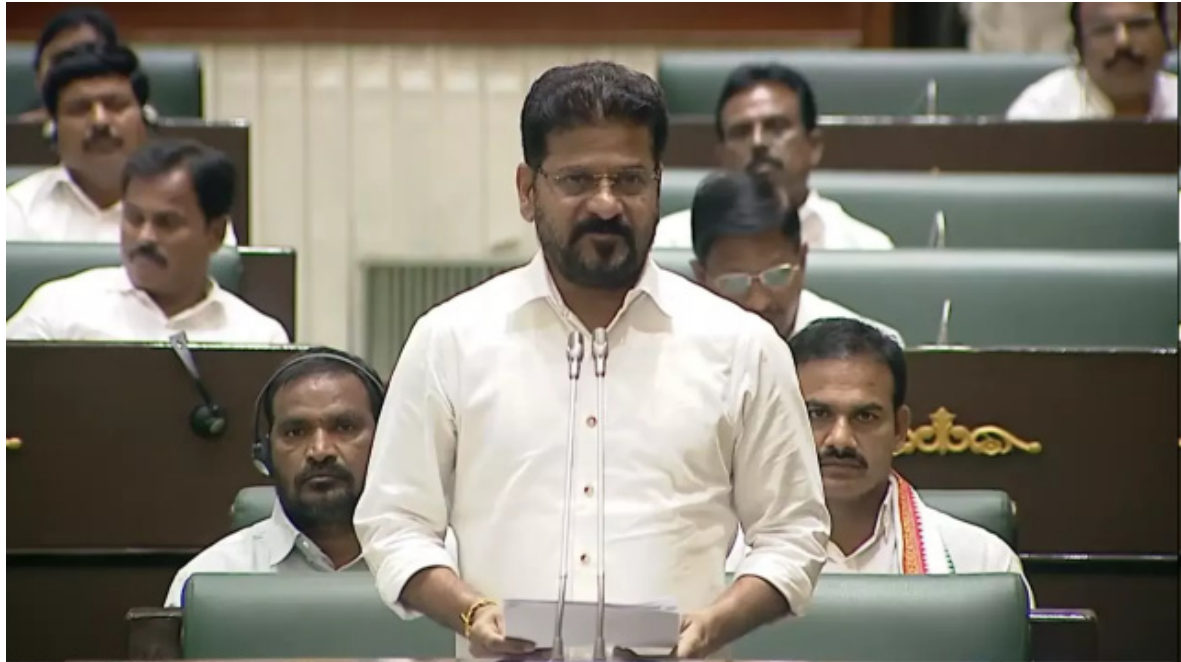


Sanjay Baru says Revanth Reddy will be a one-term wonder

Hyderabad: Amid growing criticism of the Congress government's 1,000-day rule in Telangana, political commentator Sanjay Baru said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy would be a "one-term wonder" and asserted that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) would return to power.

The Congress government is celebrating the completion of 1,000 days in office, claiming that its performance has impressed all sections, including farmers, government employees and unemployed youth.



Hyderabad, SEpt 9

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the chain of incidents involving BRS leaders, including the violence at the Legislative Assembly, derogatory remarks against Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Dalit protests at BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao's Erravalli farmhouse and the subsequent "purification" of roads near the farmhouse.

The Chief Minister alleged that a "conspiracy" was hatched at Chandrashekar Rao's farmhouse ahead of the Assembly's monsoon session to target the Speaker and disrupt the proceedings.

The probe will cover the BRS Legislature Party meeting chaired by the party chief at the farmhouse on September 6, the violence at the Assembly gates, alleged abusive remarks against the Speaker and attacks on

police personnel and government employees on September 7, the Dalit protests at Erravalli on September 8 and the alleged purification programme carried out by BRS workers on September 9.

The inquiry will be headed by Hyderabad City Special Branch joint commissioner of police S.M. Vijay Kumar.

Revanth Reddy said the investigation would establish the roles of those who allegedly planned as well as those who executed them. Criminal cases would be registered against all those found responsible, he warned.

Making a statement in the Assembly, Revanth Reddy alleged that the BRS leadership had deliberately planned to prevent the House from functioning. He said the government had convened the session to discuss public issues, including Section 22A lands, and alleged that the BRS feared that a debate on such matters would cause political damage to the party.

Two women farmers injured as lightning strikes cotton field

Mancherla: Two women farmers sustained injuries after being struck by lightning when they were working in a cotton field at Ghanpur village in Nennal mandal on Wednesday.

Locals said that while Kummarikunta Saritha suffered serious injuries, Angali Srilatha sustained minor injuries in the incident. Both were shifted to a hospital in Mancherla. The condition of Saritha was reported to be critical. The women were removing weeds in one of their farms, when lightning struck them.

Telangana Govt Orders Probe Into Violence, Abuse of Assembly Speaker

The Chief Minister said the inquiry would also examine incidents involving inappropriate behaviour towards women personnel during the BRS protests at Assembly gates. The investigation would also establish the role of those who issued instructions and those who implemented them on the ground.

The controversy escalated after Dalit activists protested near Chandrashekar Rao's farmhouse on September 8, demanding an apology over the abusive remarks against the Speaker and his mother.

Revanth Reddy said the protesters had chosen the Erravalli location because they believed the conspiracy had been planned there. He maintained that Dalits had conducted a democratic protest by beating drums and raising slogans and had neither entered the farmhouse nor attacked anyone.

The Chief Minister strongly objected to the alleged "purification" of roads near the farmhouse by BRS workers, who reportedly sprinkled turmeric water on roads used by the Dalit protesters. Congress leaders alleged that the act amounted to treating the presence of Dalits in the area as desecration. The issue triggered a political storm in the Assembly on Wednesday, with Congress members demanding a debate in the House.

Revanth Reddy said the government would not tolerate untouchability, caste discrimination, attempts to create social tensions or incitement of violence. He said the roads did not need purification and that it was the discriminatory mindset that needed to change.

He also said political differences could not justify insulting the Speaker or his mother and recalled that several political parties had urged the BRS leaders concerned to apologise. Citing a social media post by BRS leader Sandhya Rao, he said that the purification programme was carried out on the instructions of Chandrashekar Rao.

"Using loopholes in legislations, people resorting to such acts may secure bails from courts, but society will not give them bail," Revanth Reddy said, asserting that both the conspirators and those who carried out their instructions would face legal action.

He said the inquiry would examine the entire sequence of events from the September 6 farmhouse meeting to the incidents at the Assembly and Erravalli, and vowed that his government would uphold constitutional safeguards and take action against caste discrimination and untouchability.

‘What is this yeah-yeah? This is not a coffee shop’; CJI Chandrachud raps lawyer

NEW DELHI, SEPT 9

The Supreme Court on Monday pulled up a lawyer for using informal and inappropriate language in court while arguing a PIL seeking an in-house inquiry against former CJI Ranjan Gogoi for dismissing his petition related to a service dispute.

"What is this 'yeah-yeah'? This is not a coffee shop. I am very allergic to this 'yeah-yeah'. This cannot be allowed (in courts)," the CJI told the lawyer after he responded by uttering 'yeah-yeah' in response to a court query.

Taking strong exception to former CJI Ranjan Gogoi being made a party to the PIL, a Bench led by CJI Chandrachud asked, "How can you file a PIL with a judge as a respondent? There has to be some dignity. You cannot just say I want an in-house inquiry against a judge. Justice Ranjan Gogoi was a former judge of the Supreme Court."

"He retired as the Chief Justice of India. You cannot say I want an in-house inquiry against a judge because you did not succeed before the bench. Sorry, we cannot tolerate this", the Bench told the Pune-based litigant.

He filed the PIL after his plea relating to his termination of services under labour laws was dismissed by a Bench headed by Justice Gogoi who retired on November 17, 2019. Currently, he is a Rajya Sabha MP.

The litigant claimed that this was a case of "illegal termination".

However, the top court wasn't convinced. "How can you file a PIL in a service matter after dismissal of the



petition and the review plea? You should have filed a curative petition," said the CJI who also interacted with the petitioner in Marathi to explain legal and procedural issues to him.

The Bench asked him to make a statement before the court's registry that he will delete the name of Justice Gogoi from the list of parties.

Congress flags Rs 10K crore ‘tax evasion’ racket via unrecognised parties

NEW DELHI, SEPT 9

The Congress on Wednesday alleged that more than Rs 10,000 crore in "black money" had been generated through registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs), claiming they were being used as conduits to help individuals and companies claim tax deductions before returning much of the donated money in cash.

Congress former Rajya Sabha MP Shaktisinh Gohil also questioned the Election Commission and the Income Tax authorities over alleged inadequate action despite instances of fraudulent political donations coming under scrutiny.

Addressing a press conference here, Gohil claimed around 3,260 RUPPs were part of a system that allowed donors to reduce their tax liabilities through contributions ostensibly made to political parties.

"More than Rs 10,000 crore of black money has been generated through these fake political parties and there has been an open loot of tax revenue," Gohil said.

Explaining the alleged modus operandi, the Congress leader said individuals and companies made donations to RUPPs and claimed deductions available for political contributions under Sections 80GGC and 80GGB of the Income Tax Act. He alleged that this money did not necessarily remain with the political entity.

According to Gohil, people associated with such

parties would retain a commission, ranging from two to 15 per cent, and return the balance to the donor in cash. The arrangement, he alleged, allowed donors to claim a legitimate-looking political contribution on paper while effectively converting the transaction into a mechanism for avoiding tax.

Gohil argued that the incentive could be particularly high for individuals earning more than Rs 5 crore, whose effective tax liability, after surcharge and cess, could cross 42 per cent.

The Congress leader claimed that the tax authorities and tribunals had already encountered instances of fraudulent claims involving political donations, but questioned why such cases had not resulted in prosecution and stringent penalties against those responsible.

He referred to Sections 276C(1) and 277 of the Income Tax Act, dealing with wilful attempts to evade tax and false statements, and claimed provisions carrying severe financial penalties and imprisonment of up to seven years were available in cases of deliberate tax evasion. Gohil alleged that neither the 200 per cent penalty that could be imposed nor criminal prosecution had followed in the cases being highlighted by the Congress.

The party also put the Election Commission in the dock, with Gohil referring to its 2014 guidelines on transparency and accountability in political funding.

Bullet train likely to be operational by May 2027: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI, SEPT 9

India's first indigenous bullet train is likely to start being tested by May or June next year, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday. Speaking to reporters in a post Cabinet meeting press conference, he informed that the testing would continue for two to four months, after which the high-speed train would be inaugurated.

Vaishnaw said construction work on the project was moving ahead at a fast pace and the Surat-Vapi section is expected to be completed by December this year.

The minister informed that the first body frame of the bullet train had recently been completed and sent for a squeeze test.

"By May or June of next year, India's own bullet train will be on the tracks for testing. After a testing period of two to four months, the bullet train will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister himself," he said.



BJP’s poll receipts top Rs 1,472 crore, Cong reports Rs 207 crore: EC data

NEW DELHI, SEPT 9

The BJP's central headquarters received Rs 1,472.8 crore during the 2026 Assembly election cycle covering Assam, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, according to the party's election expenditure statements submitted to the Election Commission (EC). This was more than seven times the Rs 207.17 crore in net receipts reported by the Congress across its central and state units, according to the party's expenditure statements filed with the poll body.

The Congress, whose consolidated expenditure report for Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry had come earlier, reported net receipts of Rs 207.17 crore and an expenditure of Rs 248.55 crore during the March 15-May 6 election period.

The BJP's closing balance, meanwhile, stood at Rs 7,627.2 crore on May 6, 2026, when the election process concluded, up from Rs 6,722.6 crore on March 15.

The BJP, including its central headquarters and state and district units, reported a total expenditure of Rs 160 crore on the Assembly elections in Assam, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

Assam accounted for the highest spending at Rs 96.3 crore, followed by Tamil Nadu at Rs 51.6 crore and Puducherry at Rs 11.9 crore.

In Assam, the BJP spent Rs 76.7 crore on general party propaganda, including Rs 23.1 crore by its central unit. Another Rs 19.5 crore was spent on candidates.

The party spent Rs 27.3 crore on the travel of star campaigners, Rs 37 crore on advertisements, Rs 8.9 crore on publicity material and Rs 2.3 crore on other expenses.

In Tamil Nadu, the party authorised Rs 44.5 crore



for general party propaganda and spent another Rs 7 crore on candidates.

The Election Commission has not yet made public the BJP's expenditure statements for West Bengal and Kerala.

On the other hand, the Congress' finances saw a dip during the polls. Across its central headquarters and five state units, it began the election period with about Rs 169.06 crore (Rs 22.9 crore in cash and Rs 146.1 crore in bank accounts) and ended with about Rs 103.2 crore — a decline of Rs 65.86 crore.

The Congress reported spending Rs 143 crore on general party propaganda and Rs 105.55 crore on candidates across all five states, taking its overall election expenditure to Rs 248.55 crore.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Afghanistan—engagement without recognition

Five years after the Taliban entered Kabul, Afghanistan presents an uncomfortable paradox. The regime remains unrecognised by most of the world, yet countries that reject formal recognition increasingly deal with it as a political reality. The question is no longer whether the Taliban will endure. It is whether continued diplomatic distance, by itself, serves the strategic interests of countries such as India.

The images of Afghans clinging to a departing American aircraft in August 2021 remain emblematic of the end of the two-decade Western intervention. The Taliban, overthrown in 2001 after the September 11 attacks, returned to power after rebuilding an insurgency against the political order established in Kabul. Five years later, they have consolidated their authority.

Haibatullah Akhundzada, operating from Kandahar exercises decisive authority as Emir. The regime has imposed strict rules on gender segregation, dress, and women's participation in public life. Girls remain barred from secondary and higher education, while women face severe restrictions on employment and movement. These policies are not peripheral to Taliban rule; they are central to its conception of governance.

Yet present-day Afghanistan is not simply a replay of the 1990s. Large-scale fighting has sharply declined, and the Taliban have established a degree of internal security. They have also acted against Islamic State Khorasan, while al-Qaeda's operational profile inside Afghanistan has remained comparatively subdued. Domestic revenue collection has improved, and the regime has invested in roads, mosques and mining, including its interest in copper, gold and lithium.

Ranga Reddy youth invited to join Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027



“Ranga Reddy, September 8: MY Bharat Ranga Reddy, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. Of India has invited youth of Ranga Reddy district to participate in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBLYD) 2027, a national platform to contribute ideas towards a developed India by 2047. Selected youth will get an opportunity to present their ideas in the presence of the Prime Minister of India.” Briefing the media at PIB, Hyderabad, MY Bharat Telangana State Director Anvesh Chinthala outlined the programme and encouraged youth participation. Joint Director, Youth Services, Venu Gopal Rao also addressed the gathering. “Organised by MY Bharat under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the programme is open to youth aged 15–29 years as on August 17, 2026. It features six tracks: Viksit Bharat Challenge, Cultural Track, Design for Bharat, Hack for Social Cause, Youth Entrepreneurs Challenge and Youth Parliament. Telangana's regional theme is “Technology, Innovation & Future Readiness.” The Viksit Bharat Challenge involves a digital quiz, essay writing, district-level presentations and State-level selection. The national finale will be held in New Delhi from January 10 to 12, 2027, marking Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. “MY Bharat Deputy Director Snehal Basutkar appealed to educational institutions, NSS units and youth organisations in Ranga Reddy to encourage participation. Eligible youth can register and take the quiz at mybharat.gov.in.

