

Three boys go missing in Medak’s Ramayampet, parents lodge complaint

Medak: Three school-going children went missing mysteriously since Thursday night in Ramayampet. Dhanush, Manoj and Sheik Sameer, all residents of KCR Nagar, were aged 13 years each. According to villagers, they played together with children until 9 pm in the neighbourhood on Thursday.

However, they failed to return home until late night, prompting their parents to launch a frantic search. They later registered a missing complaint at Ramayampet police station on Friday morning. The search is on to trace the missing children.

Revanth To Invite Foreign Universities to Future City

Hyderabad, August 7

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will invite leading universities from the US and the UK to establish offshore campuses in Bharat Future City during his overseas tour covering the US, UK, Germany and China from August 17 to September 10.

The state government will offer land to these institutions in a dedicated Education Zone being developed in Future City, official sources said.

Sources said Revanth Reddy's foreign tour was primarily aimed at attracting foreign higher educational institutions (FHEIs) to Future City and showcasing the state's vision of creating an international destination for higher education, research, innovation, sports and skill development.

Revanth Reddy is expected to hold meetings with officials of Illinois State University in the US, the University of Aberdeen and the University of York in the UK, besides interacting with investors, sports organisations and training institutes to explore long-term partnerships.

Sources said nearly 15 universities from the US, UK, Australia and New Zealand had expressed interest in establishing offshore campuses in Telangana, particularly in and around Hyderabad.

The University of Colorado in the US and the University of London in the UK had already submitted applications to the University Grants Commission (UGC), seeking permission to establish campuses in Hyderabad. In addition, representatives of nearly a dozen other foreign universities have approached the Telangana government, with discussions underway to identify suitable locations for their proposed campuses.

Among the institutions exploring opportunities in Telangana are Purdue University and Northeastern University in the US, whose representatives are in discussions with state officials. The University of Birmingham in the UK and the University of Western Australia have proposed sports-focused campuses, while Newcastle University, the University of Chichester and the University of Hertfordshire are also holding consultations with the state government on establishing a presence in Telangana.

The proposed campuses would offer programmes in business, economics, accounting, finance, software engineering, data science, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, game design, entrepreneurship, innovation, biomedical sciences and several other emerging disciplines aligned with global academic and industry requirements.

Officials said the Chief Minister would use the visit to



promote Bharat Future City as an international education and investment destination while seeking collaborations that would improve educational standards in Telangana, equip students with globally competitive skills and strengthen the state's sports ecosystem.

Revanth Reddy is also scheduled to visit leading universities and skill development centres in the US, UK, Germany and China, with the possibility of signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with several educational institutions to elevate higher and skill education in Telangana to international standards.

The initiative comes as the UGC has opened the door for globally reputed universities to establish offshore campuses in India under the University Grants Commission (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023. The regulations permit eligible foreign universities to establish independent campuses in the country through a structured approval process.

Under the framework, the UGC has introduced a single-window clearance mechanism and constituted a high-powered Standing Committee to evaluate applications from foreign universities.

The committee scrutinises proposals and submits recommendations to the Commission, based on which the UGC grants in-principle approval through a Letter of Intent. Only foreign universities ranked among the world's top 500 institutions are eligible to apply, and they are required to furnish the latest accreditation and quality assurance reports from recognised agencies.

Official data shows that the UGC has so far issued 16 Letters of Intent to 15 Foreign Higher Educational Institutions from Australia, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States to establish campuses in cities including Bengaluru, Greater Noida, Gurugram, Mumbai and Chennai.

No One's Seen...: Rahul's Reply to ‘Are You Batman?’ During Insta AMA

New Delhi: Are you Batman, was the poser. And Rahul Gandhi answered, equally straight up, sidestepping any comparison to the caped crusader: "Let's just say that no one has ever seen me and Batman in the same room together." "Ask Me Anything", the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said Thursday night in a



fresh outreach to Gen Z. And they did, the questions pouring in right through the session on Instagram. Some serious, others casual and witty.

The Congress leader answered accordingly, cheeky and candid in turn. To a question on the student protest in Jharkhand, Gandhi said every government should listen to what students are saying.

Asked about his favourite meme from the student protests last month, Gandhi took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "I think the videos that came out of the PM house at midnight, those were the best, showing a new panicked prime minister," he said.

The former Congress president had got his mother's dog for some part of the interaction streamed live. To a query on what is his favourite thing about being a dog parent, Gandhi said he is not one but his mother has a dog named Noorie.

"I am not a dog parent. I think we share spaces with animals, with all living beings. I don't think we own them, I think they are on this planet with us and they deserve respect, love and affection," Gandhi said.

"Yes Noorie, do you agree with me? This is Noorie, she is my mum's dog. My mum will be very angry that I put her on video but too bad. So I will deal with that problem

when it arises," Gandhi said with the dog in his lap.

Who is your favourite politician from the BJP? Gandhi quickly named Captain Amarinder Singh, who switched from the Congress to the BJP in 2022.

"I get along with him, he is cool. He is an expert on military history... Hello, uncle Amarinder," Gandhi said, setting off speculation over whether the veteran leader could make his way back to the Congress ahead of the Punjab elections.

Posting a link to his Instagram initiative on X, Gandhi said on Thursday, "Students, Gen-Z -- I'm here to listen. Ask me anything on Instagram, and I'll answer as many questions as I can."

The Congress also put out video clips of some of the questions he answered.

To a question on which philosophy interests him the most, Gandhi said, "All the different philosophies that have shaped our Constitution from Lord Buddha, Guru Nanak Dev, Basavanna ji, Sankardev ji Dharti Abba, Birsu Munda, Periyar, Mahatma Phule, Narayana Guru ji, Babasaheb Ambedkar, Gandhiji, and so many more."

The initiative comes after Gandhi met a group of students who had protested last month seeking then education minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over the NEET paper leak and were at the receiving end of the police crackdown on July 20.

On Wednesday, Gandhi alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah was responsible for the violence against protesting youngsters and that he does not have the courage to explain in Parliament what happened with the students.

Gandhi has been regularly posting snippets from his interaction with students and parents on Instagram recently.

Over weeks, Instagram has emerged as a key political messaging platform among the political leaders, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading a coordinated push to woo Gen Z, joined by several Union ministers and ruling party leaders.

Liquor worth Rs 45,000 stolen in Nirmal

Nirmal: Unknown persons decamped with wine bottles from an outlet by breaking open the locks of the shutters in Narsapur (G) mandal centre on Thursday night.

Police said that liquor bottles worth Rs 45,000 were stolen by unidentified persons from Neelima Wine Shop at midnight. The miscreants gained access to the shop by breaking locks of shutters.

A case has been registered based on a complaint received from Dinesh Reddy, the owner of the shop. Investigations have been taken up.

Internal matter: India on proposed FCRA changes

New Delhi, August 7

India on Friday brushed aside criticism from international voices, including US lawmakers, over the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), asserting that the legislation was an internal matter and countries such as the US also regulated the flow of foreign funds.

Responding to questions at a media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Parliament alone would decide on the proposed legislation.

"We have indeed taken note of the issue you mentioned, and there have been several comments on it. As far as legislative matters — specifically India's own — are concerned, these are an internal matter, and our Parliament makes decisions regarding these," Jaiswal said.

He said the regulation of foreign funding was not unique to India. "I also wish to point out that there are many nations across the world, including the US, that regulate the flow of foreign funds," he said. The remarks come two days after US Congressman Riley M Moore criticised the proposed FCRA amendments, alleging that these could enable government takeovers of churches and religious charities. Calling the proposal "a clear attack against Christians", Moore had warned that, if passed in its present form, it could become "a point of major concern" in the India-US bilateral relations.

New Delhi, however, refrained from responding directly to the Congressman's allegations, limiting its response to reiterating that legislative matters are decided by Parliament and fall within India's sovereign domain.

The proposed amendments to the FCRA, which governs the receipt and utilisation of foreign contributions by



individuals and organisations, are expected to be introduced in Parliament next week.

The proposed changes have triggered a debate, with critics expressing concern over their potential impact on religious and charitable institutions, while the government has maintained that the law is intended to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of foreign funds.

The FCRA framework caters to the intake and utilisation of overseas funding across non-governmental organisations, charitable entities, academic institutions, religious trusts and affiliated bodies. Ministry of Home Affairs figures indicate that 13,520 entities received foreign remittances totalling Rs 55,741 crore between 2019 and 2022.

India, China Review situation Along LAC, Boundary Delimitation

New Delhi: Amid buzz of a fresh Chinese incursion and stand-off in Taksing circle of Arunachal Pradesh, India and China held their 36th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on Border Affairs (WMCC). During the talks the two sides reviewed the overall situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and deliberated on key issues related to boundary delimitation, border management and trans-border cooperation.

The Indian government said the two sides engaged in frank discussions and it was underlined that maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas is essential for the overall development of bilateral relations.

The Indian delegation was led by Mr Sujit Ghosh, Joint Secretary (East Asia), Ministry of External Affairs and the Chinese delegation led by Ms. Hou Yanqi, Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.

During the talks, both sides agreed to continue to use existing diplomatic and military channels, including the WMCC, local commander-level meetings and other agreed mechanisms, to resolve outstanding issues and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation along the LAC.

"As a follow up to the outcomes of 24th SR Talks, two sides held detailed exchanges on issues related to boundary delimitation, border management, mechanism-building and trans-border cooperation. The Indian side reiterated the need for early convening of the next meeting."

Attapur Police Seek Fresh 7-Day Custody of Trainee IPS Officer Uday Krishna Reddy



Hyderabad: Attapur police on Friday sought a fresh seven-day custody of trainee IPS officer M. Uday Krishna Reddy, informing the Uppapally court that investigators needed additional time to verify crucial disclosures made by the accused.

Krishna Reddy, who is facing allegations of sexually assaulting a colleague at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), was produced before the magistrate after completion of his two-day police custody.

Police said Krishna Reddy had remained non-co-



ing of the Expert Level Mechanism on trans-border rivers and emphasized the importance of sharing technical details on upstream projects," Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Friday.

The talks came at a time when a video on social media went viral claiming fresh standoff between the armies of India and China in Arunachal Pradesh due to 60km intrusion by the Chinese army. The video shows that an Indian army commander objected to the high presence of Chinese army men in the region while saying that the Indian side had only 20. The Chinese were heard saying that they also had 20 men on ground to which the Indian army commander said that initially there were 43 Chinese troops. Arunachal chief minister Mr Pema Khandu, however, termed these videos as false, stating that the Indian Army firmly controls and monitors the territory.

operative and evasive, or just said he did not remember the incidents. After hearing preliminary submissions from both sides, the court posted detailed arguments on the custody plea to Tuesday.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said: "We have sought another spell of custody to get our hands on important details, his phone and his alleged suicide note, which the accused stated as evidence."

Sajjanar said so far only one mobile phone had been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for examination.

"During the previous custody period, we questioned him mainly with reference to the contents of the phone and the alleged suicide letter. If the court grants us custody again, a team will also be sent to his native place in Prakasam district to verify whether any material evidence connected to the case can be recovered," Sajjanar said.

During Friday's proceedings, counsel for Krishna Reddy strongly opposed the police plea for another week of custody. The defence alleged that the accused had been interrogated in a room without CCTV surveillance and claimed that commissioner Sajjanar had personally threatened the trainee officer during questioning, causing him to become frightened and break down in court.

He urged the magistrate to issue a show-cause notice to the Attapur station house officer over the manner in which the interrogation was conducted.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

India's innovation challenge remains

Though India has emerged as one of the world's largest producers of scientific publications and patent filings, it continues to lag behind in research spending relative to the size of its economy. One of the reasons for this poor performance, compared with other major economies, is that R&D spending has traditionally been the exclusive domain of the public sector since independence, and the private industry was largely insulated from innovation. However, a positive shift is happening now.

The latest report by the Department of Science and Technology on India's research profile reveals a major milestone. For the first time in the country's history, private industry's share of the Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) stood at 51.8% in 2023-24, overtaking the combined spending of the central and State governments. This significant jump from 45.5% in 2021-22 is a welcome development. According to the Economic Survey 2025-26, India's GERD stands at roughly 0.64% of GDP — a figure that has been virtually stagnant for more than a decade and is dwarfed by those of Israel (5%), South Korea (4.8–4.9%), the United States (3.5%), Japan (3.3%), and China (2.4%). The R&D spending hovered in the range of 0.6% to 0.85% for nearly 20 years despite India's economy growing several-fold.

The optics of private industry crossing the 50% threshold are encouraging, and they do bring India structurally closer to advanced economies where business enterprise typically funds 70–80% of national R&D. While the private sector's rising R&D share is a positive and necessary correction to India's historically state-dominated research funding model.

Edulapuram Municipality to Be Developed as a Model Municipality in the State



Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy have sanctioned ₹100 crore for Edulapuram Municipality's Development Works. During a morning walk, the Minister assured residents of prompt action on civic problems. The State Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has reiterated that the Telangana Government is committed to developing Edulapuram Municipality into one of the finest model municipalities in the state. On Friday morning, the Minister, accompanied by District Collector T.S. Diwakar, conducted a morning walk through Sai Ganesh Nagar, Satyanarayana Puram and Indiramma Colony in Wards 22 and 23 of the municipality. During the visit, he inspected development works, sanitation conditions and civic infrastructure, while interacting directly with residents to understand their concerns and di-

recting officials to take immediate action. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has sanctioned ₹100 crore for the comprehensive development of Edulapuram Municipality. He stated that these funds would be utilized in a phased manner to provide all essential civic amenities based on the needs of the people. The Minister observed that problems such as waterlogging in low-lying areas, uncontrolled vegetation, inadequate drainage, drinking water shortages and electricity-related issues had been identified. He assured residents that a comprehensive action plan was being prepared to provide permanent solutions to these problems. He further stated that petitions received from residents seeking Indiramma houses and house sites would be considered sympathetically by the government. Development works on municipal parks have already commenced and are expected to be completed by the end of this month, making them accessible to the public.

During the visit, the Minister stopped at a roadside tea stall in Sai Ganesh Nagar and had tea with local residents. Despite the rain, he continued his inspection on foot with an umbrella through Indiramma Colony, personally interacting with residents and listening to their grievances. Reaffirming the government's commitment to the municipality's development, the Minister directed officials to ensure that all projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe while maintaining high quality standards. The programme was attended by Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy, Municipal Chairperson Anita, Vice Chairman Tammineni Naveen, R&B SE Yugandhar, Panchayat Raj SE Venkat Reddy, Municipal Commissioner Srinivas, Electricity Department SE Srinivasa Chary, Housing PD Srinivas, RDO Srinivas, other departmental officials, public representatives and local residents.

Immediate Relief Provided to Lakshmi Nagar Residents' Rainwater and Drainage Problem

Habsiguda Division Congress President Kandi Shraavan Kumar Reddy (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Congress leader and Habsiguda Division President Kandi Shraavan Kumar Reddy has taken immediate steps to resolve the rainwater and drainage problem faced by residents of Lakshmi Nagar Colony for the past two weeks. Following heavy rains in recent days, large quantities of rainwater accumulated on the roads of Lakshmi Nagar Colony, along with stagnant drainage water. As a result, the roads became muddy, causing severe inconvenience to residents and affecting their daily movement. The residents brought the issue to the attention of Kandi Shraavan Kumar Reddy. Responding immediately, he visited the colony and inspected the situation on the ground. As per the directions of Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, he spoke with the contractor and took steps to reopen the blocked pipeline. According to the residents, officials had recently blocked the pipeline to prevent floodwater from entering Ramantapur Pedda Cheruvu. This resulted in rainwater and drainage water getting stagnated in Lakshmi Nagar Colony. With the pipeline now being reopened, the stagnant rainwater and drainage water will have an outlet towards the Pedda Cheruvu, providing relief to the residents and resolving the long-pending problem. The resi-



dents of Lakshmi Nagar Colony expressed their gratitude to Kandi Shraavan Kumar Reddy and Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy for responding promptly and taking immediate action to address their problem. They appreciated the leaders for taking up public issues and initiating measures for their resolution without delay. Lakshmi Nagar residents Srikanth Chary, Srivani, Jalaiah, Yakub, Rahul, Siddu, and Arun, along with Habsiguda Youth Congress President Vasu Naik, Suman Naik, Shiva, Anil Mamidala, Madhu, Anudeep and others participated in the programme.

Live a Life That Will Be Remembered Even After Death!



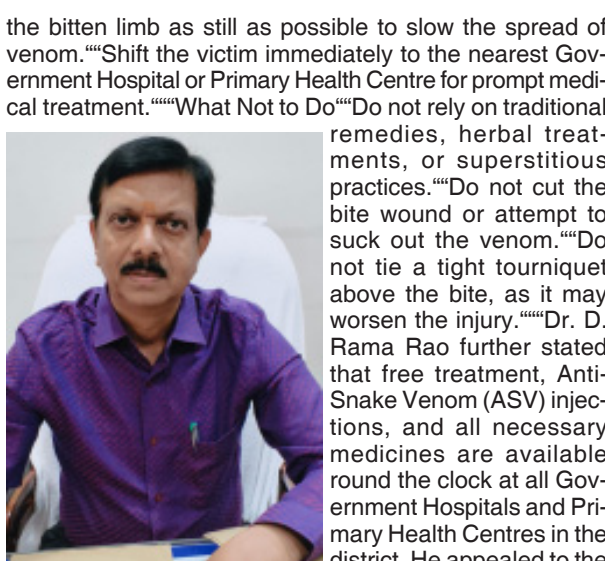
"Kanneti Venkanna's Services Are Unforgettable: Minister Ponguleti and Statue Unveiled at Mangalagudem; Second Death Anniversary Observed Grandly" Khammam Rural, August 7 – Indian Chronicle Telangana Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, said that while death is inevitable for ev-

eryone born on this earth, the greatest achievement is to live a life that continues to inspire and remain in the hearts of people even after one's death. The second death anniversary of senior Congress leader Late Kanneti Venkanna was observed with great respect and grandeur on Friday at Mangalagudem village in Khammam Rural Mandal. On the occasion, the Minister attended as the chief guest and unveiled the newly installed statue of Late Kanneti Venkanna. Earlier, he also unveiled the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the village.

Serving Society Is the Greatest Wealth Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponguleti said that material wealth is temporary, but the love, respect, and goodwill earned through selfless service to society remain forever. He praised Late Kanneti Venkanna for dedicating his entire life to public service and always standing by people in their times of need. He stated that although Venkanna is no longer physically present, his ideals and service continue to live on through the statue and in the hearts of the people. He described Venkanna's life as an inspiration for future generations and urged everyone to follow his path of selfless service. The event was attended by district and constituency-level officials, local public representatives, Congress Party leaders, members of Late Kanneti Venkanna's family, and a large number of villagers.

Be Alert to Snake Bites During the Monsoon Season – Anti-Snake Venom (ASV) Injections Available at All Government Hospitals and Primary Health Centres

District Medical & Health Officer Dr. D. Rama Rao (Khammam, August 7 – Indian Chronicle) District Medical and Health Officer Dr. D. Rama Rao has urged the public, especially farmers and agricultural labourers, to remain vigilant against snake bites during the monsoon season, as continuous rains increase the likelihood of snakes and other venomous creatures emerging from their burrows and shelters. He stated that Anti-Snake Venom (ASV) injections are adequately stocked at all Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Government Hospitals across Khammam district, and there is no need for the public to panic. Precautionary Measures Wear high boots and protective gloves while working in agricultural fields. Carry a torchlight when visiting fields, wells, or open areas during the night. Use a stick to tap the ground while walking through dense grass, bushes, or areas with debris to alert snakes and drive them away. Avoid placing hands directly into rock crevices, tree holes, burrows, or piles of old materials. Keep the surroundings of houses clean by removing bushes, weeds, and garbage. Prevent rats from entering grain storage areas, as snakes are often attracted to places where rats are present. What to Do in Case of a Snake Bite Keep the victim calm and avoid panic. Keep



the bitten limb as still as possible to slow the spread of venom. Shift the victim immediately to the nearest Government Hospital or Primary Health Centre for prompt medical treatment. What Not to Do Do not rely on traditional remedies, herbal treatments, or superstitious practices. Do not cut the bite wound or attempt to suck out the venom. Do not tie a tight tourniquet above the bite, as it may worsen the injury. Dr. D. Rama Rao further stated that free treatment, Anti-Snake Venom (ASV) injections, and all necessary medicines are available round the clock at all Government Hospitals and Primary Health Centres in the district. He appealed to the public to make use of these healthcare services and seek immediate medical attention in the event of a snake bite.

New Committee Takes Oath at Uppal Sri Mahankali Temple



MANDUMULA PARAMESWAR REDDY attends oath-taking ceremony UPPAL, AUGUST 7 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The oath-taking ceremony of the newly appointed committee of Sri Mahankali Temple, located on Uppal Main Road, was held on Friday. Uppal Assembly Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest. During the ceremony, Telakala Mohan Reddy took oath as the temple committee chairman. Along with him, Gummidelli Krish, Mashetty Raghavendra, Bhaskar Reddy, Thurpati Jangaiah, Potluri Venkatesh and Kanyamain Swapna took oath as members of the new committee. Temple Inspector Praneeth and EO Veeresh were also present at the programme. Uppal Division Congress President Eega Anjaneyulu Mudiraj, senior Congress leaders Raghupathi Reddy, Bajaj Jagannath Goud, Bopannapalli Sudhakar Reddy, Akiti Agam Reddy, Kompalli Balraj, Lingampalli Ramakrishna, Lucas, Sudhakar, Tummala Devi Reddy, Kosam Raghunath Reddy, Pasikanti Nagaraj, Bhusam Raghunath Reddy, Meenampalli Srisailam, Mahankali Sailu, Ram Reddy, Jagadish Mudiraj, Sai, temple priest Hanumanthu, Bhaskar, Kadapa Nursing, Sattireddy, Anwar, Bodiga Mallesh, Mahender Reddy, Kiran, Meenampalli Kishore, Tummala Rajender Reddy, Krishna Reddy, Satti Reddy, Bhutkoor Raju and Sriramulu attended the event. Leaders of the Kamma community and Arya community, along with Congress party leaders and other temple devotees, participated in the oath-taking ceremony.

Speeding Up Charlapally Lake Beautification –

UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY Inspects Development Works UPPAL, AUGUST 7 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Sri Bandari Lakshma Reddy inspected the ongoing development and beautification works at Charlapally Lake on Friday. During the visit, he enquired with officials about the quality and progress of the works being carried out around the lake. The MLA instructed officials to complete the works within the stipulated deadline and stressed that there should be no compromise on quality. He directed them to provide all necessary facilities to transform the lake into an attractive recreational destination for the public, with special focus on increasing greenery, developing a walking track, improving lighting and maintaining cleanliness.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FORM VI PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION	
The Right to Fair Compensation and in Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013	
As per Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No.30/2013) and sub Rule (1) of Rule-25	
Gazette No. 69/2026	Dated. 20-07-2026.
File No. G/723/2026	

The Government of Telangana / the District Collector, Wanaparthi, has proposed to acquire the following extent of Ac. 00.31 Guntas of Patta/Government land situated within the limits of Thirumalayapalli Revenue Village, Ghanpur Mandal, Wanaparthi District, for the public purpose of construction of "MGKLI - Kamaluddinpur Branch Canal on GBC".

In accordance with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, and the Telangana Amendment Act, 2016, exemption from the provisions relating to the Social Impact Assessment Report under Chapter II and Food Security and Safeguard provisions under Chapter III has been provided under Section 10A, pursuant to G.O.Ms.No.51 (Irrigation & CAD (LA, R&R/A2), Department, Dtd: 25.07.2017, issued by the Government of Telangana. Accordingly, this Preliminary Notification is hereby issued under Section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30 of 2013).

For taking up the land acquisition proceedings relating to the above project, and in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the District Collector, Wanaparthi, vide proceedings No.G/225/2026, dated: 30.03.2026, has appointed the Additional Collector (Revenue), Wanaparthi, as the Project Administrator.

Further, for taking up the land acquisition proceedings relating to the above project, and in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the District Collector, Wanaparthi, vide proceedings No. G/225/2026, dated:30.03.2026 has appointed the Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), RLISP-II, Pebbair, as the Land Acquisition Officer.

