

Gachibowli: After a few hours of pause Hydraa begin demolition activity at Anjaiah Nagar

Hyderabad: The DRF teams of Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (Hydraa) began demolition activity at Anjaiah Nagar in Gachibowli on Monday, after a few hours of pause.Geographic Reference

Hydraa and CMC officials took a decision after a joint inspection of the adjacent apartments. They noticed another seven-storeyed apartment had also been impacted and partially damaged after an illegal apartment collapsed on it, and decided to demolish it on Sunday itself.

Jaishankar meets Putin, flags \$50-billion trade deficit

London, August 24

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday and flagged over \$50-billion trade deficit as one of India's foremost priorities, while calling for greater market access, removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers and stronger Indian business engagement.

Putin, while receiving Jaishankar at the Kremlin, said India-Russia trade was "rising again", attributing the deepening economic ties to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

to Indian exports.

"Progress on market access, removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, strengthening payment mechanisms and stronger business-to-business engagement will be critical" for addressing the imbalance and achieving the target, he said.

Putin, meanwhile, highlighted areas where Russia is seeking to deepen supplies to India, particularly energy and fertilisers. He said Moscow was doing everything necessary to meet the requirements of Indian agriculture and was increasing fertiliser supplies. "Nuclear energy, cooperation in high-tech sectors and other areas" were also making steady progress, Putin said.

The two sides discussed a wide range of areas, including trade, investment, energy, fertilisers, nuclear power, connectivity, technology, space and mobility.

Manturov said India-Russia trade had increased 8 per cent in the first half of 2026, with Moscow seeking to diversify the composition of bilateral commerce beyond traditional Russian exports of fuel and mineral fertilisers.

Trade in agricultural and food products, machinery, metals and forestry products was expanding, while Indian exports to Russia included pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, industrial raw materials, equipment, components and light-industry goods, according to the Russian Government.

personal attention and conveying his "warmest regards" to him. Jaishankar is in Moscow for the 27th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation.

"I am pleased to note that our trade has grown this year. It declined slightly in 2025, but is now rising again," Putin told Jaishankar. He said this was "due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who personally paid close attention to the development of India-Russia relations".

Putin said he hoped to meet the Prime Minister soon on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation events. The Kremlin meeting came against the backdrop of a dramatic expansion in bilateral trade, which Jaishankar said had increased more than four-fold from about \$13 billion in 2021-22 to nearly \$60 billion in 2025-26. But the surge has been heavily skewed in Russia's favour. Jaishankar said the trade deficit had widened from \$6.6 billion to more than \$50 billion over the same period.

"Addressing this imbalance is today one of our foremost priorities," he said at the intergovernmental commission, where he co-chaired talks with Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov.

India and Russia have set a target of \$100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030, but Jaishankar underlined that achieving it would require addressing structural barriers

One nation, one poll Bill unconstitutional, Chidambaram tells Joint Parl Committee

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the legal and constitutional feasibility of simultaneous elections in India on Monday heard Congress veteran P Chidambaram, a select group of Padma awardees and two policy research institutes on the scope and relevance of the proposal.Former Rajya Sabha MP Tarlochan Singh and historian Meenakshi Jain, who were recently nominated to the Rajya Sabha, were among the Padma awardees who deposited before the panel.

Tarlochan is learnt to have argued that no amount of electoral reforms would help Indian democracy unless a new and reworked anti-defection law was passed to proscribe defections and punish those who switch parties at will.

The remit of the panel is, however, limited to the two draft Bills -- the Constitution Amendment Bills amending Article 83 (which deals with the duration of Houses of Parliament) and Article 172 (which deals with the duration of state Legislatures).

These Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Law Minister and referred to the panel for further examination after the Union Cabinet approved these Bills on December 12, 2024.

Lok Sabha sources said a strong deposition against simultaneous elections came from former Home Minister P Chidambaram on Monday. He is learnt to have termed the draft laws as unconstitutional.

Sources said the former minister and sitting Rajya

Telangana High Court questions HYDRAA demolition of private property in Kondapur

Hyderabad: Justice NV Shravan Kumar of the Telangana High Court asserted that constitutional courts cannot be faulted for scrutinising executive actions, observing that government authorities and agencies, rather than private litigants, were misleading the judiciary.The Bench made these critical observations while hearing a petition filed by Pemmasani Sudha Rani, who alleged that revenue officials and HYDRAA unlawfully demolished a compound wall and a watchman's room on her private plot in Survey No. 60 of Kondapur village, Serilingampally Mandal, without notice or due process.

Revanth Slams Centre, Modi Over Denial For US Visit

Hyderabad, August 24

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of discriminating against Telangana by denying him political clearance to visit the United States, saying the decision was an insult to the four crore people of the state and an attempt to block its development.

Revanth Reddy, who returned to the city earlier in the day, questioned how the Centre could dictate terms to a democratically elected Chief Minister and alleged that the decision reflected "Gujarat supremacy" and was against the principles of cooperative federalism.

Addressing a press conference here, Revanth Reddy said Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel had been permitted to visit the US during the same period as his proposed tour to attract investments, while approval for his own visit had been denied.

"Why am I being stopped from going abroad even as the Gujarat Chief Minister was allowed to do so?" Revanth Reddy asked. He said Patel had toured the US for eight days and participated in programmes under the Vibrant Gujarat initiative.

"Why did they give permission to him and not to the Telangana CM?" Revanth Reddy asked, alleging that the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were repeatedly displaying an "anti-Telangana ideology" and conspiring to divert investments from Telangana to Gujarat.

The Chief Minister alleged that Modi was acting "as a Gujarati, not as the Prime Minister of India" and accused him of functioning like a "brand ambassador for Gujarat". "What is the political angle behind denying me permission? It's simple. Modi is BJP; Revanth Reddy is Congress. Modi is Gujarat; Revanth is Telangana. Is this the political angle behind denying permission?" he asked.

He also pointed out that the Prime Minister had travelled to several countries and that the Gujarat Chief Minister had undertaken numerous foreign visits. "How can Modi or the Centre dictate terms to the Telangana CM?" he asked, stressing that the denial was not directed merely at him but amounted to disrespect towards the people of Telangana.

Revanth Reddy said his proposed foreign visit was not classified and that its schedule had been submitted to the ministry of external affairs (MEA). He said the state government had informed the MEA that the purpose of the US visit was to promote Telangana as a sports and investment hub, attract investments and explore collaborations with world-class universities.

Revanth Reddy said he intended to sign MoUs with renowned universities. "If foreign universities come to us, our students will not need to go there," he said, adding that several foreign universities had shown interest in signing agreements with Telangana universities and that many companies had evinced interest in investing in the upcoming Bharat Future City.



The Chief Minister said the planned UK and US visits involved similar engagements, making it difficult to understand why clearance had been granted for the UK leg but denied for the US trip. "Why was the US visit denied while the UK visit was allowed?" he asked.

He said the Centre had informed the state government about the denial only after the official delegation had already reached the UK, forcing him to cut short his planned 10-day UK-US tour, which began on August 20, and return to Hyderabad on Monday.

Denying media reports that he had planned meetings with US Vice-President J.D. Vance and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani without informing the MEA, Revanth Reddy said the entire itinerary had been provided to the ministry. "I would have to obtain a prior appointment to meet a mayor, Vice President or anyone else. It's not as though one can simply drop by the office of a ward councillor. The Indian High Commission has to clear every meeting," the CM said.

The Chief Minister said the denial would not prevent Telangana from pursuing its investment and development objectives. An investment summit would be organised at Future City in December, at which investment opportunities in Telangana would be showcased and explained in detail to investors from across the globe. "Even if the Centre stops me from going to the US, it cannot stop me from achieving my objective of bringing investments to the state," he said.

Revanth Reddy said Congress MPs would raise the issue in parliament, with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi taking it up with the Centre.

Revanth Reddy disputed the MEA's explanation, saying the CMO had clearly communicated the objectives and schedule of the US visit to the ministry. He said the MEA had examined the proposal and subsequently declined permission for the visit, which he described as a politically motivated decision. He maintained that the Centre's action was not only discriminatory but also contrary to the spirit of cooperative federalism.

Revanth Reddy declines comment on Konda Surekha controversy

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday declined to comment on the controversy involving Forest Minister Konda Surekha and her daughter Sushmitha, saying the party high command's decision would be final.

He also appealed to party leaders not to raise speculative issues in public. The issue was already being handled by the TPCC Disciplinary Committee, he said, stressing the importance of discipline in the party.



"Irrespective of their rank and position, all leaders have to abide by the party high command's decision," Revanth Reddy said at a press conference here.City & Local Guides

The Chief Minister said he would not comment on internal party matters before the media. "If there are any issues, they should be discussed internally in the party," he said, adding that action would be taken based on the Disciplinary Committee's report.

Later, the Chief Minister held a meeting with a few Ministers and MLAs at the Secretariat to discuss various issues. Interestingly, he is learnt to have instructed the MLAs not to make further comments or demands in the media over the controversy involving the Forest Minister and her daughter.



Sabha MP called for the Bills to be junked as "these are against federal principles of the Indian Constitution".

Chidambaram's principal argument was that the term five year tenure mentioned in Articles 83 (2) and 172 of the Constitution for Lok Sabha and state assemblies should be read to mean that it is the basic feature of the Constitution and cannot be disturbed.

The veteran Congressman is said to recall how the Emergency time amendment to the Constitution to extend the tenure of Lok Sabha to six years was later reversed by Parliament.

Telangana Assembly session to commence on September 7



Hyderabad, August 24: The Telangana Assembly session would commence on September 7. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy informed the MLAs about the commencement of the session and also discussed development programmes in their Assembly constituencies.

The Chief Minister held a meeting with available Ministers and MLAs in the Secretariat on Monday. During the meeting, he instructed the legislators to complete the pending land acquisition for irrigation projects in their respective Assembly constituencies expeditiously.

Revanth Reddy warned that the projects would never be completed if the land acquisition was not completed. He assured that the government would sanction funds for land acquisition, R&R (Relief and Rehabilitation) and forest clearances.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Tummala Nageswara Rao, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, D Seethakka and other leaders participated in the meeting.City & Local Guides

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Asim Munir— making of a dictator

Pakistan's chief of defence forces, Field Marshal Asim Munir, is a man in a hurry. The speed at which he has been bestowing additional powers upon himself shows that he has no time to waste. The pliable civilian government has no intention to displease him. Moving at an unusual speed, Pakistan's national assembly recently approved the Defence Forces of Pakistan Act, 2026, along with amendments to the National Command Authority Act, 2010, giving the army chief all the powers he wants and more. No one dares to keep Munir waiting. With unbridled powers centralised into a single command structure, Pakistan is now virtually moving towards military dictatorship behind the garb of civilian democracy. Though the country had long spells of military dictatorships in the past, the current template is designed to create an illusion of an elected civilian government being in control even while making the Field Marshal an all-powerful entity. The new law, cleared by the national assembly and signed by the President in a matter of minutes, is in sync with the constitutional changes introduced in 2025 that had created the post of the Chief of Defence Forces. Munir now has sweeping authority over the country's armed forces, including the power to retire, discharge or retain personnel and to alter prescribed retirement limits under the new Act. By the way, he is permanently immune from prosecution. For India, the most significant aspect is the concentration of military authority in one office.

Munir can advise his prime minister on national security policy and also oversee the execution of military decisions across the armed forces. This gives the military leadership a central role in national security decision-making.

Legal Assistance Sought Over Poor-Quality National Highway Works and Road Safety Concerns



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.25." "Kumram Bheem Asifabad: Boire Prakash, a resident of Bambara village in Wankidi mandal, has submitted a petition to the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kumram Bheem Asifabad, seeking legal assistance over alleged poor-quality construction, delayed repairs and serious safety lapses on the National Highway from Repallewada to Goyagam on the Telangana border." "In his petition, Prakash alleged that the road was dug up in the name of repair works nearly two months ago but was left without proper restoration, creating dangerous conditions for motorists. He stated that adequate barricades, warning signs, reflectors and night-time safety arrangements were allegedly not provided at the site, increasing the risk of accidents. He stated that several motorists had reportedly met with accidents and sustained injuries during this period, with one person losing his life in an accident on August 22, 2026. He urged the authorities not to treat the fatal incident merely as a routine road accident and to investigate whether negligence in leaving the road in a hazardous condition and failure to provide adequate safety measures contributed to the incident. Prakash sought identification of the contractor/company representatives, project officials, site in-charges and other persons responsible for the construction, repair and maintenance of the road through official records. He also requested an inquiry into the accidents, injuries and fatalities reported on the Repallewada-Goyagam stretch during the past two months. He further requested an investigation into the role and alleged negligence of the concerned company and its responsible personnel in connection with the fatal accident and previous incidents. If any criminal negligence is established, he sought legal assistance for filing a complaint with the concerned police authorities and initiating action under the applicable criminal laws. The petitioner also sought legal assistance to help the deceased person's family and previously injured victims obtain compensation and other remedies available under law. If violations of contractual conditions are established, he requested that appropriate departmental and contractual action, including possible blacklisting, be initiated against the responsible agency." Prakash further urged an inquiry into the role of the concerned NHAI officials, the company involved in the road works and other responsible persons. He requested legal advice and assistance from a lawyer, if necessary, for filing a private criminal complaint or pursuing other appropriate legal proceedings before the competent court. He submitted photographs of accident spots, details and news reports concerning previous accidents, photographs showing the road excavation, copies of earlier complaints and representations, and other relevant evidence along with the petition. Prakash appealed to the District Legal Services Authority to treat the matter as urgent, examine the relevant records and evidence, record statements of victims and take steps to ensure appropriate legal action against those found responsible.

District SP Nithika Pant, IPS, Hears Public Grievances and Directs Officials to Take Prompt Action



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.25." "Kumram Bheem Asifabad: A Prajavani programme was conducted at the District Police Office on Monday, where District Superintendent of Police Nithika Pant, IPS, Directly received grievances from the public and

listened to their concerns. The SP directed the concerned police officials to examine every complaint as per the law and take appropriate steps to resolve the issues. She also spoke to the officials of the respective police stations over the phone, reviewed the status of the complaints and instructed them to take prompt action without any delay."

Speaking on the occasion, SP Nithika Pant urged people to approach the police department fearlessly with their grievances without the involvement of any intermediaries. She stated that the district police department is committed to examining every complaint in a lawful and transparent manner and ensuring a fair resolution. The SP further said that the Prajavani programme is being conducted every Monday with the objective of bringing police services closer to the people, resolving their grievances at the earliest and strengthening peace and security. She urged the public to make effective use of the Prajavani programme.

Resolve Prajavani Applications Promptly: District Additional Collector Yuvraj Marmat



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.25." "Kumram Bheem Asifabad: District Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Yuvraj Marmat directed officials to take prompt steps to resolve applications received during the Prajavani programme after conducting field-level inspections. On Monday, the Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Yuvraj Marmat, along with District Additional Collector (Revenue) M. David and District Revenue Officer Dasari Venu, received applications from the public at the Integrated District Collectorate conference hall in the district headquarters. "Shakil Hussain from Sirpur-T mandal submitted an application seeking payment of pending bills for catering supplies provided to a Telangana Social Welfare Residential School. Residents of Dura Thanda village in Jainoor mandal submitted a petition requesting the removal of their village ASHA worker. Farmers from Gonet



village in Rebbena mandal requested electricity connections for borewells drilled on their RoFR lands. Masade Arun from Babapur village in Asifabad mandal sought a seat for his son in a residential educational institution. Jarupula Suresh from Kammarapalli village in Dahegaon mandal submitted an application seeking transfer of land inherited from his father into his name through succession.

Talandi Muthubai from Gundepalli village in Penchikalpet mandal requested issuance of a land title (patta) in her name for the government land she has been cultivating. "Speaking on the occasion, Additional Collector Yuvraj Marmat instructed the concerned officials to examine the grievances received during the Prajavani programme at the field level and take immediate steps for their resolution. "Relevant officials and applicants participated in the programme.

Complete the Plantation Target Under Vanamahotsavam at the Earliest: Minister Konda Surekha



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.25." "Hyderabad, August 24, 2026: State Minister for Forests and Endowments Konda Surekha directed officials to complete the plantation target set under the Vanamahotsavam programme at the earliest. On Monday, the Minister held a review meeting through video conference from her chamber in Hyderabad, along with the PCCF, with District Collectors and District Forest Officers of all

districts. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister instructed officials to expedite the plantation programme as per the targets allocated to each district for the 2026-27 Vanamahotsavam season. She directed officials to geo-tag every sapling planted and ensure its proper protection and survival. She also emphasized the development and maintenance of Brihat Palle Vanalu (village forests). "District Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Yuvraj Marmat and District Forest Officer Balamani participated in the video conference from the Video Conference Hall at the Integrated District Collectorate Complex in the district headquarters. "Speaking on the occasion, Additional Collector Yuvraj Marmat said that the district has been allocated a target of 47 lakh saplings under the Vanamahotsavam programme and that the target would be completed soon with the coordination of all concerned departments. He said that steps were being taken to plant saplings on government lands, along both sides of roads, on tank bunds, around government offices and in educational institutions. He also stressed the need for coordinated efforts to ensure the survival and protection of the planted saplings. "Officials from the District Rural Development Department and Forest Department participated in the programme.

Atram Sugunakka Consoles Savitribai's Family at Powerguda

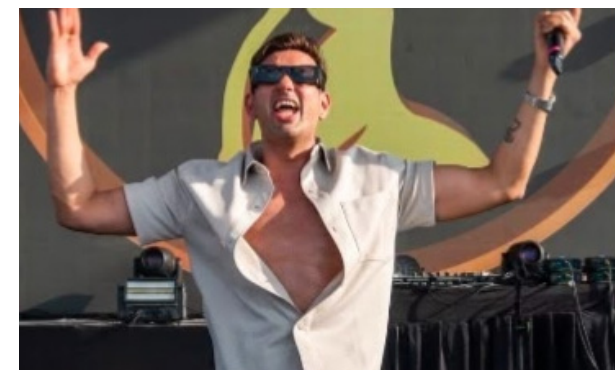


"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.25." "Jainoor: Atram Sugunakka, TPCC Vice-President and President of the Kumram Bheem

Asifabad District Congress Committee, visited the family of Gedom Savitribai at Powerguda village in Jainoor mandal on Monday following her recent demise. Atram Sugunakka expressed her deep condolences to the bereaved family and consoled the family members. She spoke to them, enquired about their well-being and offered them courage and support during their difficult time. She said that Savitribai's demise was an irreparable loss to the family and prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace. She urged the family members to remain strong and assured them that the Congress party would stand by them in their time of need. Sarpanch Todsam Rajender, Congress Mandal President Sheikh Rasheed, District Congress Executive Committee Member Pendor Prakash, Sarpanch Association President Madavi Manohar, Rasimet Sarpanch Uyika Chandan Shaw, Congress leaders Sheikh Raheem, Sheikh Islam, Todsam Gangaram Patel, Anaka Ramji, Gedom Maru, Todsam Manik Rao, Kumram Maruti, former MPP Anaka Kalabai, Meshram Lakshmbai, Gedom Purnabai and others participated in the programme.

Grand Finale of Boombox Season 4 Held in Hyd

Hyderabad, August 24 (Indian Chronicle) : The grand finale of Seagram's Royal Stag Boombox Season 4 was held in Hyderabad, Pernod Ricard India Chief Marketing Officer Debashree Dasgupta said in a statement on Monday. International hip-hop star French Montana, along with singers L.V. Revanth and Nikhita Gandhi, DJ Sahil Gulati and gaming content creator Payal Dhare, entertained audiences with special performances. Payal Dhare opened the event with a live gaming face-off, followed by musical performances by DJ Sahil Gulati, Nikhita Gandhi and L.V. Revanth, which received an enthusiastic response from the audience. French Montana made his debut performance in India at the event.



'Swaad Ka Safar' Grand Finale Held in Hyd



"Hyderabad, August 24 (Indian Chronicle) : The grand finale of 'Swaad Ka Safar', organised by leading consumerware brand Borosil in partnership with Metro Wholesale, was held at Metro Wholesale in Hyderabad on Monday. Home chefs and food enthusiasts participated in the live cooking competition, with renowned chef Harpal Singh Sokhi serving as the judge. Chef Sokhi and Borosil Vice President - Marketing Barnali Shankar addressed the gathering. The three selected finalists prepared their dishes in the presence of Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi. He tasted the dishes and shared his feedback and suggestions with the participants. C. Vanamala Vardhan was declared the winner of 'Swaad Ka Safar' and was felicitated on the occasion.

Families Suffering Due to Illegal Belt Shops



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.25." "Durganagar: Women of Durganagar Village No. 5 in Kagaznagar Mandal staged a protest demanding the removal of illegal liquor belt shops. Later, they submitted a petition at Easgaon Police Station. The women alleged that illegal liquor outlets were causing several men to become addicted to alcohol and spend their earnings on liquor, leaving families struggling to meet basic needs such as household expenses, children's education and medical costs. "They demanded a comprehensive inquiry into illegal liquor sales across the district and strict action against those found violating the rules. They also urged the District Collector and SP to take special measures to curb illegal liquor sales and protect affected families.