Commissioner conducts surprise inspection of Kothapalli police station.



Karimnagar September 09 (Correspondent): Police Commissioner Gaush Alam conducted a surprise inspection of the Kothapalli police station on Tuesday and reviewed its functioning, including records, the reception counter and citizen feedback. The Commissioner also reviewed the use of technology in policing and examined the functioning of platforms and applications such as the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), e-Sakshya and Samanvaya.

Mr. Alam directed the police personnel to make effective use of technology in crime investigation and routine policing. He also instructed the staff to treat complainants visiting the station with courtesy and ensure prompt action on their grievances. The Commissioner stressed the need for the police to remain vigilant in maintaining law and order and directed the personnel to discharge their duties efficiently. Inspector Billa Koteswar, Sub-Inspector Sambamurthy and other police personnel were present during the inspection.

Officials told to ensure peaceful conduct of Ganesh festivities.



Karimnagar September 09 (Correspondent): District Collector Chitra Mishra has directed officials of all departments to work in coordination and ensure the peaceful conduct of Ganesh Navratri festivities, beginning September 14, and the subsequent immersion of idols. Addressing a Peace Committee meeting at the Collectorate here on Tuesday, Ms. Mishra, along with Police Commissioner Gaush Alam, reviewed arrangements being made by the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation and the municipalities of Huzurabad, Choppadandi and Jammikunta.

The Collector called for advance planning for traffic management, power supply, security at immersion points, drinking water, lighting and sanitation. She also asked organisers to install CCTV cameras at Ganesh pandals and ensure that every pandal was registered. With the main immersion scheduled for September 23, Ms. Mishra directed officials to finalise the procession route in advance and complete road repairs along the routes. Tree branches obstruct-

ing the movement of idols should be removed and special attention paid to the transportation of tall idols, she said.

Adequate barricades, cranes, lighting, drinking water and electricity should be provided at immersion points. Medical camps and 108 ambulances should also be kept ready, while trained swimmers should be deployed in shifts, she said. Cranes should be made operational by 6 a.m. on the immersion day, with additional drivers and mechanics kept on standby. The Collector stressed the need for maintaining sanitation at immersion points and asked municipal authorities to repair roads, improve lighting and rectify loose electrical wiring. She said free electricity connections would be provided to Ganesh pandals through linemen and cautioned organisers against taking unauthorised connections. Ms. Mishra also directed officials to take steps to prevent liquor sales during the immersion. She asked the Excise Department to share information about belt shops near Ganesh pandals with the police and regulate liquor sales. Mr. Alam said the police were making comprehensive security arrangements for the festivities and immersion. Idols from Karimnagar city would be immersed at Manakondur, Kothapalli and Chintakunta, he said. A special control room would be established at the Police Headquarters with officials from the police, electricity, municipal, medical and other departments to facilitate a quick response to problems reported from pandals and immersion points, the Commissioner said. He asked organisers to book vehicles for transporting idols in advance and coordinate with municipal and police officials to finalise immersion routes.

Representatives of the Ganesh Utsav Samithi and Peace Committee sought arrangements near Rekurthi and urged the authorities to complete road repairs, lighting and removal of tree branches at least a week before the immersion. They also sought advance deployment of cranes, trained swimmers and boats. Additional Collector (Revenue) Srinivas Reddy, DRO Swamy, RDOs Sharmila and Jalakumari, ACPs Venkataswamy, Vijay Kumar and Yadagiriswamy, District Medical and Health Officer Rajagopal Rao, DPO Jagadeeshwar, District Fisheries Officer Vijayabharathi and representatives of the Ganesh Utsav and Peace Committees attended the meeting.

Awareness Seminar on Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Anemia



“Hyderabad, September 09 (Indian chronicle) : An awareness seminar on Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Anemia, hereditary genetic blood disorders, was jointly organised by the Mahabubnagar Collectorate and the Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society (TSCS) at the Mahabubnagar Collectorate. TSCS Chief Medical Research Officer and Secretary Dr. Suman Jain and Vice-President Ratnavali said at their office in the city on Wednesday that the programme focused on the importance of early screening, diagnosis, prevention and timely treatment of the dis-

eases. Senior Research Scientist Dr. Padma created awareness among the participants about various aspects of Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Anemia, they said. They also urged people to attend the International GANSID Congress, scheduled to be held from October 23 to 25 at HICC Novotel in Hyderabad. DMHO Dr. Srinivasulu, Programme Officer Dr. Shankar, along with doctors, staff nurses, laboratory technicians, MPH personnel and ANMs, participated in the programme. Around 200 people attended the awareness seminar, they added.

Allocate Funds for Development Works:

FORMER CORPORETER Banna GEETHA PRAVEEN MUDIRAJ



“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Former Corporator of Chilkhanagar Division and former GHMC Standing Committee member Banna Geetha Praveen Mudiraj urged the authorities to allocate funds for pending development works in the division and complete them at the earliest. On Wednesday, she met Uppal Deputy

Commissioner Anand and submitted a representation seeking funds for various development works. She said several works, including CC roads in Sairam Nagar Colony, a CC road in Indira Nagar Colony, and the main CC road leading to the Community Hall in Prashanth Nagar, were yet to be taken up. “She also pointed out that sanctions had already been issued for CC road works on the streets opposite Chilkhanagar Bodrai and for Road No. 3 in Kummurikunta, but the works were being delayed as tenders had not yet been invited. She urged the Deputy Commissioner to call for tenders immediately and ensure that the CC road works were commenced without further delay. “Geetha Praveen Mudiraj also brought sanitation issues in Chilkhanagar Division to the attention of the officials.

She said garbage was accumulating at several Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs), causing inconvenience to residents. She requested the authorities to undertake special sanitation drives in the affected areas and ensure that garbage is cleared before 9 a.m. “Responding positively to her representation, Deputy Commissioner Anand assured her that necessary steps would be taken to complete the development works as soon as possible. “DE Vennela Goud, Sanitation DE Neelima, BRS state leader Banna Praveen Mudiraj, senior leaders Eddula Kondal Reddy, Jalli Mohan, Kokkonda Jagan, and Balakrishna Goud, among others, were present.



Patrolling vehicle stolen from police station; man arrested.

Karimnagar September 09 (Correspondent): Police arrested a 28-year-old man for allegedly stealing a government patrolling vehicle from the premises of Karimnagar Rural police station on Monday night. The accused, Mohammed Ajaaz, allegedly drove away an Innova Crysta (TS-09-PA-3794), valued at around ₹13 lakh, after noticing that its key had been left inside the vehicle, Town ACP Venkataswamy said.

The vehicle had been parked on the station premises at about 11.45 p.m. after completion of patrolling duties. CCTV footage from the surrounding area helped the police identify Mr. Ajaaz, who allegedly entered the premises and drove away the vehicle. Preliminary investigation indicated that Mr. Ajaaz had been under mental stress following family disputes and after his wife had left him, the police said. They added that he allegedly committed the theft while in an agitated state. A case was registered at the Karimnagar One Town police station under Section 305(b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on a complaint lodged by a police official. The stolen vehicle was subsequently recovered and the accused was produced before a court, which remanded him in judicial custody. The police department has also initiated disciplinary proceedings against the driver of the patrolling vehicle for alleged negligence in the discharge of his duties, officials said.

Cancel MLC Tata Madhu's Membership: Congress Leaders



Congress District Spokesperson Seggem Rajesh “Condemns Inappropriate Remarks Against Speaker Gaddam Prasad” Manthani Peddapalli District, September 9 (Indian Chronicle): Congress Party District Spokesperson Seggem Rajesh and Block Congress President Totla Tirupathi Yadav strongly condemned the alleged use of abusive and inappropriate language by MLC Tata Madhu against Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker and Dalit leader Gaddam Prasad. “Speaking at a press conference held at the Manthani Press Club on Tuesday, they demanded that Tata Madhu's membership in the Legislative Council be cancelled and that a case be registered against him under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for his alleged remarks against the Speaker. “They also demanded that the BRS party leadership publicly apologise immediately, taking moral responsibility for the incident. “The Congress leaders alleged that the BRS has displayed a dismissive attitude towards Dalits from the beginning. They warned that the people would teach a fitting lesson to the BRS for allegedly insulting the Speaker and hurting the dignity of the Dalit community. “They said that the Congress Party has always stood by Dalits and asserted that Dalits would give an appropriate response to the BRS in the coming days for allegedly undermining their self-respect. “Municipal Councillor Pentari Raju, Congress spokesperson Velpula Rajayya, senior leaders Peraveni Lingaiah, Jamboju Sammaiah, Tokala Mallesh, Erukala Ramesh, Pettam Ramaswamy, Doragola Srinivas, Akkapaka Sadi, Akula Srinivas, Machika Devender, Manthani Srinivas, Nampally Satish, Janjarla Sailender, Radharapu Satish, Kashipet Ramulu, Pettam Ramaswamy, Indarapu Anil, and others were present at the meeting.

Kakatiya School Teachers Selected as Best Private Teachers



“Manthani Peddapalli District, Sep 09 (Indian Chronicle): Teachers from Kakatiya School in Manthani have been selected as the Best Private Teachers in recognition of their dedicated services to students. “Kakatiya School Mathematics teacher Devender and Social Studies teacher Sharath were selected for the Best Teacher honour. They were felicitated with shawls on Wednesday in a special ceremony. “TRMSA President Yadagiri Shekar Rao, Peddapalli Mandal Education Officer Surender, and Peddapalli District TRMSA President Keshava Reddy congratulated the award-winning teachers and appreciated their services. “Speaking on the occasion, Kakatiya School Principal Pradeep Reddy said that the teachers were selected for the Best Teacher honour in recognition of their significant contribution to the academic development of students. He expressed his gratitude to the teachers on behalf of all the students and said that the school was proud of their achievement. “He further stated that the Kakatiya School teachers work tirelessly to guide students towards success and help them reach greater heights in their academic and personal lives.

The Sale of Automobiles Jumps in Bihar

The good road connectivity ,financial and banking services have brought a change in the field of Automobiles sectors and their sale has jumped in Bihar and the state has reached on the 5th position in India.As the top organisation of Automobiles manufacturing SIAM (Society of Indian Automobiles Manufacturer) presented the data of 1st quarter of the yr 2026-27 (April to June 2026) regarding the sale of two wheelers and three wheelers and in Bihar the sale of two wheelers reached 3,69,302 and in this way the state got 5th position in India where as the sale of three wheelers reached 15653 and Bihar got the 4th position in this sector."

As the demand of two wheelers and three wheelers is on pick in Bihar because rural economy is connected with this. As two wheelers and three wheelers would be the best sources of transportation and mobility in rural areas of the state.The better road facilities in rural areas have become a boon for this sector.As the riders prefer such Automobiles sectors.The rising trends of women section towards scooter prove the fact.As after the recruitment of teachers in Bihar the women teachers have begun to like scooty for their mobility As almost all women teachers in both rural and urban areas like to ride scooty.Even the girls of Bihar have started to prefer scooty to cover a long journey from their residences to coaching centres and colleges. As the sale of e Rickshaw and other three wheelers has also increased in Bihar. Banks and Finance Companies have adopted easy method to grant loan on the purchasing of e Rickshaw and other three wheelers. The adolescent of rural areas have showed their choice to buy e Rickshaw and other three wheelers to solve the problem of

their unemployment in stead of their migration to other states for employment. Thus the rising trend of sale in Automobiles sectors proves the developed economy of the state""

NEXT"" A Seminar Organises""On the direction of Bihar police headquarters Patna on Wednesday a seminar was organised at D M Academy Bagha under Bagha police district of West Champaran under the scheme of "Vidhipalak Yuvak - Mahila Suraksha and Cyber Security awareness " As in the seminar it was focused on the awareness of boys and girls to be aware of cyber crime ,Mahila Help Desk ,and social security etc.As it was also discussed in seminar about the respect of women in society ,gender equality, and the active role of youth in the formation of safe society.As students should immediate inform the tease incident , cyber crime and other atrocities to the police.They should always be alerted against suspicious activity in society and they should provide respect to law..As on the direction of the police headquarters the aim of such seminar would be to bring awareness among the adolescent to increase legal awareness and be sensitive towards the crime against girls and women""

NEXT"" A Police Sub Inspector suspends ""On the ground of a suspicious viral video of a Sub Inspector of Balthar PS in West Champaran (Bettiah) On social media platform the S P Bettiah directed the SDPO Narkatiaganj to prob the matter and in police investigation the activity of the Sub inspector Shamshad Ahmad was found suspicious. After that on the report of the SDPO ,the S P suspended the Sub Inspector as well as issued show cause notice against him on Wednesday. ""Ajay Kr Mishra "Bettiah/Bihar

Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy Inspects Ganesh Immersion Arrangements"



"UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 9(INDIAN CHRONICLE): Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy, IAS, along with Uppal Zone Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta, IAS, conducted a field-level in-

spection of the arrangements being made to ensure the peaceful and safe conduct of the Ganesh immersion programme."During the inspection, they visited major immersion points including Kapra Lake, the baby pond set up at Uppal Nalla Cheruvu, the portable pond at Ramanthapur, Devender Nagar, Boduppall Raw Cheruvu, Yadulabad Lake under Ghatkesar Circle, and Rampally Lake."The officials reviewed the arrangements being made to ensure that devotees arriving for the immersion do not face any inconvenience. They inspected the immersion points, approach roads, barricading, sanitation, lighting, traffic management and other basic infrastructure facilities. The Commissioner and Zonal Commissioner directed the officials to complete all necessary works within the stipulated time and ensure that all departments work in coordination to prevent any inconvenience to the public during the immersion programme. They also instructed officials to give special attention to sanitation in and around the lakes. The officials were further directed to continue monitoring the arrangements until the completion of the immersion programme and ensure that all necessary facilities and safety measures for devotees are put in place well in advance. Officials from the concerned departments participated in the field-level inspection.

Arun Patel Inspects Development Works with Water Board Officials in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division

"RAMANTHAPUR, SEPTEMBER 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel visited Satyanagar and Lakshmi Srikanth Nagar colonies in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division and inspected the ongoing development works along with Water Board officials.During the visit, Arun Patel brought the severe drainage problems faced by residents to the attention of the officials, even though the works had not yet been officially sanctioned, keeping public convenience in mind. He also spoke directly with the contractor and urged that approximately 150 metres of additional drainage pipeline work be taken up to address the issue."He further brought to the officials' attention the obstruction caused by an illegally constructed shed on the main road, which was affecting the laying of the drainage pipeline. He requested that the shed be removed immediately to facilitate the works. Water Board AE Ravinder Reddy, Inspector Vinay, local leaders and colony residents participated in the programme.Arun Patel urged the officials to complete the remaining drainage pipeline works at the earliest and resolve the problems being faced by the residents.



