

Amazon, Flipkart hike seller fees ahead of festive season

New Delhi: E-commerce majors Amazon and Flipkart have revised fee and penalty structures for sellers on their platforms in the weeks leading up to the festive shopping season, a move that sellers say adds to the financial burden on small and medium enterprises already operating on thin margins.

Petitioners seek reconstitution of SC panel probing alleged police excesses during CJP protests

New Delhi, August 25

Expressing reservations over the composition of the five-member high-powered committee headed by former top court judge Justice R Subhash Reddy to examine alleged police excesses and violence against police personnel during the CJP protests here last month, some of



the petitioners on Tuesday sought reconstitution of the panel.

On behalf of the petitioners, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan mentioned the matter before a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, seeking listing of the application next week.

However, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta vehemently opposed the plea, terming it “very mischievous” and politically motivated.

“It’s a very mischievous application. Let it be listed with the main matter. The prayer is to reconstitute the committee constituted by Your Lordships and investigate some ministers, so-and-so, and they have given names that this judge should be heading it, etc. But this is not a political platform. Something else is happening... Some people have perennial problems with everything,” Mehta told the bench, which also included Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana.

The issue is expected to be taken up early next month.

As the CJI said, “We don’t appreciate mentioning of judges’ names,” Sankaranarayanan said he was only seeking listing of the application.

“Even when the application is listed, I’m not going to mention names, as I didn’t last time. None of us mentioned names,” Sankaranarayanan said, urging the Bench to list the application.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan supported Sankaranarayanan, saying it was a “common concern” of petitioners.

“Whoever will work (as part of the committee), will work under our supervision. We have not disposed of the matter. All of you are there to assist the committee. Let

them work and see,” the CJI said.

Last week, the Supreme Court set up a five-member High-Powered Enquiry Committee (HPEC) headed by former top court judge Justice R Subhash Reddy to look into alleged police excesses against student protesters and violence against police personnel during the CJP protests here last month.

The other members of the panel are former Punjab and Haryana High Court chief justice Ravi Shankar Jha, former Delhi High Court judge Shalinder Kaur, former CBI director Rishi Kumar Shukla and ex-Meghalaya DGP LR Bishnoi.

The committee has been asked to examine use of excessive force and violence against protesters by the police, including the deployment of pellet guns, as well as the alleged use of force and violence by protesters against police officials and other security personnel and damage caused to public and private property.

The top court asked the committee to address certain issues on a priority basis, foremost amongst which was the matter relating to the alleged incidents of targeted violence, harassment and molestation of female protesters.

The points of reference also included “the desirability of banning the use of metallic kinetic projectiles or pellets fired from pump-action rifles or projectile-action guns, having regard to the grave and, at times, irreversible bodily harm occasioned by their deployment against protestors” and “the necessity of ensuring that police and security personnel wear proper uniforms and visible nameplates at the time of effecting arrests or using force during crowd-control operations, so as to secure accountability and enable the identification of individual officers”.

The panel will also examine the allegations pertaining to the monitoring and surveillance of protestors by police personnel, and the extent to which such measures, if undertaken, were consistent with the protestors’ constitutional rights to privacy and free assembly as also the provision of medical and other requisite support, including award of compensation, to victims of alleged police abuse, including the manner and adequacy of such support extended thus far.

The injuries sustained by the police forces in the course of discharging their duties, as well as the consequent mental and emotional trauma borne by their kith and kin merits due recognition and consideration on a par with the grievances raised by the Petitioners shall also be examined.

The order came on petitions seeking an impartial probe into the alleged disproportionate use of police force against protesters at Jantar Mantar and other locations across India.

New criminal laws to be fully implemented within one year: Amit Shah

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday set a one-year deadline for 100 per cent implementation of the three new criminal laws, saying the move will enable disposal of criminal cases up to the Supreme Court within three years and raise the conviction rate by 25 per cent.

India, China eye political fix for boundary dispute

New Delhi, August 25

India and China’s special representatives on Tuesday agreed to continue seeking a “political settlement” to their disputed boundary and address the long-term interests of both nations.

The special representatives of the two sides — National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi — met in Beijing for the 25th round of talks on the boundary issue.

According to a statement issued by Beijing, the two sides “engaged in in-depth discussions on advancing border demarcation negotiations and strengthening border control”.

India’s statement mentioned a “candid and in-depth” exchange of views on the boundary question. It said, “The Indian side highlighted the importance of border peace and tranquillity for progress in the bilateral relationship.”

Indianews updates

The two sides have a disputed 3,448-km boundary — the Line of Actual Control — which has not been demarcated, leading to disputes.

The special representatives noted the progress made in implementing the consensus reached between their leaders — Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping — in Kazan in October 2024 and Tianjin in August 2025.”

Beijing’s statement added that the “special representatives’ meeting mechanism will seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution” to the border issue. “Both sides will continue to properly handle the border issue through dialogue and consultation, and jointly maintain peace and tranquillity along the border,” it added.

The Chinese statement reiterated the 2005 agreement for the resolution of the boundary dispute. The agreement — “Political parameters and guiding principles for settlement of the India-China boundary question” — was taken up as a reference point at the previous special representative-level talks in August last year.

China said it was willing to work with India to grasp bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective. This would include strengthening communication, enhancing understanding, eliminating differences, overcoming obstacles, being good neighbours, friends and



mutually beneficial partners, and achieving a harmonious coexistence.

Meanwhile, at the special representatives’ talks, both sides expressed satisfaction over the steady resumption of people-to-people and cross-border exchanges, including the ongoing Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and border trade through the three designated passes, including Nathu La in Sikkim and Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh.

The two sides also discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Earlier, Doval called on Vice-President of China Han Zheng in Beijing and discussed ways to strengthen border peace and tranquillity and bilateral relations.

DRDO’s Missiles Will Be Made by India Inc

New Delhi, AUGust 25

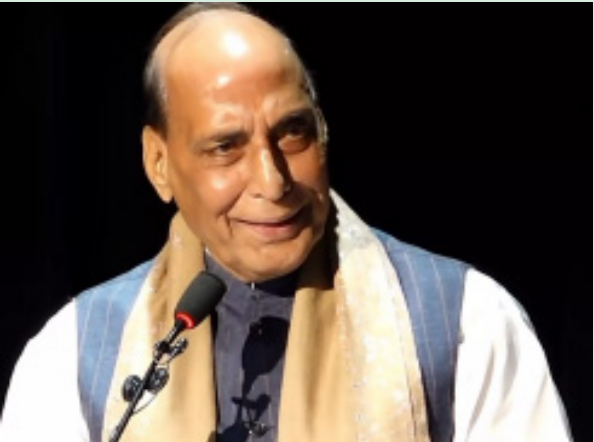
: In a major strategic move to build up domestic missile production capabilities, defence minister Rajnath Singh has approved the transfer of Defence Research and Development Organisation’s (DRDO) conventional missile technology to the domestic private players for production within the country as part of a larger goal to enhance domestic defence manufacturing. Under the initiative, the DRDO will transfer missile technologies to eligible defence firms.

The move comes at a time when India is reportedly looking to build a new “Rocket Force” with long-range tactical and non-nuclear vectors, which, among others, is also likely to include the Pralay missile, an indigenously developed missile with range of up to 200 km.

The transfer of technology decision is unlikely to involve the Agni series of five missiles — with ranges from 700 km for Agni 1 to 5,000 km for Agni V and the BrahMoS supersonic cruise missile which has Russia as a joint partner.

The state-owned Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has been traditionally the manufacturing base for guided missile systems and allied equipment for the Indian armed forces. BDL may now have to compete with the private players to get orders for missile production.

“In a significant step towards achieving the vision of ‘aatmanirbharta’ in defence, Mr Singh has approved the transfer of DRDO-developed technologies of all conventional missile systems to the Indian defence industry for production within the country,” said the defence ministry in a statement.



The defence ministry statement added that the transfer of technology (TOT) marks an important milestone in promoting greater participation of the domestic industries in the defence ecosystem by enabling them to undertake indigenous production, as per applicable qualifications, certifications and regulatory requirements.

“The provision will enable successful transition of missile system development to industrial production, reflecting the continued efforts of the DRDO to leverage the capabilities of the Indian industry for the development and manufacture of advanced defence systems,” said the defence ministry, adding that the objective is to enhance domestic manufacturing capabilities, strengthen the defence industrial base and create opportunities for the participation of Indian MSMEs and other technology partners in the supply chain.



Revanth Seeks Policy For FTL, Buffer Lands

Hyderabad, August 25

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy ordered the officials to expedite land acquisition for the prestigious Musi Rejuvenation project. The Chief Minister held a review of the Musi project at the MCRHRD Bodhi Pavilion today.

During the meeting, the CM enquired the officials about the status of land acquisition for the Musi project. CM Revanth Reddy emphasized that a policy for land pooling should be formulated. The policy should also focus on land acquisition falling under FTL (Full Tank Level), buffer zones, and assigned land categories.

The Chief Minister warned that legal complications should be avoided during the land acquisition. The officials were also instructed to invite tenders for Phase 2 of the Musi Project at the earliest. The CM suggested the Municipal Commissioners to focus more on securing low-interest loans for the projects and also review TDRs (Transferable Development Rights) every week. Tenders for the Manchirevula Omkareshwara Swamy Temple and publicity to the Kothwalguda Bird Park were also discussed in the

Tenders for the Manchirevula Omkareshwara Swamy Temple and publicity to the Kothwalguda Bird Park were also discussed in the meeting.

meeting.

CM Secretary Manik Raj, HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Kanan, Malkajgiri Municipal Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy, Cyberabad Commissioner Srujana, Ranga Reddy District Collector Narayana Reddy, Medchal Collector Manu Chowdary, MRDCL MD E.V. Narasimha Reddy, MRDCL JMD Gautami, and other senior officials were also present.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Counting the uncounted—why India's migration survey matters

The first dedicated comprehensive migration survey in India in nearly two decades is a chance to gain insight into a segment of the workforce that is key to the economy but has largely been ignored in policymaking. The migrant workforce became visible when India went under lockdown during the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020.

Pictures of labourers walking hundreds of kilometres to reach their villages had a profound impact on policymakers. The crisis not only exposed their vulnerability; it also showed a clear opportunity to build our knowledge of those who make modern India tick.

The issue is not just about migrants being uncounted. The assumption that people live, work, access welfare, and build their lives in one place continues to shape public policy today. However, more and more Indians are moving between districts, States and cities to find work, pursue education and seek opportunities. While mobility is emerging as a key part of India's development narrative, policies based on permanence are lagging behind.

Therefore, the government's decision to carry out a nationwide Migration Survey from July 2026 to June 2027 by the National Statistics Office (NSO) is important. It will provide the most comprehensive migration survey in almost 18 years, after the National Sample Survey's special migration round in 2007-08. Rapidly evolving labour markets, urbanisation trends and economic aspirations make this an important time to understand one of the most critical but under-researched aspects of modern-day India. India's migration is far greater than what is realised. According to Census 2011, nearly 38 per cent of India's population consisted of migrants.

Congress Mandal General Body Meeting Held in Bejjur



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.26. "Applications Invited for Mandal Committee Election Under Sangathan Srujan Abhiyan"Bejjur A Congress Mandal General Body meeting was held at the Bejjur Mandal headquarters under the chairmanship of Mandal Congress President Pandram Pushpalatha. Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District Congress Committee President Atram Sugunakka and MLC Dande Vithal attended the meeting as chief guests. As part of the Sangathan Srujan Abhiyan, the meeting discussed the process of electing the Congress Mandal Committee. Applications were received from leaders and party workers interested in contesting for positions in the Mandal Committee. "Speaking on the occasion, DCC President Atram Sugunakka urged party leaders and workers to strengthen the Congress organisation from the grassroots level. She called upon party workers to work in coordination and take the party's programmes and government initiatives to the people. MLC Dande Vithal also called upon Congress workers to remain united and work collectively for strengthening the party at the grassroots level. "DCC official spokesperson Nahir Ali, DCC Vice-Presidents Konda Jagga Goud, Block Congress President Rachakonda Srivardhan, General Secretary Pentanna, former ZP Chairman Sidam Ganapathi, along with sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, senior Congress leaders, women leaders and party workers from the mandal attended the programme.

Husband Goes Missing After Quarrel with Wife



"UPPAL, AUGUST 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal police have registered a case and launched an investigation after a man left his home following a quarrel with his wife and failed to return. "According to SI Madhu, Arun Kumar Raut (45), son of Sagar Raut, a labourer from Bihar, has been residing in Chikanagar, Uppal, along with his wife and children. On the evening of August 3, at around 5 p.m., Arun Kumar Raut reportedly had an argument with his wife, Ruby Devi, and left the house. He did not return home thereafter. "Worried over his whereabouts, Ruby Devi approached the Uppal police and lodged a complaint. Based on her complaint, police registered a case and are conducting an investigation to trace Arun Kumar Raut.

Former MLA Koon Srisailam Goud Meets Temple Committee Members and Welfare Association Representatives



"Quthbullapur: Former Quthbullapur MLA Koon Srisailam Goud met with members of several temple com-

mittees and representatives of various colony welfare associations at his residence in Shapur Nagar on Tuesday. "During the meeting, temple committee members personally invited the former MLA to their upcoming family weddings and other auspicious occasions by presenting invitation cards. They requested him to attend the events and bless the families. "Later, representatives of welfare associations from various colonies in the constituency brought several local public issues to Koon Srisailam Goud's attention. After patiently hearing their concerns, he assured them that he would bring the issues to the notice of the concerned officials and make every effort to ensure their resolution. "Members of various temple committees, colony welfare associations, Congress party leaders and workers, among others, participated in the meeting.

Safeguard Saplings to Ensure a Greener Future: Collector K. Haritha

"Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar / Asifabad, Aug 25: District Collector K. Haritha called upon people to protect every sapling planted as part of the government's Vanamahotsavam 2026 initiative, aimed at ensuring a balanced environment for future generations. "On Tuesday, the Collector planted saplings at the premises of the Social Welfare Gurukul School and College in the district headquarters as part of Vanamahotsavam 2026. Superintendent of Police Nithika Panth, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Yuvraj Marmat and District Forest Officer Balamani participated in the plantation programme. "Speaking on the occasion, Collector Haritha urged everyone to take responsibility for planting saplings and ensuring their proper care and protection. She said that increasing green cover through plantation activities would help maintain environmental balance and provide a healthier natural environment for future generations. "She directed officials to work in coordination and ensure that the district achieves the plantation target allotted under the Vanamahotsavam programme. "District



Rural Development Officer Dattarao, Tribal Welfare Officer Ambaji, forest department officials, the college principal, faculty members and students participated in the programme.

Development Works Worth Rs. 95 Lakh to Begin Soon in New Shanti Nagar Colony

— Former Uppal Corporator MANDUMULA RAJITHA PARAMESWSR REDDY "UPPAL, AUGUST 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Development works will soon be taken up in New Shanti Nagar Colony under the Uppal Division at an estimated cost of Rs. 95 lakh, former Uppal corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy said. "She stated that efforts were being made to resolve civic issues in the Uppal Division by taking up development works on a priority basis. On Tuesday, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy extensively toured New Shanti Nagar Colony along with representatives of the colony welfare association and enquired about the problems faced by residents. "The representatives of the New Shanti Nagar Colony Welfare Association brought several key issues to her notice. They requested the construction of CC roads in the colony and explained that the residents were also facing serious drainage problems. "Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy said that works would commence shortly with funds of Rs. 95 lakh to provide a permanent solution to the drainage and CC road problems in New Shanti Nagar Colony. She assured the residents that necessary measures would be taken to resolve the issues permanently, including the construction of CC roads and improvement of the drainage system. "AE Raj Kumar, Colony Welfare Association president Venkatesh Gupta, Anjaneyulu, Division president Eega Anjaneyulu, Srinivas, Telkala Mohan Reddy, Lingampally Ramakrishna, Saila Prabhakar Reddy, Narasimha, Bhaskar, A. Lakshmana Murthy, J. Satyam, Raghavulu, A. Jaggapathi, Gautham, Venkatesh, Satish, P. Srinivas, Mahesh, Srinu, S. Ravish, K. Srinivas, Bhavani, Sharada, Pushpa, Latha, Sabitha, Rajini, Roopa, Lakshmi, Anita, Lakshmi, Renuka, Buchcham, Komala Rani, Rajamani, Lakshmi, Arunamma, Yambu, Pullamma and other colony residents participated in the programme



(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 25):- "BRS state leaders Chintala Venkateswara Reddy, who visited Sri Padmavati Ammavari in Tirumala Tirupati on Tuesday afternoon and performed special pujas, were present. Later, they received the laddu prasad of the deity from the hands of the Padmavati Ammavari Temple Superintendent.

Kannergaon Gram Panchayat Aims to Become a Green Panchayat



"2,000 Saplings to Be Planted Along Roadsides""Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. "Indian Chronicle" August.26. "Wankidi: With the aim of increasing greenery and developing Kannergaon Gram Panchayat into a green and environmentally friendly village, a large-scale plantation drive has been taken up under the leadership of Deputy Sarpanch Durgam Jeevan. "As part of the initiative, saplings are being planted along the main roads and roadside areas within the Gram Panchayat limits. Around 2,000 saplings are planned to be planted on both sides of the roads, Deputy Sarpanch Durgam Jeevan said. He stated that the plantation programme is aimed at increasing green cover, protecting the environment and creating a pleasant and healthy atmosphere for the villagers and visitors. He appealed to residents to actively participate in environmental protection by planting and protecting trees in their surroundings. "Special attention will be given to the maintenance of the saplings after plantation. Regular watering and protection measures will be taken to ensure that the plants grow into healthy trees. Durgam Jeevan said that collective efforts by public representatives, officials and villagers are essential to make Kannergaon a green and model Gram Panchayat. He emphasized that planting saplings alone is not enough and that their regular protection and maintenance is equally important.

 GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FORM - VII OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR :: JOGULAMBA GADWAL As per Section -19 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013) and sub Rule (1) of Rule -25 DECLARATION File No: A2/262/2019 Dated : 15.06.2026 District Collector, Jogulamba Gadwal Dated : 18.06.2026 Proceeding No.G/399/2025 Dist Gazette No: 39/2026 Dated : 18.06.2026 Where as it appears that total of Ac 5.45Cts land is required for acquisition in the Gonpad Village of Gadwal Mandal Jogulamba Gadwal District, for public purpose, namely for providing of D8-1R of RMC Minor Canal under Package No. 99(B) Therefore declaration is made for the land measuring Ac 5.45Ct in Gonpad Village of Gadwal Mandal Jogulamba Gadwal District, which is needed for construction of above said project, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition. SCHEDULE <table><tr><th>Sl No.</th><th>Sy. No.</th><th>Patta/ Inam/ PP or Govt.</th><th>Well/ Dry</th><th>Total Extent to be Acquired Ac. Cts</th><th>Name of the Pattedar/Name of the Enjoyer</th><th>Type of Trees-Number -Type of Construction area in Sq.Mtrs</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>226</td><td>Patta</td><td>Dry</td><td>0.175</td><td>1. Chakali Ashanna S/o Buddanna 2.Doulath Sab S/o Khathali Sab 3. Chakali Dharenna S/o Buddanna 4. M.D.Anees S/o Moulasab 5. Kuva Chinnna Hanumannna S/o Buddanna 6.T. Praveen Kumar S/o T.Srinivasulu 7. Venkatesh S/o Yeddulla Savaranna 8. Anjaneyulu S/o Yeddulla Savarana 9. Chakali Tayamma W/o Chakali Savaranna 10. M.D.Isak S/o Mohamad Hussain 11. Noor Ahamad S/o Mohamad Hussain 12. M.D.Rajaq S/o Mohamd Hussain 13. Kurva Govindamma W/o D.Anjaneyulu 14. D.K.Radha Maheshwaramma S/o D.K.Mahesh Kumar 15. K.Govindu S/o Pedda Hanumanthulu Enjoyers:- 1) Pedda Hanumanthulu S/o Buddanna 2) Chinnna Hanumanthulu S/o Buddanna</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>233</td><td>Patta</td><td>Dry</td><td>1.40</td><td>1. Jaya Venkatamma W/o Kurva Laxmanna 2. Musti Narsimhulu S/o Eedanna 3. Sarva Reddy S/o Ram Reddy 4. Misti Nagaraju S/o Musti Laxmanna 5. Musti Suvarna S/o Musti Laxmanna 6. Musti Venkatramulu S/o Musti Karrenna 7. Musti Anjaneyulu S/o Musti Karreppa 8. Musti Thimmappa S/o Musti Karreppa Enjoyers:- 1) Salva Reddy 2) Savaranna S/o Laxmanna 3) Nagaraju S/o Laxmanna</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>234</td><td>Patta</td><td>Dry</td><td>0.925</td><td>1. Kurva Govindu S/o Narayana 2.Kurva Varadharaju S/o Bheemanna 3. Venkatesh S/o Narsimhulu 4. Krishnaiah S/o Naganna 5. Laxmanna S/o Keshanna 6. Kurva Shakaramma W/o Pedda Hanumanthulu 7. Kurva Govindmma W/o Kurva Savaranna 8. Kurva Hanumannna S/o K. Narayana 9. Kurva Punyavathi W/o Kurva Gopal 10. Kurva Padma W/o Kura Chinthallanna Enjoyers:- 1) Subadhra W/o Musti Kistanna</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>235</td><td>Patta</td><td>Dry</td><td>1.40</td><td>1. Kurva Govindu S/o Narayana 2.Chinthallanna S/o Narayana</td><td>No</td></tr></table>						Sl No.	Sy. No.	Patta/ Inam/ PP or Govt.	Well/ Dry	Total Extent to be Acquired Ac. Cts	Name of the Pattedar/Name of the Enjoyer	Type of Trees-Number -Type of Construction area in Sq.Mtrs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	226	Patta	Dry	0.175	1. Chakali Ashanna S/o Buddanna 2.Doulath Sab S/o Khathali Sab 3. Chakali Dharenna S/o Buddanna 4. M.D.Anees S/o Moulasab 5. Kuva Chinnna Hanumannna S/o Buddanna 6.T. Praveen Kumar S/o T.Srinivasulu 7. Venkatesh S/o Yeddulla Savaranna 8. Anjaneyulu S/o Yeddulla Savarana 9. Chakali Tayamma W/o Chakali Savaranna 10. M.D.Isak S/o Mohamad Hussain 11. Noor Ahamad S/o Mohamad Hussain 12. M.D.Rajaq S/o Mohamd Hussain 13. Kurva Govindamma W/o D.Anjaneyulu 14. D.K.Radha Maheshwaramma S/o D.K.Mahesh Kumar 15. K.Govindu S/o Pedda Hanumanthulu Enjoyers:- 1) Pedda Hanumanthulu S/o Buddanna 2) Chinnna Hanumanthulu S/o Buddanna	No	2	233	Patta	Dry	1.40	1. Jaya Venkatamma W/o Kurva Laxmanna 2. Musti Narsimhulu S/o Eedanna 3. Sarva Reddy S/o Ram Reddy 4. Misti Nagaraju S/o Musti Laxmanna 5. Musti Suvarna S/o Musti Laxmanna 6. Musti Venkatramulu S/o Musti Karrenna 7. Musti Anjaneyulu S/o Musti Karreppa 8. Musti Thimmappa S/o Musti Karreppa Enjoyers:- 1) Salva Reddy 2) Savaranna S/o Laxmanna 3) Nagaraju S/o Laxmanna	No	3	234	Patta	Dry	0.925	1. Kurva Govindu S/o Narayana 2.Kurva Varadharaju S/o Bheemanna 3. Venkatesh S/o Narsimhulu 4. Krishnaiah S/o Naganna 5. Laxmanna S/o Keshanna 6. Kurva Shakaramma W/o Pedda Hanumanthulu 7. Kurva Govindmma W/o Kurva Savaranna 8. Kurva Hanumannna S/o K. Narayana 9. Kurva Punyavathi W/o Kurva Gopal 10. Kurva Padma W/o Kura Chinthallanna Enjoyers:- 1) Subadhra W/o Musti Kistanna	No	4	235	Patta	Dry	1.40	1. Kurva Govindu S/o Narayana 2.Chinthallanna S/o Narayana	No				3. Jayamma S/o Chinthallanna 4. Krishnaiah S/o Naganna 5. K.L.Mahesh S/o Laxmanna 6. Musti Suvarna S/o Musti Laxmanna 7. Kurva Anjaneyulu S/o Kurva Thippanna 8. Kurva Ramulamma W/o Kurva Anjaneyulu 9. K.Srvani W/o K. Bheemesh 10. Kurv Parusharamudu S/o Kurva Hanumanthulu 11. Kurva Ramudu S/o Kurva Suranna Enjoyers:- 1) Srinivasulu S/o Pedda Bheemaih 2) Govindu S/o Dubba Narayana	
Sl No.	Sy. No.	Patta/ Inam/ PP or Govt.	Well/ Dry	Total Extent to be Acquired Ac. Cts	Name of the Pattedar/Name of the Enjoyer	Type of Trees-Number -Type of Construction area in Sq.Mtrs																																														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																														
1	226	Patta	Dry	0.175	1. Chakali Ashanna S/o Buddanna 2.Doulath Sab S/o Khathali Sab 3. Chakali Dharenna S/o Buddanna 4. M.D.Anees S/o Moulasab 5. Kuva Chinnna Hanumannna S/o Buddanna 6.T. Praveen Kumar S/o T.Srinivasulu 7. Venkatesh S/o Yeddulla Savaranna 8. Anjaneyulu S/o Yeddulla Savarana 9. Chakali Tayamma W/o Chakali Savaranna 10. M.D.Isak S/o Mohamad Hussain 11. Noor Ahamad S/o Mohamad Hussain 12. M.D.Rajaq S/o Mohamd Hussain 13. Kurva Govindamma W/o D.Anjaneyulu 14. D.K.Radha Maheshwaramma S/o D.K.Mahesh Kumar 15. K.Govindu S/o Pedda Hanumanthulu Enjoyers:- 1) Pedda Hanumanthulu S/o Buddanna 2) Chinnna Hanumanthulu S/o Buddanna	No																																														
2	233	Patta	Dry	1.40	1. Jaya Venkatamma W/o Kurva Laxmanna 2. Musti Narsimhulu S/o Eedanna 3. Sarva Reddy S/o Ram Reddy 4. Misti Nagaraju S/o Musti Laxmanna 5. Musti Suvarna S/o Musti Laxmanna 6. Musti Venkatramulu S/o Musti Karrenna 7. Musti Anjaneyulu S/o Musti Karreppa 8. Musti Thimmappa S/o Musti Karreppa Enjoyers:- 1) Salva Reddy 2) Savaranna S/o Laxmanna 3) Nagaraju S/o Laxmanna	No																																														
3	234	Patta	Dry	0.925	1. Kurva Govindu S/o Narayana 2.Kurva Varadharaju S/o Bheemanna 3. Venkatesh S/o Narsimhulu 4. Krishnaiah S/o Naganna 5. Laxmanna S/o Keshanna 6. Kurva Shakaramma W/o Pedda Hanumanthulu 7. Kurva Govindmma W/o Kurva Savaranna 8. Kurva Hanumannna S/o K. Narayana 9. Kurva Punyavathi W/o Kurva Gopal 10. Kurva Padma W/o Kura Chinthallanna Enjoyers:- 1) Subadhra W/o Musti Kistanna	No																																														
4	235	Patta	Dry	1.40	1. Kurva Govindu S/o Narayana 2.Chinthallanna S/o Narayana	No																																														
5	255	Patta	Dry	0.85	1. Boya Anjaneyulu S/o Naganna 2. Boya Krishna S/o Naganna 3. Boya Pedda Savaranna S/o Yallappa 4. Boya Chinnna Savaranna S/o Yallapa 5. Pedda Gokari S/o Boya Shanthanna 6. Nadipati Gokari S/o Boya Shanthanna 7. Chinnna Gokari S/o Boya Shanthanna 8. T.Praveen Kumar S/o T.Srinivasulu 9. Ramudu S/o Savaranna 10. Shiva Kumar S/o Savaranna 11. Boya Bala Ramudu S/o Thikkanna 12. Boya Salvanna S/o Thikkanna 13. Boya Madhileti S/o Boya Parumanna 14. Sharadha W/o Boya Tayanna 15. Boya Nagaraju S/o Boya Parumanna 16. Boya Anjanamma W/o Boya Buchanna Enjoyers:- 1) B.Tayanna S/o Naganna 2) Krishna S/o Naganna 3) Anjaneyulu S/o Naganna	(1) Bore																																														
6	263	Patta	Dry	0.70	1. Boya Anjaneyulu S/o Naganna 2. Boya Krishna S/o Naganna 3. Boya Buchanna S/o Ushenappa 4. Boya Pedda Savaranna S/o Yallappa 5. Boya Chinnna Savaranna S/o Yallappa 6. Pedda Gokari S/o Boya Shanthanna 7. Nadipati Gokari S/o Boya Shanthanna 8. Chinnna Gokari S/o Boya Shanthanna 9. Ramudu S/o Savaranna 10. Shiva Kumar S/o Savaranna 11. Boya Balaramudu S/o Thikkanna 12. Boya Salvanna S/o Thikkanna 13. Boya Madhileti S/o Boya Parumanna 14. Sharadha W/o Boya Tayanna 15. Boya Nagaraju S/o Boya Parumanna Alias Parameshwar Enjoyers:- 1) Jayamma W/o Savaranna 2) Balaram S/o Thikkanna	No																																														
TOTAL		5.45																																																		
This declaration is made after considering the objections from interested persons as provided under section 15 (Central Act No. 30/2013)																																																				
As there are No displaced Families/No livelihoods lost due to acquisition R&R Scheme provisions are not applicable.																																																				
Mines of coal, Iron, stone or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, extent such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the public purpose of which the land being acquired are not need.																																																				
A plan of the Land may be inspected in the office of the Special Deputy Collector, (Land Acquisition), JLIP, Gadwal on any working day during the working hours.																																																				
Sd/- Spl.Dy Collector (L.A) JLIP, Gadwal		Sd/- Additional Collector Jogulamba Gadwal		Sd/-District Collector, Jogulamba Gadwal																																																
DIPR RO.NO:754/LA/PP/Adv/Pub/2026-27																																																				

Make PDSU State Political Training Classes a Grand Success



“Political and Scientific Training Classes to Be Held in Nalgonda on September 01 and 02”
Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August 26.
Asifabad: PDSU Komurambheem Asifabad District General Secretary Jagajampula Tirupathi called upon students and PDSU activists to participate in large numbers and make the PDSU State-level Political and Scientific Training Classes, scheduled to be held in Nalgonda district on September 1 and 2, a grand success. A meeting of PDSU key activists was held in Asifabad as part of the preparations for the programme. Speaking at the meeting, Jagajampula Tirupathi said that human values were gradually declining in society and that various social crises were emerging. He expressed concern that due to a lack of social awareness among students, many were becoming addicted to obscene literature, ganja and other intoxicating substances, thereby putting their bright futures at risk. He criticised both the Central and State governments for failing to take adequate measures to protect students from such problems. He alleged that anti-education policies of the ruling governments were gradually turning education into a commercial commodity. Poor and middle-class students

were finding it increasingly difficult to pursue higher education, while quality education was becoming accessible mainly to those who could afford to spend lakhs of rupees, he said. Tirupathi alleged that the Central government's New Education Policy was encouraging the corporatisation of the education sector. He said that student movements against paper leaks, corruption and irregularities had been intensifying across the country. He claimed that student protests in Delhi had put pressure on the Union government and referred to demands for accountability in the education sector. "He further alleged that although the Congress government in Telangana had completed nearly three years in office, it had failed to fulfil several promises made to students. He claimed that around ₹10,500 crore in fee reimbursement and scholarship dues had not been released, causing serious difficulties for students. He also criticised the closure of schools, stating that it was causing injustice to students, particularly those from economically weaker sections. He said that Polytechnic students across the State had been conducting protests over their problems, but the government was allegedly failing to respond and was instead using the police to suppress their agitations. He demanded the immediate filling of all vacant teaching and non-teaching posts in the education sector. "The leaders said that the main objective of the State political training classes was to develop social and political awareness among students, educate them about issues affecting the education sector, prepare them to fight for their rights and equip them for future democratic movements. They appealed to students and PDSU activists to attend the political and scientific training classes to be held in Nalgonda on September 1 and 2 in large numbers and make the programme a grand success. PDSU Asifabad Mandal President Sameer, General Secretary Jagajampula Tarun, Mandal Vice-President Shiva Shankar, Treasurer Siraj, committee members Paryaz Khan, Pulli Kiran, Sameer and others participated in the meeting.

Applications Invited for Best Teacher Awards



-All The Best Arts Academy founder and president Lion Dr. E. S. S. Narayana Master
Hyderabad, August 25 (Indian Chronicle) : Applications have been invited for the Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan National Best Teacher Award, State-level Teacher Ratna Award and Akshara Brahma Awards-2026, to be presented on the occasion of Teachers' Day. In a statement issued on Tuesday, All The Best Arts Academy founder and president Lion Dr. E. S. S. Narayana Master said principals, headmasters, teachers and lecturers working in government, aided and private educational institutions, who have rendered services in teaching as well as in literature, culture, arts, sports and yoga, are eligible to apply. Applicants should submit copies of their educational qualifications, teaching and training experience, certificates, photographs, press clippings and details of awards received earlier, along with three passport-size photographs. Applications should reach the academy by August 28. Applications may be sent to: All The Best Arts Academy, Door No. 1-20-164, Gokulnagar, Venkatapuram, Post: Tirumalagiri, Secunderabad-15. The awards presentation ceremony will be held in Hyderabad on September 6. For further details, interested applicants may contact 9652347207.

Strong Arrangements for Ganesh Festival Celebrations-

-Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta Holds Coordination Meeting with Line Department Officials"



“UPPAL, AUGUST 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): To ensure the peaceful and safe conduct of Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations and Ganesh idol immersion programmes across Uppal Zone, Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta held a coordination meeting with officials of various line departments and members of Ganesh Utsav committees. The Zonal Commissioner directed officials to ensure the availability of cranes, control rooms, fire engines, Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams, boats, swimmers, ambulances and life-saving equipment at major immersion points. "She also instructed officials to complete road repairs and ar-

rangements related to electricity, lighting, drinking water and mobile toilets at immersion points and along Ganesh procession routes within the stipulated deadline. "24-Hour Sanitation Arrangements" Special Ganesh Action Teams should be formed to manage sanitation during the immersion programme, with staff deployed round the clock in three shifts, she directed. Garbage accumulating at immersion points and along procession routes should be cleared continuously. "The Commissioner also instructed officials to arrange free distribution of clay Ganesh idols and provide trash bags to Ganesh pandals. "Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, ACPs, Traffic and Law & Order Inspectors, HYDRA, TSSPDCL, TRANSCO, HMWSSB, HRDCL, Irrigation & Lakes, Town Planning, Urban, SRD, R&B, National Highways and other department officials participated in the meeting. Deputy Commissioners of all circles, members of Ganesh Utsav committees, District Tourism and Fisheries Department officials, Deputy Executive Engineers and SWM officials were also present. "Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta directed all departments to work in close coordination and complete the arrangements within the stipulated time to ensure that the Ganesh festival and immersion programmes are conducted successfully without any untoward incidents.

It is not reasonable for the central government to not give permission to CM Revanth Reddy to visit America for educational development..

for world-class job opportunities:- Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 25):- Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that he has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding the non-permission given to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to visit America for educational development and students for world-class job opportunities.

The center should treat every state equally in the federal system. Only then can we achieve the goal of a 30 trillion dollar economy. "CM Revanth Reddy's goal is to bring international education and employment opportunities so that our students can compete in the global market and get good jobs, and he wants the center to cooperate in these efforts for the development of the state and the future of students.



Establishment of special OTs for irrigation...



Government Whip Beerla Ayilaiah inspected at the field level
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 25):- Telangana State Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah inspected the main canal coming from the Kondapochamma project at Kondapur in the Sangya Thanda area of ???Turkapalli Mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district regarding the 15th and 16th packages of Mallannasagar. Steps are being taken to establish special OTs so that the villages, ponds and ayacut lands downstream of the canal can receive irrigation water. "On this occasion, the MLA inspected the canal area along with the concerned irrigation officials and inquired about the problems in providing water to the farmers. He instructed the officials to formulate a plan to provide irrigation water to the downstream areas by making good use of the available water without causing any problems to the people and farmers. " Speaking on the occasion, Government Whip Birla Ayilaiah said that the people's government in Telangana is giving top priority to the welfare of farmers and solving irri-

gation problems. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the government is working to develop irrigation resources in the state and provide water to farmers' fields. Birla Ayilaiah said that if the construction of the Baswapur project and the Gandhamalla projects is completed, thousands of acres of downstream areas will be irrigated and the respective areas will become fertile. He said that compensation will be provided to the Baswapur land victims and the land affected by the sandstorm will be fully compensated. The MLA said that with the cooperation of Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, special OTs have been set up for canals in various parts of the constituency and many ponds have been filled with water. He said that by setting up two more special OTs in the canal leading towards Baswapur, there is a possibility of providing water to about 70 to 80 ponds. He said that once these OTs are completed, the groundwater level will increase as the tanks in the lower areas fill up, and the availability of irrigation water to farmers will further improve. Birla Ayilaiah revealed that steps are being taken to identify the necessary areas and establish OTs with the help of Irrigation Department officials, SE, DE and other technical staff. The government is moving forward with the aim of providing drinking water to every household along with irrigation water. He said that the Mission Bhagiratha canal works being constructed at a cost of Rs. 210 crore at Ghanpur in Shamirpet mandal have been recently inspected. He said that once these works are completed, drinking water will be available to the people of the constituency in large quantities every day. He advised the officials to carry out the works by following technical standards so that the people and farmers do not face any difficulties. He clarified that he will continuously work to provide water to as many areas as possible through canals, keeping in mind the irrigation needs of farmers. Government Whip Birla Ayilaiah said that his main goal is to provide irrigation water to farmers' fields, fill tanks and make the constituency fertile.

Youth Congress protests against the incident of firing on students



Youth Congress District President Manga Praveen
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 25):- Strongly condemning the incident of firing on students protesting peacefully in Delhi, the Telangana Youth Congress organized a protest program under the leadership of Youth Congress District President Manga Praveen at the Ambedkar statue in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district center. "A large number of Youth Congress leaders and activists participated in this protest program and raised slogans against the central government. Speaking on the occasion, Manga Praveen said that firing

on students protesting peacefully for their rights is against democratic values. Taking moral responsibility for the incident against the students, he demanded that Union Home Minister Amit Shah resign or the central government immediately remove him from office. He said that in a democracy, every citizen has the right to protest, and the Youth Congress strongly opposes any action that suppresses that right. He said that it is not right for the government, which should solve the problems of the students, to take strict action against them. Manga Praveen demanded that the central government immediately respond and conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and take action against those responsible and bring justice to the students. The program was attended by Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangalla Palli Srivani Ravi Kumar, District Library Chairman MD Aves Chisti, former municipal chairmen, Pothasetti Venkateswarlu, Barre Jahangir, Market Committee Chairman Kanukuntla Rekha Baburao, Councilor Jalagam Vignesh, Congress SC Cell District Chairman Kakunuri Mahender, district leaders MD Atahar, Shivalayam Chairman Kolluri Raju, Youth Congress District, Assembly and Mandal leaders, District General Secretary Edu Mekala Mahesh Yadav, Regu Ramesh, Assembly Vice Presidents Battu Sandeep, Ganesh Reddy, Putta Shiva, Potnak. Sunny, Bhushapaka Sivateja, Barre Kranthi, MD Jalili, Abed, Rambabu, Vadicharla Sarath Yadav, Goda Bhanu, activists and others participated.

It is ridiculous for leaders with incomplete information to comment on CM Revanth Reddy's foreign tour or for Kishan Reddy to claim he was denied permission for his own visit



speaking as if he were the Chief Minister of Gujarat—stated Bhongir MP and TPCC Media Committee Chairman Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau – Indian Chronicle – August 25): Bhongir MP and TPCC Media Committee Chairman Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy addressed a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday. He remarked that it is inappropriate for leaders with limited knowledge to criticize CM Revanth Reddy's foreign tour or for Kishan Reddy to complain about being denied permission for his visit, noting that Kishan Reddy speaks as though he were the Chief Minister of Gujarat. "He pointed out that while permission was granted for CM Revanth Reddy's UK tour, it was denied for his US visit—a situation that has never occurred before. He questioned why semiconductor projects intended for Telangana were diverted to Gujarat and why the development of the Musi River project, the Regional Ring Road (RRR), and the Metro expansion is being obstructed. "He cited NITI Aayog data indicating that 8.7 crore people in the country lack education and training, questioning how 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) can be achieved without education. He alleged that while Revanth Reddy is working to improve education and development in Telangana, the BRS and BJP are trying to prevent the state's progress. He remarked that BRS leaders, having turned a surplus state into a debt-ridden one, are now posturing self-righteously; he noted the unfortunate situation where the BJP and BRS are vying to split the vote. He stated that the BRS is intent on preventing the Congress from coming to power at the Centre, even if it means the BRS itself ends up with zero seats. "He urged every Congress leader to counter the false propaganda spread by the BRS and BJP on social media, noting that everyone—including Modi—is active on these platforms. "As the Media Committee Chairman, he stated he would monitor everyone's social media handles. "He instructed Con-

gress party workers and leaders—emphasizing the need to protect the power they worked hard to attain—to vigorously refute the opposition's false propaganda; these directives were issued by the MP and TPCC Media Committee Chairman, Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy.

Youth Congress Stages Protest in Asifabad Over Attack on Students“

“Congress Leaders Condemn Alleged Attack on Peaceful Protesters”
Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August 26.
Asifabad: Following a call given by the Indian Youth Congress and Telangana Youth Congress President Jakkidi Shivacharan Reddy, the Youth Congress organised a protest at the Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district headquarters against the alleged attack on students who were peacefully protesting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Youth Congress leaders alleged that the BJP government's policies were responsible for the decline in educational standards in the country. They condemned the alleged use of police force against students who were peacefully raising their concerns in the national capital and demanded that Union Home Minister Amit Shah take responsibility and resign. The leaders said that the Youth Congress would continue to expose what they described as the failures and policies of the BJP government and take the issues to the people in the coming days. Youth Congress Asifabad Assembly Constituency President Inukonda Kamal Nath Reddy, District Official Spokesperson Nithin, District Party Vice-President Tariq Ahmed, Asifabad Mandal Congress President Raparathi Murali, Lingapur Mandal President Jadhav Ramesh, Youth Congress Social Media Coordinator Elagala Sai Kumar, Asifabad Mandal Youth Congress President Vinod, Asifabad Town President Prabhakar, Rebenna Mandal President Poodari Sai, Jainoor Mandal President Mandadi Linga, Wankidi In-charge Mandal Youth President Uppala Krishna, Narur Mandal Youth Congress Vice-President Sheikh Mohammed, senior Congress leaders Kondu Sai, Elluri Ramu, Sheikh Azemuddin, Paramesh and other party leaders and workers participated in the protest.

