

Second phase IT Hub construction works in Khammam delayed

Khammam: Even five years after the foundation stone was laid for the construction of the second-phase IT Hub in Khammam, the building work remains incomplete.

The Congress government's alleged negligence has delayed the construction, much to the chagrin of local unemployed youth, who had hoped to find employment if IT Hub-II was established.

Must move from ‘endless war’ to ‘end of war’: PM Modi tells Russian President Putin



London, August 31

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday delivered a pointed peace message to Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying the world must move from “endless war” to the “end of war” for the benefit of humanity, as the two leaders met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek.

“We must move away from endless war towards an end to the war,” Modi told Putin, reiterating India’s sup-

port for efforts to bring peace to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Interestingly, four years back as well, Modi had famously told Putin, “Today’s era is not an era of war”.

The Bishkek meeting also comes ahead of the BRICS Summit, giving Modi and Putin an opportunity to review the trajectory of their longstanding partnership amid a rapidly shifting global geopolitical landscape.

The two leaders also discussed the India-Russia strategic partnership and bilateral cooperation. Putin expressed gratitude to Modi for his personal attention to the relationship and acknowledged New Delhi’s efforts to maintain momentum in bilateral ties.

Modi also invited Putin to attend the upcoming BRICS Summit in New Delhi, saying India looked forward to welcoming the Russian President and that his visit would further strengthen the India-Russia relationship.

Russia remains a key partner for India in strategic, defence and energy sectors, even as New Delhi has sought to maintain its independent position on the Ukraine conflict and repeatedly called for its resolution through dialogue and diplomacy.

SC refuses to ban CJP’s protest march in Delhi on September 5

New Delhi, August 31

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass orders on a plea seeking to prohibit the Cockroach Janta Party’s September 5 protest march, saying it expected everybody will act in a very responsible manner.

“At least as of now, we will presume and we have no reason to doubt that everybody will act and behave in a very responsible manner and in a peaceful and lawful manner. So, right now for us there are no compelling circumstances to presume that anything wrong will happen,” a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said.

The top court’s comments came after advocate Rizwan Ahmad submitted on behalf of the applicant -- retired Delhi Police officer Rajendra Singh -- that there could be law and order issues during the CJP protest.

Despite repeated requests by Ahmed to list the matter for hearing on September 3, the Bench refused to list the matter before September 5, the date of the march from India Gate to the Delhi Police Headquarters, even as it issued notice to the Centre and the Delhi Police on the plea.

“Let the matter be listed along with pending petitions. To be heard on September 10,” said the Bench, which also included Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana.

Maintaining that law and order was within the domain of the police, the Bench asked the petitioner to raise his concerns before the Centre and the police.

Ahmed told the Bench that the protest organisers had not sought permission for the September 5 march from police authorities. Noting that the BRICS Summit was scheduled to take place here next week, he expressed concerns about a protest march being held when the international media would be around.

"On 12th and 13th (September), international dignitaries are coming to the capital. What happened at the AI



Summit? People stripped and danced...my submission is - Postpone the march till 15th (September)... Whatever the CJP is doing...can't they wait till the BRICS summit ends?" Ahmad wondered.

"They have tasted blood. They won't seek permission. Police will stop. This is what they want in front of international media. If their counsel appears, at least it will show respect to the law of land," he submitted.

As the Bench said it will not call upon anyone who was not party before it and that the applicant should approach the Centre, Ahmed said, "We cannot make them a party. They don't have an office. They don't have a letterhead."

The Bench asked Ahmad to approach the Centre with his grievances regarding apprehensions on potential law and order problems.

BRS hits back at Revanth, demands withdrawal of remarks against KCR

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) on Monday hit back at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over his remarks against BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao, demanding that he withdraw them and offer an unconditional apology.

Condemning the Chief Minister’s repeated attacks on the BRS president, former Minister T Harish Rao maintained that vitriolic remarks would neither fulfil people’s aspirations nor resolve their problems.



KCR Failed As Opposition Leader, Says Revanth

Hyderabad, August 31

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy challenged opposition leader K Chandrashekhar Rao for a debate on the performance of the People’s Government during the 1000 days and the 10 year BRS rule in the Telangana state Assembly . Further, the Chief minister called to hold dharnas demanding KCR’s resignation for confining to his farm house and not meeting people for the last 1000 days.

Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the bridge in the city today, the CM slammed the BRS Chief for not attending the assembly session. “ If KCR truly intends to do justice to Telangana and has any faith, teh BRS leader must attend the Assembly. I am ready for a debate in the Assembly comparing what KCR achieved in 10 years and the performance of 1,000 days of my government”.

Continuing his tirade against the BRS President , CM Revanth Reddy said that protests demanding the opposition leader’s resignation must be held for six days from Tuesday. A big protest programme should be organized at Indira Park on September 6. The CM said he is ready to speak about all these issues during the Assembly session commenced on September 7. The Chief Minister ridiculed a comparison between KCR and his government. “ Is there any other opposition leader in the country who has stayed out of the public eye for 1,000 days? Telangana is a state where the main opposition has completely failed”. The BRS leaders also sold blood of the party workers by organizing blood donation camps in the party head office Telangana Bhavan, teh CM charged.

The CM also disclosed that KCR drew Rs 1.24 crore salary in 1000 days and the government also spent Rs 22 crore for the BRS leader’s security and other facilities. “ If a government employee fails to report for duty for a year, they are dismissed. What should be done with KCR?”

Stating that he never misused the power, CM Revanth Reddy questioned KCR for not meeting the poor, women, students, farmers, Dalits, and Adivasis even for a single day. The BRS Chief never stepped out unless it was for his grandson’s hospital visit or the death of a relative. the Chief Minister said that he has not taken a single hour of leave in 1,000 days.

The CM accused KCR of exploiting the power to provide political opportunities to his family members. KCR made his son and son-in-law ministers in his cabinet . In the Congress government, Ponnamp Prabhakar and Vakiti

Srihari were elevated as ministers. Hanumantha Rao has been appointed as a government advisor and made Anil Yadav an MP. It was KCR who promoted Errabelli Dayakar as minister and he made Adhuri Laxman a minister. Venkat Rami Reddy was made an MLC in the BRS government and Addanki Dayakar was given the MLC post in the People’s government. KTR was appointed as BRS working President and Mahesh Goud from the weaker sections community was appointed as the TPCC President.

The CM announced that TIMS, Alwal would be named after former CM Anjaiah and the LB Nagar TIMS hospital after Konda Laxman. The Government also decided to name the Warangal super specialty hospital after Professor Jayashankar.

CM Revanth Reddy warned if anyone touched the Rajiv Gandhi statue installed at the State Secretariat. We also installed the statue of Sardar Sarvai Papanna and Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on Necklace Road. Telangana martyr Srinkatha Chary’s mother Shankaramma was appointed as a member of the Women’s Commission and named the Women’s University after Chakali Ilamma and also appointed Chakali Ailamma’s granddaughter as a member of the Women’s Commission.

The Chief minister criticized KCR family for looting public money and constructing farmhouses spanning 1,000 acres during the BRS rule . KTR built one farm house on 100 acres, and Kavitha built on 50 acres in Janwada. The CM castigated KCR for not considering the people’s issues mainly providing ration cards, which represent the dignity of the poor? We have spent ₹3,500 crore under the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund . The Osmania Hospital was inundated during the floods but the KCR government did not take any measures. Our government was constructing a new Osmania Hospital at a cost of ₹2,000 crore.

CM Revanth Reddy listed out the schemes mainly the allotment of 'Indiramma' houses in the names of women, issuing ration cards to everyone , providing six kilograms of fine-quality rice to 3.48 crore people including the BRS supporters. Did KCR ever give this any thought? We are constructing 7 lakh 'Indiramma' houses and building one lakh 'Indiramma' houses for the poor in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister said that the state government also evolved the issue of SC categorization within 1,000 days, conducted BC caste census, introduced a policy for Gig workers, new policies for sports, IT, tourism, and endowments also.

'One Nation, One Time': IST to become mandatory time reference from March 2027

New Delhi, August 31

India is set to move towards a “One Nation, One Time” system, with Indian Standard Time (IST) becoming the mandatory time reference for legal, commercial, digital and administrative activities from around March next year.

The Union Government has notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, providing for a single, uniform and legally recognised time reference across the country.

The rules were notified under the Legal Metrology Act and will come into force 180 days after their publication in the Official Gazette.

The move is aimed at ensuring that government departments, businesses and critical infrastructure operate on a common and precisely synchronised time standard, particularly as banking, digital payments, telecommunications, transport, power systems and other services increasingly depend on accurate digital timestamps.

Under the new framework, IST will be the standard reference for legal, administrative and official documents, commercial transactions, contracts and financial operations.

The rules also seek to prevent the use of unauthorised



or inconsistent time references for official purposes, with specified exceptions for areas such as scientific research, navigation and astronomy.

The government has emphasised the importance of accurate time synchronisation for modern digital infrastructure.

Even small discrepancies in timestamps can affect financial transactions, transaction reconciliation, telecommunications networks, power-grid operations and the coordination of transport systems.

Banking and digital payment platforms, stock markets, telecom networks, railways, airports, power systems and data centres rely on synchronised clocks to record transactions and coordinate operations.

“From every digital payment to every train journey, accurate time keeps India moving. With the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, IST will become the common time reference across India, bringing greater accuracy and synchronisation to everyday systems,” Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a post on X.

The new framework is expected to provide a common reference for such systems. The rules also provide for a domestic infrastructure for dissemination of IST, reducing dependence on external timing sources.

The government sees the move not merely as standardisation of clocks but as part of building a secure national timing infrastructure as India’s economy becomes increasingly dependent on real-time digital systems.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

The child behind the curriculum

The Supreme Court's recent observations on the introduction of a third language in Class IX have brought an important educational question into focus. The debate surrounding language policy is often shaped by political, cultural and constitutional considerations, but there is another perspective that deserves equal attention: the child who must ultimately experience the policy in the classroom.

Learning additional languages can enrich children's intellectual and cultural development, broaden communication and deepen their understanding of India's diversity. The question, therefore, is not whether multilingual learning has value, but when and how it should be introduced. A curriculum cannot be designed merely by deciding what children ought to learn; it must also consider their age, developmental readiness and existing academic demands. Every educational policy ultimately reaches the child as a classroom experience, and its success must, therefore, be judged not only by its objectives, but by how meaningfully the learner is able to absorb it. Children possess a remarkable capacity to learn languages, particularly when exposure begins early and occurs naturally. In the formative years, language learning can become part of everyday communication rather than another subject to be mastered for examinations. Educational policy must distinguish between learning a language and preparing to pass an examination in it. The former can broaden a child's world; the latter may add to an already crowded academic burden.

The transition to secondary education is already demanding for many students. By Class IX, academic expectations rise as schools begin preparing children for Board examinations and families become increasingly conscious of future academic choices.

Tribute Paid to Uke Sirisha DYFI Demands Strict Punishment for the Culprits



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" September.31. "Asifabad: The death of Uke Sirisha, a tribal woman from Mulkalapalli mandal of Bhadrachalam district, should not be treated as an ordinary incident and requires a thorough investigation, DYFI Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District Secretary Durgam Raj Kumar said. "Paying tribute to Sirisha, he said she had been working at Prime Care Hospital in Hyderabad with the aspiration of serving people and building a better future. He alleged that the hospital management failed to ensure her safety and demanded a comprehensive investigation into her death. "Raj Kumar urged the government to ensure that the accused is tried immediately through a fast-track court and given the strictest possible punishment. He also demanded stringent action against the hospital management if negligence in providing security to women employees is established. "He further appealed to the government to extend financial and other necessary support to Sirisha's family. "DYFI District President Gedam Tikanand, Treasurer Durgam Nikhil, District Committee members Thallapelli Rajeshwar and Sunke Praveen, among others, participated in the programme.

Dabur India Launches New Campaign in Distinctive Hyderabad Style



"Hyderabad, August 31 (Indian Chronicle) : Dabur India Limited's air freshener brand Odonil has launched a new Hyderabad-focused campaign film titled 'Bathroom Mein Odonil Nako, Toh Aapko Badnami Ho Rahi Hogi Kahi,' Dabur India Home Care Marketing Head Vaibhav Rath said in a statement on Monday. He said the campaign highlights the importance of bathroom freshness by blending Hyderabad humour, local language and everyday social situations. The campaign has been designed to connect with Hyderabad audiences through local humour, conversations and relatable social observations. It will be amplified through television, digital platforms and collaborations with regional content creators.

Namilikonda Sunil Reddy Appointed as Co-Convenor of Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi, Uppal Constituency



"Nacharam, August 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Namilikonda Sunil Reddy, a resident of Nacharam, has been appointed as the Co-Convenor of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi, Uppal Constituency. The appointment was formally announced recently, following which Sunil Reddy received his appointment letter from Raji Reddy, Convenor of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi, Uppal Constituency. "Speaking on the occasion, Namilikonda Sunil Reddy expressed his happiness over being entrusted with the responsibility and thanked the Samithi leadership for

placing their confidence in him. He said that he would work with dedication and sincerity to uphold the trust placed in him and would strive to fulfil the responsibilities assigned to him effectively. "He stated that the Ganesh festival holds great spiritual and cultural significance for devotees and that the celebrations should be conducted with devotion, unity, discipline and mutual harmony. He assured that he would coordinate with the Samithi members, organisers, local residents and Ganesh Utsav committees to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the festivities across the Uppal constituency. "Sunil Reddy further said that every effort would be made to conduct the celebrations in a peaceful and organised manner while giving importance to public convenience, cleanliness, traffic management and the safety of devotees. He also emphasised the need for collective participation and cooperation from all sections of society for the successful conduct of the Ganesh festivities. "He expressed confidence that, with the guidance and cooperation of the Samithi leadership and members, the upcoming Ganesh Utsav celebrations would be organised on a grand scale in the Uppal constituency. "On the occasion, Namilikonda Sunil Reddy conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to Raji Reddy, Convenor of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi, Uppal Constituency, for appointing him to the key responsibility. He also thanked Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi representatives Gona Srikanth and Phaninder Marneni, and Central Committee member Ramesh, for their support, encouragement and confidence in him. "He assured that he would actively participate in all activities of the Samithi and work collectively with the leadership and members for the successful and peaceful conduct of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav celebrations in the Uppal constituency.

UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY Meets Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta Seeking Funds for Development Works

"UPPAL, AUGUST 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy met Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta, IAS, and submitted a representation seeking the sanction of funds required for various development works in the Uppal Assembly constituency. "During the meeting, the MLA requested that adequate funds be allocated for pending road construction works, resolution of sanitation issues, installation of streetlights, and improvement of other basic infrastructure facilities in the constituency. He also urged the authorities to expedite the implementation of the development works. "MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy said that all necessary measures were being taken to provide better basic infrastructure to the people of Uppal constituency and that efforts were being made to speed up development programmes. BRS leaders Gandham Nageswara Rao, Sai Jan Shekhar, Mekala



Madhusudhan Reddy, Jitender Reddy, Anya Balakrishna, Sai Naveen along with party leaders and workers, were present.

Sarpanch Bendare Krishnaji Launches 5 Lakh Side Drain Works in Bambara

"Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" September.01. "Wankidi: Side drainage construction works have been launched in Bambara Gram Panchayat of Wankidi mandal at an estimated cost of ₹5 lakh. The project aims to prevent stagnant wastewater and improve the drainage system in the village, providing relief to residents. "Before commencing the works, Sarpanch Bendare Krishnaji performed a traditional puja and formally launched the construction. Speaking on the occasion, he said the side drain would help improve sanitation and prevent water stagnation, particularly during the rainy season. "He stated that priority was being given to providing essential basic infrastructure in the village and that development works were being taken up in phases using the available funds. He also directed that the drainage works be completed promptly while maintaining proper quality standards. "Ward Member Boori Salakka, Bavune Gangaram, former Deputy Sarpanch Boire Prakash, Nayini Shyam Rao, along with local representatives, Gram Panchayat staff, village elders, youth and residents, participated in the programme. "Local residents expressed happiness over the commencement of the drainage works and thanked Sarpanch Bendare Krishnaji for taking up the development initiative.



Take Congress Government's Failed 1,000-Day Rule to the People

UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY "UPPAL, AUGUST 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy called upon BRS party leaders and workers to widely take the alleged failures of the Congress government during its 1,000 days in office to the people, particularly with regard to implementation of electoral promises, resolution of public issues and development programmes. "He urged party leaders and workers to work in coordination to make the protest programmes to be organised by the BRS in the coming days a success. A coordination meeting was held at the Uppal MLA Camp Office on Monday under the chairmanship of MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy to discuss the protest programmes proposed by the BRS. During the meeting, the MLA held detailed discussions with party leaders and workers on the functioning of the Congress government since it came to power, the promises made to the people, their implementation status and various public issues prevailing in the Uppal constituency.

"Speaking on the occasion, Bandari Lakshma Reddy alleged that the Congress government had failed to fully implement the promises made to the people during the elections in its 1,000 days in office. He said there was a need to once again remind the people of the promises made by the Congress during the elections and explain the current status of their implementation. "He stated that the BRS would continue to stand by the people and fight for the resolution of their problems. The MLA directed party leaders and workers to regularly focus on the issues being faced by residents in different parts of the Uppal constituency. He advised party workers to remain accessible to the public, understand their problems and bring them to the notice of the



concerned officials. Wherever necessary, they should put pressure on the government to ensure that the issues are addressed, he said. "Bandari Lakshma Reddy also called for large-scale protest programmes under the leadership of the BRS to highlight what he described as the failures of the Congress government. He asked party leaders and workers in every division to work together in coordination and ensure the success of the programmes.

He further called upon the party cadre to involve a large number of people in the protests and take their problems and aspirations to the notice of the government. Stating that resolving public issues was the primary objective of the BRS, the MLA assured that the party would continue its struggle on behalf of the people and stand by them.

He directed leaders and workers to actively work at the grassroots level to make all the programmes planned in the coming days successful. Former BRS corporators, party leaders from various divisions, workers and other party cadre attended the meeting.

RAJITHA PARAMESWAR REDDY Couple Attend 355th Aradhana Celebrations of Sri Raghavendra Swamy



"UPPAL, AUGUST 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameswar Reddy and former Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameswar Reddy attended the 355th Aradhana celebrations of Sri Sri Sri Raghavendra Swamy being held at the Sri Raghavendra Swamy Temple in Ganesh Nagar, Ramantapur Division. "On the occasion, they had darshan of Sri Raghavendra Swamy and performed special prayers at the temple. "Senior Congress leaders Agireddy, Taufiq, Akarapu Arun, Rafiq, Valapu Srikanth Yadav and Garika Sudhakar, along with Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt Manager M.N. Ramesh Achar, Vicharana Kartha Bandi Vinay, M. Ramesh, Guru Raja, Vijay Vittal, Srinivas Desai, Anumesh Kulkarni, Keshav, Barthes, Martha Upender Reddy, Naam Rajireddy, Sandhya, Bullet Ashok, Gadam Narasimha, Muthyala Jangaiah, Baburao, Kishore, Sampath, Bhaskar, Jangaiah, Arun Sai, Ramaraj, Chintu, Saleem, Menga Shobha, Ambika, Chinna Jangaiah, Nagesh, Bejjam Shobha, Cable Ashok, Shankar, Chaitanya and others participated in the programme.

SP Nithika Pant Felicitates Retiring Police Personnel



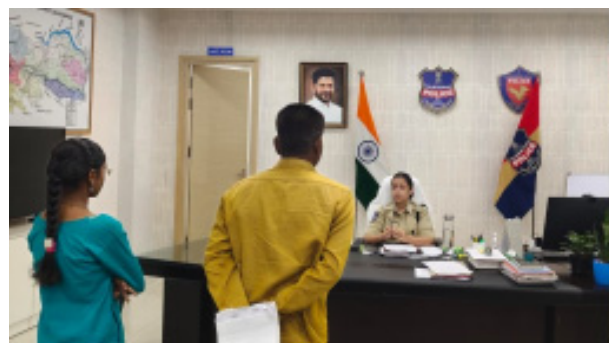
Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" September.31. "ASIFABAD: A Farewell programme was organised under the supervision of Komuram Bheem Asifabad District SP Nithika Pant to honour ARSI Ambar Rao and ARSI Mohammed Mubashir Ahmed, who retired from the Police Department after rendering long years of dedicated service. Speaking on the occasion, SP Nithika Pant said that serving in the police department involved great responsibility and appreciated the personnel who had worked with dedication for the protection of the public and maintenance of law and order. She said that officers who discharged their duties with discipline, honesty and commitment would always remain an inspiration to the department. ARSI Ambar Rao, a member of the 1984 batch, completed 42 years of service in the Police Department before retiring. ARSI Mohammed Mubashir Ahmed, a member of the 1989 batch, completed 37 years of dedicated service. The SP felicitated both retiring personnel with shawls and presented them with mementoes in recognition of their long and dedicated service. She said their contribution to the Police Department would always be remembered and that their experience and spirit of service would inspire their colleagues. On behalf of the Corporation Society, a cheque for Rs. 2,23,862 was presented to ARSI Mohammed Mubashir Ahmed. "SP Nithika Pant wished both the retired personnel good health, happiness and a peaceful life with their families after retirement. RI (Admin) Vamanamurthy, Jainoor CI Ramesh, RSI Jaffer, Police Association President B. Srinivas, police officials, personnel and family members of the retired employees attended the programme."