Residents Suffer Due to Dug-Up Roads" Months Pass, But No Relief for Dug-Up Roads



— Residents Appeal to Deputy Commissioner for Restoration""**UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):** Residents of Hanuma Sai Nagar, Vijayapuri Colony and Suryanagar Colony in Uppal are facing severe hardships as roads dug up in the area have not been restored even after several months.The roads leading towards the respective colonies from the junction connecting Hanuma Sai Nagar, Vijayapuri Colony and Suryanagar Colony were dug up for development works. Though more than a month has passed, the works remain incomplete, causing serious inconvenience to commuters."The situation has worsened due to the closure of the Warangal Highway for elevated corridor works, resulting in a large volume of traffic being diverted through Hanuma Sai Nagar, Vijayapuri Colony and Suryanagar Colony towards Nagole. With the roads left dug up and filled with potholes, motorists are facing considerable difficulties. The lack of clearly marked alternative routes is adding to the confusion and

inconvenience."Residents expressed anguish that despite claims of crores of rupees being sanctioned for the development of the colonies, the ground reality remains unchanged, with dug-up and damaged roads causing immense hardship to the public."They urged municipal officials to immediately inspect the affected roads and expedite the pending works.Against this backdrop, residents met the Municipal Deputy Commissioner on Wednesday and submitted a representation requesting that the dug-up roads be inspected at the ground level and that restoration works be completed at the earliest, keeping in view the difficulties being faced by residents and motorists.Mekala Madhusudan Reddy, Suryanagar Colony president Jetta Sudhakar, Fakiru Narsireddy, Lingareddy, Sudhakar Reddy, Srinivas Reddy and others participated in the programme.

Power Is Not Permanent... People Are!"

"People's love, trust and blessings alone are permanent: Social Analyst Kohir Srinivas""**LB Nagar, September 9 ""**Social analyst Kohir Srinivas said that positions and power are temporary, while the trust and affection of the people remain permanent.""He said political power is not a permanent asset but a responsibility given by the people. A leader who stands with people during their difficulties, addresses their problems and keeps his promises will always remain in their hearts.""He observed that fighting for positions and chairs while ignoring public issues goes against the spirit of democracy. Roads, drinking water, education, healthcare, employment, farmers' issues and the welfare of the poor should be the primary focus of politics.""Power should be used for the people, not for personal interests. A leader is not defined by the chair he occupies, but by his ability to remain among the people even after losing power," Srinivas said.""The chair is not permanent... the position is not permanent... power is not permanent. People's love, trust and blessings alone are permanent.

District plans integrated approach to tourism development.



Karimnagar September 09 (Correspondent): The district administration will prepare a three-year action plan to develop tourist destinations and improve basic infrastructure, Collector Chitra Mishra said on Wednesday. The plan would focus on improving facilities at destinations including

the Maneru reservoir, Illantakunta temple, Elagandal Fort, Bommalamma Gutta and Nagunur, she said after holding a meeting with tourism officials at her camp office.

Drinking water, toilets, CCTV cameras, staff, sign-boards, food courts and approach roads would be provided at tourist spots in a prioritised manner, Ms. Mishra said. She said tourism development works were already under way at Sardar Sarvai Papanna Gutta at Sarvaipet and the Maneru River Front. A route map linking major tourist destinations in the district would also be prepared to facilitate visits by students and tourists, she said.The administration would identify traditional occupations, handloom and handicraft clusters in different parts of the district and organise special exhibitions to provide artisans with platforms to showcase and sell their products, the Collector said. The three-year district tourism action plan would be prepared and implemented in accordance with the government's directions, she said. Tourism Development Corporation Assistant Executive Engineer Jeevan Reddy and other officials attended the meeting.

Axis Bank Launches Sparsh Week-26 with 'Act with Speed' Theme"

"Hyderabad, September 09 (Indian Chronicle) : Axis Bank is conducting 'Sparsh Week 2026' from September 7 to 11 to strengthen its relationship with customers, Axis Bank MD & CEO Amitabh Chaudhry said in a statement issued in the city on Wednesday. Under the theme 'Act with Speed', the bank aims to engage with over 2.5 lakh customers across the country, gather their feedback and take swift action. More than 90 senior bank officials will visit branches and loan centres from Kashmir to Kanyakumari to interact directly with customers and employees. The bank is also offering a fully digital auto and two-wheeler loan process for eligible customers, with loan approval and disbursement into the account within 30 minutes. As part of Sparsh Week, the bank is conducting pension and digital banking awareness programmes for senior citizens, global banking



sessions for NRIs, 'Women Entrepreneur Connects' for women entrepreneurs, MSME roundtables for businesses, tractor loan carnivals for farmers and 'Apna Gaon Apna Dosh' programmes for rural customers. 'Let's Listen' sessions are also being held to gather direct customer feedback, while AI masterclasses, hackathons and design-thinking workshops are being organised for employees, Chaudhry said.

Crack Down on Illegal Constructions in Boduppall Circle: Settlers Forum Appeals to Deputy Commissioner

"BODUPPAL, SEPTEMBER 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Boduppall Circle Settlers Forum has urged the authorities to take immediate and stringent action against large sheds and multi-storeyed buildings allegedly being constructed without municipal permissions and in violation of rules in Gayatri Hills, Chengicherla and other areas under the Boduppall Municipal Corporation limits."A delegation of the Settlers Forum met the Boduppall Circle Deputy Commissioner on Wednesday and submitted a written representation seeking strict enforcement action against unauthorised constructions."Speaking on the occasion, forum leaders alleged that the negligence of Town Planning officials was allowing unauthorised constructions to continue unchecked, causing serious inconvenience to local residents."They said such constructions, being taken up without following prescribed regulations, were also causing a substantial loss of revenue to the municipal corporation in the form of property taxes and development charges."The forum demanded that the authorities conduct special field-level inspections immediately, initiate stringent action as per law and demolish unauthorised structures. It also sought a comprehensive inquiry into the persons behind such constructions and urged officials to make the



details public."The forum leaders warned that if the authorities failed to respond and initiate action at the earliest, the Settlers Forum would intensify its protests in the public interest."Boduppall Circle Settlers Forum Chairman Edla Srinivas Reddy, Vice-Chairman Thalka Shatrughna, President Kathi Venkat Reddy, General Secretary Amar Linga Reddy Alva, Treasurer Bajuri Srinivas Gupta and other key representatives participated in the programme."Use consistent spacing and style

Land Dispute: Owner Seeks Stay on Joint Survey Report "Landowner Opposes Alleged Fake Joint Survey



"Give Us Our Land," Farmer Appeals to Authorities""Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, September 9: A landowner has appealed to the authorities to protect his family's rights over agricultural land in Survey No. 72 of Mosam village in Kagaznagar mandal, alleging that attempts are being made to encroach upon the property through allegedly fabricated documents."According to the representation submitted by the landowner's family, Masluddin Akbar is the recorded pattadar of the land, and his legal heirs have

already submitted a complaint and application before the mandal authorities."The family has alleged that certain individuals associated with ACC and MCC Private Limited, Mancherla, have allegedly created false documents in connection with the land recorded in the name of Masluddin Akbar and are attempting to claim ownership over the property. The family has strongly disputed these ownership claims, stating that they are contrary to the revenue records and facts."The landowner has urged the mandal authorities to conduct a comprehensive inquiry and verify the pattadar passbook and other revenue records pertaining to the property. He has further requested that if any pattadar passbook or other documents were issued on the basis of allegedly false or fabricated records, the matter should be thoroughly investigated and appropriate action taken as per the law."The family stated that an application has already been submitted to the authorities regarding the issue. A writ petition has also reportedly been filed before the Telangana High Court concerning the disputed land. The case is currently pending before the High Court, which has sought a report from the Tahsildar of Kagaznagar mandal in connection with the matter."In view of the matter being sub judice, the landowner has requested the authorities to withhold the final report relating to the Forest and Revenue joint survey conducted on September 8, 2026, until the High Court passes its final orders or directions."The landowner has also requested that no illegal transfer, change of ownership/name, issuance of pattadar passbook or any other revenue-related changes be carried out in respect of the disputed property until the matter is decided in accordance with law.

Sub-Collector Reviews Ganesh Festival Arrangements in Kagaznagar

"Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, September 9: A review meeting was held at the Kagaznagar Sub-Divisional Headquarters under the leadership of the Sub-Collector to review arrangements for the upcoming Ganesh festival, including the installation of Ganesh idols and security measures."During the meeting, the Sub-Collector inspected key junctions in the town and locations identified for setting up Ganesh pandals. The Sub-Collector instructed organisers and officials to ensure that the installation of pandals does not cause inconvenience to the public or disrupt traffic movement. Necessary precautions were also advised to ensure smooth vehicular movement."Officials were directed to take advance measures concerning electrical safety, fire safety, sanitation, traffic management and maintenance of law and order at the Ganesh pandals. The



Sub-Collector stressed that officials from all departments should work in close coordination to ensure that the Ganesh festival is conducted peacefully and safely."

COVA urges schools to adopt Compassionate Citizenship Programme



Hyderabad: The Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA) on Wednesday urged educational institutions in Telangana to adopt and implement the Compassionate Citizenship Programme to foster moral education and social accountability among young students.

The Compassionate Citizenship Programme, which engages thousands of school students from all the districts

of Telangana, was successfully implemented on a pilot basis by COVA. The initiative focuses on experiential learning, training children to analyse critical social issues such as elder care, environmental protection, and plastic-free campuses and formulate practical community solutions.

A multi-year statistical evaluation highlighted measurable gains, documenting significant improvements in students' overall social awareness, strong enhancements in environmental consciousness, and a demonstrable rise in civic responsibility and community participation, Mazher Hussain, COVA Peace Network, said. Authorities plan to expand the initiative to cover 3,000 schools across districts, integrating it into formal value education frameworks. COVA, in a press release, said expanding the programme is vital for equipping students with social advocacy skills, transforming them into empathetic citizens, and driving grassroots community development.

‘Beef raid’ on UP house: Police arrest four more after ‘encounter’

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Nearly three weeks after it arrested three women after a raid on a house in Kaushambi's Sarai Akil area over allegations of cow slaughter and cooking of beef, police have made more arrests in connection with the case following an "encounter". According to police, they received information that the accused were hiding in an orchard. When they reached the spot, the suspects opened fire, police said, and in the exchange, Mohammad Arshad alias Cheddan sustained a bullet injury to his leg. Three other suspects, Sunne alias Iliyas Khan, Nafees and Fakrul, were arrested, while two of the accused managed to escape, police said. Kaushambi Circle Officer Shivank Singh said a forensic report from a laboratory in Mathura had confirmed that the meat samples seized during the June 24 raid from Arshad's house in Kaushambi were that of beef. The accused have been booked under various provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act at Sarai Akil Police Station in Kaushambi. The three women who

were held during the June 24 raid, Shama Parveen, Shaista and Fatima, are related to Arshad, who has six previous criminal cases registered against him, the last of them in 2016. All four are residents of Panara Gopalpur village. The other two held are from the neighbouring villages of Khanpur Pathanpurwa and Khopa. Police said Nafees and Fakrul's names had come up during the course of the investigation. The absconding accused are the husbands of Shaista and Fatima, identified as Irfan and Badkau. Police had announced a reward of Rs 25,000 for information leading to the arrest of the accused. Officials said they raided Arshad's house based on a tip-off that beef was being cooked there. When they reached the spot, police said, several men ran out of the house and fled, and they arrested the three women present. Panara Gopalpur is a village of about 6,000 residents with a mixed population, and located around 30 km from the Kaushambi district headquarters. Sushil Pathak, a "representative" of Panara Gopalpur sarpanch Cheedi Lal, said Arshad had previously been accused of cattle smuggling but had recently switched to trading goats.

Rs 40 lakh, gold recovered from West Bengal madrasa as ED raids 16 locations

HL: ED raids 16 locations in 4 states in 'terror funding, illegal infiltration' probe, says seized Rs 40 lakh from Bengal madrasa Security personnel seen outside Tahiria Welfare Trust as the Enforcement Directorate carried out a search operation in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged terror funding and illegal infiltration network, North 24 Parganas

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Thursday said it recovered Rs 40 lakh in cash and 180 gm of gold coins from a madrasa in West Bengal during searches at 16 locations across Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi, and Haryana as part of a money laundering probe into an alleged terror funding and illegal infiltration network. The recovery was made from Al-Jamiatul Islamia Darul Uloom, in Haroa in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. "The madrasa management and the staff failed to give satisfactory justification about the legal source of the cash and the coins," an official said. The findings from the remaining 15 premises are being compiled and will be shared later, the official said, adding that the searches continued till late Thursday night. According to the ED, they have so far seized bank records and digital devices that are being scanned. Action stems from 2023 case The searches carried out by the agency's Lucknow Zonal Office were conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a case registered based on an FIR lodged by the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) in 2024. According to officials, the ATS had registered an FIR in 2023 against a syndicate that allegedly facilitated the illegal infiltration of Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals into India. Officials said the ATS uncovered the syndicate after arresting Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals who were allegedly living in India without valid documents and using Indian identity papers obtained illegally. The ATS said that the syndicate operated across West Bengal, Delhi, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and several districts of Uttar Pradesh, arranging forged Indian identity documents and helping Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals settle in these states. Money trail under scanner

An official said that based on the ATS inputs, the ED is investigating an alleged financial network involving some charitable trusts, organisations, and groups. These entities, officials claimed, are suspected of having received substantial foreign contributions. These funds, officials said, were allegedly diverted through multiple bank accounts, mule accounts, and layered transactions to facilitate illegal activities, including terror funding and helping Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals settle in certain areas, find jobs, start businesses, and engage in other trades. The investigation

has also indicated the use of cash withdrawals and small-value bank transfers to suspected beneficiaries, the official said. How the probe began The searches were the result of the arrest of a Bangladeshi national in Varanasi four years ago. The ATS had arrested one Mohammad alias Adil-ur-Rehman, an alleged Bangladeshi national, for "infiltrating the country" and getting fake identity documents like Aadhaar and PAN cards. Officials said during interrogation, Adil reportedly revealed that two other Bangladeshi nationals were living in the Deoband area of Saharanpur district.

The duo, Sheikh Najib-ul-Haque and Abu Huraira, also got help from the same alleged syndicate, which facilitated Adil's entry into the country, the ATS investigation claimed. The ATS, in its investigation, found that NGOs in Delhi and Haryana and madrasas in West Bengal and UP were part of the syndicate involved in human trafficking and forging Indian identity documents, posing a threat to national security and helping in a conspiracy to disturb communal harmony. The ATS filed seven chargesheets in the next two years after lodging an FIR in October 2023 against the arrested accused, a majority of whom had got bail after their arrest. The FIR was lodged on charges of human trafficking, forgery for the purpose of cheating, conspiracy, and sections under the Foreigners Act & Passport Act.