Chilkanaagar Division Senior Citizens Welfare Association Formed



--Protection of Elderly Rights to Be the Priority — Resolve to Lead Social Service Activities""UPPAL, AUGUST 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Telangana State Senior Citizens Welfare Association—Chilkanaagar Division has taken its first step towards formation with the objective of bringing senior citizens who have rendered services in various fields onto a common platform and working for their rights, welfare, mental well-being and social service activities."A preliminary meeting was held on Monday evening at the real estate office of Puppala Venkateshwarlu. The meeting was presided over by Bommigani Das Goud. Discussions focused on strengthening the association, increasing membership, providing necessary assistance to senior citizens and ensuring that eligible elderly persons benefit from government welfare schemes, concessions and incentives."Ad-hoc Committee Formed"An ad-hoc committee was constituted to initiate the association's activities. Bommigani Das Goud was appointed as Convener and retired government headmaster Boda Vidyasagar as Co-Convener."The committee members include Srinivas Reddy, Devulla Purushotham, R. Balaram, Darga Krishna, Palle Ramulu, Basireddy Narayana Reddy, Nomula

Sudhakar Reddy, N. Bikshapathi, Nagu Narasimha and others."The association currently has 75 members, while around 30 senior citizens attended the preliminary meeting."Wide-Ranging Welfare Activities Planned"The meeting decided to work for the protection of senior citizens' rights, facilitate access to government welfare schemes, concessions and incentives, provide assistance to needy elderly persons and arrange legal guidance for those facing legal issues."The association also plans to work towards establishing a day-care centre for senior citizens, conduct health-awareness programmes and social and cultural activities, expand membership, strengthen the organisation and formulate rules and procedures for its systematic functioning.""Service to Humanity Is Service to God""Speaking on the occasion, Convener Bommigani Das Goud said, "Service to humanity is service to God. There is no greater service than serving fellow human beings. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that senior citizens spend the later years of their lives peacefully, with dignity and happiness. Everyone should work together to stand by every senior citizen and develop the association into a model service organisation.""Working for a Healthy and Peaceful Life""Co-Convener Boda Vidyasagar said there was a need to undertake several programmes to promote mental peace and a healthy life among senior citizens. He assured that he would work to the best of his ability to develop the association in Chilkanaagar Division into a model senior citizens welfare organisation."Support from Prominent Members"Retired government teacher Shameerpet Chandraiah, retired government headmaster Pendem Nagarjuna, Sadashiva Reddy, Puppala Venkateshwarlu and others participated in the preliminary meeting. They assured their full support and cooperation for the formation and activities of the Senior Citizens Welfare Association. The meeting unanimously resolved to strengthen the association in Chilkanaagar Division with three primary objectives—senior citizens' welfare, protection of their rights and service to humanity—and to stand by every elderly person in the community.

Sri Sri Sri Shiva Swamiji who attended the 108 Manidvipa Vardhana Parayanam

"Honors Ananta Lakshmi:-Sanatana Hindu Temples Preservation Committee President Devarakonda Narasimha Chari""(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 25):- "Sri Sri Sri Shiva Swamiji and Ananta Lakshmi, who attended the 108 Manidvipa Vardhana Parayanam organized under the auspices of Soma Saraswati Krishna Murthy at the Soma Radhakrishna Function Hall in Bhuvanagiri town and gave their valuable speeches, were honored by Sanatana Hindu Temples Preservation Committee President Devarakonda Narasimha Chari. They said that it is commendable to organize the 108-time Manidweepa Vardhana Parayanam for the welfare of the world under the auspices of Soma Saraswati Krishna Murthy Gar in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district with about 700 people. Guru Sri Sri Sri Siva Swamiji said that the timely rains will make it possible for the dairy crops to grow through the parayanam of this goddess. Kacham Venkatesh "Kuncham Bhaskar Vijay Santosh participated in this program.



Tributes Paid to B.P. Mandal on His Birth Anniversary...

.Leaders Recall His Contribution to Social Justice and Backward Classes""Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.26. ""Komuram Bheem Asifabad: Tributes were paid to B.P. Mandal on his birth anniversary at the Asifabad district headquarters. B.C. Welfare Association District President Rupunar Ramesh and B.C. Youth Association District President Avidapu Pranay led the programme and garlanded his portrait.Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that B.P. Mandal's contribution to the history of social justice in India would remain memorable. They recalled his efforts to study the social and educational conditions of backward classes and highlight their issues at the national level through the Mandal Commission. The leaders stated that the Mandal Commission studied the social, educational and economic conditions of backward classes and made several key recommendations for their development.They said the recommendation to provide 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in Central Government jobs became an important milestone in the pursuit of social justice.They said B.P. Mandal's vision was not limited to reservations, but focused on ensuring equal opportunities, dignity, rights and representation for socially and educationally backward communities. They stressed the need to provide fair opportunities to BCs in education, employment, political representation and economic development.The leaders further said that a comprehensive caste census was essential to ensure a fair share for BCs based on their population. Accurate data on the population and social, educational and eco-



omic conditions of BC communities would help in formulating effective welfare policies and development programmes, they said.Rupunar Ramesh and Avidapu Pranay pledged to continue working for the rights of BC communities by following the path shown by B.P. Mandal.They called upon BC youth to draw inspiration from his ideals and work unitedly for social justice and equality.BC. Farmers Association District President Vairagade Maruthi Patel, B.C. Youth Association District President Mamidi Kiran, Asifabad Division President Bottupalli Prashanth, Asifabad BC Association Mandal President Sirikonda Sai Krishna, Congress Minority Mandal President Sheikh Asad, senior Congress leaders Chunarkar Vasanth Rao and Igarapu Santhosh, BRS leader Maturi Jayaraj and others participated in the programme.

Rebbena Kasturba School Student Selected for State-Level Athletics Competitions

"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.26. ""Rebbena A student of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), Rebbena, Nayini Malleswari, has been selected for the state-level athletics competitions after showcasing outstanding talent in the 400-metre race at the district-level athletics competitions. The district-level competitions were organized by the Komuram Bheem Asifabad District Athletics Association on August 20 at the Tribal Sports School in Asifabad. Malleswari impressed everyone with her performance in the 400-metre event and secured selection for the state-level competitions. The state-level athletics competitions are scheduled to be held in Hanamkonda on August 26 and 27, where Malleswari will represent the district.KGBV Special Officer Padma and Physical Education Teacher Swapna said that Malleswari's selection for the state-level competitions was a matter of pride for the school. They expressed confidence that she would perform well at the state level and bring recognition to the school and Komuram Bheem Asifabad district."KGBV teachers Mounika and Rajitha,



along with other teaching staff, congratulated Malleswari on her achievement and wished her success in the upcoming state-level competitions. District Athletics Association Secretary Gundam Laxman and Coach Vidyasagar also congratulated her and wished her the very best for the state-level event.

PTG Students Selected for State-Level Athletics Competitions



""Students to Represent District at 12th State-Level Athletics Meet in Hanamkonda""Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.26. ""Hanamkonda, August 25, 2026: Students of the local PTG Gurukulam School and College have brought pride to their institution by securing selection for the 12th State-Level Athletics Competitions. The prestigious competitions will be conducted on August 26 and 27, 2026, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Hanamkonda."The students demonstrated their sporting talent and hard work in various athletic events and earned the opportunity to compete at the state level. The selected athletes include L. Siddu, who will participate in the 1000-metre race, Rathod Arjun, who has been selected for the 400-metre race, and Charan Kumar, who will compete in Shot Put. Anjanna has been selected to participate in both the 600-metre race and Javelin Throw events."The selection of four students from the PTG Gurukulam School and College for the state-level competitions has generated excitement among the students, teachers and staff. The institution appreciated the dedica-

tion and consistent practice of the young athletes, stating that their selection reflects the importance being given to sports and physical education along with academics. The selected students will take part in the state-level competitions at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Hanamkonda, on August 26 and 27. The students are expected to compete against talented athletes from different districts across the state and strive to secure top positions in their respective events."The competition also provides an important opportunity for the students to advance to the national level. Students who perform exceptionally well and win at the state-level competitions will get an opportunity to participate in the National-Level Athletics Competitions to be held in Puducherry. The students are therefore preparing with confidence and determination to make the most of the opportunity."On the occasion of their selection, PTG School and College Principal Sujatha, Vice-Principal Ganesh, Physical Director, and PETs Hyder, Sarangapani and Satyanarayana, along with the teaching and non-teaching staff, congratulated the selected athletes."The school management and teachers encouraged the students to participate in the state-level competitions with confidence, discipline and a winning spirit. They expressed their hope that the students would showcase their best performance, win medals and bring recognition to the PTG Gurukulam School and College at the state and national levels. The selection of the students has been welcomed by fellow students and the school community, who extended their best wishes to L. Siddu, Rathod Arjun, Charan Kumar and Anjanna for their upcoming state-level athletics competitions.

Grand Vanamahotsava program in Tajpur village



Additional Collector of Local Bodies, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bhaskar Rao ""(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 25):- The Vanamahotsava program was grandly organized in the Tajpur Gram Panchayat limits of Bhuvanagiri Mandal. Additional Collector of Local Bodies, Bhaskar Rao participated as the chief guest in this program and planted and watered the saplings. Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Collector.... suggested that everyone should be a partner in environmental protection. He advised the officials and village panchayat staff to take special care of every sapling planted during Vanamahotsava and ensure that they grow into big trees. He said that it is very important not only to plant saplings but also to take appropriate steps for their care. He said that besides maintaining ecological balance, there is a need to plant saplings extensively to provide a clean and healthy environment for future generations. He suggested planting saplings in large numbers in empty



spaces, around government offices, schools, along roads and around ponds in villages. He said that steps should be taken to provide regular water to the planted saplings and protect them from livestock. He suggested that the officials should make all the people participants in the Vanamahotsava program and create awareness to plant saplings in every house and protect them. He said that by increasing greenery, the impact of climate change will be reduced and the surroundings of the villages will become pleasant. Later, various types of saplings were planted along with officials, public representatives and village panchayat staff. He suggested that the relevant staff should take the responsibility of protecting the planted saplings. District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy, District Forest Officer Sudhakar Reddy, ZP CEO Shobharani, District Panchayat Officer Srinivas, Deputy CEO Srinivas, Tajpur Village Sarpanch Rakala Santosh Srinivas, village panchayat staff, officials, public representatives and others participated in this program.

Ananth Mahadev's First Birthday Celebrations Held Grandly-

-Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attends as chief guest and blesses little Ananth Mahadev""UPPAL, AUGUST 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The first birthday celebrations of Ananth Mahadev, son of BRS party leader from Charlapally Division, Nemuri Mahesh Goud and Haritha, were held grandly at the CSB Convention Hall in Korremula."Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the celebrations as the chief guest and blessed little Ananth Mahadev. On the occasion, he conveyed his heartfelt wishes to Nemuri Mahesh Goud and Haritha. The MLA wished that Ananth Mahadev would be blessed with good health, happiness and a long, prosperous life, and that he would reach great heights in the future."Family members, relatives, friends, well-wishers, and a large number of BRS party leaders and workers attended the celebrations and conveyed their birthday wishes and blessings to the little one.



The government's goal is to complete irrigation projects in the state on time and provide full irrigation water to the designated ayacut:

State Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy issues orders to district collectors""(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 25):- ""The government's goal is to complete irrigation projects in the state on time and provide full irrigation water to the designated ayacut, and for this, State Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has instructed district collectors to resolve the pending land acquisition, rehabilitation-restoration (R&R) and forest issues within the scope of the projects as soon as possible."On Tuesday, State Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy held a review through video conference with the collectors of all districts from Hyderabad on the pending land acquisition and R&R issues within the scope of irrigation projects. " District Collector Anurag Jayanthi and Revenue Additional Collector Venka Reddy participated from this video conference hall."Speaking in this context, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the state government has paid special attention to providing irrigation water to the complete and specified ayacut of irrigation projects. He said that funds of about Rs. 2,800 crore have been released recently with the approval of the Chief Minister. He said that Rs. 1,080 crore has already reached the PD accounts of the district collectors and if necessary, the government is ready to release another Rs. 6 thousand crore at once. He ordered that the necessary land acquisition and pending R&R

payments should be identified and resolved in order of priority. He suggested that the officials should formulate an action plan to resolve the land acquisition and R&R issues related to all irrigation projects in the next 45 days. He suggested that the chief engineers should take land acquisition as a challenge and work on a war footing. He directed the Revenue Officers and local public representatives to expedite the land acquisition process by continuously coordinating with them. He said that tokens related to land acquisition and R&R should be completed expeditiously and land acquisition awards should be approved as soon as possible."He suggested that steps should be taken to ensure that the funds received in the PD accounts of the district collectors reach the eligible beneficiaries expeditiously, and that fair compensation should be provided to the farmers and land should be acquired in a timely manner. He wanted to involve public representatives in the land acquisition process and resolve local problems. The Minister told the collectors that any obstacles in land acquisition, R&R and forest issues related to irrigation projects should be resolved immediately and that necessary issues can be brought to his attention directly. He advised the collectors to continuously coordinate with the Secretary of the Irrigation Department and resolve the problems.

‘Abuse me, not Maharashtra’: Fadnavis hits back over ‘Missing Link’ landslide row

GNS News Agency, August 25

Responding to criticism over the recent landslide at the Pune-Mumbai Missing Link project, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis accused the Opposition of spreading misinformation and said those trying to discredit the project were effectively defaming Maharashtra.Addressing the Assembly during a discussion on issues concerning the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Fadnavis defended the project, saying the damage was limited and that traffic was restored within 18 hours.“This connecting link is not just a road; it is an engineering marvel. We have constructed the tallest bridge in India and one of the largest tunnels in the world. As a result, the entire ghat section has been bypassed, and accidents have been eliminated. Here, the arch was damaged due to debris from a landslide caused by rain, but there were no structural cracks. Yet, the opposition started projecting it as if seven thousand crores had gone down the drain. However, the road was reopened for traffic within 18 hours, right in their faces,” Fadnavis said, taunting the Opposition.He also warned those, particularly on social media, whom he accused of maligning the project.“I also want to tell those

who are paid to spread abuse on social media: defame me if you must, that is fine, but if you defame Maharashtra, I will not spare anyone,” he warned.Fadnavis reiterated that the damage was caused by heavy rainfall and accused the Opposition of deliberately misrepresenting the incident. He also credited the ruling Mahayuti alliance for executing the project, while taking a swipe at the previous government.“Such a bunch of liars have been born; they must have been born after a thousand liars died. It is because the Mahayuti alliance had the courage that this connecting link was built. The Konkan Railway was started in the same way; if it hadn’t been started, it would have remained the same. The Chief Minister of the previous government had written two pages citing 14 reasons why the missing link could not be built,” Fadnavis claimed, without naming then Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan.He ended by saying the project would outlast political criticism.“You can abuse Devendra Fadnavis; that is fine, I am used to it; I am ‘abuse-proof.’ I have learned only one thing in life: ten years from now, those who are hurling abuses will not be seen, but that connecting link will remain, and it will bear the names of Devendra Fadnavis and Eknath Shinde,” Fadnavis said.

Room locked, Rs 1.15 crore gone: South Delhi burglary echoes ‘kaccha baniyan’ gang

GNS News Agency, August 25

Room locked, Rs 1.15 crore gone: South Delhi burglary echoes ‘kaccha baniyan’ gangCCTV footage from the area showed four people scaling the boundary wall to enter the locality. (Image generated using AI)In May, Delhi Police arrested six alleged members of the ‘kaccha baniyan’ gang who had carried out two back-to-back robberies in South Delhi’s Sarvodaya Enclave.Forty-seven days later, burglars using a strikingly similar modus operandi targeted another upscale South Delhi neighbourhood, escaping with diamond jewellery and Rs 50,000 in cash worth around Rs 1.15 crore in all.On June 19, 54-year-old Amitabh Prasad and his wife woke up around 8 am to find themselves locked inside the bedroom of their ground-floor house in Vasant Kunj’s D Block.“They used a set of spare keys to unlock the door. When they came out, they found to their shock that their whole house had been turned upside down,” a police officer said.The cupboards had been ransacked, and diamond jewellery and Rs 50,000 in cash were missing. Prasad also found the living room window open.“CCTV footage from the area showed four people scaling the boundary wall to enter the locality. They then reached the house and accessed its rear by jumping over the gate,” said the officer.Police said CCTV footage from inside the house shows two men, both shirtless and wearing trousers. One had a saffron dupatta around his neck, while the other was

wearing a white mask. The two are seen moving through adjoining rooms, searching them before briefly stopping to speak to each other.“They got out from a window, and stayed on the rear porch for some time before leaving,” said a police official.D Block comprises a cluster of white and cream four-storey residential buildings with flats valued in crores of rupees. The gated locality is enclosed by boundary walls around 7-8 feet high, and is regularly patrolled by police.Nearly two weeks after the burglary, no arrests have been made.A senior police officer said investigators have not confirmed whether the suspects belong to the ‘kaccha baniyan’ gang, noting that they were wearing long trousers. Their identity, the officer said, can only be established after arrests are made.While investigators have stopped short of linking the burglary to the ‘kaccha baniyan’ gang, several aspects of the break-in mirror robberies attributed to the group in the past.On May 1, police said six men in their undergarments burgled a house in Sarvodaya Enclave. While three members waited in Vijay Mandal park nearby, three others entered the balcony of B-250, the house of businessman Praveen Kumar. Police said CCTV footage showed them locking both bedrooms where the family was asleep.They then snuck around the halls, opened drawers, and, within four minutes, allegedly escaped with jewellery worth Rs 1.5 to Rs 2 lakh. Praveen only realised it the next day, when he woke up to a locked door.

Karnataka defends 430-acre HMT forest land recovery amid Kumaraswamy attack

GNS News Agency, August 25

Rejecting Union Heavy Industries Minister H D Kumaraswamy’s claim, Khandre said the June 15 order of the forest department was not an attempt to block revival of the Central public sector undertaking but to prevent the company from usurping forest land.Khandre, who had served as the forest minister in the previous Siddaramaiah government, alleged that HMT had previously sold forest land to real estate companies. The 430 acres of land was granted to HMT in the 1960s.“It is HMT and not the forest department that has encroached on forest land that had not been converted (into industrial land). Is it possible to conduct real estate business on forest land declared under Section 64A of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963?” Khandre asked.Khandre explained that as per the Supreme Court ruling, any forest land that is not converted after the implementation of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, will remain forest land; as a consequence, unused land granted to HMT in the 1960s would remain forest land.“Even now, 280 acres of the land in HMT’s possession is forest plantation. Film and serial shooting takes place in the dilapidated buildings next door. HMT is illegally using forest land for commercial purposes. It has sold 165 acres of land for just Rs 300 crore,” Khandre said.“The forest land in the possession of HMT is the property of seven crore Kannadigas. This is an essential breathing space for the people of Bengaluru,” he said, indicating that the forest department plans to build a huge biological park over an area of 440 acres.

On Monday, Kumaraswamy said the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) N Ravindra Kumar had ordered HMT to surrender 430 acres of land in north Bengaluru, which is designated as forest land and was given to HMT for industrial purposes.“The matter is pending before the court. At such a sensitive stage, the State Government, through the Forest Department, has issued a notice and imposed a deadline. This amounts to interference with judicial proceedings,” Kumaraswamy said.

The union minister claimed that the order to recover the land had come at a time when the heavy industries ministry was trying to obtain a special revival package for HMT from the Centre to make up for sustained losses incurred by the firm for many years.“I have been making efforts to

convince the Prime Minister and the Union Finance Minister to approve a special package for HMT that comes under the Ministry of Heavy Industries. Just when the package was close to being announced, the State Government, with malicious intent, got such a notice issued,” Kumaraswamy alleged on Monday.Kumaraswamy, who heads the Janata Dal Secular party — a BJP ally at the Centre — alleged that the real estate mafia looted HMT’s land between 1999 and 2004 and he took the initiative to stop it when he became the CM for the first time in 2006.“Under the government of those who promised to turn Bengaluru into Singapore, HMT land was torn apart and devoured like vultures, without the slightest restraint,” said the JDS leader, a big critic of Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.He highlighted that HMT — once among India’s most prestigious and profitable industrial enterprises — continues to manufacture machinery for critical sectors, including space, defence and research, despite its difficult circumstances.The land recovery controversy revolves around nearly 599 acres of land in a plantation in the Peenya Jalahalli region of north Bengaluru, which was declared forest land in 1896 and was later transferred to HMT in the 1960s to create industrial infrastructure through a donation deed by the Bengaluru District Collector.Last year, the Congress Government issued an order to suspend a senior Indian Forest Service officer for allegedly facilitating the handover of forest land worth nearly Rs 15,000 crore held by HMT to third parties, including private entities.

In recent years, large portions of the land given to HMT by the forest department for industrial purposes have been used to facilitate major real estate projects through the connivance of state and central government officials.“This plantation is owned by HMT. It is illegal for the organization to sell to government departments/organizations and private individuals. However, the fact that forest officials did not make any attempt to recover the land and, without even drawing the attention of the Cabinet, submitted an Interim Application (IA) to the Supreme Court seeking denotification in 2020 is a cause for doubt,” the then forest minister, Khandre, said last year.In January 2025, the state government ordered that the forest department must take possession of 281 acres of the 599 acres of land donated to HMT that is lying vacant.

Why the universe is full of strange ‘little red dots’?