Anjaneyulu Sagar Urges Commencement of AnjayyaNagar Crematorium Works



"Serilingampalli Zone: AnjayyaNagar division leader Anjaneyulu Sagar has urged authorities to immediately begin development works at the Anjayya Nagar division crematorium. "He pointed out that although funds were sanctioned following a complaint he lodged during a previous 'Praja Vani' (public grievance) program, the tender process remains incomplete, and the work has not yet started. "He noted that with the monsoon season currently underway, further delays could make executing the development works difficult. He requested that the tender process be carried out immediately using the sanctioned funds and that the work commence promptly. "To this end, he met CMC Commissioner Srujana during the 'Praja Vani' program held on Monday and submitted a formal representation. "Anjaneyulu Sagar stated that Commissioner Srujana responded positively, assuring him that she would issue orders to the concerned officials and take steps to initiate the development works. "Ravi Sagar, President of the Greater Hyderabad Sagara Sangam, along with several others, participated in the event.

District SP Nithika Pant, IPS, Hears Public Grievances at Prajavani



“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" September.31. "Asifabad: With the objective of directly understanding the grievances of the public and ensuring appropriate legal solutions, a Prajavani programme was conducted under the leadership of District Superintendent of Police Nithika Pant, IPS, on Monday. "People from different parts of the district attended the programme and

personally brought their problems and grievances to the notice of the District SP. She patiently heard each complaint and gathered the necessary details regarding the issues raised by the public. The SP subsequently spoke to the concerned police officials and directed them to examine the complaints thoroughly and take necessary action for their resolution. She instructed the officials not to show any negligence in dealing with public grievances and to initiate appropriate legal action within the stipulated time. "She further directed the concerned officers to give priority to every complaint and ensure that justice is delivered to the victims. Officials were also advised to deal with public grievances responsibly and take prompt steps in accordance with the law. District SP Nithika Pant, IPS, urged people to make effective use of the Prajavani programme being conducted by the Police Department to bring their genuine grievances to the attention of the authorities. She assured that the Police Department would continue to remain accessible to the public and work towards resolving their problems in accordance with the law.

Former MLA NVSS Prabhakar Participates in Raghavendra Swamy Aradhana and Rathotsavam

“RAMANTHAPUR, AUGUST 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The 355th Aradhana celebrations and Rathotsavam of Sri Raghavendra Swamy were held with devotion and grandeur at the Sri Raghavendra Swamy Temple in Ramantapur. Former Uppal MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar and Shailaja Nuthulapati participated in the celebrations and performed special prayers. "On the occasion, they had darshan of Sri Raghavendra Swamy and offered special prayers at the temple. Later, they received theertha prasadam from the temple priests. They wished that the blessings of Sri Raghavendra Swamy be showered upon all people and prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being in society. "As part of the Aradhana celebrations, they participated in the Rathotsavam along with devotees. They also joined the bhajan programme held on the temple premises, singing devotional songs with the devotees and enjoying the spiritual atmosphere. They further participated in the kolatam programme enthusiastically conducted by women



and devotees, adding to the festive spirit. "The BJP leaders congratulated the temple organisers for conducting the Sri Raghavendra Swamy Aradhana celebrations in a grand manner that brought spiritual joy to devotees. A large number of devotees participated in the celebrations, had darshan of the Swamy and received theertha prasadam.

Former Mayor Ajay Yadav Meets Zonal Commissioner Over Boduppal, Pocharam Issues

“BODUPPAL, AUGUST 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Former Mayor Thotakura Ajay Yadav met Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta, IAS, and discussed various public issues and development works in the Boduppal and Pocharam circles. "During the meeting, Ajay Yadav urged the Zonal Commissioner to take immediate steps to resolve the long-pending public issues and expedite the ongoing and proposed development works in the respective areas. He emphasized the need for prompt action to address the concerns of local residents. "B-Block General Secretary Kotha Kishore Goud, Pocharam Division President Karre Rajesh, and others were present during the meeting



New Office-Bearers Elected for Srinivasa Nagar Colony Residents Welfare Association



Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad," August 31: "New office-bearers of the Srinivasa Nagar Colony Residents Welfare Association in Secunderabad have been unanimously elected. The elections were held during a general body meeting conducted on August 30, with the new committee set to assume office from September 1, 2026. "Chepuri Venkateswara Rao was elected President, while Poojari Chandraiah and Lakshman Vaidyanath were elected Vice-Presidents. Durga Rao J was elected General Secretary and Krishna Mohan as Treasurer. "Radha Krishnan, Krishna Mohan Thirumalapuram and Mohammed Riazuddin were elected Joint Secretaries, while Nageshwaran was elected Joint Treasurer. "The Executive Committee comprises Lakshman Chepuri, G. Bikshapathi, Shiva Shankar, Naveen Kumar S., Mallika S., Shanthi M., T.V. Swamy, Sumangala, M.R. Dayanand, Hara Gopal, Chandra Kumar, Dr. E. Yadagiri and Srinivasa Rao. "The newly elected committee is expected to work collectively towards the development of the colony, improvement of civic amenities and resolution of residents' issues. Residents expressed confidence that the new team would work for the welfare and overall development of Srinivasa Nagar Colony.

Women Should Approach Police Without Fear



UPPAL CI Y. RAMALINGA REDDY "UPPAL, AUGUST 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): As per the directions of Malkajgiri Police Commissioner B. Sumathi, a 'Sahachari Suraksha' programme was conducted at the Uppal Municipal Office. "Uppal Circle Inspector Y. Ramalinga Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest and sensitised women from self-help groups on women's safety and security, legal rights, and the assistance available from the police. "Speaking on the occasion, CI Ramalinga Reddy

urged women to approach the police without fear and bring any problems they face to the notice of the authorities. He advised them to contact the police immediately in emergency situations and make use of the services provided by the police department for their safety. "He also appealed to everyone to cooperate in controlling drug abuse. He cautioned people to remain alert to cybercrimes and to be careful while responding to phone calls from unknown persons. He warned that some fraudsters were threatening people in the name of "digital arrest" and advised victims to immediately report such incidents to the police. "

The CI urged parents to keep their children away from drugs and closely monitor their activities from an early age. He also appealed to the public to cooperate in preventing road accidents. "He called upon residents to immediately inform the police if they came across any illegal activities in their localities. CI Ramalinga Reddy assured women that they could approach the police station directly and lodge complaints regarding their problems without any fear or hesitation. During the programme, he explained several recent incidents and created awareness among the participants about the precautions to be taken to avoid similar situations. "Women from self-help groups, police personnel and others participated in the programme. "

Demolition of Illegal Structures on Government Land "Attack on Revenue Officials During Demolition Drive;

Tahsildar Warns of Strict Action Against Encroachments "BODUPPAL, AUGUST 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Revenue officials have intensified action against illegal constructions being carried out on government land. As part of the drive, officials demolished unauthorised structures erected on government land in Survey Nos. 28 to 39 at Goutham Nagar under the Boduppal Circle of Medipally Mandal. "Acting on information that government land had been encroached upon and illegal constructions were being undertaken, revenue officials conducted a field inspection and removed the unauthorised structures. "Tension reportedly prevailed at the site when some individuals attempted to obstruct the demolition proceedings. A revenue official who had gone to the spot to carry out the demolition was allegedly physically attacked. "Strict Action Against Encroachments "Medipally Tahsildar Venkata Narasimha Reddy made it clear that illegal constructions on government land would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He said that protecting government land was the responsibility of the Revenue Department and warned that those undertaking constructions in violation of the rules would face legal action. "He further stated that the department would maintain continuous surveillance to prevent encroachment and illegal construction on government land. Officials are also reportedly preparing to take appropriate action against those allegedly involved in the attack on the revenue personnel. "



Bike Mechanic Held Within 30 Hours in Pahadishareef Murder-Cum-Rape Case



"Hyderabad Correspondent, August 31 (Indian Chronicle): Pahadishareef Police arrested a 34-year-old bike mechanic allegedly involved in the murder-cum-rape of a 21-year-old woman at Thukkuguda, with police tracing the accused within 30 hours of receiving the complaint. The accused, identified as MD Sanaullah, a native of Bihar, was apprehended on the evening of August 30 based on technical evidence and specific information developed during the investigation, police said. "According to police, the victim was

working as a nurse at a private hospital in Thukkuguda and was staying in its residential accommodation along with a friend. On August 29, the woman's aunt approached the police after her niece's friend informed her over the phone that the woman had not responded to repeated calls and knocks on her room. She was later found dead with injuries. Police said Sanaullah had been working at a bike mechanic shop near the hospital and had allegedly been observing the victim's movements for some time. Investigators suspect that he entered her room through a window during the intervening night of August 28 and 29 and allegedly attacked her before committing the sexual assault. "The accused was traced through technical evidence and other leads, while police said the investigation was continuing to collect scientific and corroborative evidence. A Samsung mobile phone and the accused's clothes were seized during the investigation. The arrest was made by the Pahadishareef Police team along with the Shamshabad Zone Task Force under the supervision of Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, and senior officers of Shamshabad Zone.

Request to Take Immediate Measures to Repair Damaged Manholes Near HMT Nagar Pedda Cheruvu

"Nacharam, August 31 (INDIAN CHORNICLE): "Residents of HMT Nagar are facing severe inconvenience due to damaged manholes belonging to the trunk sewer line constructed earlier along the bund of HMT Nagar Pedda Cheruvu on the Indiranagar side. According to local residents, several manhole covers were damaged at various locations due to the movement of heavy vehicles during the ongoing lake beautification works. "Some of the manholes have completely collapsed, creating a serious safety hazard for the public. In addition, residents stated that sewage water from the Indiranagar area is not flowing properly and is backing up into the locality. This has resulted in foul odour and sanitation problems, raising concerns about public health. "In this regard, BRS leader Sai Zen Shekhar, along with Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, met Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta and brought the issue of the damaged drainage manholes to her attention. They urged the authorities to immediately inspect the damaged manholes and take necessary measures. "They requested that new covers be installed on the dangerously damaged manholes and that completely damaged structures be repaired at the earliest. They also appealed to the authorities to remove the silt and sewage waste accumulated inside the trunk-line manholes so that drainage water can flow smoothly. "The representatives particularly requested a permanent solu-



tion to the recurring drainage backflow problem in the Indiranagar area. "Responding to the issue, Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta immediately spoke to HMWS&SB Executive Director Pankaja and directed officials to take steps to resolve the problem. She instructed the concerned authorities to remove the accumulated silt from the manholes and undertake the required repair works without delay.

Actress Srinidhi Shetty Unveils 'Naira' Collection

"Hyderabad, August 31 (Indian Chronicle): Malabar Gold & Diamonds has unveiled its new jewellery collection, 'Naira', crafted with natural gemstones, in Hyderabad. The collection was launched by actress and model Srinidhi Shetty, Malabar Group Chairman M.P. Ahammed said in a statement on Monday. He said the collection was launched as part of the Gemstone Jewellery Festival being held across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. As part of the festival, customers can avail discounts of up to 25 per cent on making charges for gemstone jewellery and uncut jewellery until September 14. Inspired by traditional Chellai and Pachhi artistry, the 'Naira' collection combines gold and natural gemstones with contemporary designs, Ahammed said. The collection aims to bring a modern design approach and artistic craftsmanship to natural gemstones, he added.



Sunitha Lakshma Reddy walks 14 km to protest delay in road works

Medak: Narsapur MLA V Sunitha Lakshma Reddy, who launched a padayatra to expose the Congress government's inordinate delay in laying the road, walked 14 km from Veldurthy to Pilli Kotalla, where the Medak Collectorate is located.

Even though the BRS government had granted Rs 18 crore to lay the road, the Narsapur MLA said that the Congress government had suspended the grants after coming to power. Even after repeated appeals from locals, she said that the government should grant the funds and take up the work.



Resolve Prajavani Applications Promptly: Collector K.Haritha



“Kumrambheem, Asifabad,District.Reporter "Indian Chronicle"September.31.“Asifabad, August 31: District Collector K. Haritha directed officials to examine the applications received during the Prajavani programme at the field level and take prompt steps to resolve them without delay.On Monday, the Collector, along with Additional Collectors Yuvaraj Marmat and M. David and District Revenue Officer Dasari Venu, received applications from the public at the Integrated District Collectorate meeting hall.People from various mandals submitted applications seeking solutions to issues related to land records, disability pensions, Sadarem certificates, payment of bills for works undertaken under DMFT funds, employment opportunities and other welfare-related matters.Applicants included Sura Parameshwar Rao of Ellagoud Thota in Kagaznagar town, who sought removal of his patta land in Borigam village outskirts from the prohibited list. Shalu Tami Patedar of Mogadagad village in Kautala mandal requested a disability pension. Boda Bapurao of Pitta Tanda in Lingapur mandal



sought payment of pending bills for works carried out using DMFT funds.“Tekam Srisailam of Talodi village in Kautala mandal requested sanction of a Mee-Seva centre for employment. Baddi Shankar of Chandrapelli village in Dahegaon mandal sought a Sadarem certificate and disability pension. Rathod Pushpalatha of Parandoli village in Kerameri mandal requested payment of bills for gravel works carried out in their ghat section. Nayini Sushila of Pothapalli village in Bejjur mandal sought a disability pension stating that she is permanently disabled.“

Representatives of the Telangana Veerabhadriya Caste Association also submitted a petition seeking welfare schemes for nomadic communities in the district.Collector K. Haritha said necessary action would be taken to ensure that applications received during Prajavani are resolved without keeping them pending. She directed officials to inspect the issues at the field level and take appropriate action as per rules.“Relevant officials and applicants participated in the programme.

Take Safety Measures to Prevent Road Accidents: Collector K. Haritha

“Kumrambheem, Asifabad,District.Reporter "Indian Chronicle"September.01.“Asifabad,District Collector K. Haritha directed officials to take all necessary safety measures at vulnerable locations across the district to prevent road accidents.On Monday, the Collector conducted a review meeting on road safety at the Integrated District Collectorate meeting hall along with District Superintendent of Police Nitika Pant and Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Yuvaraj Marmat.The Collector directed officials to identify accident-prone areas and install speed-limit and warning signboards. She instructed authorities to take measures to prevent heavy vehicles from crossing the interstate bridge at Venkatraopet in Sirpur (T) Mandal. She also directed the Panchayat Raj Engineering and Roads & Buildings departments to complete road repair works under their jurisdiction

at the earliest.National Highways department officials were instructed to install CCTV cameras and speed-limit signboards on national highways and ensure the availability of ambulances. She emphasized that accident victims must be shifted to the nearest hospital immediately after an accident.The Collector further directed officials to take strict measures to prevent cattle from wandering on roads, conduct regular checks to prevent drunk driving, and ensure compulsory use of helmets and seat belts.Asifabad and Kagaznagar Revenue Divisional Officers Lokeshwar Rao and Chennuri Kistaiah, Asifabad DSP Ashok, officials from Panchayat Raj Engineering, Roads & Buildings, National Highways and other concerned departments participated in the meeting.Issued by the District Public Relations Department, Kumram Bheem Asifabad District.“

IRSHAD KHAN Takes Initiative to Resolve Road Problems in Beerappagadda Division

“UPPAL, AUGUST 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Congress leader Irshad Khan, popularly known as Uppal Khan, has taken the initiative to address road-related problems in Beerappagadda Division. He brought to the attention of officials the poor condition of the road near the water plant in Indiranagar Colony, which was damaged after being dug up for pipeline works and not properly restored.“Irshad Khan said that the uneven and damaged road was causing serious inconvenience to children and elderly residents and posed a risk of accidents for two-wheeler riders. He urged the authorities to construct a new concrete cement (CC) road at the location in the interest of public safety and convenience.“He also pointed out that the road from Pista House towards Uppal Mande Market and the road near the TSSPDCL office had been severely damaged due to the heavy movement of vehicles following the diversion of traffic from the main Uppal road. He requested that the road also be developed afresh to ensure safe and smooth movement for commuters.“With the support of Uppal Assembly constituency Congress party in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, Irshad Khan submitted a representation to Uppal Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta, IAS,



bringing these issues to her notice.“Radhika Gupta responded positively and assured that necessary steps would be taken to resolve the problems faced by residents. She directed the concerned officials to immediately process the file and take the necessary steps to move the works forward.“TPCC SC Cell Secretary Sandeep Bhushan, Gafur Bhai, Pandarinath, Rizwan Bhai, Raju, Baba Bhai, Kiran Basha Bhai, Azad, Nagaiah, Water Plant Venkatesh and others were present.“Irshad Khan said he would continue to work for the development of Beerappagadda Division with the motto, “People’s problems are my problems.”

Clarity Needed on Polytechnic Students’ Protests Over G.O. 97

Prisha Jedidiah Naysa, St. Francis College for Women“HYDERABAD, AUGUST 31(INDIAN CHRONICLE)“The ongoing protests by polytechnic students across Telangana against G.O. Ms. No. 97 reflect both genuine structural concerns among students and political involvement in the issue. Instead of dismissing the protests, the government should immediately provide a clear and comprehensive administrative explanation.“The primary concern among students relates to the proposed merger with Young India Skills University (YISU). Students are particularly worried about a possible increase in fees and the potential loss of the distinct identity and recognition of technical diploma courses.“Although opposition parties have given a political dimension to the students’ concerns, the core issue remains the lack of clarity regarding the im-

pact of the merger on lateral entry through ECET and the continuation of scholarships.“While the government has reportedly given verbal assurances, the absence of corresponding written and legally enforceable provisions has further increased uncertainty among students. Clear official orders are therefore necessary to address their concerns and prevent misinformation.“To resolve the issue and prevent the matter from being politically misused, the government should transparently issue written assurances regarding the future of the polytechnic education system. In particular, clear orders should be issued on ECET lateral entry, scholarships, fee structures and the recognition of diploma qualifications.“Such transparent and legally backed clarification would help restore confidence among students and ensure that their academic and career prospects remain protected.

Verification of Voter Details Crucial to Protect Right to Vote: Manda Jagan

“Indian Chronicle,“ Secunderabad, August 31 :“Verification of voter details is crucial to safeguarding the right to vote, said Manda Jagan, senior BRS leader, President of the Secunderabad Padmashali Sangam and President of the Secunderabad SC, ST, BC and Minority Cell.“As per the directions of former Deputy Speaker and Secunderabad MLA T. Padma Rao Goud, Jagan participated in the SIR verification hearing programme along with the concerned BLO, Srinivas Reddy.“Speaking on the occasion, Jagan urged all voters to check their names and details in the electoral rolls online without fail and keep the required documents ready in advance for the verification process.“He said it was the responsibility of every eligible voter to ensure that their particulars were correctly recorded in the electoral rolls so



that they could exercise their right to vote without any difficulty. He appealed to voters to remain vigilant and com-

plete the verification process within the stipulated time.

BJP LEADER GADDAM SAI KIRAN, Residents Meet Deputy Commissioner Seeking Solutions to Ramireddy Nagar Problems

“UPPAL, AUGUST 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): BJP leader Gaddam Sai Kiran has taken special initiative to address the long-pending civic issues in Ramireddy Nagar, including damaged roads, drainage problems, sewage overflow and foul odour. On Monday, he, along with representatives of the Ramireddy Nagar Welfare Association and local residents, met the Uppal Deputy Commissioner and submitted a representation seeking immediate action on the problems.“During the meeting, Gaddam Sai Kiran brought the issues being faced by the residents to the Deputy Commissioner’s attention and urged the authorities to take immediate steps for their resolution.“He particularly highlighted the poor condition of Street No. 3, a key road connecting Ramireddy Nagar with Ramantapur through Amberpet. The badly damaged road has been causing considerable inconvenience to commuters and local residents, he said.“He also brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner the severe foul odour emanating from the local Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and the problems caused by an open drain in the area. Residents have been facing serious inconvenience due to the foul smell and related health concerns, and a permanent solution should be found, he urged.“The delegation also explained that road works sanctioned for Street Nos. 4, 5, 7 and 8 have not yet commenced. The pending sewerage and drainage lines, along with the open drain, are causing further difficulties for residents, they said, urging the authorities to expedite the works.“Deputy Commissioner Assures Action“The Uppal Deputy Commissioner responded positively to the issues



raised by Gaddam Sai Kiran and the residents. The Deputy Commissioner assured them that the concerned Executive Engineer would be contacted and steps would be taken to commence the highly important Street No. 3 road works within this week.“The Deputy Commissioner also assured that the issue would be coordinated with the General Manager of the Water Works Department and that necessary steps would be taken on a priority basis to resolve the STP foul odour, open drain, pending drainage lines and other road-related problems through coordination between the concerned departments.“Ramireddy Nagar Colony President Satyanarayana Goud, Temple President Nagaraju, Battina Nagaraju, Election Committee member Ashok, Welfare Association Vice-President Kokkala Satyanarayana Kuruma, and several local residents participated in the meeting.

Thieves Create Panic at Midnight Burglary Attempt Foiled; CCTV Cameras Capture the Incident

“MEDIPALLY, AUGUST 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Four suspected burglars attempted to break into houses in the BPM Greenlands Colony of Peerzadiguda, within the limits of Medipally Police Station under the Malkajgiri Commissionerate, late at night.“The suspects reportedly moved around the colony for a considerable time, keeping a watch on houses before entering one of them. Finding nothing of value, they allegedly attempted to jump over the

wall into another nearby house.“A woman who noticed their suspicious movements raised an alarm, following which the suspects fled from the area. Their movements in the colony and the attempted burglary were captured on CCTV cameras.“Medipally police have registered a case and launched an investigation to identify and apprehend the suspects based on the CCTV footage. The incident has caused concern among residents, who are now worried about the movement of suspected burglars in the locality.

