

160 dead in Nepal flashflood, 133 Indians missing

New Delhi, August 26

At least 133 Indian nationals are among hundreds of people reported missing after a sudden flashflood tore through Nepal's Rasuwa district along the Tibet border on Wednesday, killing at least 160 persons across seven districts and triggering a massive cross-border rescue operation.

The figures remained fluid as communications were disrupted across the remote Himalayan region and rescue teams struggled to reach some of the worst-hit areas. Nepal's Tourism Board said of nearly 500 missing persons, 403 were tourists, including 341 foreign nationals and 62 Nepalese. Indians constituted the largest group among the missing foreign travellers, with the latest preliminary count putting the number at 133. At least 37 NRIs are also among those missing.

The death toll also rose sharply. Nepal's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority reported 72 deaths across seven districts, with bodies recovered in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Chitwan, Gorkha, Tanahu and Nawalparasi East.

According to Nepali media reports, the tragedy unfolded after a sudden surge in the Bhote Koshi river, which enters Nepal from Tibet, swept through Timure, Syabrubesi and other settlements in Rasuwa. The torrent destroyed homes, markets, bridges, roads and hydropower infrastructure before rushing downstream into the Trishuli river system.

The crisis has particularly affected pilgrims travelling towards Tibet for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. The Kathmandu Post reported that nearly 400 pilgrims, mostly Indians, were preparing to cross into Tibet when the flood struck the Rasuwagadhi area.

Adding to fears for Indian stranded on the other side of the border, spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev said a Kailash pilgrimage group associated with the Isha Foundation was caught in a flashflood at Gyirong in Tibet. He said 77 persons were at an immigration centre when the flood occurred and that there was no official information yet about their whereabouts.

Of the 21 groups associated with the pilgrimage,



Sadhguru said 495 people had returned safely, while 743 remained in Tibet, 148 were in Nepal, 77 were at the immigration centre and three volunteers were in Timure. The Indian Embassy in Beijing issued an advisory for Indian nationals stranded in the affected areas of Ti-

bet, urging them to seek assistance from Chinese authorities or contact the Indian missions in Beijing and Kathmandu. The embassy said it was in close touch with local authorities to assist affected Indians.

The rapidly escalating disaster prompted Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi to speak to his Nepali counterpart Balendra Shah and assure him of India's full support, while New Delhi rushed 10 tonnes of humanitarian and disaster-relief material, including medicines, temporary shelters, blankets, hygiene kits and solar lamps, to Nepal.

Modi said he had spoken to Shah and conveyed his condolences over the loss of life, assuring him that "the people of India stand in solidarity" with Nepal. He said India was ready to provide "all possible humanitarian assistance" and that Indian teams were coordinating with Nepal on rescue and relief efforts.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India had dispatched 10 tonnes of humanitarian assistance and essential medicines. An MEA official said an Indian Air Force C-130J aircraft was carrying the material, including emergency shelters, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps and medicines.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay also expressed concern after reports that Indians, including Tamils, were missing. He directed Tamil Nadu House officials in New Delhi to coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in Nepal to trace missing persons and assist those stranded

The disaster has also triggered concern downstream in India. Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary ordered heightened monitoring and constituted a high-level team after authorities warned of possible rises in river levels downstream from Nepal. Six districts along the Gandak have been placed on alert, with disaster-response teams deployed and embankments being closely monitored.

The cross-border catastrophe has simultaneously struck China's Tibet Autonomous Region, where a mudslide hit the Gyirong border area. Chinese authorities launched rescue operations, with President Xi Jinping ordering all-out efforts to locate missing people and minimise casualties.

The cause of the Nepal flood was still being assessed. As per reports, an earthquake-induced ice-and-rock avalanche on the Lhende Khola river in the Tibet region triggered the catastrophic surge, although Nepali authorities were still examining the precise circumstances.

Allegations against sitting judge must be dealt with 'strictly through established institutional mechanisms', says CJI Surya Kant

New Delhi, August 26

Responding to Supreme Court judge Sandeep Mehta's letters levelling allegations against Rajasthan HC Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday said allegations against a sitting judge must be dealt with "strictly through established institutional mechanisms".

CJI Kant, who is on a four-day visit to Germany and the UK, issued a statement that the allegations against the Rajasthan High Court Acting Chief Justice cannot by itself be treated as a finding against the judge and that he must be given a fair opportunity to respond to the allegations.

He said "the contents of the letters cannot be adjudicated in the public domain and that the judge concerned must be given a fair opportunity to place his response before any conclusions are reached. The fact that allegations have been made, therefore, cannot by itself be treated as a finding against the judge."

The CJI emphasised that the Supreme Court cannot allow individual complaints concerning judges to be determined through competing claims in the media.

The CJI said the matter was being examined at the appropriate level and the process will take into account the material placed by Justice Mehta as well as the response of Justice Sharma.

"Any decision regarding the continuation, transfer or other administrative action concerning the acting Chief



Justice would be taken by the competent institutional authority after due consideration of the material," the CJI said in a statement. Noting that he has already taken note of the concerns raised in the letters written by Justice Sandeep Mehta, Justice Kant said he and the other members of the Collegium were already working on the appointment of Chief Justices in the remaining High Courts. Accusing Rajasthan High Court Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma of misusing his administrative powers and manipulating case listings to favour "rich litigants", Justice Sandeep Mehta of the Supreme Court has urged Chief Justice of India Surya Kant to replace him "with immediate effect" with a Chief Justice from another state.

Hyderabad celebrates Milad-un-Nabi with religious meetings, blood donation camps

Hyderabad: , August 26

Muslims across Hyderabad are celebrating Milad-un-Nabi, marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammed. The occasion is observed on the 12th day of Rabi-ul-Awwal, the third month of the Islamic Hijri calendar.

To mark the occasion, religious meetings are being organised at various places across the city. A major public meeting is being organised at the Numaish Grounds in Nampally by the All India Tameer-e-Millat. Several eminent personalities are expected to attend the meeting. Similar religious meetings are being held at different locations across the city.

Several organisations are also conducting blood donation camps. The FOCUS organisation is holding a camp at the Asafia Library in Afzalgunj, which will continue until 5 p.m. Blood donation camps are also being held at the Charminar Bus Stand and Vijay Nagar Colony.

The major attraction of the celebrations will be the Milad Peace Juloos, a mega procession scheduled to begin from Charminar at 1 p.m. Thousands of people are expected to participate in the procession, which will pass through Charminar, Gulzar Houz, Pathergatti, Madina Building, Nayapul, Darulshifa, Mandi Mir Alam and Alijah



Kotla before culminating at Moghalpura. Several small processions from different parts of the city are expected to join the main procession. Similar local processions have also been planned at Golconda, Borabanda, Erragadda, Sanathnagar, Hafeezpet, Bowenpally and other areas. The Hyderabad Police have made elaborate security arrangements for the celebrations, deploying special teams and surveillance personnel. Drone-based surveillance, CCTV cameras and camera-mounted vehicles are being used to monitor the procession routes and other sensitive locations.

Suryapet: Five killed, 20 injured as bus rams into container truck



Hyderabad: Six passengers were killed and several others injured when a private travel bus from Hyderabad to Eluru rammed into a lorry carrying metal poles on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway in Suryapet district on Wednesday morning.Exploring Guided Local City Tours

Police said the victims included five women. Five of the victims were identified as Y Chinni, B Mary Jyothsna, Ch Nagendra Babu, S Shakina and P Lakshmi.

According to police, the lorry was travelling from Suryapet towards Vijayawada when its driver apparently hit the road divider while attempting to overtake another bus. The vehicle came to a halt with a portion of it on the median and the other part extending onto the road.

A few minutes later, the Hyderabad-Eluru bus, carrying 42 passengers, crashed into the rear of the stationary lorry at high speed. The impact was severe, particularly on the right side of the bus, where

protruding metal rods from the lorry reportedly pierced into the passenger compartment.

Several passengers were trapped inside the mangled bus and cried for help. Some managed to escape through the windows.

The Suryapet Police, emergency personnel and passersby rushed to the spot and launched rescue operations. The injured were shifted to Kodad Government Hospital and other places in Vijayawada and Suryapet for treatment.

Police are examining whether the bus driver failed to notice the lorry due to poor visibility, fatigue or other factors. A case has been registered and an investigation is underway.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

High hopes on Doval's China visit

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval's visit to China to participate in the 25th round of Special Representatives talks on the boundary issue is significant for its optics, timing and long-term diplomatic implications. While it would be premature to interpret Doval's engagement with China's top leadership as evidence that both countries are close to settling their 75-year-old boundary dispute, it surely is a sign that they are moving from confrontation towards conciliation. Doval also had an in-depth discussion with China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, on the boundary issue and other bilateral matters. The two Asian neighbours have been nursing a strained relationship since the 2020 Galwan Valley clash and the prolonged military stand-off in eastern Ladakh. But both sides have since taken steps to stabilise relations and held multiple rounds of talks. Doval and Wang are the designated Special Representatives for the boundary talks mechanism, which was established in 2003 to comprehensively address the boundary dispute spanning over 3,400 kilometres. In August last year, the two sides held the 24th round of Special Representatives' talks, during which they reached several common understandings. If the talks lead to an arrangement that prevents another Galwan and restores predictable patrolling across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), they would constitute a significant success. Expectations about the outcome must be set realistically, given past experience. The LAC has never been mutually delineated on maps in its entirety.

Consequently, both armies have differing perceptions of where it lies, creating the possibility of face-offs. The Galwan Valley clash, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed, shattered four decades of relative peace along the LAC. China subsequently made several attempts to alter the status quo in eastern Ladakh. India responded with large-scale troop mobilisation. The result was an unprecedented military deployment on both sides. The two armies subsequently negotiated disengagement at several friction points, including Pangong Tso and Gogra-Hot Springs.

Financial Assistance Extended to Two Gangaputra Families in Distress

“Hyderabad, August 26 (Indian Chronicle) : In a gesture of support for Gangaputra families facing difficult circumstances, the Gulf Gangaputra Aikyata Welfare Association and Sahay Nidhi Foundation extended financial assistance totalling ₹80,000 to two affected families. The association provided ₹50,000 to the family of Bingi Narsaiah of Arepalli village, who died prematurely. Association leaders expressed their deepest condolences to the bereaved family and urged them to remain strong during the difficult period. Similarly, ₹30,000 was provided to



the family of Medi Rajender, who sustained severe injuries in an accident and had to undergo surgery, which ultimately resulted in the amputation of his leg. The financial assistance was provided towards his medical expenses. Association vice-president Bingi Raju, Gangaputra Kadem Mandal president Medi Rajender, Jumbarti Malleshi, Jumbarti Narendra, Jumbarti Krishna, Gummula Naresh, Asampelli Madhukar, Jumbarti Nagaraju, Srinivas and others participated in the programme.

Onam Celebrations Held with Traditional Fervour at Kerala School in Jammikunta.

“P. S. Ashokan.”Indian chronicle”Hyderabad.”Jammikunta, August 26: Onam festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm and traditional fervour at a Kerala school in Jammikunta. The school campus wore a festive look with colourful decorations, floral carpets (Pookalam), and cultural programmes showcasing the rich heritage of Kerala. “Correspondent Benny K. S. and members of the teaching and non-teaching staff actively participated in the celebrations. They conveyed warm Onam greetings and highlighted the significance of the festival in promoting unity, harmony, brotherhood and cultural values.”The celebrations featured a variety of traditional and cultural programmes, adding colour and vibrancy to the occasion. The event concluded on a joyful note, with the participants cherishing the spirit of togetherness and the timeless message of Onam.



Athram Sugunakka Directs Congress Cadre on SIR Phase-2

“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.26.”Chintalamanepalli: A Congress Mandal General Body meeting was held at the Chintalamanepalli Mandal headquarters. Kumuram Bheem Asifabad DCC President Athram Sugunakka and MLC Dande Vittal attended the meeting and interacted with party workers. The leaders discussed the Mandal committee election process and received applications from party leaders for various committee posts. Later, Sugunakka reviewed the SIR Phase-2 process and stated that a large number of voters in the district were included in the anomalies list, with the possibility that eligible voters were also among them. She directed Congress leaders and BLAs to remain vigilant and ensure that no eligible voter loses their right to vote. She advised party workers not to wait for notices and to submit Form-7 along with the required eligibility documents to protect the voting rights of eligible citizens. She also instructed BLAs and Congress leaders to continuously verify voter lists at the booth level and conduct regular reviews of the SIR process. As part of strengthening the party organization,



Sugunakka called upon the cadre to coordinate effectively in conducting the Mandal committee elections and strengthen the party from the village and booth levels. Mandal President Dubbula Nannaya, former United District ZP Chairman Sidam Ganapathi, Market Committee Chairman Siddala Devaiah, former ZPTC Dubbula Venkanna, Mandal Youth Congress President Bandi Mahesh, sarpanches, former MPTCs, former sarpanches, senior Congress leaders, BLAs and others participated in the meeting.

UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY Participates in Milad-un-Nabi Celebrations at KCR Nagar in Ramanthapur



“Ramanthapur, August 26 (Indian Chronicle): On the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, the holy festival commemorating the birth anniversary of Prophet Hazrat

Muhammad, Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy extended his heartfelt greetings to the Muslim community.”The MLA participated in the Milad-un-Nabi celebrations held at KCR Nagar in Ramanthapur and joined the Muslim community in the festivities.”Speaking on the occasion, Bandari Lakshma Reddy said that the teachings of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad, which emphasized brotherhood, peace, tolerance, love and compassion, are an inspiration to everyone. He stated that the Prophet's teachings serve as a guiding force in promoting peace, unity and mutual respect in society. The MLA wished that Milad-un-Nabi would bring peace, happiness, prosperity and brotherhood into the lives of people.”BRS party leaders, activists and others participated in the programme.

CM Revanth Reddy Attends the 10th-Day Ceremony of Kasu Krishna Reddy's Mother

“HYDERABAD, AUGUST 26 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The 10th-day ceremony of Sheshamma, mother of former minister Kasu Krishna Reddy, was held at JRC Convention in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy attended the ceremony and paid floral tributes to Sheshamma by offering flowers at her portrait.”Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, TPCC Vice President Kotam Reddy Vinay Reddy, MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, MLA Jaiveer Reddy, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav, Dharpalli Rajasekhara Reddy and others also paid floral tributes to Sheshamma. They consoled the bereaved family members and expressed their condolences over the demise of Sheshamma. Several Congress Party leaders, public representatives and well-wishers attended the programme.”[4:16 PM, 8/26/2026] +91 93911 09207: END



Congress Mandal Meeting in koutala Atram Sugunakka Reviews SIR Phase-2

“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.27.”Koutala A Congress Party Mandal General Body Meeting was held at Kautala Mandal headquarters. DCC President Atram Sugunakka and MLC Dande Vittal attended the meeting and discussed various party activities and organisational matters with party leaders and workers. As part of the Mandal Committee election process, applications were received from aspirants seeking various positions.”During the meeting, Atram Sugunakka reviewed the ongoing voter-list verification process under SIR Phase-2 with party leaders and workers. She said that a significant number of voters were included in the anomalies list in the district and that the names of eligible voters could also be present in the list. She directed the party cadre to verify every voter entry carefully and take advance measures to ensure that the names of eligible voters are not deleted.”She also advised the party workers to create awareness among voters about submitting Form-7 along with the required supporting documents wherever necessary. She stressed that party workers should not wait for notices and should verify the voter lists at the booth level itself, identify discrepancies and take appropriate steps.”Sugunakka directed Congress BLAs and party leaders at every booth to work in coordination and continuously monitor the SIR-



2 process. She also called upon the party cadre to work together to strengthen the organisational structure and complete the Mandal Committee election process effectively.”Mandal Congress President Neekode Gangaram, Market Committee Chairman Siddala Devaiah, former ZP Chairman Sidam Ganapathi, DCC Vice-President Irigirala Bhaskar, General Secretary Durgam Janakiram, Secretary Naitham Seethal, senior leaders Nayeem and Made Dharmiah, former Sarpanch Niharika, women leader Kamala, Congress party leaders, Mandal-level workers and BLAs, among others, attended the meeting.

DAO Inspects Fertilizer Shops, Reviews Digital Crop Survey



prescribed rules.”Later, the DAO inspected the ongoing Digital Crop Survey in the mandal at the field level. The officer reviewed the process of recording farmers' crop details, including the type of crop cultivated and the extent of cultivation. Agriculture officials and field staff were instructed to ensure that the details of every farmer and crop are accurately recorded. The DAO emphasized that the Digital Crop Survey should be conducted without any errors and that crop details should be recorded only after proper field-level verification. Officials were instructed to cross-check the information provided by farmers with the actual crop conditions in the fields to ensure accuracy. The DAO further directed the agriculture staff to complete the Digital Crop Survey within the time prescribed by the government. Officials were asked to immediately bring any issues arising during the survey to the attention of higher authorities and ensure proper monitoring of the survey process in every village.”Mandal Agriculture Officer K.Karthik, Agriculture Extension Officer D. Srilatha, and other concerned agriculture department staff participated in the programme.