Ancient Shiva Temple Reconstruction Works Launched



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.25." "TPCC Vice-President and Kumram Bheem Asifabad District Congress Committee President Atram Suguna laid the foundation stone for the reconstruction of the ancient Shiva temple at Ramalingapet village in Utnoor mandal on Monday. "Speaking on the occasion, Atram Suguna said she would extend her support for the development of the temple, which houses an ancient Shiva Lingam discovered on ancestral land. "Later, she participated in the distribution of prasadam at the temple. The temple committee members felicitated Atram Suguna with a shawl. Former Nagapur Sarpanch Sunil Jadhav, Ramesh, Jadhav Ambaji, Kelash Ade, Raghuraju, Mer Singh Vittal, Vijay, Nitesh, villagers and temple committee members participated in the programme.

Milad-un-Nabi celebrations should be peaceful, says Karimnagar Police Commissioner

Gaush Alam meets representatives of Milad committees; assures adequate security arrangements for procession.

Karimnagar August 24 (Correspondent): Karimnagar Police Commissioner Gaush Alam on Monday urged members of various Milad committees to ensure that the Milad-un-Nabi celebrations and the procession scheduled for the concluding day were conducted peacefully.

Mr. Alam held a meeting with representatives of the Markazi Milad Committee, Sunni Markazi Milad Committee and Madrasa Anwar-ul-Uloom Committee at the Karimnagar Police Commissionerate to discuss arrangements for the festival.

The Commissioner assured the organisers that the police would make all necessary security arrangements for the celebrations. He said permission for the final-day procession would be subject to certain general conditions aimed at preventing law-and-order issues.

He appealed to the committee members to cooperate with the police and ensure that the festivities were conducted in a peaceful atmosphere.

Inspectors Ramchander Rao, Srujan Reddy and Tirumal Goud, besides representatives of the Milad committees, attended the meeting.

Conduct Comprehensive BC Caste Census and Provide Fair Reservations Based on Population“



“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.25. “Kumram Bheem Asifabad District: The BC Welfare Association submitted a memorandum to the District Additional Collector demanding a comprehensive caste census of Backward Classes (BCs) and fair reservations based on their population. The programme was held under the leadership of BC Welfare Association District President Rupunar Ramesh. “Speaking on the occasion, Rupunar Ramesh said that a comprehensive BC caste census should be conducted scientifically and transparently as part of the nationwide census. He demanded that the actual population of BC communities be officially recorded on a caste-wise basis. He stated that accurate population data is essential to ensure fair representation for BCs in

education, employment and political fields. He demanded that caste-wise population figures be collected and BC reservations be increased accordingly to provide their rightful share based on population. He also urged the authorities to introduce a separate category or column in the census to ensure that every BC family is properly recorded and that no community or family is left out of the enumeration process. “Major Demands of the BC Welfare Association” Conduct a comprehensive BC caste census across the country. “Collect and officially publish accurate caste-wise BC population data. “Increase BC reservations based on population. “Ensure fair representation for BCs in education, employment and political fields. “Implement a transparent and scientific system to ensure that every BC family is included in the caste census. “Effectively implement the constitutional rights and reservation benefits available to BCs. “Rupunar Ramesh urged the government to take immediate steps for the social, economic and educational development of BC communities and to ensure social justice. BC Youth Association District President Avidapu Pranay, BC Association District Working President Ponna Ramesh, Are Welfare Association District President Bottupalli Jayaram, Farmers Association President Vairagade Maruti, BC Youth Association Asifabad Division President Bottupalli Prashanth, Munnuru Kapu Association District Working President Induri Tirupati, and leaders Sirikonda Sai Krishna, Danapalli Shyamrao, Kunderapu Ramesh and others participated in the programme.

Padmavathi Felicitated at Uppal ZPHS Retirement Function



“UPPAL, AUGUST 24 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): A felicitation programme was held on Monday at Zilla Parishad

High School (ZPHS), Uppal, on the occasion of the retirement of G. Padmavathi, who served as the Physical Director at the school. Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest. “On the occasion, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy felicitated Padmavathi and appreciated her valuable services to the education sector. He said her efforts in promoting sportsmanship among students and contributing to the development of the school were highly commendable. “He stated that Padmavathi had rendered distinguished services to the education sector while serving as the Physical Director of ZPHS Uppal and as the Uppal Zonal Secretary. He said receiving the District Best Teacher Award was a recognition of her dedicated services. “The MLA wished Padmavathi good health, happiness and a peaceful life with her family after retirement. “School Headmaster P. Ashok, teachers, staff, students and BRS party leaders attended the programme and conveyed their best wishes to Padmavathi.

Mallareddy’s Demise Is an Irreparable Loss to Farmers’ Movements and the Agriculture Sector



“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.25. “CPI(M) District Leaders Pay Tributes to Mallareddy. Komuram Bheem Asifabad: CPI(M) state senior leader and former national vice-president of the All India Kisan Sabha, Comrade Sarampalli Mallareddy’s demise is an irreparable loss to farmers’ movements, the agriculture sector and the CPI(M) party, said CPI(M) district secretariat members Kota Srinivas and Durgam Dinakar. “On Monday morning, after learning about Mallareddy’s demise at NIMS Hospital, CPI(M) leaders paid floral tributes to his portrait at the local party office. Speaking at the condolence meeting held afterwards, the leaders recalled Mallareddy’s valuable contributions to the agriculture sector, irrigation projects and land reforms. They said Mallareddy had a deep understanding of agricultural issues, irrigation projects and land reforms, and that it would be difficult to find another leader with such extensive knowledge and experience. Born in the erstwhile Warangal district, Mallareddy worked tire-

lessly for the expansion of the communist movement in the region and also played an important role in strengthening the movement in the erstwhile Adilabad district. The leaders said Mallareddy regularly visited irrigation projects, conducted detailed studies and submitted reports and suggestions to the government. His reports were taken seriously by officials and helped in guiding developmental activities. They recalled that Mallareddy was among those who strongly advocated the construction of the Pranahita project at Tummidihatti in the Komuram Bheem district and worked extensively towards the cause. They said his efforts contributed to the then Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy laying the foundation for the Ambedkar Sujala Sravanthi project. “Mallareddy had also visited the Komuram Bheem, Vattivagu and Jagannathpur projects on several occasions and offered several suggestions to the state government regarding their development, they said. The leaders also recalled that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had expressed condolences over Mallareddy’s death, stating that the state had lost an experienced person with extensive knowledge of water resources and the agriculture sector. They urged the government to take steps towards constructing the Tummidihatti project in Komuram Bheem district, saying that it would be a fitting tribute to Mallareddy’s vision and efforts. “They stated that Mallareddy’s demise was an irreparable loss to the CPI(M) and the farmers’ movement and conveyed their deepest condolences to his family members. “CPI(M) district committee member Ashok, leaders Durgam Nikhil, Farmers’ Association district president Jodi Tirupati, Telangana Adivasi Girijana Sangham mandal leader Kanaka Somu and others participated in the programme.

Sugunakka Pays Tribute to Srinivas, Father of Army Employee Ganesh

“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.25. “Jainoor Srinivas, father of Army employee Ganesh from Jainoor Mandal headquarters, passed away due to illness. After learning about his demise, A. Suguna, DCC President of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District, visited the bereaved family at their residence in Jainoor and paid floral tributes to Srinivas’s mortal remains. “Suguna conveyed her heartfelt condolences to the family members and offered her support during this difficult time. “Congress Mandal President Sheikh Rasheed, Sarpanch Association Mandal President Madavi Manohar, Rasimet Sarpanch Uika Chandan Shaw, DCC Executive Committee Member Pendor Prakash, Congress leaders Sheikh Rahim, Sheikh Islam, Ward Member Kiran, Kamre Amruth, Ramji and others were present.



Fatal Road Accident in Chengicherla: Scooter Rider Dies After Being Hit by Lorry

“MEDICALLY, AUGUST 24 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): A 45-year-old man died in a fatal road accident at Chengicherla on Monday afternoon. “According to police, Gyar Haribabu, a resident of Chengicherla, was travelling towards

Chengicherla Mandi on his Activa scooter (TS08JP5214) at around 12:30 p.m. At the same time, a lorry (MH40DC5959) coming from the Mandi side was allegedly being driven at high speed and in a rash and negligent manner. The lorry collided with Haribabu’s

scooter. “Haribabu fell onto the road following the impact, and the rear wheel of the lorry ran over his head, causing severe injuries. He died on the spot. “On receiving information, police immediately reached the scene and inspected the accident site.



Varla Ramaiah felicitated on election to Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council



“Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, August 24: “A delegation of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders from the Secunderabad Assembly constituency felicitated Varla Ramaiah on his election as a member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council. “Led by Secunderabad constituency TDP in-charge Vallurapu Srinivas Kumar, the delegation travelled from Hyderabad to Mangalagiri and called on Mr. Ramaiah at the TDP headquarters. They presented him with a memento and felicitated him with a shawl and floral garland, conveying their best wishes on his new

responsibility. “The leaders described Mr. Ramaiah as a strong voice for the poor and weaker sections and expressed confidence that he would continue to work for their welfare in his new role. “Senior TDP leaders Paritala Vijay Kumar, G.V. Krishna, Garige Praveen, Jagadish Goud, Pilla Shankar Mudiraj, Venkat Swamy, Chander Mudiraj, Muralikrishna, Chandramohan, Saraswathi, Sudarshan Reddy, Raju, Prasada Rao, Puppala Vijay Kumar, Naidu, Rapolu Suresh, Rahul and Razak, among others, were present.

CM Revanth Reddy blasts PM Modi for denying US official tour

CM demands Modi to disclose the ‘political reasons’ behind rejecting the America visit ““Modi is still acting like the leader of Gujarat and not as PM of the country ““Centre permitted Gujarat CM’s ‘Vibrant Gujarat’ tour to America and Canada ““Obstructed Telangana CM’s US tour under ‘Telangana Rising 2047’ ““TG Government furnished every detail to MEA on US tour ““The CM says denying permission to a CM is against the federal spirit and an insult to 4 crore Telangana people ““CM Revanth Reddy addressed a press conference at the State Secretariat today ““Hyderabad ““Honourable Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy blasted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for denying his official USA tour. The Chief Minister demanded the Prime Minister disclose the ‘political reasons’ for not permitting the state delegation led by him to embark on the scheduled America visit. ““Addressing the press at the State Secretariat today, the CM questioned the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for permitting the England visit and denying permission to go to the USA on an official tour. The State government furnished every detail regarding the foreign tour to the Ministry of External Affairs. “We also submitted comprehensive details, but the ministry stated that his tour was being rejected due to political considerations,” CM Revanth Reddy said, demanding the PM to explain the political reasons which put his USA tour under cancellation. ““Further, the Chief Minister accused the Prime Minister of adopting a biased and dismissive attitude towards Telangana and conspired to obstruct Telangana’s development. The CM pointed out that the Union Government gave permission to the Gujarat Chief Minister to visit the US and Canada from August 17 to 28 to organize investment-related ‘Vibrant Gujarat’ programmes. The Gujarati leadership is conspiring to obstruct Telangana’s

development, the CM questioned for blocking him from visiting America as part of ‘Telangana Rising 2047’ initiative. “This is an injustice inflicted upon the 4 crore Telangana People. ““CM Revanth Reddy alleged that the Centre blocked his USA tour fearing Telangana will surpass Gujarat in attracting investments. The Centre obstructing the Telangana Chief Minister’s tour amounts to opposing Telangana’s development.” The Centre’s attitude clearly disclosed discrimination against Telangana. Our MPs will raise this issue in Parliament. This is political discrimination and an attempt to stall Telangana’s progress”, the Chief Minister warned that the centre might have blocked his tour, but they cannot stop from achieving the goals set by the state government by organizing the ‘Telangana Global Summit 2026’ under the aegis of ‘Invest Telangana’ on December 8 and 9 this year. “We will invite investments in the education and sports sectors. ““There may be ideological differences between political parties, but cordial relations must exist between the Centre and State governments; the Chief Minister remarked that the Centre’s attitude appeared to be undermining the cordial relations. ““The CM noted that the Central Government is a union of states and this embodies the democratic spirit of India. We formulated our foreign tour itinerary with a focus on education, sports, and investments. “Our concern is that the Centre’s stance could result in Telangana missing out on potential investments. We will certainly exert pressure on the centre for the development of Telangana. ““CM Revanth Reddy took strong exception to BJP comments on his [proposed USA tour. BJP leaders levelled personal political allegations against him by losing their sense of propriety and made false statements. He does not want to raise political issues concerning the BJP’s stance since it was a matter involving two governments, the Chief Minister charged.

A Telangana Girl Opens Her 25th Open Library

—Next Goal: 100 Libraries ““Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, August 24 : “Akarshana Satish, a Class X student of Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet, has achieved a remarkable milestone in her mission to promote the habit of reading. Having worked for the past six years to encourage book reading in society, she inaugurated her 25th open library at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral) in New Delhi. “Dedicated to the families of soldiers serving the Nation. The library houses 2,136 books in 13 Indian regional languages. The facility was inaugurated in the presence of Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAfMS) Surgeon Vice Admiral Aarti Sarin, Army Hospital Commandant Lieutenant General Avinash Das and other senior officials. “Akarshana donated one lakh prize money, she received with the Rotary Young Achiever Award towards the library’s infrastructure using it to provide book racks and shelves. “Expressing her gratitude, Akarshana said she could reach this milestone only with the continued support of the people of Telangana, educational institutions and donors. During her Delhi visit, she also met Chief of



Defence Staff General N. S. Raja Subramani, Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan and CRPF Director General G. P. Singh, and briefed them about her library initiative, receiving their appreciation and blessings. “Akarshana said her next goal is to establish 75 more open libraries and reach a total of 100 libraries in the coming days.

Set a Goal, Stay Focused and Succeed: Lions Club Leaders to Students



“Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, August 24: “Students should set a clear goal in life and work with determination to achieve it, Lions Club leaders said while distributing notebooks to students at the Chikalguda English Medium School here on Monday. “The notebook distribution programme was organised by the Lions Club of Hyderabad Ameerpet and Lions Club of Hyderabad Tycoon Professionals, under the leadership of their presidents, Lion Vijender Reddy and Lion Suman Velpula. “Addressing the students, Lion Vijender Reddy urged them to remain focused on their studies and pursue their ambitions with dedication. He advised them to stay away from excessive mobile phone use and television and spend some time playing outdoor games to maintain a healthy balance. “Lion Suman Velpula said the Lions Club worked with the motto “We Serve”, undertaking

various service initiatives in the fields of education, healthcare and women’s empowerment. He encouraged the students to make the best use of the support extended to them, excel in their studies and, in future, extend a helping hand to others in need. “The school management, students and parents expressed their gratitude to Lion Vijender Reddy and Lion Suman Velpula for their contribution towards supporting the educational needs of the students. “Teachers Ayesha Anjum, Haseena Begum, Saleha, Shaheen Sultana, Neelima, Sirisha and Divya were present.

Raiyan Faisal wins two golds, sets Telangana shooting record

Hyderabad: Telangana’s promising junior rifle shooter Raiyan Faisal Yousufuddin produced an impressive performance at the Second Telangana Big Bore Shooting Championship, winning two gold medals and setting a new record in the junior men’s category. Raiyan scored an impressive 287/300 in the 300m Rifle Prone Junior Men Individual event, finishing first and setting a new Telangana State record in the category.

Smart Ration Cards Distributed in Asifabad 16th Ward



“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.25. ""Asifabad Town: A smart ration card distribution programme was held on Monday in the 16th Ward of Asifabad Municipality. Asifabad Municipal Chairperson Mengre Akash, Vice Chairperson M.D.Ahmed, and Ward Councillor Doodala Lakshmi participated in the programme and distributed smart ration cards to eligible beneficiaries."Speaking on the occasion, Municipal Chairperson Mengre Akash said the government was introducing smart ration cards with the objective of making ration

services more convenient, transparent and accessible to beneficiaries. He said the smart cards would help streamline the delivery of ration services and enable eligible families to avail themselves of government welfare benefits more easily.Smart Ration Cards for All Eligible Beneficiaries"Vice Chairperson M.D. Ahmed said the government was taking steps to ensure that every eligible family receives a smart ration card. Beneficiaries who have not yet collected their cards were advised to contact the ration dealer concerned and obtain their smart ration cards at the earliest. Focus on Transparent Public Services Councillor Doodala Lakshmi said smart ration cards would make ration-related services easier and more transparent for the public. She said elected representatives and officials were working together to ensure that the benefits of government welfare schemes reach all eligible beneficiaries.She urged eligible residents who have not yet received their smart ration cards to approach the concerned ration dealer and complete the process without delay.The beneficiaries expressed their happiness over receiving the smart ration cards and said the initiative would make access to ration services more convenient."Revenue staff member Abhishek, ration dealer Srinu, colony residents, beneficiaries and others were present at the programme.

Two-Year-Old Girl Freed from Severe Epilepsy After Advanced Brain Surgery



Yashoda Hospitals doctors successfully treat drug-resistant epilepsy with advanced surgical intervention""Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, August 24 . "" Doctors at Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, have successfully performed advanced epilepsy surgery on a two-year-old girl suffering from severe, drug-resistant seizures, bringing her seizures to a complete halt."The child, Vagdevi, daughter of Saidulu and Maheshwari from Bhongir, had been experiencing severe seizures almost every day since she was six months old. Despite being treated with multiple anti-seizure medications for nearly a year, the seizures persisted. She also showed delays in speech, physical and cognitive development."A comprehensive pre-surgical evaluation, including MRI and PET-CT scans, identified a small lesion near the amygdala and hippocampus in the left temporal

region of the brain as the likely source of the seizures. A specialised paediatric neuro team comprising a paediatric neurologist, neurosurgeon and neuro-anaesthesiologist jointly planned and carried out the treatment."Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, Senior Paediatric Neurologist Dr N. Varsha Monica Reddy said the child was brought to the hospital on July 26 after seizures failed to respond to multiple medications. Detailed pre-surgical investigations helped the team precisely identify the seizure-generating area of the brain."She stressed that children with drug-resistant epilepsy should be referred to epilepsy specialists without delay. Early control of seizures can provide better opportunities for improvement in speech, learning abilities and physical and cognitive development, particularly because of the greater neuroplasticity of the developing brain.

""Precision surgery with advanced monitoring""Senior Neurosurgeon Dr R. Ayyadurai said an anterior temporal lobectomy was performed along with successful removal of the abnormal tissue lesion responsible for the seizures."During the procedure, the surgical team continuously monitored brain activity using intra-operative electrocorticography (ECoG) and intra-operative neuromonitoring (IONM). This enabled the surgeons to remove the seizure-causing abnormal tissue while protecting critical areas responsible for normal brain function."A post-operative EEG showed that the abnormal electrical activity previously detected in the brain was no longer present. The child recovered well and, importantly, remained completely seizure-free following surgery. She was discharged from the hospital within a week."Dr Ayyadurai said children with drug-resistant epilepsy can benefit from advanced imaging, comprehensive pre-surgical evaluation, multidisciplinary expertise, modern surgical techniques and neuro-monitoring, which can significantly improve treatment outcomes.

The Dark Truth Behind Parrot Fortune-Telling... Know the Law You Must Know!



“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.25. ""A parrot is meant to spread its wings and fly freely in the sky. But is it right to keep it locked inside a small cage and make it "predict" our future? What many people consider a traditional practice has a darker side involving the suffering of birds and important legal restrictions.At temple entrances, village fairs, roadside stalls and crowded marketplaces, it is common to see parrots kept in cages for fortune-telling. Many people believe this is an age-old tradition passed down through generations. However, capturing wild birds, keeping them in captivity and using them for commercial or entertainment purposes can attract serious legal action under India's wildlife protection laws."Is Keeping a Parrot in a Cage a Crime?"The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is one of India's principal laws for protecting wildlife. The Act regulates hunting, possession, capture, trade and other activities involving protected wildlife.Native wild parakeets, including species covered under the Act's protected schedules, cannot simply be captured from the wild and kept in cages for commercial purposes. Therefore, using protected wild birds for fortune-telling is not something that can be treated merely as a harmless traditional occupation."The exact legal provision and penalty depend on the species involved and the circumstances of the offence."The Suffering Behind Parrot Fortune-Telling"Parrots are naturally social and active birds that need space to fly, forage and interact with other birds. Capturing them from their natural habitat and keeping them for long periods in small cages can seriously affect their welfare."In fortune-telling practices, birds may repeatedly be taken out of cages and trained to pick cards or perform particular actions in front of customers. Continuous confinement, improper feeding, excessive handling and stressful surroundings can cause considerable distress to the birds.Behind the colourful cards and claims about the future, there may therefore be a very different reality—the loss of a bird's natural freedom."What Does the Law Say?"The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 contains provisions dealing with hunting, possession and illegal dealings involving protected wildlife. Penalties under Section 51 can include imprisonment and fines, depending on the nature of the offence and the species involved."In certain circumstances, authorities may also take action regarding articles, vehicles or other property used in connection with a wildlife offence, subject to the applicable legal provisions.Therefore, people involved in capturing, possessing, transporting, selling or commercially exploiting protected wild birds can face legal consequences."Protection Against Cruelty"Apart from

wildlife laws, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 provides a legal framework for preventing unnecessary pain and suffering to animals.Where the treatment of a bird amounts to cruelty, the applicable provisions may also become relevant. Authorities can examine the circumstances and take action under the appropriate law."What Should the Public Do?"If people come across parrots or other wild birds being illegally captured or kept in cages, they should avoid purchasing them or encouraging such activities.Instead of confronting the person directly, citizens can report suspected wildlife offences to the local Forest Department or wildlife authorities and provide details such as the location, photographs or videos, if it is safe and lawful to do so."Public cooperation can help authorities identify illegal wildlife trade and protect birds from exploitation.Tradition Cannot Come at the Cost of Wildlife Many customs have been passed down from one generation to another. But traditions also need to evolve when they involve harm to wildlife or violate the law.There is no need to imprison a living creature simply to satisfy our curiosity about the future. A parrot's natural life is not to sit inside a cage and pick a card for a customer. Its place is in nature—flying freely among trees and living with its own kind.Let Us Think Before We Encourage It"The next time we see a caged parrot being used for fortune-telling, instead of asking, "What does this bird say about my future?", we should ask:"What kind of life has this bird been forced to live for our entertainment?"A bird does not belong in a cage merely to tell us about our destiny."Do not sacrifice another living creature's freedom for the sake of knowing your future. Protect wildlife. Respect nature. Let birds fly free.