Sydney: In 2023, the James Webb Space Telescope revealed something strange: the distant reaches of the universe are filled with “little red dots” that astronomers still can’t quite explain.Booking Historical Guided ToursA new paper, published in Nature Astronomy, might have found the key to understanding their nature.It turns out these little red dots might actually be evidence of the earliest supermassive black holes. And they could hold clues to how stars and galaxies formed in the earliest years of the universe.Discovering the unexpectedThe James Webb Space Telescope is the most powerful telescope ever made and has enabled the discovery of things we had never imagined.This is the case for little red dots. Their name is a simple derivation of their appearance: they appear as very small compact dots that are “red” in colour (noting the James Webb Space Telescope sees in the infrared).These objects are extremely distant, and are seen at an epoch when the universe is only around one billion years old (based on the time it takes the light to reach us).Their compact size and extreme distance mean that most of their light comes from

an area smaller than 2% of the size of our Milky Way galaxy.Despite finding many of these distant objects, astronomers are still unclear what they might be. The current favoured theory is that most little red dots are young supermassive black holes, with some consuming matter at such a feverish rate that their “surface” acts like the surface of a star (termed “black hole stars”).Another theory is that some are regions of extreme star formation that form the most massive galaxies in the universe.To help unravel the mystery of little red dots, astronomers have been looking to the host galaxies they reside in for answers, aiming to understand how galaxies and supermassive black holes grow in tandem with each other.A new paper, led by Yiyang Zhang from Wuhan University in China, provides key insights astronomers have been looking for.Analysing more than 200 little red dotsThey used high-definition James Webb Space Telescope imaging of the distant universe over a region of space about three times the size of the Moon, known as the COSMOS-Web region (which you can view online).

Clubbing while running: How this Bengaluru club sold out a silent DJ event in 24 hours

GNS News Agency, August 25

Hundreds of runners wearing wireless headphones followed a moving DJ truck through J P Nagar this week-end, turning Bengaluru’s latest run club event into a viral spectacle and signalling how the city’s fitness culture is becoming as much about community and entertainment as exercise.The recent silent run was organised as part of Sangeetha Mobiles’s anniversary celebrations. Mile Run Club organised the event in collaboration with Sangeetha Mobiles and Hungry Shark Media.According to Gaurav Dobriyal, co-founder of Mile Run Club, the JP Nagar event was Bengaluru’s first silent DJ run. While DJ runs have been organised in the city, the combined wireless silent rave with a community-run element was a new experience. The event had 176 participants and sold out within 24 hours of registrations opening.Shift in approach to fitnessDobriyal said the concept reflects a larger shift in how people approach fitness today. “People now want more than just a workout; they want an experience. Events like these make fitness enjoyable rather than feeling like a task, while also helping people build genuine connections,” he said.“It is more than a trend. Young people today are becoming more focused on wellness and on building healthier lifestyles. Communities like these are giving them a fun way to stay active while creating meaningful social connections,” he said.“People have realised the importance of fitness, and running communities are creating experiences that encourage more people to stay active,” he added.

Dobriyal approached DJ Sam and introduced him to

Newlywed couple killed, man critically injured after car rams trailer on Bharatmala Expressway near Mohali

GNS News Agency, August 25

A newlywed couple from Himachal Pradesh and a family friend were killed after the SUV they were travelling in rammed into a trailer near the toll plaza on the Bharatmala Expressway at Gharuan, near Kharar in Mohali district, on Tuesday. The victims were returning to Himachal Pradesh after attending a wedding in Jind, Haryana, when the accident occurred.The deceased have been identified as 28-year-old Pratyush Jain, his 26-year-old wife Harsarita, both residents of Mahitpur village in Una district, and 65-year-old Suresh, a resident of Dehal village in Una district. Suresh, an advocate at the Punjab and Haryana High Court, was a close friend of Pratyush’s father.According to the police, Pratyush was driving a Hyundai Creta when the trailer ahead

allegedly applied sudden brakes, leaving him with little time to react. The SUV crashed into the rear of the trailer with such force that it was completely mangled, killing all three occupants.Pratyush and Harsarita had been married only six months ago.On receiving information about the accident, personnel from the Gharuan police station and emergency rescue teams rushed to the spot. Following a prolonged rescue operation, the bodies were extricated from the wrecked vehicle and sent for post-mortem examination.

The families have been informed.“The exact cause of the accident is being investigated. The trailer driver will also be questioned, and further legal action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation,” a police official said.

Karnataka officer ‘drugged, stripped, filmed’ in Rs 10 lakh extortion bid; 1 arrested

KAS officer assault, Bengaluru extortion case, gym trainer arrested, Karnataka Police, Rs 10 lakh extortion, B N Girish, Indian express news, Karnataka crime newsThe Channapatna police said Shivappa is a habitual offender and has been booked for his alleged anti-social activities. The Karnataka Police said Wednesday they have arrested a man for allegedly drugging, stripping, and assaulting a government officer in Bengaluru South district before filming him in a compromising position and demanding Rs 10 lakh to suppress the video.

A police officer said Anush Shivappa was arrested, based on a complaint lodged by Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) officer B N Girish on July 1, and has been sent to judicial custody. Girish, a revenue officer in Channapatna, named Shivappa and his two associates, Shobharaj and Naveen, in his complaint.The police said they are searching for two other accused and probing the alleged extortion conspiracy.The police said Shivappa, 34, who hails from Chamaraajanagar district, works as a gym trainer in Mysuru. He is a habitual offender and has been booked for his alleged anti-social activities, they added.Shivappa later threatened Girish that he would release the videos on social media if he didn’t pay Rs 10 lakh within the next 24 hours.According to Girish, the accused also took away an 8-gram gold ring, valued at approximately Rs 50,000, and a 14-gram gold chain, valued at approximately Rs 1,20,000, along with other personal items.“While the complainant states that he knew Anush through social circles, we are also investigating to what extent they know each other. Anush ran a chit business that incurred losses, and he was in dire need of money. He decided to extort

money from Girish. We are in the process of recovering the video,” a police officer said.

The officer told the police that he came into contact with Shivappa on Facebook while serving as the tahsildar in Mysuru.Introducing himself as the head of a social organisation, Rashtriya Shivashakthi Sena Pade, Shivappa sought Girish’s help in shooting promotional videos for its activities. After Girish was transferred to Channapatna, Shivappa allegedly approached him again, this time offering to make videos showcasing the officer’s public service and community work.According to the complaint, Shivappa contacted Girish on Facebook late on June 28, saying he was travelling from Mysuru to Bengaluru and wanted to stop by to shoot a video before continuing his journey.Shivappa arrived at Girish’s residence around 2 am on June 29, along with Shobharaj and Naveen. The three reportedly brought alcohol with them and, despite initial reluctance from Girish, persuaded him to let them drink inside the house.Girish alleged that Shivappa gave him a glass of orange juice, after which he began feeling drowsy. Girish said he gained consciousness around 5 am after being slapped on his face and hit on his legs, and he was naked. Girish alleged that he was also assaulted, which was captured on camera by Shivappa and others.Around 7.15 am, they dropped Girish at the Channapatna government hospital.The Channapatna town police booked Shivappa on charges of attempt to murder, voluntarily causing hurt, wrongful restraint, common intention, extortion, criminal intimidation, including with threat of death, and intentional insult to provoke breach of peace under the provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

IIT Kanpur Professor booked after wife alleges domestic violence, harassment



An IIT Kanpur professor has been booked after his wife, also an IIT faculty member, alleged domestic violence, assault, harassment and marital cruelty. Kalyanpur police registered a case and began investigation based on her complaint, which includes allegations of intimidation and abuse

New Delhi: A professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has been booked by the Kalyanpur police following a complaint filed by his wife, who has alleged domestic violence, physical assault, mental harassment and marital cruelty. The complainant is also a faculty member at IIT Kanpur, serving as an assistant professor. According to the complainant, the woman married IIT Kanpur professor Nishith Srivastava in December 2012. The couple has two minor children.

The woman has alleged that she and her children have

been living under constant mental stress and fear for the past several months due to the alleged behaviour of her husband.In her complaint, the woman has alleged that her husband was involved in a relationship with a married PhD scholar who was working under him in 2022. She has further alleged that since November 2025, he has been involved in another alleged inappropriate relationship with a female professor.The complainant claimed that when she objected to the alleged relationships, her husband’s behaviour became more aggressive. She alleged that she was pressured to accept the situation and remain silent. The woman has accused her husband of physical violence and intimidation. She alleged that on November 11, 2025, her husband damaged household items, threw belongings and destroyed her children’s books during an argument. She further alleged that he threatened her with a kitchen knife during the incident. The complaint also mentions an alleged incident on January 15, 2026.The woman claimed that after she confronted her husband over the alleged relationship, he assaulted her, resulting in injuries to her eye, ear and head. The complainant has also alleged that on July 5, 2026, her husband attempted to enter the house against her wishes, following which she called security personnel and a dispute took place.She further alleged that CCTV cameras installed at the residence were being used to continuously monitor her and her children’s activities. The woman has submitted documents to the police, including photographs of alleged injuries, CCTV-related records, emails sent to the security department, and copies of complaints submitted to the IIT Kanpur police outpost and other officials.She has requested legal action against her husband and sought protection for herself and her children.Based on the complaint, Kalyanpur police have registered a case and started an investigation. The allegations have not yet been independently verified.

Vertical campuses to residential schools: Inside Delhi’s new education blueprint



GNS News Agency, August 25

Soon, Delhi could see private universities, residential schools, and taller school and university buildings as policy changes propose easing restrictions on how educational institutions can be built and operated in the capital. The changes come through the Delhi government’s proposed private universities law and the newly notified Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2047, and are aimed at making better use of the city’s limited land while expanding its education infrastructure. Delhi to open doors to private universities

Early in August, the Delhi Cabinet gave a nod to the draft Bill relating to the establishment and incorporation of Private Universities in Delhi. Compared to other states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, the city lacked a framework to run private varsities. The Bill was to be introduced during the Delhi assembly monsoon session, but did not come up for discussion. Keeping the city’s geographical limitations and limited land availability in mind, the government had said the Bill will “enable the development of modern, multi-storey urban campuses suited to a land-constrained metropolis like Delhi”. It had also allowed international institutions and their off-campus centres to set up campuses in the city. One fourth of the seats in all private universities are proposed to be reserved for Delhi students. The plan, for the first time, permits residential schools to operate in the city. Another major change is the removal of height restrictions on schools and universities and permitting more dense construction, which will allow them to either build larger floors or more floors. For instance, in case

of schools with classes up to XII standard, the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) has been loosened up to 180, which was 150 in the MPD-2021. This means that if a school is built on the minimum required plot size of 4,000 square metres and uses the maximum ground coverage allowed of 40%, then it can build 4.5 floors. If it uses only 20% of the ground coverage, it can build up to 9 floors. Since height restrictions have been removed, if the school uses even less ground coverage, it can go even higher.

As per the plan, schools have to use at least 15% of the FAR for developing infrastructure for extra-curricular activities as applicable under the National Education Policy. For universities, while the FAR remains the same, height restrictions have been removed, which will pave the way for vertical campuses described in the Delhi private universities bill. The plan also permits coaching and vocational centres to function from schools, after school hours. “This has come after we pushed for it, so that students don’t have to take coaching in narrow streets where there can be fire hazards,” Education Minister Ashish Sood told The Indian Express. Narela education hub gets biggerMPD-2047 also allocates 340 acres in Narela for an education hub where private and public universities can be set up. This is an increase of over 180 acres from the existing 160 acres earlier proposed for the hub.

“The plan also makes changes which will make it easier for private universities to acquire large parcels of land, if required, in the education hub,” Sood said, adding that through these changes, the government is attempting to prevent Delhi’s education industry from going out of Delhi. In January, the Delhi Teachers University and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University were given possession letters for land parcels in Narela Education City measuring roughly 12 acres and 22 acres respectively. Before that, Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW) was also allotted 50 acres in the area. The plan also positions roughly 150 square km of land on the border of Delhi as an institutional area under the Low Density Area (LDA) category. Schools, colleges, universities, research institutes and coaching centres can come up in this area. They have been granted a FAR of 120, higher than other land uses of residential or commercial, essentially incentivising them to come up here.

Man found dead, intestines in envelope, wife accused: A brutal Haryana murder



GNS News Agency, August 25The body of a 40-year-old man in a pool of blood, a 35-centimetre cut in his abdomen and his wife’s jump from the roof – a residential neighbourhood in Haryana’s Kurukshetra has been shaken by a grisly murder that has spawned many questions. The main accused in Rajesh’s murder is his wife, Vimla Devi, but police are yet to confirm the motive. Vimla, who has suffered injuries after she jumped off the roof of the building where the couple stayed on rent, has been arrested.

Police said the couple, who were from Uttar Pradesh’s Sitapur district, had been living in Kurukshetra for about a year. Rajesh worked as a water supplier for a water trading company on Kurukshetra’s Pehowa Road. Surender Singh, Station House Officer (SHO) of Kurukshetra University police station, said police received information about a quarrel between the couple on Saturday evening and reached the

spot soon after. “When the police reached there, Rajesh was found in a pool of blood. He was dead,” he said. According to the police, Vimla allegedly attacked Rajesh before jumping from the roof. She is now in hospital. Police said she would be questioned after her condition improves.

Intestines found in envelope: PoliceSources said the postmortem examination found that Rajesh’s abdomen had been cut open by approximately 35 centimetres. The injuries were so deep that his intestines had come out. Sources also claimed that parts of his liver and his right kidney were found missing. “She had taken out his intestines and put them in an envelope, and it is possible that she wanted to make them disappear,” said the SHO. The landlord, Rinku, told the local media that he rented out a room to the couple nearly a year ago. He said he heard Rajesh and Vimla shouting around 5 pm on Saturday and went to the roof after hearing the commotion. There, he found Rajesh in a pool of blood with severe injuries on his abdomen. Police have recovered three knives of different sizes from the spot. Rinku also told local media that the couple frequently quarrelled. Police are yet to establish any other reason that led to the murder. “The reasons would become clear after her interrogation. If required, police will seek her remand from the court,” the SHO said. The couple had no children and had been married for years, police have found. They are now investigating what could have led to the murder, which stands out for the brutality.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay announces 3 free LPG cylinders, expansion of free travel scheme

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday announced that his government would provide three free cooking-gas cylinders every year to eligible women-headed households and expanded the scheme offering free bus travel for women. Making the announcement in the Assembly, Vijay said the ‘Annapoorani Super Six’ Scheme would benefit about 1.30 crore families and cost the state exchequer approximately Rs 4,000 crore annually. The scheme, announced by his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam party ahead of the state election, is scheduled to take effect during Pongal in January.

The announcement adds another large welfare programme aimed at women to a series unveiled by the four-month-old TVK government. Vijay began his speech by referring to the Singappen Special Rapid Action Force Scheme, Thai Maaman Gold Ring Scheme, Vetri Women’s Goat-Rearing Scheme and Annan Seer Scheme, saying funds had been allocated and implementation was under way. He said the government had also prepared its Vetri Vision Plan, setting targets for programmes to be implemented over its first, third and fifth years in office, with several of them focused on women. Vijay linked the latest measure to the shortage and rising cost of cooking gas, which he said had followed the continuing conflict in the Gulf region.

“For the past four months, owing to the war situation prevailing in the Gulf region, there has been a shortage in the availability of cooking-gas cylinders,” he said. “As a result, because people have been using alternative fuels and because of the increase in the price of gas cylinders, the public have been forced to spend additional amounts from their income and are facing hardship.” The Chief Minister acknowledged the state’s fiscal constraints but said his government had decided to proceed with the election commitment. “Taking this into consideration, even amid a situation of financial constraint, in order to reduce the financial burden on the public, protect their welfare and fulfil the promise made to the people, the government has decided to provide them the amount being spent on cooking-gas cylinders,” Vijay said. “Therefore, for the benefit of women heads of households, in the first phase, three free cooking-gas cylinders a year will be provided under the Annapoorani Super Six Scheme.”

Unlike a system in which cylinders themselves are distributed by the government, beneficiaries will book and receive LPG cylinders through the existing distribution network. The government will then obtain the transaction details from oil companies and reimburse the cylinder price directly into beneficiaries’ bank accounts. According to Vijay, eligibility will cover “economically disadvantaged families with an annual income not exceeding Rs 2.5 lakh, small and marginal farming families, transgender families, and other vulnerable families in society.” “Through this scheme, approximately 1 crore 30 lakh 16 thousand 104 families will benefit,” he said. Preparatory work had already begun, Vijay told the House, and the programme would be launched with Pongal. “I wish to inform this House, through the Honourable Speaker, that approximately Rs 4,000 crore will be allocated every year for this scheme,” he said. The free-cylinder promise was among the prominent household welfare commitments Vijay presented when TVK released its election manifesto in April. Vijay also announced a sweeping expansion of free bus travel for women, extending the benefit to several categories of government buses that had so far remained outside the programme and removing restrictions on both income and the number of journeys. The expanded programme, renamed Vetri Payanam, will take effect on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, and is expected to cost the state approximately Rs 6,000 crore annually. Vijay told the Assembly. In its first phase, women will be permitted to travel free not only on ordinary buses in metropolitan cities and towns but also on Express, LSS and Deluxe government buses operating in metropolitan and urban areas. More significantly for women outside the major cities, free travel will be extended to ordinary-fare mofussil and hill-route buses, allowing journeys between districts.

“There is no income ceiling to benefit under this scheme, nor is there any restriction on the number of journeys one wishes to undertake,” Vijay said. He added that transgender persons would also be eligible and that Vetri Payanam would “be gradually extended to other services.” The announcement substantially widens one of Tamil Nadu’s most consequential welfare interventions for women, first introduced by the previous DMK government. By the time the DMK faced the election, the free bus programme had recorded about 68 crore journeys, with the government estimating that a beneficiary saved, on average, Rs 888 a month.

Vijay framed his government’s expansion not simply as a transport subsidy but as an intervention intended to increase women’s access to education, employment and healthcare. “The true progress of a state is measured not merely by its economic growth, but also by the opportunities available to women to participate freely and safely in all spheres of life – education, employment, healthcare, busi-



ness and social life,” he said. “Women’s freedom of movement forms the foundation for their economic freedom and for the advancement of their families.” Under the existing programme, Vijay said, free travel was limited to journeys of up to 40 kilometres on ordinary buses in metropolitan and urban areas and on hill-route buses, while Express, LSS, Deluxe and mofussil services were excluded. “This government gives priority to the principle of social justice that no woman living in any part of Tamil Nadu should lose her opportunities because of transportation costs,” he said. The expansion could be particularly significant outside Chennai and other urban centres, where longer journeys for work, college or medical care often require services that were not covered by the existing free-travel programme. “Through this, girl students will be able to travel to colleges located far away, women will be able to travel to their workplaces, and they will be able to travel by bus without paying fares for healthcare and essential services,” Vijay said. The Chief Minister repeatedly characterised the expenditure as an investment rather than merely a welfare outlay. “Vetri Payanam is not merely a free bus journey,” he said. “It is a social investment that ensures a girl student’s education, a worker’s employment, a mother’s family responsibilities, and an entrepreneur’s advancement.”

Konda Surekha’s former OSD Sumanth case: Three more arrested in alleged assault, extortion case



Hyderabad: The Police have arrested three more persons in connection with the alleged assault and extortion case involving Minister Konda Surekha’s former OSD Sumanth. Khairatabad Task Force police arrested Arun Kumar, Mahender Reddy and Karthik Reddy at Martur in Andhra Pradesh and handed them over to Jubilee Hills police for further investigation.

The case was registered following a complaint by a real estate businessman, who alleged that a group attacked him with iron rods and threatened him, demanding Rs 10 crore. The police had booked Sumanth and five others including Prashanth, Ramu, Karthik, Arun Kumar Reddy and Mahender Reddy under Section 109 of the BNS. With the latest arrests, four persons have been arrested so far in the case. Police said efforts continue to trace the remaining suspects and are investigating the alleged assault and extortion attempt.

Minor held with 48 kg marijuana worth Rs 24.5 lakh in Hyd

Hyderabad: The Task Force (Khairatabad) team along with Abid Road police, arrested a minor boy an alleged interstate drug peddler in Nampally on Sunday.

Police seized 48 kg of marijuana worth Rs 24.5 lakh, packed in 24 packets and concealed in bags.

Gujarat doctors race against metabolism to save those who drank toxic liquor



In the Bhavnagar tragedy, many patients started going to hospitals only after it was reported in the news, and many of them were taken to hospitals by the police.

GNS News Agency, August 25

On August 18, Upendrasinh Chandrasinh Gohil, 25, became the first casualty of the latest liquor tragedy in the ‘dry state’ of Gujarat, where a prohibition policy has been in force since the 1960s. Within six days, the death count of the Bhavnagar liquor tragedy has reached 13. A total of 60 people have been affected after consumption of the methanol-laced drink. The Bhavnagar tragedy comes four years after 42 people died across three districts of Gujarat in a “laththa kaand” – a Gujarati expression used to refer to poisoning due to contaminated liquor. Before 2022, hooch tragedies in Gujarat claimed 148 lives in Ahmedabad in 2009, 132 in Vadodara in 1989, and 101 in Ahmedabad in 1977.

What is a ‘laththa kaand’?

In Gujarat, a ‘laththa kaand’ refers to loss of lives or hospitalisations due to consumption of illegally manufactured liquor. While licensed liquor manufacturers use ethyl alcohol, hooch makers replace it with cheap ingredients such as industrial-grade Methanol, highly toxic to the human body. In most cases, this drink is illegally marketed and sold as country liquor or moonshine. But in the Bhavnagar incident, this Methanol-laced liquor was filled into bottles of a popular brand of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) using forged stickers and caps and sold to unwitting victims. Police believe that 25 cartons comprising a total of 300 bottles of this toxic concoction were sold to retail bootleggers. This means that at 750 ml per bottle, 225 litres of this poisonous drink were in circulation. Forensic reports have found that this liquor contained 38.59 per cent Methanol. In comparison, the toxic drink that led to the 2022 tragedy was 98 per cent Methanol.