Government calls for Accelerated Clean Energy Action as BRE Summit 2026 Roadshow Reaches Hyderabad

Third in a nationwide series, the Hyderabad roadshow convenes clean energy stakeholders ahead of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo (BRE Summit) 2026 from 2 to 5 November at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Hyderabad, August 31, 2026: “Building on the momentum generated in Jaipur and Mumbai, leading voices from Government, industry and the renewable energy sector gathered today in Hyderabad for the third in a series of regional roadshows for the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo (BRE Summit) 2026, India’s largest renewable energy summit and expo. As India accelerates toward its target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, the Hyderabad edition brought Telangana’s formidable clean energy ecosystem into the national spotlight. the Hyderabad edition brought the diverse clean energy strengths and investment opportunities of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu into the national spotlight.

The three southern States represent important and complementary strengths in India’s clean energy transition, spanning renewable energy deployment, technology, manufacturing, industrial development, infrastructure, innovation and investment. With progressive policies and a growing pipeline of clean energy projects and opportunities, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are well positioned to contribute to the next phase of India’s renewable energy growth. Hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the roadshow brought together leaders from the Governments of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, the Sustainable Projects Developers Association (SPDA) and the Indian Solar Manufacturers Association (ISMA).

Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 will be held alongside the 9th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly and the 4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH), bringing together global leaders, policymakers, industry, investors and innovators on a common platform.Shri Ravi Verma, Member-Governing Council, Sustainable Projects Developers Association gave the welcome remarks and set the context for the Roadshow.Strengthening Industry Collaboration, the Hyderabad roadshow featured a comprehensive programme aimed at driving stakeholder engagement and showcasing the strategic blueprint of BRE Summit 2026. The proceedings included the screening of two curated films, India’s Renewable Energy Journey and BRE Summit & Expo 2026, capturing the nation’s clean energy transition and unveiling the scale of the upcoming summit in New Delhi.

A presentation by a senior representative from MNRE outlined the strategic objectives, core themes and proposed participation framework for global and domestic players. This was followed by a dedicated session on business opportunities and commercial engagement models for OEMs, project developers and investors, alongside a live walkthrough and demonstration of the official BRE Summit digital portal and mobile application.

Shri Kamalakara Babu Merupu, VC and MD, New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd. (NREDCAP), highlighted Andhra Pradesh’s ambitious clean energy roadmap under the Andhra Pradesh Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024, targeting 160 GW of renewable energy additions by 2029. He outlined the State’s strong investment proposition, with projects across renewable energy, storage, green hydrogen, biofuels and clean-energy manufacturing, and Renewable Energy Manufacturing Zone (REMZ), positioning Andhra Pradesh as a major destination for clean-energy investment. He also expressed the State’s interest in actively participating in the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 to showcase its clean-energy opportunities and engage with investors and industry stakeholders.Smt. B Rajeswari, Director (Finance), Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited, highlighted Tamil Nadu’s longstanding leadership in renewable energy, particularly in wind and solar, and outlined the State’s plans to strengthen its integrated renewable-energy ecosystem. She emphasised the growing importance of energy storage and pumped-storage projects in integrating renewable generation and meeting peak power requirements, while also highlighting the State’s efforts to create a more investor-friendly environment through streamlined and online approval processes.



Shri Musharraf Ali Faruqi, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation Limited (TGREDCO), highlighted Telangana’s growing renewable energy ambitions, supported by the Clean and Green Energy Policy 2025, which provides incentives for renewable energy generation and clean-energy manufacturing. He emphasised the State’s vision of meeting its rapidly growing energy requirements through clean energy and reaffirmed Telangana’s commitment to actively participate in the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026, while inviting investors, manufacturers and industry to explore opportunities in the State.

Addressing the gathering at the Hyderabad Roadshow, Shri Anupam Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), said that India’s renewable-energy story has entered a new phase, with installed non-fossil fuel capacity crossing 300 GW and the country moving towards its ambitious target of 500 GW by 2030. He emphasized that the next phase of the transition will go beyond adding renewable generation capacity and focus on building an integrated, reliable and flexible clean-energy ecosystem encompassing transmission, energy storage, manufacturing, green hydrogen, digital technologies, flexible power and demand. He noted that renewable energy is no longer only an environmental imperative, but has become central to India’s energy security, economic competitiveness, industrial growth, technology development, investment and job creation. Highlighting the strengths of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in technology, engineering, manufacturing, research and entrepreneurship, he said the three States have the opportunity to emerge not merely as consumers of clean-energy technologies, but as producers, innovators, investors and technology partners in India’s energy transition. He pointed to the growing opportunities across solar manufacturing, power electronics, battery and other storage technologies, electrolyzers, green hydrogen and its derivatives, grid technologies, digital energy-management systems, AI-based forecasting, electric mobility, bioenergy and advanced materials. He invited the three States to use the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 as a platform to showcase their renewable-energy roadmaps, investment opportunities, green-hydrogen and storage plans, industrial capabilities and innovation ecosystems to a global audience. He emphasized that BRE Summit 2026 is envisioned as a platform where policy meets capital, capital meets projects, technology meets markets, and States meet investors, with a clear focus on moving from commitments to implementation and accelerating India’s clean-energy transition in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat.Concluding the formal proceedings, Shri Amit Manohar, Secretary General, Indian Solar Manufacturers Association (ISMA), delivered the Vote of Thanks, reaffirming the solar manufacturing community’s commitment to driving the summit’s collaborative vision forward.

Homeless Kolkata woman rebuked by Minister Agnimitra Paul gets accommodation, job



GNS News Agency, August 31

The Bengal administration has provided accommodation to the homeless woman and her family from the viral Kolkata pavement video.Bengal Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul, who had admonished the woman for boiling milk on the pavement, told media persons on Friday that besides accommodation, the government also arranged a job for Devi as a cleaner at a restaurant.According to Paul, the accommodation was arranged based on the

family’s location preference.A senior BJP leader said that three days of food and temporary accommodation were first arranged for Devi and her family after they met with Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari at his Janatar Darbar program on August 25. They then started searching for permanent accommodation for the family according to their location choice.CM Adhikari claimed after the meeting that Devi told him they have faith in the present administration.Earlier this month, a video went viral showing Paul reprimanding the woman for boiling milk on the pavement for her grandchildren. The minister also directed her department’s officers and the police to clean up the spot.TMC MLA Kunal Ghosh criticized Paul for her actions and subsequently met with the family.Former chief minister Mamata Banerjee also criticised the BJP government over the controversy, stating, “A mother is boiling milk for her child; she does not have a place to stay. Make arrangements for people to stay.”She further said, “Does it not hurt you (the BJP) to throw the milk? Remember, a mother’s curse is big... I am willing to take responsibility for this family and the education of the children.”Despite facing criticism, Paul defended her action, stating that the people had voted for a clean city that would attract investors.

Family begins search for Himachal engineer with Upper Trishuli hydel plant

GNS News Agency, August 31

A last phone call on August 25, a day before the tragedy struck Nepal, and a promise that he would return in November to celebrate Diwali with his family are now the memories keeping alive the hope of finding 30-year-old engineer Sukhvinder Rattan of Himachal Pradesh’s Una district.Rattan, a site engineer working at the 216-MW Upper Trishuli Hydropower Project in Nepal, has been missing since the flash floods and subsequent disaster swept through the area on August 26. His elder brother, Varinder Rattan, returned from Dubai after learning that his younger brother was missing and has reached Kathmandu along with their cousin Shubham to search for him.

The Upper Trishuli Hydropower plant that supplies electricity to India was among the several power plants hit by Wednesday’s flash floods triggered by a collapsing glacier in the Himalayan region.Back at their native home in Una, Saravjit Kaur, wife of the missing engineer, said her husband had been working at the Trishuli Hydropower Project for the past three years. The couple got married in 2023 and has a one-and-a-half-year-old son, Mevansh.“My husband had planned to come to India a day before Raksha Bandhan on August 26, but he had to change his plan because my mother-in-law, Rakesh Devi, was unwell. He came to India in the first week of August and returned to Nepal on August 14. He assured me that he would come back in November for Diwali,” she said.Before moving to Nepal in 2022, Rattan was working in Chhattisgarh. After marriage, Kaur had accompanied her husband to Nepal on three occasions. “I always told him to remain cautious because the Upper Trishuli area was prone to landslides and other natural calamities,” Kaur said.She said Rattan was staying in rented accommodation in Rasuwa district. Rattan’s father, Hussan Lal Rattan, 70, is a retired CISF personnel.



Family members said Varinder Rattan and Shubham reached Kathmandu on Friday afternoon. They initially wanted to travel to the affected area but were asked to remain at an Army rescue centre, where relatives of missing persons have been reporting and seeking information.Shubham has also appealed to the Una district administration and the state government to extend all possible assistance and coordinate with the Nepalese authorities to trace Rattan.Ishant Jaswal, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Una, said the administration had received information about Rattan from Basdehra missing in Nepal.“As per the established protocol, the information was shared with the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs through the appropriate channels. The administration is coordinating with the Centre, which is in touch with the Nepalese government to trace him,” Jaswal said.Family members said they were trying to gather information about Sukhvinder through the Nepal Army and other available resources, as the flood-affected area is under the control of the Nepal Army.

TCS engineer killed in Gurgaon: ‘He would call his mother every day’, says family



GNS News Agency, August 31

Around midnight, police arrived at the family’s home in Mathura with devastating news: their 27-year-old son had been killed in an accident.According to police, Tushar had been driving back to his uncle’s home in Sector 37D from his office in Cyber City. Around 11.30 pm, police said, just as he entered Moulisari Avenue, near the Moulisari Avenue Rapid Metro station, a rear bucket of an earthmover operating on the road suddenly swung into his lane.It hit his bike, throwing him onto the road and leaving him critically injured.

Passersby and emergency responders rushed Kumar to the nearby Narayana Hospital in DLF Phase 3, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The driver of the earthmover fled the scene after the accident, leaving the heavy vehicle behind.Speaking from Mathura, Tushar’s father, Harish Kumar, 56, said, “He had been working in Gurgaon for five years, it was his first job. He had done his B.Tech from Ghaziabad and schooling from Mathura.”Harish said the local police in UP reached their

home around midnight. “They told me that my son had been in an accident. We never thought such a thing could happen. We would speak to him daily as he would ring up his mother without fail. But he didn’t call on Thursday.”Demanding swift action and accountability, Harish added, “We want that the CCTV footage be promptly checked and shared with us so the accused driver can be identified and we get justice. We performed the cremation and last rites in Mathura yesterday after bringing the body back.”

Why was the earthmover there?

Following a complaint lodged by the victim’s father, the DLF Phase 3 police station registered an FIR under sections of causing death by negligence, rash driving or riding on a public way so as to endanger human life, and mischief causing damage or loss to property.As per the FIR, an Emergency Response Vehicle along with an official from the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) Maintenance Department, named Rakesh, were present at the location, following which photographic and digital evidence was gathered.Police clarified that the development body was not carrying out the construction. Investigating Officer Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Virender Singh said, “The GMDA had no role, the work at the site was construction related to the Downtown project. We are looking at CCTV footage and conducting our probe. No arrest has been made yet. We will nab the driver soon.”DLF Downtown is a corporate IT park, and serves as an extension of Cyber City. While DLF did not share any comments when contacted, it is learnt that the construction work was being carried out by a third party contractor and both companies have been cooperating with the police.

Noida airport may see slower ramp-up amid geopolitical challenges: Operator

GNS News Agency, August 31

New Delhi: Noida International Airport is expected to see a “slower ramp-up” due to a challenging geopolitical environment, and near-term performance is subject to elevated uncertainty, according to its operator Zurich Airport International AG. The airport, located in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, started operations on June 15, handling 1,044 flights and 77,000 passengers in July.In June, Noida International Airport handled 204 flights and 25,000 passengers. “Slower ramp-up expected due to challenging geopolitical environment, with near-term performance remaining subject to elevated uncertainty,” Zurich Airport International said in its investor presentation for the first half of 2026.

According to the presentation, the route network will continue to expand, with international services expected to follow at the Noida International Airport. “Strong confidence

in the long-term growth potential and attractive fundamentals of the Indian aviation market,” the company said in the presentation on Friday.

In the first half of 2026, Noida International Airport’s revenues stood at CHF 2.5 million while the operating expenses touched CHF 4.9 million. During this period, the airport incurred a loss of CHF 2.4 million before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation. The initial capacity of the airport is 12 million passengers per annum, and the investment in the first phase is estimated at CHF 750 million. CHF is Swiss Francs.

The presentation said the Noida International Airport establishes a new aviation gateway for North India. Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zurich Airport International Airport, operates the airport in Noida.

No water, power connections, no club: Why Gurgaon’s ‘finished’ homes have a problem



GNS News Agency, August 31

Across Gurgaon, residents of several housing societies are still awaiting proper roads, water, electricity and promised amenities — even after their projects received Occupancy Certificates (OCs).At ROF Alante in Sector 108, for instance, residents said they have no power or water connections or even a proper approach road to the society.At Ambience Lagoon, next to Ambience Mall, residents flagged similar concerns: they claimed several amenities haven’t been provided and alleged that land had been diverted from the original residential project.This has been a longstanding issue in the city.

In 2022, during the Monsoon Session of the Haryana Assembly, a reply to an unstarred question from then Badshahpur MLA Rakesh Daultabad revealed that only 93 realty projects in Gurgaon had obtained completion certificates from the Town and Country Planning Department since 1992.In April this year, joint surprise inspections conducted across the city by the Chief Minister’s Flying Squad and the Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) showed that of 22 inspected residential complexes holding valid OCs, 14 remained actively under construction. Inspectors noted that several were merely concrete shells lacking basic plastering, finished floors, or operational kitchen and bathroom plumbing.Following the findings, authorities began scrutinising OCs issued between July 1, 2025, and March 15, 2026, and found that around 1,500 OCs had been issued prematurely. According to government sources, architects who did the spot visits are primarily to blame for providing OCs.“We found around 1,500 such cases where OCs had been issued prematurely, despite the building not being complete. We blacklisted the architects concerned,” Gurgaon District Town Planner (Planning) Praveen Chauhan told The Indian Express.

Basic amenities missingAt ROF Alante, homebuyers who booked units years ago for just over Rs 20 lakh said they secured occupancy clearances around mid-2024 and were promised modern amenities.With property values along the Dwarka Expressway soaring almost fourfold, occupancy surged. Roughly 450 families now reside there — up nearly ninefold over the past year — drawn by the society’s strategic location just 3 km off the expressway and under half an hour from the airport.

Yet, residents said, the reality on the ground is far from what was promised.Outside Ambience Lagoon, next to Ambience Mall. (Express Photo by Abhinav Saha) Outside Ambience Lagoon, next to Ambience Mall. (Express Photo by Abhinav Saha)The complex has no proper approach road connecting it to the main thoroughfare, and there is no entrance gate. “How were the OCs and licences issued when the road to the entrance is incomplete?” a homeowner told The Indian Express on condition of anonymity.

“Getting out of the society is horrible... Last year, my car fell into a ditch near the entry. When it rains, it becomes worse. You can’t even drive,” they added.Residents also claimed the society doesn’t have a dedicated electricity connection and they have to rely on power backup. “The builder hasn’t applied for a connection till date,” they said.“If the power backup doesn’t kick in, we’re left with no electricity for 12 to 18 hours during the peak summer.”

Enugu Sudarshan Reddy Participates in Basaveshwara Idol Consecration Ceremony

“BODUPPAL, AUGUST 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The idol consecration ceremony of Mahatma Sri Guru Basaveshwara was conducted with grandeur at Chengicherla under Boduppall Circle in the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation limits. Medchal Assembly constituency BJP In-charge, State Executive Committee Member and former MPP Enugu Sudarshan Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest and participated in the special puja rituals.Speaking on the occasion, Enugu Sudarshan Reddy said he considered it a privilege to participate in the consecration ceremony of Lord Basaveshwara. He said Basaveshwara, the great 12th-century philosopher and social reformer, made significant contributions towards promoting equality, humanity and social justice in society.“He recalled that the Anubhava Mantapa established by Basavanna at Basavakalyan in Karnataka is renowned as one of the world’s earliest platforms of spiritual democracy. Yogis, saints and philosophers used to gather at the Anubhava Mantapa to discuss spirituality, ethical values and social equality, he said.“Reddy noted that the Anubhava Mantapa provided equal opportunities to men and women irrespective of caste, religion and social status, which reflected Basaveshwara’s progressive vision. He said prominent personalities such as Akka Mahadevi and Basavanna participated in the Anubhava Mantapa under the leadership of Yogi Allama Prabhu.“He further stated that the Anubhava Mantapa played a crucial role in the development of

There is no municipal water supply either.The society relies on makeshift arrangements: water tankers and diesel generators. Around 10 tankers line up every day to provide water, while the developer pays the diesel bills to keep the power running. “Diesel costs tens of lakhs each month,” said another homebuyer.Residents also flagged problems with the sewage treatment plant. “The STP doesn’t work. In parks, waste water is flowing... Our children are suffering from skin infections,” they claimed.Another resident said parts of the society did not have a boundary wall in certain places. “The builder said there is a dispute with a farmer. Why wasn’t this checked earlier,” they complained.When contacted, Alok Srivastava, Head, Facilities and Operations, ROF Group, claimed villagers have created problems in the execution of the project.“All required materials are available at the site, all necessary statutory permissions and approvals for execution of the work have been obtained... However... certain local villagers have been creating undue hindrances in the execution of the project. They have obstructed work... and threatened project personnel deployed at the site,” said Srivastava.He said they submitted several complaints to the local police station and civic authorities seeking their intervention and protection. “The matter was subsequently taken up with the Senior Town Planner, who forwarded the case to the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Gurugram; the DC appointed the SDM to inspect the site and get the work done by providing necessary police protection,” Srivastava said.3 ‘missing’ acres

At Ambience Lagoon, the problem is of a different sort.Advocate Sanjay Lal, president of the Federation of Apartment Owners Association (FAOA), said residents have been fighting over land that was originally part of the residential project but was allegedly diverted. This land, he claimed, was meant for amenities, recreational activities and clubhouses.

He claimed the project was granted a licence in 1993 for an 18.98-acre residential development. “I bought a flat in 2001 and shifted here... The brochure said there would be a water body, where you will have boating, and other recreational facilities. So, we were all so happy, thinking this was going to be wonderful,” Lal told The Indian Express.The same year, 8 acres of land originally approved for the residential project were de-licensed by the Haryana government and allowed to be developed for commercial use. This is where the Ambience Mall now stands. An additional 3 acres were similarly de-licensed in 2010.Lal claimed residents later went through the deed of declaration and found that the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 1.75 had already been consumed on 10.98 acres. He alleged the builder had used up the remaining three acres meant for amenities, recreational activities and clubhouses.“We homebuyers asked where the 3 acres is. The builder said it went into (building) the road outside our society,” he alleged.He also flagged other “missing” amenities like a Sewage Treatment Plant and a club that was promised near its entrance.

He said while the society got an occupancy certificate in 2001, it is yet to get a completion certificate (CC). “A CC is very important. It gives you the exact area, location, and amenities. Now, if you don’t have a completion certificate, that means it’s sort of an ongoing project,” Lal said.Following a challenge by residents and buyers to the commercial construction, the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2020 quashed the two de-licensing orders and directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to launch a formal probe.

In January 2026, the Supreme Court overturned the High Court ruling, holding that the directive had relied on unverified, inconclusive material and that ordering a CBI investigation was unwarranted.Senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Mukul Rohatgi, representing the developers, argued in the SC that the High Court had “fallen in grave error” in entertaining the civil writ petition, which was filed after a long and unexplained delay of more than 10 years for “oblique purposes”.They told the apex court that the approved layout plan for the Ambience Lagoon housing project clearly portrayed that it would be set up on 10.98 acres of land only.



Vachana literature and spiritual thought. The ideals of equality, social justice and humanitarian values propagated by Basaveshwara continue to inspire society even today, he added.“Chengicherla president Yerpula Mahesh, State leader Ram Yadav, BJP Yuva Morcha leaders Bandari Pawan Reddy, Harish and Gandipali Raju, Peerzadiguda president Prabhakar, Thuppath Anand, Gollapudi Srinivas, Jamma Suresh and others participated in the programme.

Gold Chain Stolen During Bonalu Celebrations“

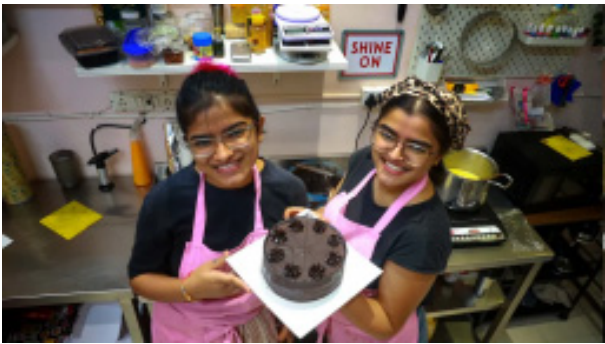
“BODUPPAL, AUGUST 31(INDIAN CHRONICLE): A 16-gram gold chain was reportedly stolen from a man who attended Bonalu celebrations in Boduppall.According to police, Ramashetty Venkata Ramakrishna Rao, a resident of Jyothi Nagar Colony in Boduppall West, visited the Bangaru Maisamma Temple on the night of August 23 to attend the Bonalu celebrations. Later, he went to watch a programme held near the Sai Baba Temple in Veera Reddy Nagar.“After the programme ended, while returning home, he noticed that the approximately 16-gram gold chain he had been wearing around his neck was missing. Suspecting that unidentified persons had stolen the chain, he lodged a complaint with the Medipally Police on August 30.Based

on the complaint, police registered a case and launched an investigation.