“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.27.”Chintalamanepally: The District Agriculture Officer (DAO) inspected fertilizer shops in Chintalamanepally Mandal of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district. During the inspection, the officer reviewed fertilizer stocks, stock registers, sales records and the supply of fertilizers to farmers. Fertilizer dealers were instructed to strictly follow government regulations while supplying fertilizers to farmers. The DAO directed dealers to ensure that fertilizers are supplied to farmers properly and at government-approved prices. Dealers were also advised not to engage in illegal stocking or overcharging. They were instructed to issue bills for fertilizer sales and maintain all stock and sales records properly. The DAO warned that action would be taken against those found violating the

Akshara School, Manthani Celebrates Vibrant Onam Festival

.”Manhani Peddapalli District, August 26 (Indian Chronicle): Akshara School, Manthani, wore a festive look as the campus came alive with colorful and grand celebrations of Onam, the traditional harvest festival of Kerala.”The event witnessed enthusiastic participation



from the school management, staff, and students, showcasing cultural harmony and rich traditions. Principal Bindu Ashok, along with the teaching and non-teaching staff, led the celebrations.”The highlight of the event was the creation of a stunning Pookkalam (floral carpet) at the central court, handcrafted by students and teachers using a vibrant array of fresh flowers. Students wore traditional attire, adding charm and authentic festive spirit to the occasion. Cultural activities, including traditional folk songs and performances, marked the festivities, highlighting the values of unity, equality, and prosperity associated with the festival.”Addressing the gathering, Principal Bindu Ashok emphasized the importance of celebrating diverse regional festivals in educational institutions to foster cultural awareness, mutual respect, and unity among students. She extended her warm Onam greetings to all students, parents, and staff members, wishing peace and abundance for everyone.”The celebrations concluded with the distribution of sweets, leaving behind joyous memories for the entire school community.

Maneka Gandhi Invited to Ahimsa Meditation Mahasabhas The Vegetarian Movement founder Acharya Srinivas

“Hyderabad, August 26 (Indian Chronicle) : Former Union Minister and founder of People for Animals (PFA) Maneka Gandhi was invited to the Ahimsa Meditation Mahasabhas, a five-day national-level event scheduled to be held from October 1 to 5 at Nampally Exhibition Grounds in Hyderabad, said Acharya Srinivas, founder



of The Vegetarian Movement, in a statement on Wednesday. Acharya Srinivas said he met Maneka Gandhi at her residence in New Delhi and personally invited her to the event. On the occasion, the brochure of the Ahimsa Meditation Mahasabhas was also unveiled by Maneka Gandhi. The Mahasabhas are being organised under the inspiration of Brahmarshi Patirji to mark World Vegetarian Day and International Day of Non-Violence. The main objective of the event is to create awareness among people about ahimsa (non-violence), vegetarianism and meditation, Acharya Srinivas said. He appealed to people to attend the Mahasabhas in large numbers and make the event a success. For further details, people can contact 8099088880 or 9553519693.

Major Dhyan Chand Excellence Awards to be Presented on August 29

“Hyderabad, August 26 (Indian Chronicle) : The Major Dhyan Chand Excellence Awards-2026 will be presented to professors and physical directors from Telangana at a programme to be held on August 29 at the Bashirbagh Press Club Auditorium on the occasion of National Sports Day, Telangana Intellectuals Forum State President Dr.Raj Narayana Mudiraj said in a statement on Wednesday. The awardees selected for the honour are Professor R.Sunil Kumar, Dr.Kariga Anitha, Dr.R.Murali, Dr.B.R. Netha, Dr.Battu Venkanna, Dr.P.Supriya, Dr.A.Siddhartha, Dr.C.Sandeep Reddy, Major D.Jayasudha and Major K.A.Shivaprasad. Justice Chandrakumar, Telangana Higher Education Vice-Chairman Professor Etikala Purushotham, Osmania University Director of Physical Education Professor K.Deepla and educationist Sadula Madhusudan will attend the programme and address the gathering, Dr.Raj Narayana Mudiraj said.



Repeal Anti-Worker Labour Codes: AITUC

“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.27.“KAGAZNAGAR: AITUC District General Secretary Bhoge Upender alleged that the Central Government was undermining workers' rights in the interests of corporate companies. He demanded the immediate repeal of the four anti-worker labour codes. On Wednesday, AITUC leaders, along with workers, released wall posters related to the AITUC State General Council meeting at the Government Hospital in Kagaznagar. Speaking on the occasion, Upender said that AITUC had been conducting several struggles for workers' rights since its inception. He stated that AITUC had played a key role in securing 44 labour laws. He criticised the Centre for repealing 29 labour laws in the name of ease of doing business and replacing them with four labour codes, saying that the move was aimed at weakening workers' rights. He demanded a minimum monthly wage of ₹26,000 for workers, continuation of the eight-hour work system, equal pay for equal work and job security. He also called for an end to privatisation of public sector organisations. He demanded immediate elections for recognised trade unions in SPM and urged the authorities to reinstate former workers without any conditions.



He also called for strict implementation of labour laws. Upender further demanded that the Kagaznagar Government Hospital be upgraded to a 100-bed hospital. He informed that the AITUC State General Council meeting would be held in Karimnagar from September 6 to 8. AITUC National General Secretary Amarjeet Kaur, along with national and state-level leaders, would attend the meeting. He appealed to workers to participate in large numbers and make the meeting a success. AITUC District Secretary Shakeer, Working President Jamshed and leaders Shivam, Sai, Meenakshi, Rajesh, Pushpalatha, Tirumala and Sharada were among those present.

Follow the Footsteps of Prophet Muhammad: Milad-un-Nabi Celebrations in Kagaznagar

“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.27.“Kagaznagar Muslim brothers in Kagaznagar town celebrated Milad-un-Nabi, commemorating the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad, with religious fervour and devotion. A grand procession (Juloos) was organised under the aegis of the Milad-un-Nabi Adhoc Committee. The celebrations began with special prayers at Jamia Masjid. The procession was flagged off by the Jamia Masjid Imam, former Municipal Chairman Sheikh Dastagiri, religious elders and committee members. The Juloos proceeded from Jamia Masjid through Railway Station, Old Madhu Hospital, Rajiv Gandhi Chowrastha, Ambedkar Chowrastha, Lorry Chowrastha, NTR Chowrastha, Bus Stand, Old Colony and Sarskilla, before returning to Jamia Masjid. Muslim community members participated in large numbers with specially decorated vehicles. Emphasising peace, unity and brotherhood, participants raised slogans and conducted the procession peacefully. At Rajiv Gandhi Chowrastha, leaders and members of the BRS, BSP, Congress and various organisations welcomed the participants and distributed sweets, juice, fruits and drinking water. Under the supervision of Kagaznagar DSP Waheed Uddin, police officials and personnel made elaborate security arrangements throughout the procession. Several speakers said that the peaceful and devotional celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birth anniversary, along with service activities, was commendable. They urged everyone to follow the path shown by Prophet Muhammad and work towards maintaining peace, unity and brotherhood in society. Milad-un-Nabi Adhoc Committee President Abdul Qadeer, Secretary Syed Haji, committee members, religious elders, leaders and members of the public participated in the programme.



ments throughout the procession. Several speakers said that the peaceful and devotional celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birth anniversary, along with service activities, was commendable. They urged everyone to follow the path shown by Prophet Muhammad and work towards maintaining peace, unity and brotherhood in society. Milad-un-Nabi Adhoc Committee President Abdul Qadeer, Secretary Syed Haji, committee members, religious elders, leaders and members of the public participated in the programme.

Grand Conclusion of 'Tritiya Sopan' Testing Camp at PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bhuvanagiri – Principal N. Chandra Mouli

“Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau – Indian Chronicle – August 26): The closing ceremony of the 'Tritiya Sopan' Testing Camp (Scouts), held at PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bhuvanagiri from August 24 to 26, was conducted with great grandeur on the final day, August 26. N. Chandra Mouli, Principal of PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bhuvanagiri, presided over the event. Scouts from various Kendriya Vidyalayas participated enthusiastically in the three-day camp, showcasing their talents in various skills, activities, and tests associated with the 'Tritiya Sopan' level. The camp was led by Camp Leader (LOC) R. Jagannathan Rao (ALT-S); under his guidance, the camp activities were conducted successfully and with discipline. Examiners, escort teachers, scout masters, student teachers, the Principal (Ms. Bhuvaneshwari), and the students for their cooperation in successfully conducting the camp. Held over three days in an enthusiastic atmosphere, this 'Tritiya Sopan' testing camp concluded successfully, further strengthening the Scout spirit among the students: "Be Prepared – Be Disciplined – Be Useful – Serve the Nation."



Commending the students, it was noted that scouting helps foster discipline, leadership qualities, a spirit of service, punctuality, and a commitment to serving the nation. Mr. Chandramouli appreciated the camp leader, examiners, escort teachers, scout masters, student teachers, the Principal (Ms. Bhuvaneshwari), and the students for their cooperation in successfully conducting the camp. Held over three days in an enthusiastic atmosphere, this 'Tritiya Sopan' testing camp concluded successfully, further strengthening the Scout spirit among the students: "Be Prepared – Be Disciplined – Be Useful – Serve the Nation."

Everyone should work to protect the environment by planting trees: - Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah

Government Whip Beerla Ailaiah plants trees in Vana Mahotsav

“Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 26):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, Turkapalli Mandal: Telangana State Government Whip and Aleru MLA Sri Beerla Ailaiah participated in the Vana Mahotsav program organized in Tirumalapuram village and planted trees along with employment guarantee workers. On this occasion, he advised the officials and the people of the village to plant a large number of trees to increase greenery in the village and to pay special attention to their care. He said that it is not only planting trees but also taking responsibility for them regularly and till they grow. Beerla Ailaiah said that now environmental protection has become everyone's responsibility. He said that if the number of trees increases, air pollution will decrease and clean air and pleasant atmosphere will be available. He said that trees are very important for human life and called on every family to plant and protect them to provide a healthy environment for future generations. He said that it is commendable to provide employment to laborers in rural areas through the Employment Guarantee Scheme and undertake programs such as village development and greenery enhancement. He suggested that trees should be planted in large numbers along roads, in government places, and around schools and government offices in villages. "Planting trees is our responsibility. It is our duty to protect them. Only by increasing greenery and protecting the environment can we build a healthy society," said Beerla Ailaiah. Local public representatives, officials, employment guarantee staff, laborers, villagers and others participated in this program.



Service program with humanity on the occasion of Mother Teresa's birth anniversary:- 31st Ward Councilor Sumayya Tabassum Shafiq Ahmed

“Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 26):- On the occasion of Mother Teresa's birth anniversary, a service program was organized at the Ashram for the mentally challenged, taking her love, compassion and spirit of service as an ideal. 31st Ward Councilor Sumayya Tabassum Shafiq Ahmed, who participated in this program, presented bread and bananas to the staff of the Ashram who are constantly serving them and spent some time with them. The program conveyed the message of supporting everyone in the society with love, affection and humanity. "You don't need a big opportunity to serve... Even a small help can bring a smile to someone's face." This service program was organized with the concept of "Mother Teresa's spirit of service has always been an ideal for us. She said that it is the responsibility of all of us to show humanity in the way she showed and provide our share of help to the needy in the society. Ward 31 Councilor Sumayya Tabassum Shafiq Ahmed,



Congress Party District General Secretary Mazhar, Ward 31 members Bhanot Santosh, Aqib, Bhanot Jyoti, Bhanot Anusha, Bhanot Sanjeev, Bhanot Bhargava and others participated in this program. On the occasion of Mother Teresa's birth anniversary, she said that - service is the spirit, humanity is our strength.

Officials Urged to Address Problems at Srinagar Colony Junction: Uppal CPM Leader Pedda Swamy

“UPPAL, AUGUST 26 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): CPM Uppal leader Pedda Swamy has demanded that officials immediately address the civic and public safety issues prevailing in the Srinagar Colony Junction–Bondala Gadda area under the Uppal constituency. He issued a statement to the media in this regard. "Pedda Swamy said residents were facing serious inconvenience due to people consuming alcohol openly and engaging in public urination in the area. He particularly pointed out that female college students and women commuting to work were facing considerable discomfort. He also stated that indiscriminate dumping of garbage was causing foul smells and increasing the mosquito menace, resulting in health concerns among local residents. Haphazard parking of vehicles on both sides of the road was also causing traffic disruptions, he said. He further expressed concern that the absence of a proper gate at the Gouds cremation ground could create scope for anti-social activities. He urged the authorities to install a gate immediately and take necessary security measures. "Pedda Swamy said it was unfortunate that despite bringing these issues to the notice of officials and public representatives, no effective action had been taken so far. He urged the authorities to immediately inspect the Srinagar Colony Junction–Bondala Gadda area and take measures to curb public drinking and urination, remove accumulated garbage, control the mosquito menace, resolve the parking problem and install a gate at the Gouds cremation ground. He appealed to the authorities not to neglect the issue and to act promptly to provide residents with a safe, clean and hygienic environment.



Grand Milad-un-Nabi Celebrations Held in Asifabad



“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.27.“Asifabad: Milad-un-Nabi celebrations were held with great devotion and enthusiasm by the Muslim community in the Asifabad district headquarters on Wednesday. On the occasion, a peaceful procession began from Jama Masjid and passed through Vivekananda Chowk, Gandhi Chowk, Ambedkar Chowk and Khadim Masjid amid an enthusiastic atmosphere. Later, special prayers were offered at Jama Masjid, followed by a food distribution programme for devotees. Similarly, a peaceful procession was organised from Masjid-e-Yaseen in Janakapoor through several streets. Muslim religious elders said that Prophet Muhammad conveyed the message of peace, brotherhood and humanity to the world. They called upon everyone to follow the righteous path shown by the Prophet and promote peace and communal harmony. Municipal Vice-Chairperson M.D. Ahmed, Single Window Chairman Ali Bin Ahmed, Ward Member Ghulam Javid, and Muslim leaders and representatives including Shabbir, Syed Javid, Shamshad Hussain, Sajid, Syed Nisar, Amar, Tariq, Imran, Taj, Mohammed Jaffer, Sadiq Hussain, Raees Ahmed, Mubashir and others participated in the celebrations in large numbers.

Milad-un-Nabi Greetings to Muslim Brothers: BRS STATE LEADER GANDHAM NAGESWARA RAO

“RAMANTHAPUR, AUGUST 26 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): On the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, which is celebrated by Muslims to commemorate the birth of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad, BRS state leader Gandham Nageswara Rao extended his heartfelt greetings to the Muslim community. "Gandham Nageswara Rao participated in sweet distribution programmes organised on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi at Gandhi Nagar Mosque and in the Nehru Nagar areas of Ramanthapur Division. He distributed sweets to the Muslim brothers and conveyed his festive greetings. He expressed hope that Milad-un-Nabi would further strengthen brotherhood, unity, love, peace and communal harmony among people. He called upon everyone to live with mutual respect and a spirit of brotherhood. "BRS leaders Jahangir, Manish, Fayyaz, Sameer, Salar and others participated in the programmes. Local Muslim community members, leaders and activists also took part and celebrated Milad-un-Nabi with enthusiasm.



Pension for First-Phase Telangana Activists: A Historic Victory

“Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, August 26 : “The Telangana High Court’s directions to grant pensions to the first-generation Telangana activists mark a historic victory and a legal recognition of their prolonged struggle and sacrifices, Justice Chandrakumar said.”Addressing a victory celebration organised by NSTV to honour the activists, Justice Chandrakumar said the success of the legal battle for the rights of the movement participants was commendable. He recalled that the history of Telangana was intertwined with several movements, struggles and sacrifices, from the armed struggle and the 1969 Telangana agitation to the later phase of the statehood movement.”He noted that several generations had fought for a separate Telangana and said the sacrifices of those who participated in these movements would remain an enduring part of the region’s history.”Speakers at the programme recalled that 369 people were killed in police firing during the 1969 Telangana agitation, while more than 1,200 people sacrificed their lives during the later phase of the movement. They expressed concern that activists who had made such sacrifices had not received adequate recognition, honour and benefits for several years.”“Pension orders a recognition of activists’ rights”Pasham Yadagiri said that while the formation of Telangana was a historic achievement, securing pension benefits for the activists through a prolonged legal battle was another significant milestone. He welcomed the success of the legal fight for their rights.”Madabhushi Sridharacharyulu urged the State government to allot land to the activists who had secured the High Court orders from the land acquired by HYDRAA. He said the sacrifices of the activists would receive complete justice only when the government provided them due recognition and appropriate benefits.”Telangana Vittal described the pension orders secured by 49 first-generation Telangana activists after a prolonged struggle as a historic moment.



He appreciated Professor Nanumaswamy for represent-

ing the activists as their counsel and fighting for pension, land and reservation benefits.”“Memorials for Telangana martyrs sought”Manda Ailaiah urged the government to install statues of Telangana martyrs at K.B.R. Park to ensure that their sacrifices remain an inspiration for future generations. Such a memorial, he said, would be a fitting tribute to those who laid down their lives for Telangana.”The programme was presided over by Professor Nanumaswamy and began with a welcome address by Prathibha Goud, Executive Director of NSTV.”At the conclusion of the programme, NSTV chief Nanumas Subhash Kumar felicitated all 49 first-generation Telangana activists who had secured the pension orders, presenting them with shawls. The activists expressed happiness over the judicial recognition of their long-standing struggle.”Speakers said the pension orders represented more than a financial benefit. They were a recognition of the contribution of activists who had dedicated their lives to the Telangana cause.”A long struggle. A legal battle. Finally, victory.”The victory celebration served as a significant occasion to honour the sacrifices of the first-generation Telangana activists and carry the spirit of the Telangana movement forward to future generations.

MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Attends Sri Mahankali and Sri Pochamma Deities Consecration Ceremony



committee members, devotees and a large number of local residents participated in the consecration ceremony.