What are the symptoms?

The Indian Express spoke to Dr Sunil Panjwani, Head of the Department of General Medicine, at Sir Takhtasinhji General Hospital in Bhavnagar, whose team has treated patients after this tragedy, and the one in 2022. “The symptoms start with nausea, vomiting, blurring of vision, and breathlessness. There are also neurological symptoms such as clumsiness. Generally, symptoms start after 2-4 hours. But if a large amount of the tainted liquor was consumed, they could begin immediately... Breathlessness and kidney (acidosis) symptoms begin after 10-12 hours.” In the Bhavnagar case, most victims reached the hospital 48 hours after they consumed the toxic drink. “The first patient with a history of consumption was admitted in a private hospital and then sent to us on August 18. Three more came by evening. This was when we came to know that adulterated alcohol was in circulation,” said Dr Panjwani.

How ‘Patient Zero’ was identifiedWhen the doctors suspected that a hooch tragedy may have occurred, it was found that a patient with symptoms similar to those of the methanol poisoning victims had been admitted to the hospital a day earlier. Kartik Ashwin Makwana (40), identified as ‘patient zero’, was admitted to Sir Takhtasinhji General

Hospital on August 17. But he allegedly did not inform doctors about drinking the toxic liquor. “So we asked his relatives again and found out that he had also consumed it. We added him retrospectively to the list of victims,” said Dr Panjwani. Makwana died later.

What does Methanol do to humans?The metabolic breakdown of Methanol in the human body creates Formaldehyde (used in embalming fluid) and then the highly corrosive Formic Acid (used in rust removers), causing acidosis in the liver. In extreme cases, this leads to multi-organ failure and death. A person’s metabolic rate, amount of the toxic drink consumed, and the time lapse before treatment begins contribute to the medical outcome. Take the case of Sanjay Lakshman Dodiya, who went from Bhavnagar to Surat and then felt the ill effects of the toxic drink. He was declared brain dead two days before he succumbed to cardiac arrest on August 23. According to the FIR, the toxicology report stated that Makwana had 0.0847 per cent W/V (weight per volume percentage) of Methanol in his blood. This, when converted to the clinical unit of milligrams per decilitre, comes to 84 mg of Methanol per 100 ml of his blood, said doctors. To put this into context, according to Indian law, 30 mg of Blood Alcohol Content per 100 ml of blood is enough to get a citation for Driving Under the Influence. In the case of 25-year-old Upendrasinh Chandrasinh Gohil, the first victim, the Methanol concentration was 0.0773 per cent W/V – 77 mg of Methanol per 100 ml of his blood. Dr Panjwani said, “This is not pure laththa (hooch). Pure hooch is more than 70 per cent Methanol... In this case, there was Ethanol too... which is an antidote against Methanol.”

Ethanol is among two treatment protocols used to treat Methanol poisoning, the other being Fomepizole, an intravenous drug used in both Methanol and Ethylene Glycol poisoning cases and much more potent than Ethanol. In the Bhavnagar tragedy, many patients started going to hospitals only after it was reported in the news, and many of them were taken to hospitals by the police. Dr Panjwani said, “Both Ethanol and Fomepizole stop Methanol from being metabolised into its other states of Formaldehyde and Formic Acid.” “If a patient comes very early, Fomepizole is administered. But once the Methanol has had time to metabolise into Formic Acid, chances of the drug working get reduced. When Formic Acid has been formed, we administer Folinic Acid and Folic Acid (which breaks down Formic Acid into carbon dioxide and water).”

Dr Kairavi Joshi, Medical Superintendent of the hospital, said they received supplies of Fomepizole from Ahmedabad. The state government has procured more and distributed them to private hospitals too. Hospital officials said those affected are undergoing dialysis through the day. In a silver lining, some patients have also been discharged. Dr Panjwani said they were admitted and checked for poisoning. “We conducted the Absolute Basophil Count blood test every 6 hours. It tells us two things. One is the blood pH level that confirms acidosis. The other is the level of bicarbonate – if it is low, the patient needs dialysis. If three consecutive tests in 18 hours come back normal, there are no clinical symptoms, and the patient has good vital signs, they can be discharged.”

Why delay in reporting Methanol deaths?

On the night of August 19, 42-year-old teacher Hitesh Dileep Parmar was found dead at his Bhavnagar home. His body was slumped next to his bed, and a glass of the poisonous liquor had spilt in front of him. As the hooch tragedy claimed one life after another, there was a distinct lag by the district administration in confirming the deaths. The official reason cited was that the forensic lab had to confirm that the cause of death was Methanol poisoning.

The Indian Express spoke to a senior forensic expert. “In poisoning cases, you cannot identify the poison itself. You reach an opinion when you get FSL reports of toxicology analysis. We take samples of stomach, liver, kidneys and blood and send them for testing. Whether it shows up in the results also depends on the concentration of the poison in the body,” the doctor said, requesting anonymity. “Results of the toxicology report also depend on whether the patient has directly died due to a lethal dose of the poison, or they have undergone treatment, as the latter would also dilute the amount of poison in the body and only trace amounts may be found during postmortem.”

US vows 'economic D-Day' as Iran threatens to halt all oil exports



CAIRO/WASHINGTON, GNS News Agency, August 25 The U.S. threatened Iran with what it called "the greatest financial offensive ever marshalled" as it prepared to roll out economic sanctions on Monday that target Iran's trade partners.Iran in turn vowed "to shut down all oil exports from the Gulf "if the economic war continues."

The Reuters Power Up newsletter by columnist Ron Bousso provides everything you need to know about the global energy industry. Sign up here.U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will hold a press conference at 1 p.m. EDT (1700 GMT) on Monday amid promises to reveal even more severe measures on a country that has endured near-continuous economic sanctions since the Islamic Revolution of 1979."At dawn begins an economic D-Day — the single greatest financial offensive ever marshalled against an adversary," Bessent wrote in an opinion piece published in the Financial Times on Sunday.The warring nations have not conducted military strikes against each other for weeks, but they also have not engaged in meaningful talks to end the six-month-old conflict.

Thousands of people have died, most of them in Iran and Lebanon, since the U.S. and Israel began strikes on February 28, degrading much of Iran's conventional military capacity and inflicting economic pain while killing Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.But Iran has preserved enough missile and drone capability to attack its Gulf neighbours and threaten oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, bringing shipping in the key waterway to a near standstill and pressuring world fuel prices. The exact state of Iran's nuclear program, which the Americans and Israelis aim to wipe out, remains unknown.Without detailing specific measures, Bessent signalled the U.S. would target "fearful nations" that practice "appeasement" by engaging with Iran's economy and financial system."They would do

well "to consider the consequences of sustaining it," he wrote in the Financial Times.Iran has been bracing for the sanctions for days, issuing a series of strongly worded statements hinting at a major military response.

Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, on Sunday suggested economic retaliation."If the economic war continues, not a single drop of oil will be exported, neither through the Strait of Hormuz nor from anywhere in the Persian Gulf," Rezaei wrote in a social media post. "Iran will regard any country's participation in or support for America's economic war against the Iranian people as an act of war."Bessent previously urged China to cooperate with the U.S., noting China historically has received half of its oil imports from the Gulf region. A spokesperson for China's embassy in Washington responded with a statement that "sanctions and pressure do not help resolve the problem," while calling for diplomacy.Iran's economy was already under pressure from international sanctions before the U.S. and Israeli attacks destroyed parts of its infrastructure.

Though Tehran remains outwardly defiant, Iranian officials have warned that further economic punishment could increase hardships, reignite unrest and further erode the Islamic Republic's legitimacy.Iran entered the war with high inflation, a weakening currency, energy shortages, sanctions and deep structural weaknesses, and must now contend with damaged infrastructure, disrupted trade, lost production and the cost of rebuilding.In the absence of official face-to-face talks between the U.S. and Iran, which were last conducted in June in Switzerland, other nations including Qatar, Pakistan and Turkey have attempted to promote diplomacy.Iran said Pakistan's army chief, Asim Munir, will visit Tehran on Monday as part of efforts to restore peace and security in the region, but gave few details.

Pakistan has been mediating in the conflict and a Pakistani government source said Munir would touch on recent developments including the U.S. threat of new sanctions.U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran and Israeli attacks on Lebanon during the war have killed thousands and displaced millions. The U.S. reported 18 military personnel killed and more than 750 wounded.Reporting by Yasmine Ghania in Cairo and Kanishka Singh in Washington; Writing by Daniel Trotta; Editing by Chris Reese and Christian SchmollingerOur Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles., opens new tabKanishka Singh is a breaking news reporter for Reuters in Washington DC, who primarily covers US politics and national

Why does it feel like the US and Iran are stuck in an endless conflict loop?



If you feel a sense of déjà vu with the state of the US–Iran war, you're not alone.In recent days, Iran has again demanded the Trump administration lift sanctions on the country, unfreeze Iranian assets and remove its military blockade, in return for Iran opening the Strait of Hormuz. This basically reiterates what the two sides agreed to in a memorandum of understanding in June.US President Donald Trump responded by demanding Iran pay compensation for thousands of US soldiers and Iran's own civilians killed over the past 50 years.

He is also claiming (again) the US has "total control" over the Strait of Hormuz, while Iran maintains the strait will remain closed until the US has met its conditions.With both sides stuck in a rinse-and-repeat cycle in their rhetoric, it seems all the more likely they will again resort to military strikes to try to force the other side to concede. This has been the pattern both have followed since the war began on February 28.

Can this pattern ever be broken, and what would it take?

When Trump feels backed into a corner, he reacts in a predictable way. At least seven times to date, he has threatened mass destruction of Iranian transport, energy infrastructure and even "civilisation". He has then changed tack, calling off military strikes and claiming Iran and the US are getting closer to a deal.The Iranian regime, meanwhile, has switched between engaging in direct diplomatic engagement and negotiations via intermediaries to refusing to engage and ruling out talks.The US has also gone back and forth on its approach to the Strait of Hormuz. Trump announced a naval blockade on Iranian ports on April 13, then doubled down by announcing Operation Project Freedom on May 4 to escort vessels through the strait. That operation was paused only two days later.The US formally lifted the blockade when the two sides reached their deal on June 18 to end the war, but reimposed it when the deal fell apart weeks later.Both sides have since returned to violence, with the US targeting Iranian assets and the Iranian regime striking countries in the region and vessels in the strait. There have been at least 84 incidents involving harm to vessels in the strait from March 1 to August 10.Trump

does seem to want to withdraw the US from the war, and Iran cannot withstand the economic and military pressure indefinitely.

Given this, why do these patterns keep recurring without any progress toward a resolution?

The US will not accept strategic defeatTrump faces two options to break this conflict loop, and neither is good.One option is to accept strategic defeat, lift the US blockade on Iran's ports and withdraw its military assets from the region, leaving Iran in de facto control of the strait.He appeared willing to do this by signing the memorandum of understanding in June. However, after reaching a deal, the Trump administration immediately began encouraging vessels to travel via shipping lanes close to Oman that are not controlled by Iran.

Iran took objection to this, insisting the memorandum gave it control of shipping in the strait. On July 7, the regime targeted vessels travelling the southern "Omani route" through the waterway.The US responded with air strikes, and the conflict cycle kicked off again. It was clear that, despite what was signed in June, the US did not want to accept a strategic defeat that involved giving Iran control over the strait.The US has a second option, but this, too, is not desirable. This would involve serious military escalation involving US boots on the ground in Iran.This could very well break the tit-for-tat conflict cycle and force Iran's hand. But it would also involve high political risk and military costs for the US and the region, which in an election year could be disastrous for Trump and his Republican Party.Iran is focused on regime survival, not peaceOn the Iranian side, the regime is alternating between trying to reach agreement with the US to alleviate the economic stress on the country, and holding onto its main point of leverage: complete control over the Strait of Hormuz.The regime sees this conflict as existential, which is why it is so fixated on controlling the strait and accepting a long war.The new supreme leader of Iran, Mojtaba Khamenei, recently filled six top security and defence positions with hardliners fiercely loyal to the regime, seemingly preparing Iran for a sustained war.This includes the appointment of Mohsen Rezaei, a headline ideologue, as secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Iran's central security body. A commander in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) during the long Iran–Iraq war, Rezaei said in April he welcomed a US ground invasion because "we would take thousands of hostages and then for each hostage we would get a billion dollars". Trump expects the Iranian regime to buckle under repeated economic and military pressure, but this only seems to be hardening Iran's resistance. For a regime under strain and unpopular with its own people, focusing on an external threat and a long war may be the surest way to guarantee regime unity and survival.The conflict loop could break if either side is politically and militarily exhausted to the point that ending the war is desirable above all other options. However, that point might still be far away.

Egypt, Iran discuss diplomatic efforts to ease regional tensions



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.Executive Branch

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.

Oil falls as US prepares to unveil new Iran sanctions



SINGAPORE,GNS News Agency, August 25 Oil prices slipped more than \$1 a barrel on Monday as investors took profits ahead of an expected announcement from Washington about imposing more sanctions on Iran that may further disrupt supplies from the Middle East.Brent crude futures fell \$1.49, or 1.6%, to \$92.90 by 0649 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$85.32 a barrel, down \$1.74, or 2%.

Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here.Both contracts posted their second consecutive weekly gains last week, up more than 5%, as peace talks between the U.S. and Iran hit a stalemate, capping oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, where a fifth of the world's supply used to transit.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who is set to hold a press conference at 2 p.m. EDT (1800 GMT) on Monday, has threatened to impose "the toughest sanctions in history" on Iran. President Donald Trump has also threat-

ened to impose sanctions on Iran's trading partners."Oil slipped after a two-week rally as traders awaited the US plan to economically isolate Iran due later Monday," said Saxo Bank analysts in a note.Iran has condemned U.S. plans to announce new sanctions even as President Masoud Pezeshkian called for a diplomatic solution."The more pragmatic members of the Iranian leadership would prefer to de-escalate but the hardliners would probably prefer to fight to the bitter end," IG markets analyst Tony Scamore said.

"I think by the end of this week we will have a good idea which side of the Iranian leadership has the upper hand."Offers of Iranian crude to Chinese buyers have declined and prices have jumped as the U.S. blockade has cut Tehran's shipments, according to trade sources.However, Iran has granted permission for a number of Iraqi oil tankers to pass through the Strait of Hormuz following repeated requests from Baghdad, Iran's state news agency IRNA reported on Saturday.Some analysts expect the recovery in supplies from the Middle East to take even longer than anticipated as the U.S.-Iran conflict persists."Crude (supply) is tightening. Recent weeks have seen one of the sharpest declines in oil-on-water, whilst onshore inventories are declining as well, including in China," said Morgan Stanley analysts in a note."A reduction in supply is driving this, most notably from the Middle East where several data sources put aggregate exports back at March/April levels," they said, slowing their assumption for a recovery in Middle East supplies.Meanwhile, fewer than 20 commodity vessels transited the Strait of Hormuz at the weekend, shipping data showed on Monday, as Iranian and U.S. blockades restrict traffic through the chokepoint for energy shipments.

‘Have heard big words before’: JUI-F chief takes dig at Asim Munir, recalls 1971 Pakistan surrender

Islamabad: Senior Pakistani leader and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has launched a sharp attack on Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, recalling the country's humiliating defeat in the 1971 war against India and warning that prolonged oppression, violence and bloodshed could eventually lead to fresh geographical changes in the region.Addressing a JUI-F convention in Peshawar, Rehman questioned the military establishment's repeated claims of strength and its aggressive posture while pointing to the hardships being faced by ordinary people across the country. Taking a direct swipe at the top military leadership, the JUI-F chief said, "We are the protectors of this country. No one's father can harm this country. I agree, you are very powerful," while questioning whether such assertions of power could protect the country from internal turmoil and growing public distress.Rehman then drew a parallel between the present-day statements of Pakistan's military leadership and the events surrounding the 1971 war with India. He recalled how the Pakistani military had made strong declarations of continuing the fight until the very end before eventually surrendering in Dhaka.The 13-day India-Pakistan war in December 1971 ended with the surrender of around 93,000 Pakistani troops in Dhaka on December 16. The defeat resulted in the collapse of Pakistan's eastern wing and ultimately led to the creation of Bangladesh.

Recalling the statements made by then Pakistan President and military ruler General Yahya Khan shortly before the surrender, Rehman said the establishment had made similarly strong claims in the past but failed to deliver on those declarations when the situation reached its decisive stage."But I remember, and maybe some elders will too, that in December 1971, one day before laying down arms,

General Yahya Khan had addressed the Army and had said, 'We will fight in the streets, deserts, fields, factories, mountains, and we will fight against them. We will fight'. We heard these big words then, too," Rehman said. "Why are you putting the country and the people to the test? Why are you having fun when your public is suffering?" Rehman asked, highlighting what he described as the continuing distress of the Pakistani people.

Referring to the prolonged period of conflict and bloodshed in the region, he said that violence and instability had continued for decades, raising concerns over their possible consequences for the country's future."When the revolution came in Afghanistan in 1989, and the war started... It's been 45-46 years; blood has been flowing for about half a century. When blood flows like this, then it is a sign of geographical changes," the JUI-F chief stated. "If it is a sign of oppression. Then at least inform us of your intentions. We are tolerating it and will continue to tolerate it," Rehman said.Additionally, Rehman has slammed Asim Munir, alleging that powers belonging to Parliament and the federal government have been concentrated in the hands of one individual. "You may be the Army Chief, Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal too — we have no objection to that — but the powers that should belong to Parliament have been handed over to a single individual in the establishment," he said.Fazlur Rehman further alleged that Parliament could be sidelined in future lawmaking and constitutional amendments, saying: "Bringing the government onto their path and keeping it under the boot may be easier for them." "And they say that if any decision needs to be made, the federal government will do it — meaning Parliament has been sidelined from it too," Fazlur Rehman added. He said the opposition must unite inside Parliament to resist what he described as a fundamental shift in constitutional powers.

Netanyahu vows no return to pre-October 7 status quo in

GNS News Agency, August 25Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz held a situational assessment on Sunday and warned Hamas of increased targeted strikes if the launch of balloons and kites from the Gaza Strip does not stop.The situational assessment was regarding the threat of drones, balloons and kites launched from the Gaza Strip toward Israel.

The discussion was attended by Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir, the Head of the National Security Council, and senior Israeli Defence Force (IDF) officials."Israel warns Hamas that if the launches toward Israel do not cease immediately, the IDF will act to increase targeted strikes against those responsible for the launches and will evacuate the population from areas used as launch sites for kites, drones, and balloons," the joint statement said."The Prime Minister clarified that there will be no return to the state of affairs prior to October 7. Israel will not allow the Hamas terrorist organisation or any other element in the Gaza Strip to threaten our communities again and compromise our citizens' sense of security," it added.

Tracking Executive Branch Policy ChangesLast week, the Israeli Prime Minister's Office announced that Netanyahu and the Board of Peace have agreed to establish working groups on disarmament and demilitarisation of Gaza."The Prime Minister and Board of Peace had deep and constructive discussions. It was agreed to establish two working groups, one on disarmament and demilitarisation of Gaza, which both Israel and the Board of Peace are determined should be prompt and completed before any reconstruction happens in Gaza. A second working group will focus



Israel has warned Hamas of intensified targeted strikes if the launch of incendiary balloons, kites, and drones from Gaza continues. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz, after a high-level security assessment, stressed that Israel will not revert to pre-October 7 conditions and vowed to protect its citizens.

on sanitation, clean water and other public health issues for the people of Gaza, which also impact the people of Israel," the Israeli Prime Minister's office said on social media platform X.On August 5, Netanyahu said that the country will not withdraw its forces from their current positions in Gaza until Hamas is fully disarmed."We are instructing IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) soldiers to do whatever is necessary to protect themselves, our territory and our citizens," Netanyahu said in a video released on social media.

How teletherapy empowers patients with access and affordability



The advent of teletherapy has meant a compound metamorphosis for the paradigm of mental health. This trend has precipitated a discourse among mental health professionals and patients regarding the relative efficacy of teletherapy versus face-to-face psychotherapy. With the Indian government's Tele-MANAS scheme gaining increasing momentum and popularity, the delivery efficiency of teletherapy is being scrutinised even more than before. There is no doubt that there are a number of benefits that teletherapy brings, to enable access and reach more people than physically possible, advantages that seem particularly dear, after the pandemic. However, while acknowledging the reach, it is important to have a sense of the not-so-ameliorative effects as well. Technology-assisted therapy has made it possible for therapy to be delivered remotely aka teletherapy. This means that one does not have to drive down, or make the journey to the therapist's clinic, but can access therapy from the convenience of their home. Teletherapy can reach those individuals from underserved areas, and has been efficacious in catering to those who have mobility issues. Teletherapy also helps those with hectic schedules who may not find the time to travel to therapy sites or people with a phobia of new places, or those with social anxiety.

At the heart of the issue is this: a therapeutic relationship is an intricate, intimate one. The one receiving therapy is in a space of emotional vulnerability, to be able to reap fruits from the sessions. This means that the encounter with the therapist can go very well, or go south. It may take a few tries, before finding the therapist with whom you fit in well with a seamless working relationship. If someone in Mumbai was to find the right therapist for themselves from Chennai, a lengthy commute or relocation is overcome with the ease teletherapy provides. The vulnerability in receiving therapy is sometimes compounded by an individual's apprehensions about being subject to shame or stigma. Although India has made strides in making mental health help more accessible and socially acceptable, there is still a long way to go in terms of getting rid of the stigma of consulting a doctor for mental health issues. Here, teletherapy allows the convenience of an added layer of anonymity, alleviating concerns about being seen accessing mental health services.