Rain disrupts coal production in SCCL opencast mines in Kothagudem

GNS News Agency, August 24
Kothagudem: Coal production was affected in SCCL's opencast mines in erstwhile Khammam following light rainfall in the past 24 hours.
Coal production and overburden removal operations were suspended in Manuguru and Yellandu areas of SCCL. Approximately 40,000 tonnes of overburden removal was affected in the Manuguru area due to rainfall.

Rainwater accumulation at Koyagudem opencast mine in Tekulapalli mandal resulted in the temporary halting of around 4,000 tonnes of coal production and overburden removal operations. Measures are underway to drain accumulated water from the opencast mines, officials said.

Koyagudem recorded 15 mm of rainfall, Tekulapally 5 mm and Manuguru 3.8 mm. Meanwhile, the Taliperu project in Cherla mandal received huge inflows following heavy rains in its catchment area. Officials lifted eight gates fully and nine gates by two feet to release 73,988 cusecs of water downstream.

Sridhar Babu Inaugurates Centralized Community Kitchen in Manthani



“Manthani, August 24 (Indian Chronicle): State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Monday inaugurated a modern Centralized Community Kitchen established in Manthani with approximately 77.5 crore in Singareni Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds."Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu said the government's objective was to ensure that no child goes to school hungry and to provide nutritious breakfast to every student in government schools. He said the breakfast programme would help improve children's health, physical development and concentration on their studies."The Minister, along with Peddapalli District Collector Koya Sriharsha, inaugurated the facility and later had breakfast with students. The kitchen has modern equipment and is capable of preparing 10,000 idlis, 3,000 dosas and 5,600 puris every hour."Sridhar Babu said the initiative was inspired by the food-service activities of the Hare Rama Hare Krishna Charitable Trust, which began providing food to attendants of patients in hospitals in 2011 and is now being implemented in government hospitals across Hyderabad."He said the message of the trust's founder, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, that no person should remain hungry within a 10-mile radius, had inspired the Telangana government to undertake food-security initiatives in coordination with the trust."The Minister said the school breakfast programme was initially launched on a pilot basis in the Kodangal Assembly constituency under the guidance of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Following its implementation, school attendance in Kodangal increased by 21 per cent, he said. The programme is currently being implemented in Kodangal as well as Madhira."He said the Manthani centralized kitchen was established following instructions given to the district administration, with funding from Singareni's CSR programme. A special menu has been prepared to provide students with different varieties of breakfast every day. The government is also considering providing milk to students at least three times a week, he added."During the interaction, students shared their experiences with the Minister. One student explained that she had previously attended school without having food at home. Sridhar Babu said the government



was committed to ensuring that children would not have to face such difficulties in the future."He said nutritious food would help students maintain good health, achieve proper physical growth and concentrate better on their education. The government, he added, was committed to implementing the breakfast programme effectively with the future of children in mind."Peddapalli District Ranks Third in State"District Collector Koya Sriharsha said several initiatives were being implemented in Peddapalli district with special focus on the education sector, following the directions of Minister Sridhar Babu."He said that according to recent studies conducted by the Central government, Peddapalli district ranked third in Telangana in the implementation of various education-related programmes."The Collector said the state government was strengthening government schools by focusing on school education and appointing new teachers. He expressed confidence that the newly launched breakfast programme would further improve students' health, attendance and educational standards."Sriharsha said teachers from the district were receiving recognition at the state level for their good work. Recently, a teacher from the Ramagundam area was selected for a training programme in Finland, and efforts were being made to provide similar international training opportunities to more teachers in the future."He said the district administration was committed to improving school infrastructure and providing quality education to every student. As government schools were now providing quality food and quality education free of cost, he appealed to parents to enrol their children in government schools without hesitation."The Collector urged education officials and teachers to work in coordination to further strengthen government schools and lay a strong foundation for the future of students."Manthani RDO Suresh, Municipal Chairman V. Srinivas, Vice-Chairman Sayender Reddy, Market Committee Chairman Venkanna, Municipal Commissioner Manohar, RG-3 General Manager, Tahsildar Aripoddin, public representatives, officials from various departments, teachers and students attended the programme.

MY Bharat to Organise “Khelo India Samvaad – Khel Ki Baat PM Ke Saath” & Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) Quiz on 27 August 2026



Hyderabad, 24 August 2026:"Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) is organising "Khelo India Samvaad – Khel Ki Baat PM Ke Saath" on 27 August 2026, ahead of National Sports Day, observed on 29 August every year."The programme is being organised in line with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to build a fit, disciplined and sporting nation, while placing the aspirations and participation of youth at the heart of the nation's development agenda."The programme will be organised simultaneously at designated educational institutions across the country. In Telangana, the programme will be conducted at 46 locations, including the University of Hyderabad (UoH) and the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) in Hyderabad."The programme will feature a virtual address by the Hon'ble Prime Minister with youth, followed by a moderated interaction with a sportsperson, an address by a local public representative and a "Yuva Samvaad" segment. The Yuva Samvaad will provide an opportunity for young people to share their ideas, perspectives and aspirations on the sports ecosystem and other 4 identified themes."Prominent Sportspersons to Interact with Students; Yuva Samvaad to Capture Ideas and Aspirations of Youth""The Telangana programme will feature interactions with prominent sportspersons, including Nandini Agasara (Athletics), Dhanush Srikanth and Esha Singh (Shooting), and Sreeja Akula (Table Tennis), who have confirmed their

participation and will interact with students as part of the programme."Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Government of India, has also confirmed his participation and will attend the programme at one of the designated venues in Hyderabad."Through Yuva Samvaad, students and youth will have an opportunity to share their ideas, perspectives and aspirations. QR codes will be made available at all venues, enabling youth to submit their ideas and suggestions directly through the MY Bharat Portal."Shri Anvesh Chinthala, State Director, MY Bharat, Telangana, appealed to students and youth to actively participate in the Yuva Samvaad and submit their ideas and suggestions through the QR code facility. He stated that the ideas received through this mechanism would create a valuable repository of youth perspectives, which may suitably contribute to the larger process of policy and programme development."Youth Urged to Participate in Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue Quiz""Shri Anvesh Chinthala also urged students and youth to participate actively in the ongoing Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) Quiz. He also called upon youth to make use of the Special Camps being organised at all 46 programme locations to participate in the quiz and other MY Bharat activities."He highlighted that the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue provides a significant platform for the youth of the country to present their ideas directly to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and participate in the broader process of shaping ideas and initiatives towards Viksit Bharat@2047."Smt. Snehal Dnyaneshwar Basutkar, Deputy Director, MY Bharat, Rangareddy, appealed to students and youth to register on the MY Bharat Portal and actively participate in its programmes and activities. She emphasised that registration on the portal will enable young people to remain connected and engaged with the larger movement of youth-led national development."During the press conference, Shri G. Rajesh, Assistant Director, MY Bharat also participated."MY Bharat has called upon students, youth, educational institutions and stakeholders across Telangana to participate enthusiastically in "Khelo India Samvaad – Khel Ki Baat PM Ke Saath", the VBYLD Quiz and the Special Camps, and make these initiatives meaningful platforms for youth participation, dialogue and contribution towards the development of a strong sporting culture and Viksit Bharat@2047."End

MLA Bandari Lakshmareddy Launches 46 Lakh Development Works in Nacharam Division

""Nacharam, August 24(INDIAN CHORNICLE):""Uppal MLA Shri Bandari Lakshmareddy on Monday inaugurated various development works worth a total of 46 lakh in the Nacharam Division."An amount of 730 lakh has been sanctioned for the construction of cement concrete roads in Ram Reddy Nagar, including Goldman Bhadravaya Street and other surrounding streets. MLA Bandari Lakshmareddy launched the works along with local leaders Saijen Shekhar and Medala Mallikarjun Goud."Similarly, the old and historic Chinna School building in Nacharam had fallen into a dilapidated condition due to heavy rains around four years ago. With the initiative of the then Corporator Shanti Saijen Shekhar, the unsafe building was demolished."Since then, repeated requests were made to GHMC officials for the construction of a new building on the vacant site. Finally, 216 lakh has been sanctioned for the construction of a Community Hall at the location."The local residents and leaders expressed their



gratitude to MLA Bandari Lakshmareddy for sanctioning funds for these important development works."Nacharam Assistant Engineer Suraj, Work Inspectors Vijay Kumar and Rama Rao, BRS leaders and party workers from Nacharam and HMT Nagar Divisions, residents of Ram Reddy Nagar, villagers of Nacharam, and others participated in large numbers in the programme.

No plot, no premeditation; Badal attack was ‘spur-of-the-moment’ act, say cops



Nearly 10 days after 63-year-old Jaspal Singh was arrested for allegedly attacking Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal at Gurdwara Mata Sahib Devan Ji in Nanded, the police investigation has found no evidence of a wider conspiracy. Singh appears to have acted alone, with the attack being a spur-of-the-moment decision after a meditation session, according to police.

Singh told investigators that he felt morally compelled to attack Badal, whom he blamed for the worsening drug crisis in Punjab during the SAD-BJP government’s decade in power. Police said they independently examined his claims through technical evidence, interrogation, and statements from people around him before concluding that he acted alone. “He is a deeply religious person who is known to be involved in meditation sessions and prayers most of the time. He blamed Badal for the worsening drug crisis in

Punjab and, ever since he heard about Badal’s visit to the gurdwara where he was serving, he felt he had to do something,” an officer said. Singh told police that during a prayer session he felt a call from Waheguru to attack Badal, following which he decided to act, the officer said.

“After going through technical evidence, his interrogation and recording statements of those around him, it appears that he was acting alone and that no one else was involved in the attack,” the officer said. Singh is expected to be produced before a local court on Monday. Police said Singh had left his wife and daughter in Pune in 2023 and subsequently became a Nihang Sikh sevadar (volunteer) in Nanded. He was a lawyer by profession and had worked with a corporate firm in Mumbai, police said. The attack took place when Badal was coming down the gurdwara’s steps. Singh, who was standing there with three others, allegedly lunged at Badal with a kirpan (dagger). A Maharashtra Police officer from Badal’s security detail intervened and stopped him. The officer also suffered minor injuries.

Badal, 64, sustained an injury to his hand and was taken to a local hospital for treatment. Singh’s stated motive comes against the backdrop of sustained political attacks on the SAD leadership over the drug problem in Punjab. The Aam Aadmi Party and other political rivals have accused the SAD-BJP government of failing to curb the spread of synthetic drugs while it was in power in the state. Badal’s family has also faced political scrutiny over the issue. His brother-in-law and SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia was arrested by Punjab Police in a narcotics case and was later granted bail.

Punjab man shot while delivering pizza in US, family seeks help to bring body

A 28-year-old man from Punjab’s Kapurthala district was shot dead in the United States on Saturday while reportedly on his way to deliver a pizza, leaving behind a debt-ridden family that had borrowed lakhs of rupees to send him abroad hoping to improve its financial condition. Gurdeep Singh, who hailed from Jabbowal village near Begowal in Kapurthala, went to the US around 10 years ago and worked as a pizza delivery worker in New York for several years. The family said Gurdeep’s cousin Sahil, who lived with him in the US, informed it of the incident after receiving information from pizza company officials.

“Sahil told us that Gurdeep was attacked by armed assailants while he was going to deliver a pizza. He was taken to hospital with injuries but could not survive,” said a family source. His father Pyara Lal said the family was poor and had borrowed around Rs 30 lakh to send Gurdeep to the US. The family survives on daily-wage labour and owns no agricultural land. “We had taken a huge loan to send him abroad, and even after all these years, the debt has not been fully repaid,” he said. Pyara Lal said Gurdeep was going to deliver a pizza when he was surrounded by some people. The family was told that the attackers had come to rob him and shot him when they were unable to loot him.

His uncle Daler Chand said Gurdeep was unmarried and was expected to visit the family next year. Gurdeep has a brother, who lives in the village and takes care of the



family. Family’s appeal to central and state governmentsThe family has appealed to the state and Union governments to provide assistance in bringing Gurdeep’s body back to India at the earliest. They have also sought the intervention of the authorities to coordinate with the US administration, ensure a fair investigation into the killing, arrest those responsible, and ensure they are punished. North American Punjabi Association (NAPA) executive director Satnam Singh Chahal demanded justice for Gurdeep. Chahal said the exact motive behind his murder should be brought out and that the Incident should not be seen as an isolated one. He said the Indian diaspora was facing threats, extortion, and violence in the US.

70-year-old UP man arrested for raping, impregnating minor granddaughter



GNS News Agency, August 24

A 70-year-old man was arrested for allegedly raping his granddaughter at his home in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, over the past three months. The police said the girl is now two months pregnant. The matter came to light after the girl

complained of stomach pain and was found to be pregnant.

“We have arrested the victim’s grandfather in the case. The victim’s detailed medical examination is being conducted,” a police officer said. The girl’s mother died six years ago, and her father is a labourer. She had been staying at her maternal uncle’s house and returned home around four months ago. The police said the girl complained of severe stomach pain to neighbours on Saturday. They informed her father, who was away at work. He took his daughter to a nearby private clinic, where a doctor conducted a test and found that she was pregnant. The girl subsequently told her father about the alleged sexual assault. Also on Saturday, the girl went to the police station with her father and filed a complaint, stating that her grandfather first raped her a few days after she returned from her maternal uncle’s house. Other family members were away at the time. Despite her protests, he allegedly continued to sexually assault her on subsequent occasions.

Doctors warn against antibiotic self-medication as monsoon illnesses rise

New Delhi: Amid a spike in monsoon-related illnesses, doctors have said people should avoid self-medication with antibiotics as fever does not automatically mean a bacterial infection and that indiscriminate use of the drugs can contribute to antimicrobial resistance. Physicians stressed that fever is a symptom rather than a diagnosis and could be caused by viral infections, dengue, malaria, typhoid and several other conditions. Treatment should be guided by the clinical assessment, duration of illness, associated symptoms and appropriate diagnostic investigations, wherever indicated. “Patients frequently come to us after taking multiple medicines, including antibiotics, simply because they have developed fever. Fever by itself is not an indication for an antibiotic. The first step is to determine what is causing the fever.” Dr Sujeet K Choudhary, Chief Medical Officer, Internal Medicine, Sitaram Bhatia Institute of Science and Research, said. Antibiotics are designed to treat bacterial infections and have no effect against viral illnesses, he said. Taking them unnecessarily can cause avoidable side effects and, more importantly, contribute to the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), making infections harder to treat in the future. Dr Neeraj Nischal, Professor in the Department of Medicine at AIIMS, Delhi, said symptoms of several monsoon-related illnesses can overlap, making it important for people to avoid self-diagnosis and self-medication. “Fever, body ache, headache, weakness and gastrointestinal symptoms can occur in a number of infections. Management should be guided by the patient’s clinical condition and, where required, appropriate investigations,” Dr Nischal said. He also cautioned people against using leftover antibiotics from previous prescriptions or taking antibiotics prescribed for someone else. “Antibiotics should not be started, stopped or modified without medical

advice. People should not change the dose, duration or frequency on their own. If symptoms persist, fail to improve or worsen, the patient should be reassessed rather than simply adding another antibiotic,” Dr Nischal said. Dr Mayank Uppal, senior consultant, Internal Medicine at Sitaram Bhatia Institute of Science and Research said antimicrobial resistance was increasingly making treatment of infections more challenging. “Antibiotic resistance is not a future threat; it is already affecting clinical practice. When antibiotics are used unnecessarily or incorrectly, they exert pressure that allows resistant organisms to survive and spread,” Dr Uppal said. He, however, stressed that the answer was not to avoid antibiotics when they are genuinely required. “Antibiotics remain lifesaving medicines. The objective is not to reduce their use indiscriminately but to ensure that the right patient receives the appropriate drug, dose and duration based on the clinical situation,” Dr Uppal said. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) guidelines on antimicrobial use emphasise appropriate antibiotic selection and caution against indiscriminate empirical treatment, particularly when a bacterial infection has not been established. Doctors said patients with persistent or worsening fever, breathing difficulty, altered consciousness, severe dehydration, persistent vomiting, bleeding or marked weakness should seek prompt medical evaluation. People with underlying illnesses, older adults, young children and those with compromised immunity may also require earlier assessment, Dr Asuri Krishna, professor in the department of Surgery at AIIMS, Delhi said. Another concern was the tendency among patients to judge the severity of an infection solely by the intensity or duration of fever and seek antibiotics

Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda regrets Sajjan Kumar remarks, says words were twisted



Facing backlash for his comments expressing condolences on the death of 1984 anti-Sikh riots convict Sajjan Kumar, Rohtak Congress MP Deepender Hooda Sunday expressed regret to the Sikh community for his remarks. He also denied referring to Sajjan Kumar as a ‘role model’ and said his words have been twisted by the BJP’s IT cell to discredit him. “For the past two days, I have been observing that my statement is being twisted and presented to people. An English word is also being inserted into my statement – one that I never uttered, nor did I mean anything remotely like that,” said Hooda in a statement put out on X.

He further said, “I had no intention whatsoever of hurting any of our brothers. I cannot even think of hurting our brothers from the Sikh community. Nor did I ever have any such feeling. Even so, the Sikh community is our own family. If any brother’s feelings have been hurt, then I am your

brother, and I express my regret. My intention and purpose were never to hurt anyone’s heart.” He further said the Sikh community is a glorious community and he takes pride in such a community that has made sacrifices that can never be forgotten. “Whether it is the defence of the country’s borders today or the struggle for the country’s independence, the sacrifices the Sikh community has made for the nation fill us with pride. We share a family-like relationship with the Sikh community. Whenever the need arose, we always stood together like younger and elder brothers – that is the nature of our bond.”

The Rohtak MP added that in 1908, during the ‘Pagri Sambhal Jatta’ movement in Punjab, his own great-grandfather Chaudhary Maturam was sentenced to Kala Pani along with Shahid-e-Azam Bhagat Singh’s uncle Sardar Ajit Singh. “From then onwards, right up to the farmers’ movement, when our farmer brothers from Punjab came, I myself was among the first to stand with them. We have always been together in every struggle. And regarding what happened in 1984, we stand with the Sikh community in their fight for justice as well. They must get justice; no guilty person should be spared,” he said. Hooda’s remarks on Thursday while expressing condolences on 1984 anti-Sikh riot convict Sajjan Kumar’s death had kicked up a storm in Punjab. While Hooda was one of many Haryana Congress leaders who expressed condolences, former Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi referred to certain remarks ascribed to Deepinder Hooda and said Sajjan Kumar could never be considered a role model.

‘Don’t leave home’: Kolkata man duped of Rs 3.26 crore in ‘digital arrest’ fraud

GNS News Agency, August 24Scammers impersonating Mumbai Crime Branch officers allegedly duped a Kolkata resident of Rs 3.26 crore in a ‘digital arrest’ fraud. The fraudsters allegedly exerted extreme pressure on the victim, producing forged Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) orders to force the transfer of shares, mutual funds, and cash. The Bidhannagar cybercrime police have arrested three men in connection with the scam: Biku Kumar, 24, Durant Patra, 28, and Mohammad Zayed, 46. According to the police, all three suspects are residents of Kolkata and Howrah.

The victim initially filed a complaint at the New Town police station in January this year, after which the case was transferred to the cybercrime unit. Following a seven-month investigation, the police traced and apprehended the trio. They are currently undergoing interrogation. The police revealed that the fraudsters first contacted the victim, claiming to be Mumbai Crime Branch officers and alleging that his Aadhaar details were linked to criminal complaints filed against 24 people. When the victim insisted he did not own any Mumbai-registered SIM card, the callers escalated their intimidation tactics. The accused allegedly sent ‘digital arrest’ notices and fraudulent bank account freeze orders, informing the victim that he was under a joint CBI-police investigation. He was ordered not to leave his home without permission and was threatened with immediate physical arrest if he failed to comply.

Fearing legal action, the victim followed the scammers’ instructions step by step. Over the course of the ordeal, he transferred a total of Rs 3,26,84,000, comprising liquidated shares, mutual funds, and cash, into bank accounts controlled by the syndicate. After realising he had been defrauded, the victim approached the Bidhannagar Police. Cybercrime investigators tracked the money trail across multiple bank accounts and technical clues, ultimately identifying and arresting the suspects.