“UPPAL, AUGUST 26 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the consecration ceremony of the newly constructed temple of Sri Sri Mahankali and Sri Sri Pochamma Deities held in Nagole Division-29, under the LB Nagar constituency.”The consecration ceremony was conducted with devotion and religious fervour under the blessings and supervision of His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Abhinavodanda Vidyashankara Bharathi Swamy, Peethadhipathi of Sri Jagadguru Pushpagiri Shankaracharya Mahasanthanam Peetham and Paramahansa Parivrajaka.”On the occasion, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy performed special prayers to the deities and wished for the happiness, prosperity, good health and well-being of all people. He also prayed for the prosperity and development of Nagole village and for Telangana to flourish with abundant crops and overall progress.”Former MLC Yegga Mallesham also attended the ceremony and offered prayers to the deities.”Temple

Let's move from village to village for the completion of projects and instead of Musi dirty water: - CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha's call



““Make the padayatra organized by CPM to obtain funds from the government... a victory for the Mahadharna...”“CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha’s call”“Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 26): - CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha has called for the completion of projects and instead of Musi dirty water, let’s move from village to village for the purpose of obtaining Godavari water.” He said that the padayatra being organized under the auspices of the CPM on the 29th, 30th, and 31st of this month to obtain funds from the government should be participated in the Mahadharna on the 31st in thousands and celebrated. After the Pochampally Town Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, a “padayatra poster” was unveiled at Bhuvanagiri intersection and in Pillayapalli villages. Speaking on the occasion, Kondamadugu Narasimha said that the works of multipurpose projects like Baswapur and Gandhamalla Charlagudem, which are very important for irrigation and drinking water in the district, have been pending for years due to lack of funds. He demanded that these projects be allocated adequate funds and completed promptly to solve the irrigation and drinking water problems of the people of the district. He said that the works have been stopped due to severe delay in the release of funds for the Pillayapalli canal. He said that the pending works of the Pillayapalli canal should be completed. He demanded that Kaleshwaram water be brought into the Shamirpet tank and a mini reservoir be made and from there Godavari water be provided to the Philayapalli canal through Inanalabad. He expressed his concern that the people of the mandal are already suffering from many diseases due to the dirty water of Musi. He demanded that Godavari water be provided instead of dirty water. He asked people to participate in large numbers in the padayatra and maha dharna for the completion of projects and canals for the sake of Godavari water.

CPM Mandal Secretaries Kota Ramachandra Reddy, Town Secretary Dubbaka Jagan, Senior Leaders Gudur Anji Reddy, Mandal Secretary Members Manchala Madhu, Gudur Buchi Reddy, Mandal Committee Members Patti Bikshapati, Town Committee Members Vaddepalli Yadagiri, Bugga Lakshmaiah, Gudur Ramreddy, Bhethi Kamalamma, Ponnamonni Krishna, Leaders Ali, Mallareddy, Chamara Gundla Narayana Farmers Perumandla Danayya Balayya Eswarayya Narasimha Bikshapati and others participated in this program.



Sreenayya Panel Seeks Mandate to Make Jubilee Hills Society the Best in the Country



““Hyderabad Correspondent, August 26 (Indian Chronicle): Seeking members’ mandate for a fresh and development-focused administration, Sreenayya Growth and Governance Panel president candidate Sreenayya has promised to transform the Jubilee Hills Cooperative House Building Society into one of the country’s best-managed housing societies. Addressing a press conference at the Hyderabad Press Club along with panel member Padma Reddy, Sreenayya said the society had a distinguished history but now required renewed attention to development, member services and transparent administration. He said growing internal politics had affected the functioning of the society, leaving basic infrastructure and amenities without adequate attention. The administration, he stressed, should treat every member with dignity and work in the broader interests of the entire

membership. The 15-member panel is contesting the August 30 elections to be held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Sreenayya said the team had consciously moved beyond conventional panel-based politics by bringing together members from different sections of the society. Drawing on his experience in construction and infrastructure development, Sreenayya said the panel’s focus would be on systematically improving roads, parks, club facilities and other infrastructure while strengthening transparency and accountability in administration. He urged members to actively participate in the election and support the Sreenayya Growth and Governance Panel to build a more development-oriented, transparent and member-friendly society.

Arunkarun Patel Participates in Milad-un-Nabi Annadanam in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division

“UPPAL, AUGUST 26 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel participated as the chief guest in an Annadanam (free food distribution) programme organised on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi at Sabera Colony in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division.”On the occasion, Arun Patel participated in the food distribution and served meals to the devotees. A large number of colony residents attended the programme.Arun Patel expressed his special gratitude to the residents of Sabera Colony for organising the Annadanam programme on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi.Sabera Colony President Mohammed Ashwaq, Farooq Ghouse, Shambhu, K. Swamy, Golusula Swamy, Kishore, Arun, Sai Chari and other residents of the colony participated in the programme.



Eligible Voters Must Be Identified in Today’s Gram Sabhas: DCC President Atram Sugunakka



““Kumrambheem, Asifabad,District.Reporter "Indian Chronicle" August.27.”“Asifabad: Komuram Bheem Asifabad DCC President Atram Sugunakka has urged Congress party BLAs-2, supervisors, mandal presidents, town presidents, ward presidents and party workers to identify every eligible voter during the Gram Sabhas being held today and ensure that no one loses their right to vote.As part of SIR Phase-2, she called on Congress workers to create awareness among people and encourage them to verify their names in the voter list. She said party workers should assist eligible voters in submitting the required documents, filing objections and submitting applications wherever necessary.Atram Sugunakka emphasized that the right to vote is fundamental to democracy and urged Congress workers to work responsibly to protect the voting rights of every eligible citizen. She also directed party leaders and workers to coordinate and monitor the Gram Sabhas and take necessary steps as per the rules if the names of eligible voters are missing from the electoral rolls.

Who Will Solve the Garbage Problem on Viswanagar Roads? Questions Prajavani Voluntary Organisation President Erram Srinivas

“UPPAL, August 26 (Indian Chronicle): Prajavani Voluntary Organisation President Erram Srinivas has expressed serious concern over heaps of garbage accumulating on the roads near the garbage dumping yard adjacent to DMart at Uppal Bhagayath in the Medchal–Malkajigiri Municipal Corporation (MMMC) limits.”He alleged that for the past four to five days, garbage collection vehicles have been dumping household waste at the dumping yard, resulting in large piles of garbage spilling onto the main road and around the dumping centre.”Srinivas said thousands of commuters and pedestrians use this road every day, making the situation a major inconvenience for the public. Due to the recent rains, the garbage has become soaked and spread across the road, causing a foul smell and increasing the mosquito menace.”He urged the authorities and public representatives to immediately address the issue in the interest of public health and environmental cleanliness. Srinivas said it was unfortunate that garbage was piling up on the main roads of Hyderabad, which is being developed as a global city, and stressed the need for a permanent solution.”He demanded that officials immediately clear the garbage from the roads and undertake proper sanitation measures at the dumping yard. Srinivas warned that if the issue is not resolved immediately, Prajavani Voluntary Organisation will stage a protest in front of the GHMC office.



Love, compassion and brotherhood are Prophet Muhammad’s message: Collector Chitra Mishra, Gaush Alam participate in Milad-un-Nabi rally in Karimnagar.

Karimnagar August 26 (Correspondent): District Collector Chitra Mishra and Police Commissioner Gaush Alam on Wednesday extended greetings to the Muslim community on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi and participated in a rally organised in the city to mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Mishra and Mr. Alam said the Prophet’s teachings emphasised love, kindness, compassion, tolerance and brotherhood. His life and message continued to inspire people to live in harmony and uphold human values, they said.

They called upon people, irrespective of their religion or community, to foster brotherhood and contribute to maintaining peace and unity. Collective efforts were needed for the development and progress of the country, they said.

The Collector and the Police Commissioner also stressed the importance of promoting compassion, tolerance and humanitarian values in society. They appealed to people to celebrate Milad-un-Nabi peacefully and in a spirit of harmony.

They wished that the festival would bring peace, happiness and prosperity to all.

Manoj Jarange-Patil threatens ‘final stir’ over Maratha reservation from August 29



GNS News Agency, August 26

Activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Wednesday toughened his stance on Maratha reservation, saying that he would launch “a final and decisive protest” from August 29 if the Maharashtra government fails to issue Kunbi community certificates under Other Backward Classes (OBC) to the 58 lakh people who possess valid records.“The Fadnavis government has been targeting the Marathas. Therefore, this time, either I will die, or the Fadnavis government will fall,” he told reporters in Antarwali Sarati village, the seat of his historic hunger strike in 2023.

Jarange-Patil, who had to call off his ninth hunger strike within 15 hours of its launch at the end of May, said that the government is making efforts to make fools of the Marathas. “Once upon a time, the community stood united, which is why we need to move forward carefully. August 29 marks the completion of 3 years. If anyone is trying to make fools of us, that is why you have been called,” the social activist said, while urging those who possess Kunbi records to apply for reservation.Jarange-Patil said that the children of the Maratha community are suffering and demanded that the government give Kunbi certificates according to the Hyderabad Gazette by August 28. “My blood has been burn-

ing for the past three years, which is why I am staging the final decisive protest for the children of the community. Not a single person should stay at home; we will not stop until we get the certificates for the 58 lakh records. If the Hyderabad Gazette was given, then why weren’t the certificates issued? Why are Marathas being targeted? Earlier, you brought the local inquiry report. We will not stop until we get Kunbi certificates according to the Hyderabad Gazette,” he asserted.

The Hyderabad Gazette is a document that came out in 1918 classifying Marathas in the Marathwada region (such as Nanded and Aurangabad) with Kunbi lineage.Jarange-Patil pointed out that it has been almost four months since the Kunbi certificates have not been given to Marathas. “The children and workers of NCP, Shiv Sena, and Congress are going to get reservation. We are demanding the implementation of the gazette for Satara Sansthan, Kolhapur, Aundh, and Pune; why are they not accepting it? In your (government’s) battle for credit, Marathas are being sacrificed.”Referring to the previous incidents of violence during the Maratha agitation, the activist said the Fadnavis government had promised to withdraw cases against Maratha community members. “Three years have passed. The government has not kept its word. Why are cases being filed against us after beating us?

The August 29 protest will not be called off until all cases are withdrawn,” he said.Jarange-Patil, who joined the Maratha reservation movement 15 years ago, said that only on official records have all facilities of OBCs been extended to Marathas. “However, today, facilities entitled to OBCs have not been started. Not a single school has these facilities,” the leader said.He said his demand for a separate ministry for the Maratha community remains unfulfilled. “It is only a 15-minute task for the Chief Minister; why wasn’t it done? Nine OBC ministers said they do not want a separate ministry for Marathas. Why do OBCs need a ministry, and why not Marathas?” the leader asked.

Karnataka BJP MLA Yashpal Suvarna booked for ‘drug addict’ remark against Rahul Gandhi

The Karnataka Police booked BJP MLA Yashpal Suvarna for allegedly making provocative and defamatory remarks against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a public protest in Udupi Tuesday.A complaint filed by Udupi district Congress president Ashok Kumar Kodavoor alleges that Suvarna described Rahul Gandhi as a “drug addict”. It further claims that the Udupi MLA compared the demolition of the Babri Masjid with “destroying Rahul Gandhi’s dynasty” and made remarks capable of promoting enmity, disturbing communal harmony and provoking violence. Suvarna’s speech also allegedly targeted students participating in protests over the NEET paper leak and intended to incite BJP workers against Congress supporters.

The police registered a case under charges of abetment of an offence by the public or a large group, provocation with intent to cause riot, promoting enmity between different groups, criminal intimidation, intentional insult to provoke breach of peace, and making or circulating statements with intent to promote enmity, hatred or ill will between different communities.“We have initiated an investigation into the allegations,” a police officer said.

Examine video evidence, Congress leader urges policeReacting to the FIR, Manjunatha Bhandary, Karnataka Congress working president and a member of the Legislative Council, said the state government has taken the matter seriously. Bhandary alleged that Suvarna had

Anger over IIT Delhi suicide grows, FIR filed, probe panel reformed

On Tuesday morning, more than 500 students were packed inside the Lecture Hall Complex at IIT-Delhi, and 2,000 others had gathered outside. Through the previous night, students had held a candlelight vigil, marching around the campus, and taken their agitation into the morning. The gates of the complex were secured, and security personnel had been instructed to refuse entry to all technical staff, parents and family members of students, and other visitors.

Students had stayed away from most classes for two days, and on Tuesday, the IIT-D administration was broadcasting caution over megaphones, telling them that continuous absence from classrooms could create difficulties for their academic future.Tuesday was the third day of the protests that began after 31-year-old Rishikesh Kumar, an M.Sc Physics student, allegedly died by suicide after jumping from the sixth floor of a building on campus on Saturday.

Another candlelight march was planned for Tuesday evening, even as talks between the administration and a six-member student delegation continued at the Director’s office in the main building. The administration has announced an “impartial” inquiry into the concerns of the students, and appealed for classes and academic activities to resume.The ongoing mobilisation is unusual at IIT-D, one of India’s most celebrated educational institutions. Students are demanding accountability for what they say is the eighth suicide on campus since 2023, and the response from IIT-D has so far done little to pacify them.“How are we expected to continue as though nothing has happened? There has been a death by suicide in this building. No suicide is a singular event. It happens because many things accumulate,” a student protester said. The student requested anonymity saying he feared he might be targeted by the administration.Meanwhile, the Delhi police have registered an FIR for abetment of suicide and launched an investigation into the death by suicide of the 31-year-old IIT student. The FIR, which has been registered against “unknown,” was registered on the evening of the incident itself, a police officer said.

Students have demanded the resignation of four IIT officials, an independent inquiry into Rishikesh’s death, and compensation of at least Rs 1 crore for his family.The administration has announced an External Inquiry Committee, financial assistance through its benevolent fund, and the creation of a separate fund through voluntary contributions from students, faculty and staff. But it hasn’t agreed to the demands for resignations and a specific compensation.

“That is not enough. There was nothing in the mail [from the administration] about the resignation of the four people. The investigation panel has people whom the students don’t trust,” the student said.The five-member inquiry panel com-

Kangana Ranaut, CJP Spokesperson Saurav Das trade sharp barbs over ‘Generation Gutter’ Remarks

GNS News Agency, August 26

New Delhi: BJP MP Kangana Ranaut and Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) spokesperson Saurav Das have traded sharp barbs as the controversy over the actor-politician’s remarks describing Gen Z as “Generation gutter” escalated.Ranaut on Tuesday sparked a political row by posting strongly-worded Instagram Stories targeting the CJP-led agitation over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination.Responding to Ranaut’s posts, Das said her language was unbecoming and questioned her mental stability while accusing her of trying to “ride the CJP wave”.The MP from Himachal Pradesh’s Mandi dismissed him as “totally useless and unemployed”.

“These words don’t seem to be of a person who is mentally stable because you wouldn’t use this kind of language about the young. If there is a young person in your family who belongs to Gen Z or Gen Alpha or whatever, would you use such language against them?” he told PTI Videos.Das also took a swipe at Ranaut’s performance as a parliamentarian.

“I don’t have much to say about Kangana Ranaut, her own party members don’t take her seriously. There are videos of her from her constituency where she is meeting people and telling them, ‘Aap log to bohat kaam karate ho. Mujhe to laga tha ki MP banke zyadaa kaam nahi hoga. Lekin yaha par to mujhe roz kaam karna pad raha hai.’ So that’s the kind of seriousness with which she sees her own work,” he said.“It’s fine, I think she is trying to ride the CJP wave. We said this before, anybody who wants to take credit or fame from the current movement, they are free to do so and so is Kangana,” he added.Ranaut responded through a new post on Instagram Stories.“I just googled this person and he is 28 years old. And he claims to be a student. How he claims to be a student I have no clue!!” she wrote.Hitting

‘He jumped into the Black Sea’: UP sailor’s second voyage ends in desperate search

Black Sea — one of them was my brother,” Seemakash said.“We were told the Ukrainian Navy rescued two of them, but two others, including my brother, remain missing,” she said.Since then, the family has looked everywhere for help.“At first, we tried to gather information sitting in Prayagraj but we realised we had no way of tracing Ram from here,” said his brother-in-law, Anuj Kumar Pandey.

On July 27, Ram’s elder brother, Krishna Das Dubey, accompanied by two cousins, travelled to Delhi. “They met officials of the shipping company, who told us they were making efforts to locate the missing crew members, but we have not received a concrete update,” said Anuj.Ram hails from Nivi Kala village and is the younger of two sons. His father, Ramesh Chandra Dubey, is a retired Armyman.Seemakashi said the family has submitted urgent representations to the Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry of External Affairs, seeking diplomatic intervention to help trace Ram.On Tuesday, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had said India was coordinating with Ukrainian authorities in the search for the two missing Indian crew members and remained in touch with their families.The Port of Odesa, one of Ukraine’s key Black Sea ports, has been a frequent target of missile and drone attacks since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022.In a post on social media on Sunday, the Indian Embassy in Kyiv had said: “Embassy of India in Ukraine is closely monitoring the situation following the incident involving MV AGN Ragnar, which was struck at the Port of Odesa on July 25. Four Indian nationals were on board the vessel. As per the latest information, two have been confirmed safe, and information is awaited regarding the other two nationals.”

How Gurugram plans to fight waterlogging menace after children get stuck in buses

A day after heavy monsoon downpour left hundreds of school children stranded inside buses for hours across severely waterlogged stretches in Gurgaon, the district administration on Tuesday invoked the Disaster Management Act to issue a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regulating school transport during heavy rainfall.

The order was issued by Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh following an inter-departmental coordination meeting held on Tuesday evening.On Monday, intense rainfall crippled arterial roads, service lanes, and underpasses in the Millennium City. Several school buses carrying students were caught in prolonged traffic snarls and severe waterlogging near major bottlenecks, forcing parents to intervene and wade through flooded streets to retrieve their children, particularly at Subhash Chowk, as reported by The Indian Express.Tuesday’s order noted that the stranding occurred primarily because “real-time information regarding waterlogging at various points of the city was not available with the school authorities and with the bus drivers at the time of despatch”. The administration laid down strict protocols for the traffic police, education officers, civic agencies, and school administrations, effective immediately and until September 30.

Real-time bulletins, dedicated nodal officerAs per the order, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) must appoint an officer not below the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) as the Nodal Officer for school route information, within 24 hours.The traffic police will prepare and transmit route reports categorising stretches as ‘Clear’, ‘Slow-moving’, or ‘Waterlogged’. On days which see rain during the preceding 12 hours or when an India Meteorological Department alert is active, bulletins must be released at fixed intervals:

Traffic personnel, tow vehicles, and PCR vans are to be stationed at choke points during school commute hours (7 am-9 am and 12 pm-3 pm) to prioritise movement of school buses. The Haryana Roadways will also have to position a standby fleet of spare buses with drivers at all-weather locations to evacuate students in case of breakdowns or immobilisation. The order specifies that no student shall be left unaccompanied under any circumstances.