The ATS, in its chargesheets, alleged that at least Rs 20 crore were transacted, including foreign funding done by the syndicate using hawala routes and mule bank accounts to facilitate infiltration and settle Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals in different states of India. While opposing the bail plea of one of the accused, Delhi-based resident Dr Abdul Ghaffar, earlier this year, the prosecution said that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) or the ATS had been monitoring and the matter after getting inputs in October, 2021. The investigation found that "anti-national activities" were being carried out by the "so-called" respected persons of the society, and they were allegedly trying to manage to settle Rohingyas and illegal Bangladeshi persons in India to create unrest and disharmony in the country. The agencies put the telephone numbers of suspected persons under surveillance and intensified the investigation. "On the basis of such an investigation, relevant facts, circumstances, and incriminating information came to our notice, which was followed by the UP ATS registering an FIR on October 11, 2023," a police officer said. "Since the ATS investigation had found various incriminating evidence indicating money laundering, the agency shared the details with Lucknow Zone of Enforcement Directorate, which further initiated the inquiry and registered a case under PMLA sections in 2024," the official said.

India-UK trade pact to boost farm and auto exports

New Delhi: The India-UK trade pact is expected to enhance market access for a range of domestic agricultural and processed food products through duty-free or preferential tariff treatment and improve price competitiveness vis-a-vis suppliers from other countries in the British market, experts said. The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which came into force on July 15, is also set to boost automotive exports due to reduced tariffs, according to experts. They said that, for agriculture, the strongest opportunity lies in shifting export participation from commodity-led categories to value-added food products, as agri-food exports, including processed foods, stood at USD 49.43 billion in 2024-25 and accounted for around 11.2 per cent of India's total exports. "The India-UK CETA is expected to improve market access through duty-free or preferential tariff treatment for a range of agricultural and processed food products, improving India's price competitiveness against non-FTA suppliers and supporting diversification beyond traditional export destinations," Anand Ramanathan, Partner & Consumer Industry Leader, Deloitte South Asia, said. He also said the pact is likely to accelerate technology adoption across export-oriented ag-

riculture, FPO-linked supply chains and agritech suppliers because market access is increasingly tied to traceability, certification, quality assurance and reliable delivery rather than tariffs alone. Annual post-harvest losses are estimated at around Rs 92,651 crore, with cold-chain gaps across pack houses, ripening chambers, refrigerated transport, irradiation units and farm-gate pre-cooling acting as key constraints. He added that digital technologies can directly address these gaps by improving traceability, reducing losses, supporting compliance and improving export reliability. "Blockchain and IoT-based systems are especially relevant because food-sector competitiveness is moving towards batch-level visibility, temperature monitoring, supplier transaction records, predictive maintenance and real-time supply-chain intelligence," Ramanathan said. Blockchain-enabled traceability platforms are being adopted to record batch movement, temperature exposure and supplier transactions. On the impact of the pact on India's auto sector, Gulzar Didwania, Partner and Indirect Tax and India Global Trade Advisory Leader at Deloitte India, said the CETA is expected to provide a significant boost to India's automotive sector by improving export competitiveness

Seed funding of up to Rs 10 lakh for students in Delhi government's new start-up policy

In what has been pitched as a first-of-its kind move on a large scale, students studying in government schools and government-funded colleges and institutions in the Capital will be eligible for seed funding of up to Rs 10 lakh to launch their entrepreneurial ventures under the Start-Up and Incubation policy approved by the Delhi government, officials said. "Our government will invest Rs 400 crore in the policy over the next five years. The policy is not just to help people launch start-ups, but to transform Delhi's youth from job seekers into job creators," Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said.

The CM said the policy will be implemented across 11 state universities, 13 government-funded colleges, polytechnic institutes, and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Delhi government schools. She added that the policy aims to build a strong innovation ecosystem across the educational institutions of the Capital. The alumni of Delhi government schools will also be eligible to secure seed funding under this policy. Education Minister Ashish Sood said, "This policy is not for general public... the aim is to help students develop and incubate their ideas at an early level, so that by the time they pass out from schools and college, they become job providers... by handholding students at every stage from guiding them from idea stage to developing prototype till they take patent for their innovation." Industries Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa underlined that the student-focused policy promises "Rs 10 lakh fund in different stages of their projects growth." As per officials, this will be a first-of-its kind policy focused on students with the Delhi government investing on a large-scale. Under the policy, officials added, the government also plans to strengthen incubation centers in schools and colleges. Besides, new incubation centers will be set up at the colleges and school campuses to nurture ideas among students and help them execute it. The CM said the government will provide one-time financial assistance to eligible institutions for setting up and strengthening incubation centres. In addition, these centres will receive annual operational support for mentoring, networking, innovation activities and the overall development of the start-up ecosystem. "Start-ups associated with these incubation centres will receive financial assistance at dif-

ferent stages of their growth. The support will cover various phases, including prototype development, proof of concept, product development, market validation and commercialisation, enabling promising ideas to grow into successful enterprises," she said.

Incubation centres will provide young entrepreneurs with modern infrastructure, expert mentoring, business advisory services, intellectual property support, access to laboratories and testing facilities, as well as opportunities to connect with investors and industry, the CM said. Under the policy, the government will also organise an Annual 'Delhi Start-up Youth Festival' to bring together young innovators, educational institutions, start-ups, investors, industry representatives and policymakers on a common platform to showcase new ideas, build partnerships and inspire entrepreneurship among the youth. Further, a State Incubation Policy Monitoring Committee (SIPMC) will be set up comprising members from government, educational institutions and industry, to oversee the implementation of the policy. The previous AAP government had also floated a start-up policy but it never took off. However, it implemented Business Blasters scheme in schools for students in 2021 under which students studying in Class XI and XII were to be given Rs 2,000 to start their businesses under Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum. Later, the AAP government announced in the 2024-25 Budget that this scheme will be expanded to universities and ITIs and allocated Rs 15 crore. Attacking the previous government, however, Education Minister Sood said, "

As per the records and files that we have seen, the previous AAP government did nothing but publicity. Its scheme started in 2021 and ended in 2022. The entire budget allocated for the project was Rs 22 crore, whereas our budget for this policy is Rs 400 crore. It is a full-fledged policy that aims to develop and nurture young minds and their ideas, and help them become future business leaders and entrepreneurs." He added that students can draw inspiration for innovative ideas related to new age technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and drones will be welcome and the government will support them.

Woman calls man home to end relationship as he was unemployed, both found dead

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

suspected murder suicide, delhi suspected murder suicide, delhi Woman murder suicide, murder suicide over break up, murder suicide over relationship, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs "Prima facie, the circumstances suggest a suspected case of murder followed by suicide," DCP (North) Raja Banthia said. A 26-year-old woman employed with the National Informatics Centre and her alleged boyfriend were found dead inside a rented room that had been locked from inside in North Delhi's Burari on Wednesday afternoon. Police said it has been alleged that the woman, Shivangini, reportedly called Nikhil (26), earlier in the day to end their six-month relationship because he was unemployed. "Prima facie, the circumstances suggest a suspected case of murder followed by suicide," DCP (North) Raja Banthia said.

While Shivangini hails from Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, Nikhil belongs to Pinana village in Haryana's Sonapat district. Police said Nikhil had earlier worked with the Delhi Development Authority on a contractual basis but was currently unemployed and was reportedly staying at Saran in Punjab. An officer said that Shivangini's younger sister, Nishangini (21), a teacher at a school in Burari, came

from work and found the room — located at Kamalpur — locked from inside. After repeated knocks went unanswered, she sought the help of the building owner and other residents to open the door, following which the two were found lying dead inside. Police said they received information about the deaths around 4 pm. The police and forensic experts recovered a pistol along with two empty cartridge cases from the room. The exact cause of death, nature of injuries and sequence of events will be determined through forensic examination and the post-mortem report, they added. During the preliminary probe, investigators said they learnt that Shivangini and Nikhil had been in a relationship for around six months. "Shivangini had allegedly called Nikhil earlier in the day to end the relationship, reportedly because he was unemployed," an officer said, adding that this claim is being verified. Police said they are also examining a message that Nikhil allegedly shared in his family's WhatsApp group along with his live location shortly before the incident. He also posted a three-second video of both of them sitting on the bed. Police said the contents of the message and other digital evidence are being analysed. The bodies, meanwhile, have been sent for postmortem examination, they added.

New target for Delhi Health Department: 1.49 lakh HPV vaccinations in 100 days

Delhi HPV vaccinations in 100 days, HPV vaccinations, delhi HPV vaccinations, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs According to officials, combating misinformation in Delhi requires a different strategy than in many other parts of the country because of the rapid spread of health-related rumours through social media. More than four months after India launched its nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme for 14-year-old girls, Delhi has administered roughly 13,500 vaccine doses, prompting the state government to launch a renewed push in schools with an ambitious target of vaccinating 1.49 lakh girls over the next 100 days. The Indian Express has learnt. Officials said the fresh target comes after the Delhi Health department reviewed the campaign's progress following its initial 90 days and concluded that deeper engagement with schools would be critical to accelerating coverage. "After the initial 90 days, we reviewed the progress on the ground and decided to re-approach the Education department for its full cooperation at the school level. We are giving this initiative a renewed push since schools have now opened up after summer vacation. We aim to achieve 1.49 lakh vaccinations in 100 days," a Health department official told The Indian Express. India rolled out its national HPV vaccination programme on February 28 to protect 14-year-old girls against cervical cancer, aiming to vaccinate nearly 1.15 crore girls annually across states and Union Territories. Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in India and remains one of the country's leading causes of cancer-related deaths among women. While Delhi's coverage has steadily risen from around 11,000 doses reported in May to approximately 13,500 now, officials acknowledged that progress has been slower than anticipated, largely because schools were occupied with examinations before closing for the summer vacation. "We had first written to the Education department in March seeking its cooperation in spreading awareness about the vaccination drive. But soon, examinations started in schools and then summer vacation began, creating a gap of nearly over a month. That is why the progress slowed," the official said. With schools reopening, the Health department has once again reached out to Education authorities, holding both virtual and in-person meetings with deputy directors of education (DDEs) across districts as well as school principals. "We are personally and virtually interacting with each DDE in every zone and with principals to push the programme. Doctors from our department are visiting schools on the ground to spread awareness about HPV and the vaccine. We have resented the parent consent forms for the vaccination too," the official said. Alongside school outreach, the department has intensified its communication campaign to counter vaccine hesitancy, which officials continue to identify as one of the programme's biggest challenges. "We are actively circulat-

ing videos explaining the benefits of the vaccine and myth-busting misinformation. Many people have fears, so we are sharing videos of senior doctors explaining why people should not believe rumours," the official said. Officials are also using testimonials from women who received HPV vaccines years ago to reassure parents. "We are showing videos of women and their success stories. Several women who received the vaccine in 2009 have now given birth and are healthy and happy," the official said. According to officials, combating misinformation in Delhi requires a different strategy than in many other parts of the country because of the rapid spread of health-related rumours through social media. "In a place like Delhi, spreading awareness is tricky because the urban population is highly exposed to misinformation circulating on social media," the official said. "During the summer vacation, we remained closely engaged with ASHA workers, but mobilising government schools has a much greater impact and produces better outcomes." The renewed campaign will focus heavily on government schools, with health officials expecting classroom-based awareness sessions, counselling of parents and coordinated efforts between teachers and healthcare workers to significantly improve vaccine uptake over the next three months.

NSE to launch FPI 150 derivatives from Aug 12



New Delhi: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Thursday said it plans to launch derivatives contracts on the Nifty India FPI 150 Index from August 12 after receiving approval from capital markets regulator Sebi. In a statement, the exchange said it will introduce futures and options contracts on the index in the equity derivatives segment. Initially, the NSE will offer three serial monthly index futures and index options contract cycles. The cash-settled contracts will expire on the last Tuesday of the expiry month. The Nifty India FPI 150 Index tracks the performance of the top 150 stocks selected from the Nifty 500 based on six-month average foreign investible free-float market capitalisation.

Karnataka to send 8 DNA samples to Nepal to look for missing flood victims



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

"We have reached Gyirong Port and will leave in a few minutes. We will be reaching Kathmandu by evening." Rakesh Naik informed his wife, who was in Australia, around 4 am (Nepal time) on August 26. But 12 days later, the family has no information about the 38-year-old who went missing in Nepal after the devastating floods. On Monday, Rakesh Naik's family members in Karnataka's Dharwad submitted their DNA samples at the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory in Hubballi, hoping either to see him alive or, at least, get his dead body. The families of eight flood victims from the state have so far provided samples for DNA matching. Rakesh was part of an Isha Foundation team on a Kailash Mansarovar trip. An automobile engineer, he lived in Australia with his wife Subhadra Hasalkar and their two girl children, six and four years old. Subhadra's brother Harsha said the family had visited Delhi and Nepal in search of Rakesh. "The last call traced to Rakesh was from Gyirong Port on the China-Nepal border, where the immigration office is located. We stayed in Nepal for four days

but did not get any information. We have been told that Rakesh went missing on the China side. They have not shared much information about the tragedy. We have not received any information from the Isha Foundation. We met the families of the victims during our visit in Nepal. All are in anguish," he said. The family later submitted details of Rakesh after receiving a letter from China asking for them. His brother-in-law Praveen said, "Rakesh Naik reached Delhi on August 12, and he was part of the S3 batch. He was returning after a Mansarovar trip." The S3 batch had 77 pilgrims from the Isha Foundation, three volunteers, and a doctor. There were 46 women and 34 men, including Rakesh. Fifty-three of the pilgrims were of Indian origin, and the others were from 19 countries. Rakesh was supposed to reach Kathmandu by early morning and take an evening flight to Delhi to return to Australia. Subhadra and her children reached Dharwad after Rakesh went missing.

The DNA profiling of first-degree relatives of Karnataka people reported missing in Nepal is carried out at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, Bengaluru. Dr Nagesh Kuppast of the forensic medicine department is the nodal officer for the process. Speaking to indianexpress.com, Dr Nagesh said that reports from the forensic science laboratory would be shared with the authorities in Nepal and China, who would match the relatives' samples with those taken from the flood victims' bones, teeth, tissues or hair. "As it is a computerised process, it would not be a tough task to conduct DNA profiling," he added. S Honnamba, commissioner of the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority, said people reported missing in 23 of the 30 complaints had returned to the state. "Each complaint has multiple people. Some of them were not from Karnataka as well. We are waiting for further information," she added.

Codeine crackdown: Rs 83 lakh cough syrup prohibited from sale in Gujarat



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

The Gujarat Food and Drugs Control Administration (FDCA) seized codeine-based cough syrups worth more than Rs 83 lakh from Balaji Pharma last week and cancelled the licence of a firm as part of a special drive against the illegal use, unauthorised storage, and sale of such medicines. The FDCA conducted the action on September 1 and also issued show-cause notices to seven firms. A statement issued by the office of Health Minister Praful

Pansheriya on Tuesday said teams are carrying out intensive inspections of wholesale and retail medicine traders across districts and verifying records related to the purchase, sale, storage and distribution of codeine-containing medicines.