There are definitely advantages. For instance, Karan, a 30-year-old doctor from Kerala, struggled with the stress of being in the frontline during the pandemic. He struggled with a diagnosis of depression, anxiety and work burn-out. He was able to make full and complete use of the Indian government's Tele-Manas online counselling scheme from

the comfort of his home, he says. Another 35-year-old homemaker from Maharashtra who lost her 7-year daughter to COVID-19 was able to cope with the loss of her child with the help of this helpline, which came at the right time, providing her with a solution when she found it difficult to meet too many people. The traditional paradigm, the stalwart of mental health treatment for several decades now, has been face-to-face psychotherapy. This also calls for a conventional, stereotypical therapist couch, with the person getting help sitting or lying, speaking about what troubles them most. The benefits are many. To begin with, being face to face with your therapist enhances access and receipt of your therapist's personable, empathic energy output. Similarly, the therapist can read the patient's non-verbal cues such as body language, gestures, and so on which deeply complement the patient's verbal accounts of their feelings and thoughts about things. The therapist gets to hear the unspoken, and can gain a holistic understanding of the patient's problems. The success of a fruitful therapy relies heavily on a well-founded therapeutic relationship. This comes from trust and a smooth rapport. These are positively fostered in face-to-face interactions.

A therapeutic session is tailor-made to an individual's needs. Although the principles of therapy can be used as a generic template for all patients, no two patients present with the same needs and therapy is always individualised. This means that the sessions must be made more personalised, interactive, or delivered in specific ways to support the patient receiving this. An individual struggling with PTSD from being displaced from their homeland due to war will present with significantly different needs to another individual struggling with PTSD from being the victim of long-term domestic violence. Although both present with the same diagnosis, the approach, the way the communication and conversations are structured, will be different. It is more likely this happens with face-to-face therapy.

If you are considering teletherapy, some of the questions you may want to consider are: Do you prefer to have an in-person connection tinged with deep rapport? Would you be comfortable with limited availability of sessions and sometimes changes to appointments based on weather or transport issues? Do you find yourself financially stable to be able to pay recurrent, high rates? If the answer to all this is a yes, then you would benefit the most from face-to-face psychotherapy. Are you someone who loves the convenience of accessing things from the comfort of your home? Do you enjoy flexibility in contrast to regimented schedules? Do you live in a rural area, yet would like to receive therapy from a professional based in a neighbouring city? Do you find yourself struggling with paying the usually high prices for in person therapy sessions? If the answer to all this is a yes, then you would benefit from teletherapy. The Indian government launched the brilliant initiative, the Tele-MANAS scheme in 2020. MANAS stands for Mental health Assistance and Networking Across States. This initiative is aimed at expanding the reach of teletherapy to millions of Indians across the country. The effectiveness and success of this scheme have been applauded by many experts, apart from patients who have benefitted from the online counselling/therapy it offers. While keeping these factors in mind, it is possible to evaluate if teletherapy would indeed work for you. The goal, however is to access mental health care, either in person or online, and not let distance or affordability come in the way of getting such care.

What are the safe levels of iodine for pregnant women and general health?



Hyderabad: What are the safe iodine intake levels for an average individual or pregnant woman? Does consuming iodized salt cause thyroid problems, especially among women? With the market getting flooded with pink salt, are they more beneficial for pregnant women?

Noted developmental pediatrician from Hyderabad Dr Sivaranjini Santosh on Friday said that an appropriate amount of iodine is extremely important for the normal functioning of the human body. "Anything in excess is bad for the

body. Consuming 6 to 10 times more than the recommended intake of iodine, taking separate iodine supplements, and eating too much salt will definitely create health problems. However, an appropriate amount of iodine is absolutely essential for everybody, especially pregnant women," Dr Sivaranjini Santosh said. The daily requirement of iodine in the diet varies from 90 micrograms per day to 200 micrograms per day based on age and pregnancy status. Iodine is extremely important for the normal functioning of the thyroid gland. Low thyroid hormone levels (hypothyroidism) cause serious health problems. Iodine is also abundant in certain food products such as fish, dairy, and eggs, prunes, potatoes etc. Taking an appropriate amount of salt is also important for the normal functioning of the thyroid glands, the noted pediatrician added.

"Thyroid hormones are very important for the growth of the fetus in terms of brain development, as well as physical growth. Only if the iodine intake is 6 to 10 times the recommended intake, then it may cause problems with thyroid functioning. Now, most iodized salts have 15 micrograms of iodine per gram of salt. The daily maximum recommended salt intake is 2.3 grams per day for an adult. So, even if we consume double the recommended intake, we will still be getting only 75 micrograms of iodine from the iodized salt," Dr Sivaranjini said. The pediatrician made it clear that trace amounts of minerals, which are claimed to be present in pink salt, do not add great value to the average person's diet. "These salts are sold at a price 3 to 5 times the price of the normal iodized salts. Make an informed choice based on this information," she said.

Why we have FOMO for events that are not even fun

New York: Imagine you've planned the trip of a lifetime for your animal-loving family: a cruise to Antarctica with the unique opportunity to view penguins, whales and other rare wildlife. Your adventure-loving kids can kayak through fjords, plunge into icy water and camp under the Antarctic sky. But rather than being ecstatic, as you anticipated, your kids whine about skipping an after-school scout meeting at a neighbour's house. Missing this ordinary weekly event triggers such intense FOMO – "fear of missing out" – for them that they don't want to go on your amazing expedition. If this kind of debacle sounds familiar to you – or at least if you find it perplexing – you're not alone. Over the years, researchers learned what really drives intense feelings of FOMO – which explains why a run-of-the-mill meeting might feel more crucial than an over-the-top vacation. People use the term FOMO in many different ways. In the research, the social scientists focused on a very specific type of FOMO: the kind that occurs when people miss out on events that involve valued social connections. With this kind of FOMO, they found that the pain of missing out is not related to missing the actual event or opportunity – although that could be there as well. The FOMO, they studied happens when people miss the chance to bond with friends, co-workers or teammates they care about. So, the critical part of FOMO is missing out on interactions with people you value. FOMO about a group dinner at a restaur-

ant isn't really about the food and great lighting. Nor is FOMO about a concert just about the band's performance. Instead, it's about the lost opportunity to connect and make memories with people who are important to you.

Why is this upsetting? Imagine the scenario where all your best friends go out to dinner without you. They bond and make lasting memories with each other – and you're not there for any of it. If they get closer to each other, where does that leave you? What happens to your social relationships and your sense of belonging? Do you become a less important friend? Less worthy of future invites? Or even kicked out of the group altogether? The anxiety of FOMO can begin to spiral. People with what psychologists call an anxious attachment style chronically fear rejection and isolation from others. Because FOMO involves anxiety about future social belonging, it may not come as a surprise that people who are naturally more anxious about their friendships tend to get more intense FOMO. When people were asked to scroll social media until they encountered something social they missed, we found that the more anxiously attached a participant was, the more intense FOMO they experienced. Getting FOMO for an amazing event you can't attend makes sense. But if FOMO is less about the event itself and more about the social bonding, what happens when you miss something that's not really fun at all?

A thief in the crowd, a match on screen: How Delhi Police is using face-tech to fight crime



Three days later, the district police fed a screengrab of the robber from the camera's footage into their Facial Recognition System (FRS) and got a hit. The man was Mohammad Ali; he had been involved in two similar robbery cases. While unique, facial recognition technology isn't a new phenomenon

On March 17, Ajmal Bhai Ganesh (49) was heading home after collecting Rs 80 lakh in cash from a firm. He's an Angadia trader — an informal sector courier boy of sorts for a traditional form of banking system. Unbeknownst to him, he was being followed. Suddenly, near North Delhi's Fateh Puri, a masked man pointed a gun at him. Petrified, Ganesh handed over the cash.

Three days later, the district police fed a screengrab of the robber from the camera's footage into their Facial Recognition System (FRS) and got a hit. The man was Mohammad Ali; he had been involved in two similar robbery cases. While unique, facial recognition technology isn't a new phenomenon. The Delhi Police has been using the technology, an Israeli software, since 2018. Delhi hardlook, Delhi Police, Delhi Police surveillance, AI-powered surveillance, facial recognition tech across Delhi, facial recognition tech, Delhi facial recognition tech, Delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs A Facial Recognition System van parked in Northwest district.

Since then, it has been acquired by two police districts — North and Northwest — for more localised scanning. Currently, FRS vans, armed with cameras and computers, are stationed in different parts of the two districts every day, scanning faces and alerting them of potential hits. In the Northwest district alone, the FRS has enabled the police to nab at least 200 criminals since April 2024. This February, police in the district solved two burglary cases using the software. On a warm spring afternoon, the Northwest district's FRS van, with the Delhi Police logo emblazoned on the sides, stands conspicuously in front of Deep Market in Ashok Vihar. "Jis din camera wali gaadi lagti hai uss din area mein crime down ho jaata hai (On days the van is stationed somewhere, the crime in the area goes down)," says Constable Mukesh Kaushik, one of the two policemen manning the van that day. The van has six CCTV cameras — four outside and two inside — along with two Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) cameras which have been configured to scan faces instead of licence plates. Inside the van, the set-up is tight: A desk sits in the middle with two screens, and a couch is pushed towards the back. On the screens, feed from the CCTVs plays as the ANPR cameras scan people passing by. People appearing on-camera are projected with green squares around their faces. A small text above the square shows the software's estimates of the person's age and height. Age: 30-39, Height: 5-5.5 feet, it reads for one. The screen is split into two halves, with one half showing possible matches to suspects. "We have set the limit to 60% and above; anything with a match rate higher than 60% will

All of a sudden, a red square appears on the screen and the other half pops up with the picture and dossier number of a criminal from their database. "Oh, looks like we've caught someone," says Constable Kaushik. He walks over to the van's window, spots the man in question, and calls him over. As the man enters the van, Kaushik asks, "Have you ever committed a crime before?" He denies it. Kaushik then enters the dossier number provided by the system. "Is this you? Were you arrested in 2019 under the Excise Act?" Kaushik points at the mugshot on the screen, his voice has a harsh edge to it now. The man wipes his brow and says, "Yes, but the case was dropped in 2020... my boss got into trouble, I was only working in the bar." Kaushik asks for the man's Aadhaar card details and notes them down in a register. "Go to the police station with the court order and get your name removed from the dossier," he says. According to DCP (Northwest) Bhisham Singh, the software is sophisticated enough to recognise faces despite age or disguises. It can also recognise faces behind masks or beards. While the van has been in use in the Northwest district since April last year, the Delhi Police has been using FRS for security for at least six years. Following a High Court order, Automated Facial Recognition Software (AFRS) was acquired in March 2018 by the Delhi Police to identify lost and found children by matching photos. Since then, it has been used to scan crowds for possible suspects during high-profile events. The Indian Express earlier reported that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ramlila Maidan rally in December 2019 was the first political rally where police used the software to screen the crowd. Come June, the Delhi Police hopes to expand the ambit of the FRS to all of Delhi.

The initiative, part of the 'Safe City' project, will see the installation of 10,000 high-resolution cameras across the Capital whose live feed will be beamed directly to a command centre at the Police Headquarters. Over time, the feeds will be integrated with CCTV footage from "legacy networks" such as the New Delhi Municipal Council, Residents' Welfare Associations, Market Welfare Associations, Railways, etc. "We will ask them to share their footage but there are storage concerns over replicating such vast amounts of footage," says B S Jaiswal, who was Joint Commissioner (Tech and PI). He has recently been transferred to his next assignment as Joint CP (Central Range). Apart from fixed cameras, Prakhar Vans with mobile cameras scan crowds and crime-prone areas. Currently, 88 Prakhar Vans — each equipped with four CCTVs — are in use across the city, said Jaiswal. The city-wide project, however, will not be using the Israeli software. Instead, the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, an R&D organisation of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has undertaken the massive project. It is in charge of not only training AI models for more accurate results on facial recognition but will also be responsible for setting up the Integrated Command, Control, Communication & Computer Centre — C4I — where integrated video feeds will be beamed. C4I will also have a data centre, that will store collected video feeds, and two Emergency Operation Centres which will flag and deal with crimes taking place in real-time. For this to be possible, district headquarters and police stations will be equipped with command centres where they can view live CCTV footage of their jurisdictions. All video analytics (VA), including facial recognition and ANPR, however, will be managed centrally at the C4I data centre. "The centre will

also be enabled to play footage from 1,000 cameras simultaneously, which will include those from legacy networks," said Jaiswal. Alongside this, the Picture Intelligence Unit (PIU) will keep track of VA data — it will not store actual video or incident data but will maintain audit logs to help in investigations. The PIU will be given access to various government databases such as passport, CCTNS (Crime & Criminal Tracking Network & Systems), prisons, AMBIS (Automated Multi-Modal Biometric Identification System), ZIPNET, criminal dossier, and other sources. It will then collect and categorise photos from police sources, such as newspapers, raid images, and photos sent by the public, tagging them with features like gender, age, scars, and tattoos, creating a repository for the FRS. However, there are significant challenges to be surmounted before the lofty heights of such technology can be reached. "Facial recognition has worked 100% of the time when we have tried them in constrained environments," says Jaiswal. "Take DigiYatra for instance. There is good illumination, the angle of the person's face is straight, the camera is fixed and at a certain height and distance... it's easier for the system to recognise and pinpoint the identity of the person." However, CCTVs face a multitude of issues — the illumination of the area, angle of the camera's placement, the subject's distance from the camera, weather conditions, motion blur in the footage because of wind shaking the camera, and the camera's quality — making it a challenge to get high confirmation rates with FRS. Similarly, changes in the subject — disguises, aging, a beard or a lack of one, masks and sunglasses — can also bring false negatives in the FRS results. Nonetheless, Jaiswal assures the bugs will be ironed out before the rollout in June. However the real challenge, he says, is training machines to read data in real-time. According to the project proposal, ideally, the machine should take less than five seconds to pinpoint matches from an input given. "Foundation models of FRS are mammoth systems trained on mammoth datasets... these become the backbone of the models that are used for security apparatus," says Jaiswal.

He also explains how models exported from other countries are usually trained in recognising faces from those countries, and often get confused or flag high false rejection or false acceptance rates when inputs are from other demographics. "A model used in India needs to be trained specifically on demographics," he says. "... we can't scrape pictorial data from the internet anymore because of privacy concerns. There used to be publicly available datasets that one could use before but those have been withdrawn because of privacy issues," he adds. But even training an FRS model with tailor-made datasets presents problems. "If we put all the pictures available to us and feed it to the system, it already knows what to look out for... it's like training a student for an exam with a set of questions that he knows will be the only one asked," Jaiswal says, explaining that fresh inputs, outside the datasets, would again lead to higher rates of false acceptances or rejections. The sweet spot, the officer says, would be a range between false acceptance and rejection rates — an equal error rate. Simply put, an Equal Error Rate (EER) is the point where a biometric system makes mistakes at an equal rate, meaning false acceptance and false rejection rates occur equally. A lower EER indicates a more accurate and efficient biometric system, especially in facial recognition technology. Additionally, what can help improve the EER is enhancing AI and machine learning capabilities. For this, the Delhi Police has plans as well. For its AI-based video intelligence platform, the police plan on using machine learning for systems to estimate the number of people in a crowd in dense environments such as rallies and festivals, identify jaywalkers, identify people who collapse suddenly, and, most interestingly, identify a person in distress.

"Over time, we can develop the capability of the system in sending alerts to the local police if a person is waving their hands for help or if they seem to be in trouble... machines learn like how beat officers learn — over time, beat officers learn on the job about spotting anomalous situations. It'll be the same with machine learning..." says Jaiswal. While technological hurdles remain, Apar Gupta, co-founder of the Internet Freedom Foundation, argues that the more urgent concerns are legal and ethical. "India currently lacks a comprehensive legal framework governing use of facial recognition," says Gupta.

At a minimum, we need a robust, bespoke law that addresses its deployment. This includes a data protection law recognising facial data as sensitive personal information, with strict rules on how it's collected, stored, and used. It also requires an electronic surveillance law dedicated to regulating technologies like FRT, setting out clear limits and independent oversight for law-enforcement agencies," he says. Experts have warned that the increasing integration of such technology across platforms may come at a cost. "Facial recognition technology is a quantum leap in the state's ability to identify and monitor individuals. Unlike conventional CCTV, which captures footage but still preserves a degree of anonymity, FRT can instantly put a name to every face in a crowd, eliminating the practical obscurity we once had in public," says Apar Gupta, co-founder of Internet Freedom Foundation, a digital rights organisation.

"This technology creates a biometric map of one's face — a unique identifier as precise as a fingerprint — and links it to databases in real-time. Modern FRT systems can be integrated with analytics platforms that draw on multiple databases — social media, call detail records, vehicle registrations, and more — building an instant, 360-degree view of a person's life. That transforms ordinary cameras into powerful tracking tools, with a chilling effect on civil liberties," Gupta adds. He says integrated command centres being developed across India represent a step toward predictive policing: "Some vendors even propose 'emotion analysis', claiming to detect intent or agitation from facial expressions — an area of research widely questioned for its scientific reliability."

Gupta adds that such systems are notorious for reflecting and amplifying existing biases in law-enforcement data. "If the underlying data is skewed — disproportionately targeting certain neighbourhoods or communities — the algorithm's 'predictions' will be equally skewed. This can result in further over-policing of marginalised groups, creating a feedback loop where these communities are constantly singled out for scrutiny."

False matches, too, can have devastating consequences, he says. "If the police treat a poor match as a positive identification, an innocent person can be pulled into an investigation or even detained. At one point, the Delhi Police considered an 80% match as 'positive,' meaning a one-in-five chance of error was deemed acceptable. Even lower matches might not be discarded entirely, putting people who only vaguely resemble suspects on watchlists." He cites the Northeast Delhi riots as an example of where the deployment of facial recognition created real danger. "A false match can lead to wrongful arrests, criminal charges, and denial of bail. Socially, once someone is mistakenly labeled a 'criminal' or 'rioter,' their reputation may suffer permanent damage."

Goyal leads a 200-member delegation to Japan; focus on drawing investments & tech partnerships



Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal will lead a strong 200-member delegation to Japan on a four-day visit starting today, during which they will hold bilateral talks, seek investments and forge ties in a host of fields including that of semiconductors and artificial intelligence. During the visit, the delegation will go to Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka and hold government-to-government and business-to-business meetings across multiple sectors for business cooperation and investment. In Tokyo, the Union minister will hold a series of meetings with the leaders of major Japanese conglomerates and industrial houses that have been partners in India's growth, alongside a round-table with Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), the apex body representing over 1,500 leading Japanese companies. There will be dedicated sessions on semiconductors and artificial intelligence, start-ups, and engagement

with foreign institutional investors, reflecting India's growing pull as an investment and innovation destination.

The business delegation has representatives from sectors spanning manufacturing, semiconductors, clean energy and steel to automotive, financial services, healthcare and start-ups. Goyal will also hold bilateral talks with his counterpart, Akazawa Ryosei, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and call on senior members of the Japanese Government and Parliament, besides interacting with the Indian community in Japan. The minister will also visit Nagoya, the industrial heartland of Central Japan, where he will lead a roadshow with Chuokeiren (Central Japan Economic Federation) and the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The visit will conclude in Osaka with an 'Investors and Business Roadshow', along with meetings with leading Japanese companies across electronics, industrial and consumer sectors, aimed at showcasing opportunities across India's manufacturing, clean energy and consumer markets. This visit is expected to give fresh momentum to bilateral trade and investment ties, said officials at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). "This is the 50th edition of India Japan Business cooperation committee and is also the 75th year of India Japan diplomatic relationship. So, it is a marquee year and it's good to see the countries re-engage both at G2G and B2B levels and take forward discussions on declarations that happened when the Japanese PM came to India," said Jyoti Vij, Director General FICCI, while speaking to reporters in Japan.

RBI's forex swap window draws \$72.85 billion inflows till August 21



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 RBI may have closed the swap facility prematurely, with some suggesting that the high cost of hedging these deposits may have played a role. 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 21, 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 prema-

turely, 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 came 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.