15-minute information relay to schoolsThe District Education Officer (DEO) and the District Elementary Education Officer (DEEO) have been directed to create a dedicated WhatsApp broadcast group and bulk SMS/email directory within 24 hours. This network must encompass principals and transport heads of all government, private, aided, and recognised schools across the district, includ-

back at Das’ criticism of her work as an MP, Ranaut said she may be new to politics but had been in public life for the past 20 years.“At his age, I had two National Awards. Yes, as a new parliamentarian, I was overwhelmed with all the work because I am also a filmmaker, performing artist, producer, screenwriter, and entrepreneur. But someone like him, who is totally useless and unemployed, will never understand what it means to be in massive demand at all times, at any age,” she said.“Dear Saurav, your issues are personal. You are not a student; you are simply useless. Let’s start with learning some skill. It’s a good place to start,” she added.

The exchange comes a day after Ranaut referred to young protesters as “Generation gutter” and questioning “who is birthing and raising them”.“Never in my life I have seen so much ugliness in one place, these reels from GenZ protests are puke inducing, the way they speak and the kind of language they are using, never in my life I have seen everything in each and every frame so jarring and so crass all at ones, ewwww who is birthing and raising them?” Ranaut said.In a follow-up post, the BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh’s Mandi went a step further and criticised young women who participated in the protests, saying their behaviour during the agitation was “most appalling”.“Here is a new generation of so called westernised Indian women. I call them Generation gutter,” she said, adding that some of the women protestors were “so ugly and corrupt that they can’t be home makers either”.Her remarks drew criticism from opposition leaders, including the Congress, Samajwadi Party and AIMIM, as well as several social media users, who termed the comments insensitive and derogatory.The CJP-led protests concluded on July 25 after the government accepted key demands of the agitators, including the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.



ing Sohna, Pataudi, Manesar, Farrukhnagar, and Badshahpur.All traffic updates received by education officers must be forwarded to schools within 15 minutes of receipt without modification. The Education department must submit a weekly compliance report every Monday by 3 pm.Protocols for schoolsSchools have been prohibited from dispatching buses onto waterlogged routes and must use notified alternate corridors. In case there isn’t any safe route, schools must retain students on campus under staff supervision and alert parents immediately.

“Route Safety Officer: Schools must appoint a Transport In-charge or a Route Safety Officer whose contact details have to be displayed on notice boards and websites.*On-board safety: Every bus must have a staff escort, adequate drinking water, and drivers who are strictly briefed against entering inundated roads or underpasses.*Handover protocol: Students cannot be dropped at unattended or waterlogged stops and must be handed over to parents or authorised guardians.*Campus safety inspections: Schools are prohibited from holding student assemblies in basements or low-lying areas during rainfall and must inspect exposed wiring and electrical panels prior to dispersal.

Civic and road agencies, including the GMDA, MCG, Municipal Corporation of Manesar (MCM), Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads), and the National Highway Authority of India, have been ordered to prioritise dewatering along school bus corridors and areas outside schools during the dispersal windows. Designated nodal officers must remain physically present at critical waterlogging spots.Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sonu Bhatt has been designated the overall monitoring officer and will lead joint weekly review meetings every Friday with the traffic police, education authorities, and civic bodies for the rest of the season.

34 yrs ago in Ahmedabad, a chilling gangland killing – and a saga that continues



GNS News Agency, August 26

Back in the early 1990s, a former Congress leader and member of the Rajya Sabha named Rauf Valiullah was brought down by gunshots to his head outside Madhuban Building in Ahmedabad’s Ellisbridge area. It was one of the most sensational cases of gangland violence in the city at the time. Thirty-four years after that politically charged assassination, the Gujarat High Court has ruled that a member of the gang whose leader allegedly ordered the hit on Valiullah must continue to remain in jail.

Iqbal Hussain Dhobi alias Laliyo Kasambhai, a convicted member of the Abdul Latif gang that struck terror in Ahmedabad three decades ago, had filed a plea seeking premature release after serving the sentence imposed on him in the 1992 murder case. Advocate Hemant Raval, appearing for Dhobi, argued that the former gangster had been acquitted in most of the other criminal cases registered against him – and that he was not the principal assailant in the Valiullah case, but only a co-accused. On October 9, 1992, Valiullah, who was general secretary of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee at the time, was shot in the head in broad daylight at close range outside Madhuban Building by an underworld hit team of several armed men. Valiullah, who was accompanied by an associate named Pradeep Dave at the time, was allegedly about to expose a deep criminal-politician nexus before the central leadership of the Congress party. He had come out of the building and was about to get in his car when the assailants struck.

The killing of Valiullah was allegedly ordered by gangster and bootlegger Abdul Latif, a man who started his criminal career as a gambler-turned-bootlegger, before going on to having a thriving career in organised crime, with the reputation of being the only known pointsman in Gujarat at Dawood Ibrahim. ‘Raees’, the 2017 film by Rahul Dholakia that was set largely in Ahmedabad and starred Shah Rukh Khan, was seen to have close parallels with the life of Abdul Latif, even though the filmmaker and the actor had denied these connections. Latif, who was accused in dozens of cases including the 1993 Bombay blasts, was killed in an alleged police encounter in Ahmedabad in 1997. The Valiullah murder was one of the most sensational cases linked to the gangster – and as recently as in June this year, the Ahmedabad Crime Branch had swooped on another accused in the case, Mohammad Taslim Shaikh, who had jumped parole in 2019. Shaikh, the absconding accused in the Valiullah murder, was found to be living in Rajasthan with his family from a second wife.

Hemant Raval, counsel for Dhobi, told the HC that his client’s role could not be equated with that of the principal assailant. He stressed that Dhobi was a co-accused and had been acquitted in most of the other cases lodged against him. Raval also submitted that Dhobi had served more than

22 years in prison and had received a “good conduct” report from the jail. He had been carrying out the tasks assigned to him in jail with responsibility, Raval submitted. The state government opposed Dhobi’s plea. Counsel for the state pointed to the case of Dhobi’s co-accused Sajid Ali alias Danny, and Mohmed Umar Majid Ahmed Pathan alias Mohmed Fighter alias Mohmed Pahelwan, both of whom had sought premature release after completing their sentences. The state said that Sajid Ali’s petition challenging the refusal of his release was pending before the Supreme Court.

Valiullah, the Congress Rajya Sabha MP, was 47 years old when he was killed. The murder was closely linked to the gunning down of nine persons on August 3, 1992, including Hansraj Trivedi, described by the prosecution as an alleged supplier of illicit liquor, at the Radhika Gymkhana Club in the Odhav area of Ahmedabad. Police registered a case in the Gymkhana murder, but the investigation drew public criticism over the failure to arrest Abdul Latif and members of his gang, who were perceived to be responsible for the killings. According to the prosecution, mounting public pressure on the police to nab the accused nudged Latif and his associates to devise a plan under which some peripheral members of the gang would surrender, allowing the principal accused to remain beyond the reach of the law. The prosecution alleged that Latif sought the assistance of local Congress party politician Hassankhan Shamsherkhan Pathan, alias Hassanlala, to facilitate the surrender. Valiullah, who had allegedly learnt of their plan, was preparing a memorandum for the Congress party’s high command to expose what the prosecution described as “a criminal-political nexus” in the state. According to the prosecution, Valiullah’s opposition to the proposed arrangement led Abdul Latif and his gang to decide to eliminate him and ‘create such fear that no one else would step forward to oppose the plan’. The task of killing Valiullah, according to the prosecution, was entrusted to Rasoolkhan Yakubkhan Pathan alias Rasool Party and his associates. Rasool Party, who remains absconding, is also accused in the 2003 assassination of former BJP minister Haren Pandya as one of the conspirators.

Role of Dhobi, and what happened before the killing Dhobi’s alleged role in the conspiracy figured in his confessional statement during the trial. According to the prosecution, he described his association with Rasool Party and recounted the events leading to Valiullah’s murder. The prosecution submitted that on October 9, 1992, Dhobi was summoned through another accused and given a revolver loaded with six bullets. He was allegedly instructed to shoot Valiullah if another accused, Mohmed Fighter alias Mohmed Pahelwan, failed to carry out the killing. Gang members allegedly tracked Valiullah for several days. On October 9, 1992, a group of accused was deputed to carry out the killing. Around 2.30 pm, Valiullah was shot at close range while entering a Maruti car parked outside Madhuban Building. Pradeep alias Bakkabhai Nautamlal Dave, who had accompanied Valiullah and was present at the spot, lodged the FIR at Ellisbridge police station. A case was registered for murder and criminal conspiracy, along with offences under the Arms Act and the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA). The investigation was initially handled by an Ahmedabad police team but was subsequently transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation. The CBI filed charges under various provisions of TADA, the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act. Two subsequent charge sheets were also filed, and the three cases were eventually consolidated for trial before the designated TADA court.

YouTuber Ajeet Bharti booked for ‘derogatory remarks’ against MP Chandra Shekhar Aazad

GNS News Agency, August 26

The Delhi Police has booked YouTuber Ajeet Bharti for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Nagina MP Chandra Shekhar Aazad during his show — Andolan Hatao Nautanki — on his YouTube channel.

He was reportedly discussing the issue of reservation and the protests at Jantar Mantar. The case was registered at North Avenue Police Station on a complaint lodged by the Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) on Sunday. Chandra Shekhar is president of the party and founder of the Bhim Army. According to the FIR, Bharti allegedly used his public digital-media platform to publish content in which he repeatedly made “caste-based, abusive, humiliating, sexually degrading and potentially inflammatory statements” about the MP and Dr B R Ambedkar.

The screenshot annexed to the complaint identifies the accused as Ajeet Bharti (@ajeetbharti) and displays a verified X account. The video and screenshot also identify the programme as SB79: Reservation Hatao Andolan Nautanki & More | Saptahik Bakaiti. They display the date and time as August 22, 2026, at 10:11 pm, with approximately 23,100 views. The complaint stated that the video and screenshot have been submitted as prima facie electronic evidence identifying the account and establishing the public circulation of the material.

It further requested the investigating agency to obtain the original platform records, URL/permalink, account in-



formation, upload data, metadata, views, comments, reposts and other relevant information directly from the platform concerned. According to the complaint, the impugned recording contains a continuous sequence of statements concerning caste, reservation, marriage and members of Scheduled Caste communities. It alleges that the accused repeatedly invoked caste identity in a derogatory and humiliating context. Police said Bharti has been booked under sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, as well as provisions relating to promoting enmity between different groups, criminal intimidation, and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act. A police officer said an investigation has been initiated and that Bharti may be called for questioning soon.

Govt monitors onion prices, plans calibrated buffer releases to check volatility

New Delhi: The government is closely monitoring onion prices, market arrivals and availability across states to ensure adequate supplies and protect consumers from undue price volatility, government sources said on Monday, adding that onion availability is currently comfortable to meet domestic demand in the coming months, supported by an estimated production of 307.37 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) in 2025-26 which is in line with the previous year’s production of 307.67 LMT. In addition, buffer stocks are available for calibrated market intervention, said sources.

The government remains committed to protecting consumer interests while keeping farmer interests at the centre of its price-stabilisation approach. Onion prices have generally shown seasonal uptick and volatility from August -September onwards owing to increased festive season, weather conditions, supply-chain movements and demand conditions during this period. Timely bulk release in mandis and targeted retail sales in major consumption centres play a critical role in augmenting supplies and moderating undue price volatility during the lean season, said sources. “Consistent with the strategy adopted in previous years, Onions are being released from buffer stock in cali-

brated manner based on continuous monitoring of prices and market conditions across states during the current year as well. The timing, quantity and destination of such releases are calibrated according to prevailing market conditions and identified requirements in consumption centres,” according to government sources. Moreover, initiatives such as Kanda Express (bulk transportation by rail rakes) enhance logistical efficiency and facilitate the large-scale movement of onions across the country. The Kanda Express initiative, launched in 2024-25, has been scaled up subsequently.

During 2024-25, onion buffer stocks were transported through 14 railway rakes carrying nearly 12,000 MT of onions to five cities. In 2025-26, operations expanded substantially, with 86 railway rakes transporting around 88,000 MT of onions to 16 major cities across the country. Building on the successful experience of the previous year, the transportation and disposal release of onions from Nashik to key consumption centres commenced from August 24. The initiative will initially cover five major consumption centres — Chennai, Madurai, Delhi, Kochi and Guwahati — with additional destinations to be included subsequently based on emerging market requirements, said sources.

Reel stars’ year-long feud, social media trolling end in midnight ambush at Pune cafe



A year-long grudge aggravated by relentless social media trolling between two local ‘reel stars’ culminated in an attempt to murder inside a Pune eatery on Independence Day, leading to the arrest of 12 people. Among those arrested are the main conspirators, a notorious history-sheeter, and both the owner and manager of the eatery where the attack occurred. According to the Deccan police, the dispute originated about a year ago following a minor vehicular collision in the Kaas Pathar area of Satara district involving engineering student Madhavi Rajesh Kumbhar, 23, and Atharva Pramod Jagtap, 19. Both Madhavi and Atharva, residents of Kalepadal and Ambegaon respectively, command active followings on Instagram as content creators.

“Following the initial altercation, the duo engaged in a public feud, posting retaliatory videos targeting each other. The online trolling further fuelled the tension, prompting Madhavi and her associates to plot an ambush,” said Sub Inspector Yogesh More. The violent encounter happened in

the early hours of August 15 at Cafe Flying Gypsy in Shivajinagar on Shirole Road. Around 3.30 am, as Atharva prepared to leave the premises, the group allegedly ambushed him. Atharva attempted to enter the cafe for safety, but history-sheeter Rahul Sitaram Waghmare, 20, allegedly pursued him inside and slashed him with a sharp weapon. Waghmare’s accomplices, including several minors, allegedly assaulted Atharva before fleeing the scene. A police team rushed to the spot, ensured the injured teenager received medical treatment, and began an investigation based on Atharva’s complaint. The Deccan police registered a case under charges of attempt to murder and other relevant provisions.

Series of arrests Using CCTV footage from the cafe and surrounding areas, the police first arrested Madhavi, a diploma student in electronics and telecommunication, and her associate Snehal Sanjay Sonke, 20, a fellow content creator working in real estate. The police tracked down and arrested the main assailant Rahul Waghmare, who had a prior criminal record at the Kalewadi police station, along with co-accused Shivanand Talwar, 21; Aditya Bhalerao, 22; Priyanshu Bhosale, 22; and Prem alias Pamyia Salve, 22. On August 19, the police arrested cafe owner Hemant Patil, 42, and manager Prem Deepak Patil, 21. “The duo was charged with illegally operating the venue past permissible midnight hours and attempting to destroy evidence by scrubbing bloodstains from the crime scene,” said SI More. By August 21, three more suspects, Vaishnavi alias Siya Ravindra Bhaskar, 22, Samiksha Shailesh Shelke, 21, and Vaibhav Madhukar Bhagwat, 21, were taken into custody. The police also apprehended three minors and sent them to an observation home, while the adult accused have been remanded to magisterial custody at the Yerwada jail.

Offices advised WFH tomorrow, schools to hold online classes

Following heavy rain that inundated several parts of the Millenium City on Monday, the Gurgaon district administration urged all corporate offices, as well as government and private educational institutions, to switch to work from home (WFH) and online modes on Tuesday (August 25). The advisory was issued by District Magistrate-cum-Chairperson of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Uttam Singh, to curb traffic snarls and facilitate road and drainage clearance by civic agencies.

“In view of the heavy rainfall in the district Gurugram on 24.08.2026, there are chances of waterlogging and traffic congestion. Therefore, all corporate offices and government and private schools/institutions in the district are advised to guide their employees to work from home from 25.08.2026, so that traffic congestion can be avoided and repair works of roads and drains can be carried out smoothly by civic agencies,” the official order stated. The DDMA has forwarded the directive to the District Education Officer (DEO) and District Elementary Education Officer (DEEO) to ensure necessary compliance across all government and private schools in the district, and to the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPRO) for wide public outreach.

Gurgaon records 75 mm rain in 9 hours According to data shared by the district administration, Gurgaon tehsil recorded the highest rainfall in the district at 75 mm between 8 am and 5 pm on Monday. This was closely followed by Badshahpur at 65 mm and Wazirabad at 64 mm. Among



other areas, Kadipur and Harsaru sub-tehsils recorded 40 mm of rainfall each, while Manesar clocked 36 mm. Sohna received 16 mm, Pataudi 12 mm, and Farukhnagar recorded 7 mm of rainfall during the same period. The intense spell of rain led to heavy waterlogging on several major stretches, service lanes, and underpasses across the city, including key junctions along the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway, Subhash Chowk — where school buses were stuck for three hours — and internal sector roads of Sector 45, 52, slowing traffic movement during peak hours. Teams from the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) have been deployed on ground with mobile pumps and machinery to drain waterlogged roads and de-silt overflowing storm drains.

Delhi rain disrupts flight operations; several flights diverted, airlines issue advisories

New Delhi: More than a dozen flights from Delhi Airport were rerouted as heavy rain and thunderstorms lashed Delhi-NCR on Monday, while airlines issued advisories urging passengers to check their flight status before heading to the airport, according to multiple reports. Taking to social media platform X, the airlines said adverse weather conditions were affecting flight operations and schedules.

IndiGo said it was closely monitoring the situation and advised passengers to check real-time flight updates and factor in extra travel time due to possible traffic delays. “Bad weather over #Delhi has impacted flight schedules. We are closely monitoring the weather and doing our best to get you where you need to be, safely and smoothly,” IndiGo wrote on X. Similarly, Air India cautioned that weather-related disruptions could impact flights to and from Delhi, urging travellers to verify their flight status before leaving for the airport. “Adverse weather conditions may impact flight operations to and from Delhi today,” the airline said.