Auto driver sentenced to 20 years in POCSO case

HYDERABAD: The Fast Track Special Court for Rape and POCSO Act cases at LB Nagar on Monday sentenced a 26-year-old auto driver to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment in a POCSO case registered by Pahadishareef police in 2023.

In Kharghar, twin sisters are building a dessert destination — one Basque cheesecake at a time



GNS News Agency, August 31

Tucked into a residential pocket of Kharghar’s Sector 8, a modest bakehouse has, in less than a year, become a destination for dessert lovers from across Navi Mumbai. At Khari Biscuit, the draw is a compact menu of indulgent bakes, from tiramisu and Basque cheesecake to tres leches and gooey Nutella and brown-butter cookies. The bakehouse, run by 25-year-old twins Shraddha and Shweta Sunil Paithankar, began as a pre-order operation in November last year. But customers soon started walking in asking for a pastry or dessert to eat on the spot. The sisters initially had little to offer them. That changed when they decided to turn the small space into a neighbourhood bakehouse earlier this year, adding a few foldable chairs, decorative lights and a board listing the day’s specials outside.

Today, production begins well before the shop opens at 1 pm. From one cake every couple of days in its early months, Khari Biscuit now prepares at least six large confectionery items a day, besides smaller desserts, cookies and pastries. By evening, some of its most popular items can already be nearing the end of their batches. Among them is the Basque cheesecake, for which the bakery prepares nearly six large cheesecakes every day. Yet by around 6 pm, stocks are often running low. The texture is deliberate. Unlike a conventional cheesecake, the Basque version is baked at a high temperature and intentionally left slightly underdone in the centre, then allowed to set for at least four hours after baking. “We underbake it and then give it at least four hours to set,” said Shraddha, who heads the baking operations.

Basque and Tiramisu The basque cheesecake and Tiramisu at Khari Biscuit, a bakehouse in Kharghar. (Express photo by Narendra Vaskar) Getting that balance of a caramelised exterior and dense, custardy centre took nearly two months of experimentation. Temperatures, measurements, and ingredients were repeatedly altered as the sisters tried to recreate the richness they associated with cheesecakes at The Cheesecake Factory in the US. The tres leches, meanwhile, was the dessert that put the bakehouse on the map. A Latin American sponge cake soaked in three kinds of milk, it found a ready audience in Navi Mumbai, where it was not easily available. An Instagram reel featuring the dessert brought a surge of attention. Customers began travelling from other parts of the

city to try it. “For this (tres leches), I had to travel to Bandra twice a month but not anymore,” said one visitor from Nerul.

Tiramisu, however, proved a more complicated proposition. The challenge was not only the technique but finding ingredients that delivered the right flavour and texture — conventional cocoa powder and coffee left it gritty and muted. The search took the sisters across stores in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, until Shraddha recalled a coffee she had tasted in Bengaluru, made with beans from Pollibetta in Coorg. They now source their coffee from the region, while other ingredients, including cacao products and Maldon sea salt flakes, come from different parts of India. The menu was developed alongside the search for a location, with the sisters testing recipes and refining portions over nearly two months. The emphasis was on desserts they would themselves seek out — rich, carefully textured, and made with ingredients that could stand on their own.

The making of Khari Biscuit While the knack for baking was always there, their curiosity peaked around the Covid-19 lockdown, when the twins began making cakes, cupcakes and pastries at home under their mother’s supervision. For Shraddha, the hobby became a professional pursuit after a six-month internship at JW Marriott in Juhu, where she spent her final month in the pastry department. She later worked in professional kitchens in Tennessee for two years before returning to India for a six-month bakery course at Lavonne Academy of Baking Science and Pastry Arts in Bengaluru. Kharghar was eventually chosen as the location. Originally from Nashik, the sisters had spent much of the previous eight years there and saw the neighbourhood as offering a balance between accessibility and a quieter residential setting. “We found this neighbourhood to be the right amount of calm and chaos, amid Mumbai’s hectic schedule,” said Shweta, who handles the business side of the bakery, including social media, sourcing, inventory and marketing. khari biscuit Khari Biscuit began as a pre-order-only operation before the sisters turned the space into a neighbourhood bakehouse, adding foldable chairs, decorative lights and a specials board outside. (Express photo by Narendra Vaskar) The name, meanwhile, was decided much earlier. Khari Biscuit is a play on the popular Marathi film of the same name, as well as a nickname their elder brother used for the twins. For customers, though, it is the food that has become the calling card. The bakehouse operates from 1 pm to 11.30 pm, but the work doesn’t end with the last customer — from midnight until around 3 am, the sisters prepare desserts and pastries for the following day, a schedule that also allows certain items to rest and set before service. What began as a cloud-kitchen-style operation has thus evolved into a small neighbourhood destination, one where people come looking for a slice of cheesecake, a spoonful of tres leches or a cup of tiramisu, and often stay longer than they intended. For now, the sisters’ priority remains maintaining the quality of the Kharghar outlet even as they consider expanding the business later. At Khari Biscuit, the formula stays relatively simple: make fewer things well, source the right ingredients, and let the desserts bring people back.

Nepal floods leave grim trail in UP: 10 bodies found in Gandak river



GNS News Agency, August 31

An official said the immediate flood threat had eased as water levels had receded. An official said the immediate flood threat had eased as water levels had receded. The Gandak River has carried a grim trail of Nepal’s devastating floods into Uttar Pradesh: 10 bodies have been recovered from the river in Maharajganj and Kushinagar over the past two days, with authorities yet to identify the deceased or trace their families.

The Gandak originates in Nepal and flows into India. An official said all the deceased were adults, believed to be victims of the Nepal flash floods, and that the bodies were in an advanced state of decomposition. The bodies have been taken to mortuaries in Maharajganj and Kushinagar, where they will be kept for 72 hours.

Officials have recorded details of jewellery and other

belongings found on the bodies, as well as distinctive physical features such as tattoos and other identifying marks. Photographs of the deceased have also been circulated in nearby areas. Additional District Magistrate of Maharajganj Prashant Kumar said four of the bodies — three women and a young man — had been found in the district. “If no one comes forward during the 72-hour period, further action will be taken in accordance with government guidelines,” Kumar said. A report on the recoveries has also been sent to the state government and is expected to be forwarded to the central government for further information and necessary action. Ravi Pratap Rai, a disaster management expert posted in Kushinagar, said they recovered six bodies — three men and three women.

Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the flood battalion of the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) are working alongside the district administration and police in the affected areas of Maharajganj and Kushinagar. An official said the immediate flood threat had eased as water levels had receded. Authorities, however, have urged residents to stay away from rivers and low-lying areas.

Debris carried downstream Several other items, including vehicles, household goods, gas cylinders, drums, furniture, logs and other debris, have also been seen floating in the Gandak and washing up along its banks, officials said. A large number of villagers have been gathering along the river to retrieve articles being washed ashore. The administration has appealed to people not to enter the river to collect the items and instead inform officials if they spot objects floating downstream.

On Wednesday, Ashok Kumar Chaurasia called his daughter Shivani in a panic. The floodwaters around their home in Nuwakot were rising, he told her, and he feared the situation could worsen. For the next 24 hours, there was no word from Ashok. He and his brother, Panna Lal, had run a clothing shop in the district for nearly four decades. Ashok’s two daughters, living in Uttar Pradesh’s Ballia and Varanasi, watched news of the floods in mounting alarm. The two women called relatives, tried their family’s phones again and again, and waited for any sign that their father and six other members of their family — their mother, two brothers, and uncle’s family — in Nepal were safe. Then, on Thursday evening, Diksha Chaurasia, Ashok’s eldest daughter, saw her brother Saurabh on a news channel. “That was the first moment I felt some relief that someone in my family was safe,” she said. Speaking to The Indian Express, Diksha, 28, said, “Initially, no one could be contacted. Later, I spoke to people there and learned that the area around Trishuli, where our house and shop are located, had been flooded.” Diksha eventually managed to get in touch with her father through several sources. Ashok told her that their house, shops and godown had been swept away by the floodwaters. Then came the news that two members of the family were still missing. “He told me that all the family members had been traced except our aunt, Usha Devi, and her son Rahul, who are still missing,” Diksha said. The family had been left with little more than the clothes they were wearing, with no food or safe drinking water.

Karnataka man acquitted in 2015 murder case hacked to death in public



Karnataka Hubballi man murdered Police teams have been formed to trace the attackers and CCTV footage from the area is being examined to establish their movements. (Photos: Special arrangement) A man acquitted in a 2015 murder case was hacked to death in public in Karnataka’s Hubballi on Friday afternoon, with the police suspecting the killing was linked to an old enmity.

Onion prices soar as wholesale market sees sharp drop in arrivals

Onion prices in Pune have climbed over the past few weeks, with traders blaming a steep fall in the supply arriving at the city’s wholesale market. According to Yogesh Yadav, an onion trader at the Gultekdi APMC market, Pune typically needs around 125 trucks of onions a day, each carrying about 10,000 kg, to meet demand. Currently, only about 50 trucks are arriving daily, a shortfall that has pushed prices upward across the city.

Wholesale rates for good quality onions are now ranging between Rs 35 and Rs 40 per kg, while lower-grade, older stock is selling for Rs 30-35 per kg. The impact is even more visible at the retail level, where prices swing widely across Pune, from Rs 45 per kg to over Rs 65 per kg depending on the locality and quality.

Traders trace the roots of the current squeeze back to April, when unseasonal rains damaged onion crops and hit output. Adding to the pressure is an expected delay in the arrival of the kharif crop, along with continuing exports, both of which are keeping supplies tight. Yadav said, “If the conditions remain the same, onion prices are likely to remain elevated, in the range of Rs 45-50 per kg, until Diwali. Though this could change depending on how the government steps in.” One such intervention has already been made. On Friday, the first ‘Kanda Express’ — a dedicated rail rake carrying roughly 453.65 tonnes of onions from Nashik — reached Delhi, part of a government push to boost supplies in the capital and neighbouring cities and cool down prices there.

The move, however, has had a ripple effect back when the wholesale onion prices at Nashik’s Lasalgaon APMC, the country’s largest onion market, fell by about 10 per cent, dropping from Rs 4,250 per quintal on Thursday to Rs 3,800 per quintal. The Centre’s move has not gone down well with onion growers, who say the timing could not have been worse. Jaideep Bhadane, Nashik district president of the Maharashtra State Onion Growers Association, pointed out a recurring pattern: authorities step in quickly to shield con-

According to the police, the victim, Dadapeer Udayakar, was riding a two-wheeler near Siddeshwara Park in Banashankari Layout in Vidyanagar around 1 pm when two unidentified men allegedly intercepted him and attacked him with sharp weapons. The assailants fled the spot after the attack. According to preliminary information, Udayakar was an accused in the 2015 murder of a person named Maruti. He was acquitted in the case in 2017, the police said. However, the police are yet to ascertain whether the killing was connected to the earlier case or any existing enmity. Senior police officials, including Hubballi City Police Commissioner N Shashikumar, visited the spot and reviewed the circumstances. Police teams have been formed to trace the attackers and CCTV footage from the area is being examined to establish their movements. “We are trying to zero down on the accused and will register a case,” Shashikumar told the media on Friday. A senior police official said the accused are yet to be traced and further investigation is underway.



sumers when prices rise, but rarely act with the same urgency to support farmers when prices crash, and losses mount. Bhadane recalled that growers went through a particularly difficult stretch between March and July, when wholesale prices routinely fell below the cost of production, estimated at around Rs 2,000 per quintal. He said, “Farmers’ associations had asked for compensation of Rs 1,500 per quintal for those forced to sell below viable rates, but the demand went unanswered.” Now, he said, just as growers were finally beginning to see better returns, the release of buffer stock onions has triggered another price fall, undercutting the recovery. The price rise is also being felt in Pune’s restaurants. Ganesh Shetty, president of the Pune Restaurant and Hoteliers’ Association (PRAHA), said, “The hotel industry was already under pressure from the hike in LPG prices and rising costs of other essentials, and that expensive onions are now adding to the squeeze on profits.” He explained, “In most Indian kitchens, chopped or pureed onions form the foundation of the majority of gravies and curries, accounting for close to 80 per cent of a typical curry’s preparation. If onion prices remain high for another two to three months, hoteliers may be left with little choice but to raise menu prices.”

How Prashant Kishor’s viral photo of meet with Bihar officials sparked political waves

GNS News Agency, August 31 A day after a photograph showing Jan Suraaj founder and Bankipur MLA Prashant Kishor with Bihar’s top administrative and police officials triggered questions over the nature of the meeting, the Chief Secretary’s office on Friday issued a clarification saying Kishor had met the chief secretary separately in the visitors’ room while another meeting involving several senior officers was already underway. The clarification came a day after Kishor met Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit, following which photographs showed him in the presence of senior officials, including the Director General of Police, the Additional Director General of Police (Traffic) and the Patna Commissioner, sparking a debate on senior officials’ presence in connection with a first-time MLA’s constituency issues.

In a press release Friday, the chief secretary’s office said Kishor had sought an appointment through a letter dated August 20 and was given time on August 27. “On 27.08.2026, another meeting was being conducted in the chamber of the Chief Secretary, in which several officers were present,” it said. According to the release, the chief secretary subsequently met Kishor in the “visitor’s room”, where “certain officers were already present”. It also said that meetings with elected representatives have traditionally been held in the visitors’ room.

Meanwhile, the official account differs in emphasis from the impression created by the photograph and Kishor’s own description of the meeting. The photo led many social media users to comment on the unusual sight of the entire top brass of the Bihar government attending to a first-time MLA’s constituency issues. Kishor, who took oath as the Bankipur MLA on August 17, had said after the meeting that it was



partly a follow-up to his August 18 meeting with DGP Vinay Kumar, where he had raised issues concerning traffic, dry intoxication and alleged illegal collections from roadside vendors. Kishor had said that the Thursday meeting with the CS was regarding non-police issues and related to civic and welfare issues. The August 27 meeting was the second high-level interaction involving Kishor within days of his assuming office. His August 18 meeting with the DGP had focused on finding a permanent, technology-based solution to Patna’s traffic problems, tackling dry intoxication and preventing alleged illegal collections from street vendors. However, many see the clarification from the CS office as a political chain reaction after the attention surrounding the photograph. Kishor won the July 30 Bankipur bypoll with 64,151 votes, beating BJP’s Neeraj Kumar Sinha and ending the BJP’s three-decade hold over the assembly constituency. Bankipur had been represented by Nitin Nabin, who vacated the seat after his elevation to the Rajya Sabha following his appointment as BJP national president in January.

A missed call, four days of silence: Families head to Nepal to look for loved ones

GNS News Agency, August 31

A missed call that went unanswered. A phone that went silent. Four days after devastating flash floods swept through Nepal, two families in Uttar Pradesh are still waiting for news of their loved ones. Ravish Singh, 48, a welder from Gorakhpur, and Karan Sharma, 32, an electrician from Kushinagar, worked for private companies in Trishula, in Nepal’s Nuwakot district. “Ravish regularly called us... He’d called on Wednesday, too, but for some reason, we could not answer. When we called back, his phone was switched off,” said his younger brother, Ajay Singh, a sub-inspector posted in Ballia district. They had last seen Ravish two months ago when he came home to see his wife, Kalawati Singh, and two children. The family has heard nothing from him since Wednesday and is growing increasingly worried, particularly as reports have emerged of people being carried away by the floodwaters. Ravish’s younger brother, Raj Kumar Singh, left for Nepal on Friday to search for him.

“We are in contact with the company he worked for, but they haven’t been able to provide any information about him,” Ajay said. Even calls to designated helpline numbers have yielded nothing. In Kushinagar, Karan’s wife and children are facing a similar wait. He had come home in June for 15 days after his father developed a heart problem. “Karan would call us regularly... On the day the floods hit, we could not contact him. Then his phone was switched off,” said his brother, Shiv Karan Sharma. He, too, has travelled to Nepal to look for his brother.

TN school headmistress booked for abetment after Dalit girl’s suicide

GNS News Agency, August 31

Madurai (Tamil Nadu): A government school teacher in Usilampatti in this district has been booked for abetment after a Dalit girl seeking admission in the institution died by suicide due to alleged humiliation at the hands of the accused. The HM also allegedly made a casteist slur at the deceased. The 16-year-old girl’s relatives have been protesting demanding action against the Government Model Secondary School headmistress who allegedly rebuked and made casteist slur against the girl for asking her mother not to stand with folded hands in front of her.

The Madurai police who initially filed a suicide case after the teen ended her life over the alleged humiliation by the school HM on August 25, altered the case to abetment, naming the teacher, police said on Saturday.

On August 24, the girl, accompanied by her mother, went to the Government Model Secondary School in Usilampatti seeking admission following her decision to discontinue studies at her current school, in order to pursue nursing.

During the interview, the girl noticing her mother standing in a submissive manner with her hands folded, gestured to her asking to change her posture, and straightened the hands. At this the HM was said to have got irked, and accusing the student of being arrogant, made a casteist remark. She asked why “people like you” cannot keep their hands folded, and ordered them to leave. The following day, the girl died by hanging at her home, police said. “The case of suicide (unnatural death) registered on August 25, was subsequently altered on August 28, invoking relevant sections under BNS to include charges of abetment of suicide and naming the HM in the FIR,” a senior official said.

In her complaint, the deceased girl’s mother claimed that her daughter was deeply distressed after the HM admonished her and resorted to the extreme measure on August 25 after spending the night without food and in gloom.

An official said the police were in the process of retrieving the school’s CCTV footage and were working with the District Child Welfare Committee and Education Department officials to ascertain if SC/ST Act could be invoked.

It’s globalisation, my love: 25 years of ‘Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai’



It was a moment of national swooning. The Bollywood film Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai released on January 14, 2000. At the dawn of the new millennium, it put the country into overdrive. Bolstered by an aggressive publicity blitz, word had already spread about its otherworldly star. He had hazel eyes and a silvery smile. His Stallone-like build betrayed a schoolboy’s charm. He was 27 years old. And, it was rumoured, he could dance.It’s been 25 years since Hrithik Roshan’s star-making debut in his father’s musical. Families hoarded theatres. ‘Ek Pal Ka Jeena’ played on loop. Young boys and girls had found their new pin-up god. Some, with embarrassing mileage, aped the Hrithik handshake, flicking the palm horizontally. Manoj Desai, executive director of G7 Multiplex (then Gaiety Galaxy) in Mumbai, remembers running packed shows round the clock. “The film ran for 25 weeks non-stop at my theatre. From children to grown-ups, everyone went crazy about Hrithik’s dancing. When he returns in a new avatar after the interval, the seetis (whistles) were boundless.”The buzz overseas was just as strong. By the mid-1990s, India had one of the largest diaspora populations in the world, concentrated in North America, UK, the Gulf countries and Australia-New Zealand. Bollywood, its boundaries broadened by liberalisation, began reaching out to them. Films like Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Dil Toh Pagal Hai and Pardes successfully rode the wave of globalisation. The movement reached its apotheosis with Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai. Its star-crossed lovers danced on cruise ships, got stranded on the sands of Krabi, Thailand. Hrithik and his co-star, Ameesha Patel, rode a hot air balloon in Christchurch, New Zealand. Everything about the film was calibrated to sing an international tune. Its dual-hero storyline was a frank allegory of free-market aspirations: After Rohit, a penniless car salesman turned popstar, dies, his NRI doppelgänger Raj rolls up in a BMW and Honda Hurricane.

The film had a curious genesis. Hrithik’s father, director Rakesh Roshan, had initially intended it for Shah Rukh Khan, the reigning knight of the Hindi diaspora film. The 90s were a wild era of remakes and rejigs; French Kiss, the Meg Ryan comedy about a missing diamond necklace, was remade in Hindi as Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha (1998). A year before that, James Cameron’s Titanic had set the bar for the sweeping romantic epic. Cruise ships, aquatic deaths, ill-fated lovers from across the class divide... Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai was like Titanic filtered through Karz (1980). Another oft-cited inspiration is the Kannada film Ratha Sapthami (1986), remade in Tamil as Love Birds (1996). In both, the hero seemingly dies in an accident, the heroine takes a healing trip somewhere far and scenic, and the lovers are fortuitously reunited (the grungy discotheque number recurs in all versions).

World-view“Toh hass kyun ki duniya ko hai hassana (smile, so you can make the world smile),” Hrithik sings in the film. It became a motto of the times. The language of globalisation is threaded throughout Kaho Na... Pyaar Hai. Rohit’s bedroom wall has a poster of the Backstreet Boys. Though he dresses casually, he wears a shirt and tie to work, the dress code of the IT generation. There are product placements for Lexus, Mercedes, Ferrari, Yokohama tyres, and Coca-Cola. The multiracial, tropical-themed night-club Raj dances at is called Club Indiana. He reads Cosmopolitan magazine on a flight. A year before Peter Jackson’s The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, the film boosted tourism and migration interests in New Zealand, highlighting attractions like Lake Wakatipu and The

Remarkables ski resort outside Queenstown. In 2004, Helen Clark, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, wrote to Rakesh Roshan: “Your film captured the imagination of Indian audiences and portrayed a rich and vibrant image of New Zealand.”Diaspora films tend to reflect the dualities of immigrant life, its characters caught between tradition and modernity. But Raj — an assault of soft power charm, in a netted vest and sunglasses — seemed perfectly at home in the wider world. Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai is not a reincarnation story, unlike Karz, and poor Rohit, searching for ‘saadgi’ (simplicity) in a capitalist world, meets a dark end. Written by Honey Irani and Ravi Kapoor, the screenplay has silly contrivances that most audiences happily ignored at the time, but which do not survive a rewatch. Rohit’s younger brother is frozen mute by his passing. Sonia’s fashion sense changes every 15 minutes. A lovelorn Raj follows her back to Mumbai, happily abandoning his aging parents (returning NRIs were a fiscal asset, and were granted tax benefits).Though a parade of pretty people in pretty places — Krabi also featured in Danny Boyle’s The Beach the same year, becoming a major tourist hotspot — Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai is also a film of sounds. There are lines, at times mere words, that are permanently stuck in our heads: Tannaz Irani’s nasal ‘Sonias...’, for instance, or Raj tooting, ‘Isse kehte hai ittefaaq. Ittefaq No. 3.’ Rajesh Roshan, Hrithik’s uncle, composed the film’s songs, appropriating — not his first time — tunes from Greek composer Vangelis. The film’s cultural legacy is inextricably linked to its soundtrack. Lucky Ali blessed it with his vocals, belting out two diametrically opposite hits, the electronic headrush of ‘Ek Pal Ka Jeena’ soothed out by ‘Na Tum Jaano Na Hum’, with its tranquil guitar strums and melancholic outro.