Therefore, for the above-mentioned project, the details of the land proposed to be acquired through land acquisition, measuring Ac.00.31 Guntas, situated within the limits of Thirumalayapalli Revenue Village, Ghanpur Mandal, Wanaparthi District, are as follows:

SCHEDULE									
Village: Thirumaiyapalli				Mandal : Ghanpur			District: Wanaparthi		
Sl. No.	Sy. No	Type of Land	Patta /Assi gned/ Govt/ ect..	LA Proposed Extent (Ac.Gts.)	Name of the Pattedar/Occupant & Name of the Father/Husband Sri./Smt./Kum.	Boundaries			
						N	S	E	W
1	215	Dry	Patta	00.31	Jatavath Bhamini W/o Pedda Gopal	85	224	92	226
Total Extent (Ac-Gts)				00.31					

This Notification is hereby issued under Section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30 of 2013) and the Telangana Amendment Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017), for information of all the concerned landowners and interested persons in respect of the lands proposed to be acquired.

As per Section 11(4) of the said Act, it is hereby informed that, without the prior permission of the District Collector, Wanaparthi, no person shall undertake any transaction or any act relating to the lands notified/referred to in this Preliminary Notification, including mortgage, sale, purchase, transfer, or any other transaction, from the date of publication of this Preliminary Notification.

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section-12 of the said Act, the Government of Telangana / the District Collector, Wanaparthi, has authorized the Land Acquisition Officer & Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), RLISP-II, Pebbair, Hq. at IDOC, Wanaparthi, and his staff to enter upon the said lands for carrying out survey, measurement and other related works, and for carrying out such other activities as may be permissible under the provisions of the Act.

The plan and details of the lands are available in the offices of the District Collector, Wanaparthi / the Land Acquisition Officer & Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), RLISP-II, Pebbair, Hq. at IDOC, Wanaparthi. The concerned persons may inspect the same on any working day during office hours.

As per Section 15(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, any person interested in the lands mentioned above, who has any objection to the acquisition of the said lands, may submit such objection in writing within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this Notification to the District Collector, Wanaparthi / Land Acquisition Officer & Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), RLISP-II, Pebbair, Hq. at IDOC, Wanaparthi.

As per G.O.Ms.No.120 (Revenue JA & LA), dated 30.06.2017, issued by the Government of Telangana, landowners and interested persons who desire to settle the matter through negotiation/consultation under Section-23A for obtaining fair compensation may submit their willingness/interest in Form E-1 after publication of this Notification.

Sd/- Special Deputy Collector (LA), RLISP-II, Pebbair.	Sd/- Additional Collector, Wanaparthi	Sd/- District Collector, Wanaparthi
DIPR RO.NO: 620/LA/PP/AdvT/Pub/2026-27		

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FORM VII PUBLICATION OF DECLARATION						
The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013						
As per Section-19(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No.30/2013) and sub Rule (1) of Rule-25						
No. 76/2026			Dated. 20-07-2026.			
No. G/884/2025			Dated. 20-07-2026.			
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/District Collector, Wanaparthi, that a total to an extent of 3993 Sq Yds Patta / Govt. Land is required for public purpose namely proposed for formation of "RBLISP - RLIS - Package No-17" within the limits of Srirangapur Village of Srirangapur Mandal, Wanaparthi District.						
Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in the village namely Srirangapur Village of Srirangapur Mandal, Wanaparthi District land measuring more or less 3993 Sq Yds of standard measurement, whose detail description is a follow is proposed for acquisition.						
SCHEDULE						
Village: Srirangapur		Mandal : Srirangapur		District: Wanaparthi		
Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Nature of land	Classification	Extent Under acquisition As per SDR	Name of the Pattedar/ Occupant and Name of the Father/ Husband	Trees/ Bores/ Pipeline /etc.,
1	1044	Govt Land	House site	3993	1) S. Ravindra Raju S/o Konapu Raju 2) S. Narsapu Raju S/o Konapu Raju 3) S. Vishnuvardhan Raju S/o Konapu Raju 4) Kotamma W/o Konapu Raju	-
Grand Total				3993 Sq yds		
This declaration is made as per section 19(1) of the Act, after hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquiry as provided under section 15 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30 of 2013) and there are no displaced families comes under this acquisition.						
Mines of coal, Iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.						
The plan related to the lands and other details may be inspected at the office of the District Collector, Wanaparthi/the Special Deputy Collector (LA), RLISP-II, Pebbair, Hq IDOC Wanaparthi and on any working day.						
Sd/- Special Deputy Collector (LA), RLISP-II, Pebbair.		Sd/- Additional Collector, Wanaparthi		Sd/- District Collector, Wanaparthi		
DIPR RO.NO: 615/LA/PP/AdvT/Pub/2026-27						

”I work with the sole aim of doing justice to every rupee audiences spend on me



“or”“Social Media is Like Snakes and Ladders, it can do both make and break you”“Or”“More Than an Influencer, I Want to Be Remembered as an Actor”“Dhandha” fame Dora Sai Teja”Actor Dora Sai Teja has created a major trend as the lead in the series ‘Dhandha’, produced by Chai Shots in the vertical storytelling space. Directed by Aditya Devulapally, the series is currently trending at no. 1 on the microdrama OTT platform. As the show continues its wildly successful run, lead actor Dora Sai Teja shared key insights about his journey and career. Here is what he had to say”“Tell us about your cinematic journey?”I dubbed for the child artist playing the younger version of Prabhas sir in the movie ‘Adavi Ramudu’. I acted in projects like ‘Kotha Bangaru Lokam’ and the series ‘High School’. I also played a small role in ‘Ala Modalaindi’. My association with RGV sir began in 2016 when I acted in an unreleased film titled ‘Sridevi’. That was where I truly got introduced to cinema. After that, my serious journey on YouTube began in 2018. I gained strong recognition with the ‘Back Benchers’ series and kept doing shows. Last year, I launched my own content creation company, and recently, success hit again with ‘Dhandha’.”“How does it feel to achieve so much at such a young age as an entrepreneur, actor, and content creator?”“From the moment I wake up, I constantly think as a content creator, director, actor, and producer. This is my way of introducing myself in new ways, which is why I try my hand at everything. Content creation is my business, and cinema is my passion. Combining both is who Dora Sai Teja is.”“Don’t you ever feel like partying or enjoying yourself?”I have to learn everything myself, and I prefer learning on my own terms. Whenever I fall, I learn a new lesson. I always think like someone five years older than my actual age. My entire day is packed with work, so I have no time for other things. Every single day, my mind is focused on creating something new.”“How do you handle praise and criticism on social media?”“Social media comes with everything. For every video, there will be new praise as well as abuses. I use content creation as a bridge. My goal is to take the fanbase I have here and bring them into movie theatres. However, our daily expenses must be sustained through content creation itself. More than being called an influencer or content creator, I personally prefer to be identified as an actor.”“What is your advice to newcomers about social media life and the creator space?”“The moment people see a few followers, likes, and shares, everyone watching thinks, ‘Man, this is the life!’ But that is far from reality. Just like Snakes and Ladders, it is the very thing that pulls you up the ladder, and if anything goes wrong, it is the same thing that drops you straight down. It looks beautiful and fancy on the outside, but there are people who ruin lives for their own benefit by taking one statement out of context, using clickbait titles, and morphing thumbnails just for views and reach. Anyone wanting to step into this space must be prepared for both praise and criticism. Only then can you survive here.”“There is a fantastic response to the

character Aravind. Even your critics are praising you now, aren’t they?”In content creation, I can only play a specific type of role. But when it comes to a web series or a film, you get the opportunity to portray diverse characters. In ‘Dhandha’, people only see me as Aravind. I have been longing for such challenging roles for a long time, and this was possible entirely because of our director.”“Director Aditya Devulapally spoke very highly of you. Are you truly a single-take artist?”I do not have the habit of looking at the monitor. Just looking at the cinematographer or director tells me everything I need to know. My goal is always to finish the scene in the very first take. That is why before shooting a scene, I study the scenes that come before and after it. Because of this preparation, I manage to deliver almost everything in a single take. Doing multiple takes increases production costs. I decided that as long as I am on set, I must remain fully in Aravind’s character, which helped me execute it in single takes.”“What is your view on current marketing strategies?”No matter how good the content is, if you lack a proper marketing strategy to tell people about what you have created, it goes to waste. That is why promotions and marketing have become extremely crucial today. For ‘Dhandha’, I wanted to promote it differently. That is why we created a promotional video centered around ‘I lost 15 lakhs’, designed specifically to help people grasp the core content of our series. Audiences understood the concept, and they turned ‘Dhandha’ into a massive hit.”“Tell us about your fans who stand by you on social media?”This was not built overnight. People saw themselves in the content I made and connected with it deeply. It takes years for something like this to happen. Social media contains negativity alongside positivity. People who want to talk will keep talking, but I know what the truth is. That is why I do not pay attention to any of it and keep moving forward.”“What kind of responsibility rests on a social media influencer?”Recently, Sakshi Chaudhary won a gold medal in boxing at the Commonwealth Games, but how many people actually know about it? On the other hand, people remember every single post or tweet made by an influencer they follow. Influencers are often admired far more than celebrities or sports personalities, and audiences closely observe their looks and style. Therefore, whatever an influencer does, says, or wears directly impacts a vast number of people. Because of this reach, they must conduct themselves with extreme caution and responsibility”“How is Dora Sai Teja during his free time?”I am just a normal person like anyone else, except that I created a path for myself. That might be due to my financial circumstances back then or the passion I have had since childhood. Going forward, everyone will see me in a new light. I will make everyone proud across theatres, OTT, and social media. No matter how many setbacks I face, I am focused on running relentlessly to achieve my goal.”“What do you have to say about the ‘Dhandha’ team?”I generally direct everything I create but this is the first time I worked with a director and my director, Aditya anna, succeeded 100%. Translating what is written on paper onto the screen with exact precision is no ordinary task, and Aditya anna is receiving immense praise for it. He worked tirelessly on every single aspect of ‘Dhandha’. His vision is what made ‘Dhandha’ so unique. We completed this series in just seven days across 30 call sheets, working day and night without rest. That dedication is the highlight of ‘Dhandha’. We need more directors like him. The director, music director, cinematographer, and myself were all in complete sync, which is why ‘Dhandha’ turned out so extraordinary.”“What is your future plan?”I want to bring stories to the theatre that every common person can relate to. I wish to play zero-to-hero characters, choose inspiring stories with strong messages, and pick characters and narratives that exist around us. My goal is to work with the target of doing complete justice to every rupee that audiences spend to watch me.

HPV Vaccine to Help Prevent Cancer”“HPV Vaccination Aims to Protect Girls from Cervical Cancer



UPHC Medical Officer Dr. Devi Sri”“Free HPV Vaccination Conducted for Girl Students at Nayabazar Government High School”“Khammam, August 7 – Indian Chronicle”“Medical Officer of UPHC Venkateshwar Nagar, Dr. I. Devi Sri, stated that the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is being administered to help prevent cervical cancer among girls.”“On Friday, free HPV vaccination was administered to 14-year-old girl students at the Nayabazar Government High School. Dr. Devi Sri explained that the

vaccine is intended to protect girls from developing cervical cancer in the future.”“She said the vaccination programme is being implemented under the directions of District Collector Divakar, IAS, and under the supervision of District Medical and Health Officer Dr. D. Rama Rao, with the objective of protecting adolescent girls from cervical cancer.”“Although the programme is being officially conducted by the Health Department, Dr. Devi Sri expressed concern over the misconceptions and rumours being spread by some people. She strongly clarified that the HPV vaccine is safe, has no harmful side effects, and is being administered only to eligible girls.”“She added that the Health Department is conducting HPV vaccination drives in schools across the district and appealed to school managements, parents, and the public to extend their full cooperation to ensure the success of the programme. She also thanked the school authorities for their support in organizing the vaccination camp.”“Later, Dr. Devi Sri conducted an awareness session for students, school staff, and parents on the importance and benefits of the HPV vaccination programme.”“The programme was attended by Supervisor Z.S. Jayapal, Headmistress C.H. Usharani, English Teacher M. Guravamma, ANMs V. Sharada, Kota Prasanna, B. Sandhya, and S.K. Rahimbi, along with other health and school staff.

Funds Must Be Sanctioned to Expedite Development Works:

UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY”“UPPAL,AUGUST 7 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy has urged the authorities to sanction the necessary funds to expedite various development works in the Uppal Assembly constituency.”As part of this effort, the MLA met Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta, IAS, on Friday and submitted a representation seeking the allocation of funds for pending development works across the constituency.”During the meeting, Bandari Lakshma Reddy brought to the Commissioner’s attention several pending works related to road development, sanitation, street lighting, drainage and other basic civic infrastructure. He requested that the required funds be allocated at the earliest and that the concerned departments take steps to complete the works without further delay.”The MLA stated that providing better basic infrastructure and civic amenities to the people of Uppal constituency remains one of his key priorities. He said that efforts are being made to identify and address the problems faced by residents and to complete pending works based on the needs and requirements of the people.”Bandari Lakshma Reddy further emphasized the need for effective coordination among the concerned departments to ensure that sanctioned works are executed properly and completed



within the stipulated time. He expressed hope that the necessary funds would be released at the earliest so that several pending development works could be taken up and completed for the benefit of residents.”He said that special attention is being given to improving roads, drainage facilities, sanitation, street lighting and other essential civic amenities across the constituency. The MLA reiterated his commitment to accelerating development activities and ensuring better living conditions and improved public facilities for the people of Uppal.BRS party leaders, activists and others were present during the meeting.

Welfare Benefits for Every Eligible Family is the Goal of the People's Government



Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy”“Indiramma Houses for All Eligible Families, Irrespective of Caste, Religion or Political Affiliation”“New Aasara Pensions for Every Eligible Beneficiary from August 15”“Minister Ponguleti Lays Foundation Stones for Several Development Works in Tirumalayapalem Mandal”“Khammam/Tirumalayapalem, August 7 – Indian Chronicle”“Telangana Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the People’s Government is committed to ensuring that every eligible family receives the benefits of welfare schemes.”“During his visit to Tirumalayapalem Mandal on Friday, the Minister laid foundation stones for several development projects. These included the construction of a ₹2.10 crore BT road from Tipparedygudem to Rakasi Thanda, Gram Panchayat office buildings worth ₹20 lakh each at Haider Saipet and Patharlapadu villages, and a ₹4.50 crore BT road from Rajaram to Thummagudem.”“Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the State Government is giving equal priority to welfare and development. He said significant funds have already been sanctioned for village development, including ₹35.55 crore for Tipparedygudem, ₹37 crore for Haider Saipet, ₹29.25 crore for Patharlapadu, and ₹8.48 crore for Rajaram, for the construction of CC roads, BT roads, bridges, and other essential infrastructure.”“The Minister expressed special appreciation to Srinu of Haider Saipet

village for voluntarily donating land for the construction of the Gram Panchayat office building.”“He said the Government has been giving top priority to the welfare of poor families by providing 200 units of free electricity to eligible households. He noted that while the previous government did not issue new ration cards, the present government has issued new ration cards and is supplying fine rice through the Public Distribution System. He also highlighted that the free RTC bus travel scheme for women has significantly reduced the financial burden on families.”“Speaking on agriculture, the Minister said the Government is committed to farmers’ welfare by providing a ₹500 bonus per quintal for fine variety paddy in addition to the Minimum Support Price (MSP). He added that ₹6,000 per acre has recently been credited to farmers’ bank accounts under the Rythu Bharosa investment support scheme and that the Government is procuring all eligible crops at MSP.”“The Minister further stated that to improve educational standards for poor students, the Government has increased diet charges by 40% and cosmetic charges by 200% in Gurukul educational institutions, ensuring better facilities for students.”“Highlighting the Indiramma Housing Scheme, he said the Government has sanctioned 8 lakh houses across the State in different phases and assured that every eligible family would receive a house irrespective of caste, religion, or political affiliation. He emphasized that beneficiaries need not pay even a single rupee, as the scheme is being implemented with complete transparency.”“He also announced that second-phase Indiramma house proceedings would be issued shortly and that payments would be released directly into beneficiaries’ bank accounts based on the progress of construction after weekly reviews.”“The Minister announced that the State Government would begin sanctioning new Aasara pensions from August 15, ensuring that every eligible beneficiary receives financial assistance. He reiterated that eligibility alone would be the sole criterion for implementing welfare schemes.”“The programme was attended by Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy, Panchayat Raj SE Venkat Reddy, Housing PD Srinivas, DPO Vinod Kumar, RDO Srinivas, Tahsildar Wilson, MPDO Silar Saheb, local public representatives, officials, village leaders, and a large number of villagers.

Ramantapur Padmashali Association Celebrates National Handloom Day with Grandeur



---Rally in Handloom Attire; Floral Tributes Paid to Konda Laxman Babuji — Former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar Participates”“RAMANTHAPUR , AUGUST 7 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): National Handloom Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the Uppal constituency under the aegis of the Ramantapur Padmashali Association on Friday. Highlighting the significance and pride of the handloom sector, members and leaders of the association took out a rally wearing handloom clothes.”The rally began from the residence of former Uppal MLA Dr. N.V.S.S. Prabhakar and proceeded to the statue of Dr. Konda Laxman Babuji at Ramantapur Mini Tank Bund. Later, floral tributes were paid to Konda Laxman Babuji. On the occasion, the leaders recalled his invaluable contributions to the Telangana movement as well as to the development and welfare of the handloom sector.”Speaking on the occasion, former MLA Dr. N.V.S.S. Prabhakar said that handloom represents the

culture, tradition and identity of the nation. He said that August 7 is observed every year as National Handloom Day since Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the day in 2015 to honour the contribution of handloom weavers.”He called upon people to support the livelihoods of handloom workers and promote handloom products by choosing and wearing indigenous handloom fabrics.

Supporting the handloom sector, he said, was the responsibility of every citizen.”Ramantapur Padmashali Association president Konda Krishnamurthy, general secretary Sirishala Vijay Prakash, treasurer Kongari Balachandraiah, advisers P.V. Ram Narasaiah and Gundla Ravindra Kumar, Discipline Committee chairman Vanam Yadagiri, vice-chairman Rapolu Ramachandram, founder Chintala Satyanarayana, Tirandasu Sheshiah, Chikka Satyanarayana, Temple Committee chairman Jannu Venkatayya, vice-chairman Varkala Pentaiah, Sakinala Krishna, Rapolu Ramulu, Tirandas Venkatesh and Gurram Ambayya were present.”“Vice-presidents Varkala Swamy, Ele Ramesh and Sangishetti Yadagiri, assistant secretary Rapolu Shekhar, joint secretary Gajam Murali, assistant treasurer Dunaka Murali, executive members Sangam Venu, Ulugonda Narayanadasu, Munagapati Narasimha, Pandala Narsimlu, Gadi Laxminarayana, Ganji Suresh, Miriyala Sandeep Kumar, Ganji Ganesh, Edam Balu, Chenna Veeresh and Chintakindi Praveen, among others, participated in the programme.

BJP Holds Uppal Constituency Meeting for "Har Ghar Tiranga" Campaign“



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, August 07: “As part of the nationwide ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign to commemorate the 80th Independence Day of India, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) convened an Uppal Constituency-level meeting on Thursday evening at the residence of former Medchal–Malkajgiri (Urban) District Vice President Sri Mallela Narsing Rao.”The meeting was attended by former Uppal MLA Sri NVSS Prabhakar, BJP Telangana State Vice President Smt. Kolli Madhavi, and State Official Spokesperson Sri Taduri Srinivas as chief guests.”Addressing the gathering as the State Party Observer, Smt. Kolli Madhavi called upon party leaders and workers to organize the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ programme in a grand manner across every division of the Uppal constituency. She urged them to conduct Tiranga rallies with the active participation of welfare associations, youth organizations, and local residents. She also proposed a large constituency-level Tiranga Rally and appealed to every party worker to hoist the National Flag at their homes on August 10, while organizing large-scale

Tiranga rallies in every division on August 13, 14, and 15 to spread the spirit of patriotism and celebrate India’s Independence.”Former MLA Sri NVSS Prabhakar said that the campaign should serve as a tribute to the great freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation’s independence. He emphasized that every household should proudly hoist the National Flag, reinforcing the message, “Nation First – Nationalism is Our Inspiration.” He also encouraged party workers to distribute National Flags in schools and colleges and involve students and youth organizations in programmes that promote patriotism, national unity, and civic responsibility.”Among those present were BJP State Executive Member Gorige Krishna, former Ramanthapur Corporator Bandaru Srivani, Devasani Balachander, Pothagani Gopal Goud, Malyala Satish Kumar, Thinderu Hanumantha Rao, Ambati Venkatachalam, GVN Rao, Ravindra Sagar, Shanti Kiran, Sandhya Reddy, Ram Pradeep, Ellachari, Sridhar Reddy, and several other BJP leaders and party workers.

Teachers Stage Protest Wearing Black Badges“

“Khammam/Nelakondapalli, August 7 – Indian Chronicle”“Teachers in government schools across Nelakondapalli Mandal staged a protest on Friday by wearing black badges, demanding the immediate resolution of their long-pending issues.”“Speaking at the protest programme held at Rajeswarapuram Government School, USPS leader T.



Vengal Rao said that if the Government fails to respond positively to the teachers’ demands, they would intensify their agitation by organizing a ‘Chalo Assembly’ programme.”“He announced that memorandums would be submitted at Mandal headquarters on August 12 and 13, followed by district-level tours by union leaders from August 21 to 26, and a Mega Dharna in Hyderabad on August 29.”“Teachers’ union representatives Jyothi, Chokka Rao, B. Nageswara Rao, and several other teachers participated in the protest and demanded that the Government address their issues without further delay.

‘Mee Suraksha Sahachari’ Programme Held in Uppal to Create Awareness Among Women on Laws, Cyber Crimes and Theft Prevention“



“UPPAL, AUGUST 7 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“As per the directions of the CP Madam, the Uppal Police conducted the ‘Mee Suraksha Sahachari’ awareness programme within the limits of Uppal Police Station on Friday. The programme focused on creating awareness among women about the functioning of the police station, laws related to women’s safety, precautions against cyber crimes and security measures to prevent thefts.“Police officials advised women not to hesitate or fear approaching the police whenever they face any problem and encouraged them to seek legal as-

sistance. Special emphasis was laid on cyber safety, with officials advising women to remain alert against unknown links, phone calls and messages and never to share personal or banking details with strangers.“Additional DCP Venkataramana, Uppal Division ACP Venkata Reddy, Traffic ACP Uppal Sampath, Women Safety Wing ACP Venkateshwarlu and Headquarters ACP Emmanuel attended the programme as chief guests.“Inspectors, SHO Ramalinga Reddy, Traffic SHO Nagaraju, DI Ravikumar, MEPMA Project Director Vidyavathi, SHE Teams SI Kamala, CDEW members, Uppal Police Station SIs Chiranjeevi and Samatha, Women Police Station SI Annapurna, along with other police personnel, participated in the programme.“Around 200 ‘Sahachari’ members took part in the awareness programme and actively participated in discussions on women’s safety and legal awareness.“Police officials urged women and the public to make effective use of the various initiatives being undertaken by the police department for their safety and security. The programme concluded with the participants taking a pledge on women’s safety and awareness.

25 New Streetlights Installed in Several Colonies of Venkat Reddy Nagar Division

AKARAPU ARUN PATEL““VENKAT REDDY NAGAR, AUGUST 7 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Young leader Akarapu Arun Patel said that his objective is not merely to make promises but to fulfil the assurances given to the people through concrete action.“During the recently conducted ‘Basti Bata’ programme in Balakrishna Nagar Phase-1, Phase-2 and Ram Shankar Nagar colonies under Venkat Reddy Nagar Division, local residents brought several civic issues to the attention of Arun Patel. They particularly complained about difficulties caused by inadequate lighting in the streets during night hours and requested the installation of new streetlights.“Responding to the residents’ concerns, Arun Patel took immediate action and ensured the installation of 25 new streetlights in the respective colonies within just a week.“The residents expressed happiness over the swift implementation of the assurance given to them. They appreciated Arun Patel for taking up their concerns seriously and resolving the issue within a short period.“The



colony residents thanked Arun Patel for his continued efforts towards addressing public issues and implementing the promises made to them. Colony President Kasim Goud, Honorary President Swamy, along with several residents, participated in the programme and expressed their gratitude to Arun Patel.