The incident comes amidst a growing push against such crimes. In July 2025, a West Bengal court sentenced nine people to life imprisonment in a digital arrest fraud case, marking the first such conviction in the state and across India. Despite extensive public awareness campaigns run by law enforcement agencies, fraudsters continue to exploit psychologically vulnerable victims. “The language they choose sounds administrative and official rather than suspicious,” a senior police officer explained. “By the time they start demanding money, many victims have already spent hours on calls trying to prove their innocence. They are exhausted, intimidated, and on the back foot.” Following the arrest, the police issued an advisory detailing key indicators that distinguish legitimate law enforcement procedures from fraudulent ‘digital arrests’. Government and law enforcement agencies never keep individuals on hours-long video calls or place them under virtual detention. Transferring money or liquidating assets is never a part of any legitimate criminal investigation. The police will never demand that a citizen keep an ongoing inquiry secret from their family or legal counsel.

‘Spreading pseudoscience: Prashant Bhushan attacks government at Dabholkar lecture



GNS News Agency, August 24Prashant BhushanSupreme Court advocate Prashant Bhushan accused the Modi government of promoting pseudoscience and undermining scientific temper while delivering the Dabholkar Memorial Lecture in Pune (Express photo/Special arrangement). Delivering the Shaheed Dr Narendra Dabholkar Memorial Lecture in Pune on August 22, Supreme Court advocate Prashant Bhushan accused the Narendra Modi government of spreading pseudoscience instead of promoting scientific temper.

The memorial lecture, titled ‘Attacks on Scientific Temper and India Today’, was organised by the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS). Dr Narendra Dabholkar, a prominent rationalist and anti-superstition campaigner, was shot dead in Pune on August 20, 2013. Criticising the political leadership, Bhushan said, “What Dr Dabholkar tried to do and what the current ruling dispensation is doing are exact opposites. The Prime Minister makes completely unscientific statements and spreads falsehoods... Sometimes he claims he is non-biological and sent directly by God. While inaugurating a hospital in Mumbai, he claimed that Lord Ganesha’s trunk was attached using plastic surgery and that Karna from the Mahabharata was a test-tube baby. He even suggested that radars do not work through clouds—statements that are completely unscientific.” Emphasising the importance of rational thinking, Bhushan added: “Scientific temper requires logical thought and reasoning. Science and technology emerge from reasoned thought, driving progress. It is only through reasoning that we can determine whether what we are told is true or false.” During the event, Bhushan released English translations of 10 booklets originally written in Marathi by Dr Dabholkar, translated by Professor Rahi Dahake.

The lecture was attended by several MANS dignitaries alongside Dr Hamid Dabholkar and Mukta Dabholkar, the son and daughter of the slain rationalist. The event coincided with recent developments in the murder case, as the Bombay High Court recently granted bail to Sachin

Andure, a convict in Dr Dabholkar’s killing.

Over-reliance on modern technologyBhushan also cautioned the audience against over-reliance on modern technology. He noted that while artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming daily life, human curiosity, scientific temper, and rationality remain indispensable. He urged citizens to stay vigilant, warning that multinational corporations often exploit technology and advertising to push unscientific narratives for commercial gain.

Bhushan criticised the infiltration of pseudoscience into premier educational institutions and condemned irresponsible remarks by high-ranking academics. He cited the director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi, who publicly claimed to have seen ghosts and attributed land-slides to meat consumption. Concluding his address, Bhushan raised concerns about recent curriculum revisions, alleging that educational bodies have removed core scientific concepts such as Darwin’s theory of evolution and the periodic table, along with key chapters on Mughal history, and have introduced unscientific subjects like astrology into academic curricula.

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UP Deputy CM promises students meeting with Union minister



GNS News Agency, August 24

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak Saturday assured a student delegation that he would take up their demands over “reservation reform” with the BJP central brass and arrange their meeting with a Union minister in the national capital over the issue.The “reservation reform” movement, or Reservation Hatao Andolan, is currently being held at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, seeking a complete overhaul of the reservation system in the country, demanding that public education and employment quotas be solely to an income or economic criteria framework.

In a joint press conference with the delegation, Pathak said, “Our government is with each and every youth. We are committed to fulfilling the dreams of all of them. We will place their demands before the party’s central leadership. In the next two days, we will arrange a meeting of their delegation with a Union minister.”Efforts would be made through dialogue for resolving the problems of students and their legitimate demands, he added.A letter had also been received from the delegation, which would be conveyed to the central leadership, the Deputy CM said.

Week after labour unrest, Surat textile industry agrees to workers’ key demands to ‘ensure peace & productivity’



GNS News Agency, August 24

AHEAD OF another weekend, Surat’s textile industries gave in to some of the demands raised by labourers one of which was extra pay for working on Sundays or off days. Last Sunday (August 16), labourers in the Vedant Eco Park in Amroli industrial estate forced shutting down of embroidery units, prompting workers to exit the factories, leading to a clash with the police.In all three FIRs were registered at the Amroli police station following the violence and the labour unrest and eight persons were arrested.

On Friday, representatives of the state labour department and around 400 textile industrialists met for the second time in the week, with the intervention of city police officers, to discuss the demands by the labourers – weekly off on Sundays or extra wages, eight-hour daily shifts instead of 12, salary to be paid in the first week of the month and Diwali bonus.In the meeting led by Assistant Commissioner of Police Parth Chovatiya, police officers tried to convince the industries to concede to their demands so that production is not hampered and there were no law and order issues.Those textile embroidery units that participated were from Ambrotech industrial estate, Sai Ambro, Vedant Eco park 1 and 2, Anajani estates and others.

A labour department official, who did not wish to be named, told this newspaper, “After the meeting, we realised that finding no platform to air their grievances, they resorted to social media to convey the message to the unit owners.Earlier, these labourers used to stick pamphlets on the walls outside the factories at public places and urge the labourers to comply with their demands. In the present case, the majority of the demands were met. The labourers were satisfied with the outcome of the meeting with us and the police. We have asked labourers to contact us if they face any problems and requested them not to take law and order into their hands.”“We are ready to make a compromise with the labourers and act on their demands. We have carried out a meeting with the textile factory owners on this issue late on Friday night, and all were in support of keeping the factories running, as there is good demand for orders which are pending, and we have to deliver the finished fabric on time.”He further added, “Workers get a day off when there is a maintenance shut down one day in the week. We will negotiate with the workers to pay for working on their off days. Apart from this, we have also agreed to give the salary in the first week of every month. We used to give Diwali bonuses to all workers, and this year we will also give them, but the amount should be negotiated. The eight-

ED raids Jaipur pastor over Rs 2.88 crore foreign funds, ‘conversion’ activities among dalits and tribals

GNS News Agency, August 24

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Saturday said that its Jaipur zonal office conducted search operations on Friday at two premises in Jaipur linked to a pastor. As per the ED, the pastor allegedly received foreign funds for proselytization activities among Dalit Valmiki and Tribal Bhil communities in Jaipur and southern Rajasthan.ED officials said the searches were conducted under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, in connection with misutilisation of foreign donations of more than Rs 2 crore received without having Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) registration and other than declared purpose.FCRA governs the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution received in India from a foreign source.

The ED said that the investigation was initiated based on intelligence that pastor Ravi Mohan Pahadiya, a Protestant Missionary affiliated with Hope Ministry, was illegally receiving foreign funds to the tune of Rs 2.20 crore primarily from a US-based donor namely Thomas Eugene Lynch, for proselytization and conversion activities in Jaipur and tribal dominated southern Rajasthan.The ED investigation revealed that Pahadiya and his wife Gunjan Sharma received foreign funds to the tune of Rs 2.34 crore mainly by

The letter read, “We believe that in the education system that exists at present, some children are very high in merit, while some children are very low. The main issue of our movement is that there should be equal development of intellectual ability among all students, so that equal opportunities can be available in further professional courses. For this, the number of opportunities should be increased, so that no student faces injustice and society benefits.”Harsh Dubey, a student representative, said, “We are holding a peaceful protest. Our demand is that every youth of the country should get equal opportunities. We have been assured that a meeting would be arranged for us within two days.”

Harsh, a NEET aspirant, and his businessman brother Abhishek Agnihotri, had led a protest against reservation at Jantar Mantar on Friday.He gained attention during a television debate where he spoke about reservation and argued that students were failing to qualify due to the marginal difference in marks created by the reservation system. Harsh, who hails from Uttar Pradesh and currently resides in Noida, later posted videos on his social media accounts calling for a protest in demand of reforms in the reservation system.On August 2, he announced that he would sit at Jantar Mantar alone after obtaining permission from the Delhi Police. However, his request was turned down by the authorities citing the imposition of Section 163 of the BNSS that pertains to preventive orders to stop nuisance, danger or public disorder. He also announced plans to launch a reservation reform movement after a social media page with the name of ‘Reservation Hatao Andolan’ was created.

hour shift is not possible, they will have to work for 12 hours. Hopefully they will agree on this point.”Krishna Yadav (27), a resident of Amroli who works in an embroidery factory at Vedant Eco-park 2 and hails from Biihar, said, “We resumed our duties on August 18 and our factory owner is also happy, as he is also worried about delivering goods on time to other parties. We were also part of the protest. The factory owner had told us that he was ready to give a week off with salary, not on Sunday but on another day, to which we agreed. But we are satisfied that the majority of our demands are met.”On August 16, trouble started at two embroidery units in the Vedant Eco Park -2 in Amroli owned by Vishal Goti where at least 500 labourers came out on the streets forcibly shutting down power supply in the automated textile embroidery factories. The next day, trouble also began in Sachin textile estates but the police were called early and they began patrolling the area.Goti filed a complaint against a group of around 200 people who came to his factory and forcefully shut down and threatened his workers to join the protest.

According to the FIR, over 300 such factories were forcibly shut by the labourers in Amroli area. Based on Goti’s complaint, the Amroli police registered an offence against 500 workers under BNS 189 (2)(unlawful assembly), 190 (states that every member of an unlawful assembly is guilty of any offense committed by any member of that group in prosecution of their common object), 191 (2) (Punishment for simple rioting), 122 (2) (voluntarily causing hurt upon receiving grave and sudden provocation), 329 (4) (house trespass), 296 (b) (crime to sing, recite, or say any obscene songs, poems, or words in or near a public place), 351 (2) (simple criminal intimidation), and 61 (2) (criminal conspiracy).Crime Branch officer Amitkumar Dubey who was injured in the stone pelting also lodged a complaint based on which an FIR was registered against a mob of 500 labourers at Amroli police station on August 17. These labourers were booked under BNS 189 (2) (unlawful assembly), 190 (every person in an unlawful assembly is guilty of any crime committed by the group), 191 (2) (Punishment for simple rioting), 122 (2) (voluntarily causing hurt upon receiving grave and sudden provocation), 121(2) (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt to a public servant to deter them from discharging their lawful duty).The third FIR was based on a complaint by Amroli police constable Ravirajsinh Harisinh against an Instagram id user, at the Amroli police station on August 17. He alleged that the Instagram user had in a social media post, used “abusive language on police and incited labourers.

Amroli police inspector J B Vanar said, “In these three offences, we have arrested eight accused. We are also looking for others. After the offence and arrest procedures were completed, no other untoward incidents occurred. The industries are currently operating at full strength. Our police teams are patrolling in different industrial pockets, and also at some sensitive areas we have deployed police staff to maintain law and order.We have also told the textile factory owners that if they come across any threats or people gathering with an intention to shut down the factories, they should call Amroli police so that proper, timely action can be taken and law and order can be maintained.”



showing purpose of business and management consultancy and public relations services and inward remittance from non-residents Indians towards family maintenance and savings, out of which most of the funds was received from Thomas E Lynch.During Friday’s search operations, various “incriminating documents and digital devices were seized,” ED said, adding that Pahadiya received Rs 2.88 crore foreign funds as donations without having FCRA permission by mis-declaring the purpose and ultimately used those funds for personal expenses, foreign travels, purchasing of property in his name.“

ABVP stir against Christ University promotion policy in Ghaziabad



GNS News Agency, August 24While the university had revised its promotion policy for other courses in line with the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), the School of Law’s policy was unchanged since it falls under the ambit of Bar Council of India regulations, the administration said.Tensions continued to simmer at Christ University’s Ghaziabad campus for the second day on Saturday, as around 20 people, including members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and students, gathered outside the Mariam Nagar campus to protest the varsity’s promotion policy. The protest began on Friday after 13 students were denied promotion to fourth year due to backlogs.

Even as the varsity officials said that a memorandum submitted by the affected students will be placed before its Examination Committee on Monday for consideration, Christ University has lodged a complaint with the Ghaziabad Police against ABVP members who have been protesting outside its campus, The Indian Express has learnt. The complaint has been acknowledged by the Ghaziabad Police Commissionerate.On Saturday, the protesters raised slogans and burnt an effigy outside the campus amid police deployment. Officers said the students and ABVP members, who claimed to be representing the affected students’ families, were dispersed after some time. There was no violent clash, and nobody was injured.Policy at the centre of rowAround 13 students of the School of Law’s BA LLB programme at the Ghaziabad campus face a delay in promotion after completing their third year as they have not cleared backlogs from the first or second year.While the university had revised its promotion policy for other courses in line with the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), the School of Law’s policy was unchanged since it falls under the ambit of Bar Council of India regulations, the administration said.

Under this policy, according to the officials, students are required to “successfully complete” all courses from the first year to be promoted to the third year, and all courses of the first and second years to be promoted to the fourth year.For promotion to subsequent semesters, the policy mandates that students must have been cleared in at least 50% of the total number of courses, including practical courses, from the cumulative semesters of the previous academic years, unless otherwise specified under programme regulations.

The revision made by the university on March 25 withdrew the earlier restrictions on promoting third-year UG stu-

dents with first-year backlogs, while retaining the other promotion requirements. Law students, however, were excluded from the revision as it applied only to UG programmes covered under the NEP.Prof Akhilesh Tiwari, in-charge of administration at the Ghaziabad campus and an MBA faculty member, told The Indian Express that the issue affected students across multiple campuses and therefore could not be resolved through a campus-specific decision.“The university has six campuses. Around 13 students face backlogs after finishing third year here, while in other campuses the number is higher: Bangalore has roughly 23, and two other campuses too have such students. There cannot be individual site-level decision that can be taken as a uniform action would be required across all these campuses.”Tiwari said students had been given time to clear their backlogs and that the university had received undertaking letters from them stating that they were aware of the promotion policy.

Tanishq Shishodia, ABVP’s Ghaziabad media coordinator, said attendance shortage was among the reasons behind student backlogs. “Detention is a regular issue on this campus. They take hefty fines for attendance shortages and allow students to appear for examinations, but for those who aren’t able to pay those who suffer and are not promoted,” he claimed.He said some students were being affected by the Promotion Policy despite having only one or two backlogs. “There is a student who had only one backlog in the first year and is now also being detained. Many students have one or two backlogs because they missed passing by a very small margin,” he said, adding, “Parents are desperate and have been travelling back-and-forth for the past two months. We came to know about the issue five or six days ago, when parents approached us and said that nothing was happening on the matter,” Shishodia said.

Anishka Joshi, one of the four affected students who was protesting in front of the campus, said the policy had effectively extended her five-year law programme by another year. “Pursuing law itself is a five-year process, which this has made into a six-year strenuous task. When my father raised the issue with the administration, members responded by making what I felt were casual remarks about suicide,” she alleged.Another student from the 2023 batch, who was also present at the protest on Saturday, said medical reasons had prevented them from appearing for three examinations in the third and fourth semesters. The student also alleged that they were denied a scribe for one examination.The student also questioned the application of the policy to law students, arguing that legal education operates outside the NEP framework.Satyam Sahu, a BBA LLB (Honours) student of the 2022 batch, said a medical condition and an attendance shortfall had affected his academic progression. Sahu claimed his attendance stood at 72.77% against the university’s 73 per cent threshold, resulting in his detention.He said he subsequently had to appear for 13 examinations across the sixth, seventh and eighth semesters within a 24-day period. He also alleged that the compressed examination schedule left little preparation time between examinations, particularly for core law subjects.

Haryana’s stamp duty exemption for daughters’ children



Haryana has clarified that daughters’ children are entitled to the same 100% stamp duty exemption as sons’ children on eligible lifetime property transfers.

Haryana has clarified a long-standing ambiguity over its 100 per cent stamp duty exemption on lifetime transfers of immovable property within families. The clarification now makes it clear that daughters’ children are entitled to the same stamp duty benefit as sons’ children. The issue arose from a 2014 notification whose English and Hindi versions used different terms for “grandchildren”. The discrepancy led to confusion at the local level and, in some cases, denied daughters’ children the exemption. The government has now formally corrected the wording through a gazette corrigendum. Here is what the clarification means, why the issue surfaced and how it relates to women’s property rights.

What exactly happened?

On June 16, 2014, the Haryana government remitted 100 per cent stamp duty under Section 9 of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, on property transfer deeds executed during the owner’s lifetime in favour of specified blood relations, including parents, children, grandchildren, siblings and spouses.However, while the English version of the notification broadly used the term “grandchildren”, the Hindi version mentioned only ‘pautra-pautri’, which generally refers to a son’s children. This created confusion at the level of local sub-registrar offices and, often, resulted in daughters’ children being denied the stamp duty exemption.

Why did it not become an issue earlier?

The issue remained largely unnoticed because property transfers in Haryana have traditionally followed a patriarchal pattern. Agricultural land, residential plots and other immovable property are generally transferred by parents to their sons, while transfers in favour of daughters have historically been less common.In some cases, property owners also transferred property directly to their grandsons or granddaughters. However, since transfers to daughters themselves were relatively fewer, transfers to their children were even less common. As a result, the ambiguity in the notification did not emerge as a major administrative issue.

How did it become an issue?

The issue began receiving greater attention in recent years amid rising property prices and greater awareness of women’s equal property rights following important judicial decisions.Although transfers to daughters remain relatively limited, more families have started transferring property to their daughters. In some cases, property owners also sought to transfer property to their daughters’ children, just as they could to their sons’ children.A senior Haryana government official said that over the past year, the authorities began receiving representations from families seeking to transfer property to their daughters’ children and requesting that they be given the same stamp duty exemption available for sons’ children.

How did Haryana officials resolve the ambiguity?

During examination of the issue, officials found the discrepancy between the English and Hindi versions of the 2014 notification. While the English version referred broadly to “grandchildren”, the Hindi version specifically referred to pautra-pautri, creating an impression that only a son’s children were covered.Officials also examined Section 8 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, which lays down the rules of intestate succession for the property of a Hindu male.Based on the legal position and the wording of the original notification, the authorities concluded that there was no reason to deny the same stamp duty benefit to a daughter’s children.A file was subsequently moved for approval. It was cleared by Haryana Financial Commissioner (Revenue) Dr Sumita Misra and subsequently approved by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.The Haryana government then issued a corrigendum in the state gazette on August 13, replacing the earlier reference to pautra-pautri with pautra-pautri, dohata-dohati/nati-natin. The clarification means that children of daughters are entitled to the same 100 per cent stamp duty exemption as children of sons when eligible property is transferred to them during the owner’s lifetime.

How do women activists view the decision?

Women’s rights activists have welcomed the clarification but said it should have come much earlier.

Shakuntala Jakhar, vice president of the Haryana unit of the All India Democratic Women’s Association (AIDWA), described the move as positive, saying it would make it easier for families to transfer property to daughters’ children without an additional stamp duty burden. In Haryana, for general cases, the stamp duty for registration of a sale deed is generally 7 per cent for men and 5 per cent for women.Jakhar said the government and social organisations must do more to strengthen women’s property rights and ensure that girls are able to exercise their legal rights in their fathers’ property.

What does the law say about equal property rights?

In a significant judgment aimed at ensuring “right of equality” of a daughter in a Hindu Undivided Family, the Supreme Court in August 2020 held that she will have coparcenary right, or equal right to family property by birth, irrespective of whether her father was alive or not as on September 9, 2005 – when Parliament recognised this right by amending the Hindu Succession Act of 1956.Effectively granting retrospective status to the amendment, a Bench of Justices Arun Mishra, S Abdul Nazeer and M R Shah ruled: “The provisions contained in substituted Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, confer status of coparcener on the daughter born before or after amendment in the same manner as son with same rights and liabilities... Since the right in coparcenary is by birth, it is not necessary that father coparcener should be living as on 9.9.2005.”

Egypt, Iran discuss diplomatic efforts to ease regional tensions



GNS News Agency, August 24

Cairo: Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi held a phone call to discuss the latest regional developments and ongoing diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions. The two ministers discussed efforts to create conditions for a return to diplomacy, including the implementation of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the United States and Iran on June 18, according to a statement from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on Saturday (local time). Abdelatty stressed the importance of intensifying ongoing diplomatic efforts to ease current escalations and reach peaceful understandings that would help restore security and stability in the region, reports Xinhua news agency.