Off-shoringKaho Naa Pyaar Hai was the antithesis of all the raucous energies shaping Hindi cinema at the time. Ram Gopal Varma’s Satya and John Matthew Matthan’s Sarfarosh had nudged Bollywood into gritty, challenging directions. But Roshan, with his escapist blockbuster set aboard a big boat, steered it back on course. Anurag Kashyap, the lead writer of Satya, mocked this apparent regression in a line of dialogue in Nayak: The Real Hero, released the following year. Reluctant to join politics and change his country’s course, Anil Kapoor’s character remarks, “I want to live the easy life... watch Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai on Sundays.”

There was a shocking, Satya-like coda to the Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai wave. On January 21, 2000, a week after the film’s release, Rakesh Roshan was shot at by two unidentified gunmen outside his office. In a bleeding state, he drove to Santa Cruz police station, scared more for his son’s life than his own. It emerged that the shooters belonged to Mumbai’s Budesh gang, who had tried extorting the director over the film’s overseas earnings. Bollywood was corporatizing and bringing in the big bucks, and the underworld, its uneasy ally since the 90s, wanted a piece of the pie.Over the last 25 years, Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai has turned up in popular culture in amusing ways. Na Tum Jaano Na Hum became a full-length film with Hrithik, Saif Ali Khan and Esha Deol. Raj flipping through photographs of his dead lookalike is a meme. During the surreal early weeks of COVID-19, someone registered the film title ‘Corona Pyaar Hai,’ inviting the wrath of Rakesh Roshan. Canadian YouTuber Lilly Singh made Hailey Bieber dance to the film’s title track, and, in 2021, while campaigning for the Trinamool Congress in Asansol, West Bengal, Ameesha Patel sang a few lines from the same song — an apparent dig at Babul Supriyo, a singer on the film, who was fielded from the BJP in the assembly elections.

Hindi blockbusters today have moved past the canded nothingness of Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai. They have become more strident and unabashed. Curiously, even their internationalism now feels parochial. Hrithik’s most recent smash was Fighter, a politically-slanted actioner from 2024, inspired by the Top Gun franchise. In a disappointing scene, Hrithik’s combat pilot, bashing up a terrorist, yells the words ‘India-Occupied Pakistan’ — the kind of triumphalist coinage that has become depressingly commonplace. It makes one long for the easygoing Sundays, when life was less hectic and charged, and we all watched Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai.

We are balancing welfare outgo with prudent fiscal management: Thangam Thennarasu

Since mid-2021, the Tamil Nadu government has rolled out several women-oriented welfare schemes that involve a significant annual financial outgo. At the same time, the State was unable to announce a cash component for Pongal festival this year. In an interview with The Hindu, Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu says the government is managing the situation through prudent fiscal management. He also highlights the Centre’s passive approach to the State’s request for funds to handle natural calamities such as the recent Cyclone Fengal. Excerpts:

The State government has introduced numerous welfare schemes, such as Vidiyal Payanam (costless bus travel for women), Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai and Pudhumai Penn, which have significantly benefited women and involved substantial financial outlay. How is the state managing to balance its finances while implementing these initiatives?

This state has been a pioneer in rolling out landmark schemes which have then paved the way for the entire country to follow. Today, what is globally acclaimed and recognised as the Mid-Day Meal programme was introduced in 1920s in the Madras Municipal Corporation-run schools. This government, under the leadership of our Chief Minister M.K.Stalin, is continuing this illustrious legacy. Each of these schemes are showing remarkable results. While we are implementing these schemes for the welfare of the people, we are also ensuring prudent fiscal management. We have been taking concerted efforts to ensure a sound growth in revenues in all sectors, be it GST, stamps and registration, motor vehicle taxes, etc. We have also introduced the Tamil Nadu Public Fund Tracking System to ensure a just-in-time fund release for schemes. This is helping us to save the interest costs by efficient cash and debt management.Recently, at the Pre-Union Budget meeting, you reiterated the request to the Centre to release funds for cyclone relief and the Chennai Metro Rail project. How confident are you that the Centre will allocate these funds? What impact has the non-release of funds had on the State’s finances?This is an issue of major concern for the state. The funds from Union Government have not been released for Cyclone Fengal (2024). Even for Cyclone Michaung (2023) and the unprecedented rainfalls in southern districts, the Union Government had released a meagre sum of ₹276 crore, against an amount of ₹37,907 crore sought by the State. For Samagra Shiksha Scheme, disbursal of ₹2,152 crore is pending. These funds are meant for salary of teachers, maintenance of schools and RTE Act reimbursement.

The World of Mysore Pak, Mysuru’s first experiential store, is reinventing the classic dessert



Many of us are familiar with the story of the royal cook, Kakasura Madappa, who curated the recipe of Mysore pak for King Krishna Raja Wadiyar IV in the 19th century, by blending together the simplest ingredients: gram flour, ghee, and sugar. Now in the dessert’s birthplace of Mysuru, a new store is reimaging this timeless sweet. The World of Mysore Pak situated on Chamundi Hills Road is an experiential store devoted to Mysore pak. They offer 11 varieties here: roasted almond, carrot,cashew, mango, figs, milk, millet, jaggery millet, jaggery, traditional and special Mysore pak. I sample all 11 varieties and am particularly impressed with roasted

almond, mango, milk and the special Mysore pak. The sweets deliver a delicate balance, with the added flavours enhancing the experience but with the essence of the original flavours still intact. A subtle hint of spices lingers towards the end. The store was started by three friends, who are now partners. Sowmya H S, who has an an IT background says “The project started two years ago. We have done countless trials to perfect the recipe.”Shruti Pavan Shroff adds, “There are many sweet shops offering Mysore pak, but none solely dedicated to this legacy sweet. Our goal is to give customers an immersive experience — they can watch the sweet being made, taste samples, and share their feedback.” Sowmya continues, “We were selective about the store location, since we wanted to attract tourists, who can take home local specialties. Mysore pak, being a popular choice, has long been a favourite souvenir of the city.”As I walk past the counter, my attention is drawn to a variety of unique sweets featuring Mysore pak, like the paka sandwich and Mysore peda. “The paka sandwich is a layer of kaju barfi sandwiched between Mysore pak,” explains Nikhil Mannar, the third partner and owner of Pataka, a popular chaats and sweet shop in Mysuru. “The Mysore peda draws inspiration from the famous Dharwad peda.”Among the most popular offerings are the jaggery millet and jaggery Mysore pak, crafted for health-conscious customers. “We avoid synthetic

Ancient voyagers brought rice across 2,300 km of Pacific Ocean

Canberra: In a new study published in Science Advances, the earliest evidence of rice in the Pacific Islands was uncovered — at an ancient cave site on Guam in the Mariana Islands of western Micronesia. The domesticated rice was transported by the first islanders, who sailed 2,300 km of open ocean from the Philippines about 3,500 years ago. The discovery settles long-standing academic debates and satisfies decades of curiosity about the origins and lifestyles of early Pacific peoples. The case of the Marianas, located more than 2,000km east of the Philippines and north-east of Indonesia, is especially intriguing. These islands were the first places in Remote Oceania reached by anyone, in this case inhabited for the first time by Malayo-Polynesian-speaking populations from islands in Southeast Asia. For nearly two decades, scholars debated the timing and the overseas source of these first islanders, the ancestors of today’s Chamorro people.

How did they come to Guam and the Marianas? Archaeological research has confirmed settlement in the Mariana Islands 3,500 years ago at several sites in Guam, Tinian and Saipan. In 2020, the first ancient DNA analysis from Guam confirmed what archaeology and linguistics had suggested: the early settlers came from central or northern Philippines. Further ancestral links trace them back to Taiwan, the homeland of both their language and their genetics.A well-planned journey with rice onboardWas this epic voyage intentional or accidental? What food source allowed these early seafarers to survive? Today, Pacific islanders rely mostly on breadfruit, banana, coconut, taro and yams. Rice, though a staple food in ancient and modern Asian societies, is challenging to grow in the Pacific due to environmental constraints, including soil type, rainfall and terrain.Rice was originally domesticated in central China about 9,000 years ago and was spread by Neolithic farming communities as they migrated to new regions. One of the most remarkable of these expansions began in coastal southern China, moved to Taiwan, and spread through the islands of Southeast Asia into the Pacific. The migration laid the foundations of the Austronesian world, which today comprises nearly 400 million individuals dispersed across an expansive area stretching from Taiwan to New Zealand, and from Madagascar to Easter Island.For more than a decade, scientists searched for evidence of early rice in open archaeological sites across the Mariana Islands, but found nothing conclusive. This study marks the first clear evidence of ancient rice in the Pacific Islands.

It also confirms renowned American linguist Robert Blust’s hypothesis that the earliest Chamorros brought cultivated plants with them, including rice. How we identified the rice Our research took us to Ritidian Beach Cave in Guam.To confirm what was found in the cave were rice re-



mains, researchers used phytolith analysis. Phytoliths are microscopic silica structures formed in plant cells that persist long after the plant has decayed. Once our initial results confirmed the presence of rice, a more detailed analysis revealed we had found the traces of rice husks preserved on the surfaces of ancient earthenware pottery.Next, a detailed microscopic analysis was done to figure out whether these husks had bee mixed into the clay to keep it from cracking when it dried (a tempering technique commonly used by ancient potters) or had arrived by other means. We also analysed the sediment to rule out that the husks were deposited at the site later than the pottery.The findings showed the rice husks were not used for manufacturing the pottery. Rather, they came from a separate, deliberate activity using the finished pottery bowls.

Ritual use in sacred caves? The setting of the discovery — a beach cave — gives us another interpretive perspective. In Chamorro traditions, caves are sacred places for important spiritual practices. According to records of 1521 through 1602, the Chamorro people in the Marianas grew rice in limited amounts and consumed it only sparingly, reserved for special occasions and critical life events, such as the impending death of a loved one.Rice became more common after the intensive Spanish colonial period, after 1668. In this context, the ancient islanders more likely used rice during ceremonial practices in or around caves, rather than as a staple food for daily cooking or agriculture.

A greatest journey in history This study provides strong evidence that the first long-distance ocean crossings into the Pacific were not accidental. People carefully planned the voyages. Early seafarers brought with them not only the tools of survival but also their symbolic and culturally meaningful plants, such as rice. They were equipped, prepared and resolute, completing one of the most extraordinary voyages in the history of humanity.

‘Beej Utsav’ highlights role of indigenous seeds in agricultural sustainability



A four-day-long ‘Beej Utsav’ (seed festival) held in the tribal belt at the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat earlier this month highlighted the role of indigenous seeds in agricultural sustainability. Tribal farmers took a pledge to rebuild community-led seed systems.Over 9,400 members of tribal communities, including women and children, participating in the events during the festival, learned the techniques of preserving indigenous seeds for use in different crop seasons. They were apprised of the significance of seed heritage, biodiversity, and climate consciousness.

The festival was organised simultaneously in over 60 village panchayats spread across the three States, with activities including ‘Beej Samvad’ (seed dialogue), biodiversity fairs, ‘seed ball’ making, and plantation drives. Community honours, including ‘Beej Mitra’ (seed friend), and ‘Beej Mata’ (seed mother) were awarded to exemplary seed-preserving farmers.Tribal women participating in the events during

the ‘Beej Utsav’ held in Banswara district. Photo: Special ArrangementTribal women participating in the events during the ‘Beej Utsav’ held in Banswara district. Photo: Special ArrangementCommunity-led institutions, including Krishi Evam Adivasi Swaraj Sangathan, Gram Swaraj Samooh, Saksham Samooh, and Bal Swaraj Samooh were instrumental in organising the festival. They were supported by Banswara-based voluntary group Vaagdhara, which works on the tribal livelihood issues.Seeds should not just be considered the foundation of farming, but treated as symbols of identity, life, nutrition, culture, and climate resilience in tribal traditions, Vaagdhara secretary Jayesh Joshi said here on Monday. “When nearly 70% of small farmers depend on market-driven hybrid seeds, ‘Beej Utsav’ is a powerful reminder to reclaim our seed sovereignty,” Mr. Joshi said.Indigenous seeds of grains, pulses, vegetables and fruits exhibited during the festival included some rare and forgotten varieties.

Swiss glaciers show holes reminiscent of cheese

When cities have trees that don’t belong, the birds notice



Matthias Huss of the glacier monitoring group GLAMOS offered a glimpse of the Rhone Glacier, which feeds the eponymous river that flows through Switzerland and France to the Mediterranean, shared the observation with The Associated Press this month as he trekked up to the icy expanse for a first “maintenance mission” of the summer to monitor its health.The state of Switzerland’s glaciers came into stark and dramatic view of the international community last month when a mudslide from an Alpine mountain submerged the southwestern village of Blatten. The Birch Glacier on the mountain, which had been holding back a mass of rock near the peak, gave way — sending an avalanche into the valley village below.

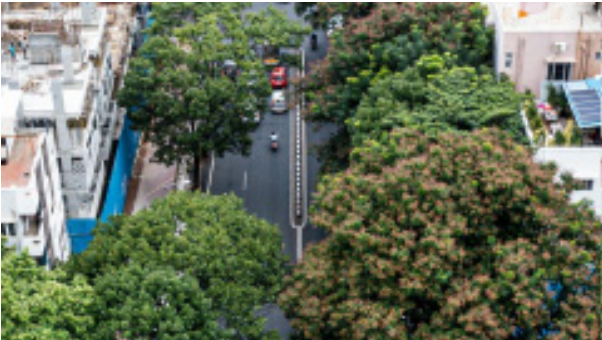
Experts say geological shifts and, to a lesser extent global warming, played a role.Fortunately, the village had been largely evacuated beforehand, but Swiss authorities said a 64-year-old man had gone missing after the incident. Late Tuesday, regional Valais police said they had found and were examining human remains of a person who died in the mudslide.The Alps and Switzerland — home to the most glaciers in any European country by far — have seen them retreat for about 170 years, but with ups and downs over time until the 1980s, he said. Since then, the decline has been steady, with 2022 and 2023 the worst of all. Last year was a “bit better,” he said.“Now, this year also doesn’t look good, so we see we have a clear acceleration trend in the melting of glaciers,” said Huss, who also is a lecturer at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, ETHZ, said in beaming sunshine and with slushy ice dripping underfoot.The European Union’s Copernicus climate center said last month was the second-warmest May on record worldwide, although temperatures in Europe were below the running average for that month compared to the average from 1991 to 2020.Europe is not alone. In a report on Asia’s climate released Monday, the U.N.’s World Meteorological Organization said reduced winter snowfall and extreme summer heat last year “were punishing for glaciers” — with 23 out of 24 glaciers in the central Himalayas and the Tian Shan range suffering “mass loss” in 2024.A healthy glacier is considered “dynamic,” by generating new ice as snow falls on it at higher elevations while melting at lower altitudes: The losses in mass at lower levels are compensated by gains above.

As a warming climate pushes up the melting to higher altitudes, such flows will slow down or even stop altogether and the glacier will essentially become “an ice patch that is just lying there,” Huss said.“This is a situation we are seeing more and more often on our glaciers: That the ice is just

not dynamic anymore,” he said. “It’s just resting there and melting down in place.”This lack of dynamic regeneration is the most likely process behind the emergence and persistence of holes, seemingly caused by water turbulence at the bottom of the glacier or air flows through the gaps that appear inside the blocks of ice, Huss said.“First the holes appear in the middle, and then they grow and grow, and suddenly the roof of these holes is starting to collapse,” he said. “Then these holes get visible from the surface. These holes weren’t known so well a few years ago, but now we are seeing them more often.”Such an affected glacier, he said, “is a Swiss cheese that is getting more holes everywhere, and these holes are collapsing — and it’s not good for the glacier.”Richard Alley, a geosciences professor and glaciologist at Penn State University, noted that glacier shrinkage has wide impacts on agriculture, fisheries, drinking water levels, and border tensions when it comes to cross-boundary rivers.“Biggest worries with mountain glaciers may be water issues — now, the shrinking glaciers are supporting summertime (often the dry season) flows that are anomalously higher than normal, but this will be replaced as glaciers disappear with anomalously low flows,” he said in an email.For Switzerland, another possible casualty is electricity: The Alpine country gets the vast majority of its power through hydroelectric plants driven from its lakes and rivers, and wide-scale glacier melt could jeopardize that.With a whirr of a spiral drill, Huss sends ice chips flying as he bores a hole into the glacier. Then with an assistant, he unfurls a jointed metal pole — similar to the basic glacier-monitoring technology that has existed for decades — and clicks it together to drive it deep down. This serves as a measuring stick for glacier depth.“We have a network of stakes that are drilled into the ice where we determine the melting of the mass loss of the glacier from year to year,” he said. “When the glacier will be melting, which is at the moment a speed of about 5 to 10 centimeters (2-4 inches) a day, this pole will re-emerge.”

Reaching up over his head — about 2.5 meters (8 feet) — he points out the height of a stake that had been drilled in in September, suggesting that an ice mass had shrunk by that much. In the super-hot year of 2022, nearly 10 meters of vertical ice were lost in a single year, he said.The planet is already running up against the target cap increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius in global temperatures set in the Paris Climate Accord of 2015. The concerns about global warming that led to that deal have lately been overshadowed by trade wars, conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and other geopolitical issues.

“If we manage to reduce or limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, we couldn’t save this glacier,” Huss said, acknowledging many Swiss glaciers are set to disappear in the future. As a person, Huss feels emotion. As a glaciologist, he is awestruck by the speed of change.“It’s always hard for me to see these glaciers melting, to even see them disappearing completely. Some of my monitoring sites I’ve been going to for 20 years have completely vanished in the last years,” he said. “It was very sad — if you just exchange this beautiful, shiny white with these brittle rocks that are lying around.”But on the other hand,” he added, “it’s also a very interesting time as a scientist to be witness to these very fast changes.”



Rapidly increasing heat due to climate change and the concomitant reduction in green cover have together significantly affected the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in tropical countries. These effects are more pronounced in rapidly urbanising cities. India’s cities are setting new temperature records with each passing year.In a study published recently in Ecological Applications, researchers Ravi Jambhekar, Dilip Naidu and Jagdish Krishnaswamy from the Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS), Bengaluru, studied the growing impact of heat and declining tree cover on birds. The study focused on the bird diversity of Bengaluru, a rapidly growing city. Nestled near the Western Ghats, the diverse habitats within the city include urban parks, open grasslands, wetlands, lakes, and forests. Together, they host more than 350 avian species.

Using publicly available bird records from the online community eBird, the researchers examined how growing urbanisation and the associated heat stress affected the occurrence and distribution of birds in the city. They also sourced satellite data to model the distribution of heat in the city and how that might correlate with green cover and bird occurrences.The team found that biodiversity is clustered more in areas with less heat, while heat islands had lower diversity. (Heat islands are parts of the city much warmer than their surroundings.)Older research has already found higher temperatures have multiple consequences for the natural history of birds. For example, controlled trials have found evidence that birds’ reproductive success drops because they lay eggs with thinner shells. “??Warming temperatures can also indirectly affect birds’ food resources, sometimes even more directly than they could affect the birds themselves,” Anusha Shankar, a physiological ecologist at the Tata institute of Fundamental Research, Hyderabad, said. “Imagine insects, plant nectar or other small prey that could be immediately susceptible to hot temperatures.”This said, the researchers found that not all species depend positively on green cover. Birds of open habitats like grasslands and savannahs as well as those that depend on human activity fared better when tree cover declined.This is contrary to the findings of studies in Dehradun, for one, where green cover was found to be a strong predictor of biodiversity. Monica Kaushik, an urban ecologist at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru, conducted long-term bird surveys across different green spaces in the city. The data revealed a positive relationship between bird species richness and the tree species richness. They also showed that larger green spaces hosted a greater diversity

Yeast shows physics can give rise to multicellular life sans mutations

By the time Nishant Narayanasamy joined Shashi Thutupalli’s lab at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bengaluru in 2019, the lab had a new guest: a yeast colony that had seemingly grown way beyond its expected size.The snowflake yeast had been shipped from William Ratcliff’s laboratory at the Georgia Institute of Technology in the U.S. Regular yeast — the same organism that makes bread fluffy — grows as a single cell. When it reaches a certain size, a small bump appears on its surface. The yeast’s nucleus, the compartment that holds its genetic material, splits into two and moves into this bud. The bud grows until it reaches a certain size and eventually falls off from the parent, making new yeast.