Electronics see years of price hikes replicated in 6 months

The global artificial intelligence (AI) investment boom has created an acute shortage of the memory chips used in the manufacture of everyday consumer electronics. This has led to manufacturers raising rates they charge to such an extent that years of price hikes that occurred in the past for products such as smartphones and TVs have taken place in just six months in 2026. According to Consumer Price Index (CPI) data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), prices of a variety of consumer electronics goods in July were up 3-5% compared to January. The price movements were far more sedate in 2025. Take mobile handsets. Compared to a 4% rise from January 2026 to July 2026, the same period in 2025 had seen its CPI price index decline by 0.7%. Or take air conditioners. While they normally do see higher prices in the summer, the extent of the increase this year has been 4.8% compared to 1.1% between January-July 2025. AI generated chart for chipflation story AI-generated chart with data from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Go back further and 2026's price hikes become even more striking. Since January 2026, the CPI index of TVs is up 3.5%. If one counts back from December 2025, matching this magnitude of increase took 54 months, or four-and-a-half years. The numbers are similarly large for other consumer electronics: 46 for ACs, 45 for fridges, 41 for mobile phones, 32 for washing machines, and 31 for computers and laptops. The increase in price indices over 2026 of the aforementioned six consumer electronics is calculated as per the new CPI series which has 2024 as the base year. For the period prior to 2026, price index changes are computed using the old CPI series which had 2012 as the base year. Only consumer electronic items present in both the old and new CPI baskets have been compared. Back in June, analysts at American investment bank Morgan Stanley had coined the term 'chipflation' to describe how "AI's appetite for memory chips is boosting the cost of everything from data centers to smartphones, with consequences that may reach far beyond the tech

industry." The global AI boom has led to key chipmakers such as TSMC, Samsung, and SK Hynix making the more in-demand and advanced chips used in data centres sprouting up all over the world. What is being sacrificed are DRAM (Dynamic Random Access Memory) and other chips used in everyday electronics goods such as refrigerators, washing machines, ACs, smartphones, laptops, TVs, and earphones. The result of the supply shortage of the chips essential to consumer electronics is a massive rise in their prices, with JPMorgan Global Research estimating DRAM prices will have risen more than 400% from the start of 2024 to the end of 2026. This is in stark contrast to the Moore's Law driven cost reduction seen over the second half of the 20th century and the first 20 or so years of the 21st century: DRAM prices fell 90% every five years over this period. "New memory capacity takes years to build, qualify and ramp up. Supply relief is a process, not a switch. And that creates a two-tier market. Large AI and cloud buyers can sign long-term agreements, prepay and secure priority access. Traditional buyers, including PC makers, smartphone makers and industrial hardware companies, must compete for what remains," Shawn Kim, Head of Morgan Stanley's Europe and Asia Technology Team, said in a podcast in June. Eyes on promotions According to Kim, the shortfall in memory chips in 2027 is equivalent to what is needed to make 134 million phones. Already, in the April-June quarter, global smartphone exports were down 11% - their second-lowest level since 2013 - as per Counterpoint Research. In India, smartphone sales fell for three weeks in a row after online promotional events in July.... rising device prices are making consumers increasingly value-conscious and more dependent on promotional offers," said Prachir Singh, Senior Analyst at Counterpoint Research, who added that this trend has become more visible over the past few months. India, of course, is not the only country facing 'chipflation'. In the US, for instance, the Producer Price Index for 'electronic components and accessories' in July was up 28% from a year ago."

Is October the right time for a shot? What you need to know



H1N1, commonly called swine flu, is now part of the seasonal influenza viruses that circulate among people. It is not a virus that disappeared after the 2009 pandemic. Instead, it became one of the viruses that seasonal flu vaccines are designed to protect against. The good news is that vaccination remains one of the most effective tools available for reducing the risk of influenza and its complications. But does the vaccine need to be taken every year? What happens if H1N1 mutates? Is October the right time to get vaccinated? And can you still get the flu after taking the vaccine?

"Usually, there is no need to look for a vaccine labelled as H1N1 or swine flu. The vaccine people generally receive is the seasonal influenza vaccine, which is formulated to protect against the influenza viruses expected to circulate during that season. H1N1 is one of the influenza A strains considered when the vaccine is formulated," Dr Rommel Tickoo, Senior Director, Internal Medicine, Max Healthcare, Delhi, told The Indian Express.

Is the vaccine for the current flu strain available?

For the 2026-27 Northern Hemisphere season, WHO has recommended an updated H1N1 component, based on an A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus. India's National Centre for Disease Control also maintains current seasonal-influenza vaccine composition information for use in the country.

Why does the flu vaccine need to be updated?

Influenza viruses constantly evolve. "As the virus changes, the strains circulating in the population can become somewhat different from those that circulated previously. Scientists monitor these changes through global and national influenza surveillance systems and use the information to determine which viruses should be represented in future vaccines. This is why the flu vaccine is reviewed and updated regularly," explains Dr Tickoo. The fact that the vaccine changes does not mean that previous vaccination was a failure. It means the vaccine is being adapted to an evolving virus.

What if H1N1 mutates?

This is probably the biggest concern people have about H1N1 vaccination. A mutation does not automatically mean that H1N1 will become more dangerous or that the existing vaccine will stop working completely. "Influenza viruses naturally acquire genetic changes. Some changes have little effect. Others can make the virus sufficiently different. If that happens, protection against infection caused by the current strain may be reduced. However, vaccination can still provide protection against serious disease and complications. This is one reason annual vaccination remains im-

'I couldn't even complete a sentence': Cancer survivor battles Swine Flu amid Delhi surge

When 30-year-old Tabarigum walked into Apollo Hospital in Jasola on August 18, he was expecting a routine check-up after chemotherapy. A bone-marrow biopsy showed no evidence of leukaemia — an encouraging sign that his treatment was working. But tests for his respiratory symptoms came back positive for H1N1 influenza, commonly known as swine flu, just as cases of the infection were climbing sharply across Delhi. The timing was particularly worrying because Tabarigum's immune system had been severely weakened by chemotherapy.

Delhi has recorded 1,777 H1N1 cases this year, according to health department data, with 114 fresh cases reported on August 20 alone. The capital has recorded 2,392 Influenza-A infections overall, prompting health authorities to review hospital preparedness and issue advisories on prevention and early treatment. For someone undergoing cancer treatment, however, the numbers are more than a public health statistic. They can translate into a much higher risk from what might otherwise look like an ordinary seasonal infection. 'I could not even complete a sentence'

Tabarigum, who grew up in Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), an aggressive blood cancer that begins in the bone marrow, earlier this year while preparing to donate blood to his mother, who was being treated for ovarian cancer. He was started on induction chemotherapy — an intensive first phase of treatment designed to eliminate as many leukaemia cells as possible and push the disease into remission. Chemotherapy can suppress the body's ability to fight infections, particularly when white blood cell and neutrophil counts fall sharply. That makes respiratory viruses such as influenza a greater concern for patients receiving cancer treatment. Immunocompromised people are recognised as a high-risk group for severe influenza complications. In August, Tabarigum developed what initially sounded like a routine respiratory illness — a cold and runny nose followed by high fever and a cough. Then the cough became relentless. "I could not even complete a sentence without coughing; it was so bad," he says. When Tabarigum reached Apollo Hospital on August 18, his doctors found that his total leukocyte count and absolute neutrophil count were very low.

"When we admitted Tabarigum, he had high-grade fever," says Dr Chatterjee, an internal medicine specialist at Apollo Hospital, who treated him. "He was undergoing chemotherapy, which had significantly suppressed his immunity. Though he required minimal oxygen support, he was kept in an isolation room for five days. Now, he is fully recovered." For Tabarigum, the immediate challenge had shifted from treating cancer to ensuring that a viral respiratory infection did not spiral into a severe complication. That is the larger concern doctors are flagging as Delhi's H1N1 cases spiral.

Why immunocompromised patients need to be more watchful For most healthy people, H1N1 may cause a flu-like illness with fever, cough, sore throat, body aches and fatigue. But the risk profile changes when the body's immune defences are already compromised. People undergoing chemotherapy, those with certain cancers, transplant recipients and others with weakened immunity can have a greater risk of severe influenza, including pneumonia and hospitalisation.

portant. Scientists update vaccine recommendations yearly," says Dr Tickoo.

Why take the flu vaccine every year?

Flu vaccination is generally an annual vaccination because both the virus and our immune protection can change over time. The vaccine used this year may not contain exactly the same influenza strains as the vaccine used last year. "In addition, immunity can decrease with time. Therefore, having received a flu vaccine in the past does not necessarily mean you are adequately protected for the current influenza season," says Dr Tickoo.

Is October a good time to get vaccinated?

For people in the Northern Hemisphere, September and October are generally good months for seasonal influenza vaccination. "It's important to get vaccinated early enough for the immune system to develop protection before influenza activity increases. In India, vaccination timing should take into account local influenza activity, vaccine availability and advice from a healthcare professional. If you miss October, do not assume it is too late. Vaccination can still be worthwhile while influenza is circulating," adds Dr Tickoo.

How quickly does the vaccine work?

The vaccine does not provide immediate protection. "The immune system generally needs about two weeks to develop its protective response after vaccination. This is why it is better to get vaccinated before influenza activity peaks rather than waiting until a flu outbreak is already under way. It is also possible to catch influenza shortly before receiving the vaccine or during those first couple of weeks after vaccination. That does not mean the vaccine caused the infection," he explains. Some people may experience temporary reactions after vaccination, such as soreness at the injection site, tiredness, headache, mild fever or muscle aches. These reactions are generally short-lived and reflect the body's response.

Can you still get H1N1 after vaccination?

Yes. No influenza vaccine provides 100% protection against every infection. "A vaccinated person can still become infected, particularly when the circulating virus differs from the vaccine strain or when immunity has decreased. But the patient would still reduce his risk," says Dr Tickoo.

What if I have already had H1N1?

Having had H1N1 does not mean you should automatically assume you are protected against all future influenza viruses. You still need the vaccine.

Who should take influenza vaccination particularly seriously?

Older adults, children, pregnant women and people with certain chronic medical conditions or weakened immune systems. Healthcare workers and people who regularly interact with individuals who are particularly vulnerable may also have an important reason to consider vaccination.

Can I take the flu vaccine if I have a cold?

A minor illness does not necessarily prevent someone from receiving an influenza vaccine.

However, if you are moderately or severely ill, have a significant fever, or are otherwise unwell, it is sensible to discuss the timing with your healthcare provider.



Dr Chatterjee says the concern is particularly high among patients who already have other health problems. "For those with co-morbidities such as diabetes, chronic heart or lung disease, the elderly, and immunosuppressed patients undergoing cancer treatment, swine flu carries the risk of respiratory failure and secondary infection leading to multi-organ dysfunction," he says. A fever, cough or sudden worsening of breathing during chemotherapy should prompt contact with the treating medical team rather than waiting for symptoms to become severe. "Early assessment can help doctors decide whether influenza testing, antiviral treatment or hospital care is needed," says Dr Chatterjee. India's National Centre for Disease Control continues to maintain technical guidance on seasonal influenza, including H1N1, covering patient categorisation, home care, masks, clinical protocols and vaccination. The importance of acting early

Dr Chatterjee says antiviral treatment with oseltamivir can be useful when started early, while vaccination remains an important preventive measure for eligible people. "It's a virus which is preventable with a vaccine shot," he says. Vaccination decisions for people undergoing chemotherapy or otherwise immunocompromised should, however, be made in consultation with their treating doctor, because the immune response to vaccination can be reduced during some cancer treatments and the timing may need to be considered.

For families caring for someone with suppressed immunity, prevention also becomes a collective responsibility: avoiding close contact with people who are unwell, maintaining hand and respiratory hygiene, using masks in crowded or high-risk settings when advised, and seeking medical advice promptly when symptoms appear.

Back home, with one battle behind him Tabarigum has now recovered and has been discharged from hospital. He is on his way back to Arunachal Pradesh. His experience also illustrates why Delhi's current H1N1 surge deserves particular attention from people whose immune systems have been weakened by cancer or its treatment. For them, the warning signs may begin like they do for everyone else: a fever, a cough, a runny nose. "But they have far less room to wait and watch," adds Dr Chatterjee. Tabshir Shams Tabshir Shams covers health for The Indian Express. He holds a Master's degree in International Relations from South Asian University. Before joining The Indian Express, he interned at The Hindu from December 2025 to June 2026, where he assisted in the research and editing of a book on delimitation published by The Hindu Group Publications. During this time, he also wrote for The

Yashasvi Jaiswal hits back on criticism for headbutt with Fernando: ‘If you don’t know what he said...’



Yashasvi Jaiswal has come under some criticism for his heated exchange with Asitha Fernando in which his helmet appeared to touch the Sri Lanka fast bowler’s forehead on Day 1 of the ongoing second Test in Colombo. The Indian opener has now said that Fernando “cross the line (sic.)” in a retort to the criticism in reply to a video about the incident on Instagram. “If you don’t know what he said then please don’t make your judgement if anyone cross the line we need to let them know this India will fight and reply (sic.),” said Jaiswal in the comment. He said in reply to a video by Cricbuzz in which cricket commentator Harsha Bhogle spoke about the incident. While the video went up on Sunday at the end of Day 1, Jaiswal’s reply came early on Monday before the start of play on Day 2. Jaiswal made his comments on the incident in an Instagram reply. (Cricbuzz Instagram screenshots) Jaiswal made his comments on the incident in an Instagram reply.

The incident occurred moments after Fernando ended Jaiswal’s promising stay at the crease. The Indian opener had struck three boundaries in the over before Fernando produced a delivery that beat his defence and clattered into his stumps, sending him back to the pavilion. As Jaiswal began walking back, he turned around and approached Fernando. The two exchanged words before moving extremely close to each other, and then Jaiswal

headbutted the Sri Lankan pacer. Players from both sides quickly intervened to prevent the confrontation from escalating, after which Jaiswal continued towards the dressing room.

What has been said about it since Jaiswal was on the other side of the sledging table in the first Test. His exchange of words with Sri Lanka batter Niroshan Dickwella was soon followed by the latter being dismissed. Former India batter Ajay Jadeja pointed this out and said that Jaiswal shouldn’t be sledging if he can’t take it.

“It is dangerous territory. There is no doubt about that. Physical contact is a different thing. In the last match, Jaiswal was on the other side. He was fielding, and he said things to Niroshan Dickwella, and we said that banter is nice as long as there is nothing wrong with your language,” Jadeja said on Sony Sports. “The same thing happened, but if someone cannot laugh at himself, he shouldn’t laugh at others. If you can’t take it back, don’t say it to others either while standing on the ground,” he added.

In the Cricbuzz video where Jaiswal put in his reply, Bhogle acknowledged that Fernando should’ve never given him a sendoff but Jaiswal should have just walked away nonetheless. “Yes maybe what had been said should not have been said but as you give, so you must take. The easiest thing is just to go away. With Jaiswal, so much talent, but just bubbling underneath, he is a slightly combative person. And the last thing I would want for someone of his extraordinary ability is to let that person override the extraordinary batter that he is and getting him into a little bit of trouble. He was provoked, but this is Test match cricket. I thought they got a little too close for comfort,” said Bhogle. India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak also said that Jaiswal shouldn’t have got as close as he did to Fernando. “I think maybe one of the bowlers may have commented something, and it was a heat-of-the-moment thing. Obviously, Jaiswal, I don’t think he should have gone so close, but that happens in the heat of the moment,” said Kotak at the end of the day’s play.

‘SL bowlers may have said something’: Kotak on Jaiswal’s headbutt with Fernando

GNS News Agency, August 25 Yashasvi Jaiswal’s dismissal and his heated exchange with fast bowler Asitha Fernando was among the more talked-about incidents on an eventful first day of the second Test between India and Sri Lanka. India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said at the end of the day’s play that while Jaiswal may have been provoked by one of the Sri Lankans, the opener shouldn’t have gone so close to Fernando.

At the same time, though, he said that it is something that happens in the heat of the moment in Test cricket, an opinion that was echoed by Sri Lanka fast bowling coach Ryan van Niekerk. “I think maybe one of the bowlers may have commented something, and it was a heat-of-the-moment thing. Obviously, Jaiswal, I don’t think he should have gone so close, but that happens in the heat of the moment,” said Kotak. Van Niekerk said that he has asked the bowlers to “stand up and create something” but said that he leaves the matter at hand to the judgement of the match referee. “Look it is hard Test cricket, isn’t it? When you’re coming up against a team like India, you can’t sit on the back foot and just bowl at them. I think from our side, it’s bringing the challenge all the time, trying to make sure we can create something,” Ryan van Niekerk said.

“And so, from my point of view, I’ve really asked the bowlers to stand up and create something. The verbals are



probably an overflow of emotion. I’ll leave that to the match referee to deal with,” he added. The incident occurred moments after Fernando ended Jaiswal’s promising stay at the crease. The Indian opener had struck three boundaries in the over before Fernando produced a delivery that beat his defence and clattered into his stumps, sending him back to the pavilion. As Jaiswal began walking back, he turned around and approached Fernando. The two exchanged words before moving extremely close to each other, and then Jaiswal headbutted the Sri Lankan pacer. Players from both sides quickly intervened to prevent the confrontation from escalating, after which Jaiswal continued towards the dressing room.

Ayush Shetty, PV Sindhu withdraw from China Masters Super 750

GNS News Agency, August 25 Ace Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Ayush Shetty have withdrawn from China Masters Super 750 tournament. The tournament is scheduled to start from September 1 and will be the only major BWF World Tour event before the Asian Games. Ayush, who defeated world no 1 Shi Yuqi in the first round of World Championships last week, reached the round of 16 in front of the home crowd but lost to Alwi Farhan.

With Ayush withdrawing, Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth will be the Indians in men’s singles. Lakshya suffered an upset in the second round after world no 92 Garret Tan of USA knocked him out in second round much to the disappointment of the Indian fans. Sindhu, who lost in the round of 16 to World no 3 Wang Zhiyi of China in a thrilling battle, looked tired after the energy-sapping game and it could be one of the reasons for her withdrawal. Apart from her, Malvika Bansod and Aakarshi Kashyap have also withdrawn leaving Unnati Hooda, Devika Sihag and Tanvi Sharma to lead the Indian challenge. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty, who returned from an injury layoff but were knocked out in round of 16 by eventually World champions Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang, will be leading India’s challenge in men’s doubles along with Hariharan



Amasukaran and Arjun MR.

However, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who created history by becoming only the second Indian women’s doubles pair to win a medal at the World Championships after Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa, didn’t feature in the women’s doubles section with India having no representation. In the mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto along with Rohan Kapoor- Rutvika Shivani will represent India. India continued the streak of winning medals at every World Championships since 2011 as the marquee event concluded yesterday in the national capital.

the stadium roof and even damaged a solar panel, as a replacement ball was sought. With Jurel pristine in his drives and flicks, Pant was tested thoroughly by Lahiru Kumara and Fernando, and took two painful hits to his right shoulder that required medical treatment. Though Sri Lanka turned to the spin duo of Prabath Jayasuriya and Keshara Nuwantha, Jurel relied on the pull to send them to the boundary rope. Pant, on the other hand, used paddle sweep and decisive footwork, apart from edges rolling along the ground, to keep the scoreboard moving. Subsequently, both batters got their fifties easily – Pant thumped a pull to square leg to get his 21st fifty, while Jurel pulled through mid-wicket to bring up his third half-century. As Sri Lanka persisted with spin from both ends ahead of the lunch break, but didn’t get consistency, Pant and Jurel raised a 100-run partnership for the seventh wicket and put India in the driver’s seat of the match. Brief Scores: India 419/6 in 112 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 117, Rishabh Pant 63 not out; Asitha Fernando 4-60, Lahiru Kumara 1-61) against Sri Lanka

Home food the secret ingredient in Japan’s enduring badminton success



The Japanese are not known to take care of the minutest of details and their badminton contingent at the World Championships came with its own chefs, a tradition that goes back to 2017. Kodai Naraoka and Akane Yamaguchi won silver medals in the singles categories and having the comfort of familiar food may have contributed to their success, apart from the usual factors of training and sports science.

“It’s important for us. I got home food. It helped me in recovery. It is great to have Japanese food around us,” Naraoka, who lost in the final to Frenchman Alex Lanier on Sunday, said. The initiative started by multinational food brand Ajinomoto has been a constant feature with the Japanese team at major Badminton events – including World Championships, Thomas & Uber Cup, and the Olympics. “A lot of players had complained about the lack of nutrients and homely feeling in the food they get in other countries,” Yuki Ueno, Associate Director of Nutrition Group of Ajinomoto, told The Indian Express on the sidelines of the tournament. “That is when the Japanese federation requested us to come up with a solution and we started sending our teams.” A team of five (three chefs and two directors) accompanies the players for all major events. “It is a long process. Five of us travel and with us travels a lot of luggage that includes spices, food mixtures, seasonings and readymade food. We usually ask the shuttlers about their requirements and take those things with us,” said

Yuki. While the badminton team travels a week before an event, the Ajinomoto team travels months before to reece and find spaces to set up their kitchen. “We came here (New Delhi) in June and then again in July. We have to look for places and local vendors to get the packaging items and utensils,” Yuki said. After they found an Airbnb near the Japanese team hotel, the team looked for utensils and kitchen items. Once the Japanese team arrives at a venue, the team of chefs start preparing food for them everyday. “We prepare the food at our set-up, pack it in lunch boxes and carry it to the stadium. We do it according to the training schedule of the players,” he said. Yuki Ueno, Associate Director of Nutrition Group of Ajinomoto, said that white rice is the dish that is requested the most (Pic via special arrangement) The lunch box usually has four items. “We have Japanese white rice, a main dish, a side dish and miso soup. Sometimes, they ask for some sweet dish but we make sure it’s not high in calorie content,” said Yuki. He said white rice is the dish requested the most. “It’s also the main source of protein for Japanese players along with miso Soup. So, they always ask for it.”

Yamaguchi, who won her sixth World Championship medal in New Delhi, explained the need for a separate team of chefs. “It’s important that we get our nutrients and even more important that we get them on time. The team ensures that food reaches us as scheduled. During late games, the food reaches our hotel room,” Yamaguchi told The Indian Express. As the campaign ended on Sunday, the Ajinomoto team will take one day to rest before they pack up their luggage which has more than 30 items. Ajinomoto is the nutrition partner of the Japanese Olympic Association and is also involved with sports like swimming and judo. They also run an initiative called ‘Victory Program’ which supports athletes across sports. “Our aim is to help our athletes win more and more medals at the world level and nutrition plays an important part in it,” Yuki added.

Growing French stature in badminton underlined by 2 World Championship titles

The French aren’t really expecting a revolution; even though the imminent European powerhouse have struck two Badminton World Championship golds, the first in mixed doubles through Thom Giquel and Delphine Delrue and then in men’s singles via Alex Lanier. Unprecedented in the shy sport with too many protocols, the French came prepared with champagne bottles.