He also underscored the importance of ensuring the

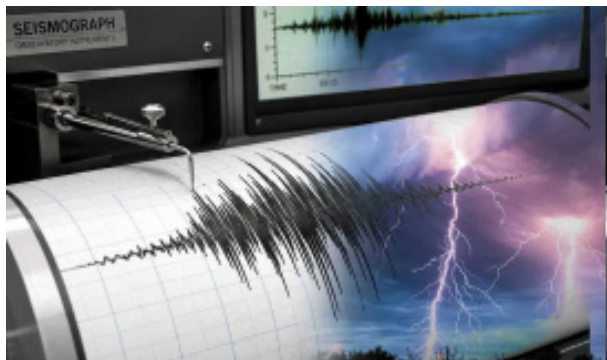
freedom and safety of international navigation and respecting the security and stability of the Gulf states in a way that serves the interests of all peoples in the region. Araghchi briefed Abdelatty on Iran's assessment of recent developments, the course of negotiations, and the challenges facing them, according to the statement. Under the US-Iran MoU, the two sides were scheduled to hold negotiations within a period of 60 days, which ended on Monday, to reach a final agreement. Yet the talks' fate remains unclear following the renewed escalation over the Strait of Hormuz.

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday that the United States would launch "the most crushing economic operation ever taken" against Iran. Meanwhile, Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has said that Iran has received "numerous" messages from neighbouring countries about "shaping new security arrangements and economic cooperation" in the region. In a post on social media platform X on Saturday (local time), Qalibaf said the United States "put the security of every single one of its allies at such risk through bullying and pure disregard for their interests for the sake of Israel." "A homegrown, independent (regional) order is what will actually deliver peace and security," he added. The United States and Israel launched joint airstrikes on Iran on February 28. Tehran responded by launching missiles and drones toward Israel and US military bases in regional countries, reports Xinhua news agency. Media reports, citing regional officials, said Gulf Arab countries were frustrated with Washington for initiating the war while failing to shield them.

Using thunderquakes to X-ray Earth – a new study shows urban seismology in action

GNS News Agency, August 24

Pennsylvania: When lightning strikes, it superheats the air around it and creates a shock wave that we hear as thunder. But thunder doesn't just travel through the atmosphere to our ears. When that energy reaches the ground, some of it is converted into seismic waves that ripple through the soil and rock beneath. The resulting vibrations are known as "thunderquakes." Until now, scientists haven't understood these signals well enough to make practical use of them. Our team's research shows that thunderquakes can be used to map the structure beneath the Earth's subsurface – such as groundwater movement, environmental contamination, sinkholes, or for evaluating building sites and foundations – just like X-rays image inside the human body. We discovered this by listening to thunder with something found in communities around the world but unusual as a seismic measuring instrument: fiber-optic cable. Turning fiber optics into vibration sensors



Using a technique called distributed acoustic sensing, we turned an ordinary fiber-optic cable, the kind used for internet or phone service, into a string of thousands of vibration sensors. A laser-pulsing computer, called an interrogator, sends light through the cable and measures tiny changes caused by vibrations along its length. In our experiment, part of the Penn State FORESEE project, we used a cable that is over 2 miles (more than 4 kilometers) long. That gave us more than 2,100 sensors, spaced only a few feet apart, all listening to the ground at once. Over two years, we used an old telecom fiber to record and identify 458 clear, high-quality thunderquakes. The enormous amount of detail captured by this process has allowed us to see something that had been difficult to observe before: specific types of seismic waves produced when sound from the atmosphere interacts with the ground. The most important of these seismic waves are what we call air-coupled Rayleigh waves. They are measurable at the surface but can be used to study the subsurface far below, even down 300 feet (around 100 meters).

The trick to this technique is known as seismic dispersion: Waves of different frequencies travel at different depths. By measuring how the thunderquake's wave speeds changed with frequency, we could reconstruct the seismic wave speed at different depths, which allows us to interpret the properties of the ground beneath the fiber. The result was the equivalent of an X-ray of the subsurface extending roughly 300 feet underground, without drilling a single hole. Imaging the subsurface typically requires specialized equipment, such as truck-mounted vibration sources or arrays of sensors that have to be installed for surveys. These approaches can be expensive and difficult to deploy over large areas. Thunderstorms offer a naturally occurring source of seismic energy that is already spread across the landscape. And fiber-optic cables are buried beneath cities and towns around the world. Instead of bringing a seismic source to the ground, we can listen to the storms passing over-

head. That could eventually make it possible to monitor the shallow subsurface continuously, using infrastructure that is already in the ground and seismic energy that is already coming from the sky.

In State College, Pennsylvania, where we conducted the tests, the geology is mostly limestone and dolomite, rocks that can slowly dissolve as groundwater moves through them. Over time, this process creates fractures, caves and sinkholes. Our thunderquake study revealed four distinct areas where seismic waves traveled much more slowly than through the surrounding rock. These "weak zones" could be caused by fractured or weathered rock or the presence of water or air. Two of them coincide with areas where satellite radar shows that the ground is actively subsiding. The depths of all four are consistent with fractures and voids documented at nearby sites. These results matter because karst landscapes like the one beneath State College are widespread. They cover roughly 20% of the world's continental land area and affect nearly a quarter of the global population. Sinkholes, groundwater contamination and other hazards associated with these landscapes can threaten buildings, infrastructure and public safety. Knowing where these hazards are allows for better construction and planning.

Our results demonstrate a fundamental process: Sound waves in the atmosphere can be converted into useful seismic waves in the solid Earth. But thunder is only one example. Sonic booms, volcanic eruptions and meteor airbursts can produce similar atmospheric shock waves, potentially creating other natural seismic sources. The idea may even extend beyond Earth. Earth-like tectonic earthquakes are not expected to be common on some other planets and moons, but atmospheric disturbances may still be present. Titan, Saturn's largest moon and the destination of NASA's upcoming Dragonfly mission, is one intriguing possibility. If lightning and thunder occur there as models predict, atmospheric energy could potentially provide another way to investigate its subsurface. Back on Earth, the atmosphere is constantly interacting with the ground beneath our feet. Our work suggests that this interaction could be a source of information about the hidden world below us.

Israel warns US of possible Turkish radar, air-defence deployment in Syria



GNS News Agency, August 24. Jerusalem: Israel told the United States that Turkey was preparing to deploy a radar system and air-defense assets at a Syrian airbase, Israel's state-owned Kan TV Israeli security officials reportedly told Washington that the alleged Turkish move could "significantly" alter the regional balance of power.

Sources familiar with the discussions told the channel that Israel did not provide a timetable for the possible Turkish deployment. Yet, they identified Abu al-Duhur military airport, which was struck by Israeli air force on Tuesday, in northwest Syria, as a potential site. The Tuesday strikes further strained relations between Turkey and Israel. US Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack said Israel did not inform the United States of the attack in advance.

An Israeli official said the strikes were aimed at preventing the arrival of Turkish equipment or troops by air at the airbase, Xinhua news agency reported. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said the

strikes were in response to "clear intelligence" about Turkey's intentions to act in ways that would "endanger" Israel's security. He said Syria had received a diplomatic warning before the strike.

Katz had said earlier on Saturday that the army issued a direct warning to senior Syrian officials before the strikes on the Abu al-Duhur air base "in an attempt to prevent the move." "Following several discussions that Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu] and I held with the IDF and the various security officials, it was agreed that before approval was given, a direct warning would be issued to the Syrian regime at the highest levels first in an attempt to prevent the move, and that is what was done," Katz said. "After the request went unanswered, the prime minister and I authorized the IDF to carry out the strike, which commenced successfully," he added.

What to know about Trump's 50 pc tariffs on Canadian goods that just went into effect



Chicago: After trade negotiations crumbled at the eleventh hour, US President Donald Trump's 50 per cent tariffs on scores of Canadian imports kicked in Saturday. The new levies are expected to affect about 5 per cent of Canada's annual exports to the US, roughly USD20 billion in goods ranging from hockey sticks to agricultural products. Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney quickly promised Saturday that his government would roll out "dollar for dollar" retaliatory measures starting September 8. No further talks are scheduled. The latest escalation between the two countries, which once held one of the world's most durable trade alliances, plunges them deeper into a trade war that has kept both sides of the border on edge throughout Trump's second term in office. Experts warn steeper tariffs raise costs for businesses and almost always trickle down to households in the form of higher prices.

"Nearly all industries and professions are likely to see downstream effects from this spiralling trade dispute," said Augustine Lo, of law firm Dorsey & Whitney, whose work includes advising clients on international trade. Again, the 50 per cent tariffs from the US are set to affect USD 20 billion of Canadian goods. Canada sends the vast majority of its goods exports to the US (72 per cent last year), and the Trump administration says the new taxes will be levied on products ranging from hockey sticks to wine and cement. The list is long. According to documents published by the White House, other goods subject to the tax include honey, seeds and agricultural products, as well as select makeup, perfumes, clothing, jewellery, furniture, cameras, fabric and more. The 50 per cent levy also applies to some products that were previously protected under the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a trade pact from Trump's first term. That marks a shift from past levies, and further underlines questions around the future of the USMCA overall.

How is Trump imposing these tariffs?

To impose these 50 per cent tariffs, Trump reached back to a long-dormant Great Depression-era law: Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930. When the US and world economies were in collapse nearly a century ago, Congress passed the 1930 law as part of broader "Smoot-Hawley" legislation (named after its congressional sponsors). The act raised tariffs more generally across the board, and became notorious among economists for limiting world commerce and making the Great Depression worse. But Section 338, which authorises the president to slap import taxes of up to 50 per cent on imports from countries that have discriminated against US businesses, has never been used specifically to raise tariffs until now.

No investigation is required to justify the levies. Nor is there any limit on how long they can stay in place. Since

there's no precedent, however, the latest tariffs may also see more legal challenges. When announcing his planned tariffs last month, Trump claimed that Canada was unfairly discriminating against US exports of automobiles, alcohol and dairy products. The president expressed anger over Canada's retaliation against his own tariffs last year, noting Canadian imports of American alcohol and cars started to fall last spring. Is Canada retaliating?

Canada's Carney quickly promised to match the new levies "dollar for dollar", later announcing retaliation would begin September 8. He noted Canada's tariff increases would target steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper and electronics. The prime minister said Canada was willing to drop remaining retaliatory tariffs on steel, aluminium and autos if the US substantially lowered its own, and to encourage provinces to restore US alcohol sales. But eventually, he said Washington's final demands went too far. Carney accused Washington of using "economic integration as a weapon," and that Canada had been "attacked" by the latest US tariffs. He said his country had the reserves and resilience to respond. Trump's top trade negotiator, Jamieson Greer, pledged additional measures to respond to Canada's retaliation, without immediately specifying what that would look like. In a Saturday interview with "Fox & Friends Weekend," Greer also claimed the administration offered to cut tariffs on steel, autos and lumber, but Canada "didn't want" the deal.

What's next?

Tariffs are taxes paid by importers, or businesses that buy goods from abroad. That typically trickles down to consumers through higher prices — and, as seen over the last year, can also create uncertainty for workers across affected sectors. North America now has a "new tariff landscape," Dave Townsend, a partner at law firm Dorsey & Whitney, said Saturday. He noted a big question is whether the latest levies prove to be temporary. The 50 per cent tariffs come on top of previously imposed levies, including a 10 per cent rate Trump slapped on Canada just last month ostensibly for failing to do enough to prevent imports produced by forced labour and separate sectoral levies impacting trading partners globally.

The growing trade sanctions on Canada underscore Trump's willingness to risk breaking established alliances. And Canada's reluctance to accept a deal may reflect recent experience. Trump has repeatedly targeted Canada, even after instances where it made concessions following his demands. Some tolls on the newly opened Gordie Howe Bridge will be shared for 15 years, despite the fact that Canadians paid for the span linking Detroit and Windsor. Canada also withdrew a digital services tax last year. All the while, Trump has threatened more tariffs over everything from a TV ad criticising his trade policies (later pulled by Ontario's government) to wildfires that blackened skies across North America. Steeper tariffs have already contributed to higher inflation, but appeared to level off some in recent months, per researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, notably after the Supreme Court in February struck down some of Trump's most sweeping levies. Still, Saturday's taxes against Canada mark the latest instance of Trump turning to other laws to impose tariffs. And more recently, Washington's war with Iran has driven prices even higher. With the cost of living at the centre of many voters' minds in a midterm election year, political ramifications could mount for the Republican president in the coming months.

CM Yogi hails India's achievements on National Space Day, says progress giving momentum to 'Viksit Bharat'

GNS News Agency, August 24. New Delhi: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday extended his greetings to scientists and the people of the state on National Space Day, describing the occasion as a celebration of India's scientific talent, innovation and remarkable journey in space. In a post on X, CM Yogi highlighted India's growing achievements in science, research and space technology, while praising the country's expanding global recognition. He said India's progress in the space sector reflects the spirit of innovation and the broader vision of building a developed and self-reliant nation.

"Heartiest congratulations to all scientists and the people of the state on National Space Day, a radiant symbol of India's scientific talent and the power of innovation. This day is a celebration of India's bold flight—from the Moon to the infinite possibilities of space—as well as the extraordinary journey of scientific capability and innovation. Under the illustrious leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the new India is continuously setting new milestones in the fields of science, research, and space technology, giving renewed momentum and global recognition to the resolve of 'Viksit Bharat-Atmanirbhar Bharat'," he said. South Asians & Diaspora

National Space Day is celebrated in India on August 23. The day marks the historic soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander near the Moon's south pole in 2023, making India the first nation to reach that region of the Moon. The achievement became a defining milestone in the country's space programme and demonstrated the



growing strength of India's scientific and technological capabilities. As India observes National Space Day 2026, ISRO Chairman and Secretary of the Department of Space Dr V Narayanan has called for greater innovation, collaboration and ambition as the country works towards becoming a global leader in space. The 2026 celebrations are being held under the theme, "Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership." The theme reflects India's ambition to strengthen its scientific and technological capabilities while encouraging innovation, partnerships and greater participation in the global space ecosystem. In his National Space Day 2026 message, Dr V Narayanan emphasised the importance of continuing to push the boundaries of science and technology while building partnerships that can strengthen India's space ecosystem.

Dozens abducted from mosque in Nigeria's Niger state

Armed assailants attacked multiple villages in Nigeria's north-central Niger state, kidnapping worshippers from a mosque in Kpenya village and abducting dozens more across Borgu Local Government Area. Police confirmed the incident but did not provide figures, while residents estimated between 60 and 80 people were taken.

Abuja: A number of people were kidnapped from a mosque in a spree of abductions at several villages in Nigeria's north-central Niger state, police said Saturday. The assailants attacked a mosque in Kpenya village after attacks in a string of villages in the remote Borgu Local Government Area of Niger state Friday, police spokesperson Wasiu Abiodun said.

Such attacks are common in Nigeria, where multiple armed groups operate, killing and kidnapping people for ransom. The groups sometimes clash in competition with each other. No group has claimed responsibility for the Friday attacks. Abiodun did not provide figures but said no lives

were lost in the Friday attacks, and said the military was deployed to the area. Residents said scores of people were abducted, with some estimating between 60 and 80 people were kidnapped. A search for survivors was underway Saturday.

Borgu area council chairman Abdullahi Mohammed Nasir said at least 60 people were kidnapped and an unspecified number of people sustained gunshot injuries while trying to escape the gunmen. "People were abducted while praying at a Juma'at mosque on Friday," Nasir said. "That was when the bad people came and surrounded the mosque and took them away."

Zubairu Umar Talba, a youth leader in the Dekara area in Borgu, told The Associated Press that his 85-year-old father was among those who were taken. "Nobody can tell you the exact number of people abducted because, so far, about 80 of our people have been abducted and many have fled the area," he said.

Ashutosh Varshney writes: The Hindutva-Ambedkar puzzle



"They [current portable gaming PCs] don't quite meet all those factors. They do an okay job, but I am not really satisfied with that," he continued. "Sure, there may be a market where people are willing to accept those deficiencies in the product, but it's just not a step we are willing to take yet. We don't want to offer a compromised experience and say, 'Hey, consumer, this is good enough, right?' We don't believe that approach is worthy of the Alienware branding."The success of Valve Corp's Steam Deck has expanded the reach and potential market for portable gaming handhelds, enabling users to play PC games on the go. However, many players have since entered the space, including old guardians in the PC industry. While these handhelds are not replacing traditional gaming PCs, they represent a growing demographic that many companies are keen to capitalise on. McGowan, however, doesn't see PC handhelds as a substitute for gaming PCs, which also explains why Dell hasn't launched a competitor to handhelds from Valve and Asus on the market. "We don't see it as a substitute; it's really an incremental product in the ecosystem, which is a good thing. However, we haven't seen that handheld has shrunk the notebook market," he said. Dell Alienware Alienware's Area 51 laptops have 18-inch and 16-inch screen sizes and include Nvidia's next-generation graphics. "Mac doesn't offer a superior gaming experience" While PC gaming has historically been a strong forte of Dell with its Alienware brand, Mac hardware has never quite gone toe-to-toe with some of the best gaming PCs. However, with its silicon Apple is seemingly pushing performance higher and introducing more gaming-focused

As Vikram Sampath's biography of Savarkar had also earlier noted, Bakhle emphasises that Savarkar was a persistent critic of caste. But Savarkar's position was different from both Gandhi and Ambedkar. Gandhi's unrelenting focus was on untouchability, a "sinful" denial of basic dignity to millions of Indians. As for the other castes, hierarchy was the problem, not caste per se. While untouchability required eradication, the four-varna-based caste system simply needed reform. Minus the hierarchy and untouchability, the caste system, according to Gandhi, could simply function as a division of labour, given the historical links of castes with occupations. Ambedkar disagreed. The entire caste system required annihilation, not just untouchability. The caste hierarchy and its horrors were anchored in religious texts, without which Hinduism was inconceivable. Brahminism was as big a problem as untouchability. Ambedkar was born a Hindu, but did not want to die as one. Before his death, he converted to Buddhism with his followers. Bakhle shows that Savarkar's views on caste were located somewhere between Gandhi and Ambedkar. He was constantly critical of Sanatana Dharma. To him, caste was "an enduring struc-

“If older individuals are removed from the wild, by capture or unnatural death, younger ones struggle to survive without their knowledge,” Anindya Sinha, a professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, said. “Because they are directionless there might be an increased risk of negative interactions with humans.”“Our work on Asian elephants in Bandipur and Nagarhole National Parks in Karnataka shows that females in herds [with calves] and fewer experienced individuals exhibited high levels of stress hormone,” Sanjeeta Sharma Pokhrel, an assistant professor at Kyoto University in Japan, said. A 2018 study she co-authored suggested that the higher stress could be due to lack of help with parental care, the high energy demands of vigilance, and the responsibility of protecting calves from predators. Studies have also found that older female orcas (Orcinus orca) undergo menopause. According to experts, one compelling explanation for this phenomenon is called the grandmother hypothesis. Grandmother orcas stop being able to reproduce so they can help their daughters care for calves, protect them from predators, and guide them to the best feeding grounds. A new conservation paradigm Because of the great benefits of protecting the older members of a species, the researchers have advanced a new paradigm called longevity conservation. “Biodiversity conservation and threatened species policies should protect age structure,” Kopf wrote in *The Conversation*. “

The under-representation of women in the judiciary is part of a vicious cycle. Women are excluded while even those women who have been included are unable to rise to positions of power to address these concerns. Access for women in the judiciary, therefore, is hindered at two levels: entry and retention. While several States have taken commendable steps in ensuring that women enter the lower levels of the judiciary, direct recruitment continues to be a challenge for female aspirants. The Judicial Service Rules of many States stipulate that advocates must have a minimum period of 'continuous' practice for elevation to the Bench. For women advocates who are required to juggle family responsibilities in the absence of maternity benefits and minimum stipends, meeting this threshold is difficult. However, even when women have managed to enter the system, continued career growth becomes difficult in the face of a discouraging and unsupportive environment which fails to take into account their specific needs. There is a continuously diminishing pool of women judges eligible for elevation to the High Court, and eventually the Supreme Court. This reverse funnel effect is caused by transfer policies which are often harsh and demanding, leaving little room for negotiation or sensitivity towards women's continued responsibilities as primary caretakers in the household. Every day interactions within courts also cause difficulties for women lawyers, judges and staff working in the judiciary, due to the absence of basic infrastructural requirements. A survey in 2019, by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy highlighted that nearly 100 district courts have no dedicated washrooms for women. Multiple courts, including prominent High Courts, lack adequate washrooms even for

most readThe Home Minister's Ambedkar ridicule is arguably rooted in Savarkar's ultimate judgment of Ambedkar as a Hindu hater. But so is Hindutva's Hindu unity strain embedded in Savarkar. Batenge to katenge (if divided, we will be decimated), the new political refrain of Hindutva, is a perfect contemporary illustration of Savarkar's Hindu unity project, to be pursued without an attack on caste hierarchy, but with Muslims as an enemy. The electoral significance of Dalits stems from their numbers. They are numerically larger than the estimated demographic size of Brahmins, if not all upper castes together. Ambedkar's status has become so great that large proportions of Dalits not only view him as an icon, but they also see the Constitution, made under his leadership, as an emblematic canon. A fuller incorporation of Dalits into the Hindu unity project is not possible if Ambedkar and "his" Constitution are threatened. However, since Ambedkar had no interest in Hindu unity, Hindutva's Ambedkar ambivalence continues, and is not easily resolvable.

women judges, let alone for female staff, lawyers, or litigants. There are only limited sanitary facilities and hygienic waste disposal systems. The burden of familial responsibilities continues to be the social reality of women in India. With women expected to be primary caretakers, courts must provide family-friendly amenities including feeding rooms and crèches. However, although some courts have taken steps in this regard, the limited availability of resources results in restrictions which render them ineffective. For example, the Delhi High Court's crèche only caters to children younger than six years for course correction! It is quintessentially from the issues above that the twin threshold of entry and retention of women in judiciary as equal stakeholders to access is important, but the solutions have been instituted in silos. The main consequence is that the problem persists as there are fewer women represented in the higher echelons of the judiciary, and far fewer amenities that enable their access to court complexes for their continued retention in the justice delivery system. This is a classic problem of the ever-widening public-private divide espoused by Carole Pateman in her theory wherein she points out that as women increasingly entered the public sphere traditionally occupied by men, there was a lag in the laws as well. She further elaborates that this public-private divide is the main reason why the public sphere does not cater to the specific needs of women upon their transition from the private sphere to the public. This theory can be extended to the design and regulation of the public sphere as well, which is usually not a conducive environment for women to thrive and feel safe. Similarly, it is important to acknowledge that as more women enter courts which have been male-dominant institutions for a long time now, it is all the more necessary to employ a female gaze to implement inclusive policies to enable their entry and retention. Simply put, the female gaze in implementation means the employment of a feminist lens to recognise the differential needs of women and course-correct to diminish the unintended impacts of neutral-yet indirectly discriminatory policies and infrastructural mandates. The employment of a female gaze breaks the male standard view employed by an all-male administrative committee of judges or all-male Bar Councils, particularly in cases where there is no women representation. This helps further in an inclusive visualisation of how 'public spaces' — in this case, courts and their access — are constructed, aiding in the construction of a lens through which gendered impact of policies and mandates can be filtered to enable the entry and retention of women in courts. Prioritising women's needs Greater participation of women in the judiciary must be driven by women-centric perspectives, which identify specific issues hindering future career growth and progress. Former judge, Justice Hima Kohli, one of the few women judges in the Supreme Court recently noted the unconscious gender bias in courts which results in women judges being sidelined in administrative duties. This is highlighted by the fact that according to information published on High Court websites, none of the High Court Building Committees aside from Delhi, Allahabad and Himachal Pradesh currently has even a single woman judge as a member. Infrastructure needs for women are often de-prioritised as a result,

Why Trump makes fast, furious statements?