Akasa Air said severe weather in Delhi had affected certain flights across its network, while SpiceJet warned that arrivals, departures and connecting flights could face delays due to the conditions. “Due to severe weather conditions in Delhi, certain flights across our network have been impacted. We realize that this may inconvenience your travel plans and seek your patience and understanding. While this situation is completely beyond our control, please rest as-



sured that our teams are always ready to assist you,” Akasa Air posted on X. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued weather alerts for Delhi, forecasting heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, lightning and strong gusty winds in parts of the capital. Earlier, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) issued travel guidelines for flyers. “Before you travel, stay informed about local weather conditions at your departure and arrival cities,” AAI said on X. It also advised travellers to arrive at the airport well in advance, as rain could affect road traffic. “Arrive at the airport well in advance to avoid delays,” the AAI said.

Bank strikes in September to disrupt services across India

GNS News Agency, August 26 Kolkata: Banking services across India are likely to be affected in September as the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella body of nine bank employees’ and officers’ associations, has called for a nationwide strike in two separate spells.

The first strike is scheduled for September 11, followed by a three-day strike from September 28 to 30. The protests are expected to significantly disrupt banking operations, particularly in public sector banks. The disruption will be more pronounced towards the end of September, with bank branches already scheduled to remain closed on September 26, the fourth Saturday, and September 27, Sunday. The three-day strike on September 28, 29 and 30 will extend the disruption for five consecutive days. Banking services will also be affected from September 11 to 13, with the one-day strike on September 11 followed by the week-end holidays on September 12 and 13. The UFBU has also warned of an indefinite strike from October 26 if its demands are not addressed.

According to a statement issued by the UFBU on Monday, the four-day strike has been called primarily to

press for the introduction of a five-day working week in the banking sector and withdrawal of the performance-linked incentive (PLI) system. Under the five-day working week demand, all Saturdays and Sundays would be declared holidays for bank employees. At present, banks generally remain closed on Sundays and the second and fourth Saturdays. The UFBU has termed the PLI system discriminatory and contrary to the understanding reached between bank employees’ unions and the Indian Banks’ Association (IBA). The unions have also raised concerns over several unresolved issues related to the next wage revision.

These include updating and improving pension benefits, introducing a uniform dearness allowance formula for all pensioners and settling other pending demands. The UFBU said its meeting on Sunday unanimously decided to launch protest actions to press the demands.

While bank branches will be closed on strike days, ATM and digital banking services may continue to operate depending on the bank and availability of cash and technical services. Customers have therefore been advised to plan essential branch-based transactions accordingly.

The rule also fails to take into account those who engage in both agricultural and non-agricultural work, often seasonally or concurrently. Many people in semi-rural and transitional areas commute daily or seasonally to nearby towns or cities for work, while still maintaining ties to agriculture, either through land ownership or seasonal farming. The expansion of app-based and gig economy jobs into smaller towns and semi-urban or rural areas highlights how urban-type employment is no longer confined to traditionally urban centres. The 'male workforce' criterion is also problematic, as it ignores the women's informal or unpaid work. Hence, retaining the outdated definition of 'urban' in the 2027 Census risks misclassifying millions, undercounting urbanised areas, and excluding rapidly growing settlements from appropriate governance and services. A rigid, binary framework no longer reflects India's evolving settlement patterns — and failing to revise it will only widen existing gaps in planning, infrastructure, and inclusion.

How does plastic pollution affect health? | Explained



The story so far: Around 180 countries have failed to find consensus on an internationally binding legal agreement that sought to restrict plastic pollution. Talks in Geneva remained deadlocked on the issue late this week. While there is already a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-backed resolution on the need for such a move, only a binding agreement will actually force countries to take concrete action. However, countries are divided on several questions: should they address plastic waste alone or include plastic production?; should developing countries be funded by developed countries for the purpose? The key point of contention is the role of plastics in health.

What are the challenges from plastic?

No material symbolises the global, industrialised, consumption-based economy like plastic. The chemical constituents of plastics are polymers, and they can be natural — like cellulose, lignin, and are the basis of nearly everything in nature — or made in labs. Polymers derived from fossil fuel and then shaped into objects are in general called ‘plastic.’ As a derivative of crude oil, it has the ability to be moulded into a nearly infinite variety of objects, from critical things, including aircraft and medical equipment, to cosmetic items such as tinsel, baubles and packaging. Add to that its low cost of production relative to materials such as glass and aluminium. The ubiquity of plastics and the fact that it is cheap has led to it being the prime source of litter and a symbol of the collapse of waste management systems. However, plastic’s flexibility also implies its persistence. Plastics are mixtures of various types that include monomers, polymers, and chemical additives. There are more than 16,000 chemicals potentially used or present in plastic materials and products. There is little or no information about the potential impact on human health or the environment by over 10,000 of these chemicals. A report last year in the journal Nature concluded that more than 4,000 chemicals of concern can be present in each major plastic type, such as PVC, polyurethanes, PET, polyethylene and others. Given that most of these are synthetic and non-biodegradable, public opinion has generally focussed on recycling or waste management. Over the years, however, there has been a body of scientific investigation into how these chemicals — that are indestructible — may make their way into living organisms in rivers, oceans, land and ultimately inside people.

What is evidence that plastic harms health?

Ethylene, propylene, styrene and their derivatives are

commonly used to make plastic. Ethylene derivatives such as polypropene (PP), low-density polyethylene (LDPE), linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) comprise the largest portion of downstream petrochemicals used to make plastic packaging. However, manufacturing them requires a range of other chemicals, several of which are monomers (the building blocks of polymers). These include bisphenols, phthalates, polychlorinated-biphenyls (PCB), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), and per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They are used to produce food containers, drink bottles, teething toys, polyester, intravenous bags, cosmetics, paints, electronic components, adhesives and sealants. For years, there have been a bulk of studies where medical researchers have investigated if exposure to these chemicals, via the products used, is having a discernible impact on health. Earlier this month, Boston College in the U.S. and Australia’s Minderoo Foundation launched a dashboard that compiled such evidence. There are around 1,100 primary studies involving about 1.1 million individuals that have linked changes in thyroid function, hypertension, kidney and testicular cancer, and gestational diabetes to exposure to these chemicals. The vast proportion of these individuals studied are in the developed world. Nearly, all of these studies are “associative”, in the sense that the measured disease outcome could be a result of exposure to the chemicals as well as a range of other factors, and it is not always possible to tease apart individual effects. The true “gold standard” of exposure is a “longitudinal study”, where a fixed group of people are tracked over a long time to discern the effects of chemical exposure, but this is time consuming. There are studies underway, said Dr. Sarah Paul, neuroscientist and head of Plastics and Human Health, Minderoo, to evaluate if a group of people who were consciously less exposed to certain plastics would have improved health outcomes.

What about microplastics?

Microplastics are plastics smaller than five millimetres and can refer to the constituent elements of a variety of additives or plastic products. Given that technology available to detect them is relatively recent, they have over the years been found in blood, breast milk, placenta and bone marrow. While their exact impact on human health is unclear, they too are implicated in a wide range of disorders.

What is India doing about plastic?

There is a ban on the production and use of single-use plastics in nearly 20 States. These are the category of plastic goods that are the least re-usable and difficult to recycle. Given that they constitute a waste management problem, India has a range of administrative process meant to push companies towards ensuring that a proportion of plastic that is used are collected back. However, this has had limited effect. India doesn’t yet recognise the impact of plastics and chemicals on health. In international negotiations on the global plastics treaty, India and other countries have expressed reservations on including discussions on health in the plastic treaty and said that these are matters to be taken up at the World Health Organization. Thus, plastics is primarily a waste management problem, as far as India is concerned.

Jeremy Corbyn | The British Left’s second act

In late July 2025, Jeremy Corbyn announced the formation of a new left-wing political party alongside former Labour MP Zarah Sultana, marking a new chapter for one of Britain’s unique political figures in the past decade. Operating under the provisional name ‘Your Party’, this venture represents Mr. Corbyn’s boldest move since his expulsion, last year, from the Labour Party he once led. Mr. Corbyn is also part of the Independent Alliance, a parliamentary grouping of six independent MPs consisting of five Muslims — including Ms. Sultana as the sole woman — who have positioned themselves as vocal critics of the current Labour government’s policies on everything from welfare cuts to arms sales to Israel. The announcement has already generated strong grassroots enthusiasm, according to Mr. Corbyn, with over 6,50,000 people signing up for membership in the party’s first weeks — a figure that suggests a significant appetite for an alternative to current Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s Labour. This surge of support recalls the unexpected momentum that first propelled Mr. Corbyn to the Labour leadership nearly a decade ago.

In 2015, Mr. Corbyn’s successful bid for the Labour leadership caught the political establishment completely off guard. As Andrew Murray, one of Mr. Corbyn’s key advisers, reflected in a recent interview in Jacobin magazine, the victory was “totally unexpected” and driven by “exasperation within the Labour membership with the legacy of New Labour”. While his rivals offered tepid continuations of the (Tony) Blair-(Gordon) Brown era, Mr. Corbyn represented something genuinely different: authentic opposition to neoliberalism, a commitment to mass movement politics rather than pure parliamentary politics, and an uncompromising anti-imperialist foreign policy stance. This combination was remarkable in the context of European social democracy. Unlike left-wing movements in Spain, Germany, or France that emerged from communist traditions or as entirely new formations, Mr. Corbyn accomplished something unique in European politics: he captured the leadership of a major, mainstream, social democratic party from a position of fundamental opposition to its decades-long trajectory toward centrism. In some ways, his rise was similar to that of Bernie Sanders in the Democratic Party in the U.S. at a similar time. His programmatic positions included renationalisation of utilities, massive public investment, and wealth redistribution — policies that were always characterised as “Old Labour” and hadn’t been seriously proposed by Labour leadership in decades, except by popular but sidelined leaders like Tony Benn. The 2017 general election validated this approach. Against all expectations, Mr. Corbyn led Labour to its biggest vote swing since 1945, securing 40% of the vote — a performance matched by only two other Labour campaigns since 1970, under Mr. Blair. However, Mr. Corbyn’s functioning as Labour leader was constantly undermined by fierce resistance from within his own party. Mr. Murray estimates that at least 80% of Labour MPs opposed Mr. Corbyn “with different degrees of vehemence and for different reasons”. This internal hostility created what Mr. Murray describes as feeling “like an encampment in the middle of enemy fire the whole time, coming from your own side”. This was also exacerbated by a hostile media that lampooned or mischaracterised many of his positions ruthlessly. The opposition intensified around Mr. Corbyn’s foreign policy positions, particularly his solidarity with Palestinian rights and criticism of Israeli policies, honed over decades as a Labour back-bencher and peace activist. This anti-imperialist stance proved especially threat-



ening to the Labour establishment, which as Mr. Murray notes, was willing to tolerate domestic policy changes such as nationalising water companies but “if a government was going to compromise nuclear weapons or NATO or even support for Israel, those would be red lines”. This foreign policy stance became a focal point of opposition, with allegations of anti-Semitism within the Labour Party being used to attack his leadership. While Mr. Murray acknowledges there were genuine issues that needed addressing, he and others have argued that the controversy was inflated into a smear campaign with the aim of discrediting Mr. Corbyn’s critique of Israeli policies. The accusations created a “moral damage” that paralysed Mr. Corbyn’s leadership and drained energy from his team, even if they weren’t the primary factor in his eventual electoral defeat.

The issue that ultimately proved fatal to Mr. Corbyn’s leadership was Brexit. Initially, he managed to straddle Britain’s fundamental political divide by promising to “respect the referendum result” in 2016 while delivering a different Brexit than the Tories. This position helped maintain support amongst traditional Labour voters in working-class constituencies who had voted Leave, while not completely alienating Remain supporters. However, mounting pressure from a newly energised pro-EU movement and overwhelming Remain sentiment among Labour members forced him into an increasingly untenable position. By 2019, Labour had committed to a second referendum — a stance that proved electorally catastrophic. As Mr. Murray predicted, this position cost Labour dozens of seats in traditional working-class strongholds and failed to deliver equivalent gains in Remain-supporting areas. The Brexit debate starkly exposed the deep division within Labour’s electoral coalition, pitting its liberal and urban supporters against the party’s traditional working class constituency in seats that voted to leave the EU. This split mirrors similar divisions affecting left-wing parties across the developed world, where globalisation has created divergent interests between different segments of the progressive coalition, particularly seen in the Democratic Party in the U.S. with the rise of Donald Trump’s populism. Following Labour’s 2019 defeat, Mr. Starmer systematically dismantled Mr. Corbyn’s legacy within the party. Mr. Corbyn was suspended and eventually expelled, while many of his allies were marginalised or forced out. Mr. Starmer’s centrist approach proved electorally successful in 2024, delivering Labour its largest parliamentary majority in decades. However, this victory hid a glaring statistic — Labour actually received fewer votes than Mr. Corbyn had achieved in his 2019 defeat, winning primarily due to the collapse of Conservative support and vote-splitting on the Right between the Tories and Reform UK.

The man who serves the dead at Chennai Central



Amidst the hustle and bustle at Chennai’s MGR Central Railway Station, a man in his 50s sits quietly, absorbed in his phone. On this humid afternoon, he is wearing a yellow T-shirt and khaki shorts, a sandalwood tilak smeared across his forehead, with kunkum at the centre. Behind this unassuming exterior lies a lifetime of confronting the unimaginable. N. Selvaraj, known to all at Central railway station as “Central Body Murugan”, has been retrieving bodies from the railway tracks for 36 years. For more than three decades, this station has been his place of work, his refuge, and in many ways, his home. His job is as grim as it is underappreciated, demanding a fortitude most would recoil from. Yet Murugan speaks of it with quiet pride, regarding it as his solemn duty.

“I ran away from home when I was 15,” he recalls. “I have been here ever since.” Drawn into the company of older men who performed this daunting task, Murugan gradually became part of a world where death was a constant companion. His earliest days were far from easy. “The body parts would be scattered, I would not even feel like going near it,” he admits. Senior hands advised him to drink before attending to a body, a habit he took up to dull his senses. Back then, the pay was meagre. “In total, they paid ₹8, and four of us would work together, so we shared the money,” he says. The work was relentless, often with no rest between calls. Over the years, the payment structure changed, and the responsibility for paying him shifted from railway officials to the police. “Inspector James helped increase our pay from ₹100 to ₹500 for unknown bodies and ₹250 for known ones,” Murugan recalls. Even today, the amount is inconsistent, and his monthly earnings hover between ₹5,000 and ₹6,000. The job includes lifting mangled remains, sometimes reassembling and stitching the limbs, and in one instance, placing brain matter back into a skull.

What are the challenges confronting the EC? | Explained

The story so far: At a press conference on August 7, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi accused the Election Commission (EC) of massive electoral roll manipulations in Mahadevapura Assembly constituency in Karnataka. Mr. Gandhi’s presser capped a series of allegations of deliberate voter roll discrepancies by the EC beginning with the Maharashtra Assembly polls. This, coupled with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, which is under judicial scrutiny, has put the poll body in the eye of a storm.

What is the mandate of the EC?

The Election Commission of India is a permanent constitutional body. The Constitution has vested in the EC the superintendence, direction and control of the entire process for conduct of elections to Parliament and the legislature of every State, and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India. Originally, the commission only had a Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). It was expanded to include two Election Commissioners (ECs).

Why has there been a controversy about the appointment process?

Parliament passed a new law governing appointments to the EC, namely the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. In accordance with the new law, the ECs are selected by a three-member selection committee, comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. The Opposition had objected to this, saying the committee gave little room for dissent as the Prime Minister and the Union Minister are part of the government and could rule 2:1 in favour of their candidate.

Why is the EC’s role in the spotlight?

Last year, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance had alleged that lakhs of new voters had been added to Maharashtra’s electoral rolls in the time period between the Lok Sabha polls in May and the Assembly elections in October. The Congress had made the same allegations about Haryana, and later the Aam Aadmi Party alleged that voter rolls were tweaked in Delhi before Assembly polls. Even as the EC was grappling with these claims, CEC Gyanesh Kumar announced the SIR in Bihar which aims at cleaning up electoral rolls. The EC said the SIR exercise will be carried out across the country. At his press conference, Mr. Gandhi alleged large-scale discrepancies in the Mahadevapura Assembly segment under the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha constituency in Karnataka which he claimed helped the BJP win the seat. Mr. Gandhi said his party had carried out an investigation which spanned over six months before reaching this conclusion. He claimed that the voter list had manipulated entries, including duplicate voters, invalid addresses, and bulk registrations of votes at single locations. Following this, Mr. Gandhi reiterated his demand for machine readable voter rolls to be provided to all political parties for proper verification. The EC stated it has not been providing machine readable or “text-searchable” voter lists for concerns over cyber-security. The Supreme Court (SC) had upheld it in a petition filed by former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath in 2018. When was a revision announced in Bihar? On June 24, the EC ordered a SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar, barely five months before the Assembly elections. As per the SIR orders, every voter in Bihar who had not been listed in the 2003 voter rolls would have to submit documents proving their date and place of birth to determine whether they were Indian citizens. Those born after 1987 would also have to submit proof of their parents’ date and place of birth. However, after the completion of the first phase of the SIR exercise, the EC released a draft electoral roll on August 1, which saw a drop in the number of voters in Bihar by 65 lakh. There were 7.89 crore voters registered in the 2025 electoral list before the SIR exercise; after the recount, it slid to 7.24 crore electors. The EC said that most of these 65 lakh “missing” voters have died; are registered in two locations; have migrated out of Bihar; or are untraceable. Civil society organisations, Opposition parties as well as NGOs approached the Supreme Court challenging the SIR process.