But a small change in snowflake yeast’s genetic composition prevents the bud from falling off. As newer buds appear, the yeast clusters in the shape of a snowflake. And as the cluster grows, in about 12 hours it becomes a large blob visible to the naked eye.Snowflake yeast has been used to study how lifeforms first became multicellular. Multicellular organisms can grow much larger than those with only one cell — as long as they can deal with the other effects of largeness. For example, how does the organism ensure all cells in its body receive the nutrients they need to grow?This is why most animals and plants evolved specific structures to transport nutrients. Blood and blood vessels do this job in humans.Snowflake yeast has no such facility, however, which means at some point the yeast should stop growing. Any further increase in size would cause at least some of its cells to not get enough nutrients. However, defying expectations, the snowflake yeast in Thutupalli’s lab continued to grow — that too at an exponential rate. How the yeast attained this feat was a mystery.Narayanasamy and Thutupalli, along with a team from Georgia Tech, reported in the June 2025 issue of Science Advances a mechanism by which the yeast can ensure all its cells receive nutrients, even when the cluster is big. In the absence of a biological structure, the yeast continue to grow thanks to a simple physical process, the authors wrote in their paper.The implications of the work go beyond how yeast grows. The work “offers support to an unconventional view of how major changes are initiated in evolution,” Vidyanand Nanjundiah, an evolutionary biologist and a professor at the Centre for Human Genetics, Bengaluru, said. He wasn’t associated with the study.The consensus among scientists is that multicellular organisms evolved billions of years ago when mutations accumulated over time. But Narayanasamy’s and Thutupalli’s work suggests physical and chemical phenomena alone could have helped unicellular organisms evolve into multicellular ones before genetic changes came into the picture.Flowing into multicellularityIn a lab, yeast can be grown in either a solution or a jelly-like substance that contains all its nutrients. Narayanasamy and Thutupalli observed that large clusters of snowflake yeast continue to grow exponentially only when kept in the solution. It seemed being surrounded by a fluid was crucial.

Diffusion is one way in which nutrients move through a fluid: the particles moving from a place in which their concentration is higher to one where it’s lower. But Narayanasamy and Thutupalli knew from previous work that diffusion alone couldn’t account for the size of large snowflake yeast clusters. Per their estimate, diffusion can explain the growth of these clusters only up to a size of about 50 micrometers (µm) whereas their clusters could grow up to 20x larger.So they hypothesised that a different process is at play: advection, when the fluid itself moves around, carrying with it the dissolved nutrients. To test their

of birds.So does this mean that the only way to protect urban biodiversity and reduce heat stress is to plant trees? The answer is complicated.

When trees aren’t the answerCities are being increasingly afforested as part of efforts to mitigate the effects of heat and for aesthetic purposes. But many cities in India have historically had alternative habitats, such as open ecosystems and wetlands, in addition to forests and tree cover.“Bengaluru originally had a mix of open habitats, agriculture, human made irrigation tanks and some gardens apart from the built areas,” Krishnaswamy, the senior author of the paper and dean of the School of Environment and Sustainability at IIHS, said. Considering the historical land-use type of a city is an important — but often ignored — aspect when planning restoration of habitat and biodiversity. Simplistic mitigation moves such as tree plantations, as the study finds, don’t always improve biodiversity. Unscientific tree plantations that aim to simply improve green cover often focus on non-native and invasive species of trees. Trees such as Jacaranda or Tabebuia, which often line the streets of cities with their beautiful blooms, are not native to the Indian subcontinent, are detrimental to local biodiversity, and affect human health. Currently, 77% of Bengaluru’s tree cover is exotic species.Habitats such as savannahs and wetlands are some of the worst hit in urban biodiversity planning. As cities expand, these non-forested habitats become refuges for species that depend on them. Further fragmentation and loss of such habitats finally lead to the local extirpation of species.“We need native grasses, herbs, shrubs and trees all to be part of ecological restoration and planting strategies in urban spaces,” Krishnaswamy said.“It’s high time that we plan the green cover for the entire city based on historical legacies,” Kaushik added. “Our first task should be to have biodiversity goals at the city levels, where separate land uses become important pieces to fulfil that goal.”Pune, a city nestled in the Western Ghats, once had forests with patches of savannah that still persist on hilltops around the city and are important for open habitat birds. “In the last couple of centuries, Pune district has been a mosaic of secondary regeneration forest, farmland, urban sprawl, and scrubland. An important question is: what is the most effective way to reclaim land back into photosynthetic capacity,” Gurudas Nulkar, director for the Center for Sustainable Development at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, asked. “And then the answer is not just afforestation but also reclaiming wetlands and grasslands.”Ecological and social inequity go hand in hand, especially in megacities like Bengaluru, with the poorest and most marginalised groups suffering the highest effects of increasing heat and decreasing tree cover. Biodiversity conservation in cities must reconcile with growing societal needs to reduce heat and heat-induced ailments that are increasing today.“Urban heat mitigation using green spaces may require a mix of approaches from small home gardens and individual trees in strategic locations to larger green spaces and constructed wetlands where grasses and wetland plants can also thrive,” Krishnaswamy said. Cities must also strive to improve access to available green spaces, which continue to decline as parks sometimes restrict access.



hypothesis, they added to the solution small particles coated with a dye that glows in blue light. Using a microscope to trace how these particles moved in the solution could help them visualise the flow of the fluid.They added a snowflake yeast cluster to this solution and let it grow. The duo observed that as the cluster expanded, the solution around it moved inside the cluster from its sides, then escaped from the top.A natural motor

Some unicellular organisms can make fluids flow using specialised hair- or whip-like structures called cilia or flagella. Snowflake yeast have neither. This is where physics becomes important.When snowflake yeast clusters grow, they consume glucose from the solution. This reduces the density of the solution in places where it surrounds the yeast. The cluster also produces alcohol and carbon dioxide, both of which are less dense than the solution, according to the paper.Fluids that are less dense — in this case the surrounding solution depleted of glucose and enriched with alcohol and carbon dioxide — rise above the rest of the solution. The team reasoned the flow it observed resulted from the same principle: as the cluster consumed the sugar and produced alcohol and carbon dioxide in the solution, the solution’s density dropped. This fraction spontaneously moved upward, generating the flow that kept the yeast cluster alive and growing.To confirm this, the duo checked whether flows were present around clusters that are dead and not actively consuming sugar. They didn’t find any, and concluded the living clusters metabolising sugar from the solution created the flows.Biologists have used snowflake yeast clusters as a model to study how multicellular organisms evolved from unicellular ones. Contrary to the view with genetic changes, the new study supports the idea that “multicellularity could originate and be maintained initially solely on the basis of physics and chemistry, with no genetic change,” Nanjundiah said. “A later genetic change could then have made multicellularity inevitable in the ... living beings of today,” he added.The next step for him is to check if such a change subsequently occurs in the yeast, rendering multicellularity a part of its biological blueprint.Gautam Menon, a professor of physics and biology at Ashoka University in Sonapat, called the study “fascinating” and the alternative model “temptingly attractive”.As researchers wait for more evidence of this model, the NCBS team is investigating whether these flows can account for other major evolutionary changes: the ability of organisms to move, for example.Experiments on snowflake yeast have something more to teach about the nature of biology, Thutupalli said. “There may not exist any organism in the wild that generates flows by such a mechanism,” he said, “but biology, in its much larger sense, can do it.”This is why, he added, our view of biology must extend beyond what we see in the natural world to novel phenomena that may occur only in the laboratory. “

A lofty concept, a Governor and unwanted controversy

A picture of ‘Bharat Mata’ (Mother India) has triggered a confrontation between the Governor of Kerala and the State government. At a recent function, the Governor had placed a painting of Bharat Mata in the form of a female figure clad in a saffron colour sari with a spear in one hand and standing with a lion behind her against a backdrop of the map of India. The painting had been placed in a room where official functions are held at Raj Bhavan. A tall brass lamp was placed before this garlanded picture. Before any official function begins, the Governor bows before it, offers flowers and lights the lamp. The Chief Minister and other Ministers had raised objections on the grounds that this picture of Bharat Mata is not recognised by the Constitution or any law unlike the national anthem of India or the national flag or other national symbols. Therefore, the government seems to have taken a position that it will not participate in any official function organised by the Governor where this picture is displayed. The slogan, ‘Bharat Mata ki Jai’, was the emotional cry of freedom fighters which would electrify the minds of people who were fighting for freedom from colonial rule. And, they used to raise this slogan at the highest pitch when they were subject to lathi blows. Thus, Bharat Mata is one that deeply resonated with the countless millions during India’s freedom struggle.

But the question in this issue in Kerala is not whether we should pay obeisance to this image of Bharat Mata. There is no doubt that Indians have a deep and emotional bond with the concept of Bharat Mata. However, in the Kerala episode, the issue is that the Governor has and uses a picture of what is claimed to be Bharat Mata at the venue where official functions organised by the government are held and offers floral tributes to it as a part of the official function. The conduct of the Governor

Since no picture of Bharat Mata in any form has been recognised by either the Constitution or any law or adopted like the national anthem, the national flag, the national emblem or even the national symbols, such a picture cannot be a part of any official function organised by the government. It may be noted here that this picture of Bharat Mata is used only by the Rashtraiya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Bharatiya Janata Party in their functions. The Governor, being the constitutional head of the state, is expected to conduct himself in accordance with the Constitution. The Governor cannot take independent decisions in the performance of his duties and functions but can act only in accordance with the advice of the elected government. So, if the government decides that such pictures should not be placed at the venue of official meetings organised by the government, the Governor is required to go by that decision. The personification of Bharat Mata as a mother figure was first done by renowned Bengali novelist, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, in his late 19th century work, Anandamath. But the mother symbol he created was Banga Mata (Mother of Bengal) — and not Bharat Mata — and it became the powerful symbol of Bengali nationalism.But it was Abanindranath Tagore, the nephew of Rabindranath Tagore who first did a painting of the Banga Mata in 1905. This depiction, with four arms, in some ways resembled a Hindu goddess. It was sister Nivedita, a prominent disciple of Swami Vivekananda, who popularised this painting as Bharat Mata. Later, ‘Bharat Mata ki Jai’ became the most powerful slogan of the national freedom movement but without any visual representation. The national movement never adopted any picture of the Bharat Mata.



A lofty conceptNo one has defined the concept of Bharat Mata as brilliantly as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He explains it in his inimitable style in his Discovery of India: "...sometimes as I reached a gathering a great roar of welcome would greet me: Bharat Mata ki Jai-Victory to Mother India. I would ask them unexpectedly what they meant by that cry, who was this Bharat Mata, whose victory they wanted..... The mountains and the rivers of India and the forest and the broad fields which gave us food were all dear to us, but what counted ultimately were the people of India, people like them and me who were spread out all over this vast land. Bharat Mata, Mother India, was essentially these millions of people and victory to her meant victory to these people."It is rather unfortunate that this lofty concept of Bharat Mata has triggered an unseemly controversy involving the Governor of Kerala. Obviously the picture of a female figure in a saffron sari, with a spear in hand and a lion behind her, cannot be a symbol of Bharat Mata. The display of such a picture is a throwback to 19th century nationalism which has no relevance in modern times. Indian nationalism under Gandhi had a strong secular core and was inclusive. Anthropomorphisation of a country is an outdated idea. The diversities, the divisions of Indian society, multiple religions, races, and different levels of cultural developments cannot be represented by such a figure.Governor versus the governmentThe country has witnessed too many unseemly fights between Governors and State governments. The Supreme Court of India has intervened in some cases and tried to set things right. Nevertheless the Governor-government spat continues to occur. The Constitution and the interpretations thereon by the Supreme Court have clearly laid down the limits of a Governor’s powers and functions. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had said emphatically in the Constituent Assembly, “the governor under the constitution has no functions which he can discharge by himself, no functions at all.”The Raj Bhavan Kerala controversy, deliberate or otherwise, was absolutely unnecessary. It sours the relationship between the Governor and the elected government. In official functions, symbols or logos or other visual representations used by private organisations cannot be used. Raj Bhavan does not merely consist of the private chambers of the Governor. There are rooms and halls where government functions are held such as a swearing-in ceremony as it is done in Rashtrapati Bhavan.The Governor is bound by the advice of the government on, for example, the placing of photographs, portraits in such places and also of performing various actions in an official function such as the lighting of the lamp as in protocol approved by the government. The Governor, for example, cannot order that the picture of Bharat Mata should be placed in all government offices.

Operator Zurich Airport expects ‘slower ramp-up’ at Noida airport amid geopolitical headwinds



The parent company of Noida International Airport (NIA) operator Zurich Airport International AG has said that a slower-than-expected ramp-up of operations is expected at the National Capital Region’s (NCR) second major airport — primarily due to a challenging geopolitical environment — even as it remains bullish on the long-term potential of the new airport that can handle 12 million passengers annually. “Slower ramp-up expected due to challenging geopolitical environment, with near-term performance remaining subject to elevated uncertainty. Route network will continue to expand, with international services expected to follow,” Zurich Airport Ltd said in its latest investor presentation. The company owns Zurich Airport International AG, which holds the group’s international shareholding, including in NIA.

Zurich Airport, however, added that it continues to have strong confidence in the “long-term growth potential and attractive fundamentals of the Indian aviation market”, which is the the third-largest in the world and is counted among the fastest-growing major aviation markets. Zurich Airport said that it sees India and Brazil as its key focus markets, where it has “existing presence and synergy potential”. After four years of construction, operations at the NIA in Jewar in Western Uttar Pradesh commenced on June 15. At present, IndiGo and Akasa Air are operating from the new NCR airport, serving a total of 17 domestic routes. Air India Express had also planned to operate from the NIA, but backed out amid financial headwinds that got exacerbated by the West Asia conflict. Additionally, the continued closure of the Pakistani airspace has also impacted Indian airlines’ west-bound international operations as well as expansion plans.

As per Zurich Airport, the NIA saw 204 flights — departures plus arrivals — in June, which went up to 1,044 flights in July. The airport served about 25,000 passengers in June and about 77,000 in July. NIA’s operating loss for the first six months of 2026, represented by its earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA), was 2.4 million Swiss Francs, or about \$3 million.

As per the guidance shared by Zurich Airport for 2026, the operationalisation of the NIA will weigh on the parent company’s expenditure, including operating costs, depreciation and amortisation charges, and finance expenses. The new airport’s operationalisation is also expected to result in higher revenue for Zurich Airport, although the net impact on the group’s consolidated earnings for the year is likely to be negative, which is common for early stage large infrastructure projects. The operationalisation of NIA comes at a time when the aviation sector is grappling with headwinds amid the West Asia crisis, forcing airlines to prune

LIC Housing faces Rs 1,322 crore exposure in two Subhash Chandra loan accounts

LIC Housing Finance Limited (LICHFL) has said it had sanctioned financial facilities under two loan accounts in which Essel Group founder Subhash Chandra is the personal guarantor, and that it continues to retain all rights over the secured assets. LICHFL reportedly had an admitted claim of Rs 1,322.39 crore in the insolvency proceedings against Chandra. Under the approved repayment plan, however, LICHFL is set to receive just Rs 38.09 lakh.

The statement comes after HDFC Bank on Thursday said it was “exploring an appeal” against an order of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approving a repayment plan submitted by Chandra in his capacity as a personal guarantor. The plan entails a substantial haircut for creditors on their admitted claims. However, it did not refute the admitted claim mentioned in the reports. “The media reports state that LICHFL has an admitted claim of Rs 1,322.39 crore in the said proceedings, against which the repayment plan provides for payment of Rs 38.09 lakh to LICHFL,” LICHFL said in a statement. “LICHFL continues to hold and enforce its security interest over the secured assets against which the financial facilities were granted, which have been duly charged/ mortgaged in favour of LIC HFL,” the company said.

“Accordingly, LICHFL continues to hold and retain all its rights, security interests, enforcement remedies and recovery avenues over the said secured assets in accordance with applicable provisions of law,” it said. “We clarify that the recent NCLT order pertains to the insolvency resolution process against the personal guarantor Subhash Chandra, under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, and does not in any manner adjudicate, discharge, dilute or impact the corporate liabilities of the principal borrower entities in anyway,” it said. The NCLT has approved Chandra’s proposal to pay Rs 6.25 crore against total guarantees signed for Rs 22,000 crore. “Total claim against Subhash Chandra as a personal guarantor, in the personal insolvency proceedings is only Rs 3,992 crore by the objectors of the plan and not Rs 22,000 crore,” Subhash Chandra’s office said in

schedules and put network expansion plans on hold. While the NIA management accepts that the crisis is a challenge in the short-term, it is confident of the long-term growth potential in India’s aviation market. “We won the bid to design and build this airport at the end of 2019. Three months later, the bottom dropped out of the aviation market across the world. No one was flying anymore (due to the Covid pandemic)... We saw traffic in India rebound very quickly, faster than in many parts of the world. That’s the approach we take to the current crisis as well. It’s a challenging time for aviation but if we zoom out and look at where the industry has come from in the past 15-20 years, and what the outlook is, we remain incredibly confident,” NIA Vice Chairman Christoph Schnellmann told in June.

According to industry experts, the NIA is likely to be used initially by airlines to mount additional flights connecting the NCR to major metropolitan cities, particularly during the peak hours when the larger Delhi airport is chock-a-block. It is also likely to be used to operate ultra short-haul flights on regional routes, apart from densifying and expanding the network between the NCR and tier II and III cities. With the Navi Mumbai International Airport’s (NMIA) inauguration in October and launch of commercial operations from December, India’s financial capital became the first Indian megacity to be served by two major airports, bringing the much-needed additional capacity to the region given the capacity-constrained Mumbai airport. With NIA, Delhi-NCR also entered the dual airport club. Both NMIA and NIA are second airports that will initially operate under the shadow of the much larger primary airports. While NMIA is bound to have a strong start with a rapid scale-up, NIA may be relatively slow on these counts initially. In the long run, though, it is expected to cement Delhi-NCRs position as India’s primary aviation hub.

Mumbai’s primary airport — Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) — is already saturated, which means that there is little capacity that can be added there given the space constraint. This essentially means that any additional capacity in the broader Mumbai region must come from NMIA, which translates to almost ready demand and traffic for the new airport. However, Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) — India’s largest airport with three terminals and four runways — still has scope for expanding its passenger handling as well as flight capacity and is not as terribly congested as CSMIA. IGIA plans to expand its passenger handling capacity to around 125 million over the next few years from the current 105 million. It is also worth noting that IGIA and NIA will be run by different operators, which would add to the competitive streak. By contrast, both CSMIA and NMIA are operated by Adani Airport Holdings. Furthermore, the location of NIA — away from large urban settlements — will be a challenge in the absence of rapid multi-modal connectivity. The airport, while having expressway connectivity, is located 80 km from central Delhi, and even from central Noida, it is almost 60 km away. Although there are plans to have rapid rail and even high-speed rail connectivity for the NIA, those projects will take a few years. By contrast, IGIA has excellent connectivity with two metro lines, including the express line that connects the airport to central Delhi in about 20 minutes. According to some experts, this would mean that NIA could find it difficult to attract passengers beyond its immediate catchment area till it has a rapid rail and metro network.



a press statement issued on Thursday.

HDFC Bank said its admitted claim accounted for 3.2% of the total claims and that it was inherited from erstwhile HDFC Ltd prior to the merger of the two entities. “With regard to the referred NCLT matter, HDFC Bank’s admitted claim was only 3.2% of the total stated amount. The bank inherited this facility, which was previously provided by HDFC Limited. HDFC Bank had opposed this settlement and voted against the resolution, which was approved by the majority. The bank is exploring an appeal at NCLAT,” the lender said in a statement Thursday. The NCLT verdict saved the case from going into bankruptcy. The proceedings concern personal guarantees given by Chandra for borrowings of Essel Group-linked companies. When a promoter gives a personal guarantee for corporate loans, the lender can, subject to the applicable legal process, pursue the guarantor when the underlying borrower defaults. Chandra’s insolvency proceedings were initiated in 2024 following a petition by Indiabulls Housing Finance. The case therefore goes beyond Zee Entertainment Enterprises. It concerns Chandra’s personal liability arising from guarantees linked to corporate debt. There is a separate corporate insolvency proceedings involving companies associated with the Essel Group, or with regulatory proceedings involving Zee Entertainment and its executives.

India’s industrial growth stays robust with manufacturing and electricity output driving recovery

New Delhi: India’s industrial production remained healthy, registering growth of 6.7 per cent in July 2026, compared with 5.4 per cent in July 2025 and the growth was driven by stronger manufacturing and electricity generation, a report said on Saturday. The report from Bank of Baroda said manufacturing rose 7.3 per cent in the month supported by manufacture of clothing, chemicals, computer and electronics, electrical equipment, motor vehicles, and other transport equipment. The bank forecasted recovery in industrial production with a pickup expected in consumption demand and manufacturing sector along with rural demand supporting growth. Further, consumer durables are on strong footing which speaks of sustained urban demand, the report said. Manufacturing activity is also expected to get support from sector-specific policy initiatives in place and India’s attempt to diversify its trade basket. However, the impact on margins of producers is likely to continue as the supply

chain normalisation will take some time till the war situation between US and Iran resolves. Output of capital goods, intermediate goods, and consumer durables also improved notably in July 26 compared with last year. Heatwave conditions have supported demand for consumer durables so far, the report noted. The report forecasted global commodity prices to remain volatile as tensions between US and Iran remain escalated, and key shipping routes still under threat. “Limited pass-through in output prices implies that margins can be expected to remain under pressure for some more time, until shipping activity normalises. Hence, we maintain a cautious view on our full year IIP growth forecast,” the report said. However, domestic measures to boost manufacturing and limited impact of erratic monsoon on consumer demand, will help support growth. Within use-based classification, capital goods output surged 16.1 per cent versus 5.9 per cent a year earlier

FSSAI to introduce red warning labels on chips, sugary drinks and packaged foods



Soon, a red hexagon on your favourite chips packet may warn you that it is ‘high fat, high salt’ or one on the soda can may say ‘highly sweetened beverage’. While there is no notification yet — nor a timeline for implementation — the country’s apex food safety regulator has finally accepted in its affidavit to the Supreme Court that it will implement a red, hexagonal warning label on the front-of-pack of packaged food products.