Ormskirck: Donald Trump’s latest forthright outburst was made as part of his attempts to create a peace deal with Iran and Israel. “I’m not happy with Israel,” he told reporters on June 24. “We basically have two countries that have been fighting so long and so hard that they don’t know what the fuck they’re doing.” This came a day after Trump had announced a ceasefire between Israel and Iran. By the next day, the ceasefire had been violated by both Iran and Israel. Trump was clearly furious, and his language showed it. This was not a verbal slip – there was no immediate correction, no apology, no nonverbal indication of embarrassment. He just stormed off, clearly angry.

This is not the kind of language that is normally associated with a president. Some have been reported to use the f-word before, but usually behind closed doors. We expect presidents to be calm, measured, thoughtful, considered. Trump’s comment was none of these things. Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th US president, once recommended a foreign policy strategy that was based on speaking softly and carrying a big stick. He was suggesting quiet menace, but Trump showed frustration, barely contained. His furious, aggressive response was like something straight out of an old psychology textbook. In the 1930s, psychologists developed the frustration-aggression hypothesis to explain how aggressive behaviour can arise. The hypothesis suggested that when a person’s goal is blocked in some way, it leads to frustration, which then results in aggression. Aggression was considered a “natural” way of releasing this unpleasant state of frustration. They were clearly different times. Over the next few decades, this hypothesis was thought by most psychologists to be a gross oversimplification of complex human behaviour. It assumed a direct causal relationship between frustration and aggression, ignoring all the other situational and cognitive factors that can intervene.

Human beings are more complex than that, psychologists argued — they find other ways of dealing with their frustrations. They use their rational system of thought to find solutions. They don’t have to lash out when they’re frustrated in this seemingly primitive way. Perhaps, that’s why many people feel shocked when they watch this US president in certain situations. To many of us, it all seems so basic, so unsophisticated, so frightening. The Nobel laureate and psychologist Daniel Kahneman, in his book Think-

ing, Fast and Slow (2011), characterised the two systems that underpin everyday decision-making. His work may help with understanding of what’s going on here.

He describes system one as the evolutionary, basic system. It operates unconsciously, automatically and very quickly, handling everyday tasks like reading other people’s emotions, without any effort. It is an intuitive system designed to work in a world full of approach and avoidance, scary animals and friendly animals. It is heavily reliant on affect to guide decision-making. In contrast, system two is slower, more deliberative. It requires conscious effort and is used for complex thinking, solving difficult problems, or making careful decisions. The relationship between the two systems is critical, and that may get us thinking about Trump in more detail. Kahneman says that system one is a bit of a “workaholic”, beaver away all the time, making “suggestions” for system two to endorse. Good decisions – depend upon system two checking the suggestions of system one. But system one often jumps quickly and unconsciously to certain conclusions. System two should check them, but often doesn’t, even when it would be easy. Here is a well-known example. Answer the following question: “A bat and ball cost one pound ten pence, the bat costs one pound more than the ball. How much does the ball cost?” One answer looks blatantly obvious – but it isn’t correct. The correct answer (after a bit of thought) is five pence. About 80 per cent of university students give the very quick and incorrect answer of ten pence because it “looks” right. Their system two never checked. In many people, it seems system two is not used nearly enough. There are striking individual differences in the way that people rely on emotion and gut instinct versus the rational system in making decisions.

It appears that Trump makes decisions very quickly (classic system one), often without extensive deliberation or consultation with advisers. Both in his presidency and in his business career, he seemed to prioritise immediate action over any sort of prolonged and thoughtful analysis. That’s why he changes his mind so often. His decisions seem to be driven by strong emotions. His response to events, opponents and issues are often passionate and visceral. This could lead to decisions being unduly influenced by personal feelings, first impressions based on arbitrary cues, and interpersonal perceptions, rather than anything more substantial. Trump’s style of decision-making emphasises immediacy and emotional conviction, which can be effective in rallying supporters and creating a sense of decisiveness. However, it also can lead to unpredictable outcomes and, as has been seen again and again, somewhat controversial, impulsive actions. Many suggest that Trump’s decision-making style reflects his background in the high-pressure and high-stakes world of business, where quick judgments and gut instinct can be advantageous in these sorts of competitive winner-takes-all environments. But the world at war is a more precarious place, where system one needs to be kept more firmly in check. Gut instincts may have a role to play, but that old lazy system two needs to be more vigilant. Especially, it would seem, in Trump’s case.

Baloch teen becomes another victim of extrajudicial killing by Pakistani forces



Quetta: Human rights organisation Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) has strongly condemned the extrajudicial killing of 17-year-old Ehsan Shah from Balochistan by Pakistan’s Frontier Corps (FC), describing it as part of a “continued pattern of violence, enforced disappearances, and intimidation” against Baloch civilians. The teenager’s grieving mother issued a powerful and emotional appeal for justice, recounting the events that led to her son’s death on June 3 near the Lak Pass Tunnel in Balochistan. “Why was my son murdered? He had no charges against him. He was innocent and unarmed; his only crime was being Baloch. Why are state forces allowed to kill our youth with impunity?” she said, holding back tears.

According to her statement, Ehsan had been on his way to Quetta with a friend for Eid shopping when FC personnel stopped their vehicle. Without warning or provocation, Ehsan was shot in the shoulder while still inside the car. Eyewitnesses later told the family that an FC soldier picked up the wounded boy and said to his commanding

officer, “He’s got nothing, but he’s dead now. What should we do?” The family’s search for accountability was met with intimidation.

Ehsan’s mother revealed that when her husband approached Deputy Commissioners and officials to seek legal recourse, he was threatened with losing his job and warned about the safety of their family. Despite holding press conferences and making public appeals, no response came from any State authorities. “I call on all Baloch families: do not remain silent. Stand up and speak for your sons. We will not be silenced. We will resist,” Ehsan’s mother said, urging others to join the growing chorus for justice. The BYC reaffirmed its solidarity with the family and called on national and international human rights organisations, legal bodies, and independent observers to urgently take notice of the systemic violence and repression in Balochistan.

The killing of Ehsan Shah comes amid a rising number of human rights violations in the province. According to a recent report by the Human Rights Council of Balochistan, the month of May 2025 alone saw 138 cases of enforced disappearances — 137 male and one female. Of these, 97 people remain missing, 29 were released, and 12 were extrajudicially killed by Pakistani forces. The province has long been the site of an armed independence struggle. Human rights groups have consistently highlighted a pattern of systemic repression, including violent raids on homes, unlawful detentions, enforced disappearances, the ‘kill and dump’ policy, arbitrary arrests under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, and trumped-up charges against civilians and Baloch leaders. The BYC has repeatedly called upon the international community to urgently intervene and address what it calls “a humanitarian and political crisis” in Balochistan.

Axiom-4 mission: Dragon spacecraft carrying Shubhanshu Shukla and crew docks at International Space Station

Soft capture of the Dragon spacecraft took place when the Space Station was passing over north Atlantic Ocean at 4:01 p.m. IST. A live videolink from NASA showed the spacecraft approaching the space station and the docking sequence was completed at 4:15 p.m. IST. With the docking of the Dragon spacecraft, Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla made history by becoming the first Indian to enter the International Space Station.

After multiple delays, Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla’s Axiom-4 mission (Ax-4) to the International Space Station (ISS) was launched on Wednesday (June 25, 2025) from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Pilot of the Ax-4 mission and Group Captain Shukla, along with other four crew members Commander Peggy Whitson of the U.S., Mission Specialist Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland, and Mission Specialist Tibor Kapu of Hungary, embarked on a 28-hour journey to the ISS on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft after launching on the Falcon 9 rocket

Earlier in the day, Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla said he was learning to live in microgravity conditions “like a baby” and it was an amazing experience to float in vacuum as the



Dragon spacecraft circled the Earth in its journey to dock at the International Space Station. Before reaching international space station, astronaut Shukla greeted the people with ‘Namaskar from space’ from Dragon spacecraft. Sharing his experience via a videolink from the spacecraft, Shukla said after remaining in quarantine for 30 days, where he was far away from all the excitement, ahead of the launch of the Axiom-4 mission on Wednesday (June 25, 2025), “the only thought in my mind was to let us just go”.

Turbulent skies, turbulent minds: the rising fear of flying and how to combat it



In recent months, a series of high-profile airplane incidents—from sudden turbulence to technical malfunctions—have left passengers worldwide feeling uneasy about air travel. While aviation remains one of the safest modes of transportation, the increased media coverage of these events has heightened fear and anxiety among frequent and occasional flyers alike. For passengers, aircrew, and even pilots, fear can be paralyzing. However, mental resilience and proven psychological strategies can help individuals not only cope, but thrive in the face of aviation-related stress. Every day, nearly 8 million people take to the skies. Many more travel by road. Airports and stations buzz with announcements, farewells and noise. Somewhere amid the crowd is a familiar face you’ve seen. Maybe it’s your colleague flying to yet another meeting, or a parent waving goodbye before heading off to check in on their ageing parents, a friend leaving on a honeymoon or an uncle for a conference. Maybe...it’s you. When we talk about frequent travellers, we often picture young business executives or carefree travellers. But in reality, a huge number of travellers, particularly air travellers, belong to the 45–54 age group—a stage of life known as middle adulthood. And they’re not just travelling more often; they are also carrying a heavier emotional load.

Individuals in this age group are, as the psychologist Erickson put it, in the ‘sandwich stage’ because they are often caught between two powerful responsibilities: caring for their ageing parents on one side and raising their own children on the other. At the same time, they are trying to keep their careers thriving, marriages strong, friendships alive, and dreams afloat. If they are travelling great distances, then there is an additional dimension: boarding flights, with one eye on the clock, one hand on a phone, and a heart full of everything they are juggling -- pressure, hopes, guilt and deadlines.

What is the psychological toll of air travel anxiety? Emily Carter, an aviation psychologist, explains: “The brain’s amygdala processes fear, and when triggered, it can override logic. This is why even seasoned travellers might feel sudden dread despite knowing the safety statistics.” Mass cancellations of tours and flight bookings axed, underscore the deep empathy and impact of horrifying airplane accidents. Such mass deaths are deeply disturbing, even if we are not directly involved. This is the manifestation of ‘Indirect trauma’, and it is completely valid to feel fear, panic and a sense of helplessness. When one’s nervous system reacts as if he/she is in danger just by witnessing a shock-

ing event — one is said to be experiencing vicarious trauma. Repeated news about the occurrence and feeds on social media could aggravate the situation. It amplifies these fears, as viral videos of mid-air emergencies create a perception of greater risk than statistics suggest. Sarah Mitchell, a clinical psychologist specialising in anxiety disorders, explains, “Our brains are wired to pay attention to threats, and repeated exposure to alarming news can make flying seem more dangerous than it is. It is important to balance awareness with rational perspective.”

Educate yourself on air safety – Understanding the rigorous safety protocols involved in aviation can provide reassurance. Statistically, flying is far safer than driving. Practice mindfulness & breathing techniques – Deep breathing and grounding exercises can reduce in-flight anxiety. Apps like Headspace or Calm offer guided sessions. Limit exposure to alarmist media – Constant news consumption about plane incidents can heighten fear. Stick to credible sources and avoid sensationalized reports. Focus on what you can control – Prepare for your flight by choosing reputable airlines, staying hydrated, and getting adequate rest before travel. Distraction & comfort tools – Audiobooks, calming music, or even stress balls can redirect focus away from anxiety. Seek professional help if needed – If fear of flying becomes debilitating, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) has proven effective in treating travel-related anxiety. Pilots rely on “sterile cockpit” rules (minimising non-essential talk during critical phases) and simulator training to prepare for rare scenarios. Flight attendants and crew are trained in “situation awareness”—assessing threats calmly and reassuring passengers through clear communication. A study published in the journal Behavioural Sciences investigated the impact of accidents and incidents on pilots’ emotions and situation awareness. The study found that accidents and incidents induced different levels of emotional responses in pilots, with accidents causing more significant changes in happiness and sadness (emotional induction). It also found that the pilots’ situation awareness was affected by their emotional state, with high-situation awareness pilots showing better emotional regulation. The pilots’ emotional intelligence mediated the effects of accidents and incidents on their emotions and situation awareness, the study revealed. Raj Patel, a commercial pilot with 20 years of experience, shares: “We train for worst-case scenarios so that in real life, muscle memory and logic take over. Fear is natural, but discipline keeps us focused.”

Airlines are increasingly prioritizing mental health through various initiatives including crew support programmes that involve confidential counselling and peer support groups to help aircrew process stress as well as passenger initiatives, with some carriers now offering VR-based exposure therapy to help nervous flyers acclimate. While recent incidents are concerning, they remain rare. Airlines and regulatory bodies continuously improve safety measures to prevent accidents. The key is to stay informed without letting fear dictate decisions. Fear is a natural response, but it doesn’t have to control us. Whether you’re a passenger white-knuckling through take-off or a pilot navigating rough weather, mental resilience—built through education, preparation, and psychological tools—can make the difference between panic and calm.

Chemotherapy drugs made by Indian firms fail quality tests, shows study



Vital chemotherapy drugs used around the world have failed quality tests, leaving cancer patients in more than 100 countries at risk of ineffective treatments and potentially fatal side effects, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (TBIJ, www.tbij.com) can reveal. The drugs in question form the backbone of treatment plans for numerous common cancers – including breast, ovarian and leukaemia. Some drugs contained so little of their key ingredient that pharmacists said giving them to patients would be as good as doing nothing. Other drugs, containing too much active ingredient, put patients at risk of severe organ damage or even death. “Both scenarios are horrendous,” said one pharmacist. “It’s heart-breaking.” Doctors from multiple countries told TBIJ of the drugs in question not working as expected, leaving patients suddenly unresponsive to treatment. Other patients suffered side effects so toxic that they could no longer tolerate the medicine.

The variance found in the levels of active ingredient was alarming. In some cases, pills from the same blister pack contained different amounts. These findings expose huge holes in the global safety nets intended to prevent profit-seeking manufacturers from cutting corners, and to protect patients from bad drugs. All the while, patients and governments with stretched resources are paying the price for drugs that don’t work. Generic drugs are widely used in all countries but are most crucial in those with fewer resources, where costlier treatments might be beyond reach.

Cancer is one of the biggest killers worldwide, linked to around 10 million deaths every year – roughly one in six. The burden of cancer is growing, particularly in low- and middle-income regions. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, instances of cancer have doubled in the last 30 years. Much of the global demand for treatment is met by so-called generic drugs. These are versions of a drug that can be made once the original maker’s exclusivity rights have expired, and are typically made far more cheaply. The bad drugs described in this investigation were all generics.

Generics are widely used in all countries but are most crucial in those with fewer resources, where costlier treatments might be beyond reach. If generics were not available in sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, “any cancer treatment would be likely inaccessible to most of the population”, said Claudia Martinez of the Access to Medicine Foundation, an NGO. In chemotherapy drugs, the active ingredient – which fights cancer cells – is also highly toxic. Patients need to receive enough of it to treat the cancer but not so much that they overdose and suffer damaging side effects. As such, hospital pharmacists calculate doses carefully – and in doing so, rely on the amount of active ingredient being exactly what’s stated on the label. Research from a landmark study published today examined the amount of

active ingredient in seven common types of cancer drug: cisplatin, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, ifosfamide, leucovorin, methotrexate and oxaliplatin. All of them are classed as essential medicines by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Working with collaborators in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi, researchers at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, analysed drug samples from the four countries. Of 189 samples that had not expired at the time of testing, about one fifth failed. This consisted of 20 different brands of generic drug made by 17 manufacturers. “We were all taken aback when we saw the results,” said Marya Lieberman, the professor who led the research.

More than 30 manufacturers made products to a good standard. But for patients receiving the poor-quality drugs, the effects could be devastating. “Once a person has been diagnosed with cancer, there’s a limited window of opportunity for treatment to work,” said Lieberman. “And if someone is treated with an ineffective product, they can lose that precious window.” The majority of failed drugs had too little active ingredient (for most this meant less than 88% of the amount stated on the label) while some contained too much (more than 112%). Both thresholds were decided by researchers based on international standards. “Both scenarios are horrendous in my eyes,” said Shereen Nabhani-Gebara, vice chair of the British Oncology Pharmacists Association. “It takes a lot of courage for someone with cancer to accept a diagnosis, but then to be short-changed like this when they are trying their best is heartbreaking – because this is someone’s life.” Tracking the threat Cancer patients in Ethiopia have far better access to treatment facilities now than they did 20 years ago. It doesn’t seem, however, that the standard of medicines has kept pace. Cancer patients in Ethiopia have far better access to treatment facilities now than they did 20 years ago. It doesn’t seem, however, that the standard of medicines has kept pace. | Photo Credit: Anuj Shrestha for TBIJ/Special arrangement

Over the past six years, these brands of drugs have been shipped to more than 100 countries in every populated continent on the planet. They range from low- and middle-income nations like Nepal, Ethiopia and North Korea, to wealthy countries such as the US, UK and Saudi Arabia. The worst-performing drug in the study is made by Indian manufacturer Venus Remedies. It is a drug called cyclophosphamide, which is often used to treat cancers including lymphoma and breast cancer.

All eight samples of this Venus Remedies drug failed, with six containing less than half the amount of active ingredient claimed by the manufacturer. One contained just over a quarter of the stated dose, which according to several cancer pharmacists would be as effective as no treatment at all. The drug has been shipped to six countries, with its largest importer being Ethiopia.

Wondemagegnhu Tigeneh, a clinical oncologist in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, told TBIJ that he has treated patients with chemotherapy drugs he believes did not work. “I have a suspicion that the active ingredient was lower than expected,” he said, remembering a drug he gave to a recent patient who had responded well to the first three rounds of treatment. But on the next round, their progress suddenly stopped. Because he has no means to test them, Tigeneh can never be sure of the quality of a given drug. But in his 20 years treating cancer, he has learned to notice tell-tale signs. Sometimes, for instance, there is a complete absence of side-effects such as nausea or hair loss. “That makes it difficult to trust that particular drug,” he said.

RBI’s forex swap window draws \$72.85 billion inflows till August



With nine days left for the closure of special forex swap facility, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Saturday said the scheme has attracted \$72.85 billion in foreign exchange inflows till August underscoring the strong response to the central bank’s measure to augment forex liquidity and support the rupee. Data reported by authorised dealer banks to the RBI show that Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank), or FCNR(B) deposits accounted for the overwhelming share of the inflows at \$65.397 billion. This was followed by Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) at \$4.86 billion and External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) at \$2.591 billion. On August 14, the RBI decided to close its special forex swap facility prematurely on August 31, following an “encouraging response” as against the initial deadline of September 30.