In 2014, Murugan’s role became particularly visible. A bomb blast in the Guwahati-Bangalore Kaziranga Express, stationed on platform 9, shook Chennai Central, killing one person and injuring several others. Murugan was among the first to respond, retrieving the body and helping the injured. For this, he was awarded ₹1,800 from the railway department. This act of service brought him to the attention of political leaders. The now Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments P.K. Sekar Babu, and MP Dayanidhi Maran introduced him to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in 2019. He was then assured a permanent job and a steady salary. N. Selvaraj being felicitated by now Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in 2019 for his service during the 2014 Chennai Central bomb blast. N. Selvaraj being felicitated by now Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in 2019 for his service during the 2014 Chennai Central bomb blast. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

Murugan says he waited for that promise to materialise. “Now, I have given up hope that it would ever come true,” he says. A railway official who has known Murugan for years says: “Murugan has been working here for many years. Nobody knows him outside of this railway station, but he is a person who truly deserves everything. Nobody can do what he does for a living. He has grown up here.” The official explains that while Murugan is not an official porter, he sometimes carries luggage. His main work, however, is retrieving bodies, for which there is no official record. “The police receive ₹5,000 from the railway for shroud cloth and body bags, and from this, they give Murugan a portion. Labour cost is never included. The sad thing is there is no official record that he has served Chennai Central for 36 years doing the unthinkable.” The certificate he received for his service during the 2014 bomb blast The certificate he received for his service during the 2014 bomb blast | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement This absence of documentation means no benefits, no pension, and no security for his family should anything happen to him. “People who do normal work get job benefits. But for us, if we lose our life, there no one to take care of our family,” Murugan says. Today, Murugan cannot work as before. A recent accident left him with a shoulder injury. When the police call him after a fatal accident or suicide, he now rings a few younger men he has trained over the years. If they cannot bring themselves to approach the body, Murugan steps in himself. The crowds at Chennai Central may not even notice him, but Murugan remains a constant presence there, carrying the weight of the dead so that the living may move on.



What has the SC directed EC to do?

In an interim order on August 14, the Supreme Court directed the EC to publish an enumerated, booth-wise list of the 65 lakh electors not included in the draft roll. A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi instructed the EC to provide reasons for the deletion — death, migration, untraceability, duplicate registrations — against each name. The court also asked EC to accept Aadhaar as proof of identity for an elector to include his or her name in the rolls. “That it has taken the Supreme Court to nudge the EC towards following basic norms of natural justice and fairness in the Bihar SIR exercise reflects poorly on an organisation which takes pride in collecting and counting every last vote. While errors can creep into voter lists over time, the answer to that is not mass disenfranchisement as the EC is attempting,” said Alok Kumar Prasanna, Advocate and Co-Founder of Vidhi Centre for Public Policy.

What about migrant voters?

Migrant voters still have to return to the place where they are on the rolls to vote. This is a huge cost and depresses turnout, notes Mr. Prasanna. “There is no simple solution to this currently. The solution will have to be cheap, secure and transparent to work. Solutions which work in richer societies and for richer migrants will not work for poor migrants from States like Bihar,” he added.

What has been the political fallout?

After Mr. Gandhi’s press conference, the Opposition upped the ante and tried to hold a march from Parliament to the Election Commission headquarters. They courted arrest when stopped. The ongoing monsoon session of Parliament has also been virtually paralysed over demands for a discussion on the Bihar SIR. The government has, however, not conceded to the Opposition’s demand. The issue has brought Opposition parties together and protests are likely to continue when Parliament reconvenes on August 18.

Catholic priest’s presence at RSS event in Pala raises eyebrows

At a time when the Catholic Church in Kerala has been voicing concern over attacks on Christians in central and northern States of India, the participation of a priest from the Pala diocese of the Syro-Malabar Church at an event of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has raised a few eyebrows.

Father George Nellikunnu Cherivu Purayidom, director of Care Homes project under the Pala diocese and Deepika Friends Club, presided over Shankholi 2025, a student summit jointly organised by the Poonjar, Meenachil and Ramapuram units of the RSS on Friday (August 15).

Addressing the gathering, Father Purayidom said that it was the generation inspired by India’s spiritual heritage and the freedom struggle that went on to shape modern India. Today’s younger generation must strive to project the nation’s glory on the world stage, making effective use of organisation and technology.

Notion of easy access to Gulf energy hit; India must chase ‘every drop’ of oil & gas, ramp up strategic reserves: ONGC head



The West Asia war and the halt in vessel movements through the critical chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz have put a question mark on certain long-held assumptions in the energy sector, like the reliability of Gulf energy for India, and the country must act to quickly diversify its energy sources, meaningfully expand strategic oil and gas reserves, and chase “each and every drop of oil, gas, and coal” that can be produced domestically, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh said on Friday. Government-owned ONGC is India’s largest producer of crude oil and natural gas. “I now firmly believe that thinking that the Middle East is nearest to us, and therefore (we have access to) all their resources, I think that assumption should be taken with a pinch of salt,” Singh said at an industry event in the Capital. He also opined that this war may not be just a temporary phenomenon, but a lingering disturbance that could rear its head every now and then due to permanent ideological and internal divisions in the region, which itself is a long-term threat to supply stability.

The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran, now in its second month, has led to the worst energy supply crisis in decades. About a fifth of global oil and gas flows transit through the critical maritime chokepoint that connects the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea. Much of these oil and gas volumes go to Asian economies, including India. The country depends on imports to meet over 88% of its crude oil needs, 40% of which depend on the Strait of Hormuz. As for natural gas, India’s import dependency is about 50%, and 55-60% of India’s liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports come via the Strait. In the case of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), India’s reliance on imports is 60%, and a whopping 90% of those come through the critical waterway. The supply disruption forced reduction in natural gas and LPG supplies to certain industries in India as the government was forced to prioritise the requirements of households and priority sectors.

According to Singh, so far, the global energy sector functioned on the assumption that globalisation will increase, but that hypothesis is now threatened and challenged. As the world gets more and more “deglobalised”, there are bound to be more problems at hand for energy importers like India, he said, adding that no one ever believed that there would come a day when the Strait of Hormuz would be closed. “Had that been the case, nobody would have invested so much in countries like Qatar,” the ONGC Chairman said. He said that there is a fundamental “paradigm

shift” where the world is moving away from the globalised order of the last 30 years, suggesting that the “orderly” world under a single superpower is over, which may lead to a “war of supremacy” with multiple competing powers. His concerns also centred on the physical vulnerability of energy infrastructure, particularly in West Asia. He noted that with precision weapons, modern warfare or sabotage does not require destroying an entire refinery; rather, just targeting the crude distillation unit (CDU) will disable the refinery for years. The West Asia war saw multiple precision attacks on energy infrastructure in the region with low-cost drones and missiles. This vulnerability is compounded by a shift in global dynamics where countries no longer want to share physical oil in joint projects with other countries, and instead insist that the partners take their share in the form of dividends.

“We should chase wherever oil or gas is in our country at any cost, because in a crisis nobody (will help),” Singh said, adding that while India oil and gas exploration is being pursued intently, more needs to be done, particularly in deep water areas. Amid growing domestic demand for petroleum fuels and products and stagnant domestic oil output, the country’s reliance on imported crude has been touching new highs with each passing year. He described domestic exploration and production of oil and gas as an “existential necessity”. Singh also said that the disruption caused by the West Asia war also led to unprecedented volatility in fuel prices. For instance, cracks or margins on diesel surged to such highs that they overtook the price of crude oil itself. “But now we should be prepared to see more of these things. We must do whatever the country needs to protect its energy sovereignty,” he said.

The ONGC head emphasised that addressing energy storage is a critical priority that must be pursued “whatever it takes”. Drawing a comparison to Japan, which lacks its own energy resources but successfully mitigated this weakness through large strategic reserves, he said that India must have large strategic reserves of not just oil, but also natural gas, to effectively mitigate future global energy crises. Saying that there has been a lot of positive movement on this front in recent weeks, Singh expressed hope that the government will announce “something big” on this front. India’s strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs), which have a capacity to store 5.33 million tonnes of crude oil, and were holding 3.37 million tonnes of oil, or just about two-thirds of their total storage capacity, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) informed the Rajya Sabha on March 23. At full capacity, the SPRs—spread across three locations in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka—cover around 9.5 days of India’s crude oil supplies. The current total national capacity for storage of crude oil and petroleum products is 74 days, including commercial stocks with refiners. The International Energy Agency (IEA) recommends that countries should hold oil stocks equivalent to at least 90 days of their net oil imports. IEA members are obligated to maintain these levels of reserves; India is not a full member of the grouping but an associate member. This 90-day reserve holding can include strategic reserves as well as commercial inventories.

Equity mutual fund inflows hit 8-month high



Equity mutual fund, Equity mutual fund inflows, Equity mutual fund inflows 8 month high, Association of Mutual Funds in India, west asia war, Iran war, Israel-US-Iran war, Iran conflict, Strait of Hormuz, Strait of Hormuz shut, west asia conflict, iran and israel war, iran and israel, us israel war, war in iran, iran us, us israel iran, us israel, us iran war, iran us war, us war, israel news, israel iran war news, war news, israel iran news, israel war news, iran war news, war on iran, iran israel war today, war in iran and israel, iran attack israel, israel iran, israel us attack iran, attack on iran, iran attack on us, us and iran, us attack in iran, did iran attack us, us to attack iran, us and israel, us and israel attack iran, us attack iran today, us iran news, iran us news, us news, iran attack news, iran attack today, Khamenei news Investors are now cyclically shifting to equity ETFs, said Kunal Rambhia, fund manager and trading strategist at The Streets.

Net inflows into equity-focused mutual funds rose 56% month-on-month to Rs 40,450 crore in March, the highest level since July 2025, data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed. However, debt-focused funds saw an outflow of Rs 2.95 lakh crore during the month. Overall, the mutual funds industry saw net outflows of Rs 2.40 lakh crore, compared to inflows of Rs 94,530 crore last month. The contribution of systematic investment plans (SIPs) in mutual fund flows touched a record high of Rs 32,087 crore in March, compared to Rs 29,845 crore in

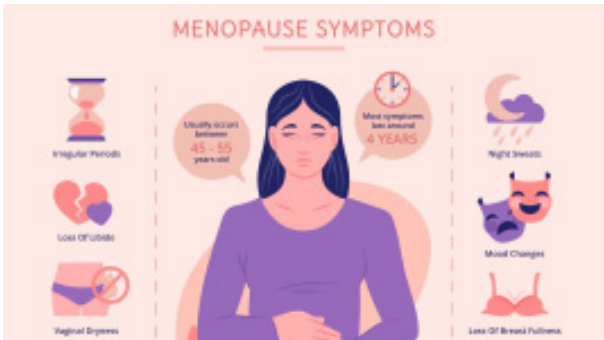
February.

Notably, February was a shorter month, which likely affected the numbers. Flexi-cap funds were the biggest contributor among equity funds, with inflows jumping 45% to Rs 10,054 crore. Mid- and small-cap funds saw inflows rise 51% and 61%, respectively, to Rs 6,063 crore and Rs 6,263.56 crore. All other categories, except sectoral/thematic funds, also saw inflow growth during the month. Overall, the average assets under management (AUM) of equity mutual funds fell to below Rs 32 lakh crore from Rs 35.6 lakh crore the previous month due to the sharp correction in the equity markets during that time.

In March, the benchmark Sensex index fell by over 11% as the conflict in West Asia and the resultant high crude oil prices soured investor sentiment. “While the headline numbers for March 2026, a net outflow of Rs 2,39,910 crore and AUM declining...may spook investors, both are misleading in isolation. The AUM decline is a mark-to-market story driven by a sharp equity market correction during the month, not a confidence story. The net outflow is almost entirely driven by debt fund redemptions, which is a well-established quarter-end phenomenon in March,” said Nitin Agrawal, CEO of mutual funds at InCred Money. “Flexi Cap gains the spotlight as the top segment for inflows, reinforcing the importance of diversification across market caps when volatility is elevated. Mid Cap and Small Cap also witnessed sharp acceleration despite meaningful draw-downs, signalling that value buying opportunities are emerging in these segments,” said Agrawal. Flows into gold and silver exchange-traded funds (ETFs) remained lukewarm after record highs in January, when they had stolen the spotlight from equity funds. Gold ETFs saw inflows of Rs 2,266 crore in March, down from Rs 5,255 crore in February and the peak of Rs 24,040 crore in January. Outflows in silver ETFs declined to Rs 684 crore from Rs 826 crore a month ago. However, flows into other ETFs quadrupled to Rs 19,802 crore. Index funds saw inflows nearly tripling to Rs 8,169 crore. Investors are now cyclically shifting to equity ETFs, said Kunal Rambhia, fund manager and trading strategist at The Streets.

the de-escalation fuelled hopes of lower inflation and renewed speculation about US Federal Reserve rate cuts in the medium term. The commodities market navigated the week on a cautiously balanced note, with sentiment shaped by stabilising price action and continued macro uncertainty, a market participant said, adding that precious metals showed early signs of stability following recent volatility. Meanwhile, currency movements—particularly in the USD/INR pair—are likely to remain a key driver, with recent rupee strength offering some cushion to domestic commodity prices, he added. Any reversal in the currency trend, driven by shifts in global risk sentiment or renewed dollar strength, could influence the next phase of price action. The MCX Gold prices are holding above the key support band of Rs 1,48,000 to Rs 1,46,000, while the immediate resistance is placed around the Rs 1,54,000 to Rs 1,55,000 zone, he added.

‘I’m in my mid-30s and worried I’m hitting perimenopause’: Can it really start this early?



“I am in my mid-30s and worried I am hitting peri-menopause. Has anyone experienced perimenopause in their 30s?” The question, posted by a user on Quora, reflects a growing concern among many women navigating unexplained hormonal symptoms earlier than expected. Perimenopause, the transitional phase before menopause, is typically associated with women in their 40s. However, doctors say that in some cases, hormonal fluctuations can begin earlier, which may lead to confusion about whether symptoms are related to perimenopause or other health issues.

According to Dr Gandhali Deorukhkar, Gynaecologist-Obstetrician associated with several leading hospitals in Mumbai, while early symptoms are possible, they are not always caused by perimenopause. “Perimenopause gen-

erally begins in the early to mid-40s,” says Dr Deorukhkar. “However, some women may notice hormonal fluctuations in their late 30s. In rare situations, symptoms can appear even earlier.” “These early signs are often mistaken for stress, lifestyle changes, thyroid problems, anxiety, or sleep disturbances,” Dr Deorukhkar explains. “Because of this overlap, women may not immediately associate their symptoms with hormonal changes.” “If symptoms continue for several months or begin affecting daily life, it is important to consult a healthcare professional for proper evaluation,” she adds. “The earliest symptoms are often subtle,” says Dr Deorukhkar. “Women may notice irregular menstrual cycles, changes in menstrual flow, mood swings, fatigue, or sleep disturbances.” “These symptoms occur because hormone levels begin to fluctuate during the perimenopausal transition,” Dr Deorukhkar explains. However, she emphasises that experiencing one or two of these symptoms does not necessarily mean perimenopause has started. How doctors evaluate early perimenopause “Diagnosis typically starts with reviewing the patient’s medical history, menstrual cycle patterns, and symptoms,” says Dr Deorukhkar. “In some cases, additional tests may be done to rule out other conditions such as thyroid disorders or polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), which can produce similar symptoms,” she explains. Since hormone levels can fluctuate significantly during this stage, diagnosis often involves evaluating symptoms alongside laboratory tests rather than relying on a single result, she adds.

Bryan Johnson’s 14% hack: Experts reveal if frequent squats are more effective than a 30-minute walk

Bryan Johnson believes 10 squats every 45 minutes is a far better health hack than taking a simple 30-minute walk around the block. “For blood sugar control after every meal, doing 10 squats every 45 minutes beats a 30-minute walk by 14%,” he claimed in his latest Instagram post. But do doctors agree? Indianexpress.com reached out to health experts and found out. Dr Manisha Arora, director of internal medicine at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, explained that while walking has myriad benefits for cardiovascular health and reducing the risk of chronic diseases, interrupting prolonged sitting with short bursts of activity, such as 10 squats every 45 minutes, can be extremely beneficial for health.

Walk vs Squat: Which is more effective?

According to her, even brief activity can help mitigate the adverse effects of sedentary behaviour, particularly on glucose metabolism. “These days, the conversation is not only about how active you are, but also about how long you remain sedentary,” said Dr Arora. In other words, prolonged sitting without movement is a risk factor, regardless of your overall activity level. Squats are a form of resistance exercise that helps activate large muscle groups in the lower body, which are key to glucose metabolism. Incorporating regular movement breaks, such as squats, throughout the day can support better blood sugar control. bryan johnson on squats vs walking According to medical experts, a combination of both works the best. (Source: Instagram/@bryanjohnson.) “If you want even more effective results, combining these movement breaks with regular walking or any other form of aerobic exercise can yield powerful benefits, especially in managing blood glucose levels,” said Dr Arora. However, emerging evidence points toward squats



being an effective option for blood sugar control. “The effectiveness of squats versus walking can also vary depending on individual factors such as overall fitness, diet, health status, and lifestyle,” she added. Dr Anup Khatri, senior consultant, orthopedics, Gleneagles Hospital, Parel, Mumbai, added that prolonged sitting may also lead to sciatica, muscle atrophy, knee pain, type 2 diabetes, and carpal tunnel syndrome. “This is why it is important to take frequent breaks and incorporate activities like walking or squatting to interrupt prolonged sitting,” Dr Khatri told indianexpress.com. Nevertheless, Dr Arora did not ask to choose over the other. Instead, she said that both methods have their benefits, and the best approach is a combination of both. A 30-minute daily walk plus short activity breaks like squats. For people with diabetes or at risk, this approach helps maintain steady glucose levels and supports cardiovascular and muscular health. Always consult your doctor before starting a new routine,” she pointed out.

‘Raat ko neend nahi aati thi’: Rubina Dilaik reveals reasons she quit alcohol for good



Frequently used to ease social settings, alcohol affects the body in ways that vary by individual. Not every metabolism is equally equipped to manage the physiological strain of regular consumption. During a recent conversation with Dr Geetanjali Saxena, Rubina Dilaik opened up about why she decided to quit alcohol for good. “I used to enjoy the high, but my mood, my health and my mental awareness were so much affected. I completely gave up drinking. Teen din tak I used to have a bad headache, raat ko neend nahi aati thi (For 3 days, I used to have a bad headache, I could not sleep at night),” she admitted on her podcast Kisine Bataya Nahi.