Department of Occupational Therapy Inaugurated at ESI Hospital, Nacharam



““Nacharam, Indian Chornical, August 7: ““A new Department of Occupational Therapy was formally inaugurated at ESI Hospital, Nacharam by Dr. Satyanarayana, Medical Superintendent of the hospital, marking a significant step towards strengthening rehabilitation services for

patients.“On the occasion, Dr. Satyanarayana felicitated the pioneers of the Occupational Therapy profession in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the field and their dedicated service in promoting rehabilitation care.“The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dr. Chima Srinivas, TGGDA President; Dr. Ashwin Kumar, RMO-2; Dr. Veena, In-charge RMO; Smt. Saritha, Deputy Nursing Superintendent; Sri Vasu, TNGO President; Sri Venu Kumar; Smt. Victoria, TGME Union President; Secretary Smt. Aruna; Dietician B. Aruna; along with doctors, nursing officers, and other members of the hospital staff.“Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted the importance of Occupational Therapy as a specialized rehabilitation service that enables people of all ages to regain independence in their daily lives. The department will provide comprehensive rehabilitation support to patients recovering from stroke, fractures, injuries, neurological disorders, developmental disabilities, and various physical and mental health conditions.“Occupational Therapy focuses on improving hand function, mobility, balance, self-care activities, work-related skills, and overall quality of life through individualized treatment plans, therapeutic interventions, and assistive techniques.“Occupational Therapist S. Premalatha expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Satyanarayana, the hospital management, doctors, nursing officers, and all staff members for their encouragement and wholehearted support in successfully establishing the Department of Occupational Therapy. She also thanked everyone who participated in the inauguration and contributed to making the event a memorable and successful occasion.

Mashetti Raghavendra Gupta Takes Oath as Sri Mahankali Temple Board Member



Arya Vysya Association Leaders Extend Greetings and Felicitate Him““UPPAL, AUGUST 7 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Mashetti Raghavendra Gupta has been appointed as a new board member of the Sri Sri Mahankali Temple located on Uppal Main Road. He was selected as a temple board member under the guidance of Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy and the temple Executive Officer

(EO).“On the occasion of his oath-taking ceremony, leaders and members of the Arya Vysya Association attended the programme and extended their heartfelt congratulations to newly appointed board member Mashetti Raghavendra Gupta. Later, they felicitated him with a shawl and conveyed their best wishes.“Speaking on the occasion, Arya Vysya Association leaders expressed their hope that Mashetti Raghavendra Gupta would contribute actively to the development of Sri Mahankali Temple and work towards providing better facilities for devotees. They assured that their association would extend full cooperation in all temple development activities.“Arya Vysya Association President Bikkumalla Santosh Gupta, Secretary Paladugu Santosh Gupta, Treasurer Renigunta Kiran Kumar Gupta, Bikkumalla Santosh Gupta, Tadupunuri Mahesh Gupta, Reddy Shetty Naresh Gupta, Samudrala Naveen Gupta, Bikkumalla Ravi Gupta, Reddy Shetty Avinash Gupta, Bikkumalla Rakesh Gupta, Bikkumalla Anand Gupta, Bikkumalla Harish Gupta, Bikkumalla Srikanth Gupta and others participated in the programme.

Medipally Police Conduct Awareness Meeting with Sahachari Group Members

MEDIPALLY INSPECTOR D. JALENDER REDDY““MEDIPALLY , AUGUST 7 (INDIAN CHRONICL): As part of community policing initiatives, Medipally Police conducted an awareness meeting with members of the Sahachari Group on Friday.“The meeting was held at the old PMC office in Medipally under the leadership of Medipally Police Station Inspector D. Jalender Reddy. Police personnel and Sahachari Group members participated in the programme.“During the meeting, police created awareness among the members on various issues including women’s safety, road safety, crime prevention, cybercrime awareness and the importance of community policing.“The po-

lice advised the members to immediately inform the police if they noticed any suspicious persons or illegal activities in their respective localities. Special emphasis was laid on preventing online frauds, dealing with suspicious phone calls, protecting OTPs, avoiding fake links and taking necessary precautions while carrying out digital transactions.“The police also urged the public to remain vigilant to prevent crimes against women, drug abuse, anti-social activities in public places and thefts.“Inspector D. Jalender Reddy said that the role of Sahachari Group members is crucial in further strengthening coordination and cooperation between the police and the public.

Sri Sri Sri Gangalamkshmi Bhavani Devi’s Shanti Kalyanam Celebrated Grandly“Former Uppal MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar Participates“



“RAMANTHAPUR , AUGUST 7 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The 14th annual celebrations of Sri Sri Sri Gangalamkshmi Bhavani Devi were held with great devotion and spiritual fervour at Indranagar in Ramantapur. As part of the annual celebrations, the Shanti Kalyanam ceremony of Sri Sri Sri Gangalamkshmi Bhavani Devi was conducted in a grand manner, with former Uppal MLA

N.V.S.S. Prabhakar attending as the chief guest.On the occasion, Prabhakar offered special prayers to the goddess and participated in the Shanti Kalyanam ceremony. He later received the blessings of the deity. Temple organisers and devotees accorded him a warm welcome.“Speaking on the occasion, N.V.S.S. Prabhakar wished that, with the blessings of the goddess, people across the state would be blessed with good health, happiness, peace and prosperity. He said that temples, spiritual activities and religious festivals play a vital role in protecting and preserving Sanatana Dharma.“He further stated that such spiritual programmes strengthen the spirit of unity and devotion in society and help the younger generation understand the richness and significance of Indian culture and traditions.“Ramantapur Division BJP president Vangala Santosh Gupta, senior BJP leaders Vallapu Jagan Yadav, Itikala Venkatesh, Pentam Shailender, Darshanala Sudhakar, Venkatesh, Mohan Krishna and Shekhar, Temple Committee president Poosa Sattaiah, temple committee members, BJP leaders and activists, and a large number of devotees participated in the programme.

Protest at Civil Supplies Godown““Dispute Between Hamalis and a Private Individual“

“Hamalis Question Unauthorized Interference at the Godown““Revenue Inspector Conducts Inquiry on Tahsildar’s Instructions““Khammam/Nelakondapalli, August 7 – Indian Chronicle““Tension prevailed at the Civil Supplies Mandal Level Stock Point (MLSP) in Nelakondapalli Mandal on Friday after hamalis (loading workers) staged a protest against the alleged interference of a private individual in the functioning of the godown.““The workers alleged that a person with no official connection to the Civil Supplies Department was assigning work to hamalis and exercising authority inside the godown. Raising slogans, they demanded that the individual be removed from the premises immediately.““The situation became more tense when an outsourcing Data Entry Operator working at the godown began recording the incident on video.““The hamalis alleged that frequent disputes were occurring due to the absence of proper supervision by district authorities and the lack of a permanent godown in-charge. They also complained that they were facing difficulties because of the conduct of both the private individual and the Data Entry Operator.““As a result of the protest, the dispatch of rice to Fair Price Shops was temporarily suspended. Heated arguments and discussions took place among the workers, creating a tense atmosphere at the godown.““Following instructions from Nelakondapalli Tahsildar P. Ram Prasad, Revenue Inspec-



tor Alasyam Madhusudhan Rao visited the godown and conducted a field inquiry. He interacted with the hamalis and recorded their grievances.““The Revenue Inspector assured the workers that steps would be taken to prevent the private individual from entering the godown and that a report on the incident would be submitted to the Civil Supplies District authorities.““Following this assurance, the hamalis withdrew their protest, and the dispatch of ration rice resumed.

Police Commissioner Congratulates Officers Promoted as Assistant Sub-Inspectors



““Khammam, August 7 – Indian Chronicle““Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt congratulated 28 police personnel who were promoted from the rank of Head Constable to Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) in recognition of their dedicated and continuous service in various police stations.““At a ceremony held at the Police Commissioner’s Office, the

Commissioner formally decorated the promoted officers with their new rank insignia and extended his best wishes for their future responsibilities.““The newly promoted officers have been transferred to Bhadradi Kothagudem, Warangal, and Mahabubabad districts, where they will assume their new assignments as Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

Naeraeda meta poaleesa sataeshana paridhiloa "sahachari" vagaahana kaarayakaramaam



“malakaajigiri, agasata 7:mahilalu, parajala bhadarata koasaam paravaeshapetatina mee surakasha paraamukhayatanu“naeraeda?meta poaleesa sataeshana paridhiloani vinaayakanagaraaambaedakara bhavanaamloa shukaravaaram 'mee surakasha- sahachari' kaarayakaramaaniniravahiamchaaru.e kaarayakaramaaniki eodabalayoo (eodabalayoo) aseeppee satatayaya mukhaya atithigaa haajarayayaaru. ?E

kaarayakaramaamloa bhaagaamga paalagonana parajalaku, sahachari sabhayulaku palu aamshaalapai avagaahana kalapiamchaaru. "mahilalu, parajala bhadarata koasaam paravaeshapetatina mee surakasha paraamukhayatanu ayana vivariamchaaru."maarutunana saamkaetikata toa jarugutunana saibara moasaalu, vaati baarina padakuamdaa teesukoavaalasina jaagaratatalapai sapashatamainaavagaahana kalapiamchaaru."atayavasara parisathitulaloa takashana sahaayaam koasaam"ara?sa?sa dayala 112 saevalanu alaa upayogiamchukoavaaloo vivariamchaaru. poaleesa sataeshana paniteeru, poaleesula vidhulu, samaajaamloa "sahachari" sabhayulu niravahiamchaalasina keelaka paatara guriamchi telipaaruu."?avagaahana sadasasuloo motaam 68 maamdi sahachari sabhayulatoa paatu naeraeda?meta poaleesa sataeshana sibabaamdi paalagonanaaru.

Central Bank's MSME drive generates Rs 150 crore

Hyderabad: Central Bank of India, Hyderabad Region, organised an MSME Outreach Campaign at the MSME Development & Facilitation Centre, Banaganur, on Friday, generating business worth Rs 150 crore.

Dr Himanshu Gupta, General Manager (MSME), Central Office, stressed the need to expand MSME financing by focusing on New-to-Bank (NTB) and New-to-Credit (NTC) customers.

The campaign included one-to-one interactions with entrepreneurs, presentations on MSME loan products and schemes, and distribution of cheques and sanction letters. The Bank sanctioned Rs.40 crore in MSME loans, issued Rs.60 crore in-principle sanctions and generated Rs.50 crore in fresh MSME leads. Loans worth Rs.25 crore were disbursed on the day.

Thousands of government employees converge in Chandigarh for mega rally



GNS News Agency, August 7

All roads from Punjab are leading to Chandigarh on Friday as thousands of employees from more than 50 government departments, including the State Civil Secretariat, converged at Sector 39 for a mega rally demanding payment of their pending Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears. The employees are seeking release of the 18 per cent DA that had already become the subject of a legal battle. In a departure from previous protests, many employees are participating in the rally along with their families and children, while unions claim that pensioners and their families are also extending support to the agitation. The government employees' mobilisation has emerged as a significant pressure point for the AAP Government led by Bhagwant Mann ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections.

The protest has also taken on a political dimension. Employee leaders said several BJP leaders approached them on Thursday, offering to attend the rally and assuring employees that, if the party comes to power in Punjab, it would release the pending dearness allowance (DA) instalments with interest and restore the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has also repeatedly said during his visits to Punjab that, if voted to power, the BJP would replicate the "Haryana model" in the state, including clearing pending DA instalments and restoring the OPS. The unions, however, said they wanted to keep Friday's gathering as an employee-led protest and demonstrate their organisational strength rather than allow it to become a platform for any political party. The mobilisation comes amid allegations by employee unions that the Punjab government had sought information about those planning to attend the rally. A letter issued by the Personnel Department of the state government to all the district heads on August 5 sought details of employees proceeding to the August 7 rally, including the names of "active union leaders".

Union leaders alleged that the move was intended to discourage employees from participating. "However, all our district heads informed the respective Deputy Commissioners and senior officers that if even one employee or pensioner affiliated with our union was detained, we would not allow any AAP MLA to leave their residence or Chandigarh after the Vidhan Sabha session," said Gursewak Singh, president of the Punjab Ministerial Employees Union. According to him, nearly five buses from Fazilka left as early as 2 am to reach Chandigarh, while employees from Pathankot also began their journey around the same

time. Nine buses and several private vehicles reportedly left Mansa, while at least three to five buses were expected to travel from each of Punjab's 23 districts apart from several private vehicles. "Over 3 lakh government employees working across various departments in the state, along with another 4 lakh pensioners and their families, are supporting this cause. Former finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal had also taken us lightly by calling us 2 per cent of the vote bank. The AAP government, whose only job is to defame government employees, is also under a similar impression. The reality will become clear in the coming elections," Gursewak Singh said.

The previous Congress government, during which Badal served as finance minister, had issued a notification in 2020 shifting Punjab government employees from the state pay scale to the Centre's pay scale. Employees have been opposing the move, claiming that the revised structure has resulted in lower pay. The agitation has already impacted government functioning across Punjab. Except for Class-I officers, employees from various cadres in Deputy Commissioner offices across the state, along with staff from allied departments such as transport and revenue, are participating in the strike. Several mini-secretariats reportedly wore a deserted look. A large number of government school teachers, employees of Punjab University and Punjabi University, and government college teachers have also joined the protest. "Today's rally will tell the Punjab government about the strength of the government employees. We are the ones who had showered flower petals on Bhagwant Mann when he had entered the Civil Secretariat after becoming the chief minister in March 2022. Now we have pledged not to vote for this government in 2027," said Sukhchain Khehra, president of the Punjab Civil Secretariat Employees Union. Employee leaders said the AAP government came to power in March 2022 and has released only one DA instalment of 4 per cent for July-December 2022 since then. "This 4 per cent instalment for July 2022 was released in December 2023, following a statewide strike of over a month by the Punjab Ministerial Employees Union. Since January 2023, no further DA instalment has been released, and the pending dues have accumulated to 18 per cent as of January 1, 2026," Gursewak Singh said.

DA is generally revised twice a year, based on inflation and the applicable government pay structure. As of January 1, 2026, Central Government employees were receiving DA at 60 per cent of basic pay, while Punjab Government employees covered by the state's existing DA structure were at 42 per cent, according to the employee unions. Earlier this year, a single judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court had struck down the state's decision to release DA arrears in 42 instalments and held that the government was required to pay DA and DR in accordance with the pattern followed by the central government. The state had challenged that order before a division bench. The dispute over the pending DA has also figured in the Punjab Assembly, where Opposition legislators raised the issue of arrears during the recent session. For the employees, however, Friday's rally is about more than the arrears. "We want to show the government that employees cannot be taken for granted. This is not merely about 18 per cent DA but about the treatment meted out to government employees and pensioners," a union leader said.

Bombay High Court's bail condition in doctors' assault case: Ramesh Mhatre cannot enter Maharashtra

GNS News Agency, August 7

The Bombay High Court has granted bail to Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Sukrya Mhatre and others booked for an alleged assault on three municipal doctors in Thane, but on one condition. The High Court has imposed a strict condition that Ramesh Mhatre and others will not enter Maharashtra until the investigation is completed and the chargesheet is filed in the doctors' assault case. "In a rule of democracy, the principle is that an elected representative is by the people and for the people. If an elected representative is accused of assaulting his own voters, such a situation is bound to dent the fabric of democracy," the HC noted in its order. The High Court also said Ramesh Mhatre and others will be permitted to live in Maharashtra after the chargesheet is filed, but they will have to stay away from the complainant doctors.

On July 6, corporator Ramesh Mhatre and others allegedly assaulted three doctors after they advised shifting a pregnant woman from the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC)-run Dombivli Municipal Shastri Nagar Hospital as all NICU beds were occupied. The High Court on July 18 stayed the bail granted to Ramesh Mhatre by a

trial court after initiating a suo motu plea, raising concerns over the doctors' assault case. Mhatre and others surrendered on July 19 and were lodged at Aadharwadi Jail in Kalyan. The court on Friday modified the July 14 and 17 bail orders and granted bail to the accused persons. The court also asked the state to appoint a Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) within seven days to argue the case before the trial court and not replace him/her midway. It directed its registry to form a fast-track court within seven days in Kalyan to swiftly hear and decide the case, and directed KDMC to provide police protection to the victim doctors. KDMC has assured that no disciplinary action will be taken against the doctors if they miss duty to participate in the probe and trial. The state government also assured that voice samples, CCTV footage and photographs, which are subject matter, will be sent to the forensic science laboratory (FSL) to expedite the analysis process. It said that the chargesheet will be filed in 10 days after the results are submitted. The trial court shall frame charges within 5 days of filing of the chargesheet, and the prosecution and parties to the case are directed to refrain from seeking unreasonable adjournments.

Doctors flag rise in pothole-related injuries, say poor road repairs worsening problem

GNS News Agency, August 7

Orthopaedic surgeons have flagged a rise in pothole-related injuries this monsoon, saying many are directly or indirectly linked to the poor condition of roads. "The situation becomes even more hazardous during the monsoon. Loose mud and gravel left around repaired potholes significantly reduce tyre grip. Two-wheelers require a firm road surface for stability, and loose mud or gravel can cause a vehicle to skid within seconds," Dr Abhijeet Wahegaonkar, president-elect of the Pune Orthopaedic Society, told Dr Wahegaonkar, whose own vehicle skidded while he tried to avoid a pothole, escaped with minor injuries. He said that when a rider sustains an open wound or a compound fracture, the mud and gravel can contaminate the injury, increasing the risk of infection. "We are also seeing patients with neck and back pain, mainly because of the long travel time between their homes and workplaces," he said. "There are at least two to three patients with complex spinal fractures," said Dr Chetan Pradhan, head of the Trauma Department at Sancheti Hospital. He added that such injuries can be particularly serious among elderly people with osteoporosis, whose fragile bones are more likely to fracture even after a relatively minor fall. The situation is especially worrying for parents who use two-wheelers to drop their children to school, as even a minor skid can have devastating consequences. According to Dr Sandeep Patwardhan, consulting paediatric orthopaedic surgeon at Sancheti Hospital, it is not uncommon to see injured children in the casualty department. He recalled the case of a 10-year-old boy who was thrown off a two-wheeler when his father tried to avoid a pothole. In that unfortunate incident, the child fell under the

rear wheel of a municipal transport bus and, before the driver could stop, was dragged for nearly 10 feet. He suffered a severe compound fracture of the foot with extensive crush injuries. While the fracture is gradually healing, the child has developed severe anxiety and refuses to bear weight on the affected leg. He is too frightened to undergo physiotherapy," Dr Patwardhan said. The poor quality of pothole repairs is another concern. "Many potholes are filled unevenly, creating raised bumps that can be just as dangerous as the potholes themselves. A rider who is unaware of these uneven surfaces, especially when they are filled with water, can easily lose control, particularly on a two-wheeler," said Dr Vishal Chaudhari, consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Noble Hospital. According to Dr Sumit Saxena, consultant plastic surgeon, even reaching a hospital during an emergency takes considerable time because of the poor road conditions. "Roads need durable and level repairs that provide a stable riding surface, especially during the monsoon when wet conditions already make travel hazardous," he said. Dr Wahegaonkar also expressed concern over the recent death of a soldier who was reportedly flung off his motorcycle on the Nashik-Pune highway. "This is another stark reminder of how dangerous the current road conditions have become. These incidents are entirely preventable and underscore the urgent need for safer roads," he said. "We are seeing a worrying increase in road traffic injuries during the monsoon. Unfortunately, there is no comprehensive system to record and analyse pothole-related injuries. As a result, many cases go unreported, making it difficult to fully appreciate the true burden these road hazards place on people," he added.

Kotak Mahindra fraud: Mastermind bought BMWs, a Porsche, Harley Davidson from crime proceeds, says ED



Pushpinder Singh, the alleged mastermind of the Kotak Mahindra Bank-Panchkula Municipal Corporation (MC) fraud case, used the proceeds of crime to buy a fleet of luxury vehicles, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has claimed. According to the ED, the high-end vehicles include a Porsche Cayenne, BMW 740Li, BMW X7, BMW 749i, BMW Z4, Jeep Wrangler (2021 and 2024 models), Land Cruiser and a Harley Davidson. The agency further alleged that after the fraud came to light, the luxury vehicles were sold to third parties.

The investigation agency has filed a prosecution complaint against nine accused persons in the alleged fraud worth more than Rs 100 crore. "During the investigation, it was learnt that Pushpinder Singh had purchased many luxury vehicles... out of the proceeds of crime which had been siphoned off from the funds of MC Panchkula," according to the ED.

The ED's Chandigarh Zonal Unit has stated that it had filed a prosecution complaint on July 30 against nine accused persons under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, and had also issued a Provisional Attachment Order (PAO) on July 29, attaching assets worth Rs 131.13 crore. According to the ED, the money laundering probe stems from an FIR registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Panchkula, under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Prevention of Corruption Act against unknown officers and officials of Kotak Mahindra Bank. The FIR alleges embezzlement of funds belonging to the MC, Panchkula, through a "deep-rooted and well-organised criminal conspiracy" by bank officials. The ED alleged that Pushpinder Singh, then deputy vice-president of Kotak Mahindra Bank, in connivance with Vikas Kaushik, an official of the MC, Panchkula, and bank employee Dilip Raghav, opened two unauthorised bank accounts in the name of MC Panchkula using a series of fake documents and authorisations. According to the agency, genuine communications, authorisation letters and instructions sent by MC Panchkula were allegedly disregarded, while parallel authorisation letters were created by Pushpinder Singh and Kaushik to facilitate the opening of the two illegal accounts. The ED further alleged that funds from the corporation's genuine bank accounts were transferred to these unauthorised accounts. It also alleged that

AIMIM corporator Matin Patel arrested for ignoring court summons in TCS sexual harassment case



GNS News Agency, August 7 The Nashik Police has arrested All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin (AIMIM) corporator Matin Patel after a local court issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against him for not responding to court summonses in connection with the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) sexual harassment case. Matin Patel will later be produced before the court. A senior officer from Nashik Police said that the court had issued two summonses to Matin Patel. A non-bailable warrant was issued against him after he ignored both.

"It was while executing the NBW that our officer went

Satish Kumar of Kotak Mahindra Bank was involved in siphoning off the funds.

The ED further alleged that the mobile numbers and email IDs linked to both the fake and genuine MC Panchkula accounts were updated with contact details controlled by Vikas Kaushik and Pushpinder Singh to bypass the bank's internal checks and balances, enabling the fraud to be executed seamlessly. The agency said that once the money reached the unauthorised accounts, it was transferred to individuals including Rajat Dahrha, Swati Tomar, Kapil Kumar, Vinod Kumar and Sonia, and to entities including S.K. Agrotech and S.K. Agrofim, for further layering and disguising the source of the proceeds of crime. According to the ED, the intermediary accounts of Tomar and Dahrha were under the effective control of Pushpinder Singh and were used to transfer the illegally received funds to his personal accounts, those of his wife Preeti Thakur, and for the purchase of movable and immovable properties, including luxury cars, watches and furniture. The agency also alleged that the funds were utilised by Pushpinder Singh to advance unsecured loans to individuals including Sunny Garg, Priyanka Garg, Samar Mohan Ranga and Aryan Singh, and to entities such as Sanat Realtors Pvt Ltd, Central Infradevelopers, Sanat Ventures Enterprises LLP, Savage Records Pvt Ltd and Sanat Enterprises Pvt Ltd, allegedly charging interest at the rate of 3 per cent per month (36 per cent annually) in cash.

The ED further claimed that its investigation established an abnormal increase in the income of Pushpinder's wife Preeti from financial year 2022-2023 onwards and a significant rise in the turnover and profits of her firm, Chaudhary & Sethi Legal Advisory Pvt Ltd, from FY 2023-24 onwards, coinciding with the period of the alleged offence. The firm, the ED alleged, was used for disposal of movable and immovable properties acquired from the proceeds of crime. Searches under Section 17(1) of the PMLA were conducted on April 22 this year led to the seizure of incriminating documents and evidence, the agency said.

It also claimed that Pushpinder Singh deliberately sold properties in Sector 2, Panchkula, to his sister Gunita Sethi using funds received by her from Chaudhary & Sethi Legal Advisory Pvt Ltd, describing the transactions as a "round tripping" exercise intended to disguise ownership and prevent attachment under the PMLA. According to the ED, Rs 107.24 crore of MC Panchkula funds were retained in the illegal accounts and those of intermediaries and beneficiaries. The agency said the total value of the proceeds of crime provisionally attached stands at Rs 131.13 crore, comprising Rs 12.85 crore in bank balances and Rs 118.28 crore in immovable properties. The ED claimed it had "successfully made attachments of 100 per cent of the embezzled funds of MC Panchkula within a span of four months from the registration of the FIR by the LEA". The ED has alleged Pushpinder Singh as the mastermind in the case. He was arrested on June 1, 2026, and remanded in nine days custody by the Special PMLA Court, Panchkula.

to his residence; he [Matin Patel] was found there, following which he was placed under arrest. He will be produced before the court today," the officer said. On May 22, the Nashik Police filed the 3,500-page chargesheet in the first of nine FIRs registered in connection with the TCS sexual harassment case.