At Balaji Pharma in Ahmedabad Rural and Gandhinagar, officials allegedly found 37,762 bottles of Rexton-T Syrup containing codeine. The seized stock is estimated to be worth Rs 83.07 lakh. Authorities have prohibited the sale and distribution of the stock and collected samples of the syrup for analysis. A scrutiny of the firm's purchase and sale records allegedly showed that it mainly deals in medicines containing codeine. The FDCA has issued a show-cause notice to the firm and sought an explanation. Show-cause notices were also issued to Formalin Lifesciences in Changodar, Rain Remedies in Santej, Capital Pharma in Visnagar, HRDM Global Solutions in Ahmedabad, Jai Ambe Distributors in Ahmedabad, and Krishna Pharma in Kathwada. A show-cause notice was also issued to Health Point Pharma in Kalol, Gandhinagar, on the alleged defects found during the inspection. As the firm's explanation was allegedly unsatisfactory, its licence to sell medicines was cancelled.

'No link with PM Modi's event': Mumbai police after 3 men force entry, with gun



The Mumbai police arrested a man for allegedly posing as a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) official during a security check at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), ahead of an event to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The

man was also carrying a licensed pistol, officials said. Heightened security was put in place ahead of PM Modi's visit to the venue. According to the police, the suspect arrived in BKC on Monday evening with another man from Khar, who was accompanying him as his bodyguard. During the security check, the bodyguard allegedly claimed to be a PMO official. Given the sensitive nature of the area and the heightened security arrangements, the police conducted a detailed inquiry.

During the inquiry, the police recorded the statement of the Khar resident and subsequently released him. The person working as the suspect's bodyguard, however, was detained for further questioning. Following the investigation, the BKC police registered a case against him for allegedly impersonating a PMO official, said a police officer. Police are also verifying the circumstances under which he allegedly attempted to pass himself off as a PMO official and entered the high-security area.

2 BRS MLCs arrested, released on bond over abusive remarks against Telangana Speaker

The police in Hyderabad Tuesday arrested Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLCs Tata Madhusudan, also known as Tata Madhu, and Naveen Kumar Reddy for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, who belongs to the Scheduled Caste community, the previous day. Both the accused were released on personal surety or bond later in the day, as a local court rejected their remand.

The two MLCs were booked under the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, following complaints over their remarks against the Speaker. On Monday, the Assembly witnessed scuffles between the police and BRS MLAs who turned up in black clothes to protest against the state's Revanth Reddy-led Congress government. It is alleged that Madhusudan hurled abuses at the Speaker after the police prevented the BRS MLAs from entering the House, according to Dalit Congress MLAs and MLCs. Gaddam Prasad Kumar was seen in tears after the alleged remarks were made outside the House. 'A dark day for the state': CM Revanth Reddy reacting to the issue, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy termed the remarks an insult to the four crore people of Telangana and described the episode as a "dark day" for the state. He alleged that BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), who had held a meeting with the party's MLAs and MLCs on Sunday, had incited them to behave in such a manner.

The session itself got off to a tumultuous start, with BJP members raising slogans and demanding an immediate debate on the inclusion of private lands belonging to citizens in the prohibitive list under Section 22-A of the Registration Act, which bars registrations and other transactions involving such properties. The BJP members did not relent despite Speaker Kumar appealing to them to allow



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the proceedings to continue. Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu said the government was ready for a debate on the issue. The Speaker subsequently adjourned the House, leading to high drama outside the legislature as BRS members came sporting black T-shirts. When the House resumed, BJP members again pressed for a debate on the prohibitive list of lands. They relented after CM Reddy assured them that the matter would be taken up for discussion later.

'Shouldn't wait for Satya Niketan-like incident': Gurgaon's mushrooming PGs back under lens



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

For residents of Gurgaon, the collapse of a five-storey student hostel in Delhi's Satya Niketan that left seven dead has brought a pressing concern back into focus: the mushrooming of high-capacity PGs and guesthouses in residential areas. A survey by the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) had identified 453 PGs and guesthouses operating in the city's residential sectors. Eighteen were sealed in June for violations.

Sameer Puri, who lives in DLF Phase 3, where several allegedly illegal PGs and guesthouses operate, said Gurgaon could face a similar tragedy if the problem is not addressed. "It can definitely happen anytime here as well, especially on smaller plots (in U Block) where residents have built extra floors and PGs. It is a total menace," he said. He said two PGs on his road were sealed in June during a drive against unauthorised commercial establishments. "It has become much more peaceful. But much more needs to be done, and across Gurgaon," added Puri. At Suncity township, resident Kusum Sharma said G Block (EWS) has several PGs that have allegedly not applied for commercial connections or land-use conversions. "Surveys are done to identify these, but enforcement does not go beyond that. As residents, we can only alert authorities. While those with illegal stilts have been given notices, the PGs have not been so far. They shouldn't wait for a Satya Niketan like incident here," she said. The issue is before the Haryana Human Rights Commission (HHRC), which took suo motu cognisance of unregistered PGs and guesthouses operating in the city in January and sought action-taken reports from various authorities. The three-member HHRC bench, headed by Chairperson Justice Lalit Batra and comprising members Kuldip Jain and Deep Bhatia, noted that commercial lodging in residential premises amounted to an unauthorised change of land use. In its July order uploaded recently, the commission observed that such operations lead to "overcrowding, power and water infrastructure col-

lapse, sanitation issues, traffic congestion and serious safety risks". The panel warned that lack of structural safety clearances and absence of emergency exits gravely endanger the right to life of students and working professionals, citing previous fire disasters in student hubs at Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar and Noida.

According to an action-taken report dated March 24 submitted to the commission by HSVP, of the 453 PGs, 121 of the establishments identified were under Estate Officer-I and 332 under Estate Officer-II. An affidavit filed by HSVP Administrator Vaishali Singh and examined by the commission last month said both estate officers had initiated enforcement proceedings by issuing show-cause notices under Section 17(3) of the HSVP Act, 1977, which governs violations of tenancy and misuse of allotted residential plots. Between June 18 and 20 and July 3 and 4, the enforcement wing of the Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) Haryana sealed 15 PGs, comprising 476 rooms, and three guesthouses/hotels, comprising 87 rooms, in DLF Phase III. The DTCP told the commission that a survey had identified widespread violations across DLF Phases 1 to 5.

But action on the ground was initially held up by a stay granted by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in November 2025. After the High Court modified its order on May 29, 2026, limiting the restraint to petitioners who had filed specific applications, enforcement teams began sealing-cum-demolition drives. Using property tax data from the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG), the DTCP also identified 50 unauthorised PGs and guesthouses operating on residential plots in other licensed colonies and issued notices, it told the Commission. In a consolidated status report submitted to the commission by DTCP Haryana, the district administration and the District Town Planner (Enforcement), officials said that only 218 guesthouse permissions had been granted under the state's 2021 policy within their statutory domain. That domain is confined to licensed private colonies under the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975. A report submitted to the commission by the Commissioner of Police, Gurugram, stated that (as of March) "no specific complaint has so far been received regarding any PG or guesthouse being run illegally without complying with the prescribed safety standards", though police assured swift legal action if complaints surface. The HHRC in July directed the HSVP Administrator to expedite follow-up reports from both estate officers and asked the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Haryana Fire and Emergency Services, the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and the MCG to submit their pending progress reports ahead of the next hearing on October 6.

Bageshwar Baba's fish-meat advice for Bengal triggers a police complaint

Weeks before Durga Puja celebrations, Bageshwar Dham chief priest Dharendra Shastri's controversial remarks against eating fish and meat during the festival have caused disquiet in West Bengal, with the BJP state chief Samik Bhattacharya distancing the party from the comments. The Congress has now filed a police complaint against Shastri. Over the weekend, Shastri urged people not to cook or eat fish or meat during Durga Puja and said those who did were "pakhandi (fraud)".

The Congress also warned that attempts to divide people in Bengal along linguistic or identity lines could undermine social harmony. The Opposition party claimed that Shastri's remarks at an event organised in Liluah, which was attended by prominent personalities, officials, and public representatives, hurt the sentiments of the people of Bengal. Pradeep Prasad, president of the South Kolkata District Congress, filed a complaint at Bhabanipur Police Station seeking an immediate FIR and legal action against Shastri, while Central Kolkata District Congress president Manas Sarkar submitted a similar complaint to the Kolkata Police via email.

"Those who speak the language and belong to our state are all Bengalees or Bangalis, as there is no such division; he has uttered vile sentences and preached what to eat and what not to eat during the Durga Puja in our state, which is a prestigious festival and puja," Prasad said in his complaint letter. "Durga Puja is one of the most important and prestigious festivals in West Bengal. Bangalis have a long-standing social, cultural, and culinary tradition surrounding this festival. In this context, an outsider coming in and making defamatory or derogatory remarks about Bengali food habits can negatively impact social harmony," Prasad added. "Dharendra Shastri used terms like 'ganda ganda cooking' and 'pakhandi' in his speech. Such comments amount to disrespecting the cultural identity of the people of Bengal and the emotions attached to Durga Puja."



Sarkar said in his complaint that no individual or organisation should dictate what Bengalis eat during a widely celebrated festival such as Durga Puja, and stressed the need to respect Bengal's distinct culture, traditions, and social diversity. The Congress urged the police to investigate the matter thoroughly, register an FIR, and take appropriate legal action if the allegations prove true. It also sought Shastri's arrest if warranted by the investigation. After the Bengal BJP chief's rejoinder, party leader and Panchayat Minister Dilip Ghosh said the situation in Bengal is different. "People here are devotees of Goddess Kali, and animal sacrifices are offered to Her, as well as to many other deities. Sacrifices are even offered to Goddess Durga on Navami, and the meat is consumed as 'prasad'. Fish is even offered to the deity as 'prasad'. This is a long-standing tradition that has persisted for ages," Ghosh said. On Sunday, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari and his entire Cabinet hosted Shastri for dinner at a state-run guesthouse in Kolkata. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) criticised the BJP and the government over the "grand welcome" extended to Shastri, as party president Subhankar Sarkar also accused the party of insulting Bengal's people.

'Idhar aao, idhar aao': What Manipuri musician's neighbour heard night he was killed

On the night of September 6, Chandan Miroda Devi was preparing to go to bed when she heard commotion outside her ground-floor home in South Delhi's Kilokari village. She heard people shouting and screaming. Frightened, she did not open the door but tried to see what was happening through the peephole. "As the commotion continued, I went to the terrace and saw two men on their mobile phones, shouting and repeatedly calling out to others, saying, 'Idhar aao, idhar aao (come here, come here)'," she said. She said she tried to ask the men what was wrong but they didn't respond. Assuming it was a minor altercation, and since her daughter was with her, she did not intervene. She went to sleep.

It was only later that she learnt that Manipuri singer Chongtham Vikram Singh, her neighbour who lived with his family on the third floor, had allegedly been thrashed to death. Spot where Chongtham Vikram Singh, was beaten to death after complaining about noise at a dhaba near his residence on September 6. Spot where Chongtham Vikram Singh, was beaten to death after complaining about noise at a dhaba near his residence on September 6. (Express Photo by Abhinav Saha) Singh, 55, was allegedly chased and assaulted by eight eatery workers in the stair lobby of the building before being killed. The incident has left the North East community shaken. On Monday night, several of them held a candlelight march from Sunlight Colony Police station to Vikram's home. 'He would always greet us with a smile' Devi has lived in the building for around seven to eight years. Singh and his family had been there for slightly longer. The two families belonged to the same community,



and she remembered Singh as a kind and pleasant man who would usually greet people with a smile. Whenever Singh's family brought vegetables from Manipur, particularly those grown there, they would share them with her, she recalled. Devi had also previously worked with his wife, Joshna, whom she described as equally kind.

Inside the building in South Delhi's Kilokari village where the Manipur musician lived with his family. Inside the building in South Delhi's Kilokari village where the Manipur musician lived with his family. (Express Photo by Abhinav Saha) Looking back, she said the noise that night had not seemed unusual. The dhaba operating in the area often remained noisy at night, with people working there shouting while handling packaging and other work. Similar sounds had been heard before, she said.

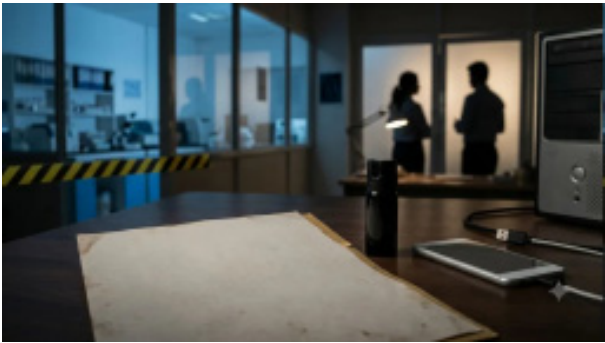
Trinamool MP Nadimul Haque grilled after ED raids over Rs 60-crore fraud

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which carried out a 24-hour marathon raid at the residence and office premises of Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MP Nadimul Haque, said Tuesday the operation was conducted to gather details regarding an alleged Rs 60-crore financial fraud linked to his Urdu newspaper, Akhbar-E-Mashriq. The searches began at 6.30 am on Monday and continued until Tuesday morning, said ED sources.

The officials also questioned Haque at his office after bringing him back from Ranchi in his car, they added. After examining bank records, transactions and digital evidence, ED sources said Haque was unable to provide adequate documentation for the Rs 60-crore transaction. The officials visited Haque's office and residence to examine documents and other evidence. The ED has alleged that illegal financial transactions were carried out from the newspaper's office and that funds belonging to the Trinamool Congress were also involved. The raids were conducted on seven premises across Ranchi, Delhi and Kolkata, including the newspaper's office in Park Circus, Kolkata. ED officials searched the premises for documents and digital evidence to trace the alleged money trail, sources said. They also searched his residence and office in Delhi, which is primarily used as a party office. According to sources, the raids were conducted based on a complaint lodged with the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate last month. Haque did not respond to the calls or messages from The Indian Express on Tuesday.



Woman alleges rape after pepper spray assault; Bengaluru doctor booked



A Bengaluru doctor has been booked for allegedly raping a 30-year-old woman after using pepper spray on her and later blackmailing her with photographs and videos of the alleged assault. According to the First Information Report registered on September 3, the alleged sexual assault occurred at the doctor's diagnostic laboratory on December 15, 2025. The woman, an employee at his lab, alleged that the doctor took her there on the pretext of looking for files and sprayed pepper spray on her face at around 11 am, following which she lost consciousness.

She alleged that when she regained consciousness around 11.30 am, she found herself naked. When she questioned the doctor, he allegedly threatened her, claiming that he had recorded a video of her and would upload it on social media if she told anyone about the incident.