Dr Shuchin Bajaj, founder-director of Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals, factors such as personal health, individual circumstances, and potential family history of alcohol-related problems should be considered if you’re a regular drinker. “If someone is experiencing negative effects on their physical or mental health, relationships, or overall well-being due to alcohol, they may want to consider giving it up or seeking professional advice,” he said, adding that in such a situation, contemplating leaving alcohol permanently is imperative.

Dr Shrey Srivastav, MD, Internal Medicine and Assistant Professor at the Department of Internal Medicine, Sharda Hospital, Greater Noida, explained that alcohol suppresses a person’s REM sleep (Rapid Eye Movement sleep), and once you stop drinking it, in the first week itself, you will start experiencing mental clarity and better sleep. This will also reduce your anxiety and enhance your overall mood. Those struggling to lose weight may also experience a breakthrough after quitting alcohol, as it contributes to excessive calorie intake. According to Dr Bajaj, some individuals may experience psychological benefits such as a sense of achievement, increased self-control, and a fresh perspective on their relationship with alcohol. He added that taking a break from alcohol can offer an opportunity for individuals to reflect on their drinking habits, reevaluate their relationship with alcohol, and potentially make long-term positive changes. “Alcohol consumption is a known risk factor for various cancers, including head and neck cancers, oesophageal cancer, liver cancer, colorectal cancer and even breast cancer. Giving it up can reduce the risk of developing certain types of cancers,” he continued.

Dr Sharad Malhotra, Senior Consultant and Director of Gastroenterology at Aakash Healthcare, explained that chronic alcohol exposure alters the reward circuits of the brain, making natural pleasures less rewarding and increasing cravings for alcohol. After quitting, the brain must recalibrate. “In the early months, people may experience cravings, anxiety, or mood fluctuations, a phase often referred to as post-acute withdrawal. But with long-term sobriety, the brain gradually readjusts. And over time, dopamine pathways become more responsive to natural rewards such as exercise, social interaction, and achievement,” elaborated Dr Malhotra. As neural circuits stabilise, cravings usually decline, and emotional regulation improves.

Ravi Babu's action drama Razor set for worldwide release

Hyderabad: The makers of actor-director Ravi Babu’s upcoming grim, action drama ‘Razor’ have now announced that the film will hit screens worldwide on May 8 this year. The makers of the film have disclosed that they chose May 8 as the release date as it coincides with the birth anniversary of Ravi Babu’s father, the late Chalapathi Rao.

The film, which is being presented by Suresh Babu under Suresh Productions, has been produced by Flying Frogs. It may be recalled that the film’s makers had only recently announced the wrapping up of the film’s shooting. To announce the wrapping up of filming, the makers had unveiled a poster along with a special glimpse video.

In the video that was released, Ravi Babu appears in a brutal, violent avatar, killing a villain with a car engine valve cover—establishing the film’s raw and savage tone. The teaser features some really violent scenes that include decapitation. The film has a tagline that reads “Justice will be brutal.” “Razor” not only features Ravi Babu in the lead, it is also being directed by him.

The storyline promises to be a first-of-its-kind attempt in Telugu cinema. For the unaware, Ravi Babu, who has always carved his own path in Telugu cinema, constantly reinventing himself as a filmmaker, technician, and actor, is known for his offbeat ideas and fearless experimentation. His upcoming film ‘Razor’ marks a sharp shift from the light-hearted tone of his previous film ‘Enuguthondam Ghatikachalam’. ‘Razor’ appears to be set in a world of tension, violence, and psychological intensity.

On the technical front, the film has cinematography by Madhavaneni and music by SS Rajesh. Action sequences for the film have been choreographed by Satish Poloju.

It may be recalled that the makers had earlier unveiled a title glimpse, which drew a terrific response, especially from thriller lovers. Sources close to the unit of the film say that post-production work is progressing at a brisk pace.

Rishabh Pant breaks MS Dhoni’s record for away Test runs by Indian wicketkeeper



GNS News Agency, August 26

Colombo: India star batter Rishabh Pant shattered MS Dhoni’s record for most Test runs scored by an Indian wicketkeeper away from home. The swashbuckling batter Pant went past Dhoni’s feat during Day 2 of the second Test match against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club here on Monday. Pant scored a stroke-filled 63 in the first innings of the Test to go past the former skipper. Coming into the Test, the 28-year-old Roorkee man had scored 2471 runs in Tests away from home and at neutral venues. He needed to score 26 runs to get past the 2011 World Cup-winning captain, and he did so in style when he hit off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha for back-to-back fours in the 97th over of the first innings in the opening session on Day 2.

Pant went on to complete his 21st Test half-century and a successive one after he had hit one in the second innings of the first Test in Galle. The Southpaw’s impressive stay came to an end on the first ball of the second session when he drilled one straight to deep mid-off off Nuwantha. However, he has now scored 2534 runs as wicketkeeper away from home in Test cricket, with Dhoni now pushed back to second. Former cricketer Farokh Engineer had 1209 runs in away Tests as wicketkeeper, while Syed Kirmani made 1109 runs as wicketkeeper

In the process, Pant has also surpassed former South African wicketkeeper Mark Boucher in the same record list and has the third-most runs away from home by wicketkeepers overall. The list is led by former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, who made 2696 runs away from home in 52 Tests. Australia legend Adam Gilchrist is second with 2634 runs in 41 Tests away from home or at neutral venues. Pant’s knock also saw him close in on 3000 World Test Championship runs as he aims to become the first Indian to get there. Following his 63, the Southpaw now has 2948 runs in 42 Tests in WTC history as he stands 52 shy of the 3000-run margin. Coming to the ongoing Test, India batted at a strong rate in the first session of the second day and amassed 119 runs and lost only Saransh Jain’s wicket. Pant and Dhruv Jurel were the stars with the bat as they both crossed half centuries with India piling the pressure on the hosts.

Olly Stone commits to Nottinghamshire with two-year contract extension

New Delhi: England fast bowler Olly Stone has signed a contract extension with County Championship holders Nottinghamshire that will see him stay at Trent Bridge for two more years. This came two days after he powered his County side to a 145-run win over Surrey in three days with a match haul of 10 wickets. Stone, who has played five Tests for England, arrived at Trent Bridge ahead of the 2023 season. He has been a cornerstone in helping the Green and Golds consolidate their lead in the ongoing County Championship. He has scalped 26 wickets in Division One this season, making a strong return from his injury-hampered season last year.

Speaking on the extension, Stone said that he “loves the club”. “I love the club, I love the way everyone operates, and to call Trent Bridge home for two more years is very pleasing,” Stone said in a statement released by the club. “Kevin Shine, Paul Franks, and Peter Moores have been brilliant in helping me to keep getting better and keep developing, and I’m looking forward to another two years with them. I feel this year, my performances out on the field have shown that I’ve got better, and it’s great when you can deliver and win games for Nottinghamshire,” he added.

The squad boasts other stars in Haseeb Hameed, Ben Duckett, Kyle Verreynne and Josh Tongue among others. Stone emphasised they have the squad to “win trophies”.



“We’ve got a great squad here, and not just in one format,” he added. “We’re now showing that we’ve got the squad to go out and win trophies. Everyone is chipping in, and actually, the really good thing is that I think we can still get better, so it’s exciting going forward as we try and build on last year’s success.” Stone has played five Tests for England, having made his debut in 2019 against Ireland. His final match came against Sri Lanka in 2024 during the home series. The speedster has also played 10 ODIs and one T20I, but his last game for the Three Lions was nearly two years ago.

Jurel hits second Test ton, India take command after Sri Lanka reduced to 8/2



GNS News Agency, August 26 Colombo: An unflappable Dhruv Jurel allayed concerns surrounding his form with a remarkably composed unbeaten 115 before bowlers struck early blows to give India command of the second Test against Sri Lanka on a rain-hit second day here on Monday. Jurel’s second Test hundred powered India to a hefty 503 for nine declared in their first innings, and Sri Lanka were reduced to 8 for two at close after pacer Prasidh Krishna and Manav Suthar gave marching orders to Lahiru Udara and Prabath Jayasuriya respectively.

Kamil Mishara was batting on five when the stumps were drawn at 5.51 pm of an extended session. The hosts are trailing by 495 runs. But the main storyline of the day was given by Jurel, fresh from his 51 in the first innings of the opening Test last week.

If the fifty at Galle broke a barren run of eight innings, Jurel underscored his growing confidence and touch with a near flawless knock at the SSC ground. India gained immensely from his innings, and the right-hander was also involved in two vital stands — a 112 for the seventh wicket with Rishabh Pant that lifted India from 307 for six to 419. For the subsequent wicket, Jurel and Manav Suthar added 39 runs that helped the tourists to further break away from their opponents and close in on the 500-run mark. However, Jurel’s consistency was the key ingredient in both those partnerships. The 25-year-old’s 177-ball innings was a prime example of risk-free runs accumulation and situational awareness. At the beginning of the day, Jurel gave full support to Pant, who came out to bat after the early dismissal of debutant Saransh Jain. At that time, the focus was on Pant because he had to retire on 3 after copping a blow on his forearm by Lahiru Kumara on Sunday.

Jurel understood the circumstances, and gave more strike to Pant, who played a typical innings of 63, full of chutzpah. Pant fought gallantly against Lankan pacers during his near two-hour stay at the crease, batting with confidence and little discomfort. The eventual runs against his name might have looked good, but Pant had to dig deep to reach that mark.

Pacers Fernando and Kumara targeted his body with a bouncer barrage, and the former even managed to ping on his shoulder once. However, Pant was equal to the task, either moving away from the line or nudging the ball around. There was an explosive moment too, when the left-hander got inside the line to hook Kumara over fine leg for a six. Pant, who made a 66 in the second innings at Galle, reached his fifty in 81 balls with a pulled four off off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha. The wicketkeeper batter celebrated the moment with a thundering maximum off left-arm spinner Jayasuriya. On the other hand, Jurel reached his fifty in 97

balls, pulling Jayasuriya for a four.

But the partnership of contrast ended immediately upon the resumption after lunch, as Pant lofted Nuwantha straight to Udara on the edge of the circle. It left the burden right on the shoulders of Jurel, a 12-Test-old batter. But he showed the knowhow of a veteran batter to tame a delicate situation — for him and the team. The inclusion of Sarfaraz Khan as an injury replacement for Sai Sudharsan might have also contained a little clue for Jurel to buckle up and score runs, and aced that challenge in flying colours. True to his strengths, Jurel stayed on the back foot, negating spinners and pacers alike, and there was hardly a moment when he looked out of place while playing a shot.

The only moment of uncertainty came when Jayasuriya appealed vociferously for a leg-before decision when the batter was in 80s, but it was promptly turned down. The skies opened up nearly 30 minutes before the scheduled tea break, leaving Jurel stranded on 95. After a lengthy rain break of nearly two hours, Jurel duly completed his hundred with a scampered single off Fernando, and he consumed 171 balls. Off came the helmet and Jurel proudly flashed a tattoo on his biceps to his teammates at the dressing room. The tattoo read ‘Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan’ — the iconic lines spoken by former PM late Lal Bahadur Shastri. Once he went past the three-figure mark, Jurel shifted the gears, smashing Fernando for a couple of sixes — one over long-off and another hook over square leg. Skipper Shubham Gill declared the innings once India went past the 500-run mark, hoping to have a crack at the Lankans in the last hour of the day.

Bhakti Jayesh wins Legacy Fighting Championship title in Hyd

Hyderabad: Bhakti Jayesh emerged as the title winner after an intense final bout in the Legacy Fighting Championship (LFC-2), a mixed martial arts championship, held at the Katedan GHMC Sports Complex here. Telangana Sports Minister V. Srihari, SATG Chairman K. Shivasena Reddy, graced the final.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic response, with more than 7,000 spectators turning up to watch the action live, creating a vibrant atmosphere at the stadium. The Minister and SAT Chairman interacted with the participating athletes before witnessing the championship bouts. A total of 22 international fighters competed in the tournament, which featured a series of highly competitive bouts.

The Sports Minister said the Telangana government was committed to promoting sports and encouraging greater participation among the youth. He emphasised that disciplines such as Mixed Martial Arts can play an important role in developing discipline, confidence, perseverance and a strong competitive spirit among young people.

He further said the government would continue to extend support to Mixed Martial Arts and other sporting disciplines with the objective of nurturing sporting talent and creating greater opportunities for the youth of Telangana.

Rajendranagar MLA Prakash Goud, National Mixed Martial Arts Association Joint Secretary Sheikh Khalid, Alpha Global CEO Tayaba Sultana also attended the valedictory function.

When you are in the Test squad... it’s pretty daft: Broad on Carse’s handcuff row



While England Cricket Board (ECB) are investigating the incident involving England pacer Brydon Carse in handcuffs and being led away from a nightclub by local police in Derby on Saturday night as reported by The Telegraph, the incident marks the latest off-field controversies involving England cricketers. England white-ball captain Harry Brook was fined 30,000 euros by ECB last year after reports emerged of him in an altercation with a bouncer in Wellington during the New Zealand tour and this year saw captain Ben Stokes and Gus Atkinson being left of England’s squad ahead of the second Test against New Zealand at The Oval after breaking the team curfew. With Carse in the England squad for the second Test against England starting August 27, former England pacer Stuart Broad has termed the incident as ‘pretty daft’ and has shared how such events are not really anything that anyone wants to be ‘talking about’ “I read the ECB statement. They have probably got this just copied and pasted now. Haven’t they? You have seen the video, you can’t tell anything from it, so we can’t really make a judgment. But whatever has really happened, is pretty daft. When you are in the Test squad, yes, you haven’t played, but it’s pretty daft. We will wait and see what

happens. It could be 10 o’clock in the evening or 2 in the morning. Whatever. It’s not really anything that anyone wants to be talking about, to be brutally honest,” Broad said on the For the Love of Cricket Podcast on Youtube.

Carse, who was England’s leading wicket-taker in the Ashes this year with a total of 22 wickets at an average of 30.31, had missed the series against New Zealand due to wrist and elbow injuries. The xx-year-old was named in England’s squad for the three-test series against Pakistan but was not named in the England XI for the opening Test of the series. The pacer was released from the England squad to play for Durham in the County Championship and had scored 26 runs and taken two wickets for 82 against Derbyshire in the match won by Durham in three days. Carse was celebrating with team-mates at the pub in Derby as media reports stated and was seen in handcuffs by local police. The ECB had put out a statement on Sunday about the incident. “We are aware of an incident which is reported to have taken place in Derby last night, and are currently investigating. We will provide a further update when possible.” ECB statement read.

Earlier this month, England Test captain Joe Root had spoken about how there will be no curfew for England players. Root, who was appointed Test captain after Ben Stokes had announced his retirement during the third Test against New Zealand, had spoken about how he sees the team self policing under him and new coach Stephen Fleming. “There’s not going to be a curfew. I don’t think this needs to be a big deal, to be honest. My view on curfews is that I don’t think they work and if you want guys to take responsibility on the field, they’ve got to feel like they can be grown adults off it and make good, strong decisions off it. And that’s for us as a team to manage well, and self-police well, for me and Flem (Stephen Fleming) to manage well in many ways,” Root had told the media earlier this month.

Diego Maradona’s ‘Hand of God’ ball fetches \$3.3 million in auction

The ‘Hand of God’ goal scored by Diego Maradona against England at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico is forever etched in one of the most bitter international rivalries in the game. The ‘Hand of God’ goal scored by Diego Maradona against England at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico is forever etched in one of the most bitter international rivalries in the game. It’s one of the most talked-about incidents in FIFA World Cup history, and one memorabilia hunter can take a piece of football lore home. The ‘Hand of God’ goal scored by Diego Maradona against England at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico is forever etched in one of the most bitter international rivalries in the game, and the ball that the Argentine legend punched beyond Peter Shilton at Azteca Stadium has now fetched \$3.3 million at an auction in the United States.

The goal was scored “a little with the head of Maradona and a little with the hand of God,” he had said later. But there was no such controversy around Maradona’s second goal in their 2-1 victory in the quarterfinal, scored with the same ball, when he dribbled past five England defenders to beat Shilton in goal, a strike described as the ‘goal of the century.’ The ‘Hand of God’ ball went under the hammer at Heritage Auctions on the weekend.

“It’s a true one-of-one item. Arguably the most significant soccer item that exists,” Mike Provenza, a specialist auctioneer at Heritage, was quoted as saying by



Reuters. According to The New York Times, the bidding had opened at \$2.5 million, but the final price fell well short of the \$10 million estimate Heritage had attached to the ball. The Adidas Azteca ball had been in possession of Ali Bin Nasser, the Tunisian referee who officiated that match, till 2022 when he sold it for \$2.37 million. In 2023, he had signed a letter confirming that it was the only ball used in the game. Its next owner had again put it up for auction in 2023 though it did not sell as bids did not meet the minimum value set, BBC Sport reported. The shirt Maradona, who passed away in November 2020, wore during the game had fetched just under \$9.3 million in 2022.

UEFA chief Aleksander Ceferin says he is not running for FIFA President

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin has said that he has no interest in running for FIFA president but said that the current incumbent Gianni Infantino must realise that he no longer has enough support or will be beaten by another candidate during the election. Infantino thus far remains the only candidate in the election, scheduled to be held in March next year, and Ceferin says that there will be a candidate running against him.