The first FIR, registered at Deolali Camp Police Station, was filed under charges of rape, hurt to religious sentiments, as well as under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Apart from three TCS employees – Nida Khan, Danish Shaikh and Tausif Attar – the police had named Matin Patel in the chargesheet for allegedly providing refuge to accused Nida Khan despite knowing that a Nashik court had rejected her anticipatory bail. While the search for accused Nida Ejaz Khan was in progress, it was revealed through confidential information and technical analysis that Matin Majid Patel had provided shelter to the accused to help her evade arrest," the chargesheet mentioned. The chargesheet also mentions former AIMIM MP Intiaz Jaleel when the police was looking for Nida Khan. As per the chargesheet, AIMIM corporator Matin Patel repeatedly referred to Jaleel when he was questioned about her whereabouts. Jaleel, who is not an accused, has denied his involvement in the TCS sexual harassment case.

Delhi Health Minister tells Secretary to submit report on firms supplying 'substandard' materials to hospitals

Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh on Wednesday sought an explanation from Health Secretary Rupesh Thakur regarding a fresh complaint alleging that some of the 13 companies named in a 2024 FIR for supplying "substandard" materials to six government hospitals in the city are still involved in the procurement and supply of surgical items to government-run hospitals. The Minister asked the Secretary earlier this week to submit a comprehensive factual report, supported by documentary evidence, by Friday, noting that allegations are "serious" and require "comprehensive" verification. Officials confirmed that the action followed a complaint submitted to the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Minister and the Health Minister. "The Chief Minister's Office forwarded the complaint to the Health Minister on August 4 for further action in the matter," said officials. The FIR was registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau on January 5, 2024, under the Prevention of Corruption Act, and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The FIR stated that manufacturers and traders operated as a cartel in collusion with known and unknown public servants, supplying substandard surgical products at exorbitant prices. It further alleged that Chinese plastic wires were used in certain bandages and gauzes instead of the prescribed IS-certified cotton thread, officials said. "The fresh complaint alleges that several of these firms and their connected concerns may still be participating in government procurement. He (Singh) has sought details of people whose name has been mentioned in the complaint and their role, with documentary

evidence and action taken or proposed against them, and warned that any omission, suppression of material facts or failure to provide the required information will be viewed seriously..." said officials. The minister also sought details of any fresh tenders, contracts, purchase orders or work orders, or any purchase order under an existing rate awarded to the firms — named in the FIR or otherwise found involved in the alleged irregularities — after the registration of the FIR. "Complete details, including the value of the contract, date of award, approving authority and justification for allowing such firms to continue supplying government institutions have been sought," said officials. "The Secretary was also directed to submit details on whether proceedings for blacklisting or debarment of the supplier firms have been initiated and if not, the reasons for not initiating such proceedings should be specifically explained," said officials. The minister has sought firm-wise details of all payments, if any, released after the FIR to any supplier named in it or those against whom criminal proceedings have been initiated in respect of any payment made against the supply order for tender awarded before or after the registration of FIR along with the amount, date, purpose and approving authority and justification for releasing such payments despite the pendency of criminal proceedings, added officials aware of the communication. The firms named in the FIR are Brij Textiles, Yatrah Surgical, Vee Solutions, S.K. Surgicals, Vristi Technologies, Sunny Enterprises, Durga Surgical Corporation, Bhikhi Surgicare, Bhavna Enterprises, SS Enterprises, Hi Tech Medics Pvt. Ltd., Hi Care Gloves (P) Ltd. and Jind Surgical.

2,000 teens for RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat’s Gen Z outreach after protests



GNS News Agency, August 7

In the backdrop of the recent student-led protests over alleged examination paper leaks that culminated in Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat is set to interact with nearly 2,000 teenagers from across the country at a youth conference in Mumbai on

Food safety body cornered, Bombay High Court says ‘you’ll be charged’

GNS News Agency, August 7

The Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has again come under the scanner of the Bombay High Court for failing to revoke the licence suspension order against a Navi Mumbai bar and restaurant despite giving it a 100 percent compliance rating following a reinspection on July 14. Revoking the FDA’s licence suspension order against the establishment, the High Court indicated that it will also consider imposing costs on the regulator for the damages the restaurant suffered for nearly 15 days.

The food safety regulator has already been under fire for its grueling campaign against food businesses found violating safety standards in the state. Last week, the High Court rapped the FDA for giving a 98 percent approval to Mantralaya kitchen. A bench led by Acting Chief Justice Ravindra V Ghuge also remarked that while the department, “sleeping for years,” has now woken up through the “laudable” work of FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe, the court would fail in its duty by remaining silent in the Navi Mumbai case.

Advocates Mayur Khandeparkar and Sagar Shetty said the FDA inspected Pawan Bar and Restaurant on June 29, recorded 63 percent compliance and suspended its licence the next day. The court was also told that the re-inspection on July 14 found 100 percent compliance. Despite that, the FDA did not restore its licence. The government lawyer said the petitioner’s appeal against licence suspension was pending, and a decision was awaited. CJ Ghuge said, “Your problem is that the department was sleep-

‘They hit the van’: School kids terrified after clash involving kanwariyas in Lucknow

GNS News Agency, August 7

Six kanwariyas riding three motorcycles allegedly attacked a school van carrying young children after a minor collision in Lucknow on Monday morning. The van was on its way to drop students at school when the incident took place at Charak Crossing in the Chowk area, leaving the children terrified. Police said after the minor collision, the kanwariyas allegedly struck the rear windshield and side mirror of the school van with their hands, damaging both, before fleeing the scene. Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shubham Kumar said police have identified the registration numbers of the three motorcycles through CCTV footage and videos of the incident, and a case will be registered and legal action will be taken against those found responsible. Kumar, however, denied reports that the kanwariyas pelted stones at the vehicle.

He further said the youths were believed to be kanwariyas based on their attire and the fact that they were carrying holy water containers typically used during the Kanwar Yatra. Station House Officer, Chowk police station, Nagesh Upadhyay said minor students were inside the van at the time of the incident, but none of them suffered any injuries. A purported video widely shared on social media shows a woman who claimed she witnessed the incident. In the video, she alleged that a group deliberately attacked the vehicle and used abusive language before fleeing. According to police, they received information about

Bengal Police arrest Jaish-e-Mohammed operative tracking CM Suvendu Adhikari’s routes

GNS News Agency, August 7

The West Bengal Special Task Force arrested another alleged operative linked to a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) espionage network from Howrah on Monday. The arrest followed the police review of security measures for Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari following revelations that the terror module had been tracking his movements. The accused, identified as Aditya Singh alias Raj alias Raju, was apprehended from Belilius Road in Howrah following specific leads generated during the interrogation of alleged JeM operative Hamim Mondal and his associate, Arpita Sarkar.

Investigators suspect that Mondal initially connected with Aditya via an online gaming platform before allegedly radicalising and drawing him into the espionage ring. According to senior STF officials, Aditya is suspected of gathering sensitive information on Minister of State for Urban Development Umesh Rai and his son, which was subsequently passed on to primary handlers. “The arrest was made based on specific leads that emerged during the investigation. We are now focused on identifying others linked to the alleged network,” a senior STF officer stated, adding that three people have been taken into custody in connection with the case so far. Meanwhile, Transport Minister Arjun Singh confirmed Saturday that the transport department was prepared to assign a dedicated bulletproof vehicle, deeming it essential for the Chief Minister’s protection. The widespread investigation was triggered following the arrest of primary suspect Hamim Mondal from East Burdwan. The police suspect Mondal maintained direct operational ties with

August 6.

Bhagwat, the RSS Sarsanghchalak, will address students aged between 15 and 19 years at the inaugural ceremony of the India International Movement to Unite Nations’ (I.I.M.U.N.) Annual Championship Conference at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC). The conference marks the organisation’s 15th anniversary and will bring together participants from more than 100 cities. According to I.I.M.U.N., Bhagwat’s session will centre on “The Role of Youth in Uniting the World, the Indian Way” and kick off a multi-day conference where students debate national, international and civic issues. The organisers said the event comes at a time when young people are increasingly shaping conversations around leadership, democracy and nation-building. The interaction assumes significance as it will be one of Bhagwat’s largest engagements with Gen Z students in recent months, taking place days after youth-led mobilisation over examination paper leaks thrust young voters and student activism into the national spotlight.



ing all these years and now it has woken up. You have a laudable Chief [Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe].... Here you are giving a certificate of 100 percent. Licence (suspension) should have been revoked. Who will undo the damage caused to the petitioner?” “You cannot defend your action. If we decide to remain silent, then we will be failing in our duty. So let him tell us what the cost (of business loss) is. We will calculate the average income per day of the establishment, and that will be charged to you,” Acting CJ Ghuge told the government lawyer. The court, while revoking the suspension of licenses, also sought an affidavit from the restaurant, providing details of estimated average income for the last 15 days and the financial losses it suffered due to closure of its premises to pass an appropriate order. The court is likely to hear the plea next on Wednesday, August 5.



the incident on Monday morning, following which a team was immediately dispatched to the spot. A preliminary inquiry found that the school van had a minor collision with one of the three motorcycles. Upadhyay said the van driver had applied the brakes because of the rain, following which one of the motorcycles rammed into the rear of the vehicle. The collision triggered a heated exchange between the van driver and the riders. During the argument, some of the kanwariyas allegedly struck the van with force, damaging its side mirror and rear-view mirror. Police said officers stationed a short distance from the crossing rushed to the spot after noticing the commotion but the riders had fled by then. Before leaving, they allegedly threatened the van driver.



The accused, identified as Aditya Singh alias Raj alias Raju, was apprehended from Belilius Road in Howrah following specific leads generated during the interrogation of alleged JeM operative Hamim Mondal and his associate, Arpita Sarkar.

Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and was tasked with monitoring high-profile political targets and transit routes across the state.

Security concerns around state leadership had already escalated earlier this year on May 6, when the Chief Minister’s personal assistant, Chandranath Rath, was shot dead by unidentified assailants on the streets of Madhyamgram. Two days after that attack, Adhikari took the oath of office as Chief Minister. At the time, top state police officials had advised him to adopt a bulletproof vehicle, which was already added to his official convoy.

Karnataka introduces 5-year cooling period for police officers in city posts



In an attempt to prevent police officers from becoming entrenched in executive posts in six major cities of the state, the Karnataka government has mandated a “cooling period” of five years for deputy superintendent- and inspector-rank officers after they serve in cities. The Karnataka Home Department issued the order mandating the cooling period on Saturday. “Deputy Superintendents of Police (Civil) and Inspectors of Police (Civil) are eligible to serve in executive posts (Law and Order, Traffic, CCB, Railway, Cyber and Women) in Police Commissionerates like Bengaluru City/ Mangaluru City/ Mysuru City/ Hubli-Dharwad City/ Belagavi City/ Kalaburagi City only for a maximum period of five years cumulatively,” states the order issued by the Home Department. Once officers complete five years in a city, they will be transferred outside city jurisdiction and must serve in other non-urban units for a minimum of five years

before being eligible to return to a city.

The measure is seen as an attempt to prevent police officers from hogging prime executive posts in cities by using money and political influence. DSPs will also have to serve in non-executive posts for a minimum of two years to be eligible for consideration for executive posts for two years, while inspectors must serve one year in a non-executive post before being eligible for an executive role for two years. DSPs and inspectors will be required to serve for two years in non-executive roles soon after promotion to the rank of DSP and police inspector, as per the August 1 order. The order also states that police officers facing corruption or disciplinary proceedings will not be eligible for executive positions in the state. Earlier this year, the Congress government passed a Bill to empower the state police to transfer officers up to the rank of deputy superintendent for misconduct, negligence, dereliction of duty and acts of moral turpitude. The Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2026, empowered the Police Establishment Board comprising senior police officers to transfer officers who committed dereliction of duty or misconduct without waiting for the two-year minimum tenure mandated by law. This was done because the Congress government in 2024 introduced a law to ensure police officers in operational roles in the state have a minimum two-year tenure instead of one year. The previous minimum tenure of one year for police officers was considered a hindrance to law enforcement because police transfers have often been alleged to be politically dictated and not subject to the wishes of the police top brass.

After Gymkhana and Jaipur Polo Ground, another Delhi club faces eviction battle

GNS News Agency, August 7

After the Delhi Gymkhana Club, Jaipur Polo Ground and part of the Sujana Singh Park complex, the 1919-established Central Secretariat Club — formerly Talkatora Club — has moved the Delhi High Court to challenge its eviction. The eviction order was issued by the Estate Officer on July 17 and directed the Club to immediately vacate the premises. It was passed three days after the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) withdrew the Club’s recognition on July 14.

According to the Club, on July 21, the Directorate of Estates under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), “physically locked the premises” and forcibly “took over possession in an autocratic and illegal manner”. “Such summary dispossession of a 107-year-old historic institution during the subsistence of a permanent allotment dated 08.06.1926 and without following due process of law constitutes a brazen fraud on power, which is contrary to the law laid down...,” the Club, represented by advocate Nakul Gandhi, has contended before Delhi HC in its petition. The petition has sought that both the July 14 derecognition order as well as the July 17 eviction order be set aside. It is due to be heard on August 4. As an interim relief, the Club has sought that the operation of both orders be stayed. Formerly known as the Talkatora Club when it was established in 1919, it was taken over by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1962 after a decision by the Club’s general body. It was then renamed. De-recognition order The Club’s constitution permitted membership for working central government employees, and retired pensioners/superannuated central government personnel. It was established with the objective to cater to the needs of lower- and middle-level government officers.

In an office memorandum declaring the withdrawal of the Club’s recognition on July 14, the government reasoned that it was necessary “in the light of constant violations and prima facie evidence of significant undesirable and illegitimate/ untoward activities”. It also pointed out that there was no “valid and legally constituted management committee” after July 14, 2025, to run the affairs of the Club despite reminders.

The violations flagged include that the Club has “consistently failed to maintain a meaningful and representative membership base of central government employees in service despite availability of several thousand serving eligible central government employees residing in Delhi/NCR.” It also noted that the “attendance and participation of government employees in the activities of the Club have remained negligible, clearly demonstrating that the Society has not been able to function as an effective representative institution for promotion of welfare, recreation and cultural activities amongst government employees”. The government has also alleged that office bearers and members of the Execu-



tive Committee (EC) “actively facilitated and protected unauthorised occupants in their illegal possession and encroachment of government property falling under the possession of the Club.” The Club was first granted recognition by the DoPT in 1964 but was derecognised in 1971 following complaints. It was granted recognition again in November 1972. Following complaints of drinking and gambling in the Club premises in September 1982, it was again derecognised in December 1983, although the Club continued to operate from the premises for the next two decades. Subsequently, in December 2005, the Club was granted recognition again on the condition that recognition is liable to be withdrawn at any time if there is preliminary evidence of “any untoward activity” or violation of conditions. In March 2023, the DoPT issued an order observing acts of administrative and financial irregularities and lapses, including no meeting of the General Body being held since March 2013 — that is in 10 years — despite a meeting at least once a year being mandated under the stipulations. The order also constituted an ad-hoc administrative committee to look after daily affairs of the Club and streamline its functioning. The ad-hoc committee was given powers to function as executive committee of the club.

In July 2024, elections were conducted and a new managing committee was formed, which included 3 DoPT-nominated members. Disputes arose over handover of charge and functioning of the executive committee, as well as misuse of position and financial irregularities. On February 24 this year, the DoPT issued an office memorandum to the Club, withdrawing recognition for failing to conduct elections, among other violations. Allegations also included “death of a retired government employee while consuming alcohol on the premises, operating unauthorised canteen on club premises, cash-based illegal card gambling in the club, consuming personal liquor in the club’s parking area and complaints about discriminating treatment meted out to lower staff etc.” This was challenged by the Club before the HC earlier. The court had then permitted the Club to submit its reply in response to the office memorandum. The Club denied the allegations, terming them to be “false, cryptic and unfounded.”

Punjab may appeal court’s 2-week DA dues deadline

GNS News Agency, August 7

The Punjab government is preparing to appeal against the Punjab and Haryana High Court’s order to clear pending dearness allowance (DA) dues of employees and pensioners within two weeks, with a highly placed source saying the financial liability would be beyond the state’s capacity to pay. “The liability would be around Rs 25,000 crore. This is impossible for the state to pay. The state earns this amount of money in three months. It is not possible to pay such a huge amount. We will move the Supreme Court of India. There is no other option,” the government source told The Indian Express. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, however, said the government would take a call after examining the division bench’s order issued on Monday. “We are waiting for the detailed order. I cannot comment on anything right now. We will see,” he said. The division bench also restrained the state from undertaking large-scale advertisement campaigns until the dues are paid, indicating that public funds should first be used to discharge employees’ lawful dues.

DA parity with civil service officers ‘unsustainable’ The order resulted from appeals filed by the government and Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) against a single-judge judgment that directed DA payment on par with officers of all-India services and members of the judiciary. The single-judge bench held that paying a higher rate of DA to IAS, IPS, and IFS officers and judicial officers while denying the same benefit to other state employees and pensioners amounted to discrimination. The bench also directed the government to clear the pending dearness relief (DR) dues.

The government challenged the judgment, contending that the single-judge bench exceeded the scope of judi-



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cial review and that implementing the order would impose an unsustainable financial burden on the state. During the hearing before the division bench, the government pegged the liability at over Rs 14,000 crore. Government sources now estimate the liability at around Rs 25,000 crore. The high court’s direction comes at a time when the AAP government has spent around Rs 3,000 crore on disbursing financial assistance under its flagship scheme for women, adding to the strain on the state’s finances. The issue is expected to figure prominently during the forthcoming Assembly session, with the Opposition likely to target the government over the court’s observation linking publicity expenditure with the obligation to clear employees’ pending dues first.

Water-dropping aircraft take off to tackle major Greek wildfire, after 2 killed in crash



Athens: Five water-dropping planes and another five helicopters took off at first light Monday to help hundreds of firefighters battling a major wildfire west of Athens, Greece, a day after a midair collision between two firefighting helicopters killed two crew members. The collision laid bare the danger at the most volatile front of Europe's wildfire emergency. Flames bore down deeper into the region of the Greek capital, forcing fresh evacuations in the early hours of Monday. In France, firefighters guarded a still-burning scar four times the size of Paris. The two crew members – one Greek and one Danish national – died when their helicopter collided with another near the seaside area of Psatha while tackling the fire that started Friday morning. The blaze raged through pine forests and scrubland through the weekend, whipped by gale force winds that often prevented water-dropping planes from operating. The crew of the second helicopter â€” a Greek and a British national â€” were taken to a hospital, where their injuries were reported to be light. Foreign firefighting and helicopter crews are often deployed in Greece to help tackle wildfires during the country's hot, dry summers.

Easing winds raise hopes of halting the advance of the flamesStrong winds were dying down Monday, raising hopes that the nearly 500 firefighters battling the blaze could manage to halt its advance. But authorities warned the broader Athens region of Attica remained at a high risk for wildfires due to a forecast increase in temperatures. More

than 1,000 people have been evacuated from the region, including more than 250 rescued by boats from beaches in the area. Evacuation orders were issued in the early hours of Monday for three more areas, while crews worked to create firebreaks in a forest to help halt the advance of the blaze.

Greece's firefighting department said Sunday the fire apparently began from sparks emitted by a faulty power line transporting electricity from a private wind generator facility to the main electricity network. Two people were arrested – an electrical engineer responsible for designing and overseeing the power project, and a contractor involved in constructing the electricity transmission network. Both face felony arson charges, while authorities had also issued an arrest warrant for the owner of the wind generator company. Greece has devastating wildfires every summer, with hot, dry conditions and frequently strong winds making it easy for small sparks to trigger major blazes. Measures to limit fire risks, such as bans on barbecues and certain outdoor work such as welding and use of electrical power saws are often ignored. The vast majority of the hundreds of wildfires the country has each year are caused by negligence.

But some fires are deliberately set. On Sunday, authorities said one man was arrested on Kefalonia on suspicion of having started a fire that spread quickly in the southeastern part of the island, triggering the evacuation of nearby villages. Major blaze in France contained, but hotspots remainFarther west, France's largest wildfire remained held within its perimeter on Sunday night after forcing 224,000 people to flee in what may have been the country's largest civilian evacuation outside wartime. Hot spots still burned within a 420-square-km (162-square-mile) scar, thousands remained unable to return home, and nearly 3,000 firefighters were deployed against the Gironde megafire and a second blaze in Provence. Together, fires in France and Spain have driven roughly a third of a million people from homes and vacation sites, emptied communities at the height of the European summer and stretched emergency services across simultaneous disasters.

India aware of delays in Canada visa processing for retired officials: Centre

GNS News Agency, August 7

New Delhi: The government is aware of "specific instances of delays" in the processing of visa applications by the government of Canada, including those of retired central government officials and retired officials of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) who had previously served in Canada, the Centre informed Parliament on Friday. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said this in a written response to a query in the Lok Sabha. The MEA was asked whether the government of India is aware that the government of Canada has been "holding back" visa applications of retired employees of the Indian government, especially those who served in the MEA and were posted in Canada. "Yes, government is aware of specific instances of delays in the processing of visa applications by the government of Canada, including those of retired government of India officials and retired officials of the Ministry of External Affairs who had previously served in Canada. India and Canada remain engaged on this matter," Singh said. The MEA was also asked whether a list of such cases has been prepared and if the matter has been taken up with the government of Canada. In response to another query, MoS Singh said as on date, 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and 456 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs)



are operational under 37 Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) across the country. The MEA has taken several steps to expand the service accessibility and upgrade the network of PSKs and POPSKs across the country and to improve digital and online facilities for faster processing, the government said. The MEA, in association with Department of Posts (DoP), has opened numerous Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPOs)/ Post Offices (POs) in each Lok Sabha constituency where there is no PSK or POPSK, Singh said. In addition, the ministry has made available the 'Apply anywhere in India' scheme under which a passport can be applied for at any PSK/POPSK.

How Iran is widening its pressure campaign to force US concessions



BEIRUT, GNS News Agency, August 7- Iran is betting it can outlast Washington by turning the Middle East's trade routes, shipping lanes and energy infrastructure into pressure points that steadily raise the cost of confrontation, according to Gulf officials and analysts. Rather than seeking a "decisive military victory," Tehran is pursuing a strategy of calibrated escalation aimed at widening the conflict without triggering full-scale war. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. The goal, they say, is to convince the United States and its allies that "containing the crisis is more costly than accommodating Iran's demands over the Strait of Hormuz.

The message from Tehran is that unless Washington accepts a new status quo that gives Iran a greater role in Hormuz, the conflict could spread beyond the Gulf. By putting multiple maritime chokepoints and energy assets at risk, Iran believes it can strengthen its hand in any future negotiations. "Iran, from the beginning, has tried to out-escalate the United States by stretching out its escalation options so that it always has something new to bring every week -- a new "geography, a new type of weapon, a new type of target," Michael Knights of the Washington Institute told Reuters. "The bigger advantage they have is not that they can hurt America or Israel," Knights added. "Their "big advantage is that they can hurt the regional states and the global economy." EXPANDING THREATS BEYOND HORMUZ

Having demonstrated its ability to disrupt traffic through Hormuz, through which about a "fifth of global oil consumption flowed before the war, Tehran has signalled that no maritime chokepoint is off limits. Threats to the Red Sea and Saudi energy infrastructure suggest a broader effort to raise the cost of protecting global commerce "while testing Washington's tolerance for disruption. Iran's approach reflects what one Gulf source described as a belief among Revolutionary Guards commanders that "they can get more". They see an opportunity in what they regard as Presi-

dent Donald Trump's reluctance to become deeply entangled "in another Middle East conflict ahead of November's midterm elections." The Iranians...believe that by widening the war and increasing the pressure, he will eventually give in," the Gulf source said. "Trump thinks he can hit the Iranians hard and bring them to the negotiating table, but they won't bend."