The swaps against FCNR(B) deposits mobilised under the facility, however, can be undertaken with the RBI till September 11. With the dollar-rupee stabilising in the 95-handle, portfolio flows gradually returning, and the various funding windows likely having raised around \$70 billion-\$75 billion in aggregate, equivalent to 10-12% of prevailing foreign exchange reserves, the urgency for policymakers to maintain extraordinary support measures has diminished significantly, said Radhika Rao, ED and Senior Economist, DBS Bank.

“The scale of hedging cost (borne by the central bank) was unlikely to have been a binding factor, with funds raised to-date deemed to be sufficient to prop the BOP back to a position of strength,” Rao said. The RBI may have closed the swap facility prematurely, with some suggesting that the high cost of hedging these deposits may have played a role. The potential cost to the RBI could be around 15% of

the amount raised. Assuming \$70 billion is raised through the facility, this would translate into a cost of around \$10.5 billion, according to an SBI Research report.

The RBI had introduced the special USD-rupee concessional swap facility on June 8 to encourage fresh foreign currency inflows through FCNR(B) deposits as well as eligible OFCB and ECB inflows. The facility was aimed at strengthening domestic liquidity and providing support to the foreign exchange market at a time when the rupee and the country’s forex reserves had come under pressure. The latest inflow data shows that FCNR(B) deposits have emerged as the principal channel through which banks have raised foreign currency under the scheme. The sharp increase in the reported mobilisation since then reflects continued interest in the concessional swap facility. The RBI offers banks concessional swap arrangements against eligible foreign currency inflows, enabling them to access rupee liquidity while bringing foreign currency into the domestic financial system.

Major banks are offering FCNR rates of around 6%-6.5%, while some newer, smaller banks are offering about 7%-7.50%. These rates remain above the 5-year US Treasury yield of around 4.2%, providing sufficient incentive for deposit mobilisation. FCNR(B) deposits are fixed-term deposits that can be maintained by non-resident Indians, Overseas Citizens of India and Persons of Indian Origin in designated foreign currencies. Unlike ordinary rupee deposits, these deposits allow overseas Indians to retain their savings in currencies such as the US dollar, pound sterling, euro, Japanese yen, Australian dollar and Canadian dollar. Interest earned on FCNR(B) deposits is exempt from income tax in India as long as the depositor qualifies as a non-resident under Indian tax laws. The large mobilisation through FCNR(B) deposits also points to strong participation by overseas Indians and provides banks with foreign currency resources. The RBI’s move against the backdrop of pressure on the rupee and foreign exchange reserves arising from the West Asia conflict and higher crude oil prices. However, questions have also been raised about how much of the reported mobilisation represents genuinely new foreign currency entering the system. The latest figures also indicate that the initial expectations for the scheme have been surpassed. With the facility drawing \$72.85 billion by August 21, the mobilisation is already close to the \$70-80 billion inflow range that analysts had expected earlier.

22 Indians on board 2 ships hijacked near Yemen and Somalia



22 Indians on board two hijacked ships near Yemen, Somalia; all reported safe, say sources. The two vessels are Eritrea-flagged oil products tanker Sibu 1, which was hijacked in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Yemen on Thursday, and Cameroon-flagged general cargo carrier Lutuf, which was hijacked on Monday. A total of 22 Indian seafarers are on board two ships that were hijacked by armed pirates off the coast of Somalia and Yemen this week, according to sources aware of the developments.

Sources said that while the shipping companies related to the two vessels are working in close coordination with the government, the seafarers are learnt to be safe. The two vessels are Eritrea-flagged oil products tanker Sibu 1, which was hijacked in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Yemen Thursday, and Cameroon-flagged general cargo carrier Lutuf, which was hijacked on Monday (August 17) off Somalia’s coast. Sibu 1 has 20 seafarers on board, including 16 Indians. Lutuf has 10 people on board, of which six are Indian seafarers. The ship was carrying Turkish weapons, communications, and satellite equipment. Notably, Sibu 1 was sanctioned by the US in December 2025 under its former name Seagull for its alleged participation in Iranian petroleum trade.

According to the United Kingdom ?Maritime Trade

Nuclear liability caps to get 5-year review under SHANTI Act draft rules

Liability caps for nuclear operators under the SHANTI Act will be reviewed every five years by an expert group, which can recommend changes to the graded limits, according to the Act’s draft rules released by the Department of Atomic Energy. Rule 78 of the draft rules, which were released on August 14, provide for the Centre to form a group of experts in specific domains — nuclear science and engineering, actuarial science, insurance and law, along with public-interest representatives — to review the “maximum limits of operator’s civil liability for nuclear damage” and propose amendments to the act’s second schedule.

The second schedule of SHANTI act introduced graded liability caps based on the size of a nuclear installation, replacing the earlier flat cap of Rs 1,500 crore under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (CLNDA). Under the new framework, operators of reactors above 3,600 megawatt-electric (MWe) face a maximum liability of Rs 3,000 crore, while those between 1,500 MWe and 3,600 MWe face a cap of Rs 1,500 crore. The limits fall to Rs 750 crore for reactors between 750 MWe and 1,500 MWe and Rs 300 crore for those between 150 MWe and 750 MWe. For reactors up to 150 MWe, fuel-cycle facilities other than spent-fuel reprocessing plants, and transportation of nuclear material, the liability is capped at Rs 100 crore.

Supreme Court takes up the liability cap issue. The review mechanism is not entirely new. Section 6 of the now-repealed CLNDA also allowed the Centre to periodically review the operator’s liability and notify a higher amount. The draft SHANTI Act rules, however, explicitly provide for a defined time period for an expert group to undertake the review and recommend amendments to graded caps. This comes as the issue of liability cap has also reached the Supreme Court, following a petition which challenged the

act for allowing “private sector and foreign companies to operate nuclear power plants in India, [and] has also capped the liability of these operators at an absurdly low level and exempted the supplier from any liability,” in violation of the Constitution.

On Monday, the top court also asked the Centre to respond whether the SHANTI Act would preclude constitutional courts from determining a “fair and just” monetary compensation in case of a nuclear mishap. Following the passage of the SHANTI Act, which opens India’s tightly regulated civil nuclear sector to private players, accountability and liability emerged as key concerns among critics. Dilution of operator’s ‘right of recourse’

One of the most contentious changes is the dilution of the operator’s “right of recourse” against nuclear equipment suppliers in the event of an accident. According to Section 17 of the CLNDA, the operator of a nuclear installation, after paying the compensation for nuclear damage, shall have the right to recourse where (a) such right is expressly provided for in a contract in writing; (b) the nuclear incident has resulted as a consequence of an act of supplier or his employee, which includes supply of equipment or material with patent or latent defects or sub-standard services; and (c) the nuclear incident has resulted from the act of commission or omission of an individual done with the intent to cause nuclear damage. The SHANTI Act retains provisions (a) and (c) but omits provision (b), which previously exposed nuclear equipment vendors to long-term and uncertain liability risk in the event of a nuclear accident. This provision was repeatedly flagged by foreign nuclear equipment vendors as a deterrent to investing in India’s nuclear sector as it exposes them to long-term and uncertain liability risk in the event of a nuclear accident.

West Asia conflict inflates India’s net oil, gas import bill by 43% in April-July



Amid supply tightness and elevated prices due to the West Asia crisis and stifled energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz, India’s net oil and gas imports surged by 43.4% in value from year-ago levels in the first four months of the current financial year, according to provisional data from the petroleum ministry. Net oil and gas imports — arrived at deducting petroleum product exports from oil, natural gas, and petroleum product imports — in April-July stood at \$57.8 billion against \$40.3 billion a year ago.

In volume terms, oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports were only marginally higher. As for petroleum product exports, the volumes declined, while export value rose. Petroleum product imports declined in volume as well as value, although the volume decline outpaced the fall in value, which is also reflective of high prices in the international market. India depends on imports to meet over 88% of its crude oil requirement and about half of its consumption of natural gas, which is imported as LNG. Despite depending on imported oil and gas, India is a net exporter of petroleum products due to its massive refining capacity. The country also imports some petroleum products like liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Around 40% of India’s crude oil imports, 60% of its LNG imports, and 90% of its LPG imports came from West Asia through the strait. Apart from grappling with physical supply tightness due to the Strait of Hormuz crisis, the resultant surge in international prices forced India to import oil and gas at extremely high rates, as the country has been prioritising supply security over price considerations.

Oil import dependence flat through July. The country’s crude oil import bill surged by over 56% on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis in April-July to \$63.4 billion, even as import volumes rose slightly to 81.9 million tonnes — or about 600 million barrels — from 81.5 million tonnes, as per data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). This translates to an average landed price of about \$106 per barrel for imported crude in April-July, sharply higher than about \$68 per barrel in the corresponding period of last year. The data shows that India’s dependence on imported oil for the four months ended July was 88.3%, almost flat on a y-

Pressurised heavy water reactors emerge as top pick for companies in nuclear power expansion



Indigenous pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) are emerging as the preferred pick for new entrants into India’s civil nuclear power sector due to the established supply chain and good ecosystem, as the country opens the tightly regulated strategic sector to private players. The country has an ambitious target of scaling up the domestic civil nuclear capacity to 100 gigawatt-electric by 2047.

At a panel discussion at the BloombergNEF Summit in New Delhi, representatives from NTPC, Adani Atomic Energy and Jindal Steel said that existing 700 megawatt-electric (MWe) PHWR technology could be a good start to scale up the capacity in initial phase given the availability of established design standards, a mature domestic supply chain and an existing ecosystem of vendors and expertise. NTPC’s capacity target is 30 gigawatts electric (GWe) while Adani group’s target is 10 GWe and that of Jindal Steel is 18 GWe in coming years. According to them, foreign reactor technologies and small modular reactors (SMRs) could play a role at a later stage as the sector matures. The discussion took place nearly a week after India released draft rules of SHANTI Act, laying out the regulatory framework for a broader nuclear power ecosystem, including private participation, captive generation, licensing, safety oversight and nuclear liability.

“Established ecosystem of PHWRs” Vivek Sharma, Business Head of Adani Atomic Energy, said the major challenges facing the sector are the availability of a robust supply chain and the lack of standardised reactor designs. “We have an advantage in India that we have 700 MWe design, which is standard, approved, operational, and has regula-

tory blessings. And most importantly relative supply-chain in India. It’s almost indigenized, 90- 95%,” Sharma said. He said India could leverage this established ecosystem by deploying 700 MWe PHWRs in fleet mode, followed by Pressurised Water Reactors (PWRs). However, he said that PHWRs alone would not be sufficient to achieve the country’s target of 100 GWe of nuclear capacity by 2047. “So we need to have other technologies, including PWR, as well as at some point of time SMR. But in both cases, the key will be that they need to come to India and start looking at local items as much as possible. Because the cost will matter a lot in India and for making any commercial sense, the consumer has to buy, it has to commit a price which is acceptable,” he added.

According to Sharma, global reactor technologies, including PWRs and SMRs, would need to maximise localisation in India to remain commercially viable, given the importance of cost in determining the competitiveness and affordability of nuclear power. Jindal Steel in talks with Rosatom, EDF Naveen Ahlawat, President and Head of Sustainability and Decarbonisation at Jindal Steel Limited, also said the company plans to go with 700 MWe PHWRs in the initial phase, given the technology’s established supply chain and ecosystem.

Other technologies could be considered in subsequent phases as greater clarity emerges around supply chains, regulatory approvals and standardisation, he said. Ahlawat said the company is already in advanced talks with Russia’s Rosatom and France’s EDF for potential deployment in later phases. He maintained that while the company is clear about deploying 700 MWe PHWRs in the initial phase, the choice of technologies for subsequent phases will become clearer as the sector evolves, particularly with greater clarity on regulatory processes, approvals, quality assurance plans (QAP) and standardisation. K Shanmugha Sundaram, Director, Projects, NTPC, said at least 80% of the company’s targeted 30 GWe nuclear capacity is expected to comprise PHWRs and PWRs, with SMRs likely to be introduced at a later stage. “We are planning to have a combination of SMR, PHWR and PWR. SMR would be at a later stage,” he said. “Currently, the only available technology in India is PHWR. Naturally, that is the cheapest form of nuclear power available right now. Then we have PWRs, which are already there in Kudankulam. Then we have SMRs, for which it is too early to say,” Sundaram said.

Heavy dependence on energy imports has led to a double whammy of supply tightness and price surge. While highly diversified crude sourcing has helped in ensuring adequate oil, petrol, diesel, and jet fuel availability amid the West Asia crisis, some rationing of gas supplies to certain industries and commercial consumers was done in order to ensure adequate availability for households and a few priority sectors. Sukalp Sharma is a Deputy Associate Editor with The Indian Express and writes on a host of subjects and sectors, notably energy and aviation. He has over 16 years of experience in journalism with a body of work spanning areas like politics, development, equity markets, corporates, trade, and economic policy. He considers himself an above-average photographer, which goes well with his love for travel.

RBI says forex inflows under swap facility reach 72.85 billion usd



New Delhi: The Research Bank of India (RBI) on Saturday said that authorised dealer banks have raised a massive \$72.848 billion in forex inflows till August 21, and a major chunk came from FCNR (B) deposits at \$65.397 billion. External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) under Reserve Bank’s Swap facility helped raised another \$7.451 billion till August 21.

RBI had introduced a special USD-INR forex swap facility covering FCNR(B) deposits, ECB and OFCB inflows on June 8, 2026. “As already announced vide Press Release dated August 14, 2026, the Scheme is open till? August 31, 2026 for FCNR(B) deposits, and? up to? December 31, 2026 for ECBs and OFCBs,” The Research Bank said in a statement. The massive foreign inflows arrive as Indian banks have stepped up their efforts to attract FCNR(B) deposits by offering higher interest rates after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) suddenly cut short the deadline for its dollar-rupee swap window to August 31, from September 30. The swap facility, announced in June to boost the inflow of dollars amid a weakening rupee, was originally available

until the end of September, but the RBI abruptly shortened this by a month due to the “encouraging response” to the facility, which resulted in the required amount of foreign exchange flowing into the country. While there may be valid reasons to justify an early closure of the RBI’s FCNR(B) deposit scheme, the most likely reason could be that the target for dollar mobilisation has already been achieved with inflows at \$57 billion, and another \$25-30 billion could easily flow in the remaining days of August, taking the total collections to around \$85 billion, an SBI Research report said earlier this week. According to the SBI report, “we don’t believe that the cost of swap could have been a constraining factor”. “Our estimates show that the cumulative cost would amount to around 15 per cent of the corpus, or \$10.5 billion. While this appears sizeable in absolute terms, it needs to be viewed against the scale of India’s foreign-exchange reserves rather than the FCNR(B) corpus alone,” the report argued. Meanwhile, foreign exchange reserves jumped \$9.905 billion to \$716.90 billion during the week ended August 14, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

Erling Haaland chops off iconic locks, debuts new buzz cut look



Ahead of the new Premier League season, Erling Haaland broke the internet when he chopped off his iconic golden locks and debuted a new buzz cut hairstyle. Haaland shared the look on his social media accounts and uploaded a full video on YouTube where he showed the reactions of former coach Pep Guardiola as well as former Sweden and Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic. "This beautiful long hair, time to let it go. I was thinking of doing it after the World Cup but I was so busy so I didn't do it. The season starts now so it's time to get a fresh start," Haaland said on YouTube. "You are lucky you have hair," Guardiola

said over video call while Ibrahimovic said, "What the f**k did you do? You lost a et or what? Oh my god. you block me and erase my number."

Haaland is expected to debut the new look in Manchester City's first league match of the season vs Bournemouth. City will begin a new post-Pep Guardiola era at home to Bournemouth. A new manager is in the dugout in Enzo Maresca, key players Rodri, Bernardo Silva and John Stones have departed and, for the first time in years, there are genuine questions about what City will look like. City didn't have the best of starts in the Community Shield last Sunday, losing 3-0 to Arsenal. Arsenal opened the scoring after just 23 seconds when Riccardo Calafiori was put through on goal, before they doubled their lead when Gianluigi Donnarumma could not keep out Kai Havertz's header. Arsenal's new signing Christos Tzolis then provided a second assist when he set up skipper Martin Odegaard for the third goal three minutes into the second half, with the Premier League champions looking fitter and sharper than City. Maresca's side showed only flashes of their attacking threat, with Phil Foden and Erling Haaland forcing saves from David Raya, but the Arsenal goalkeeper stood firm to preserve a clean sheet.

Devdutt Padikkal brings up another century, continues sublime form vs Sri Lanka

GNS News Agency, August 24

Devdutt Padikkal of India celebrates after scoring a hundred during Day 1 of the 2nd Test match between Sri Lanka and India at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground, Colombo, Sri Lanka, on August 23, 2026. Devdutt Padikkal of India celebrates after scoring a hundred during Day 1 of the 2nd Test match between Sri Lanka and India at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Devdutt Padikkal continued his sublime form in the Sri Lanka series when he brought up another century in the first day of the 2nd Test on Sunday. He brought up his ton in 168 deliveries in an innings which had 10 fours. Padikkal, who was dropped twice by the Lankan fielders made them pay with another big score which steadied India's innings.

In the 1st Test at Galle, Padikkal had slammed 167 in the first innings, followed by 44 in the second innings. In the warmup match ahead of the start of the series, he had scored 142 as well. Earlier, skipper Shubman Gill, who was dismissed at the stroke of tea, and Padikkal added 120 runs for the third wicket alliance as India recovered well from the first session departure of KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal. Rishabh Pant (0 not out) joined Padikkal a few minutes before tea was taken. Padikkal was a bit unsteady to begin with, and even got a reprieve when was on 1. Lanka skipper Dhananjaya de Silva grassed a rather easy chance off spinner Keshara Nuwantha at backward point and Padikkal was in no mood to look in the mouth of a gift horse. The left-hander, who made a 167 in the first Test, displayed splendid touch after that early fumble, dispatching Sri Lankan bowlers around the park. A scorching pull off pacer Lahiru Kumara that also fetched him his fifty in 90 balls was one of the standout shots in his innings. Gill, on the other hand,



was equally solid and a short-arm pull off left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya that raced to the fence was a treat to watch, until the right-hander lost his focus to edge Asitha Fernando to wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella.

Earlier, India were put under some early pressure as Sri Lanka jettisoned Rahul and Jaiswal in the first session. After opting to bat, India started solidly through Rahul (18) and Jaiswal (45), who added a trouble-free 37 runs for the first wicket. Jaiswal was particularly impressive as he eschewed the cut shot, which has led to his peril often in the past, to a good extent. The left-hander smashed Kumara for two boundaries in succession, before executing a wonderful cover drive off Jayasuriya. Rahul was as restrained as ever but showed a glimpse of his shot-making ability, lifting Jayasuriya for a six straight over the head of the bowler. But the trouble came without any warning. Rahul went for a square cut off Kumara, but the laden feet shot only produced an edge to Dickwella.

'I'd like to milk my body for Test cricket': Mitch Starc on his love for longest format



GNS News Agency, August 24

Mitchell Starc breathed fire in Mackay, running through the entire Bangladesh batting order not once but twice, helping Australia thrash the visitors by an innings and 51 runs to level the two-match series 1-1, following a humiliating nine-wicket loss in the opening Test. Starc took matters into his own hands after Bangladesh won the Darwin Test, picking up six wickets in the first innings and following it up with a four-wicket haul in the second as Australia bundled out Bangladesh for less than 100 in both innings. The visitors could only manage 65 and 94, as Australia's solitary in-

nings total of 210 proved more than enough for the hosts.

Starc accepted that Australia were not at their best in the first Test, crediting Bangladesh for their performance. "Much better week. We knew we weren't at our best, or what we expect of ourselves in Darwin. Bangladesh played really well, so nothing away from them there. But yeah, what we expect from ourselves this week is what we got, particularly with the ball on a wicket that aided us. So, one-all series, but a much better week for us," said Starc after being named both Player of the Match and Player of the Series. Speaking on his longevity and commitment to Australian Test cricket, Starc said: "It's still hanging together. Yeah, I thoroughly enjoy being part of this group. Test cricket, I've said it before, will always be the pinnacle for me. And later on when we get to sing the song and he's leading it, that's one of the main reasons why we like to do it, love to do it. So, yeah, I'd like to milk my body for all I can for Test cricket." Starc's 10 wickets in the Test also took him past Dale Steyn's tally as he entered the list of top 10 wicket-takers in Test cricket. In 107 Tests, Starc now has 445 scalps to his name. When asked about the feat, he said: "I don't know yet. I'm still playing. Nathan did remind me that I've just stepped on the first rung of the ladder and he's still up there looking down on me. So, still got a way to go."

Shikhar Dhawan lauds Treesa Jolly, Gayatri Gopichand after historic World Championships bronze



Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan praised Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand after their historic bronze at the BWF World Championships. The unseeded pair defeated three seeded combinations before becoming India's first women's doubles medallists since Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa.

New Delhi: Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan on Sunday lauded shuttlers Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand for their historic bronze medal triumph at the ongoing BWF World Championships, adding that their remarkable campaign has been an inspiring journey to follow.

The unseeded Indian pair, ranked 39 in the world and bronze medal winners at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, put up a valiant fight before bowing out 21-18, 13-21, 8-21

against top seeds and reigning world champions Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning of China in a gripping women's doubles semi-final contest spanning an hour and 11 minutes here at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Saturday. Commending their effort, Dhawan took to micro-blogging site 'X' to celebrate the duo's achievement. "From being unseeded to beating three seeded pairs and making the World Championships semifinals... what a journey! Take a bow, Treesa & Gayatri!" the former cricketer wrote on Sunday.