This comes after a long back and forth between the regulator and food safety experts on what should be put on front-of-pack to ensure that people do not consume unhealthy foods, at least not without knowing. From health stars, to a complex chart — the food safety authority had proposed many ways of warning people but the activists have been demanding a warning label that can immediately inform people and now the regulator has finally agreed. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) first proposed a star-rating system — much like the ones found on electrical appliances — in its 2022 draft notification. Experts and activists opposed these systems stating that even the unhealthiest of snacks would then receive a half star and any star could be thought of as a positive by people.

What has the regulator proposed?

The food regulator, in its affidavit, has said that it will implement red, hexagonal warning on the front of packaged foods. This will be implemented in two phases, the body said: Phase I — foods will carry the warning only if it is high in two of the three health-harming ingredients: fats, sugars, and salts. Sweetened beverages, which are usually high only in sugars, will carry a separate warning. “It is further proposed that FoPNL (Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling) be implemented in phases to facilitate consumer acceptability and provide industry adequate time for reformulation,” the affidavit said. Phase II — the warning label would extend to even products that are high in just one of the three ingredients.

The warning label will be carried on the front of the pack, stating the message in English, in a font size one point larger than the one used in the nutritional information table provided at the back of the pack. Single ingredient food products such as a packet of milk will be exempt from

After 11 weight-loss surgeries, Nairobi woman, 32, gets a second shot at life

In 2011, a 17-year-old girl from Nairobi decided to reclaim her life as she weighed a life-threatening 200 kg. Over the next 15 years, she underwent 11 weight loss procedures, including revision surgeries, each bringing fresh challenges. By July this year, she was critically ill with severe nutritional deficiencies, sepsis, a persistent intestinal leak and continuous pus drainage. When Pune-based laparoscopic bariatric surgeon Dr Shashank Shah met her for the first time in June, she told him just one thing: “Doctor, I want to live.” Her surgical journey began with a sleeve gastrectomy, in which a large portion of the stomach is removed to reduce its capacity. This helped her lose 35 kg. But in 2015, she underwent another major procedure—a banded Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, in which a small stomach pouch is created and connected to the small intestine, with a band added to restrict food intake—and her weight fell to approximately 90 kg. Five years later, in 2020, she travelled to Dubai looking for another solution and underwent an aggressive revision surgery. Over time, she developed severe nutritional deficiencies, became extremely weak and experienced repeated fainting attacks. “I was unable to sustain the effects of so many operations,” she told

A series of surgeries, mounting complications Six years later, she underwent another major surgery in Mumbai, where the band was removed and an attempt was made to reconnect the stomach. It was after this procedure that her condition took a serious turn. She subsequently developed a leak at the surgical site, leading to a severe infection and a large collection of pus. Another operation was performed to drain the infection and treat the suspected leak. A tube was placed in the first week of June to drain the pus, and she required intravenous antibiotics. “I was in extreme pain,” she said. By the time she reached Dr Shah’s centre, she had become extremely weak, with severe nutritional deficiencies, infection and sepsis. “She had lost hope when I met her and was extremely exhausted,” Dr Shah said.

Having operated on the woman’s uncle two decades ago, he said that her obesity was likely due to a genetic disorder, but repeated weight-loss and revisional procedures had left her with severe nutritional deficiencies and major complications. The immediate challenge, however, was not her weight, but getting her well enough to survive another complex procedure. “When she arrived at our centre, her chances of survival were extraordinarily poor,” Dr Shah recalled. Given the severity of her condition, Dr Shah’s team did not immediately proceed with another major surgery. The first priority was to control the infection, correct her nutritional deficiencies and rebuild her strength through nutritional support, intensive medical care and physiotherapy.

“Patients presenting with complications of this magnitude are extremely high-risk. First, our team made efforts to correct her deficiencies, control the infection, provide nutritional support, intensive medical care and physiotherapy,” he said. Once she was stronger, the team addressed the surgical defect. A long stent was placed across the stomach leak to help divert food and digestive fluids away from the affected area and allow it to heal. She subsequently required an endoscopic procedure to reposition and adjust the stent. Now weighing 86 kg, the 32-year-old has been discharged and is expected to fly back to Nairobi in the next two days. “I was going through multiple issues in my life. But it is not easy when, at the tender age of 17-18, you are told ‘Fat is Ugly’. Imagine the trauma when I felt that I was not loved because I was fat. This place is not a hospital but a home for me,” she said.

Obesity is a chronic disease, not failure of willpower The Nairobi woman’s story resonates with the recommendations made by the Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society of India (OSSSI) and the Endocrine Society of India (ESI). They have jointly developed an expert consensus on obesity management protocols. Published in Obe-

this regulation, along with products that are inherently rich in fat, sugar or salt, such as ghee, edible oil, salt, sugar, jaggery and honey.

What do experts say?

Experts welcome the move to finally introduce warning labels by FSSAI but have some concerns about the same. Dr Arun Gupta, Convener of Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPI)- India, said: “In principle, FSSAI has agreed to the warning labels, but they have put in a whole lot of conditions that make it ineffective. Take for example, the two or more nutrient-thresholds in the phase I of implementation, many unhealthy products would not need to add the warning label because they are high in just one nutrient.” He added that the FSSAI has also not given any timeline for the implementation of phase II when all products high in fats, sugars, or salts will have to carry the warning. Another challenge that he notes is the use of the term “added.” “The food products will have to carry the warning only when there are added sugars or added fats. One, this is difficult to estimate. Two, it is not just the added fat or added sugar that harms the health, high levels of natural sugars can also be bad for you.” He also added that the font size proposed is too small and the message should be carried in English and Hindi as well.

What is the evidence of this working?

Front-of-pack labels have emerged globally as a way to steer consumers towards healthier packaged foods, which are low in salts, sugars, and fats. Such packaging policies have been introduced in 44 countries, with at least 16 countries adopting it as a mandatory measure with others making it voluntary. There are generally two types of front-of-pack labels used. An interpretive label that uses all the nutritional information to give a score or star that can be understood in a glance such as warning labels, health star rating, or nutri-score. A non-interpretive label, on the other hand, displays only certain information without giving a judgement.

Countries such as Australia and New Zealand use a health star rating; others such as Netherlands, Czech Republic and Singapore use symbols on products that are the healthier choice. The UK uses a traffic light method where the amount of salt, sugar, and fats are mentioned along with the colour coding of red, yellow, or green; and countries like Chile use a black stop signal to prevent people from buying unhealthy products. At least 10 countries, including Chile, Peru, Israel, Mexico, Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela and Canada use warning labels that health activists in the country have been pushing for. A position paper by organisations such as Public Health Foundation of India, Centre for Science and Environment, and Indian Academy of Paediatrics states that there was a change in consumption pattern in several Latin American countries that implemented such warning labels, with Chile witnessing a 24% drop in sugary drink consumption.



sity Surgery on August 3, the consensus brings together 78 experts and 55 recommendations spanning the entire spectrum of obesity care—from prevention and diagnosis to lifestyle interventions, medications, metabolic and bariatric surgery, monitoring, long-term follow-up and palliative care.

“Obesity is a chronic disease that requires timely recognition, scientific treatment and long-term care. This joint consensus provides a unified, India-specific framework that can help move the conversation away from blame and towards evidence-based medical care,” Dr KS Kular, President, Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society of India (OSSSI), said. The consensus highlights that obesity is influenced by a complex interplay of genetic, metabolic, endocrine, environmental, psychological, socioeconomic and lifestyle factors—many of which may be beyond an individual’s control. “People living with obesity are often made to feel that their weight is simply the result of poor eating habits or lack of willpower. This creates guilt, shame and hesitation in seeking medical help,” said Dr Aparna Govil Bhasker, bariatric and metabolic surgeon. “Obesity deserves the same scientific, compassionate and long-term approach as any other chronic disease. The focus should be on improving health, not blaming the individual,” Dr Govil Bhasker explained. The recommendations emphasise that BMI or body weight alone should not determine treatment. Indians tend to have higher body fat and develop metabolic complications such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease at comparatively lower BMI levels and younger ages than Western populations. The focus, experts say, should therefore be on the individual’s overall health, complications and long-term well-being—not just the number on the weighing scale.

Nifty, Sensex end third straight week lower amid global rate, geopolitical concerns

Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks posted notable losses for the third consecutive week amid concerns over global interest rates and geopolitical uncertainty. Nifty declined 0.31 per cent during the week and added 0.35 per cent on the last trading day to reach 24,175. At close, Sensex was up 330 points, or 0.43 per cent, at 77,264. It lost 0.36 per cent during the week. Analysts said that volatility surrounding the introduction of the Closing Auction Session (CAS) for F&O stocks also weighed on investor sentiment. The monthly derivatives expiry witnessed sharp price movements during the closing auction, raising concerns regarding increased short-term volatility and price dislocations, particularly in heavyweight stocks. Although markets recovered sharply on Friday, supported by strong buying in IT stocks following upbeat global technology cues, the benchmark indices remained under pressure.

Praggnanandhaa on Olympiad debate: ‘Don’t mind even being reserve player’



On Saturday afternoon, Srinath Narayanan posted a series of photographs on his X account that showed the faces of India’s golden generation grinning back through their computer screens. “Had an intense but fun pre-Olympiad camp with the Indian Team over the past few days! Great energy, lots of good work and, most importantly, fantastic team spirit!” Srinath wrote. To this, Dutch grandmaster Anish Giri asked how long the camp had been. When Srinath answered that it had been a five-day camp, Anish cheekily asked: “How many hours per day, what openings you discussed and who plays board one?” Who plays board 1 for India at the upcoming Olympiad is going to be a hotly-debated topic, with at least three contenders — Praggnanandhaa, Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi — in the mix. Despite experiencing a slump in form over the last year and a half, Gukesh is the reigning world champion and some-

one who has won two gold medals for India on board 1 in the past two Olympiads. Praggnanandhaa, meanwhile, is in red-hot form at the moment, winning the Norway Chess tournament and now the Grand Chess Tour Finals. Arjun, finally, has a strong case to be on board 1 as well, since he is the top-rated player in India as per the August 2026 rating list. Arjun is World no 9 (rating of 2759), Praggnanandhaa is 12th (2750), Nihal Sarin is no 25 (2718) while Gukesh has slumped to world no 31 (with a rating of 2703, having lost 74 rating points since January 2025 when he was the newly-minted world champion). Vidit Gujrathi, the final player in the Indian side, is world no 33 with a rating of 2697.

Playing on board 1 is a lot more than just a matter of prestige: it also means facing the world’s heavy-hitters, because at the Olympiad, most teams name their top players on the board. A couple of years ago, there used to be a joke about Indian chess. The hardest position to hold on to in chess is the India No 1 position. Now, the hardest decision to make for Srinath is likely to be who plays as India No 1 at the Olympiad in Samarkand where they are hoping to defend their gold medal. When Praggnanandhaa was asked in an interview after he won the Grand Chess Tour Final title, he said: “We haven’t really had any calls about this. Our captain Srinath anna is really smart. He usually thinks about all possibilities and comes up with a logical idea. For me, I don’t mind playing anywhere... board 4 or even being the reserve player. Whatever he chooses, I’ll happily take it (as long as we win).”

‘We all have an ego’: Praggnanandhaa’s take on Hikaru Nakamura’s ‘arrogant’ remark

GNS News Agency, August 31

R Praggnanandhaa believes that while a competitive ego is natural among top chess players, it doesn’t necessarily make them arrogant. The Indian grandmaster, fresh off his Grand Chess Tour win, offered a considered response to American GM Hikaru Nakamura’s recent claim that every elite player is arrogant. “When it comes to chess, we all want to win. So when we lose, we don’t take it lightly. We all want to give it back the next day. In that way, we all have an ego. We don’t want to lose. We want to fight back,” Praggnanandhaa told The Indian Express.

“But I think most chess players are nice. I mean, there is nothing I have against anyone. Everyone is just nice. But when it comes to chess, we all want to beat each other. So in that way, there is a high competitive spirit. That does give you some ego. When you lose, you don’t take it lightly... you’re annoyed. I am sure there are a few outside chess who probably are arrogant at the top, but I don’t think everyone is,” he added. His comments came in response to Nakamura’s recent remarks, where he asserted that arrogance is a prerequisite for success at the highest level. “The reality is that every top player is very arrogant. Some are just better at keeping their emotions and their feelings inside as opposed to others,” Nakamura said on his YouTube stream. “But anybody who wants to pretend that other players are somehow very calm, they aren’t arrogant, or they don’t have a big ego... you’re just lying to yourself, basically. Because all of them do. And of course, I am too. Everybody’s arrogant. Everybody has an ego. Because you have to have that in order to be a very, very strong chess player. You have to have it. It’s just the reality. There are certain players who are better at keeping it inside, but every top player has an ego. Even the Indian players.” Praggnanandhaa’s response fits this generation of Indian chess players well. They come across as calm and composed on the outside, but beneath that quiet exterior is a fierce competitor who hates losing just as much as anyone else.

The grandmaster from Chennai admitted he had lost some confidence after a disappointing Candidates performance, where he felt he lacked control over his games. He



regained that sense of control at the GCT Bucharest tournament, before Norway Chess, even though the results didn’t immediately reflect it. Once his confidence returned, he knew he could compete at the highest level and win, while acknowledging that such victories are never guaranteed, however much he aims for them. “Sometimes your confidence is low. You don’t feel the usual thing and you start to second-guess your decisions. You double-check everything. You don’t believe in some lines you see. You take fewer risks. But I think more than the results, how you play, how your brain is thinking, and the moves that flow... all these things are important. I felt during Bucharest that I was a lot more in control. Whatever I was seeing was pretty decent. I was playing good quality chess compared to the Candidates or tournaments before that. I felt that changed, and obviously, it’s showing in the results now. But I think it started from Bucharest, where I felt in control.” Asked if confidence brings a sense of invincibility, Praggnanandhaa dismissed the idea. “No one is invincible. Anyone can have a bad day. I was basically blundering one or two moves in the finals. You need to be cautious. You shouldn’t be over-confident, but you shouldn’t be under-confident either. You should be confident about yourself but should also respect the game and do what’s required,” he said. Praggnanandhaa believes training and preparation can build confidence, but what happens on the board is what ultimately matters. “You have to believe that you can be the best. That is also a form of confidence. When you go to a game, you have to try and win,” he said.

Michael Atherton lists reasons on why Test matches are ending quickly



GNS News Agency, August 31

England’s players appeal unsuccessfully for the wicket of Pakistan’s Shan Masood, second left, on day two of the second cricket test match between England and Pakistan in London, Friday, Aug. 28, 2026. (AP Photo/Dave Shopland) England’s players appeal unsuccessfully for the wicket of Pakistan’s Shan Masood, second left, on day two of the second cricket test match between England and Pakistan in London, Friday, Aug. 28, 2026. (AP Photo/Dave Shopland) With recent Test matches between England and Pakistan (1st Test in Leeds) and Australia vs Bangladesh (2nd Test in Mackay) failing to cross 3 days, former England international Michael Atherton opened up on why he thinks that the longest format has been seeing such quick finishes in recent times.

“Myself and Nass (Nasser Hussain) played in the 1990s, and the number of games that finished in three days or less was around about 7%, and that is now at 20%, so that is a big difference. In the last decade, there have been nine occasions where test matches have finished in two days, and there wasn’t a single occasion of a two-day test between 1946 and 2000. So I think the general starting point is that test matches are going quicker. Now, if you ask why, I mean, that’s the element of debate, and then we can discuss whether it’s a good or a bad thing or what might change. But if I give off the top of my head four or five things, then we can go into each one,” he said on Sky Sports on the sidelines of the second England vs Pakistan Test in “Batting is higher risk now because of T20, and if you take more risk, you’re going to have a chance of getting out more, so that’s speeding up. There is a good crop of fast bowlers around right now. DRS has had an impact, I think. Umpires, first of all, DRS, you know, will show when you’re out, and then umpires are more likely to give LBWs. I think pitches have become more advantageous since the ad-

vent of the World Test Championship. Teams are generally looking to get home advantage more, so whether it’s turning pitches in India or seeming pitches in England, and generally the pitches have become more bowling-friendly since the advent of the World Test Championship. So there’s four or five reasons off the top of my head,” he added.

Meanwhile, in the second Test, England were bossing Pakistan by an imposing 261 runs after two days of play on Friday. The third day is yet to start due to rain at the iconic Lord’s on Saturday. On Friday, the host side were 81-3 in its second innings when bad light stopped play and in total command after routing a depleted Pakistan for 110 in the afternoon. Pakistan medium-pacers Khurram Shahzad and Mohammad Ali did well to prise out Ben Duckett, Jordan Cox and Joe Root in the last session but they were bowling in damage limitation mode. Their batters’ failure conceded an intimidating 180-run lead to England on the first innings. Pakistan hasn’t totaled 180 in the series yet and was without opening batter Imam-ul-Haq, who suffered a left calf strain while fielding early Thursday and won’t reappear. England won the first test in Leeds by an innings last week and may yet repeat the three-day feat and clinch the three-match series.

Kush Maini wraps up two-day Alpine F1 test in Austria

Austria: Indian racer Kush Maini has completed another Formula 1 testing programme with the BWT Alpine F1 Team, covering around 200 laps and approximately 850 kilometres over two days at the Red Bull Ring in Austria.

The BWT Alpine F1 Team Reserve Driver’s latest outing in Formula 1 machinery comes after an earlier test at Zandvoort and provides another boost ahead of his return to FIA Formula 2 action in Monza following the summer break.

Maini began the programme in a TPC (Testing Previous Car) machine, completing 82 laps on the opening day in changing weather conditions. The Indian driver ran on wet, intermediate and soft tyres as a wet morning gradually gave way to drier conditions later in the day. He continued his programme on the second day in a 2025-specification car, the same machinery he drove during the official Young Driver Test in Abu Dhabi last December.

Neeraj Chopra ruled out of 2026 Asian Games with season ending ankle ligament tear



In a major setback for Indian athletics, star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been ruled out of the rest of the season, including the Asian Games and the Diamond League Final, after sustaining a ligament tear in his ankle during training. The two-time Olympic medallist had shown promising signs of form at the Lausanne Diamond League, where he recorded a Season’s Best throw. However, the injury has forced him to cut his campaign short.

“After a period of hard work, I finally felt I was gaining the momentum I had been looking for with a Season’s Best throw in Lausanne,” Chopra said in a statement. “Unfortunately, shortly after, I sustained a ligament tear in my ankle

during training. After discussions with my doctor and team, we’ve decided that I will sit out the rest of this season.” The Lausanne Diamond League was Chopra’s third competitive outing of the 2026 season, following the Doha Diamond League and the Commonwealth Games. He made his comeback in Doha in June after a lengthy injury layoff, finishing fourth with a throw of 85.69m. He followed that up with a silver in Glasgow, where his best throw measured 85.83m.

The 28-year-old had a mixed 2026 season. While his Glasgow performance earned him a podium finish, he was upstaged by Sri Lanka’s Rumesh Pathirage, who won gold with a massive 89.75m throw. The Lausanne Diamond League was supposed to be a stepping stone towards the Asian Games, where Chopra was expected to lead India’s medal charge. Instead, it turned out to be his final competitive outing of the season. “It’s disappointing, especially because I felt close to finding my rhythm,” he added. “But setbacks are a part of the journey. My focus now is on recovering well and coming back even stronger.” Chopra’s absence will be a huge blow to India’s medal hopes at the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, which begin next month. He will also miss the Diamond League Final, where he was in contention to qualify after climbing to seventh in the standings.

‘Was little disappointed’: Surya on getting dropped after winning T20 World Cup

Suryakumar Yadav, India T20 World Cup winning captain was unceremoniously dropped from the team after just over 2 months after he guided the team to the title. The decision sent shockwaves throughout Indian cricket at the time but the BCCI reportedly felt it was the right time to move on and appointed Shreyas Iyer as the new captain. In a recent interaction with Aakash Chopra, Surya finally opened up on how he was relieved of his duties, adding that while he eventually accepted the decision, he was a little disappointed.

“I smiled when my name was not there in the team. When I played with the team and whenever I was playing, whenever I am in situations where there was pressure and things are not going my way, I have always smiled, I have relaxed. And looking back at moments, whenever I got an opportunity to do well, I have been grateful. Now with this situation, I didn’t think that something like this would happen in 2026. I thought I was preparing that going forward, I would be taking this team forward for another two years. Then the Olympics would come. Then there will be another T20 World Cup, another challenge going forward,” he said on Chopra’s YouTube channel.

“But at the same time, what you think and what the other person is thinking are two different things. It is important to respect their thoughts as well as one’s own thoughts. If they thought that going forward, this is a better call, they took that call. But I didn’t react. Because I felt that this was their call. They took that call in that moment. Going forward, if this team can do well under someone else, no problem. Because I have seen the person they have chosen. I played a lot of cricket with Shreyas and I know he is a good player, a good human being, good captain also,” he added. Surya’s form with the bat was a big concern and he has endured a prolonged run of poor form over the last two years, with his fortunes plummeting in the 2026 IPL season as well. While he finished his season with a half-century against the Rajasthan Royals, Surya only managed 270 runs in 13 innings, averaging 20.76 this season.