ESCALATE TO FORCE CONCESSIONS That calculation underpins Tehran's negotiating strategy. Trump said talks with Iran would take place on Monday after earlier saying he had called off an imminent attack in hopes of securing a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran, however, said it "was not currently holding talks with the United States. A senior Iranian source said Tehran's leadership has concluded that earlier attempts at flexibility only yielded greater pressure from Washington, reinforcing the view that leverage must be established before meaningful negotiations "can begin. In Tehran's assessment, the source said, Trump interprets concessions as weakness and responds only to pressure. Michael Singh, senior fellow at the Washington Institute, said Tehran believes it still holds the initiative, partly because the Trump administration appears uncertain how far it "is willing to "go militarily." The Iranians are trying to press their advantage," he added. "They're interested in establishing sovereignty over the strait and exercising selective control over the waterway." Alan Eyre, a former U.S. diplomat and Iran expert, said Tehran is pursuing a strategy of deterrence aimed at forcing Washington to lift its blockade and halt military strikes. "They don't want the U.S. to dictate the pace of events," he said. At the centre of the dispute is the future governance of Hormuz. Oman has presented Iran with a Gulf-backed proposal for managing the waterway, including voluntary user fees, according to regional sources. Tehran, however, is seeking administrative authority over the strait and the ability to levy service charges on vessels. Washington has rejected any fees, insisting Hormuz "remain an international waterway free from Iranian control. THE ENDURANCE "GAMBIT Iran's campaign has produced a consequence that reflects "the logic of its strategy. As threats have expanded beyond Hormuz, regional and Western powers have increasingly focused on protecting trade routes and energy infrastructure rather than intensifying pressure on Iran. The emerging Saudi-led maritime coalition exemplifies that shift. Gulf sources describe it as a defensive framework focused on escorting commercial vessels, sharing intelligence and safeguarding sea lanes rather than "confronting Iran directly. Knights compares the effort to Europe's Aspides mission in the Red Sea, which was created to protect merchant traffic rather than alter the military balance

Capital One says it closed Trump Organization's accounts after anti-money laundering probe



hit back on Friday against a lawsuit over its decision to close "the Trump Organization's bank accounts years ago, stating that it did so after a review by anti-money laundering experts. Jumpstart your morning with the latest legal news delivered straight to your inbox from The Daily Docket newsletter. Sign up here.

The disclosure marks the first time a bank has formally tied money laundering concerns to U.S. President Donald Trump's family business. Capital One is seeking to dismiss "the case by casting doubt on claims of illegally debanking — or denying services on religious or political grounds — the Trump Organization.

The Trump Organization and Capital One did not immediately respond to requests for "comment. Capital One has never accused the Trump Organization of illegal money laundering. But Friday's filing argues that "documents and Plaintiffs' own "allegations make clear that Capital One closed Plaintiffs' accounts for anti-money laundering ("AML") reasons. The closures were the result of months "of analysis and a careful review by Capital One's AML team in accordance with bank policies and regulatory guidance. "Capital One gave notice of its plans to close more than 300 Trump-affiliated bank accounts in March 2021. The Trump Organization and Eric Trump, the president's son, filed "a lawsuit

in March 2025 in a Florida federal court, alleging the accounts were closed because of Capital One's "woke" "beliefs and its desire to benefit from the political mood after the January 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol.

'MISGUIDED' ALLEGATIONS: CAPITAL ONE The federal "court in Miami has tossed two complaints in the Capital One case, but gave the plaintiffs opportunities each time to submit an amended complaint. Capital One said that the latest version, filed in July, "suffers from the same fundamental flaws as their prior two pleadings." Capital One said in Friday's filing that the Trump Organization's allegations of political pretext were "misguided" and "based on "cherry-picked quotations unsupported by the full "context" of documents submitted "to the court. "The transaction patterns identified by Capital One are among the types of activity flagged by federal banking guidance," the filing said. Since the start of Trump's second term, his "administration has put pressure on some large banks, echoing conservative complaints that the institutions are "deliberately targeting the "political right. Trump signed an executive order in August 2025 barring discriminatory debanking. In January, Trump filed a suit against JPMorgan Chase

(JPM.N), opens new tab on the same grounds, underscoring the fraught policy environment Wall Street is navigating during the president's second term. In 2019, during his first term, Trump sued "Capital One "and Deutsche Bank in an attempt to prevent them from sharing financial records with Congress as part of a probe led by Democratic lawmakers. Anti-money laundering professionals at Deutsche Bank reportedly flagged a set of transactions, but "executives ignored them; Deutsche Bank denied the report at the time. Kenrick Cai is a correspondent for Reuters based in San Francisco. He covers Google, its parent company Alphabet and artificial intelligence. Cai joined Reuters in 2024. He previously worked at Forbes magazine, where he was a staff writer covering venture capital and startups. He received a Best in Business award from the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing in 2023. He is a graduate of Duke University. Reach him on Signal at @kenrick.01.

Planemakers and repair shops take steps to conserve aircraft windows in tight market

- Planemakers, airlines and repair shops are conserving aircraft windows after "an incident at a key California factory worsened shortages of a part needed for both new aircraft and routine "maintenance, companies and industry sources said. GKN Aerospace, one of the world's biggest suppliers of cockpit and passenger windows, halted production in late May at its factory in suburban Los Angeles after an overheating tank raised fears of an explosion and prompted the evacuation of 50,000 nearby residents for several days. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. While the incident has not derailed new plane "production or airline operations, sources and executives said, it has led to parts delays and industry concerns over the supply of "cockpit and passenger windows.

said it had communicated with operators on steps to manage window inventories "after the incident. Boeing advised airlines to replace windows only when necessary rather than for other reasons, such as aesthetics, according to a source "at a North American carrier. Boeing said in a statement it continues "to work with our supplier and are taking steps to mitigate any potential impacts. "Melrose said on Friday it was working to restore the now partially opened window factory to full production by the end of 2026. The shortages highlight some lingering post-pandemic weaknesses in the aerospace supply chain "despite noticeable improvements in parts availability this year.

Companies and analysts say demand from planemakers increasing aircraft production is colliding with demand from maintenance shops "needing replacement windows to keep aircraft flying, echoing engine shortages. "There is a significant aftermarket for windows," said Matteo Peraldo, aerospace and defense partner at AlixPartners. "So the "demand is "not just production but is also compounded with the aftermarket. "Airbus has experienced A220 window shortages, but that had not delayed production, according to a source familiar with the program. A spokesperson for the A220 program said with GKN Aerospace restarting production, they are "seeing



positive progress so far toward a return to normal." said the supply of aircraft windows for planes from both major aircraft manufacturers had long been strained. "Lead times "have increased substantially, while procurement costs "have risen markedly," Lufthansa Technik said. For "most Boeing aircraft it services, window supply is often limited to instances when the part is absolutely needed to fix a grounded aircraft, Lufthansa Technik said. Challenges in window supply have also impacted private jet makers "including Canada's Bombardier On Thursday, Bombardier CEO Eric Martel told reporters "the incident's impact "on window supply is among the supply chain challenges "we've had to manage." GKN Aerospace produces windows for the company's flagship Global 8000 jet. had already faced supply constraints for aircraft windows, and the GKN incident was causing fresh concern, a source said. Kenn Ricci, chairman of private "jet operator "Flexjet, which flies Embraer Phenom and Praetor jets, told U.S. podcast Technology Business Programming Network "in February that windows posed a problem for Embraer's supply chain. "If you ask Embraer, ask (Executive Jets President) Mike Amalfitano, ask them why are your deliveries slipping, they say it's the "windows," Ricci said. Flexjet declined to comment. Embraer did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

South Korean Navy conducts 1st undersea mine-sweeping trial using 'AI officer', unmanned vessels



Seoul: South Korea's Navy said on Monday it carried out its first mine-sweeping trial using artificial intelligence (AI) technology and unmanned vessels, as it seeks to advance its future maritime operational capabilities. The trial, jointly led by South Korean defence company Hanwha Systems, took place at a naval base in the southeastern port city of Busan, involving its 730-ton Ongjin minesweeper and spy drones, as well as two unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) and one autonomous underwater vehicle developed by Hanwha, the Navy said. The hypothetical exercise began under the scenario that the Busan port was blockaded by enemy mines, reports Yonhap news agency. Hanwha's USVs are not equipped for minesweeping purposes, but they acted as if they were during this trial, as the vessels are expected to be upgraded with mine-clearing capabilities in the future, the Navy said.

The trial mission was directed by an "AI staff officer" system, which analysed weather and sea current conditions to guide the human commander on the Ongjin vessel and the two unmanned vessels. Based on the report from

the AI staff officer, the Ongjin and the unmanned ships set up search zones to locate simulated sea mines, while the spy drones simultaneously assessed the operational environment around the port. The combat trial proved that combining AI-supported missions with manned and unmanned crew operations will be effective for future naval operations, the Navy said. In a separate development, earlier in July, South Korea's state arms procurement agency officially concluded a deal with Hanwha Ocean Co. to kick-start the development of a next-generation Navy destroyer, with the aim of delivering the lead ship to the Navy by 2032. The Defence Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) said it inked the deal with Hanwha Ocean on detailed planning and construction of the lead ship for the Korea Destroyer Next Generation (KDDX) program.

LPU joins nationwide anti-drug campaign with over 5,000 participants

Hyderabad: Lovely Professional University (LPU) joined the launch of the nationwide 100-week "Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyaan – Gen Z Against Addiction" campaign with the participation of over 5,000 students, NSS volunteers and faculty members, who came together to take the Nasha Mukti Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to a drug-free life, a statement from LPU said. The campaign, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and spearheaded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, witnessed participation from youth across more than 28,000 locations nationwide. LPU was selected as one of only nine universities in the country to participate in the live virtual interaction with the Prime Minister.

‘New Pope poised to champion justice, doctrinal clarity and leadership’



GNS News Agency, August 7

Pope Leo XIII was a man who stood for social justice and if former Cardinal Robert Prevost from the United States chose the name Pope Leo XIV, it could signify a continued emphasis on justice-related issues, high-ranked members of the clergy told. “Assuming the name ‘Leo XIV’ suggests the new Pope’s resolve to build upon the legacy of Leo XIII – Pope from 1878 to 1903 – known for his social teachings that addressed workers’ rights and the challenges of industrialisation. The new Pope seems poised to continue in the direction of social justice, doctrinal clarity, and strong leadership in times of crises,” Fr Francis Gonsalves, a Jesuit priest and Professor of Theology at the Jnana Deepa Institute of Theology, Pune, said.

According to Fr Gonsalves, the 69-year-old Pope brings to the papal office a wealth of experience. “The challenges he faces are many. Pope Leo XIV – ‘Leo’ meaning ‘lion’ in Latin – steps into the shoes of Pope Francis, glo-

bally acclaimed for his humility, love for the poor, efforts to broker world peace, and protect creation. To traditionalists, Francis was regarded as too liberal; to progressives, too slow to change. Leo XIV will have to steer a middle course,” he observed. “As leader of 1.4 billion Catholics and the first American Pope, Leo XIV inspires hope while braving the challenges of a polarised church and a geopolitically complex landscape,” Fr Gonsalves said. According to Fr Nigel Barrett from the Archdiocese of Bombay, the new Pope’s election arrives at a pivotal juncture as the Church grapples with existential challenges, declining congregations in the West, reverberations of clerical abuse scandals, internal tensions between tradition and reform and an urgent call to address poverty, migration and ecological crises in an increasingly fractured world. Bishop Malcolm Sequeira, Bishop of Amravati, also noted that Pope Leo XIII was known to strengthen the Church’s relationship with the modern world and address social injustices. “The newly elected Pope, who has taken his name as Pope Leo XIV, brings new hope of continuing to build cordial relationships with the world and uplift the downtrodden,” he said. Fr Roque Alphonso, Vicar General, Diocese of Poona, also added that the election of Pope Leo XIV is a significant moment for the Church. “As we await the appointment of a new Bishop for the Poona Diocese, we trust that the Holy Father will lead us toward a brighter future in faith,” he said. While Fr Louis D’mello, Parish Priest of Holy Trinity Church, Pune, added that the new Pope’s experience as a missionary and his dedication to serving the Church will guide them well. Fr Stanley Fernandes, Parish Priest of Saint John Paul II Church, Pune, too, observed that Pope Leo XIV’s role as the Holy Father is vital in these times.

Empowering women in agriculture for food security

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer, garnering the support of over 100 co-sponsors. The resolution celebrates the essential role of women in global agriculture while raising awareness of their challenges, which include property rights and market access. This article highlights insights from a symposia on women in agriculture organised by the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India (with participation and guidance from the Government of India). It distills the discussions over six months, with 200 participants from diverse fields and backgrounds coming together to address the challenges women in agriculture face.

Some of the observations here also stem from a collaborative project called ENACT, or Enhancing Climate Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities through Nature-based Solutions and Gender Transformative Approaches, in Assam, implemented by the WFP in partnership with the Government of Assam, in Nagaon. The project aims to empower smallholder farmers, particularly women, to access climate-related information and make informed decisions to enhance their resilience. The project is financed by the Government of Norway under its strategy to promote self-sufficiency in food production and strengthen women’s rights and their role in food production. Ownership, control and access Nearly half the global food supply is made possible by the contributions of women, who are responsible for 60% to 80% of food production in developing countries and account for 39% of the agricultural labour in South Asia. These figures highlight the vital role of women in agriculture, who face barriers and inequalities. In India, the percentage of women who own agricultural land is significantly lower than that of men, despite women constituting a substantial part of the farm workforce. Approximately 80% of economically active women are employed in agriculture. Yet, only 14% of landowners are women. According to the latest National Family Health Survey, female land ownership is even lower, at 8.3%.

Women farmers in India report that their lack of land ownership makes it difficult to obtain credit and limits their access to financial institutions. Regular access to information on agricultural planning and advisory is essential for farmers, but women have more limited access to technology, such as mobile phones. These obstacles hinder investments, technology adoption and improvements in livelihoods. While microfinance and self-help groups provide some access, such loans are often insufficient for significant investments. The Government of India supports small women farmers to enhance skills and promote sustainable agriculture. The Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana upgrades skills and increases resource access for women, while the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation offers 50% to 80% subsidies for machinery. Additionally, 30% of the National Food Security Mission’s budget is allocated for women farmers in a number of States and Union Territories. Climate change disproportionately affects women farmers by increasing their domestic responsibilities and elevating their exposure to agricultural risks. “Our area has been witnessing rapid weather changes. The variety introduced by the project is designed to resist flood damage, and the crops can survive underwater. We are hoping for a better harvest,” says Nirmali Bora Hazarika from Roha vil-



lage in Nagaon.

By engaging with women farmers, it is possible to develop replicable models of climate adaptation at the village and community levels. The women in agriculture symposia generated forward-looking ideas. The ENACT project primarily connects women farmers with experts through information technology, providing actionable agricultural and climate advisories weekly via their phones to over 300 farmers in 17 villages of Nagaon district. Additionally, the Climate Adaptation Information Centres facilitate video conferencing and meetings, informing women farmers about agriculture and livelihoods. This shows how scalable impact can be achieved by combining technical expertise, diversification through farm-based livelihoods, information and weather advisories, use of technologies and social behaviour change interventions.

The project is leveraging partnerships with State and district administrations, which include the Department of Agriculture, the State Rural Livelihoods Mission, and the Departments of Meteorology and Environment. The technology partners include agricultural universities, institutions for sourcing climate-resilient crop varieties. Rural ecosystems and dependent livelihoods are vulnerable. Responses to risks should reflect community needs and capabilities. The ENACT-project emphasises the promotion of flood-resistant rice varieties, livelihood diversification, and market linkages to mitigate crop damage from flooding and promote the cultivation of nutritious local varieties. Women’s farmer groups engage in a community-based smart seed production system to enhance sustainability. Policy design and implementation should take into account the unique needs of women farmers. Granular data with a gender lens are needed to develop solutions tailored to women’s needs. These could range from rethinking farming tools to financial needs and practices around saving or credit. There should be a strong focus on agri-value chains that support women farmers and are managed by women. Part of this could be to enhance women’s access to financing mechanisms and information while supporting their collective action and networks, such as women’s self-help groups. We have a historic opportunity to mark 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer, to promote resilient agricultural development and gender equality by recognising, supporting, and enhancing the role of women in ensuring food security, fostering economic prosperity, and promoting sustainability. May-Elin Stener is the Ambassador of Norway to India. Elisabeth Faure is the Representative and Country Director of the United Nations World Food Programme in India

Residents want new street name boards to be installed at M.G.R. Nagar in Chennai

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) installed stainless steel street name boards across the city several years ago. These boards received a lot of positive reviews and feedback, as they helped maintain uniformity in street signage and made it easier to locate addresses. Previously, street names were mostly painted on the compound walls of houses, which faded quickly or were covered with posters, making it difficult for people to identify addresses. However, in several places in M.G.R. Nagar and K.K. Nagar, these name boards have either faded — with the paint peeling off — or have fallen down and been placed near the corners of the streets. On Seethalai Sathanar Cross Street in M.G.R. Nagar, which falls under Division 137, the name board has fallen and has been removed and placed aside. A similar situation can be seen on several other streets in M.G.R. Nagar. We request the Corporation to take steps install new name boards by removing the old and damaged ones. A senior official of the GCC’s Kodambakkam zone said that the street name boards were originally installed during the tenure of the current Health Minister, Ma. Subramanian, when he served as the Mayor of the Corporation. The official added that the street name boards are proposed to be replaced, and once the work begins, the old and damaged boards in M.G.R. Nagar and K.K. Nagar will be removed and replaced with new ones.



Interior streets in the city are often damaged due to road cuts carried out by residents or civic infrastructure contractors, who typically do not compact the refilled patches or finish the surface with cement or blacktop immediately. Additionally, the restoration of these road cuts — supposed to be monitored by local officials of the Greater Chennai Corporation — is often not inspected properly, resulting in poorly restored patches that can lead to accidents. In this regard, it is suggested that road cuts up to a size of one foot be permitted from January to September each year, excluding the rainy months from October to December.

Inside China's decision to come to the table on Trump tariffs



GNS News Agency, August 7

BEIJING, Since U.S. President Donald Trump imposed steep tariffs on China last month, Beijing has responded in kind. On state and social media, it posted images of Mao Zedong, lambasted “imperialists,” and sent a message: capitulation to bullies is dangerous, and it wouldn’t back down. But behind closed doors, Chinese officials have grown increasingly alarmed about tariffs’ impact on the economy and the risk of isolation as China’s trading partners have started negotiating deals with Washington, according to three officials familiar with Beijing’s thinking. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here. These factors, along with outreach by the U.S. and an easing of Trump’s rhetoric, persuaded Beijing to send its economic tsar He Lifeng for meetings with U.S. counterparts in Switzerland this weekend, the officials told Reuters.

Re-engagement was complicated by the fractious nature of U.S.-China diplomacy. In particular, Beijing considered a letter the U.S. side sent to Chinese ministries in late April about fentanyl “arrogant,” two officials said. Efforts to arrange talks were further impaired by disagreements over which officials should be involved, said one of these people and another official.

China’s reasons for deciding to negotiate, Washington’s letter on fentanyl, U.S. diplomatic challenges in Beijing, and the early outreach between the two sides are reported by Reuters for the first time, based on interviews with nearly a dozen government officials and experts on both sides. Most of the people were granted anonymity to discuss non-public information. China’s foreign ministry said in a statement to Reuters that it reiterated that “China’s firm opposition to the U.S. abuse of tariffs is consistent and clear, and there is no change.”

“The U.S. has ignored China’s goodwill and unreasonably imposed tariffs on China under the pretext of fentanyl. This is a typical act of bullying, which seriously undermines dialogue and cooperation between the two sides in the field of drug control.” China’s State Council and ministry of commerce didn’t immediately respond to faxed requests for comment. The White House and State Department also didn’t respond to Reuters questions about the lead-up to the Geneva talks. China’s Vice Foreign Minister Hua Chunying said on Friday that China has full confidence in its ability to manage U.S. trade issues, adding that the Trump administration’s approach cannot be sustained.

The trade war between the world’s two largest economies, combined with Trump’s decision last month to impose duties on dozens of other countries, has disrupted supply chains, unsettled financial markets and stoked fears of a sharp downturn in global growth. Chinese export restrictions, meanwhile, have squeezed the supply of critical minerals the U.S. needs for weapons, electronics and consumer goods. Trump’s approval ratings are falling due to his handling of tariffs and the economy. The volatile run-up to the Geneva talks underscores the deep mistrust and divergent negotiating styles between the Trump team and China, which could make for protracted and fraught discussions. “Both sides I think are balancing trying to look tough with not wanting to be responsible for sinking the global economy,” said Scott Kennedy, an expert in Chinese business affairs at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. “The Chinese set a high bar for these talks, but it became increasingly clear that the Trump administration wanted to talk, and they couldn’t say no forever. So, they’ve accepted what are probably best seen as pre-negotiations in Geneva.”

After Trump’s tariff salvo last month, China took a hard line in its public messaging. Beijing posted footage on its official social media feeds of a Chinese MiG-15 fighter shooting down a U.S. jet in the Korean War, with commentary: “China won’t kneel down, because we know standing up for ourselves keeps the possibility of cooperation alive, while compromise snuffs it out.”

The tone began to shift on April 30, when a state media-affiliated blog said the U.S. had “proactively reached out to China through multiple channels, hoping to discuss tariffs.” CSIS’s Kennedy said contacts between Chinese agencies, Beijing’s embassy in Washington and the Trump administration had been increasing in frequency in recent weeks. Some in-person interactions took place at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings in late April, including with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, which paved the way for the Swiss meeting, said Kennedy.

After Trump’s “Liberation Day” tariffs, Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao quietly reached out to his U.S. counterpart, Howard Lutnick, but was rebuffed as not senior enough, according to one official familiar with the exchanges. Trump has been pushing for direct talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. But China has rejected that idea as not in keeping with its traditional approach of working out the details first before the leaders sign any deal, according to public statements by both sides. Another significant factor for China was Trump’s public berating of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in February, said one of the sources, adding that any unscripted hostile interaction between the U.S. and Chinese leaders would represent an unacceptable loss of face for Xi. As messaging on both sides grew more conciliatory, China decided to put forward its vice premier and Xi confidant He Lifeng, whose direct predecessor struck the “Phase One” trade deal with the U.S. in 2019. The move satisfied Washington’s demands for substantive talks with a senior official with direct access to Xi, but avoided exposing the Chinese leader to potential embarrassment, said one of the sources.

As for the choice of venue, the Swiss foreign ministry said that “during its recent contacts in Washington and Beijing, Switzerland expressed to the U.S. and Chinese authorities its willingness to organize a meeting between the two parties in Geneva.” Among the main drivers of Beijing’s climb-down were internal signals that Chinese companies were struggling to avoid bankruptcies and to replace the U.S. market, three people familiar with the Chinese government’s thinking said.

Some areas feeling immediate impact were furniture and toy makers, as well as textiles, said one of the officials. U.S. diplomats in China have also been closely

monitoring factory closures, strikes, and job losses in the industrial heartland in southern China. Many analysts have downgraded their 2025 economic growth forecasts for China, and investment bank Nomura has warned the trade war could cost it up to 16 million jobs. China’s central bank this week announced fresh monetary stimulus.

One of the officials said Chinese companies were struggling to replace the U.S. market because developing nations cannot buy as many items, and that for many firms this was an existential threat that needed to be resolved in days or weeks. In addition, Beijing was worried it was left without a place at the negotiating table while its major trading partners, such as Vietnam, India and Japan, began talks with Washington, said two officials familiar with Beijing’s thinking. In a warning to the countries negotiating with the U.S., China’s commerce ministry said in a statement this week that “appeasement cannot bring peace, compromise cannot be respected, and adhering to principled positions and upholding fairness and justice is the right way to safeguard one’s own interests.”

As part of the push to counter the U.S., China is sending its Premier Li Qiang to Malaysia in late May for a summit with a newly established group of Southeast Asian and Arab nations, two sources told Reuters. A regional diplomat based in Beijing told Reuters China’s message to Southeast Asia was “We will buy stuff from you.” In Geneva, Beijing appears to have modest expectations. Internally, China has downgraded the talks from a higher level to merely a meeting, reflecting its view that the discussions will be mostly about finding out Washington’s demands and red lines after weeks of contradictory messages by Trump and other senior U.S. officials, according to a person familiar with the matter. Still, one official said China could draw on its extensive toolbox and follow Asian neighbors in offering to buy more American liquefied natural gas.

On the table may also be purchases of agricultural goods, similar to the 2019 “Phase One” deal during Trump’s first term. At the time, Beijing said it would increase purchases of U.S. agricultural products by \$32 billion over two years. While other matters like the U.S.’s axing of the “de minimis” exemption for packages under \$800 from China and the sale of TikTok are also likely to play a part in the broader talks, Chinese officials said they do not expect them to play a central role this weekend.