The woman further alleged that the doctor subsequently rented a house and repeatedly sexually assaulted her there. According to the complaint, he visited the house frequently and threatened her with the alleged videos to prevent her from speaking about the assaults. The complainant also alleged that on July 2, 2026, the doctor learnt that she belonged to SC/ST community and allegedly abused her using casteist remarks. She alleged that he told her that he no longer wanted to be associated with her and would sack her. Based on the complaint, the jurisdictional police registered a case under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita charges related to rape, criminal intimidation and intentional insult, and relevant provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. "Since the case involves offences under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, it has been transferred to the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement for further investigation," a police official said.

‘Public losing faith in exam system’: No advance bail for suspended Karnataka PSC chief

The public at large are losing faith in the exam system in the country on account of systematic frauds that have occurred in the conduct of exams, the Karnataka High Court observed on Monday while dismissing an anticipatory bail plea of the chairman of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) in a veterinary doctors exam fraud. "The public are losing faith in the system of examinations. We are seeing so many meritorious students committing suicide in the NEET exam. What mistake have they committed? What is the loss the families have suffered? It is not the question of one result; there are so many issues involved. People are not capable of coming forward and answering the issues," Justice Vishwajith Shetty remarked. "People should be arrested on the spot. They should not be allowed to roam free; otherwise, it cannot be halted," the HC said in oral observations. The single-judge bench ruled that the discretionary power of the court to grant anticipatory bail could not be extended to the suspended KPSC chairman Sahukar S Shivashankarappa, who is accused of facilitating the selection of candidates who paid huge amounts of money and indulged in malpractices in exams held in January to recruit veterinarians for the state. Relying on evidence of links between the suspended KPSC chairman and the perpetrators of the veterinary doctors recruitment fraud presented by the state public prosecutor B N Jagadeesh, the HC questioned the links of Shivashankarappa's family members to the fraud. "How many members from your family are involved? This is a systematic fraud involving you, your family members, the controller of exams and the middlemen. This is what we know at this stage," the HC said, while rejecting the arguments of Aruna Shyam, the counsel for the suspended KPSC chairman, who argued that the case was politically motivated.

"Your role is much more serious than that of the candidates. The material that the public prosecutor has placed raises serious concerns. There has been prima facie material which has been placed. The matter is still under investigation," the HC observed. The court dismissed the plea of Shivashankarappa in oral orders and said reasons would be given in a detailed order. Earlier, on August 11, a sessions court rejected the anticipatory bail plea of Shivashankarappa. Shivashankarappa's suspension as KPSC chairman Shivashankarappa, who was suspended on August 25 by the Karnataka Governor over a separate fraud in the recruitment of his daughter as an industrial extension officer with a fake income certificate of an annual income of Rs 40,000 for her father, is being investigated by the Karnataka Crime Investigation Department (CID) for his role in a scam in the recruitment of 400 veterinary officers. The CID told the High Court on Monday that Shivashankarappa and his son were in frequent contact through encrypted internet calls with a middleman arrested for facilitating the leaks of the recruitment exam paper. Shivashankarappa is suspected to have conspired with the Controller of Exams at the KPSC, Gyanendra Kumar, an IAS officer, and an arrested middleman, Basavaraj Kannale, a BJP-linked businessman, to leak the KPSC veterinarians recruitment exam paper to select candidates who had paid up to Rs 80 lakh, the CID told the HC. 29 candidates part of the fraud. Twenty-nine candidates among a total of 329 who wrote the entrance exam for vets on January 8 and 9, 2026, are alleged to have been selected fraudulently by the KPSC, according to a First Information Report (FIR) registered by the Bengaluru police



based on a complaint by vet Dr Manjunath, who did not get selected.

The CID has questioned Shivashankarappa thrice so far over the fraud in the recruitment of vets, where he has claimed innocence. The CID investigation through the Internet Protocol Detail Records of internet calls of the suspended chairman, the controller of exams and the middleman showed them to be in frequent contact with each other, especially on January 8 and 9, 2026 – the days on which the entrance exams were conducted by the KPSC this year.

The suspended KPSC chairman and his son were in contact with two exam candidates and Kannale, the probe has found, the state public prosecutor B N Jagadeesh told the High Court on Monday. Shivashankarappa "contacted some of the candidates who are part of this recruitment process and had extensive contact with Kannale, whom we have arrested. This shows he is linked," the SPP told the High Court based on the CID probe. Shivashankarappa was appointed KPSC chairman in 2021 during the tenure of the BJP government and had been earlier appointed to the commission as a member in 2019. The candidates who had paid to be selected as veterinarians through the KPSC process were kept at secret locations and trained to answer the questions a day before the exams in January, and were dropped at exam centres by the mediators, the CID probe has revealed. The CID probe has found that the middlemen led by Kannale approached candidates and took payments in cash and bank transfers to provide question papers in both handwritten and printed formats at designated hotels and resorts prior to the exams. The probe has found cooperative bank accounts in the Bidar district of Karnataka – from where the middleman Kannale hailed – to which fund transfers were made by candidates who were selected as state veterinarians, the CID has reported.

Fire safety compliance stressed at Telangana schools, colleges

Hyderabad: Director General, Telangana Fire Services, Vikram Singh Mann, on Tuesday held an interaction with the objective of creating awareness among educational institutions and other stakeholders regarding fire safety requirements and the procedures for obtaining Fire No Objection Certificates (Fire NOCs). During the meeting, he emphasised the need for educational institutions to strictly comply with the prescribed fire safety standards and ensure the availability and proper functioning of essential fire prevention, protection and life-safety measures.

Pune Rural police file chargesheet in rape-murder of nine-year-old

The Pune Rural police's Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl in a village in Pune district on August 18, has filed a 700-page chargesheet in the case. Police said on Monday that the trial is expected to begin soon. The police had arrested the girl's 25-year-old neighbour, who allegedly lured her by offering her guavas. The accused, a farm labourer, was arrested soon after the incident came to light and is currently in judicial custody.

"We filed a 700-page chargesheet in the case last week. The Special Investigation Team has conducted a very thorough investigation. The trial is expected to begin very soon," said Sandeep Singh Gill, Superintendent of Police, Pune Rural. The investigation found that the accused took the girl to a location around 1.5 km from the village, where he allegedly raped and strangled her to death. The incident took place around 2 pm on August 18, when the girl was alone at home and watching television. Police said the accused entered the house and lured her by offering her guavas. The girl, who was nine-and-a-half years old, was a student at a local school. The Pune Rural police formed an SIT under the supervision of the Additional Superintendent of Police and Deputy Superintendent of Police. The officer in charge of the local police station is leading the team, which has also been provided with dedicated support staff. The investigation found that the girl had not attended school for a few days before the incident. Around 4 pm on August 18, her family members returned from work and found that she was missing. They searched for her in the area and informed the police around 6 pm. A team from



the local police station joined the search, while police registered a kidnapping case as per the procedure followed when a minor goes missing. During the search, police received information that the girl had been seen with the suspect. The accused was subsequently arrested. Police have invoked sections 103 (murder), 64 (rape), 65(2) (rape of a victim under 12 years of age), 137(2) (kidnapping from lawful guardianship) and 140 (kidnapping for murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The case comes months after the rape and murder of a three-year-old girl in another village in Pune district. In that case, a special fast-track court sentenced the 65-year-old accused to death, holding that it fell under the "rarest of the rare" category.

Expired, relabelled for sale: Rs 3-cr foods seized in Bengaluru Amazon, Instamart raids



The Karnataka Food and Drugs Administration Safety (KSFDA) busted an agency involved in relabelling expired food items for sale and seized such mislabelled goods worth Rs 3 crore, including from Amazon and Instamart stores, in just one week, officials said. Health Minister U T Khader said on Tuesday that a "peptide party" cancelled in Bengaluru for not abiding by rules led to the discovery of expired foods relabelled for sale. "We sought information on where the materials were procured and came to know that they had procured materials from an Amazon dark store," he said.

KSFDA officials then raided an Amazon storage facility called Amazon BLR6 in Devanahalli. They seized Rs 14 lakh worth of food products with incorrect or inadequate la-

belling and Rs 10 lakh worth of expired food products, along with drugs worth Rs 2.45 lakh stored without a licence. At Amazon BLR7 in Madiwala, mislabelled food products worth Rs 19 lakh and expired goods worth Rs 13 lakh were seized, along with unlicensed drugs worth Rs 1,57,000.

"There was an agency—run from a shed—named Leo 7 Enterprises in Lingarajapuram. We found expired food products there. The mislabelled and expired stock at this site could be worth Rs 57 lakh. They bought expired items and would forge expiry dates," the minister said, adding that the facility was subsequently shut down. Bengaluru Amazon, Instamart raids Officials also seized unlicensed drugs during the raids. (Photos by special arrangement) Officials also shut down an Instamart facility in Hoskote after seizing expired food products worth Rs 42 lakh from there. The department said its investigation at the site was continuing, with the mislabelled and expired stock estimated to be worth Rs 1 crore. Acting on a complaint, the officials raided a store called Saptha Bazaar in HBR Layout and seized expired cashew biscuits, ragi flour, chicken patties, paneer, cookies, nuts, eggs, and flour worth about Rs 10,000. "We are writing to the law department and the central government to make it a criminal offence. As of now, the owners of these establishments are getting away with fines, but it is a criminal offence. We will formulate the law. We also request the public to file more complaints so that these violations can be curtailed," Khader said.

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After husband's cancer death, startup founder vows to cut chemicals from soil

Pune-based Dr Rajul Patkar lost her husband, the eminent IIT Bombay academician, Prof Sachin Patkar, to cancer on August 19 after fighting it for five months. Even as she grieves, Patkar is convinced about the life-saving impact of her startup, Proximal Soilsens Technologies, which focuses on developing portable soil sensors that provide farmers with real-time data on nutrients, moisture, weather and crop growth. Based in Bhugaon, on the outskirts of Pune, Proximal Soilsens Technologies, formed in 2017, offers a pocket-sized soil testing system that weighs 100 gm and can be attached to a cell phone. The team is small and specialised, with experts like Dr Mukul Singh from IIT Bombay in leadership roles. Patkar was the first student at IIT Bombay's electrical engineering department to work on sensors to help farmers detect the amount of nitrates, phosphates, organic carbon, and potassium, among others, in the soil. "There are a lot of pesticides that we are consuming along with other chemicals. Excess chemicals are being added to the soil. Microplastics are present in both the soil and the sea. I would like to spread awareness and ensure that farmers do not use pesticides and other chemicals indiscriminately," the CEO of Proximal Soilsens Technologies says even as she rattles off the latest cancer statistics. "The world has become so polluted that there is a 46 per cent probability — one out of two people—of getting

cancer. In the US, more people die from cancer than from heart attacks, and India is not far behind," she says. Patkar points out that government lab results on soil testing are usually delayed, losing critical time for fertiliser application. "When we put excess chemicals, we risk the health of the people who consume the products," says Patkar. "At present, farmers apply nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium or other chemicals to the soil based on general recommendations, without understanding the soil. Most farmers are unaware of the importance or benefits of soil testing. Government soil testing laboratories are inadequate in number for the crore of farmers present in India," says Patkar. The sensor for micronutrients also provides real-time data on crop growth, weather, and moisture content. The project has received funding and other support from NITI Aayog's flagship programme, Atal Innovation Mission, incubator Venture Center, and IIT Startups, among others. Made from scratch, the sensor technology uses sensitive strips to test soil for different parameters. The device is being used by Agri businesses across Maharashtra, Assam, Punjab, Telangana, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Almost 10,000-15,000 farmers are covered, but Patkar wants to break into larger farming communities that are hesitant to adopt innovative technology. "We cannot eliminate every environmental risk.

Flood-hit Nepal races to rebuild bridges, restore vital road links with India, China support



Kathmandu: Nepal is racing to restore vital road links severed by devastating flash floods, seeking temporary bridges from India and China as authorities work to reconnect isolated communities in the disaster-hit areas. The death toll from the August 26 disaster stood at 1,356 as of Monday, while 4,994 people remained missing, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA). A total of 13,396 people have been rescued so far. The floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border, sent the Bhotekoshi River raging downstream, washing away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects across northern and central Nepal.

Nepal has sought temporary bridges from both India and China, which have responded positively. China has already sent two 100-metre Bailey bridges to the Korala border crossing in Mustang. The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported on Tuesday. The Department of Roads has estimated damage to roads and bridges at NPR 30 billion, while rebuilding is expected to cost about NPR 50 billion, the report said. The floods destroyed 41 motorable bridges between

Rasuwa and Chitwan, and four others were partially damaged, leaving only 18 of the 63 bridges along the corridor intact. The floods have severed several critical road links.

In Rasuwa, the disaster cut the road connection with Nuwakot, while the concrete bridge at Furke Khola was destroyed, severing the direct link between Dhadingbesi, the Dhading district headquarters, and the Prithvi Highway. The Department of Roads has begun clearing and reopening stretches of roads washed away by the floods to make way for installation of temporary bridges, the Post report said, quoting Shubharaj Neupane, deputy director general and spokesperson for the department. The Nepali Army is separately installing an Acrow bridge at Devighat in Nuwakot, it said.

The Department of Roads has 11 Bailey bridges, each up to 48 metres long, but transporting them to the damaged sites remains a major challenge because roads leading to several locations have themselves been swept away, Sushil Babu Dhakal, joint secretary at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, said. "Even where Bailey bridges are available, there is no road to transport them to the sites. Work is underway to reopen the tracks damaged by the floods," Dhakal said. India has also offered to supply Bailey bridges, the report said.

Meanwhile, the scale of the infrastructure damage has added to the challenges facing rescue and recovery operations, with authorities also struggling to identify bodies recovered from the floodwaters. Only 98 bodies had been identified and handed over to families as of Monday, according to the NDRRMA. Many of the bodies recovered after being swept downstream were severely damaged, decomposed or recovered only in parts, making identification difficult. The disaster also killed at least 43 people on the Chinese side, while more than 500 people remain missing in Tibet, according to Chinese media reports.

Saudi-led coalition calls Houthi attacks on kingdom ‘dangerous escalation’

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Riyadh: The Saudi-led coalition supporting the internationally recognised government in Yemen said on Tuesday that recent attacks by Yemen's Houthi group targeting Saudi Arabia constitute a "dangerous escalation." In a post on social media platform X, coalition spokesperson Turki Al-Maliki said the escalation by the Houthi group and its attempts to target the kingdom, its national assets, citizens and residents reflect what he described as a "hostile and irresponsible approach."