Even as he led India to their third T20 World Cup title



in March, Surya’s batting has faced intense scrutiny. He was handed India T20I captaincy after Rohit Sharma retired from the format post the World Cup win in the West Indies in 2024. “So I was not like that ‘why did they make him the captain?’ But yes, I was a little disappointed. Because you have not lost a single series in two years. You have won the World Cup and the Asia Cup. Then you want the same thing to go forward. Because when everything is going well, then why? What is the reason for the change? What is the reason for the change? It was going on in my mind. I was sitting at home for a month and a half, thinking, how can this happen? How is it possible? We just won the World Cup. Yes, IPL was not as good as how I wanted. We were sitting at home. Friends came, family came. Everyone said that it’s okay, it’s a part of life. But then, when they leave the house, we are the ones who are left and we used to talk about how this happened,” Surya said. “They called me 2-3 days before the team was announced. They called me, saying it’s time to move on. You saw what happened in the IPL. I didn’t react. Because it’s not my forte. That’s not how Suryakumar Yadav has ever been. Whatever call someone took, they must have thought that this was better for the team. You took the call. You told me. There is no issue, I am ready. You can call me anytime. I am still playing cricket. I will continue to play. Whenever you feel the time is right. Things are right, tell me,” he added.

‘India missed Kohli’s energy’: Former batter slams Gill and Co. for Colombo draw

By the time Sri Lanka decided to declare their second innings on day five after being asked to follow on in Colombo, Shubman Gill and India were rendered ineffective. Their dropped shoulders indicated that India had resigned to the outcome of a drawn Test, well before Sri Lanka’s lower-order had made it possible by a dogged rearguard led by Sonal Dinusha’s century. The draw dented India’s chances in the ICC World Test Championship standings, with the team’s points percentage slipping to 51.53 at fifth place. Former India batter Mohammed Kaif, however, felt that the result would have been different if Virat Kohli was on the field.

Kaif insisted that the former India captain’s energies would have tilted the scales in their favour and that Gill’s side failed to exude similar qualities despite entering the final day’s play while in control of the match. Sri Lanka were leading by only 16 runs with four wickets in hand before Dinusha’s hundred and a lower-order resistance propelled the lead to 176 before the players shook hands. “Playing Tests isn’t everyone’s cup of tea, boss. It’s a very long game and you have to keep bowling continuously. I felt that if someone like Virat Kohli had been playing this match, he would have been constantly shouting and keeping his team switched on,” Kaif said on his YouTube channel.

“At times, I felt we took things for granted, thinking, ‘Just keep bowling, it will happen. The ball is turning so much, it will happen on its own,’” Kaif said. “We created very



few things ourselves. Our energy levels were also very low. That is why I am saying, if Virat Kohli had been playing this Test, the result would have been different. Kaif lamented the lack in intensity from the fielders on the final day meant that India failed to find a moment of inspiration before hitting a wall. “The reason is that he would have been telling everyone, ‘Come on, Sarfaraz, come on, Jaiswal’ and he would have gone after Sonal as well. Who were we getting into confrontations with? We were getting into confrontations with Kumara,” Kaif added. Kohli, who led India to a record 40 wins in 68 matches between 2014 and 2022, retired from the format last year. Despite the draw, India won the series 1-0, with Gill’s securing his second series victory as Test captain.

Telangana Golconda Masters 2026 to feature 132 golfers in Hyderabad from September 1 to 4

Hyderabad: The DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (DP World PGTI), the official sanctioning body for professional golf in India, will stage the Telangana Golconda Masters 2026 at the Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA) from September 1 to 4, with prize money of Rs 1 crore. The tournament was jointly announced by Jupally Krishna Rao, Honourable Minister of Prohibition & Excise, Tourism & Culture and Archaeology, Government of Telangana, and Kapil Dev, President, DP World PGTI, during a press conference held at the Hyderabad Golf Association on Saturday. The tournament, which will witness the participation of 132 golfers, is supported by Event Partners Telangana Tourism, Hyderabad Golf Association, The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace, The Q Golf Studio by Playroot Golf, Tour Partners DP World, Axis Bank, Amul, Enerlyte, Air India Maharaja Club, Kalyani, Golf Plus Monthly and Golf Design India. The top Indian professionals in the fray include DP World PGTI Order of Merit leader Saptak Talwar, Honey Baisoya, Veer Ahlawat, Rashid Khan,

Akshay Sharma and Om Prakash Chouhan, among others. The prominent foreign players in the field are defending champion Jamal Hossain of Bangladesh, Badal Hossain, also from Bangladesh, Czech Republic’s Stepan Daneš, Sri Lankans N Thangaraja and Mithun Perera, Nepal’s Subash Tamang, Uganda’s Joshua Seale and the Japanese duo of Koichiro Ishika and Taiga Tanaka. The local challenge will be led by Hyderabad-based professionals Mohd Azhar, Vishesh Sharma and Rupinder Singh Gill. The tournament is part of the Race to DP World India Championship, a competition to crown the DP World PGTI’s No. 1 player. The competition will also determine the top 24 players from the DP World PGTI Order of Merit who will earn their spots at the season-ending DP World India Championship. Jupally Krishna Rao, Honourable Minister of Prohibition & Excise, Tourism & Culture and Archaeology, Government of Telangana, said, “We are delighted to be associated with the 12th edition of the Telangana Golconda Masters.

Arunachal's Chello Meme brutally roasts Samay Raina on India's Got Latent, wins Rs 1 lakh



Samay Raina is usually the one putting contestants on the spot on India's Got Latent. But in Episode 5 of the show's second season, the comedian found himself at the receiving end of some unexpectedly funny, deadpan honesty from Chello Meme, an Instagram influencer from Arunachal Pradesh. Samay was jokingly trying to find out what people in Arunachal Pradesh thought of him, while Chello's innocent-sounding but brutally honest answers repeatedly turned the tables on him. The episode featured Orry, Archana Puran Singh, Nishant Suri and Sharon Verma on the panel alongside Samay.

Chello began her appearance with a rap about the racism faced by people from the Northeast, including being casually and wrongly called "Chinese". But it was her subsequent conversation with Samay that became one of the funniest moments of the episode. Chello's deadpan replies leave Samay Raina stunned. At one point, Samay asks her, "What do people in Arunachal Pradesh say about me?" "Nothing," she replied. As Samay appeared mock-hurt and everyone started laughing, Chello said, "No, I'm not saying it in a bad way," Chello said. "I'm genuinely telling you, they don't say anything." When Samay joked that she had hurt him, her response was simple: "But I was just telling the truth." Orry then decided to ask the same question about himself. "What do they say about me?" he asked. Chello replied, "They ask, 'What does Orry do? He takes pictures with so many celebrities.'"

Orry immediately told Samay, "See, I'm bigger than you." Samay was quick to respond, "At least they don't say anything about me. About you, they actually ask, 'What does this guy do?'" But Samay was not ready to give up. He once again asked Chello whether people in Arunachal really said

nothing about him. Her answer remained the same: "Nothing." Samay then joked that he would put up a show in Arunachal Pradesh and sell it out. Chello replied, "I don't know whether they will understand your jokes." "Why? What have I done to Arunachal Pradesh?" Samay asked.

When he suggested that Chello give him a shout-out to so people in Arunachal would get to know him, she did offer a compliment of sorts. "You make people laugh. That's a good thing," she said. Samay immediately asked, "Then why don't you say good things about me?" Chello replied, "Just because you make people laugh doesn't mean we have to call you good." She later clarified that she had not come on the show intending to roast him. "I didn't come here saying I would roast you. I'm just telling the truth," she said. When Samay joked that she had come to "slaughter" him, Chello quipped that she had come to take revenge on behalf of everyone. Samay then asked her to insult Nishant Suri as well. "No," Chello replied. "I only say it to people who deserve it."

Samay finally admitted, jokingly, that he now understood what it felt like to be on the receiving end of such jokes. "Today I understand what it feels like to stand on that side. It's hard work," he said.

All four panelists — Orry, Archana Puran Singh, Nishant Suri and Sharon Verma — gave Chello a perfect 10. Samay, however, gave her a five. But the low score was part of his calculation. Samay had correctly predicted that Chello would give herself a score of nine. So, with four 10s from the other panelists, he gave her a five to bring her overall average down to exactly nine — allowing her to match her own predicted score and win. Chello walked away with Rs 1 lakh, two AI Nova+ phones and 50,000 coins on the District app. In the end, after Samay spent the entire conversation jokingly asking what people in Arunachal Pradesh thought of him, he finally asked Chello what she thought of him now.

Chello Meme is no stranger to going viral. She first came into the spotlight in 2021, when she was 19, after sharing a video in which she alleged that a man had repeatedly touched her inappropriately at the ISBT in Guwahati. Chello was travelling to New Delhi via Guwahati to attend the National Youth Parliament as a representative from Arunachal Pradesh when the incident took place. She confronted the man publicly as he allegedly tried to leave, and the video went viral, with many people praising her for speaking up. At the time, Chello was a Political Science student who had secured the top position at Arunachal Pradesh's State Youth Parliament event, earning the opportunity to represent the state at the National Youth Parliament in New Delhi. During the event, she spoke about the idea of a self-reliant India, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi later praised her speech and shared it on social media. She later built another following on Instagram with her fun, relatable content and her well-known love for Pepsi. The influencer had around 77,000 followers before her appearance on India's Got Latent, and her stint on the show has since given her another boost online with 1001 followers now.

Javed Akhtar recalls struggle in Bombay with 20 paisa left: 'I went 3 days without food'

Javed Akhtar arrived in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1964 and spent six years struggling to find a foothold in the film industry. In a conversation with Let's Talk with Devna G, the veteran writer recalled surviving on occasional ghost-writing jobs, going hungry for days and sometimes not knowing where his next meal would come from. Yet, he said, he never had a Plan B or any doubt that he would eventually succeed.

Javed Akhtar wanted to assist Raj Kapoor or Guru Dutt. Javed said he had decided while still in college that he would move to Bombay after graduation and assist either Raj Kapoor or Guru Dutt. "I was very clear that after graduation, I would go to Bombay and assist a big director. I had a very short list of choices — Raj Kapoor or Guru Dutt," he said. "Guru Dutt died perhaps six or seven days after I reached Bombay. And I saw RK Studio almost five years after coming to Bombay. Forget working with Raj Kapoor, I didn't even see RK Studio for five years," he said. Akhtar arrived in Bombay in 1964 at the age of 19, hoping to become a filmmaker. He has previously recalled reaching the city with just 27 naya paisa in his pocket. "Sometimes I had food, sometimes I didn't. With no major break coming my way, Javed took up whatever writing work he could find, including ghostwriting for films.

"I would sometimes get ghostwriting work — maybe 10 scenes for a comedian in a film. They would call me and pay me Rs 100 per scene. If there were 10 scenes, I would get Rs 1,000. That is how I somehow managed to survive. And thanks to my friends, who took care of me," he said. Javed said his real break came only in January 1970.

Those six years were on and off. Sometimes I had shelter, sometimes I didn't. Sometimes I could get food, sometimes I could not. But there was no Plan B," he said. There were days when he did not even know where his next meal would come from. "Sometimes, when I woke up, I had no idea where I would get lunch or dinner from, or whether I would get anything at all. Quite often, I didn't," he said. Despite the hardship, Javed said he never once thought about ending his life. "Quite often, I find it amusing that the thought of suicide never crossed my mind. I may have rejected it, but the thought itself never occurred to me. Never," he said. "There was no home I could go back to. I had been thrown out of the house."

Why he never thought of sitting outside a dargah for food. Javed recalled knowing about a dargah in Mahim where people would arrange food for those sitting outside. Yet, even when he had gone hungry for two or three days, he never thought of going there himself. "I don't know why that thought never occurred to me. It wasn't that I rejected the idea. It simply never came to my mind," he said. Now, when he passes the place, he sometimes thinks, "I could have sat here. I had gone hungry for three days." Despite everything he went through, however, Javed said he never doubted that he would succeed.

The day he chose chana over a bus ride. Javed also recalled once writing around 10 scenes for a producer, who promised to pay him Rs 1,000 the next day. When he reached the producer's office in Dadar, however, he found it locked. Living near Bandra-Khar at the time, Javed had just 20 naya paisa left in his pocket. "With 20 naya paisa, I could either buy a bus ticket to Bandra and walk the rest of the way home, or I could eat something. I decided to eat," he said.



He bought chana and began walking from Dadar towards Bandra. As he passed Kohinoor Mill, a thought struck him. "I looked at Kohinoor Mill and thought the building may change. It may be redeveloped. Anything can happen. But I thought this mill would always be there. And one day, I would pass this road in my car and look at this place," he said. Even then, he imagined the incident finding a place in his biography. "I had complete faith that this interesting incident would be mentioned," he said, before laughing at his younger self. "That faith was stupidity. It was ignorance. It was not some great thing that I was farsighted about. It was stupidity that helped me. That stupidity saved me." Javed Akhtar eventually found success as one half of the celebrated Salim-Javed writing partnership. Along with Salim Khan, he wrote some of Hindi cinema's most influential films, including Zanjeer, Deewaar, Sholay, Don and Trishul, before going on to establish himself as one of the country's most acclaimed lyricists and writers.

Ravi Teja signs new film with Vivek Athreya after Irumudi success

Hyderabad: Telugu star Ravi Teja, who is riding high on the sensational success of his recently released film 'Irumudi' which has now gone on to emerge a huge blockbuster, is now on a signing spree. Sources close to the actor say that he has now signed another new film, this time with director Vivek Athreya, who is best known for having directed the Nani-starrer 'Saripodhaa Sanivaaram'. The film is to be produced by Laxman and Srinii of Bridge Productions. Sources said Irumudi's success had brought the team together for a special celebration, with director Vivek Athreya and producers Laxman and Srinii meeting Ravi Teja and congratulating him on the blockbuster success of the film. Only a couple of days ago, the actor had announced that he will next be working with director Hasith Goli on a hardcore entertainer.

'I felt Aishwarya Rai was cosmetic': Subhash Ghai says Saroj Khan recommended her for Taal



Filmmaker Subhash Ghai was initially hesitant to cast Aishwarya Rai as Mansi, the simple small-town girl in his 1999 hit Taal. His doubts originated from the actress' 'cosmetic' image after she won the Miss World title in 1994. In a recent interview, Ghai recalled how late choreographer Saroj Khan recommended Aishwarya for the female lead in Taal. During a conversation with Times Now, the director revealed that he had asked Khan who, apart from Madhuri Dixit, could handle the demanding dance requirements of the character.

"Saroj Khan recommended her name. I asked her that

there are 3-4 heroines currently, and who dances the best. She took Aish's name. I was shocked and told her that Aish belongs to the cosmetic world," he shared. The filmmaker further recalled that he initially saw Aishwarya as an actress who belonged more to the world of modelling and beauty pageants. However, watching Mani Ratnam's Iruvar changed his perspective.

"I saw 1-2 films of her so I felt that she was more on the modelling and cosmetic side. A friend of mine asked me to watch her Mani Ratnam film," he said. He continued, "Mani Ratnam kept a trial for me and when I saw the Tamil movie Iruvar, I knew that she was the girl. I told her that you won't have makeup at all in the beginning and then it would increase slowly, and you would eventually become a diva."

Aishwarya Rai's commitment to Taal Ghai also praised Aishwarya's commitment and spoke about the importance of actors trusting a filmmaker's vision. He said "When actor surrenders to the director, then things happen. They should surrender. Amitabh Bachchan always used to tell me that he sees a filmmaker's passion, listen to two lines of the film's story and says yes, because it's that director's film. The problem with many stars is that they try to become a creative partner. Aishwarya Rai, Anil Kapoor, Akshaye Khanna, all three of them surrendered. She was very hard working and fully committed," highlighting how Aishwarya Rai was completely surrendered in front of the director. The 1999 musical romantic drama Taal was directed and produced by Subhash Ghai. The film also starred Akshaye Khanna (Manav Mehta), and Anil Kapoor (Vikrant Kapoor) in lead roles, along with Amrish Puri and Alok Nath. The music was composed by AR Rahman.

'Hindu and Muslim extremists can't tolerate Javed Akhtar and me': Shabana Azmi

Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar have often been vocal about the Hindu-Muslim divide in India and have openly shared their views on the issue. Now, Shabana has said that the real fight is not between Hindus and Muslims but between liberals and extremists. She also shared how she and Javed have faced criticism from extremists within both communities. Speaking to Zoom, the actor said, "Extremists from intolerant communities cannot tolerate both Javed and me. Both the Hindu extremist and the Muslim extremist can't tolerate us. Looking at this, we think our secular credentials are established. Sometimes a maulvi is sending a fatwa, other times someone is calling us terrorists." She added that the need of the hour is to look beyond religious identities and understand the core issue.

"But we have to get beyond this Hindu-Muslim narrative and the complete division. I think the only way it can be done is that you don't fall into the pit where a conscious effort is being put to create a divide. We need to understand that it is not a fight between Hindu and Muslim, it's a fight between the liberals and the intolerant. The liberal Hindu and Muslim are on the same side and the intolerant Hindu and Muslim are on the same side. So when you put it like that, you take away the poison of using religion as a way of dividing people." She explained, "It is against the ethos of India and its Constitution. It is not the truth of India. The truth of India is her composite culture, and that's what we have celebrated all our lives. We have celebrated it in and out in my family." In the same interview, Shabana Azmi also spoke about the box-office failure of Rajkumar Santoshi's Batwara 1947. She said the film failed because audiences



could not accept Gadar star Sunny Deol playing a Muslim character, attributing the reaction to the current environment. She compared it to the era when Amitabh Bachchan was at the peak of his career and comfortably took on a variety of roles, including Muslim characters in films such as Coolie. She said: "The thing is that you cannot accept Sunny Deol as a Muslim. In Coolie and in many other films, Amitabh Bachchan very comfortably played Muslim characters. In Deewaar, he put 786 and that was accepted. So how do we understand this? Are they creating an environment where such decisions are being taken on purpose? I am not able to understand." Previously, the couple had also spoken about an incident in which a Sindhi landlord allegedly refused to sell them a flat because they were Muslims.

Tea seller's daughter, who dreams of IFS, loses Rs 12 lakh on Komagata Maru question

KBC 18: Amitabh Bachchan-hosted Kaun Banega Crorepati 18 saw Pragati Dinesh Kalpekar from Amravati, Maharashtra, take the hot seat in the August 28 episode. A junior clerk at the Divisional Information Office in Amravati, Pragati came on the show with her father and younger brother and reached the Rs 12 lakh question before a question about the Komagata Maru ended her game.

The daughter of a tea seller, Pragati spoke about her family's struggles and her journey from dealing with disappointment over her earlier dream of becoming a doctor to now aspiring to become an IFS officer. Pragati eventually took home Rs 5 lakh. Check this space tomorrow to learn more about the toughest question on the latest episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati 18. We will be bringing you the question and the story behind it.

Pragati Kalpekar on growing up away from her younger brother. Pragati came to KBC 18 with her father and younger brother and shared that visiting Mumbai and appearing on the show was her first experience of visiting a big city. Her father runs a tea stall, while Pragati now works as a junior clerk in the government's Divisional Information Office in Amravati. She also spoke about the financial difficulties her family faced while she and her brother were growing up. Her parents prioritised her education and sent Pragati to live with her maternal grandparents. As a result, the siblings did not grow up together, and her younger brother did not know he had a sister until he was around five years old. "After so many failures, it is difficult to regain confidence," Pragati said that she had once dreamed of becoming a doctor and prepared for NEET with the hope of getting into an MBBS course.

However, she was unable to secure an MBBS seat and got admission to BDS instead. Watching many of her friends get into MBBS courses left her feeling disappointed. "I was very depressed. After so many failures, it becomes difficult to regain your confidence," she said. Pragati credited her younger brother for helping her move past the difficult period. "My younger brother guided me like an elder brother and motivated me to prepare for other exams," she said. An avid reader, Pragati said she wants to continue her studies and eventually become an IFS officer. "That is my dream," she said. Pragati had a strong run on the hot seat and reached Rs 25,000 without using either of her lifelines. She used the audience poll for the eighth question, worth Rs 2 lakh, and later used the MahaFlip lifeline for the Rs 5 lakh question. Pragati then played the Super Sandook round, where contestants have 90 seconds to answer 10 questions and win Rs 10,000 for every correct answer. Contestants who answer at least five questions correctly can either take the money earned in the round or choose the 50:50 lifeline. Although she still had the 50:50 lifeline, Pragati decided not to use it and chose option D. Kartar



The daughter of a tea seller, Pragati spoke about her family's struggles and her journey from dealing with disappointment over her earlier dream of becoming a doctor to now aspiring to become an IFS officer. Pragati eventually took home Rs 5 lakh.

Singh Sarabha. However, the correct answer was Baba Gurdit Singh. After getting the Rs 12 lakh question wrong, Pragati's winnings dropped to Rs 5 lakh, which was the amount she ultimately took home.

Why Baba Gurdit Singh chartered the Komagata Maru. Baba Gurdit Singh chartered the Japanese steamship Komagata Maru in 1914 in an attempt to challenge Canada's restrictive immigration laws. The ship carried 376 passengers, most of them Sikhs from Punjab, when it arrived in Vancouver. However, Canadian authorities refused to allow most of the passengers to enter the country because of the government's "continuous journey" regulation, which effectively restricted immigration from India. The ship was eventually forced to return to India. When the passengers arrived near Calcutta, several were killed in a confrontation with British authorities. The Komagata Maru incident is now remembered as an important episode in the history of Indian migration and the struggle against discriminatory immigration policies.