Even before triggering the broader trade war, Trump imposed a 20% tariff on Chinese goods, saying Beijing wasn’t doing enough to counter the flow of chemicals used to produce the deadly drug fentanyl. One of the moves that complicated the rapprochement, according to two officials, was a letter sent by the U.S. to China in late April that outlined the steps Trump wanted Beijing to take on fentanyl. The document, reviewed by Reuters, caused friction with Beijing because it referenced a congressional report that asserted China, through value-added tax rebates for exporters, directly subsidizes production of fentanyl precursors for sale abroad. China denies it does so.

The letter, sent to the ministries of foreign affairs, commerce, and public security, called on Beijing to publicize the crackdown on fentanyl precursors on the front page of the Communist Party mouthpiece People’s Daily; send a similar message through “internal party channels” to party members; tighten regulation of some specified chemicals; and deepen law-enforcement cooperation. Two officials familiar with China’s reaction said it found especially the first two points “arrogant” because Beijing saw it as the U.S. dictating what China should do within its ruling apparatus.

One said fentanyl would feature in the Geneva talks and that the U.S. government’s opening position would be to present the four points to China. A U.S. official familiar with the letter said the Trump administration simply wanted China to curb the flow of fentanyl precursors to drug cartels. Complicating the negotiations, Trump’s Washington team has frozen out many U.S. embassy officials responsible for earlier contacts with Chinese counterparts, two people familiar with the matter said. Trump’s new ambassador to China, David Perdue, is slated to arrive in Beijing next week, but Deputy Chief of Mission Sarah Beran, who served as a senior official on China in the Biden administration’s National Security Council, was removed from her post this week, the two officials said. The turmoil has resulted in lack of internal consultations on demands put forward by the American side, the officials said. An official familiar with Chinese thinking said there had been minimal contact with the U.S. embassy ahead of the Geneva talks. Additional reporting by Kevin Krolicki and the Beijing newsroom; David Lawder, Michael Martina and Andrea Shalal in Washington; and John Revill in Zurich; editing by David Crawshaw. Laurie Chen is a China Correspondent at Reuters’ Beijing bureau, covering politics and general news. Before joining Reuters, she reported on China for six years at Agence France-Presse and the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong. She speaks fluent Mandarin.

North Korea's Kim visits Russian embassy as his generals meet Putin

SEOUL, - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made a rare visit to Russia’s embassy in Pyongyang with his daughter on Friday and reaffirmed “the invincible alliance” between the two countries, while Russia’s leader greeted North Korean generals in Moscow.

Congratulating Russia on the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union’s victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two, Kim said North Korea would “consolidate and develop the long tradition of the DPRK-Russia relations, the noble ideological foundation and the invincible alliance”, state-run KCNA reported.

The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here. Kim has taken his young daughter to a variety of events recently, part of what South Korean intelligence views as plans for her to succeed her father. North Korea’s unprecedented deployment of thousands of troops, as well as huge amounts of artillery ammunition and missiles, has helped Russia push back a Ukrainian incursion into its western Kursk region. It has also brought North Korea and Russia - both economically and politically isolated - closer. More than three years after its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russia is marking the World War Two anniversary with a military parade attended by China’s Xi Jinping. In Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin greeted North Korean army generals with handshakes after hosting the parade. Putin embraced Kim Yong Bok, a three-star general who is considered to be a key figure overseeing North Korea’s troop deployment to Russia. Kim is subject to sanctions by the United States, South Korea and the European Union.

Why birds are just like us



What is a bird? Textbook definitions would say ‘warm-blooded vertebrates that have feathers, toothless, beaked jaws and lay hard-shelled eggs’. But there is much more to them — their lives have enough drama, adventure, danger and romance to put a movie script to shame. And when you start looking at them closely, you realise there is a lot for you as a human to relate to. One of the simplest joys of watching birds stems from the fact that they’re as unique and distinct as us. Let me start with food fads. Some birds such as the Oriental Honey Buzzard, well-adapted to prey on bee larvae, have a sweet tooth. Others such as the Hoopoe love some leisurely ‘me-time’, with sun-bathing an indispensable part of their routine. And many such as the Bar-headed Geese and Brahminy Shelducks — some of the highest flyers in the world, who can soar over Himalayan peaks — adhere strictly to a high-fibre diet of grass, putting your go-to fitness influencer to shame. Daredevils assemble

Speaking of fitness, birds such as the Shaheen Falcon, the fastest bird in a dive, are born athletes. When it spots a target (often a luckless pigeon), it takes position and transforms into a missile, launching into its famed 390-kmph dive. Such is the impact of the dive that a mere touch of the talon is enough to take the life of the prey. Birds are just as varied when it comes to perceptions of risk. The familiar Black Drongo is a daredevil that loves playing with fire — quite literally — using bushfires to its advantage by preying on insects that are disturbed by it. Ibisbills, however, prefer to play safe, pretending to be rocks along river rapids. Bird parenting styles could fill a book (and their love lives are made for the movies, but more on that later). Hornbills make for overly devoted parents, with the mother sequestering herself in a tree hole when nesting, and the male working overtime to feed his mate and the growing chicks. Cuckoos, on the other hand, would make for embarrassing guests to have on a parenting podcast. Pied Cuckoos are considered harbingers of rain in India. The monsoon is also the time when the Jungle Babbler, the preferred host for this brood parasite, breeds. The cuckoo lays her egg in the babbler’s cup-shaped nest, and bids goodbye to any parental worries. Rock Pigeons bring the same lazy carelessness to their nests — shabby clusters of twigs put together half-heartedly — which look unworthy of even being called nests. Tailorbirds, in contrast, are skilled embroiderers meticulously stitching leaves together to build their famed nests. Nature’s Romeos and Don Juans

Speaking of feathered love, Sarus Cranes, the avian embodiment of cheesy romance and unwavering marital fidelity, are known to mate for life. Snipes and Phalaropes lead more bohemian lives, where females take multiple mates and leave the clutch in the males’ care, hopping over to her next Bumble date. Pheasants like Monals and Tragopans come dressed in exquisite regalia and put on elaborate courtship displays of gleaming ornaments to woo females. But Nightjars sport drab plumages and blend perfectly with their surroundings to evade attention, just like

Scientists create first ‘pangenome’ of Asian rice

Scientists have assembled a first of its kind ‘pangenome’, a kind of reference genome, by stitching together key parts of genomes from 144 varieties of wild and cultivated varieties of rice from Asia. Much like the Human Genome Project in 2003 mapped genomes from a range of individuals, expressing the genetic diversity of the human species, the rice pangenome allows researchers to develop new rice cultivars and introduce new traits for disease-tolerance as well as resilience against climate shocks. Rice is staple for nearly two-thirds of the globe. It is the primary crop grown in India over the monsoon months of June-September. In 2024-25, India produced a record 220 million tonnes of rice over 51,000 ha with an average yield of 4.2 tonnes/ha. Several studies over the years have warned that rising temperatures due to climate change would not only affect yields but also increase arsenic uptake among several rice varieties. India’s average temperature has increased by 0.7° C since 1901. 2024 was the hottest year on record, with the average minimum temperature 0.9° C above the long-term average.

Earlier this month, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) announced the development of two varieties of genome-edited rice, Samba Mahsuri and MTU 1010, that reportedly promise higher yields and better drought resistance. These however are yet to be released into farmer fields. To develop the pangenome, the scientists — nearly all associated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences — report undertaking a “deep analysis of complex gene flows” both within cultivars (domesticated) and between cultivars and wild rice, highlighting the evolutionary and domestication pathways of various rice types. This study reinforced support for the hypothesis that all Asian cultivated rice had an evolutionary origin from a wild variety called Or-Illa, the ancestor of japonica.

Asian cultivated rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) was domesticated from its wild progenitor *O. rufipogon*, and is one of the most important food crops in the world. Or-Illa is a variant of *O. rufipogon*. While reference genomes of a species generally confine themselves to identifying the characteristic genes that make up a species, a ‘pangenome’ has the common genes as well as maps out the unique genes found in the individual rice varieties. It presents a more complete understanding of the genetic variation present in rice. Primarily using ‘PacBio high-fidelity’ (HiFi) sequencing technology and computational methods, their analysis revealed 3.87 billion base pairs of novel genetic sequences absent from the single acknowledged reference genome, *O sativa ssp japonica*. They identified 69,531 genes collectively spanning the pangenome, with 28,907 core genes and 13,728 wild-rice-specific genes. Population genetics studies have earlier shown that ancient japonica rice was first domesticated from the *O. rufipogon* group Illa (Or-Illa) population in China, and that indica rice was subsequently domesticated when ancient japonica spread southward and westward in Asia and crossed with the local *O. rufipogon* group I (Or-I) population. Another key finding of the study was that of the 69,531 genes identified, about 20% were specific to wild rice. These genetic resources can improve

me at family weddings.

Not all birds fly undercover though. Malabar Whistling Thrushes are musical prodigies, and are not shy of flaunting their skill. You know you are in the Western Ghats when the melodious whistle of the thrush reverberates through the hills. Such is its human quality that it led ornithologist Salim Ali to nickname the bird ‘whistling schoolboy’. Art, in the avian world, goes beyond music. Artisans among birds, such as the Baya Weaver, can put even the most diligent traditional media artists to shame, making over 500 trips to complete making their pendulous nests. Others, including remorseless thieves such as the Skuas, who happily steal a tern’s hard-earned lunch, evoke the image of wannabe artists on social media using generative AI to make ‘art’. Other pursuits smack of left brain savants. Bearded Vultures are maths and physics wiz kids — their manoeuvre of carrying bones from a carcass and dropping them from the right height and angulation over rocks to crack them open and feast on the marrow, takes up to seven years to master.

Do birds have hobbies and passions? Some live the gourmet life, and use precision cutlery for the diet of their choice. Case in point: the Asian Openbill’s carefully designed bill gap, suited exclusively for sliding the bodies of snails off their shells. Other close cousins of the same stork, the Adjutants, will eat absolutely anything that they can catch, and even scavenge readily. If you have a penchant for killing houseplants with unintended neglect, flowerpeckers, India’s smallest birds, are who you need to turn to for advice. These nano-sized gardeners plant mistletoes all around our forests, and have devised novel and clever ways to do so. As the bird pecks at the mistletoe flower for nectar, the petals pop open scattering pollen all over the bird’s face, which it dutifully deposits on the next flower it visits. It also eats ripe miseltoe fruit, and when ingested, these pass through the gut rapidly, prompting the bird to wipe its rear end awkwardly against the bark to detach the seed enclosed in sticky sap. Both these events happen to be part of nature’s grand horticultural plan — planting the mistletoe seed directly on the host tree.

Social behaviours are just as varied. Racket-tailed Drongos that mimic other birds and initiate the formation of mixed species feeding flocks, love a good party. Pittas prefer solitude. While some like the Indian Scimitar Babbler can chat incessantly, others like the Yellow-crowned Woodpecker are great listeners, and can often be seen placing their ears against trees to listen for ants inside the bark, before they start hammering it. Birds such as the leaf warblers seem to have a hyperactivity problem, constantly and restlessly flitting about from leaf to leaf, often to the annoyance of a birdwatcher trying to get a good look, because they’re also a nightmare to identify correctly! Herons have probably taught samurais the virtues of patience — they can standstill for hours before striking potential prey. Birds come with an astonishing variety of features and traits spread across families and genera, making even the most closely related species distinctly unique from one another, thanks to minor evolutionary tweaks. The Brahminy and the Black Kites are close cousins on the evolutionary tree. But a simple tweak in design — the fork in its tail — has made the latter a master of exploiting scavenging opportunities even in densely populated urban settings, while the Brahminy Kite lags. That’s thanks to the sheer range of stunts and manoeuvres this feature supports. In an age where gadgets command our constant attention, and when our attention spans, and how we are entertained and informed, are commanded by technocratic corporations, the act of sitting by a lake and observing a reed bird for as long as you wish, feels like a silent rebellion to me. It is this rebellion that I invite you all to participate in with me.



understanding of rice environmental adaptation, phenotypic plasticity and regeneration potential. “By bridging the gap between wild and cultivated rice genetics, our study opens new avenues and provides useful wild rice resources for developing superior and more productive rice varieties,” the authors note. “These improved varieties could incorporate valuable traits from wild rice species, potentially enhancing their resilience to rapid environmental changes.”

Surge in cyber attacks, Maharashtra cyber department warns to stay vigilant

Amid the rising tensions along the India-Pakistan border, Maharashtra State Cyber Department on Saturday (May 10, 2025), instructed citizens to “stay vigilant” while interacting with digital content or accessing documents from unverified sources, as there has been a surge in cyber attacks after India launched ‘Operation Sindoor’.

Maharashtra Cyber Police has warned people about malware-infected files targeting individual user devices. “These files are sent as government-related files so that the probability of engaging with the document is high, and once opened, can lead to data theft, system surveillance, or broader network compromise,” stated the Additional Director General of Police office.

Given the scenario, the authority has advised people to be cautious of clicking on unsolicited links or opening attachments from unverified sources. Users must refrain from downloading documents labelled as government files or opening them without confirming the authenticity of the source.

Other instructions are to use updated antivirus software, regular system scans, secure login practices, and two-factor authentication.

The Wire says website unblocked after portal removed article



The Wire news portal said that unblocking orders were issued for its website shortly after it reached out to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting about the censorship of its website, it said in a statement on Saturday (May 10, 2025). As a precondition for removing the site, the site said that the government urged it to take down an article it had put out based on reporting by the U.S. publication CNN. While the site has taken the article down, it noted that the original CNN story remained available, and said it would challenge the decision. The website’s blocking had drawn condemnation from multiple journalistic bodies, including the Press Club of India, DIGIPUB Foundation, and the Editors’ Guild of India.

“I am constrained to note that under the IT Act, the procedure your ministry should have followed was to first issue notice about the news story in question, then give

Can India repeat Operation Trident of 1971?

During the India-Pakistan war in December 1971, the Indian Navy had unleashed its fury and firepower on the neighbouring country’s harbour in Karachi. The operations conducted in two phases were titled Operation Trident (December 4 to 5) and Operation Python The Indian Navy had deployed its Vidyut-class missile boats such as INS Nirghat and INS Veer from the Okha port, and completely destroyed at least four Pakistan Naval ships, one merchant ship carrying ammunition, and the fuel and ammunition depot in Karachi. That was a decisive moment, as India had Pakistan by its jugular vein, which pushed its economy into a shambles. Now, with Pakistan resorting to attacks after India launched Operation Sindoor post the Pahalgam terror attack, will India be able to repeat the 1971 heroics.

Senior defence experts say that it is the ultimate, and it appears to be in the offing. Comparing the 1971 operations with the present situation, a senior defence analyst says, “Then we had the technology, thought it was vintage, on our side. We had P-15 Termit cruise missiles, also known as Styx missiles. On the other hand, Pakistan did not have any missile and it was a new warfare for it. Though the missiles were vintage and were products of World War II, they wrecked havoc.” The Indian Navy is a blue water force today with two aircraft carriers (INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya) and nuclear submarines that can launch nuclear tipped cruise and conventional missiles, silently and unnoticed from the depths of the ocean, complementing and completing the nuclear triad. “Numerically, India is way ahead with its assets that includes at least two operational



nuclear submarines and two aircraft carriers,” the experts say. Both the countries today have ship-based missiles and are equipped with state-of-the-art radars.”

But what can be the decisive punch is that India possesses a few well-stocked hi-tech weapons like the ship-based anti-ship missiles (Brahmos, Exocet and Harpoon), ship-based ballistic missiles such as Dhanush and Lora, and submarine-based Sagarika and K-4 and K-5 series, and a host of surface-to-air missiles such as Barak and air-to-air strike weapons such as Astra-MK series and Rampage,” the experts observe. “We need to attack and choke Pakistan in Karachi, economically and logistically. We have the aircraft carriers for gaining Sea Control and the submarines for Sea Denial,” they say.

Listen, don’t leap: Charles Assisi writes on coping with opposing worldviews

GNS News Agency, May 15

I have a friend who everyone thinks is unflappable. You know the type. Always calm. Always positive. Will help fix your marriage with three bullet points. Lately, this friend and I have been working together on a highly stressful project that involves multiple stakeholders, conflicting interests, and the usual mess that comes with trying to get anything done in this world. It’s got me all worked up. My wife worries. His wife worries too. Except, when she wants to know what’s going on, she checks in with me.

Every so often, I’ll get a call from her. “He listens to you,” she says. “Be his ally. Please make sure he’s okay.” I assumed this was because he remained unflappable at home, and she wanted to know what was really going on. Last week, I realised I’d read it all wrong. At a mutual friend’s birthday dinner, she walked up to me and asked how I was holding up. I told her I’d lost my temper once or twice, at the office. And I remained amazed by how calm her husband always seemed. “It’s all a façade,” she said. “He comes home and turns into someone else. Gets snappy. Withdrawn. Explodes over small things.” I didn’t know what to say. At first, I was surprised. Then I realised I shouldn’t be.

If I’m being honest, I know exactly what this is like. I’ve been this person. I even wrote about it, two weeks ago: How most of us carry around more than one version of ourselves. How there’s the version that shows up in meetings, knows how to sound agreeable, and smiles on cue. The version that turns up at family gatherings and knows which jokes to laugh at. And the version that surfaces at home, tired, unfiltered and impatient. It’s not deliberate. It just becomes a habit. A survival tactic. All day, one moderates and adapts; feints and pretends. Says “Interesting point” even when what one really wants to do is shout: “Are you a complete idiot?”. Says “Let’s circle back” when what we really mean is, “That’s the worst idea I’ve heard all week.”

The performance doesn’t come cheap. It is draining, and confusing. Eventually, one starts to forget which version is the real you. One way to return to one’s true self, I wrote then, is to slow down, use silences and pauses. If I don’t know how I feel about something, I stop pretending to have an erudite opinion. If I disagree, I let the silence hang, I wrote then. It struck me, in the wake of this party, that perhaps this wasn’t the cure-all I thought it was. Was I not taking the easy (even cowardly) way out? Wasn’t everyone struggling? Was it not a bit selfish to simply back out of the discourse?

Could I not do this better? I decided to start by really listening, rather than tuning out. The more I paid attention, the more I realised this isn’t just a personal trick. It’s been studied, over decades. Researchers such as Elizabeth Krumrei Mancuso have found that people with “intellectual humility”, those who are able to sit with opposing views without collapsing into defensiveness, are more self-aware, better at problem-solving, more creative. Through history, people with intellectual humility have quietly, non-violently driven real change. There was, for instance, Daryl Davis, subject of the 2016 documentary *Accidental Courtesy*:



Daryl Davis, *Race & America*. The Black musician befriended members of the Ku Klux Klan, not to argue, but to try to understand. Over time, more than 200 of the people he reached out to left the Klan. Many said they couldn’t hold on to their hate, once they had met their supposed enemy, and had conversations with him over time.

If he can sit down with the Klan, I think we can find ways to share a room with someone whose attitudes or opinions we despise. I now think of this as mental yoga. Something in the brain stretches — not to break, but to breathe — when one shares time and space with someone of a different worldview. This is how real growth occurs; how change happens. It struck me then that maybe this is the real productivity hack too. Because isn’t most of our bandwidth spent managing friction? Dodging it? Soothing it? Spinning it?

What if we stopped and simply let a disagreement breathe? Listened, and led with questions, instead of leaping to offer a counterpoint? Back to my friend, I still think he’s a good man. But I now know he’s tired, from holding it all together. For all my talk about clarity, I’ve been hiding behind his performance too. He takes the flak, and I get to stand behind him and reflect. It’s hard to admit it, but maybe I haven’t been a “silent ally”. Maybe I’ve just been silent. I intend to change this; take a fresh turn at evolution. Embrace the uncomfortable. That’s where growth begins. When you’re uncomfortable, and still stay open, that’s the stretch.

GHMC to launch 10-day monsoon drive from August 11

Hyderabad: The GHMC will conduct a 10-day special monsoon drive across all 150 wards from August 11 to 21, focusing on the complete removal of legacy waste, debris and green waste, desilting of drains, and repair of potholes and catch pits, along with associated town planning, entomology and health activities.

The drive will begin at 6 am each day and GHMC teams will clear municipal solid waste, C&D (Construction and Demolition) and green waste (UBD) dumped at legacy points along roads, nalas, lakes, footpaths and parks.

Higher tax appeal limits cut disputed demand by Rs 16,690 crore



New Delhi: The increase in monetary thresholds for filing tax dispute appeals at the ITAT, high courts and the Supreme Court has led to an estimated Rs 16,690 crore reduction in disputed tax demand, Parliament was informed on Monday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gave details of the total number of cases withdrawn or not filed, and the estimated reduction in disputed tax demand due to the enhanced monetary limits for filing departmental appeals from September 17, 2024.

About 443 cases were withdrawn, while 11,390 appeals were not filed before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) after the increase in the monetary threshold. The total estimated reduction in disputed tax demand at the ITAT

was Rs 3,662.82 crore. Similarly, 4,791 cases were withdrawn and 5,565 appeals were not filed before the high courts. The estimated reduction in disputed tax demand was Rs 9,218.71 crore. At the Supreme Court, 744 cases were withdrawn and appeals were not filed in 534 cases. This resulted in an estimated Rs 3,807.15 crore reduction in disputed tax demand. Taken together, the total estimated reduction in disputed tax demand at the ITAT, high courts and the Supreme Court stood at Rs 16,690 crore. The government, in the Union Budget 2024-25, enhanced the monetary limits for filing appeals related to direct taxes before the tax tribunal, high courts and the Supreme Court to Rs 60 lakh, Rs 2 crore and Rs 5 crore, respectively. Sitharaman also said the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has taken a number of measures over the last 12 years to ease tax compliance and improve taxpayer services. Some of the key initiatives taken during the last 12 years include the introduction of pre-filled ITRs, the new Form 26AS, the facility to file updated returns, the introduction of the Faceless Assessment and Faceless Appeal Schemes, the removal of higher TDS/TCS for non-filers of income tax returns, the rationalisation and simplification of the safe harbour regime, and the expansion of the presumptive taxation scheme. "These measures have significantly simplified tax compliance, reduced the compliance burden, enhanced transparency, promoted voluntary compliance and improved taxpayer services," Sitharaman added.

Crude oil futures tumble over 7 per cent as US-Iran talks lift supply hopes



New Delhi: Crude futures tumbled Rs 550 to hit nearly a three-week low of Rs 7,563 per barrel on Monday, tracking a sharp decline in global oil benchmarks after renewed hopes of US-Iran negotiations eased concerns over supply disruptions from West Asia. Traders said the steep decline came after US President Donald Trump said talks with Iran would resume, easing immediate concerns over supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint that carries about one-fifth of global energy shipments. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude oil futures for August delivery plunged Rs 583, or 7.2 per cent, to Rs 7,530 per barrel.

The contract hit its lower circuit limit during intra-day trade and slipped to its weakest level since July 14, when it had settled at Rs 7,574 per barrel on the commodities bourse. The September contract for crude futures also came under heavy pressure, falling Rs 461, or nearly 6 per cent, to Rs 7,378 per barrel amid broad-based selling by investors. According to analysts, the retreat in domestic crude prices reflected a swift unwinding of bullish bets as market participants reassessed the risk of prolonged disruptions to crude supplies from West Asia.

"The August crude oil futures on the MCX resumed on a weaker note around the Rs 7,500-per-barrel level and, during intra-day trade, declined to hit the lower circuit limit

during the session," said Aamir Makda, Commodity & Currency Analyst, Technical Research at Choice Broking. The retreat in domestic prices tracked a broad-based sell-off in global markets, with Brent oil futures for October delivery plunging USD 6.38, or 7.3 per cent, to USD 81.55 per barrel on the Intercontinental Exchange. The US-based benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) also slipped below the USD 80 per barrel mark, with futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange falling USD 5.89, or nearly 7 per cent, to USD 78.78 per barrel. "WTI crude oil fell sharply and slipped below the USD 80 per barrel mark as optimism over renewed diplomatic efforts with Iran reduced concerns about potential supply disruptions in West Asia," said Gaurav Garg, Head of Research, Lemmon Markets Desk.

Analysts said the correction also eased fears that elevated crude prices would add to inflationary pressures and force global central banks to maintain higher interest rates for longer. Meanwhile, Trump said negotiations with Iran would take place on Monday but refrained from setting a deadline for a broader agreement. He indicated that he had called off an imminent military strike in the hope of resolving differences over Tehran's nuclear programme and reopening the Strait of Hormuz. According to reports, shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remained slow after attacks on commercial vessels. However, two Saudi oil tankers crossed the Bab el-Mandeb Strait over the weekend despite threats from Yemen's Houthis, easing immediate concerns over disruptions to global crude supplies. Even so, geopolitical risks remain elevated. Analysts said the conflict has expanded beyond the Gulf to the Red Sea and parts of the eastern Mediterranean. Iran has largely closed the Strait of Hormuz since the conflict began, disrupting one of the world's most critical energy corridors and fuelling volatility in global oil markets. Both domestic and international crude oil prices are likely to remain highly sensitive to developments surrounding the US-Iran negotiations and shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz for fresh cues on the global supply outlook, they added.