“I’ll probably walk on the road in France and nobody will notice. But there could be a little storm for a few weeks,” Lanier, who took 50 minutes to defeat Japanese compulsive retriever Kodai Naraoka, said. The Frenchman, who was first identified by scouts from Normandy because he looked more muscular than others his age, used a flex to rattle Kodai too: the Popeye with sailor parents from rural seaside France ran in the eyeline of the Japanese and flaunted his abs. A 21-11, 21-11 scoreline followed, and Kodai told the Japanese media he was intimidated already. “It’s genetics because my parents are sailors, but also my hard work in breaking limits of physicality has been important,” Lanier says, having outrun the peak runner Kodai. “Frankly, I can play one more game.”

The Delhi Worlds also witnessed the usually reticent badminton stars offer more than a peek into their most elite moments of excellence, with top players opening up on rivalries, family, food, pressure and even psychology. Mixed doubles champ Giquel would speak of the Wakanda celebration he had promised his niece. Giquel-Delrue would inflict heartbreak on World No. 1 Chinese, Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping, winning 22-20, 19-21, 21-15.

The first big pair they ever scalped had been Yuta Watanabe and Higashino in a Super 100. But even as recently as last Sunday, Giquel-Delrue had said Danish pairs ranked higher than them were better. A world title will flip the self-perception. “Nobody would be waiting for us at airports. There’s so many sports in France,” Giquel would say. The French travel with a multicultural support staff comprising French, Danes, Lithuanians and even Icelanders, and trained simulating the slow conditions. They are also cognizant about being a nascent powerhouse. “We focus on not overtraining. Because we are not China. Where if anyone rips an ACL, they can just get in another,” French coach Kestuis Naviklas said. After hours

The other country with two titles was Korea as An Se Young demolished Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-14. The Korean would later get invited by the Chinese media where bronze medalist Wang Zhi Yi, whom she had beaten in the semis, would engage in playful banter – another first for a



World Championships revelling in the freedom with which players interacted with opponents. “What should I do to defeat you?” Wang would ask An Se-young, who has an intimidating head-to-head against her. “You should work hard,” the Korean would answer. “Do you mean to say I don’t work hard already?” Wang would retort as both burst into laughter as the ice was broken between the two rivals. Earlier, An had lauded the Delhi crowd that screamed vociferously for the all-conquering World No. 1. “Lot of people were supporting me which gave me energy,” she would say, thanking returning coach Park Joo Bong with “It’s an honour to be coached by a legend.”

The Chinese were at a risk of returning without a title for the first time since 1983 after the first four finals were done. But men’s doubles pair Wang Chang and Liang Weikeng pulled one back. Wang was in terrific form prancing around the court, outdoing Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik playing their last tournament together. The 21-17, 21-16 win gave the Chinese their first world title. “It’s the best day of my life,” a pumped up Wang said. “Like a dream.” The Chinese, who failed to make singles finals, had also gone down in women’s doubles, losing to Korean Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee. It brought Korea the title they had last won 31 years ago after defeating Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning 21-15, 21-15. The Koreans defended until the moment they would pull out a kill. “The Chinese are so good at attack that we decided to fall back on defence and keep the shuttle inside the court,” Baek would say. “We have been eating butter chicken and naan, and will celebrate later in the evening.” Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand, who received their bronze medals, vowed to find solutions to beating the Chinese. For the moment though, a celebration might take place in Hyderabad though Treesa enjoyed the breakthrough with a banana cookie ice-cream as the Worlds drew to a close with several unexpected medallists.

Gavaskar, Kapil, Vengsarkar among ex-captains writing again to Pakistan govt for Imran Khan

Twenty-one former international captains from around the world have written to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, renewing their appeal for medical treatment for former captain Imran Khan. The signatories include former India captains Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Dilip Vengsarkar.

The latest letter marks the former captains’ second appeal to Pakistan’s Prime Minister in six months. In February, 14 former captains had written to Sharif expressing concern over Khan’s health after reports of an eye condition that his family said had left him almost completely blind in one eye, amid allegations of medical neglect in prison. “Dear Prime Minister, six months ago, fourteen former international cricket captains wrote to you and the Pakistani government appealing for humane treatment and proper medical care for Imran Khan. We wrote then not as politicians, but as former colleagues and rivals who share a bond forged on the cricket field, one that transcends the borders and disputes that too often divide countries. We write again now, joined by seven further former captains, because of what has reportedly just occurred,” the letter read. “Pakistan’s Supreme Court ordered that Imran Khan be transferred to a hospital for examination by a medical board that was to include his own personal physicians and his sister, Dr Uzma Khan. The Court also reinstated weekly family visits. These were very welcome steps.” “Concerningly, Mr Khan’s hospital stay lasted only a few hours. He was examined by a state-appointed team rather than the board the Court had directed, declared ‘medically fit,’ and returned to Adiala Jail before that board could complete its work. His family and legal team say this falls

short of what the court ordered,” the letter added.

Their letter made three specific requests:

1. That the medical board directed by the Supreme Court – including Mr Khan’s own doctors – be permitted to complete a full and independent assessment of his health, particularly the reported loss of vision in his right eye.
2. That the weekly family visits reinstated by the Court be honoured without interruption or administrative delay.
3. That whatever the outcome of that medical assessment, the treatment recommended by it be provided without delay.

“Whatever the legal and political arguments surrounding his case, the basic decency of ensuring a court-ordered medical process is actually completed is not, in our view, a controversial request. It is one we believe every nation that plays this game would recognise as fair,” the letter said. Imran, who served as Pakistan’s prime minister from 2018 to 2022, has received multiple prison sentences since his removal from office. These include corruption convictions carrying sentences of 10, 14 and 17 years. Ahead of the 2024 elections, he received a seven-year sentence in a case concerning the timing of his marriage to his current wife following her divorce. Michael Atherton, Alex Blackwell, Allan Border, Michael Brearley, Greg Chappell, Ian Chappell, Belinda Clark, Alastair Cook, Michael Gattling, Sunil Gavaskar, Lee Germon, Adam Gilchrist, David Gower, Kim Hughes, Nasser Hussain, Clive Lloyd, Kapil Dev, Arjuna Ranatunga, Andrew Strauss, Dilip Vengsarkar, Steve Waugh, John Wright

‘Culture is in the heart’: Kriti Sanon breaks silence on Raksha Bandhan ad backlash



Actor Kriti Sanon has hit back at Kangana Ranaut, who earlier criticised her for “wearing a bikini” while celebrating Rakshabandhan in a jewellery ad. Taking to her Instagram Stories, Kriti called out the mindset that continues to measure a woman’s respect for her culture by what she wears. Although she did not mention Kangana by name, she wrote a lengthy note, concluding: “Culture & Traditions are in her heart, not in her neckline!”

Kriti’s note read, “The essence of festivals is not in the clothes you wear, it is in the emotions and meaning you

hold for the traditions. Rakshabandhan is a bond of protection. My sister and I tie rakhi to each other. We know we can protect each other no less than a brother would have.”She added, “We pray for each other’s health, happiness & long life. And for us, this prayer and promise extends to our dogs too! After all, they are family! Also, when will we stop telling women what to wear?? Ethnic fashion has evolved over the years, but still a woman’s respect for her culture is measured with just her clothes!! Culture & Traditions are in her heart, not in her neckline!”It all started when actor-politician Kangana Ranaut on Tuesday said the advertisement felt “intentionally creepy” and questioned why someone would tie a rakhi to their brother while wearing a bikini. She was referring to Kriti Sanon’s new jewellery advertisement, in which the actor was seen wearing an off-white Indo-Western fusion ensemble consisting of a bralette-style blouse, a matching cape, and a draped skirt.Without mentioning Kriti’s name, Kangana wrote, “It is a wonderful time to be a woman, our closets are full of variety of clothes, today’s woman is a global woman, from cocktail dresses to lehenga cholis, jeans to saris, bikinis to salwar kameez. From all the options that are available to us today why would you tie your brother a Rakhi in your bikini/under garments? Where are all your styling options? Ha ha the advert looks intentionally creepy.”Kriti Sanon’s new advertisement had sparked a debate on social media, with several users criticising the actor over her outfit.

Before Rocky Bhai, there was Googly: How Yash went from romantic hero to alpha male

Yash has been three different actors in one career. The first was a romantic hero who made Kannada audiences fall in love with him through films like Googly, Drama and Mr. and Mrs. Ramachari. The second was Rocky Bhai, who made the rest of India fall in line. The third, if the Toxic trailers are any indication, is something neither of the first two would recognise.Before cinema, there was television that was by all means conquered by the actor. His break on the small screen came with Nanda Gokula, a Kannada television serial that became a hit and gave him his first taste of public recognition. It also gave him something else: Radhika Pandit, who was his co-star on the show and would later become his wife. He followed Nanda Gokula with other television work before making the leap to cinema.

Yash’s film career began in 2007 with a supporting role in Priya Hassan’s Jambada Hudugi. His breakthrough came with Moggina Manasu, a romantic drama directed by Shashank, where he played the romantic interest opposite Radhika Pandit. His first title role came with Rocky, a college romance that flopped at the box office. Two more forgettable films followed, Kallara Santhe and Gokula, before he found his footing.

Modalasala, a romantic drama, became his first solo commercial hit and signalled that the audience was willing to give him another chance after the early stumbles. Rajadhani had political undertones but was still built around a love story. Kirataka was an action-romance that gave him his first taste of mass-audience appeal. Then came Drama, directed by Yogaraj Bhat, which paired Yash with Radhika again and became a major hit. The film was a full-blown romantic comedy with humour, music and the kind of easy charm that Yash brought naturally to the screen.Googly, directed by Pawan Wadeyar, was the film that best represented this phase of Yash’s career. A lighthearted romantic comedy, it featured Yash as a carefree, fun-loving young man trying to win over a girl played by Kriti Kharbanda. The film was a box office success and the Googly character became one of the most loved roles of Yash’s pre-KGF career.

Yash and Kriti Kharbanda in a still from the movie Googly Yash and Kriti Kharbanda in a still from the movie GooglyThe next few years, he made films like Gajakesari, which pushed him slightly into the action and fantasy space but retained a strong romantic thread. Then came Mr. and Mrs. Ramachari, directed by Santhosh Anandram, which

paired Yash with Radhika Pandit for the third time. The film was a blockbuster, one of the highest-grossing Kannada films of that year, and its love story felt like a screen version of the couple’s real-life relationship. They were dating by this point, though they would not marry until December 2016.Through this entire stretch, from 2008 to 2016, Yash was Kannada cinema’s most bankable romantic hero. He was the guy audiences went to see when they wanted warmth, charm and a love story that made them feel good. He was not intimidating. He was not intense. He was, by every definition, the boy next door.The transition: Masterpiece to KGF

The first real signal of a shift came with Masterpiece, directed by Manju Mandavya. The film was a commercial entertainer with more action than Yash’s earlier work, and it performed well at the box office. Santhu Straight Forward followed in a similar mould, an action-romance that kept one foot in both camps. But these films were still operating within the Kannada market, and the action was stylised rather than raw.The real pivot was Prashanth Neel. The director, who had previously made Ugramm, a low-budget action film that became a cult hit, approached Yash with the script for KGF. The story of Rocky, a man who rises from the streets of Mumbai to become the king of the Kolar Gold Fields, was unlike anything Yash had done before. It was dark, violent, stylised and built on a mythology of power, dominance and masculinity that had nothing to do with the breezy romantic heroes Yash had been playing for a decade.KGF: Chapter 1 released on December 21, 2018, the same day as Shah Rukh Khan’s Zero. It became the first Kannada film to cross Rs 237 crore worldwide. KGF: Chapter 2, released on April 14, 2022, crossed Rs 1,215 crore, becoming one of the highest-grossing Indian films of all time. The boy next door was gone and in that place stood Rocky Bhai, a character so overwhelming in its intensity that it swallowed the actor’s previous identity whole.The irony of Yash’s transformation is that the very qualities that made him great in romantic comedies are the ones that most of his current audience does not know exist. The lightness, the humour, the warmth, the ability to make a girl blush with a look rather than intimidate a room with a stare, all of that is still in there. You can see it in fleeting moments at press events, in the way he jokes with his co-stars, in the way he talks about his wife Radhika and their children Ayra and Yatharv with a softness that Rocky Bhai would never allow.

Manoj Bajpayee vouches ‘Ram Gopal Varma is back’ with their film Police Station Mein Bhoot



Manoj Bajpayee has made a career out of working in films of Ram Gopal Varma. They first worked together in the 1997 adventure comedy Daud, before the actor received a major breakthrough as gangster Bhiku Mhatre in Varma’s 1998 seminal crime drama Satya. They reunited for 1999 psychological thriller Kaun, followed by Varma’s productions — Eeshwar Niwas’ 1999 action drama Shool and Rajat Mukherjee’s 2002 comedy thriller Road.

Manoj Bajpayee, Ram Gopal Varma’s reunion The last time Bajpayee worked with Varma was in his 2017 political drama threequel Sarkar 3. However, since then, while Bajpayee has carved out his place on streaming with shows like Raj & DK’s espionage thriller The Family Man on Prime Video India, Varma has been undergoing a creative existential crisis. But in an exclusive interview with SCREEN, the actor now vouches that the filmmaker will be back in his form with their next collaboration, horror comedy Police Station Mein Bhoot.“It’s a wild film! He’s back, I can tell you that. Ram Gopal Varma is back with Police Station Mein Bhoot. There’s no doubt about it,” says Bajpayee. “And I’m not saying it because I’m a part of the film and have to sell the film. Ramu alone is capable of selling his film. He doesn’t need Manoj Bajpayee for that,” he adds, laughing.

“But what I’ve realized is that Ramu, the kid, is back. He used to be that kid in a candy store when he made all those great films. I don’t know how that happened. Only he’ll be in a position to tell you,” claims the actor. Bajpayee recalls how Varma stopped him from preparing for his role in their upcoming film, in which he plays a police officer.“He knew I was going to go back to my house and start preparing. He told me, ‘Manoj, just do me a favour. Don’t prepare for this film. Just keep in your mind he’s a police guy. Because I’ll be changing a lot of things,’” recounts Bajpayee. He describes every day on set as a “joyride”, but at the same time, full of “extreme hard work”.“I’d get my scenes right before the shot. Then I’d just be finding time, getting a quiet corner on a very noisy set, memorizing and rewriting those lines, sitting with the co-actors to make it really work. So, he was throwing so many things at me, which kept me on my toes,” adds Bajpayee. Police Station Mein Bhoot also stars Genelia D’Souza and Ramya Krishnan.

“It’s a wild film! He’s back, I can tell you that. Ram Gopal Varma is back with Police Station Mein Bhoot. There’s no doubt about it,” says Bajpayee. “And I’m not saying it because I’m a part of the film and have to sell the film. Ramu alone is capable of selling his film. He doesn’t need Manoj Bajpayee for that,” he adds, laughing.

Sonu Nigam postpones Delhi concert amid CJP protests; Prakash Raj hails Sonam Wangchuk



Amid the ongoing Cockroach Janta Party protest over NEET paper leak, singer Sonu Nigam has postponed his concert at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in Dwarka, which was scheduled for July 25. The performance was part of his BOSSitivity – Sonu Nigam Remembers Rafi tribute concert series. The tickets for the show are no longer visible on ticketing platforms, while promotional posters have been updated to reflect a new date — August 15.Confirming

the postponement, Sonu told Hindustan Times, “It’s been postponed keeping the current sentiment in mind.”

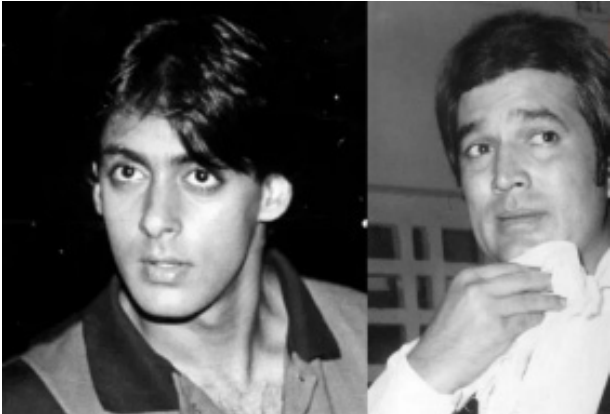
The decision comes a day after a video of Sonu Nigam from a public event went viral, in which he was asked about the ongoing CJP-led student protests. Sonu appeared visibly irritated by the question and abruptly ended the interaction.The singer isn’t the only performer to postpone an event. Comedian-actor Anubhav Singh Bassi has also cancelled his show, which was scheduled for July 25 at Talkatora Stadium.Sharing the update on Instagram Stories, Bassi wrote, “Gen Z is already killing it with creativity and humour right now, so the July 25 show at Talkatora Stadium is cancelled. Karte hain aaram se, dete hain nayi date jaldi hi. Sab ko refund BMS se mil jayega.”Taking to X, Wangchuk wrote, “Just now, in the presence of Union Ministers Shri JP Nadda, Dr Jitendra Singh and senior leaders of the Apex Body of Leh Ladakh, I finally broke my fast after 26 days. Earlier, 65 Members of Parliament from different political parties had visited or signed letters urging me to end my fast. This was done after long negotiations on various conditions and in view of possible violence in the country. I will explain the conditions in detail in a separate video very soon. Meanwhile, I urge you all to stay very vigilant and not allow violence of any kind anywhere.”Actor Prakash Raj, who has been among the most vocal supporters of the CJP-led students protest, shared Wangchuk’s post on X and wrote, “Thank you, Sonam Wangchuk sir, for your sacrifice and for being the conscience of the nation.”The developments come after more than a month of nationwide protests. On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation, promising a fast-track court to prosecute those involved in the paper leak case and assuring that the issue would be discussed in Parliament next week.

Trisha Krishnan’s mother ‘enjoyed’ Vijay’s Jana Nayagan: ‘We’re going to miss him’

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and actor Vijay’s final film Jana Nayagan hit theatres on Thursday to a mixed response. Among those who attended a special screening of the movie were Vijay’s co-star Trisha Krishnan and her mother Uma Krishnan. Uma’s review of the film has since been grabbing attention on social media.During an interview with ANI, Trisha’s mother revealed that she enjoyed watching Vijay’s film. She added that she was emotional about the actor-politician’s decision to step away from movies. “We had a good time. We really enjoyed the movie. I feel bad that this is his last film. We are going to miss him,” she said.Trisha and Vijay have shared screen space in films like Ghilli, Thirupaachi, Aathi, Kuruvi and Leo. She also made a cameo appearance in Vijay’s 2024 movie The Greatest Of All Time. Apart from their films, Vijay and Trisha have also been making headlines over persistent dating rumours. Their recent public appearances together, along with Trisha’s birthday post for Vijay, have only fuelled further speculation among fans.Jana Nayagan is directed by H. Vinoth and stars Vijay alongside Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Mamitha Baiju, Priyamani, Gautham Vasudev Menon, and Prakash Raj in pivotal roles. The film, produced by K Venkata Narayana’s KVN Productions, hit theatres on July 24 after being delayed by more than six months due to certification issues.



Rajesh Khanna bought star’s ‘lucky’ home; was furious when Salman Khan bid for his Aashirwad



a young actor named Rajesh Khanna was trying to establish himself in Bollywood.

When Khanna learnt that Rajendra Kumar was selling the bungalow, he was eager to buy it. Legend has it that he believed some of Rajendra Kumar’s extraordinary luck would rub off on him. He purchased the property for around Rs 3.5 lakh in the late 1960s. However, there was one condition. Rajendra Kumar requested him not to retain the name Dimple, since it was his daughter’s name and had already been given to his new home as well. Little did he know that years later, he would marry someone with the same name.According to Alimchand’s book, Rajendra Kumar told him: “You must change the name. Dimple is my daughter’s name. We had named the Carter Road bungalow after her and have now named our new home Dimple too. But you have my blessings for your new home. May it bring you immense luck and prosperity.”

Soon after moving into Aashirwad, Rajesh Khanna’s career exploded. He became Hindi cinema’s first superstar, and thousands of fans gathered outside his home every day just to catch a glimpse of him. Women reportedly wrote him letters in blood, kissed his car, and queued outside the bungalow for hours.Funeral procession of the first superstar of Bollywood Rajesh Khanna at his bungalow Ashirwad in Carter Road, Bandra on Thursday. Express photo by Prashant Nadkar) Funeral procession of the first superstar of Bollywood Rajesh Khanna at his bungalow Ashirwad in Carter Road, Bandra on Thursday. Express photo by Prashant Nadkar)In Dark Star: The Loneliness of Being Rajesh Khanna, author Gautam Chintamani writes that after moving into Aashirwad, “the façade of being a king was complete.”He describes the bungalow as Khanna’s royal court: “Khanna made tens of producers wait endlessly outside the fabled durbar... He would emerge in his famous silk lungi-kurta and sit on a chair placed slightly higher than the others to distinguish the king from his subjects. Only a select few had access to the inner sanctum... Whisky flowed endlessly through the night and those present sang praises of King Kaka.”Those who disagreed with him were often dismissed dramatically. “Aapko humara durbar chhodna padeگا.”The downfall of Rajesh Khannaln 1973, everything changed. Amitabh Bachchan’s Zanjeer introduced the ‘Angry Young Man’ to Hindi cinema. Soon, films like Deewaar and Sholay transformed Bollywood’s definition of a hero, and Rajesh Khanna’s era slowly came to an end. Although he tried to reinvent himself, he never managed to reclaim the phenomenal success he had once enjoyed. His later years were also marked by financial troubles.According to reports, the Income Tax Department served him a notice demanding unpaid dues exceeding Rs 1.5 crore. Rumours soon surfaced that Rajesh Khanna might be forced to sell Aashirwad.

Salman Khan reportedly tried to buy AashirwadDuring this period, Sohail Khan reportedly expressed interest in buying the iconic bungalow.