“There are two options,” he told “The Rest Is Politics: Leading” podcast. “One option is that he realises that he doesn’t have the support, and that’s not only a political support of the ones who vote, but the political support of football community, the political support of fans, the political support of the players, former players, coaches. And the second option that he goes to the elections in March, but in that case, I think he will have a candidate against him. I don’t know yet who.” Infantino was initially expected to be re-elected as FIFA president unopposed even amid a wave of criticism that came for his conduct before and during the 2026 World Cup. However, Infantino has experienced a spectacular collapse in fortunes since it emerged that he had planned to sell stakes in profits that will be made from future World Cups to private entities, led by Joshua Kushner, brother of US President Donald Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner. The development was followed by widespread backlash from the football community, with UEFA, the continental federation for Europe, even threatening to boycott



future World Cups. FIFA eventually announced that it was dropping the plan but Infantino has continued to receive criticism in the months since. On Sunday, six Nordic FIFA members — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the Faroe Islands — met in Helsinki and issued a joint statement backing calls for Infantino’s resignation. In his podcast interview, Ceferin rejected allegations that Europe was obstructing efforts to help poorer football nations and took aim at what he described as attempts to portray UEFA as an entitled elite. “What I hear is that they play on, you know, arrogant Europe is ‘against us,’” he said. “But I think someone should remind him (Infantino) that he is a European, and that he was supported by UEFA, which he forgot.”

Ibrahim Zadran to lead Afghanistan in T20I series against India

Ibrahim Zadran has been handed the captaincy for Afghanistan’s three-match T20I series against India, which starts from September 13. Afghanistan will be boosted by the return of fast bowler Naveen-ul-Haq, who comes back to the national setup after recovering from injury. Naveen was previously ruled out of Afghanistan’s T20I series against the West Indies and the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2026 due to a stress fracture in his right shoulder. Naveen will join the likes of Fazal Haq Farooqi, Abdullah Ahmadzai and all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai to boost Afghanistan’s fast bowling resources. Also coming back into the squad is experienced all-rounder Gulbadin Naib returns to the squad. Afghanistan will host India at the Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium in New Delhi for all three games. Uncapped wicketkeeper-batter Noor Rahman has also been included in the squad as the second wicketkeeper, earning the opportunity following impressive performances in domestic cricket and the Shpageeza Cricket League. He has been part of Afghanistan’s development pathway and has continued to impress with his performances at domestic and A-team level. Uncapped wicketkeeper-batter Noor Rahman has also been included in the squad as the second wicketkeeper. The squad also features an experienced spin-



bowling group consisting of Rashid Khan, Noor Ahmad and Nangyal Kharoti, while senior all-rounder Mohammad Nabi provides additional experience and balance to the side. Afghanistan will travel to India shortly for training and final preparations before the series officially kicks off. Ibrahim Zadran (C), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (WK), Noor Rahman (WK), Sediqullah Atal, Darwish Rasooli, Azmatullah Omarzai, Gulbadin Naib, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Nangyal Kharoti, Noor Ahmad, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Fazal Haq Farooqi.

Malini Sharma quit Bollywood after Raaz; now grows food, lives in a farm stay in a jungle



Remember CATS, the early-2000s television show that starred Nafisa Joseph, Kuljeet Randhawa and Malini Sharma? While Joseph and Randhawa later died by suicide, Sharma gradually stepped away from the spotlight. Unlike many actors who disappear from the public eye, however, she seems to have found a life far removed from show-biz — one surrounded by trees, farms, homegrown food and guests. Today, Sharma lives in the Sahyadri Hills, where she runs a farmstay, grows vegetables, hosts guests and has embraced what she describes as a slower way of living.

Sharma first caught the public's attention as a model when she appeared in the Bombay Vikings music video "Kya Soorat Hai", which became an instant hit. She subsequently featured in Mika Singh's "Saawan Mein Lag Gayi Aag", another music video that continues to remain popular.

By the time she landed a role in CATS, Sharma's modelling career was already gaining momentum. Her appearance on the show also opened doors in films. She went on to play a pivotal role in Vikram Bhatt's Raaz (2002), alongside Dino Morea and Bipasha Basu. Malini Sharma in CATS. (Photo: Express Archives) Malini Sharma in CATS.

The horror film became a major success and turned its lead cast into household names. Although Sharma had a comparatively smaller role, her portrayal left a lasting impression on audiences. Her appearance in the film, particularly in the song "Aapke Pyaar Mein," became one of the most recognisable aspects of her brief Bollywood career. Around the same period, Sharma was married to actor Priyanshu Chatterjee, who had made his film debut with Tum Bin in 2001. The marriage, however, ended in divorce within a few years. Sharma subsequently began moving away from the limelight.

When Malini Sharma chose to step behind the camera in 2002, Sharma reportedly backed out of the film Encounter just 48 hours before it went on the floor. According to India Today, she had realised after years of working as a model and actor that she wanted to explore work behind the camera. The film eventually starred Naseeruddin Shah, Dilip Prabhavalkar and Tara Deshpande.

Over the years, Sharma largely disappeared from mainstream entertainment coverage. She did not, however, completely disappear from public life. Instead, she built something of her own.

From The Slow Local to life on a farm, Sharma is active on social media, although she doesn't use her celebrity name as the identity of her venture. Instead, she operates under the name The Slow Local, a project she began nearly a decade ago and which has evolved considerably over the years. The venture initially brought together locally made food, crafts, workshops and pop-up events in Versova. Sharma has hosted children's workshops, including storytelling sessions, and sold homemade bread, South Indian coffee, granola, jams, peanut butter and different varieties of oils. She has also been associated with plant exhibitions, handmade ceramics, crochet, decoupage and homemade cakes and other food products. Sharma now runs a farmstay in the Sahyadris, around two hours from Pune, where she grows vegetables and prepares meals for guests using produce from the farm. In one of her Instagram videos, she spoke about the challenges of growing enough food for the property. "When I started The Slow Local Diaries, I confessed I did a shoddy job with the veg-

etable produce but this year, the produce has been better. The challenge is to produce enough for meal after meal," she said. The property appears to be surrounded by considerable greenery, and Sharma has made it clear that she does not intend to disturb the natural habitat around it. Speaking about the land, she said: "We have mostly grown fruit trees at the farm... the land came with great abundance when we bought it... several arjun and harad trees, we also have a few kokum, an ancient Palash, shikakai and still discovering more."

She has also said that many of the trees and plants on the property have medicinal value, something she is still learning about. The farm itself is large enough to encompass part of a mountain. Sharma has deliberately left that portion untouched. "We have left the jungle be in the mountain, we don't want to disturb the habitat. It is our own little forest," she said. Her stated intention has been to grow organic food for guests while creating a space where people can slow down and reconnect with nature. Sharma appears to have moved to the farm around 2020. In a 2025 post about visiting the Kaas Plateau, she wrote that she had first read about the place around four years earlier, after moving to the farm, giving us a timeline of when she moved to the farm. "Recently visited the Kaas plateau... it's a 3.5 hour drive from the farm... there were few varieties in bloom but more will come about as the season progresses... always wanted to visit the valley of flowers in Uttarakhand as I didn't know about Kaas... I read about Kaas 4 years back when I moved to the farm... finally saw it... would love to go again before season ends in Oct," she wrote.

Despite the curiosity surrounding her disappearance from Bollywood, Sharma has rarely addressed the rumours about why she left the industry. Instead, she occasionally responds to fans in the comments section of her Instagram posts, where she has confirmed that she is indeed Malini Sharma from Raaz and offered small glimpses into her life. In one such exchange, a fan wrote: "Ma'am mai Muslim hoo lekin apka bahaut bada fans hu!" Sharma replied: "I am half Muslim too... I have married a Pathan." When the fan subsequently asked whether she was married to Priyanshu Chatterjee and whether the two were still in touch, Sharma replied: "Not at all."

On another occasion, a fan asked whether she regretted leaving Bollywood. "Who said I left, only steered away, can steer back and away again maybe," she replied. And when another fan suggested that she should create social media profiles under her real name because fans found it difficult to trace her, Sharma simply responded: "They'll find me like you did." Facing the camera again after 23 years.

Perhaps the clearest indication that Sharma has no desire to completely erase her past came when she launched The Slow Local Diaries, a video diary documenting her life at the farm. The launch video marked her return to the camera after years away. In the caption, she wrote: "Facing the camera again after very long... this time the real me, no makeup, no dialogues, shooting from the heart." In the video, Sharma directly addressed the curiosity surrounding her disappearance. "Hi, this is Malini, facing the camera again after 23 years of Raaz. For those of you wondering where I disappeared, well, I am alive. I am here to present The Slow Local Diaries," she said. The choice of background music was a nostalgic one — her iconic "Aapke Pyaar Mein" from Raaz. Life at the farm hasn't meant that Sharma has completely stepped away from professional work. She recently revealed that she has taken up a work-from-home role as a relationship manager with a coffee company. Alongside this, she sells customised oils. Her farm also doubles up as a retreat. Sharma offers her 3BHK villa in the forest for monthly rentals and hosts packages that include accommodation, food and sessions with psychologists in collaboration with mental health professionals. The property also has a library and offers what she describes as a slower, quieter experience — tailor-made meals, walks and conversations away from the rush of city life.

'I am here' When SCREEN reached out to Sharma for an interview, she made it clear that she wasn't interested in giving interviews. Instead, she said she would communicate through her Instagram page whenever she felt necessary. And perhaps that says more about her life today than any formal interview could. For someone who once lived under the glare of Bollywood cameras, Sharma now seems content to be known for what she is building rather than what she once was. She hasn't exactly erased Malini Sharma, the model and actor who appeared in CATS, Raaz and some of the most popular music videos of her era. She has simply given herself another identity — one built around a farm, food, trees, coffee, guests and a slower life in the Sahyadris.

Yash halts Toxic event midway after loudspeaker stand collapses, four injured

The pre-release event for Yash's upcoming film Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups at Malla Reddy University in Hyderabad on Saturday evening was disrupted when a loudspeaker stand collapsed, injuring four students. According to Cyberabad Police, one student suffered a fracture while the others sustained minor injuries. A case has been registered against the organisers of the event. Cyberabad Police told The Indian Express, "Four students suffered minor injuries as a loud speaker fell down. One suffered a fracture. Case has been registered against organisers. No stampede. No grievous injuries." The incident occurred while Yash was on stage addressing the packed audience, which consisted primarily of university students. The actor noticed the commotion immediately and stopped his speech midway. "Are they okay? Please check," he called out from the stage, directing event organisers and security to attend to the injured. After the initial response, Yash noticed other students climbing onto structures around the venue to get a better view of him. He paused again and requested them to get down, warning them it was not safe. Before resuming his speech, he checked with the crowd once more. "Is everyone okay? Is everyone safe?" he asked, waiting for confirmation before continuing. During the #ToxicTheMovie pre-release event, students climbed onto the sound boxes, which suddenly collapsed, leaving several students injured. During YASH's speech at Hyderabad pre-release event, some fans went excited and compromised their safety. Yash immediately noticed and stopped his speech and asked them to come down and after making sure they are safe, then he resumed his speech. The condition of the two injured students was not immediately known at the time of writing. The event continued after the incident and concluded without further disruptions.



The pre-release event for Yash's upcoming film Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups at Malla Reddy University in Hyderabad on Saturday evening was disrupted when a loudspeaker stand collapsed, injuring four students. According to Cyberabad Police, one student suffered a fracture while the others sustained minor injuries. A case has been registered against the organisers of the event.

‘Something came out from the bones’: Shakeela recalls terrifying cervical spine operation



Actress Shakeela underwent cervical spine surgery after years of playing games for hours on her phone. Actress Shakeela has revealed that she underwent cervical spine surgery after years of playing games for four to five hours at a stretch on her mobile and PlayStation, combined with long hours of watching videos on Instagram and YouTube.

In an interview with Milestone Makers, the actress said these habits directly caused the disc problem in her neck that eventually required an operation. "I used to play games for 4-5 hours on the mobile and PlayStation and watched videos on Instagram and YouTube. I was happy playing games and loved the experience, but the hours spent in the

same position, typically lying on my side in bed, took a toll on my cervical spine over time. When the pain became severe, I visited the hospital, where doctors examined me and recommended surgery as the only effective solution."

She agreed to the procedure after understanding that the condition would not improve without surgical intervention. During the operation, doctors inserted a titanium chip between two vertebrae and fixed it with screws to stabilise the affected area. The surgery cost Rs 3 lakh. "Something came out from between two of the bones. For that, they have now put a titanium chip and fixed it with screws," she said, adding, "Honestly, it is an unnecessary expense. Forget the money, there is also the pain and suffering."

She used the interaction to warn her audience about excessive phone use, particularly urging parents to monitor their children's screen time. "Use the phone only for essential things. Avoid watching unnecessary videos, even mine, and watch only useful ones. Otherwise, you will lose Rs 3 lakh and have to endure unbearable pain as well," she said.

Who is Shakeela? Born Shakeela C Begum near Nellore in Andhra Pradesh, the actress rose to fame through softcore adult films. After a few unimpressive appearances, she played the central character in director RJ Prasad's Kinnara Thumbikal, which became a massive blockbuster, grossing a whopping Rs 4 crore against a reported budget of just Rs 12 lakh. The movie not only earned big but also made Shakeela a pop-culture icon in Kerala, marking the beginning of the Shakeela tharangam (wave). For the next few years, the actor pretty much ruled the industry, with her films becoming bigger successes than those headlined by most men, particularly since mainstream Malayalam cinema was plagued by a serious dearth of quality work at that time. However, the Shakeela tharangam did not last long.

Ranveer Singh says only MoU signed for Don 3; why that may be an issue for Farhan Akhtar



The row between Ranveer Singh and Farhan Akhtar over the former's alleged sudden, unceremonious exit from Don 3, the latter's highly anticipated directorial, has taken a new turn. After turning to the Film Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) a few months ago didn't bear any fruit for Farhan and his producing partner Ritesh Sidhwani's Excel Entertainment, they recently resorted to another film body.

Ranveer Singh's response to IMPPA After hearing their side of the story, the Indian Motion Pictures Producers Association (IMPPA) invited Ranveer to present his side of the story. While Ranveer's father Jagjit Singh Bhavnani agreed to meet them, the actor's team sent the film body their response, urging IMPPA to stay out of the row, and even threatening legal action in case they don't. A Mid-Day report claims that Ranveer threatened to sue IMPPA if they take any recourse, given they don't enjoy any jurisdiction over the said matter. Ranveer took the same stand against the FWICE a couple of months ago, a week after the film body issued a non-cooperative directive against the actor. So, the fact that IMPPA may face similar consequences would not be surprising.

Is an MoU legally binding?

The more interesting part of Ranveer's response is his claim that there exists no "formal agreement" between him and Excel Entertainment for Don 3, but only a "Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)". That's why he's insisting all film bodies to not interfere in the matter, and let Excel Entertainment go to court if they want a recourse.

So, is an MoU not legally binding? Does it not hold any

enforcement powers at all? SCREEN spoke to Sanjay Vasudevan, a media and entertainment lawyer at Bay Counsel LLP, for a more informed perspective. "Without reviewing the actual MoU, together with any related correspondence and subsequent conduct of the parties, it would not be possible to make a final determination as to whether the MoU between Ranveer Singh and Excel Entertainment was legally binding. The absence of a separate long-form agreement is relevant, but it does not, by itself, mean that no enforceable contract existed," he says. "A court would likely examine the language of the MoU, including whether it uses mandatory terms such as 'shall' or 'undertakes', whether it contains a 'subject to contract' qualification, and whether it specifies matters such as the actor's role, remuneration, dates, exclusivity, promotional obligations, termination rights, and consequences of withdrawal," argues Vasudevan.

"The parties' subsequent conduct would also be relevant, including whether an advance was paid, dates were blocked, pre-production commenced, public announcements were made, or the parties continued negotiating material commercial or creative terms," he adds. As is known, both Excel Entertainment and Ranveer had jointly unveiled the promo of Don 3 three years ago, which even featured the actor taking on the titular role. The production house has also furnished details of the impending outdoor shoot, pre-production expenses incurred, and Farhan's periodical communication with Ranveer before his exit, along with the relevant supporting documents. "The practical distinction is that a binding agreement may give rise to contractual remedies, including damages for proven and foreseeable losses, subject to principles of causation, remoteness, and mitigation. Depending on the terms, a party may also seek injunctive relief or other equitable remedies. However, compelling an actor to provide personal artistic services through specific performance would generally raise significant legal and practical difficulties," points out Vasudevan. "In the film industry, it is common for an initial term sheet or MoU to be followed by a more detailed talent or artist agreement dealing with remuneration, schedules, creative approvals, publicity, credits, intellectual property, termination and liability. Whether the later agreement was merely intended to document an already concluded bargain, or was instead a precondition to any binding commitment, would depend on the wording of the MoU and the surrounding facts," he adds. In conclusion, Ranveer's position that only an MoU existed may be "legally significant", most crucially "if the document expressly contemplated a future definitive agreement and left material terms unresolved". However, that doesn't prevent Excel Entertainment to contend that the MoU itself recorded a "concluded commitment" and the subsequent agreement was intended only to "capture operational details". However, exact terms of the MoU would be studied in order to decide the merits of either case.

Nivin Pauly's 'Bethlehem Kudumba Unit' makers issue anti-spoiler appeal

Chennai: The makers of director Girish AD's recently released superhit Malayalam film 'Bethlehem Kudumba Unit', featuring actors Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju in the lead, on Monday requested the public not to record or share theatre snippets and key scenes of the film on social media. Bhavana Studios, the production house that has distributed the film, issued a statement, which actor Nivin Pauly shared on his social media timelines. Sharing the statement of the production house, the actor wrote, "Request your attention!"

In its statement, the production house said, "Thank you for the global blockbuster love! We're overwhelmed by the unprecedented bookings and the incredible joy you're bringing to theatres."

It then made a request. The production house said, "A humble request: Kindly avoid recording or sharing theatre snippets and key scenes on social media. Let everyone experience the magic and surprises of the film on the big screen. Let's keep the experience special for everyone. See you at the theatres!" The film, which hit screens worldwide on August 21 this year, has gone on to emerge a superhit.

For the unaware, Nivin Pauly had taken to his X timeline in July last year to announce the title of the film. He