Govt backs FSSAI action against Old Monk, McDowell's, other brands over flavouring, age claims



New Delhi: The government has clarified that enforcement action initiated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) against certain alcoholic beverage manufacturers relates to the use of flavouring substances that mimic the characteristics of standardised alcoholic beverages and allegedly misleading age-related claims on product labels. In a statement, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) said action was initiated against some alcohol manufacturers for non-compliance with existing food safety regulations, including the use of flavours that mimic the inherent aroma and taste of standardised alcoholic beverages such as rum and whisky.

It further noted that investigations found that some manufacturers were producing alcoholic beverages primarily from spirit or extra-neutral alcohol and subsequently adding flavours externally to recreate the sensory characteristics associated with products such as rum and whisky. "Such products are not only sub-standard but are also misrepresented by using the names of standard categories," the ministry said, adding that consumers were not adequately informed about the true nature of the products on the front of the package.

The ministry said laboratory testing of sampled rum and whisky products across multiple manufacturers found the presence of external artificial or nature-identical flavours. Citing laboratory findings, it said the addition of such flavours was masking the natural flavour profile of the products and rendering them sub-standard under existing regulations.

The government also referred to the '7 years old blended' claim on an Old Monk XXX Rum variant, describing it as misleading. Under the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018, the age claim of a blended spirit is determined by the youngest spirit in the blend, it added. Based on laboratory reports, FSSAI issued prohibition-of-sale orders against products manufactured by

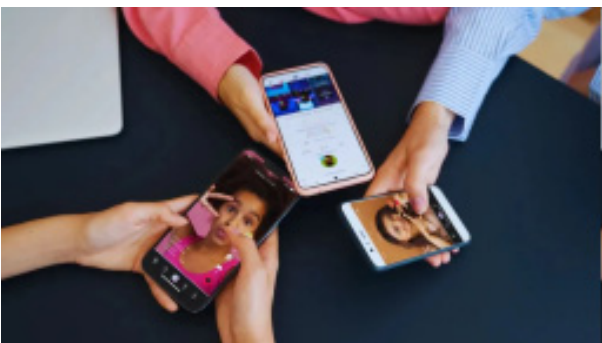
Mohan Rocky Springwater's Khopoli unit, United Spirits' Baramati facility, INBREW Beverages in Madhya Pradesh, Associated Alcohol & Breweries in Madhya Pradesh, and a United Spirits unit in Madhya Pradesh. The affected brands include Old Monk rum variants, McDowell's No.1 Rum, Bagpiper Deluxe Whisky, Old Cask Deluxe XXX Rum, Antiquity Blue Whisky and Royal Challenge Whisky.

The ministry said inspections and sampling were also carried out at Mandexi Distilleries & Breweries in Goa, while notices were issued to six other manufacturers in Maharashtra. Clarifying its regulatory position, the ministry said flavouring substances such as coffee and vanilla are permitted where legally allowed and supported by a legitimate technological justification. However, the current matter concerns the addition of flavours representing the standardised alcoholic beverage itself, such as rum flavour in rum or whisky flavour in whisky. It added that the issue does not represent the entire alcohol industry and that several manufacturers continue to produce alcoholic beverages in compliance with prescribed standards.

Nissan returns to quarterly profit on cost-cutting and stronger sales

Tokyo: Nissan Motor Corp reported Monday that it returned to profit in the first quarter of the year, helped by cost-cutting measures and improved sales in some markets. Nissan, based in the port city of Yokohama, said it recorded a 3.8 billion yen (USD 24 million) net profit in January-March, a reversal from the 115.8 billion yen loss it recorded in the same period of 2025. Quarterly sales totalled 2.96 trillion yen (USD 19 billion), up 9.5 per cent from 2.7 trillion yen a year earlier. Nissan has been in the red for the last two fiscal years, posting billions of dollars in losses, but its leadership has promised to return it to profit in this fiscal year, which ends in March 2027. Chief Executive Ivan Espinosa told reporters cost reduction efforts were gaining momentum. However, challenges remain in some global markets such as the Middle East, while sales were growing in the US and Japan, he said. "We are managing disruption where it exists, building momentum where we see opportunity," Espinosa said. The war in Iran has recently effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for Japan's exports to the Middle East. Nissan's sales have suffered in China because of fierce competition from Chinese automakers that have taken the lead in electrification.

AIIMS psychiatrist shares 10 simple ways to cure doomscrolling



It starts innocently enough. You pick up your phone to check one message. Ten minutes later, you're watching videos you never intended to watch, your tea has gone cold, and you've forgotten why you unlocked the screen in the first place. If that sounds familiar, you're not alone. Smartphones have become indispensable—but for many, they have also become difficult to put down. We spoke to Prof. Mamta Sood, Professor of Psychiatry at AIIMS, about recognising unhealthy phone dependence and practical ways to regain control without giving up technology.

How do people know if their phone use has crossed the line into dependence?

The first thing to remember is that smartphones are extremely useful. The problem is not the phone itself but how we use it. Phone dependence resembles other behavioural addictions. Warning signs include constantly checking your phone, feeling anxious or restless when you can't access it, spending progressively more time on it, losing control over usage, and continuing despite knowing it's affecting your work, relationships or daily functioning. A simple question to ask yourself is: Has my phone started interfering with my life? If the answer is yes, it's time to examine your habits.

Why do smartphones become so difficult to put down?

There are several reasons. Apps are deliberately designed to keep our attention through infinite scrolling, autoplay, notifications and instant rewards. At the same time, people often use phones to cope with stress, boredom, loneliness or anxiety. Social media can also trigger a fear of missing out, making us feel we must constantly stay connected. In many cases, the phone becomes an emotional coping mechanism rather than simply a communication device.

What's the biggest misconception about reducing phone addiction?

That you have to stop using technology. That's neither practical nor necessary. Smartphones today help us communicate, navigate, bank, shop, work and organise our lives. The goal isn't to abandon technology but to become intentional about using it. I often suggest that people begin by listing everything they use their phone for during a typical day. Once you see all those functions on paper, you can distinguish between essential uses and habitual scrolling.

Where should someone begin if they want to cut down their screen time?

Start by using your phone with a purpose. Before unlocking it, know exactly what task you want to complete.

Mediterranean diet in an Indian kitchen: What to eat, what to avoid and why it matters

For years, the Mediterranean diet has been regarded as one of the healthiest eating patterns in the world, consistently associated with a lower risk of heart disease, diabetes, stroke and premature death. More recently, scientists have begun asking another important question: can what we eat also influence how we think and feel?

A recent study involving more than 3,200 adults over the age of 50 found that those who followed a Mediterranean-style eating pattern more closely reported better psychological well-being and greater resilience to stress. While the findings do not prove that diet alone improves mental health, they add to growing evidence that food choices can influence not only physical health but also emotional well-being.

The encouraging news for Indians is that adopting a Mediterranean diet does not mean filling the kitchen with imported olive oil, feta cheese or expensive packaged foods. The real strength of the Mediterranean diet lies not in specific ingredients but in its philosophy — eating more plants, choosing healthier fats, including adequate protein, limiting processed foods, and enjoying meals prepared from fresh ingredients. Many of these principles are already deeply rooted in traditional Indian cuisine. The Mediterranean diet is more than olive oil

The Mediterranean diet is often misunderstood as a diet centred around olive oil. In reality, it is a balanced eating pattern built around vegetables, fruits, legumes, whole grains, nuts, seeds, healthy fats and moderate amounts of dairy, fish or lean meat. Processed foods, refined carbohydrates, sugary beverages and excessive red meat occupy only a small place in this dietary pattern. It is this overall combination of foods, rather than any single ingredient, that has consistently been linked with better cardiovascular, metabolic and now potentially mental health. Simply adding olive oil to an otherwise unhealthy diet is unlikely to produce meaningful benefits.

Your Indian kitchen already has most of the ingredients. Perhaps the biggest misconception is that eating Mediterranean means eating Western food. In reality, a traditional Indian meal can closely resemble a Mediterranean plate when prepared thoughtfully. A meal consisting of dal, seasonal vegetables, whole wheat or millet rotis, curd and a fresh salad provides fibre, protein, vitamins, minerals and complex carbohydrates in proportions remarkably similar to those recommended in Mediterranean dietary patterns. Rajma, chole, lobia, whole green moong and sprouts are excellent sources of plant protein and dietary fibre. Homemade curd supplies probiotics while spices such as turmeric, cumin, coriander and ginger contribute numerous bioactive compounds with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Let vegetables dominate your plate

Vegetables should ideally occupy nearly half the plate during lunch and dinner. Indian cuisine offers tremendous variety. Spinach, methi, sarson, lauki, tori, pumpkin, cabbage, cauliflower, beans, carrots, beetroot, capsicum, bhindi and gourds provide fibre, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants while contributing relatively few calories. Eating vegetables of different colours increases the diversity of beneficial plant compounds that help combat oxidative stress and chronic inflammation, two biological processes linked with diabetes, cardiovascular disease and several other chronic illnesses. **Preparing vegetables with minimal oil**

Finish that task and put the phone away instead of drifting into social media or videos. Then make only one or two small changes at a time. Trying to change everything overnight usually doesn't work. Practise those changes consistently for several weeks before adding new ones.

Are there simple changes that make a real difference?

Yes, and many of them are surprisingly easy. Turn off non-essential notifications. Hide distracting apps from your home screen. Consider switching your phone to grayscale if colourful icons tempt you to keep checking it. You can even remove social media apps from your phone and access them only on your laptop. The important thing is to create small barriers that interrupt automatic behaviour.

You often speak about 'going analogue.' What does that mean?

Going analogue doesn't mean rejecting technology. It means deliberately bringing back some offline activities that screens have replaced. For example, spend the first 15 to 20 minutes of your morning completely screen-free. Read a physical newspaper, stretch, have your tea peacefully or simply sit quietly. Keep your phone in one designated place at home instead of carrying it everywhere. Make handwritten shopping lists. Visit a neighbourhood shop instead of ordering every small item online. These small changes reduce automatic phone use.

Many people try a digital detox but fail. Why?

Because they only remove the phone without replacing it. If you decide to spend less time on your screen, you must already know what you'll do instead. Otherwise, boredom quickly pulls you back. Replace screen time with planned activities like walking, gardening, reading physical books, cooking, puzzles, board games or hobbies that involve your hands. Schedule short digital breaks during the day —even five minutes away from your phone helps.

Is boredom actually good for the brain?

Absolutely. We're becoming uncomfortable with quiet moments because our phones constantly stimulate us. But when we allow the mind to rest, important brain networks involved in reflection, memory, creativity and emotional processing become active. Learning to tolerate boredom again is an important part of recovering a healthier relationship with technology. If you had to recommend just one habit that gives the biggest return, what would it be? Reclaim your sleep. Late-night phone use is one of the most harmful habits because it delays sleep and disrupts the body's natural circadian rhythm. Sleep is when the brain consolidates memories, regulates emotions and the body repairs itself. I encourage people to begin winding down at least two hours before bedtime. Keep the bedroom as phone-free as possible and replace late-night scrolling with quieter routines. Improving your sleep often reduces overall screen time without requiring you to delete apps or give up social media altogether.

Finally, how do you rewire your mindset?

Don't think of this as a battle against your phone. Think of it as learning to use one of the most powerful tools ever created in a healthier way. Smartphones are part of modern life and they bring enormous benefits. The aim isn't perfection, it's balance. Use the phone as a tool, not as a toy. When you become intentional about how you use it, you gradually regain control over your time, your attention and, ultimately, your well-being.



while retaining their natural texture preserves both flavour and nutritional value.

Choose whole grains over refined carbohydrates. Replacing polished white rice and refined flour products with whole wheat, brown rice, hand-pounded rice or traditional millets such as jowar, bajra and ragi increases fibre intake and slows the rise in blood glucose after meals. Whole grains also promote satiety and support healthier gut bacteria. Traditional Indian cereals that have nourished communities for centuries deserve a return to the dining table, not because they are fashionable, but because they remain nutritionally superior to many refined alternatives. Protein deserves a larger place on the Indian plate

Increasing protein intake improves satiety, preserves muscle mass, supports healthy ageing and helps maintain more stable blood glucose levels. Fortunately, protein need not be expensive. Dals, rajma, chole, lobia, soy products, sprouts and homemade curd remain economical options for vegetarians. Those who consume animal foods can include eggs, fish and skinless chicken in moderation. Paneer can certainly be enjoyed but should be prepared with limited oil and eaten in appropriate portions. Every major meal should ideally contain a meaningful source of protein rather than relying almost entirely on cereals. Healthy fats matter more than expensive oils. One reason the Mediterranean diet gained worldwide popularity is its emphasis on unsaturated fats. Mustard oil, groundnut oil, sesame oil and rice bran oil can all be part of a healthy dietary pattern when used judiciously. The larger objective is to reduce saturated fats from excessive ghee, butter, vanaspati and highly processed foods while avoiding deep frying whenever possible. It is equally important to remember that all oils contain similar calories. Healthy oils should replace unhealthy fats, not increase the total amount of fat consumed. Keeping sugar low without feeling deprived. One striking feature of Mediterranean eating is that desserts are occasional pleasures rather than everyday habits. This means limiting sweets, sugary beverages, packaged fruit juices, bakery products and sweetened breakfast cereals. Tea and coffee deserve particular attention because even one teaspoon of sugar added twice daily accumulates to several kilograms over the course of a year. Whole fruits, however, should not be feared. Fruits such as apples, guava and pear are often unnecessarily blamed for worsening diabetes. When eaten as whole fruits in limited portions, they provide fibre, vitamins and antioxidants that slow sugar absorption and contribute to overall health. Indian cooking possesses one of the richest traditions of herbs and spices anywhere in the world.

Hyderabad teenager Yashwanth sets sixth international world record



GNS News Agency, August 7

Hyderabad: Fourteen-year-old martial arts exponent from the city, Balabhadrapatruni Yashwanth, has officially secured his sixth international world record. The Class 10 student from Pallavi Model School successfully executed an incredible 170 single-hand punch strikes in just 30 seconds, setting a new global teenage benchmark. Training under Grandmaster Shaswat Kumar, who has been awarded the Pioneer of Modern Combat Karate by Empikai Martial Arts Association, Republic of Serbia, Yashwanth's latest feat translates into an astonishing striking velocity of 5.6 punches per second using only one hand, proving his elite, lightning-fast hand speed. Yashwanth has repeatedly proven himself to be an exceptionally fast and versatile combat athlete. He has demonstrated complete mastery in both explosive full-contact fighting (Kumite) and technical forms (Kata) across all levels of open competition from 2023 to 2026: Open State Circuit: Captured 1 Gold in fighting, 1 Gold in kata, 1 Bronze in fighting and 1 Bronze in kata; Open National Circuit: Secured 1 Gold in fighting, 1 Gold in kata,

1 Silver in fighting, 2 Bronze in fighting and 2 Silver in kata; Open E-International Circuit: Earned 2 Gold medals in kata; Open International Circuit: Proved his combat supremacy by winning 1 Gold and 1 Silver in fighting, along with 1 Gold in kata; Hyderabad League 2026: Swept his division with 2 Gold medals each in Kumite and Kata; International 2026: Won a Gold medal in kata. Dual national and international record recognition demonstrated Yashwanth's remarkable speed benchmarks have caught global attention. Notably, two of his core speed records have also been officially recognised as National Records by the Shreyanavi Charitable Foundation Wings.

His complete legacy of records includes: Maximum Single-Hand Punch Strikes in 30 Seconds (Teenager): 170 punches (July 2026); Maximum Half-Stretch Punches in 1 Minute: 404 punches, shattering the previous teenage record of 222 and adult record of 384 (6.73 punches per second); Maximum Full-Extension Punches in 30 Seconds (Boxing Gloves): 161 punches, recognised as a National Record by Shreyanavi Charitable Foundation Wings and Asian Book of World Records; Fastest Teenager to Perform Full-Extension Punches in 20 Seconds (Karate Gloves): 107 punches, recognised as a National Record by Shreyanavi Charitable Foundation Wings and Asian Book of World Records; Maximum Single-Hand Full-Extension Wall Punches in 30 Seconds (Karate Gloves): 108 punches; Most Alternating Martial Arts Kicks on a Pad in 1 Minute: 107 kicks (MABWR). Demonstrating true martial arts discipline, Yashwanth also recently gave back to the community by conducting a free Kihon (martial arts basics) seminar at an allied NGO run by his coach. He continues to solidify his status as one of India's fastest and most accomplished young sports talents.

Jyotiraditya Scindia meets Mirabai Chanu after her historic third CWG gold

GNS News Agency, August 7

New Delhi: After scripting history with her record-extending third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal in Glasgow, ace weightlifter Mirabai Chanu called on Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, here on Monday. Congratulating Mirabai Chanu on her achievement, Scindia praised her unwavering determination, discipline and perseverance, describing her success as an inspiration for millions of young athletes across the country, particularly in the North Eastern Region.

During the interaction, Mirabai Chanu shared her inspiring journey of resilience and the challenges she overcame on her path to becoming one of India's most celebrated sportspersons. The minister also held detailed discussions with her on various aspects of sports, including training routines, nutrition, recovery cycles and the importance of adequate rest and sleep in achieving peak performance. Scindia also appreciated the invaluable contribution of Mirabai Chanu's coach, trainer and physiotherapist, acknowledging that world-class sporting success is built on a strong support system backed by scientific training and expert guidance. Highlighting the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region's vision for nurturing sporting talent, he discussed the development of a comprehensive sports ecosystem in the region through the establishment of the High Level Task Force (HLTF).

Through this Task Force, the Ministry of DoNER is focusing on the 'One State, One Sport' initiative, under which each Northeastern state is being supported to develop excellence in sports where it has a natural competitive ad-



vantage, including disciplines such as weightlifting, archery and football. Scindia emphasised that the initiative is not merely about creating brick-and-mortar infrastructure but about building a world-class sporting ecosystem centred on quality coaching, scientific training, sports science, nutrition, recovery and athlete support. He noted that providing aspiring athletes with access to high-quality training and facilities within the region itself would inspire many more young sportspersons to pursue excellence and enable the Northeast to produce many more champions like Mirabai Chanu. Chanu's trainer, Vijay Sharma, highlighted the potential of athletes from NER and acknowledged that these initiatives will help nurture grassroots athletes as well. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the Northeastern region, the meeting reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the sporting ecosystem by investing in talent, coaching excellence and athlete development, while unlocking the immense sporting potential of the Northeastern region.

Arshdeep Singh named in North Zone squad for Duleep Trophy, Kanhaiya Wadhawan to captain

New Delhi: India's left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh was on Monday named in the North Zone squad for the upcoming Duleep Trophy with Jammu and Kashmir's wicketkeeper-batter Kanhaiya Wadhawan appointed captain of the 15-member side. Arshdeep, a white ball specialist for Team India, was included in the Test squad during the 2025 tour of England but injury and combination related issues didn't allow him to make his red ball debut. Another Test team discard, Haryana's Anshul Kamboj, was also included in the North Zone squad for the tournament starting August 23.

Fresh from Jammu and Kashmir's historic Ranji Trophy triumph, the selectors rewarded the champion side with six players in the squad. Besides Wadhawan, opener Qamran Iqbal, all-rounder Abdul Samad, left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq, pacer Sunil Kumar and fast bowler Yudhvir Singh were included. Delhi's Ayush Badoni was named vice-captain, while veteran Jammu and Kashmir skipper Paras Dogra, 41, was not considered for the tournament as Duleep Trophy is more about players trying to make a mark at national level. Pacer Auqib Nabi will be unavailable as he is on national duty. Delhi has the next highest representation after Jammu and Kashmir with opener Sanat Sangwan, former



skipper Yash Dhull, stocky middle-order batter Ayush Doseja and Badoni making the squad. India A regular Nishant Sindhu, Abid Mushtaq and Arjun Sharma provide the spin and all-round options. North Zone squad: Kanhaiya Wadhawan (Captain), Ayush Badoni (Vice-Captain), Sanat Sangwan, Qamran Iqbal, Yash Dhull, Ayush Doseja, Abdul Samad, Nishant Sindhu, Arjun Sharma, Abid Mushtaq, Arshdeep Singh, Sunil Kumar, Anshul Kamboj, Yudhvir Singh, Nikhil Kashyap.

Outgoing India fielding coach T Dilip pens emotional farewell after five-year stint

New Delhi: Outgoing India fielding coach T Dilip on Monday penned an emotional farewell note as his time with the national men's team came to an end, saying that the journey meant a lot to him, and admitted to having difficulty in finding right words to sum up his successful five-year tenure. Dilip, who joined the team in November 2021, has left the Indian set-up after his contract was not renewed following India's T20I tour of Zimbabwe. In his place, Subhadeep Ghosh has taken charge as the fielding coach and will travel with the team to Sri Lanka for the two-game series starting on August 15.

"Five years. It's difficult to find the right words for a journey that has meant so much. When I first walked into this setup, I came in with one simple intention, to give everything I had every single day. Fielding has always been my way of contributing to the game I love, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to have played a part in this team's journey," wrote Dilip on his Instagram account on Monday. Highlighting the iconic fielding medal tradition that brought a light-hearted yet competitive energy to the Indian dressing room after matches, especially during the 2023

Men's ODI World Cup, Dilip shared how deeply the initiative resonated with the squad. "The fielding medal will always hold a very special place in my heart. Seeing the excitement it created in the dressing room, the smiles it brought and the value the players attached to it are memories I'll carry with me forever. I will always cherish being part of: Two ICC Men's T20 World Cup triumphs (2024 & 2026) ICC Champions Trophy triumph (2025) Two Asia Cup triumphs (2023 & 2025) Runners-up at the ICC World Test Championship & ICC Men's Cricket World Cup (2023) and several unforgettable journeys on the world stage," he added. Hyderabad-based Dilip further expressed his gratitude to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), former head coach Rahul Dravid, current head coach Gautam Gambhir, and the various captains he worked under. "A heartfelt thank you to the BCCI @indiancricketteam for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to serve Indian cricket. To #Rahul Dravid and @gautamgambhir55, thank you for your trust. It was a pleasure to work alongside both of you. #shubmangill and @shreyasivyer96, it was a privilege to work with each of you and contribute during your time as captains.

'System was trying to protect him': Vinesh Phogat slams Brij Bhushan's acquittal, vows to appeal



A Delhi court on Monday acquitted former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in the sexual harassment case filed by six women wrestlers, a verdict that has left the sport's most prominent faces "deeply saddened". "We had to gather a lot of courage to come out on the streets and get an FIR registered against a musclemale leader of the ruling party," Olympian Vinesh Phogat said in a statement on X. "Using his power and influence, Brij Bhushan had frightened several young women and forced them to withdraw their complaints." Phogat, who had revealed earlier this year that she was among the six complainants, said the wrestlers were disappointed with the court's decision. "We are deeply saddened that the court did not find Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh guilty in the sexual harassment case filed by the women wrestlers," she said.

Alleging a systemic bias, Phogat added, "From the very beginning, the entire system, the government, and this establishment were all trying to protect Brij Bhushan." However, she made it clear that the fight was not over. "The women wrestlers have instructed their lawyers to file an appeal against this verdict, and it will be done at the earliest. We have not lost hope, and the wrestlers will continue their fight." Former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The Rouse Avenue Court acquitted Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and former WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar, bringing to a close one of Indian sport's most high-profile legal battles.

The case emanated from allegations by six women wrestlers who accused Singh of sexual harassment during his tenure as WFI chief. The allegations had sparked nationwide protests in 2023, with wrestlers staging a months-long sit-in at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. Meanwhile, reacting to the verdict at Rouse Avenue Court, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh said: "Meri pehli baat sahi hui. Mujhe saamne waale ke baare me pata nahi tha... Meri first pratikriya yehi thi ki main swatah faansi par latah jaaunga. Ab baaki aaj prasannata ka vishai hai (What I said initially has turned out to be right. I didn't know about people against me... I had said that I will hang myself knew about the persons. The court acquitted me with honour. It is a matter of joy for me and my supporters... Today is a happy day....")