Al-Maliki said the latest attacks targeted civilian and economic sites in the cities of Abha, Khamis Mushait, Jazan and Najran, injuring 73 civilians, including women and children, Xinhua News Agency reported. He said the attacks constituted a violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and a direct threat to the security and safety of its citizens and residents. Al-Maliki added that the coalition's Joint Forces Command would take necessary operational measures to deter the Houthi group, respond to the sources of threats and neutralise their danger. Houthis said Tuesday that they hit multiple targets in Saudi Arabia, including Abha International Airport, King Khalid Air Base and facilities belonging to the state-owned oil company Aramco in Abha and Jizan, according to Houthi-run media Ansarollah. On Monday,



Yemen's Houthis accused Saudi Arabia of carrying out airstrikes and cruise missile attacks across several provinces of the war-ravaged country, as an escalating battle with government forces spread to multiple fronts. "The Saudi enemy targeted the provinces of Al-Jawf, Al-Bayda, Marib and Taiz with several airstrikes and cruise missiles," Houthi-affiliated al-Masirah TV reported, without giving details on casualties or damage. Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said the group had "managed to shoot down a Saudi CH-4 reconnaissance drone" over Khabb wa ash-Sha'af district in the northern province of Al-Jawf on Monday.

US sinks an Ecuadorian ship in the Pacific it alleges is tied to drug trafficking



Quito: The US Southern Command on Monday sank another Ecuadorian vessel that the US alleged was linked to the criminal group Los Choneros. It was the latest action by the US against boats and vessels in Latin America that it said were involved in drug trafficking. The joint task force intercepted a floating refueling station that supported illicit drug trafficking operations at sea in the Eastern Pacific, the Southern Command said in a statement. It added that the people on board the vessel were removed and will be transferred to Ecuadorian authorities. A video accompanying the announcement showed military personnel boarding a ship, followed by a helicopter flying overhead and finally a projectile striking and sinking it.

The statement also indicated that US forces continue to conduct "precise and professional operations to dismantle the logistical networks that fuel drug trafficking in the Western Hemisphere." Ecuadorian authorities did not immediately comment. The sunken vessel, whose name has not been released, was the fifth targeted by US forces in less than two weeks. The fishing vessel Maria Candelaria was struck last week in the Pacific, according to information from US Southern Command, in coordination with Ecuadorian authorities.

The Ecuadorian navy located 26 crew members from that vessel, who arrived Sunday in the port city of Manta. Eight fishermen from the Conquista II were also located, while their families on the mainland demanded information about their whereabouts. The other two vessels were the OM2 and Los Tres Hermanos, whose crew members say they were sunk. Southern Command recently identified them as "floating refueling stations for multiple vessels engaged in illicit drug trafficking operations," in posts on the social media platform X. The United States has said all of the boats were linked to Los Choneros, which the US considers a foreign terrorist organization. These cases add to those of three other vessels whose Ecuadorian crews say they were intercepted by US forces this year. In the case of the Fiorella, eight fishermen remain missing since January. The crews of the other vessels returned to Ecuador after being sent to El Salvador. At least 227 people have been killed in 68 US government strikes that began against boats in the Caribbean and Pacific more than a year ago.

Critics have questioned the overall legality of the boat strikes as well as their effectiveness. In at least one case, Ecuadorian authorities said they had no evidence that a survivor of one of the strikes had participated in any criminal activity. The Trump administration is pursuing deals with allied nations to extend its offensive to land across multiple Latin American countries. US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said during a visit to Panama this month that Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras had agreed to allow the US to carry out joint military operations against criminal groups on their soil. Guatemala denied reaching such a deal. Ecuador launched similar missions with the US in March.

US gas prices soar to USD 4.14 a gallon ahead of Labor Day

Washington: It's never been more expensive in the US to fill up the tank and take one last summer trip over the Labor Day weekend. The average price of regular gas was USD 4.14 a gallon heading into the holiday, nearly a dollar higher than last year and well above the Labor Day weekend record of USD 3.82 from 2012, according to AAA.

Nicole Collins planned to travel from Philadelphia to South Carolina to visit friends, but she said her family has spent most of the summer close to home and has not taken their typical weekend trips because driving has gotten so expensive. "Gas is pretty high right now. It doesn't help that we also have a baby, so we also have to pay for that," Collins said outside a gas station in Claymont, Delaware, where regular gas was USD 4.199 a gallon.

Prices shot up after the US and Israel attacked Iran in February and have not settled down since. Crude oil traffic through the key Strait of Hormuz has plunged, and Iran has refused to reopen the waterway. "Everything points to the Iran War and the Strait of Hormuz," said Tom Seng, a professor of energy finance at Texas Christian University.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright offered few specifics on when the nation's drivers might see relief at the gas pump, acknowledging that prices are higher now than they were on Labor Day 2025. "Yes, they're higher today, but we're doing everything we can to push them down," Wright said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." The national average for regular gas prices is still well below the record of USD 5.02 a gallon set in June 2022. But diesel is a different story: It hit a national average of USD 5.85 a gallon Friday, a record. Trucks and other freight delivery systems use a lot of diesel, and that increased transportation cost is being passed on to consumers, whether at the grocery store or through package delivery services. "It doesn't really seem like there's an end to it," Collins said. Gas prices typically drop as the summer driving season ends and refineries turn to making a cheaper winter blend.

South Korea weighs military role in Strait of Hormuz amid Iran warning



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Seoul: South Korea is closely communicating with relevant countries and the international community to help ensure the free passage of all vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, the foreign ministry said Monday. The statement came after Iranian academic Mohammad Marandi warned that Tehran could regard Seoul as an enemy and target South Korean assets in the region if Seoul joins a US-led effort to secure navigation through the strait, according to the London-based Middle East news website Middle East Eye.

"We are closely communicating with the international community, including relevant countries, to help restore peace and stability in the Middle East as soon as possible and to ensure the free passage of all vessels, including those of our country, through the Strait of Hormuz," the ministry said in a release, Yonhap news agency reported. Diplomatic sources said the South Korean government has maintained open diplomatic channels with Iran and continued communication on matters related to the ongoing Middle East conflict, with the aim of promoting regional stability.

Later Monday, Esmail Baqaei, spokesperson for Iran's foreign ministry, posted a message in Korean on X, saying relations between Seoul and Tehran have developed

Trump backs new H-1B fee in Labour Day message

GNS News Agency, Sept 9 Washington: US President Donald Trump used his Labour Day proclamation to promote a proposed new fee on H-1B visa petitions, saying it would encourage American companies to invest in US workers before looking overseas for talent. "To ensure we are hiring and training American workers, we are proposing a new fee on H-1B visa petitions that will encourage companies to invest in qualified Americans before looking overseas for labour," Trump said in the proclamation on Monday (local time).

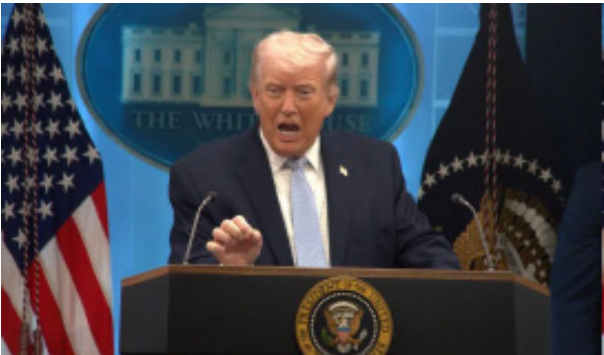
The presidential endorsement puts the politically sensitive H-1B visa programme directly into Trump's Labour Day message, which focused heavily on manufacturing, trade, tariffs and protecting American jobs. The H-1B programme is widely used by US technology companies and other employers to hire highly skilled foreign professionals. Indian nationals have historically constituted the largest group of H-1B beneficiaries, making changes to the programme closely watched in India and among the Indian professional community in the United States. The fee cited by Trump is not a new levy imposed on Monday.

The Department of Homeland Security last month proposed establishing a \$103,265 fee for all H-1B petitions subject to the annual numerical cap, including petitions eligible for the advanced-degree exemption. Under the proposed rule, the fee would be paid when the petition is filed and would be in addition to other applicable immigration fees. The administration says the money would help cover federal costs associated with administering the lawful immigration system. Trump presented the H-1B proposal as part of a broader economic strategy aimed at giving preference to American workers.

"After decades of disastrous trade policies that surrendered our industrial strength to foreign nations, companies are now returning home, investing trillions of dollars into the United States economy, and adding over 900,000

on the basis of mutual respect and that Iran highly values its ties with South Korea. "Any other country's military presence or participation in operations in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz can only be regarded as direct support for the party responsible for the aggression and will have serious consequences," the Korean-language post said. The spokesperson highlighted that Iran and South Korea have maintained diplomatic relations for 64 years and that Tehran attaches great importance to its friendly ties with Seoul. The post additionally included an image bearing a Korean-language message that read, "Dangerous choices come with consequences." The South Korean foreign ministry's response was not immediately available. US President Donald Trump has ratcheted up pressure on Seoul to make a military contribution to efforts to secure navigation through the strait amid renewed tensions in the Middle East.

South Korea has been reviewing various options for its contribution, including possible cooperation with Britain, France and other countries. A senior official at Seoul's presidential office said Friday that no final decision had been made on sending military forces or assets to the strait and that a comprehensive review of various options was still under way. The official also noted that Seoul's contribution could include noncombat and search-and-rescue forces, stressing that the government would consider options in a way that does not compromise the country's defence readiness on the Korean Peninsula. The military is reportedly reviewing a range of assets for possible deployment, including maritime patrol aircraft, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams and unmanned systems for detecting and clearing naval mines. "We are reviewing various options based on operational needs," a government official said. "We are discussing ways to contribute safely without directly participating in combat." Some lawmakers from the ruling Democratic Party have publicly voiced opposition to any troop deployment to the Strait of Hormuz, while other progressive parties, as well as some civic groups, have taken a stronger stance against the possible deployment.



American jobs," Trump said. He credited what he called his "protective tariffs" with shielding US workers from foreign competition and said American manufacturing had expanded for six consecutive months. "Our Nation is entering a bold new era of American manufacturing, technological innovation, and economic prosperity — powered by the might of the American worker," Trump said. The proclamation formally designated September 7 as Labour Day and called on Americans to honour the contributions and resilience of workers.

The administration's latest H-1B proposal follows a separate attempt by Trump to impose a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visas. A federal judge in Massachusetts struck down that fee in June, ruling that the administration had exceeded its authority. A federal appeals court in July rejected the administration's request to suspend that ruling while the case proceeds. The new \$103,265 proposal is being pursued through the federal rulemaking process rather than taking immediate effect. It applies to cap-subject H-1B petitions and remains a proposed rule, meaning employers are not being charged the new amount merely because of Trump's Labour Day proclamation.

How two Israeli brothers are driving a West Bank settler land grab

From a hilltop sprawl of industrial buildings, a family of Israeli settlers is cranking out prefabricated buildings to accelerate the expansion of illegal Jewish outposts in the occupied West Bank, driving Palestinians from their homes. Libi Construction and Infrastructure, owned by brothers Eliav and Harel 'Coco' Libi, is building a new factory to produce the simple white structures they and others install in outposts, Eliav Libi said in an April social-media post. Seen one recent day from a nearby road, the company's compound had at least five warehouses, flanked by rows of prefabricated houses and stacks of building material. Excavators worked to expand the site, which is in the settlement of Shilo.

The Libi operation reflects a growing settlement strategy to claim expanses of West Bank land quickly and cheaply. Instead of building modern complexes and neighborhoods, with Israeli government permits, these outposts often start with one or two prefabricated houses and no legal approval. They're occupied by young Israeli herders who bring livestock to graze land used by Palestinian shepherds and farmers.

All Israeli settlements are widely condemned by the United Nations and many European countries, among others. Outposts like those founded by the Libis are illegal even under Israeli law, which requires advance approval to build in areas of the West Bank under Israeli administrative control. Yet the brothers receive broad Israeli government support as they race to expand — part of a larger West Bank settlement surge since the 2023 Hamas attacks on Israel and the ensuing Gaza war.

The Libis in that time helped found at least nine new farming outposts, according to a Reuters examination of their sprawling operations. Overall, Israeli settlers built 184 unauthorized West Bank outposts in the three years ending with 2025, almost as many as during the past three decades, according to Peace Now, an anti-settlement Israeli human rights group. Israel's government does not regularly publish outpost data. But government officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, publicly cite numbers only slightly lower than the Peace Now tally. Both Peace

Now and the West Bank Palestinian government say there are now about 410 total outposts. Last year alone, settlers founded 86 outposts, says Peace Now, which monitors settlements with an on-the-ground verification team. Reuters corroborated a sample of 30 such outposts through visits and satellite imagery. Taken together, these outposts cover nearly a fifth of West Bank territory, almost all of it seized in the four years since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's current government took office, according to a joint report by Peace Now and fellow Israeli rights group Kerem Navot. Settlers give a similar figure of around 1,000 square kilometres.

The Libis are among the highest-profile figures in a hardline settler movement that uses livestock, crops, fences - and sometimes violence - to expand Israel's West Bank footprint. Eliav Libi in particular has helped push political and military leaders to embrace outposts as a strategy to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state that they say would present a security risk to Israel.

Deadly settler attacks against Palestinians are surging as outposts proliferate, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). At least 16 Palestinians were killed in Israeli settler attacks last year, and more than 1,100 were injured, a record, OCHA data shows. Attacks have further escalated this year, with 23 Palestinians killed and more than 1,000 injured through August. By comparison, this year Palestinians have killed 1 settler and injured 22 settlers, the data shows. Israeli forces routinely shield the violence, for instance by accompanying settlers on attacks of Palestinian villages, a U.N. inquiry said in June. Israel's government has given the Libis a license for the new factory, grazing permits and an agricultural grant, Reuters found, part of what Peace Now has said is about \$1 million in agricultural ministry funding approved for outposts. Another \$1.3 million in government funds has been approved for an organization with previously undisclosed close ties to the Libis, the reporting shows. The Israeli Defense Ministry hired the Libis for work including the demolition of Palestinian houses in war-ravaged Gaza, according to government statements and a brief interview with Harel Libi.

Why eliminating tobacco smoking should be on the agenda of governments



Accelerating the decline in tobacco smoking globally, by decreasing smoking prevalence from current levels to 5% everywhere, could increase life expectancy and prevent millions of premature deaths by 2050, according to a study from the Global Burden of Disease, Injuries and Risk Factors (GBD) Tobacco Forecasting Collaborators published this week in The Lancet Public Health journal. The authors reiterate what experts world over have said for long that speeding up progress towards ending smoking could deliver substantial health benefits to the population. The authors focussed on a scenario for the next three decades.