Treesa and Gayatri, the daughter of legendary shuttler Pullela Gopichand, had etched their names in the record books a day earlier after pulling off a gritty fightback win over fourth-seeded Chinese pair Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian. The victory ensured the duo became the first Indian women's doubles pair to secure a World Championships medal since Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa claimed bronze medal in London in 2011.

Their breakthrough performance also ensured that India's remarkable streak of winning at least one medal at every edition of the World Championships since 2011 remained intact – a run spanning 15 years. The streak started with Jwala and Ashwini ending a 28-year medal drought in 2011, after Prakash Padukone's historic 1983 bronze. Over the years, two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu headlined the run with five medals, including her landmark 2019 gold medal win. Treesa and Gayatri will also be seen in action in the 2026 Asian Games, which will start in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan next month.

How Saransh Jain chose red-ball cricket over IPL stint before Test debut



Colombo: Saransh Jain's journey to becoming India's Test cap No. 320 on Sunday is a touching story of never-dying belief in himself and diligent work to improve his skills in red-ball format, for which he was even ready to let go a chance to earn an IPL contract. Chandrakant Pandit, Jain's coach at Madhya Pradesh, clearly remembers that open conversation with his ward, which left him an immensely impressed man.

"He did mention to me, especially last season, that he wants to focus on his red ball game. He was very clear about it. It's not that he is not averse or keen to bowl with a white ball but he wanted to work on his red-ball bowling," Pandit told PTI. But that particular chat between Pandit and Jain, who handed his Test debut against Sri Lanka here at the SSC, took place during IPL 2024 when the off-spinner approached him with a rather unusual demand. Jain, who was with Kolkata Knight Riders as a net bowler, did not want to continue that stint. "The reason he said then was that rather than spending time with the white ball as a net bowler, he preferred to work on the red ball game and eventually he became a state player," Pandit, who took over MP's coaching in 2020, added.

However, Pandit does not have any doubt over Jain's ability to excel in white-ball format as well. "He is good enough to play both the formats, he has necessary skills. I am sure if some franchise picks him up in the IPL next season, he will do well there also. "But he doesn't want to spend two months bowling with white ball as a net bowler. I really appreciated that he kept on working on his red ball game. He does bowl well, even white ball, when he plays for our state. So, this might just be the beginning for him," he said.

But when Pandit took over as MP's coach six years

back, Jain was not a regular, often suffering from bouts of self-doubts. "First season when I came in he was struggling to establish himself. The lack of game time had affected his confidence and I had to talk to him and give him that comfort, telling him to play freely without worrying about other things like selection."

But what made Pandit zeroed in on a non-regular player like Jain?

"After the time of Harbhajan and Ashwin, we don't have a proper off-spinner now, and Jain struck me as someone who can play at the highest level, and he needed that backing. So, it made me talk to him, understand his mindset and take him into my confidence," he noted. Another thing that piqued Pandit's interest was Jain's ability to bowl from around the wicket, something off-spinners tend not to do at any level.

"Saransh is the only bowler, that I have ever seen, bowling round the wicket. I mean, there are no off-spinners I have seen who start the first delivery with a round the wicket. I mean, everybody has a different method of bowling and he has his. "But Saransh is the only unique bowler that I have found in terms of bowling around the wicket. Recently, I have seen many state level spinners, who have been copying his style," Pandit detailed. The former India wicketkeeper batter also offered an insight into why the tribe of off-spinners is dwindling in domestic cricket after the era of Harbhajan and Ashwin.

"Basically, you can see that after Ashwin and Harbhajan, the multi-format cricketers, probably the spinners, have been lacking in that kind of skills. They keep on playing the white ball cricket more and then the trajectory has been changed and that is one of the reasons, "If you see Harbhajan and Ashwin and now Saransh, they offer flight, look for turn. So, I feel he is the typical Test match bowler. He always likes to use his variations, and not just push the ball flatter," he said. Pandit said Jain has also developed his batting skills over the last couple of seasons, as he felt that it was a prerequisite for an India selection. "He has been a good batter as he has made runs in local tournaments. Later on, in the first couple of years, I found that he was not putting so much attention to his batting. So, I made him think that he has to develop batting if he wants to play for India. "He needs to contribute in batting whenever he gets selected for India, which he probably realised. He has taken a lot of initiative in practising his batting as well. His contribution has always helped Madhya Pradesh," he said.

'My station has arrived': Karn Sharma retires from all forms of cricket



GNS News Agency, August 24 Former India leg-spinner Karn Sharma has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. The 38-year-old represented India in one Test, two ODI's and one T20I's and his last appearance came in November 2014. "My station has arrived, I am already 38 and I feel there is no point in playing anymore. The more I play, I will occupy the place of a young player in the team. There is no point in staying in playing when you know that India call will never come. So I spoke to my family and friends and they said, it's the right time," Sharma told The Indian Express.

Sharma played his lone Test in Australia in Adelaide in 2014 and later with spinners like R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja cementing their place in the Test side, he never got a second chance. He is more than happy with what he

achieved in his life. He played more than 90 IPL games for Royal Challengers of Bengaluru, Mumbai Indians, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Chennai Super Kings and was part of four IPL winning teams. "God gave me everything which I never dreamt of. When I began to play cricket, my dream was always to play for India and play all three formats for the Indian team. There are very few players who play all three formats. I did all the hard work, gave all I had. Somewhere in destiny it was written that I will play these games and am happy. I want to thank everyone, my family, friends, coaches, trainers, various Ranji and IPL sides. Physios, trainers and groundsmen, all played a part in my career," he added. Sharma played more than two decades of First-Class cricket where he represented Uttar Pradesh, Railways, Vidarbha and Andhra.

He played 97 First-Class games and took 270 wickets in his long career. However, getting a Test cap will remain special till date. "Getting a Test cap remains a special place in my heart. It was the best day for sure. Playing for India and learning I got will hold a special place for sure. Everytime I played, I gave it all I had, I always tried to learn and improve. The time has come for me to say goodbye and sign off cap number 283," he explains. What will he do next? There is no immediate plan. "I don't know, it will be hard to say at the moment but I want to give back to the game. If someone needs my help, I will be there. I will be going into my second innings of my life post retirement, will see what opportunities come my way," he said.

Where does Kuldeep Yadav's Test career stand after missing Colombo Test?

When Shubman Gill walked out for the toss at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club on Sunday, there was buzz around whether India would hand a debut to Saransh Jain or stick to the same team that won at Galle. It turned out to be the former as Kuldeep Yadav was ruled out of the Test match due to an infection. On paper, Jain's inclusion is a straightforward injury replacement. Yet the circumstances surrounding Kuldeep make his absence feel much bigger than a missed Test. It leaves his Test career at a crossroads.

The left-arm wristspinner arrived in Sri Lanka knowing this was his best opportunity in over a year to show he belongs in the Test side. He did not play a single Test during the 2025 tour of England. Sri Lanka, with its slower surfaces and greater assistance for spin, appeared tailor-made for a bowler whose greatest weapons are drift, dip and sharp turn. Instead, he will leave Colombo with more questions than answers. The first Test at Galle was a frustrating outing. Kuldeep finished with match figures of 1/103 in 25 overs, making him the least effective spinner across both teams. But the scorecard tells only part of the story. There were flashes of the bowler India have trusted for years. He deceived Kamindu Mendis with a beautifully flighted leg-break, repeatedly beat Dhananjaya de Silva with drift and produced deliveries that made batsmen unsure which way the ball would turn. Whenever he bowled a full length, he looked capable of creating something special. The problem was everything in between. Too many deliveries drifted onto the pads or landed too full, allowing Sri Lanka's left-handers to settle into the sweep. While Manav Suthar and Ravindra Jadeja built relentless pressure through accuracy, Kuldeep created moments of danger but couldn't sustain them over long spells.

Had Kuldeep been fit, Colombo would have offered an immediate chance to put in a better performance. Instead, Jain walks into the XI on debut and India move on without ever finding out whether Galle was simply an off day. Saransh deserves his opportunity. The 33-year-old has earned his debut through consistent performances in domestic cricket, and with Sri Lanka picking the extra left-hander in their side, he offers Gill a positive matchup. Yet, this is not a story about whether Saransh should have played.



It is about where Kuldeep now fits once he returns.

The upcoming schedule does him a few favours. India's next Test assignment is a two-match tour of New Zealand, where conditions are likely to favour three fast bowlers. Even if spin comes into the equation, Ravindra Jadeja's batting makes him almost indispensable. Manav Suthar's remarkable 10-wicket match haul on his first Test outside India has suddenly established another genuine contender. Home conditions should, in theory, be ideal for Kuldeep. But selection is no longer based on theory alone. Jadeja remains an automatic pick, Suthar has strengthened his case with a 10-wicket match haul in Galle, and Washington Sundar offers the balance of an off-spinner who can contribute with the bat. Suddenly, Kuldeep is competing for one specialist spinner's place rather than walking into the XI as India's attacking option. Since making his debut in 2017, Kuldeep has played only 19 Tests and claimed 80 wickets at an average of 23.36. The numbers suggest quality; the appearances suggest a career repeatedly interrupted by selection decisions, injuries and changing combinations. When Kuldeep returns, he will not simply be fighting for fitness. He will be trying to convince India that a bowler capable of producing match-winning spells still deserves a sustained run. And that is why Colombo, despite him not bowling a single ball, may come to represent the moment his Test career reached its most important crossroads.

Inauguration of Centralized Community Kitchen at Manthani for Serving Nutritious Breakfast to Government School Children

The State-of-the-Art Centralized Community Kitchen will provide nutritious breakfast to 40,052 Government School children studying in 694 schools and 17 Junior Colleges across 14 mandals of Peddapalli district and 5 mandals of Manthani Constituency in Bhupalpally district.



Manthani, August 24th, Monday:

The Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India's (HKMCF India) **State-of-the-Art Centralized Community Kitchen** was inaugurated today by Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Industries & Commerce, and Legislative Affairs Sri Duddila Sridhar Babu garu at Manthani, Peddapalli district to provide nutritious breakfast to Government School children. HKMCF India is the premier implementing partner of the Government of Telangana for the implementation of the Telangana School Breakfast Programme, one of the Government's flagship initiatives to improve child nutrition and learning outcomes.

This initiative will benefit approximately 40,052 students from 694 Government Schools across the following 14 Mandals viz. Manthani, Peddapalle, Sulthanabad, Odel, Julapalli, Eligedu, Dharamaram, Ramagundam, Anthergaon, Palakurthy, Kalva Srirampur, Kamanpur, Ramagiri, Mutharam in Peddapalli District, and Kataram, Mahadevur and Malharao, Mutharam(Mahamutharam) and Palimela in Bhupalapally District. The nutritious breakfasts will be prepared hygienically and distributed timely from this newly constructed advanced Centralized Kitchen.

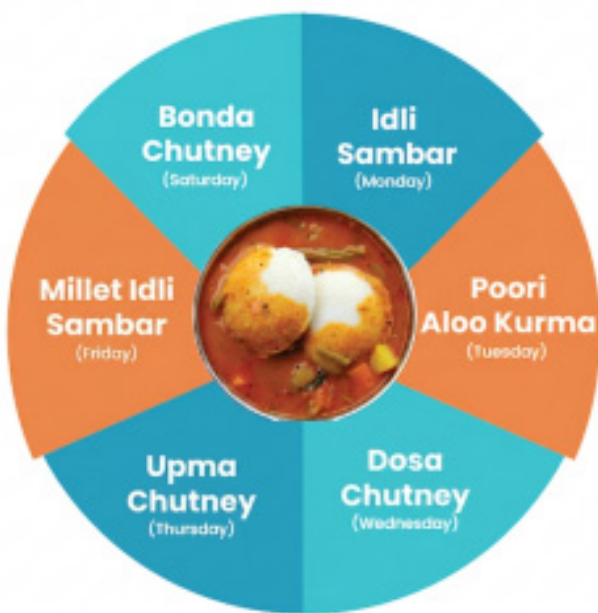
The inauguration ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Minister Sri Duddila Sridhar Babu Garu as the Chief Guest, in the august presence of His Grace Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Swamiji, President, Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India (HKMCF India) and Regional President, The Akshaya Patra Foundation (Telangana & Andhra Pradesh), besides public representatives, eminent dignitaries, special guests, patrons, Government officials, and HKMCF India functionaries.

Equipped with modern technology and advanced food production practices, the state-of-the-art Centralized Community Kitchen will prepare and deliver fresh, hot, and nutritious breakfasts to Government School children on every school working day.

This project is the result of a collaborative partnership between the Government of Telangana, Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India (HKMCF India), and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. While the Government of Telangana provided an 8000 sq. ft. shed at the Agricultural Market Yard, Manthani, SCCL funded the construction of the kitchen, and HKMCF India established the modern facility and will operate it under the Government's Telangana School Breakfast Programme.

This inauguration reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring nutritious breakfasts for Government School children through collaborative efforts with HKMCF India and CSR partners.

This Inaugural event was also attended by
Guests of Honour:



- Sri Vodnala Srinivas garu, Chairperson, Manthani Municipality
- Sri Sayender Reddy Muskulagaru, Vice Chairperson, Manthani Municipality
- Sri Kududula Venkannagaru, Chairperson, Manthani Agriculture Market Committee
- Special Guests:
 - Sri KoyaSree Harsha garu, IAS, Collector & District Magistrate, Peddapalli
 - DEO Peddapalli
- Anchor Patrons:
 - General Managers from Singareni Collieries Company Limited

And was presided by Sri Kaunteya Dasa Swamiji, Chief Executive Officer, HKM Charitable Foundation India.

Event Details:

Upon arrival, the Hon'ble Minister and dignitaries were accorded welcome honors and the program commenced with Sri Narasimha Homa and Purnahuti, invoking auspicious blessings for the successful functioning of the kitchen in its noble service.

Following the ceremonial proceedings, the Hon'ble Minister unveiled the inaugural plaque and officially dedi-



cated the **Centralized Community Kitchen** to public service. He also inaugurated the **Food Lab**, highlighting HKMCF India's unwavering focus on food quality, hygiene, and stringent safety standards.

The visiting dignitaries were given a comprehensive tour of the modern kitchen facility and introduced to its technology-driven food production processes. They witnessed the operation of advanced equipment, including automatic vegetable washing and cutting systems, automated curry-making machines, high-capacity steamers and sambar cauldrons, fully automatic dosa and puri-making machines, and a dedicated milk processing unit. Designed for large-scale breakfast preparation, these modern systems will ensure the timely delivery of fresh, nutritious, and hygienically prepared meals. The dignitaries also flagged off newly commissioned, custom-built vehicles for the distribution of breakfast to schools.

In a heart-warming gesture, the Hon'ble Minister and dignitaries served hot breakfasts to school children, reaffirming their commitment to child nutrition and



education

Day	Breakfast Menu
Monday	Idli, Sambar
Tuesday	Poori, Aloo Kurma
Wednesday	Dosa, Chutney
Thursday	Upma, Chutney
Friday	Millet Idli, Sambar
Saturday	Bonda, Chutney

The **Telangana School Breakfast Programme** is dedicated to providing hot, tasty, and nutritious breakfast to Government School children, especially those from underprivileged communities. By ensuring a nutritious start to the day, the programme promotes better health, supports optimal physical and mental development, and creates a stronger foundation for effective learning and overall well-being.

State-of-the-Art Technology and Infrastructure:

The **Centralized Community Kitchen** is equipped with cutting-edge technology and advanced automated systems designed to produce hygienic preparation of breakfast on a large scale while eliminating any scope for food contamination. The facility houses high-capacity automated steamers capable of preparing 5400 idlis per hour, a specially designed automatic dosa-making machine capable of producing 2000 dosas per hour, and a fully automatic puri-making machine with a production capacity of 3000 puris per hour.

The kitchen is also equipped with automated sambar cauldrons and curry-making equipments capable of preparing sambar and curry for 5,000 students within two hours, along with high-capacity rice cooking equipment that can prepare rice for 1,000 students in just 15 minutes.

Demonstrating its commitment to sustainability, the kitchen converts biodegradable waste generated during food preparation into biogas. It is further equipped with a Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Treatment Plant, Boiler Plant, Central Gas Bank, and an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) to ensure safe water usage, efficient operations, and environmentally responsible waste management.

To ensure that every child receives not only a hot and hygienic breakfast but also a nutritious and enjoyable meal, HKMCF India has developed a carefully planned, diverse menu endorsed by National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) along with a partnership with Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) that varies each school day.

Message from Chief Guest, Hon'ble Minister Sri Duddila Sridhar Babu garu said:

Speaking at the inauguration, Hon'ble Minister Sri Duddila Sridhar Babu expressed immense happiness and a deep sense of fulfillment at dedicating this Centralized Kitchen to the children of his home constituency. With deep affection and reverence, he recalled his cherished personal bond of over 14 years with HKMCF's

leadership, particularly with Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Swamiji, and fondly reminisced about the year 2012 when he, as the then Minister for Civil Supplies, had approached HKMCF with a humble request to provide free meals to patients' attendants in government hospitals — a seed of compassion that has since blossomed into the landmark Indiramma Canteens and Bhojanamritaprogrammes, today nourishing thousands of the needy across the state. He commended HKMCF as the Government's most trusted implementing partner for the flagship Telangana School Breakfast Programme and acknowledged the invaluable CSR contribution of Singareni Collieries Company Limited in providing state-of-the-art machinery and equipment for this kitchen.

Lauding the Foundation's absolute commitment to cleanliness, purity and nutritional quality — standards he personally witnessed during his facility tour — the Minister praised HKMCF's integration of Artificial Intelligence and real-time automated tracking systems that seamlessly monitor vehicle departure, route, school arrival and meal handover timings, with live data flowing simultaneously to local teams and the central office in Hyderabad. He showered special praise on HKMCF's extraordinary achievement of setting up the entire centralized kitchen infrastructure in a record 45 days — a feat that would ordinarily take several months under conventional systems — crediting the Foundation's highly educated, selfless leadership and their rare combination of spiritual dedication and professional discipline. Expressing heartfelt gratitude for HKMCF's unwavering commitment to reaching the most remote and underserved communities — choosing to serve where others seldom venture — the Minister affirmed that this is not merely a kitchen but a centre of hope and nourishment for Telangana's children, and called upon HKMCF to expand this partnership across Peddapalli, Bhupalpally and beyond, firmly believing that a child who begins the day nourished begins the day empowered, and a generation fed well to-day shall lead Telangana with strength and pride tomorrow.

Message from President – HKMCF India:



His Grace Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa (M.Tech., IIT Madras), President, Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India (HKMCF India), Regional President, The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TG & AP) said:

"Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation has been privileged to serve society through several nutrition initiatives in tie-up with various Government departments, including The Telangana School Breakfast Programme, Bhojanamrita (Govt Hospital Patient-attendants feeding), Indiramma Canteens ('5 Meal Programme), Saddimoota (Feeding to farmers & Hamalis in Market yards), Swasthya Ahara, and benefitting lakhs of underprivileged people.



We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana, Sri A. Revanth Reddy Garu, for his visionary leadership and unwavering com-



mitment to the welfare of Government School children."

Our deepest thanks also go to the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Sri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka Garu, for allocating adequate funds in the current financial budget to seamlessly execute this flagship program.

Our deep-rooted relationship with Hon'ble Minister Sridhar Babu garu dates back to 2012, when his steadfast guidance helped launch our flagship public feeding initiative, Bhojanamrita, at Niloufer Hospital. Over the years, this partnership has grown significantly through major social welfare initiatives like the Indiramma Canteen and the Telangana School Breakfast Program. Today, we come full circle as we inaugurate the Manthani kitchen in his home constituency, dedicated to nourishing the younger generation of this district.

We also sincerely thank Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) for its generous CSR support towards the construction of this kitchen, reflecting its commitment to social responsibility and community development.

We are grateful to all the dignitaries, patrons, Government officials, Media persons, and well-wishers for joining us on this auspicious occasion. Through this Centralized Community Kitchen, we hope to make a humble yet meaningful contribution towards a healthier, nourished, and educated generation, in line with the vision of 'Telangana Rising'.

About Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India (HKMCF India):

Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India (HKMCF India) is a registered public trust serving the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra through large-scale philanthropic initiatives. Over the past 12 years, the Foundation has served more than 25 crore meals, benefiting lakhs of individuals through free and subsidised food programmes implemented in partnership with government agencies and donors. These services are delivered through a network of modern, centralised community kitchens. In Telangana, HKMCF India tied up with the Government of Telangana as implementing Partner of Indiramma Canteens, Telangana School Breakfast Scheme, Bhojanamrita and Saddimoota programs.

About The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL):

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is a Government coal mining company jointly owned by the Government of Telangana and Government of India on a 51:49 equity basis. SCCL strives for the social and economic growth of the nation through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme. The major thrust areas of the CSR policy are identified with a view to have long term benefits to the Society such as Basic Services (Drinking Water supply, Sanitation etc.), Health, Education, Livelihood and Local Economic Development.

Thank you
PR Incharge
Phone (9640086664/
7032087277)

Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India, Telangana