Auqib Nabi gets maiden India call-up, replaces Jasprit Bumrah in Test squad

Jammu and Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi received his much-awaited India call-up on Monday as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) named him as the replacement for the injured Jasprit Bumrah in the Test squad for the series against Sri Lanka, starting August 15. The 29-year-old seamer from Baramulla is only the second cricketer from J&K to make it to the national side after Parvez Rasool. Nabi missed out on selection for the recent series despite setting the domestic charts on fire over the last two seasons, culminating in J&K's historic Ranji Trophy triumph earlier this year.

Nabi claimed 104 wickets across the last two Ranji Trophy seasons, including 60 wickets in the 2025-26 campaign, playing a pivotal role in Jammu and Kashmir's maiden Ranji Trophy triumph. Nabi was part of the India A squad that toured Sri Lanka recently. He returned six wickets in the two matches played in Galle against Sri Lanka A. Meanwhile, Bumrah's absence will leave a huge dent in the Indian attack as they aim to revive their World Test Championship (WTC) hopes. India are fifth on the WTC table and the two Tests in Sri Lanka are crucial to keep their WTC final qualification hopes alive. The Indian Express understands that the impact injury he sustained at Cardiff has



only aggravated the knee issue that has been persisting since the T20 World Cup. While Bumrah did recover from that injury and was cleared to feature in the IPL without any trouble, the blow he suffered in England aggravated the underlying issue. India's updated squad for the Test series against Sri Lanka: Shubman Gill (Captain), KL Rahul (Vice-Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sai Sudharsan, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Devdutt Padikkal, Saransh Jain, Auqib Nabi.

Cabinet approves Rs 36,441 crore Khelo India expansion to strengthen India's sports ecosystem

Hyderabad: The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved an expanded Khelo India Scheme and enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs) with a combined outlay of ₹36,441 crore for the period 2026–27 to 2030–31, reaffirming the Government's commitment to harnessing the power of sports for youth development and nation-building, according to a SAI media release. This is the country's most ambitious sports development programme since Independence. The aspirations of the youth of the country towards sports has been given a major boost and will have a transformational impact over the coming decade.

The approved outlay is nearly eight times that of the previous Khelo India Scheme, reflecting the Government's commitment to making sports a cornerstone of youth development, nation-building and India's emergence as a global sporting powerhouse. The revamped scheme is designed to create a seamless pathway for every talented young Indian—from school playgrounds and village sports fields to the Olympic podium. It seeks to ensure that no sporting talent is left undiscovered because of geography, economic background or lack of opportunity. Pathway to excellence for talented youth

The revamped Khelo India scheme also includes a comprehensive athlete development pathway which is intended to support young sportspersons right from the talent identification stage to scientific training, international competition and Olympic preparation. The scheme establishes an integrated nationwide sports ecosystem comprising National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs), Khelo India Centres of Excellence (KICoEs), SAI Training Centres (STCs), Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAs), Khelo India Centres (KICs) and Youth Sports Companies (YSCs) of the Armed Forces. Together, these institutions will provide world-class coaching, sports science support and modern infrastructure across the country. To strengthen the school sports ecosystem, the Government has introduced two new initiatives—Khelo India Feeder Schools (KIFS) and Khelo India Utkrisha Vidyalayas (KIUV)—which will integrate sports with mainstream education and enable early identification and systematic nurturing of talented children.

Alongside the existing Khelo India Athletes programme, the revamped scheme will also create the Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIAs) category. This is intended to expand the structured athlete development ecosystem by nearly ten times, bringing thousands of additional young athletes under professional coaching, scientific support and long-term mentoring. A strengthened nationwide talent identification framework involving Talent Identification Development Committees, Zonal Committees, Talent Scouts, High Performance Directors and High Performance Managers will ensure continuous identification, tracking and development of promising athletes across the country. The Khelo India scheme also establishes a clear progression pathway from grassroots competitions to Khelo India, and subsequently to the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), enabling deserving athletes to receive world-class training, international exposure and comprehensive support to compete for medals at the highest level. The revamped Khelo India scheme significantly strengthens India's domestic competition ecosystem. It supports school, university, regional and sport-specific leagues alongside national championships to provide sustained competitive exposure to young athletes. Special emphasis has been placed on expanding opportunities for women athletes, para-athletes, indigenous sports, and sports as a tool for peace, inclusion and community development. The scheme also provides



support for organising the National Games and hosting major international sporting events in India. Improvement in coaching standards, technology and innovation

Recognising that athletes can excel only with world-class support systems, the Government will establish the National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB) to standardise coaching qualifications, improve professional standards and strengthen the capacity of coaches and support staff across the country. The Khelo India scheme also envisages a unified digital sports platform integrating athlete databases, infrastructure, competitions, coaching resources, talent assessments, funding and Fit India participation. The platform will enable data-driven planning, transparent governance and personalised athlete development. The Government will deepen collaboration with private academies, corporate partners and other institutions to leverage investment, innovation and expertise in sports infrastructure, talent development and athlete support, creating a truly national sports ecosystem driven by both public and private participation. To complement the revamped Khelo India Scheme, the Government has also approved a strengthened Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) Scheme for the period 2026-31. The scheme will support Indian athletes and teams through funding for coaching, sports science, modern equipment, international exposure, coaching camps, engagement of foreign experts and participation in major international competitions. It will also support sports cooperation with countries of the Global South and promote India's indigenous sports internationally. The revamped Khelo India Scheme represents one of the largest investments ever made in India's sporting future. More than a sports programme, it is a national mission to empower young Indians with opportunity, confidence and excellence. By creating a seamless pathway from grassroots talent to global sporting success, the scheme aims to nurture champions, inspire a culture of fitness, strengthen India's sporting ecosystem and position the country among the world's leading sporting nations as it moves towards the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

ICC bans USA cricketer Bodugum Akhilesh Reddy for eight years

Hyderabad: USA player Bodugum Akhilesh Reddy has been banned from all cricket for eight years after an ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal found him guilty of breaching three counts of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code. The charges relate to the Abu Dhabi T10 2025 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), for which the ICC was appointed by the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) as the Designated Anti-Corruption Official (DACO).

Tannaz Irani married at 20, became Mrs India runner-up; illness left her wheelchair-bound



Some people are born positive, while others spend a lifetime learning how to find good in the bad. For actor Tannaz Irani, optimism seems to have come naturally. Throughout her career, she has often played cheerful, happy-go-lucky characters—the friend or family member who brings warmth and perspective to the lives of the lead characters. Off screen, too, Tannaz appears to have consciously embraced that role. Always brimming with energy and positivity, Tannaz, however, hit rock bottom around the COVID-19 pandemic. She reached a point where she no longer wanted to live the life she had and struggled to recognise herself. The actor says she became increasingly negative and jealous, with dark thoughts beginning to take over her mind. Tannaz has always been someone who follows her heart. She often made decisions without worrying too much about the consequences, and many of those choices worked in her favour. One of the most significant decisions of her life came when she got married at the age of 20, even before beginning her career.

"I got married to a Muslim: Farid Currim. He was 18 years older than me. My parents knew that I would do only what I wanted. He is a very sorted man and a theatre actor. I got married and had my first child, who is my best friend now," she told *Hautterfly*. However, by the time she turned 28, Tannaz realised that while she may have found the right man, they had met at the wrong time.

"I was with the right man at wrong time" "I ended that marriage after eight years. The age difference started to reflect because when you are 20, you are growing rapidly. He was a great man, but I was looking for something else. I wanted to go out and party, while he was very mature because he had been there and done that. I was too immature to understand," she said. Speaking to Siddharth Kannan about her first marriage, Tannaz said that she had led a sheltered life and was drawn to her husband's talent as a theatre artist. "I was very innocent. I had a very sheltered life. He used to work in theatre, and it used to be a huge thing back then. I just fell in love with the way he used to sing and act. I got married and became pregnant. I had to drop out of college because my baby bump wouldn't fit under the table," she recalled. "He was a wonderful man with a wonderful family. We just met at the wrong time. It was my decision to move on. He must have been hurt then, but today, we are all great friends," she added. However, the divorce affected her relationship with her daughter, who continued to live with her father. "My daughter stayed with him, and I couldn't spend a lot of time with her. There were many changes in our relationship. She must have been very hurt," Tannaz said. Speaking to *Hautterfly*, she added, "After a divorce, you do feel sad, scared and doubtful, and you second-guess yourself. My relationship with my daughter hit a block. She had her own turmoil. The problem with me is that I forget my problems at a surface level, but my daughter isn't like that. It was difficult for her. She was young."

Her first marriage gave her a career push, and financial discipline. Despite the challenges in her personal life, her first marriage introduced Tannaz to full-fledged theatre productions—a dream she had nurtured since the age of eight. Her work on stage eventually opened doors to television and films. Her former husband, Farid Currim, also helped the young actor understand the importance of managing her finances. Around the same time, Tannaz became the first runner-up at *Mrs India* 2002. "I married Farid Currim at 20. I started doing plays after that. Vivek Vaswani saw me there and cast me in *Zabaan Sambhalke*. After that, I received multiple offers. Then, I attended a wedding where I met Rakesh Roshan. He asked me why I wasn't doing films. I said, 'Because nobody offered me.' From there, I got *Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai*. That was my entry into films," she told Siddharth Kannan. She added, "I was in the eighth grade when I started doing theatre. My first pay cheque was Rs 100. My ex-husband helped me a lot in sorting out my finances. He built a beautiful portfolio. After I got divorced, I learned it too. I have invested my money."

When Tannaz broke norms Tannaz has always believed that where there is a will, there is a way. At a time when the entertainment industry remained largely silent

about the marital status of its actors, she entered the industry at the age of 21 as a mother, breaking several conventions.

When Tannaz found love for a second time A few years after her divorce, Tannaz met her now-husband, Bhaktiyar Irani, on the reality show *Fame Gurukul*. Recalling their first meeting, she said, "We met on a reality show. He teased me, and I found him to be the worst human being on the face of the earth. He played a prank on me. I never wanted to talk to him. He made me cry. I thought he was rude and mean." "Eventually, he apologised to me, but I was still very guarded. Once, he fell sick, and while I was helping him, he fell in love with me. I am much older than him," she added. Their relationship was not easy, especially because of their seven years age difference and Tannaz's status as a divorcee. "Bhaktiyar really had to fight for me. I was much older and a divorcee. Nobody wants their son to have someone like me," she said. In another interview with Siddharth Kannan, Tannaz revealed that both families initially opposed their relationship. "There was resistance from both sides because Bhaktiyar was not well-settled. We lived together and decided that we would wait until both our families agreed to the wedding. That same year, my father passed away. My daughter was not in favour of the relationship either. But our dynamics changed after Zeus was born," she said. The couple eventually tied the knot in 2007 and went on to welcome a son, Zeus, and a daughter, Zara. Tannaz later spoke openly about undergoing amniocentesis during her pregnancies.

Embracing motherhood in 30s and 40s "Zeus was born when I was in my late 30s, while Zara was born when I was in my late 40s. So, I had to undergo amniocentesis. It is a test to determine whether the child has any biological issues because of the mother's age. The test was negative," she said. For years, life seemed to be going well for Tannaz, who had always found positivity even in difficult circumstances. However, her health began to deteriorate around the COVID-19 pandemic, pushing her into a phase where she believed her life and career were over.

"I fell sick in the early 2020s. There was pain around my hips. I thought it was a simple twist or perhaps because I had gained weight. However, that negligence only made it worse. There came a point when I couldn't even stand. It felt like my life was over. My 25-year career was finished. I started limping," she told Siddharth Kannan. She added, "I was pushed into such a phase that I couldn't recognise myself. My self-confidence and identity were shaken. The worst part was that no doctor could understand what had happened to me. I underwent multiple tests and took so many steroids that I gained more weight. I was only getting worse with every doctor's appointment." "From a size medium, I became an extra-large. That pushed me into depression. I didn't want to live my life. I took several injections and painkillers. Obviously, I ran out of work and started rejecting offers. I was in pain 24/7 for two long years."

The situation became so difficult that Tannaz began planning what she believed could be one final holiday with her family. "I went to a doctor and told him to give me one painkiller injection. It was a very expensive one. That doctor told me that the pain would not go away without surgery, and he was right. I took the injection and went to London in a wheelchair. I had become very negative and jealous," she said. At a time when she believed there was no way back to her cheerful and optimistic self, Tannaz discovered neuro-linguistic programming, or NLP. "It was around this time that I came across neuro-linguistic programming. I took up a class because I couldn't do anything else. That alone changed the way I thought and my perspective towards life," she said. The experience had such a profound impact on her that Tannaz went on to complete the required training and certifications to become an NLP coach herself. She believes the shift in her mindset also changed the trajectory of her life. After being out of work for nearly two years, Tannaz began receiving offers again. She credits her surgery and her experience with NLP for helping her reclaim the identity and confidence she felt she had lost. During her difficult phase, her husband Bhaktiyar and close friends tried their best to help her find happiness again. "When I wasn't working and was depressed, I would travel abroad with my friends. Bhaktiyar sponsored all of it, saying, 'Whatever keeps you happy.' I felt weird about depending on him financially, but he never made me feel uncomfortable," she said. Bhaktiyar and Tannaz have also faced their share of disagreements and marital challenges—especially after their *Bigg Boss* stint, but nothing that they believed could break their relationship. Today, Tannaz continues to act while also helping others as an NLP coach. She has authored a book inspired by her own experiences, *If I Can, You Can Too*. Her journey is a reminder that even the most positive people can go through a dark phase. For Tannaz, however, that difficult period became the beginning of a new chapter—one that helped her rediscover herself and find a new purpose in helping others.

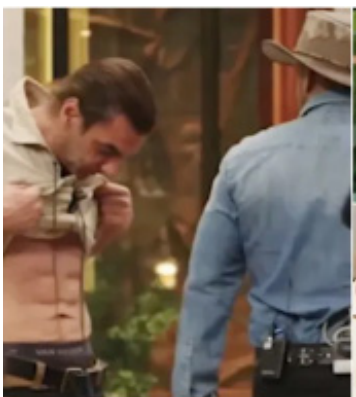
Salman Khan reveals he has lost 16 kg after viral video sparked health concerns

salman sohai! Salman Khan has addressed speculation about his health, revealing that he has shed 16 kg after a recent viral video left fans worried about his appearance. Actor Salman Khan has finally responded to concerns surrounding his health after a recent viral video sparked widespread discussion online. The actor revealed that he has intentionally lost 16 kg, reassuring fans that his transformation is part of a planned fitness journey rather than a cause for concern.

The clarification came during a conversation with his brother, Sohail Khan, where Salman spoke candidly about his fitness goals. During the conversation, Salman Khan told Sohail Khan that he had been working on his fitness and had lost weight. In response, Sohail showed off his abs and revealed that he had shed 12 kg. Salman then shared his own progress, saying, "I am down 16 kg," confirming that his recent physical transformation is the result of a dedicated weight-loss journey. He added that he is continuing to work towards his target weight as he prepares for his upcoming professional commitments. Salman Khan jokes about Riteish Deshmukh's hosting stint

During the conversation on *Alliance*, Salman Khan also took a playful dig at his close friend Riteish Deshmukh, hinting that his hosting job on *Lock Upp* could be at risk. While the promo did not reveal the context behind the remark, it quickly caught fans' attention. At one point, Sohail Khan admitted, "I freaked out today," referring to an emotional moment when he repeatedly kicked the storeroom door. Later,

Salman asked the contestants, "Aap log Sohail ko stress de rahe ho kya?" before joking, "I think Riteish Deshmukh ki naukri khatre mein lag rahi hai (I think Riteish Deshmukh's job is in danger)." The light-hearted comment left viewers curious about what unfolds in the full episode. Salman Khan's health concerns Salman Khan's revelation came days after his appearance at a Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA)



event in Mumbai sparked concern among fans. Videos from the event quickly went viral, with many social media users commenting on the actor's noticeably leaner appearance and expressing worries about his health. However, Salman's latest statement has clarified that the transformation is intentional, with the actor revealing he has deliberately lost 16 kg as part of his fitness journey. Known for his disciplined fitness regime, Salman has often transformed his physique for film roles over the years. Salman is the OG for many when it comes to fitness. Salman Khan continues to be busy with multiple projects and has been actively preparing for his upcoming films.

Mahesh Bhatt on tragic event behind Saarangh: 'I was very closely exposed to death'



More than four decades ago, actor Anupam Kher and filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt came together for *Saarangh*. Bhatt drew on his personal experiences for the 1984 classic, which follows an elderly couple grappling with the loss of their only son. In a recent interview, the filmmaker revealed that the story was inspired by the death of his mentor U.G. Krishnamurti's son, an event he witnessed firsthand. He also shared that *Saarangh* was the first film Rajshri Productions greenlit without reading a script. During a chat on *The Rashmii Virag Show*, Mahesh Bhatt shared, "I was 34 and he (Anupam Kher) was 28. It was like fitoor, madness. My situation was such that someone can take money from me and make me make this film. I had gone through an experience." "Was exposed to death"

The filmmaker recalled witnessing the death of a young man, and said, "The young son of UG Krishnamurti had died suddenly. He was a copywriter who wrote, 'Happy days are here again.' The irony is that he got sarcoma cancer, galloping cancer. Two months later he died. I was very closely exposed to the death of a young man." He added, "And, the demeanour of UG, how he took that death as a phenomena of life. He saw that as an event or happening which is separate from life. It's a process of living, death is a part of living. That experience had gotten attached to my bones and it was seeking expression."

Asked what inspired him to turn the experience into a story, Mahesh Bhatt revealed that he had long been fascinated by the idea of death. He also admitted that, as a child, he would spend hours at a crematorium. "I don't really know where it came from but it came in that phase. It was the exposure of a young individual. As a child, I was always obsessed about the topic of death. I used to spend hours and hours in the shamshaan ghaat in Shivaji park," he said. The filmmaker added, "I would go and see people lighting the pyre of their loved ones. I realised that the person goes up, the ashes stay there, and then the family goes

away. It was like a theme, which was always there in my head. And suddenly, it came out in *Saarangh*. If you talk about life, you have to talk about death."

When Mahesh Bhatt pitched the idea to the Barjatyas, they gave the nod without a proper script. "Its that one film which has endured the desert of time. An actor like Anupam Kher, who has done more than 550 films, said that his entire body of work has been reduced to one film. My young writers say that it is a reference film for them. The idea came and I didn't even write a screenplay. I gave the narration to the Barjatyas, and for the first time in their establishment, they said we will be making the film without a script. I knew every scene like the back of my hand. But, I used to keep it dynamic, I used to keep on waiting to infuse it on a day-to-day basis."

Anupam Kher's angry outburst at Mahesh Bhatt

Despite Mahesh Bhatt's conviction in the project, Anupam Kher's casting was anything but certain. The veteran actor has previously revealed that he was replaced just days before filming. At the *Jagran Film Festival*, Kher said, "I was 27 when Mahesh Bhatt sahab narrated the story to me for my first film. When I turned 28, I rehearsed for around 6 months for the film. I was going to play the role of a 65-year-old, aged man. But, I was removed from the film 10 days before the shoot, because they wanted to cast a big actor, Sanjeev Kumar ji. They thought it would be a more viable choice commercially."

The veteran actor added, "I packed all my things and decided to leave the city. I was being told by Mahesh Bhatt since six months that I am playing the main role, I had rehearsed so much. And I was kicked 10 days before the shoot! I packed all my stuff and headed towards VT (Victoria Terminus) station. But before leaving, I thought that I should tell Bhatt sahab what I think of him. There's nothing left anyway, what can he do to me now?" Anupam Kher even went to Mahesh Bhatt's house and called him a "fraud" for replacing him in *Saarangh*. "I went to his house, but the lift wasn't working. He used to live on the sixth floor. I was angry and had a lot of energy, so I climbed the stairs. Bhatt sahab said that I am doing another smaller role in the film. I told him that my taxi is waiting outside and I am going to leave Mumbai, but before that I want tell you that you are the biggest 'fraud' and 'cheat' in the whole world. I said, 'You are making a film on honesty, and you yourself are not honest.' " "I was crying inconsolably because I was very upset and stressed. I was then thinking what I should say at the end, because anger has to conclude with a great punchline. I couldn't think of anything at that moment so I said, 'Main aapko shraap deta hu'. He saw this scene and called Rajshri productions to cast me in that role," he concluded.

Suriya reveals Radikaa Sarathkumar helped fund Karthi's US visa when family couldn't afford it

Suriya recalled two decades of Radikaa Sarathkumar's generosity towards his family at the audio launch of *Vishwanath and Sons* Suriya recalled two decades of Radikaa Sarathkumar's generosity towards his family at the audio launch of *Vishwanath and Sons* Actor Suriya has revealed that veteran actor and producer Radikaa Sarathkumar helped his family financially at a time when they were not in a position to fund his brother Karthi's education in the United States.

Speaking at the audio launch of his upcoming film *Vishwanath and Sons* in Coimbatore on Sunday evening, Suriya said Radikaa Sarathkumar stepped in with the money the family needed to show as a bank balance to meet the visa requirements for Karthi's admission. "When Karthi was to travel to the US, we had to show a particular bank account balance to meet certain visa requirements. We weren't financially strong at that time," Suriya said. "Radikaa, who was working with my father during those years, gave us that money, asking us to hold the money in our bank until Karthi gets admitted into the college."

Radikaa Sarathkumar was closely associated with veteran actor Sivakumar, Suriya and Karthi's father, during the 1990s. She worked with Sivakumar on several productions and maintained a close relationship with the family throughout. Karthi later went on to become one of the leading actors in Tamil cinema and shared screen space with Radikaa Sarathkumar in *Saguni* in 2012.

Suriya also shared a second memory, saying Radikaa Sarathkumar had appeared in some of his early films without accepting any payment. "If we go back in time, she acted in some of my films without remuneration. She needn't have done that, but she did it, which was great," he said. The two have worked together across three films over two decades: *Sandhippoma* in 1998, *Uyirile Kalanathathu* in 2000 and *Singam 3* in 2017. "Radikaa is not here with us today at the event, but we have so many memories and experiences



with her," Suriya said. "Similarly, we have many memories and emotions that we share with her." The comments came at the audio launch of *Vishwanath and Sons*, Suriya's 46th film as a lead actor, held at Hindusthan College of Arts and Science in Coimbatore. In the film, directed by Lucky Bhaskar fame Venky Atluri, Suriya and Radikaa play mother and son, their fourth on-screen collaboration. The film tells the story of Sanjay Vishwanath, a 42-year-old international pistol shooting champion played by Suriya, whose life is upended when Maddy, a 22-year-old woman played by Mamitha Baiju, falls in love with him despite his resistance to the age-gap. The film also stars Raveena Tandon, Nasser, Sudha, Bhavani Sri, Kaali Venkat, George Maryan and Hyper Aadhi in supporting roles. Music is composed by G.V. Prakash Kumar, with cinematography by Nimish Ravi and editing by Navin Nooli. Produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, presented by Srikara Studios. *Vishwanath and Sons* releases in theatres worldwide on August 14.

'Never dated a Bollywood actress': Brett Lee reacts to romance rumours with Preity Zinta



Widely regarded as one of the fastest bowlers of his generation, Brett Lee was an invaluable asset for the teams he played for in the Indian Premier League (IPL) as well. He commenced his IPL journey with Kings XI Punjab (now known as Punjab Kings) and later moved to Kolkata Knight Riders before calling it quits. At the peak of his career, rumours frequently surfaced linking Lee with female Bollywood actors, particularly Preity Zinta, the co-owner of Punjab Kings. Since they worked closely together during the cricketer's IPL stint, the speculations gained further momentum. However, Lee recently dispelled all rumours and reiterated that he has never dated any actors from Hindi cinema. Maintaining that he and Preity are "great friends" even now, the former international cricketer praised her intelligence, adding that he harbours great respect for her. "I never dated a Bollywood actress," he told *Bombay Times*, adding that such rumours never bothered him as he was well aware of the truth. "People can speculate all they want, but I never let it affect me," he added. It seems that their relationship hasn't changed a bit in the past decade and a half. "I'd gotten to know Preity Zinta very well when I played for Kings XI Punjab. And yes, she's one of my closest friends in India," The Indian Express had quoted him as saying during a 2011 event in Mumbai. When the speculations began crossing the line, Preity herself had once sent out a

strongly worded statement, slamming those spreading baseless speculations linking her to her Kings XI Punjab teammates. "I am fed up with being linked to my teammates! For the record! I am single and not dating anyone from my team or, for that reason, any cricketer! When I am dating someone, you all will know," she wrote on X (formerly Twitter) in 2010. Preity Zinta married her longtime friend Gene Goodenough in 2016 in Los Angeles in an intimate Hindu ceremony.