuri film. "At that time, the industry was drowning because of piracy. There was no mahurat that had happened for months till then," recalled Nihalani.

He then did the mahurat for three of Madhuri's, in which she was cast opposite Anil Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, and Chunky Panday, respectively. "Then it led to some good marketing, more mahurats for other films followed, and a ray of light spread across the industry. Goregaon Film City was so packed that there was a massive traffic jam," added Nihalani. However, he revealed that Madhuri never met him personally during these dealings because Nath used to manage them on her behalf. "But it happens that sometimes you don't get a good chance. Madhuri did meet me a couple of times at the studio. But she's a lovely girl. She kept sitting in my office initially for two days with her parents waiting for me, but I was busy shooting. I didn't have any films with heroines at that time. Then I called her and also got Rikku appointed as her secretary," recalled Nihalani. Madhuri gained recognition for her role, particularly the dance song "Ek Do Teen", in N Chandra's 1988 action romance Tezaab, followed by Subhash Ghai's 1989 blockbuster Ram Laxman, Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 1989 crime drama Parinda, Indra Kumar's 1990 romance Dil, Lawrence D'Souza's 1991 romance Saajan, Kumar's 1992 family drama Beta, and Ghai's 1993 crime drama Khalnayak.

After losing wife and both parents, Rahul Dev mourns the passing of his brother Mukul: ‘He was the ladla of house’

Tragedy befalls all at some point or another, and actor-model Rahul Dev has been struck with several personal blows in the last few years. Earlier this year, Rahul lost his younger brother, fellow actor-model Mukul Dev, whose passing shocked the entire industry. In a recent interview, Rahul talked about how he has been coping with losing his family members and what keeps him going through all the grief.

While talking to Faridoon Shahryar, Rahul shared how he felt about losing most of his immediate family. He said, "I don't know what happened. I mean, losing a partner very young, then parenting. Then losing a father, then a mother, and now a younger brother. I don't know what to make out of all of it. Sometimes it happens that you are supposed to do something, and suddenly you pick up the phone and realise that the person is no more. So yeah, it's been a little tricky, if I just put it mildly."

Rahul married his wife, Rina Dev, in 1998, and together the couple raised their son, Siddhant. Sadly, Rina passed away in 2009 due to cancer, which forced Rahul to take a sabbatical from work that lasted almost five years. However, the actor admitted that times are different now, and he can't afford to take that kind of break after Mukul's passing. "It's easy to work hard. But because I've been through it once, I took a drastic step. I was gone for four and a half years. Now I can't afford that. I don't have the years on my side to leave the business. You become wiser. You realise it's all part of life. Nothing really ends; it just takes another form, and you have to wish that form



well," he said. The actor then talked about his relationship with Mukul. "See, he was the ladla (darling) of the house. He was two years younger than me. But I don't know why it felt like I was responsible for him. I used to lecture him a lot about smoking and exercising more. But after a while, whether it's your siblings or your children, when they are adults, one thing you must give them is space. It's difficult to do that, but it is very necessary." He added that no matter how bad the situation might be, the only way forward is to accept the consequences and keep working," he said. He concluded, "Our emotions take us somewhere, but I think the key is to face them bravely. Not with a pinch of salt, but with love. To give love to that situation as much as you can. That's the only way forward." Mukul was seen posthumously in the recent film Son of Sardaar 2.

Taylor Swift, Travis Kelce announce engagement: ‘Your English teacher and your gym teacher are getting married’



The couple took to Instagram to share photos from their engagement, captioning the post: "Your English teacher and your gym teacher are getting married." Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce began dating in 2023. Speaking about their relationship, Taylor told Time magazine, "This all started when Travis very adorably put me on blast on his podcast, which I thought was metal as hell. We started hanging out right after that. So we actually had a significant amount of time that no one knew, which I'm grateful for, because we got to get to know each other. By the time I went to that first game, we were a couple."

The engagement news comes just weeks after Taylor appeared on the New Heights podcast, co-hosted by Travis and his brother, Jason Kelce. On this very podcast, Travis had previously recalled failing to give his phone number to Taylor at one of her Eras Tour concerts. "I was disappointed that she doesn't talk before or after her shows because she has to save her voice for the 44 songs that she sings," Travis shared on the July 26 episode of the New Heights podcast. He added, "So, I was a little butt-hurt I didn't get to hand her one of the bracelets I made for her." When Taylor later appeared on the podcast, she responded playfully to Travis's comments about trying to meet

her, joking that he "threw a man-tantrum." "He threw a man-tantrum," she said, adding, "It was such a wild romantic gesture to just be like, 'I want to date you.'" On the work front, Taylor Swift recently announced her twelfth studio album, The Life of a Showgirl. It is set to drop on October 3, 2025.

“Barbarik is not a man, but a force”: Vasishta N Simha on his new film

From playing the ruthless Kamal in KGF that shot him to fame, to making his mark in Telugu films like Narappa, Nayeem Diaries, Odela Railway Station, and Salaar, Vasishta N Simha has steadily built a reputation for taking up powerful roles. Now, the actor is stepping into a very different space with Tribanadhari Barbarik, directed by Mohan Srivatsa and produced by Vijaypal Reddy Adidhala under Vanara Celluloid, with presentation by Maruthi. The film, which also stars Sathyaraj and Udaya Bhanu, releases on August 29. In an exclusive conversation with Telangana Today, Vasishta opened up about what drew him to the project, the challenges during filming, and why he feels Barbarik has a universal appeal. He says it was the freshness of the idea that caught his attention. "When I first heard the title Tribanadhari Barbarik, it felt new and exciting. Barbarik as a character isn't widely known, which itself was interesting. The narration was strong, but when I saw how it was visually executed, it became even more impressive," he shared. Unlike his earlier negative roles, this film places him in a different mould. He plays a middle-class young man with big dreams, whose journey ties into the central theme of Barbarik. "In the story, Barbarik won't be seen as a person but as a power that influences lives. That angle is what makes my character's track unique," he explained.