Based on current trends, the authors find global life expectancy will likely rise to 78.3 years by 2050 – up from 73.6 years in 2022. However, if tobacco smoking were to gradually decline from current levels to a rate of 5% in 2050, this would result in one year of additional life expectancy in males and 0.2 years in females. In a scenario where tobacco smoking was eliminated from 2023 onwards, this could result in up to 1.5 additional years of life expectancy among males and 0.4 years among females in 2050. In both scenarios, millions of premature deaths would also be avoided. Smoking, as has been established, is a leading risk factor for preventable death and ill health globally. While rates of smoking have fallen substantially over the past three decades, the pace of decline varies and has slowed in many

countries. Cancers, ischemic heart disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are—and will continue to be—the leading causes of premature deaths from smoking, said the paper. Together, these conditions account for 85% of potentially avoidable years of life lost (YLLs)—a measure of premature deaths. Several countries have set ambitious goals to reduce smoking rates to below 5% in the coming years. However, there is still significant opportunity to expand and strengthen proven policies and interventions to achieve these targets, they pointed out. “We must not lose momentum in efforts to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, smoking around the world. Our findings highlight that millions of premature deaths could be avoided by bringing an end to smoking,” said senior author, Stein Emil Vollset, from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). The new analysis provides in-depth forecasts of the health burden for 204 countries, categorised by age and sex, from 2022 until 2050. It is the first study to comprehensively forecast the health impacts due to smoking for all countries and all causes, as well as on 365 diseases and injuries. The main measure studied was YLLs or Years of Life Lost, a measure of premature deaths, counting each death by the remaining life expectancy at the age of death. In the scenario in which countries reduce smoking rates to 5% by 2050, there would be 876 million fewer YLLs compared to the most likely future scenario. Life expectancy in 2050 would be 77.1 years in males and 80.8 years in females. The greatest gains in life expectancy among males would be in East Asia, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia, with between 1.2 and 1.8 extra years of life gained. Among females, life expectancy would increase the most in East Asia, High-income North America and Oceania, with between 0.3 and 0.5 additional years gained. For the scenario in which smoking would have ended globally in 2023, the estimates indicate a maximum of 2.04 billion YLLs could be avoided by 2050 compared to the most likely future scenario, and life expectancy in 2050 would be higher still, at 77.6 years for males and 81 years for females. Bottomline: use of tobacco kills and countries must throw in all the resources they have to ensure there is a decline in the prevalence of users.

A war that can have no winners



It's been a year since Hamas launched its ill-conceived and brazen terrorist attacks on Israel that enabled the group to take scores of hostages but led to a debilitating war. Israel's disproportionate response to the assault has led to the death of more than 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza, most of them women, children, and the elderly. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been unable to achieve his stated goals of destroying Hamas and bringing all the hostages home. With Israel's decision to expand the war to Lebanon, apparently, to decapitate Hezbollah and facilitate the return of Israelis who had fled the northern part of the country, concerns about the violence spiralling out of control have grown. Netanyahu, who just a year ago was desperately clinging to power to avoid facing corruption and fraud charges, today enjoys popular backing within his country. But this has come at a tremendous human cost — nearly two million Palestinians have been displaced in Gaza and nearly all of them remain trapped, while one million Lebanese have fled their homes in recent days. Netanyahu's actions in the West Bank and Gaza have triggered fears that he wishes to leave no room for a two-State solution.

Iran, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen have faced the brunt of Israel's military might as Netanyahu claims he is destroying an ecosystem of Islamist terror. Israel has the support of the US, from where evidence has emerged of the Biden administration turning a blind eye to Netanyahu's flagrant human rights violations, but Tel Aviv has lost the propaganda war. The Palestinian cause has received a fillip with countries such as Ireland, Norway and Spain voicing support for a two-State solution. The gains and diplomatic wins made through the Abraham Accords lie in tatters and West Asia has been dragged back several decades, with Israel isolated in a hostile region. The United Nations has again been exposed as a toothless body that is a prisoner to the interests of the five permanent members of the Security Council. In India and elsewhere, concerns have increased about the conflict's impact on oil prices and exports at a time when the global economy remains fragile. Israel's plan to retaliate against Iran could well tip West Asia past the breaking point. This war must end, and the world must then seriously look at UN reforms to ensure there are mechanisms in place to assert a rules-based order and avert prolonged wars.

When imagination becomes real: How AI is quietly rewriting fashion's creative rules

A homemaker in her 40s from Punjab, self-taught with a needle and thread after a tailor once quoted her more than she could afford, was scrolling through Pinterest the way she always does, looking for something beautiful to make. She found it: an elaborate gown, detailed and dreamy. She studied it, sourced leftover fabric scraps from her elder daughter's fashion work, and spent the better part of ten days bringing it to life, stitch by careful stitch, between her household chores. The dress was stunning. The original image, it turned out, had never existed in the physical world. It was AI-generated.

"I had no idea it was AI," Sunita says. "I just liked the design and thought about it and made it. I will try to make any dress I like, be it AI or not. I just want to bring out the design in its truest sense." Her daughter Shalu, a 19-year-old content creator, posted the video of her mother's creation. It spread quickly, not merely as a feel-good moment, but as an almost perfect illustration of something larger quietly happening across fashion: the dissolving boundary between the imagined and the made.

For Delhi-based fashion designer Afsha Noor, who goes by Noor Alchemy on Instagram and creates AI-generated couture and bridal collections, this dissolving line is not a side effect. It is the entire point. "You cannot come inside my head and see what I am imagining," she says. "What we are doing with AI is imagining out loud." Noor uses AI at every stage of her process, from concept sketching to presenting finished looks to clients, and says the results have changed how buyers engage with her work. "Till date, whatever clients I have are not able to differentiate between what is real and what is AI. They are able to see what the actual outfit will look like. And this makes them feel confi-

dent in placing an order." She is emphatic, though, that AI is not the author of her vision. "We treat AI as an assistant. You have a vision, and AI is just helping you. That is it." Her creative instinct comes first, always, and the technology follows. This distinction matters enormously to Vijay Raj, a visualiser and branding expert based in Kochi with over a decade in advertising, who has watched AI reshape the industry from the inside. "My workflow is that when I get a concept or a brief, I think it through by myself first. After that process, I use AI only for prompting," he explains. "Otherwise, we are not controlling something; the AI is completely controlling us." Raj is both an enthusiast and a watchdog. In workshops he conducts at universities, he tells students plainly: "You are completely free to generate anything you want, but as a designer, you have a value to your society and a responsibility to it." He argues that fashion shares the same ecosystem of trust and misinformation as any other part of society, and designers must take that seriously. Luxury label founder Ranna Gill, trained at FIT New York and a veteran of Donna Karan and Ralph Lauren, sees AI with the measured pragmatism of someone who has watched several revolutions come through the industry. Her studio uses it for early visualization, testing how a colour, print, or embroidery might look before committing to samples, but she is clear about its limits. "AI generates designs, but we still have to recreate it. We rework on it, reposition it, colour it. It is not the final draft," she says. She draws a longer arc: "When the computer was invented, we learned to use it. We learned to use smartphones. And as we will learn to use AI, we will bring it into our worlds in the ways best for us." Couture designer Ridhi Mehra, known for blending traditional Indian craft with contemporary silhouettes, echoes this measured view.

After the decapitation of Hizbullah, Iran could race for a nuclear bomb



WHEN AN ISRAELI bomb killed Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hizbullah, last week, it did not just decapitate a fearsome militia that has driven some 60,000 Israelis from their homes with frequent rocket attacks. It also dealt a hammer blow to Iran's "axis of resistance", a constellation of proxy forces that Iran has for decades used to attack both Israel and Western interests in the Middle East. In addition to its current assault on Hizbullah, Israel's year-long dismemberment of Hamas in Gaza has vastly diminished Iran's capacity to cause trouble if threatened. Those defeats, in turn, may be prompting Iran to fall back on its other main form of deterrence: its nuclear-weapons programme.

In recent days, amid Israeli strikes on Hamas, Hizbullah and militants backed by Iran in Yemen, Iranian officials have been insinuating that Israel's belligerence may induce Iran to develop nuclear weapons. Others have suggested that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, might rescind an earlier fatwa, or religious edict, ruling out the pursuit of nuclear weapons. The regime has been expanding the number and sophistication of centrifuges it uses to purify uranium. It now has a big stockpile of near-weapons-grade material. It is plausible, though not yet likely, that Mr Khamenei might decide that the only way to protect his regime, which is despised by its own citizens and vulnerable to Israeli attack, would be to seek nuclear weapons.

America and Israel have long promised that Iran will not be allowed to build a bomb. Israel, in particular, appears to have detailed intelligence on the progress of Iran's nuclear programme. If it were to pick up signs that Iran was crossing a threshold, it might well attack Iranian nuclear sites—something it came close to doing in 2011. But there is no guarantee that this would succeed. Israeli insiders, in their more candid moments, acknowledge that the chance to set Iran's nuclear programme back significantly with air strikes may have passed: the relevant facilities are too deeply buried and nuclear know-how too widely dispersed. Bombing them would set the region ablaze while only delaying the programme by months, some argue.

The first question is, what sort of arsenal would Iran seek? Becoming a country with nuclear arms is more of a spectrum than a single point. Such weapons require three things: a core of fissile material, such as enriched uranium; a warhead that can house the material and initiate a chain reaction that ends in an explosion; and a delivery system, such as a bomb or missile, to transport the warhead to a target. Iran might not make all these things at once. It could produce weapons-grade material without a viable warhead, or it could build a warhead without a suitable delivery system. Iran could also build a complete weapon but, like Israel, refrain from announcing that it had done so. The intention behind such opacity is to reap the deterrent benefits of nuclear arms without incurring all the diplomatic costs. Much would depend on how blatant Iran was. It could build a weapon entirely covertly, on the assumption that deterrence would still be established because foreign intelligence agencies would have some idea of what it was up to. It could signal its intentions more clearly by expelling international inspectors, pulling out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and renouncing the fatwa. Or it could conduct a nuclear test, guaranteeing that it had a working device and demonstrating its capability to the world, but also inviting international outrage. Whether Iran crossed the nuclear threshold openly or furtively, it would then have to choose how many bombs to build and how to deploy them. It could, like Israel in the 1960s, build just a handful of devices in the hope that sympathetic powers would come to its aid when it was threatened to avert a nuclear war. Iran's problem is that it has no clear patrons: it is not certain that Russia would step in to save the regime. A second option would be to emulate India. That would involve building a larger, though still modest, arsenal, which could survive an enemy's first strike, allowing subsequent retaliation. A decade ago many experts and officials thought that the Indian option was Iran's likeliest course. It would appeal to Iran's leaders, who could maintain close control over the weapons—as they did with chemical weapons in the past—rather than devolving authority to use them to commanders in the field. In recent years, however, Iran's calculations may have changed. The military gap with Israel appears to have widened. Worse, the regime is more vulnerable at home, with mounting dissent. It is also becoming bolder militarily, as it showed when it launched missiles at Pakistan in January and Israel in April. An Iran that has decided to build nuclear weapons, perhaps in the aftermath of Mr Khamenei's death, is one in which the armed forces are probably more powerful, exacerbating these tendencies.

Iran's emboldened generals may prefer a third option: the Pakistani model, in which they would build a much larger arsenal—hundreds rather than tens of warheads—designed to be used first and early in a conflict to ward off even minor conventional military threats. That might require building small nuclear weapons, dispersing them widely to ensure they could be used in a crisis and delegating the authority to use them to commanders in the field. The choice of posture relates to a second question: how would a nuclear capability shape Iran's behaviour? In 1981 Kenneth Waltz, a political scientist, published an essay entitled, "The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better", which argued that countries tended to become more secure and thus more cautious when armed with nuclear weapons. "It's been proven without exception that whoever gets nuclear weapons behaves with caution and moderation," Mr Waltz argued years later, with reference to Iran. In 2007 Jacques Chirac, France's president at the time, was phlegmatic about the idea of a nuclear Iran. "What is dangerous about this situation is not the fact of having a nuclear bomb," he said. "Having one or perhaps a second bomb a little later, well, that's not very dangerous."

Many others are horrified by these arguments. Scott Sagan, another political scientist, has offered two counter-arguments. One is the risk that nuclear material might be stolen or sold to terrorists, either by rogue members of the regime or with its blessing. The second is that the weapons might serve as a "nuclear shield", which would allow Iran to become more aggressive, safe in the knowledge that it could not be attacked in response. That is just what happened with Pakistan, Mr Sagan has argued: the country's armed forces allowed paramilitary groups and disguised troops to encroach on Indian-controlled territory in 1999, in part because Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear weapons the year

before had made its top brass more confident. Similarly North Korea, having conducted its first nuclear test in 2006, torpedoed a South Korean ship in 2010. How would these dynamics play out in Iran? It, like Pakistan, has a long history of funding, arming and supporting armed groups to compensate for conventional military weakness and to put pressure on its adversaries, Israel foremost. The regime would not want to share nuclear technology with proxies, as much as some militant groups might like to syphon off some nuclear material via sympathetic members of the Iranian security forces. But it could well decide that the immunity afforded by nukes would allow it to redouble its support for proxy groups and to encourage those groups to intensify pressure on Israel. This issue is not clear-cut, though. Nuclear weapons offer security, but not complete immunity from attack. Argentina invaded the Falkland islands in 1982 despite Britain's nuclear capability. Iran's own missile strikes on Israel and Pakistan, both nuclear-armed states, are proof that nuclear shields have holes. Moreover, Pakistan has tended to host Islamist proxies on its own soil—and even then India launched air strikes against them in 2019. Iran has preferred to cultivate foreign groups located far from its borders. So unless Iran extended a nuclear umbrella over Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen—an unlikely prospect, not least because it would require a very large arsenal with sophisticated command and control, capable of surviving multiple rounds of strikes—those groups would still be at the mercy of American and Israeli firepower. That raises the third question: how would others respond to an Iran that had successfully built and deployed nuclear weapons? In the 1960s America contemplated attacking China's nascent arsenal. It decided against such a risky operation. Today Israeli intelligence has clearly burrowed deep into Iran and, with America, might believe it could locate and strike a site where warheads were being assembled or stored. That in itself could trigger turmoil inside Iran, Iranian retaliation against American bases and Arab states and a wider regional war, perhaps layered on top of existing ones. In practice, the response might be more muted. "Although an Iranian nuclear test would be condemned across the globe and lead to a temporary spike in support for new penalties against Tehran," says Eric Brewer of the Nuclear Threat Initiative, an advocacy group, "enthusiasm would wane in the subsequent months and years." Iran is already subject to many sanctions; China and Russia would help insulate it from any more that might follow. And if the arsenal could not be eliminated, Iran's rivals would turn to deterring its use—as America has sought to do in Asia after North Korea acquired nukes in 2006.

America would probably extend its nuclear umbrella over Saudi Arabia, other Arab allies and Israel, none of which currently enjoy formal guarantees. That step, which would raise many questions—would America, for instance, deploy tactical nuclear weapons to the Middle East, as it does in Europe?—would have two purposes. One would be to persuade Iran that any use of its weapons would risk the destruction of the regime. The other would be to dissuade America's friends in the region from pursuing nukes of their own. Saudi Arabia has long said that it would respond to the development of an Iranian bomb by making one of its own. Egypt, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would all be likely to explore such an option, too. That does not mean a nuclear arms-race is inevitable. The UAE wants to cool tensions with Iran and stay away from a regional conflict, not paint a target on its back. Egypt is insolvent and dysfunctional, and is farther from the threat. Jordan is broke. Even Saudi Arabia would probably prefer American protection to the uncertain pursuit of a bomb, which it might only be able to obtain with Pakistan's help. Israel faces a different dilemma. Since the 1960s it has been coy about its nukes, saying only that it would not be the first country to "introduce" nuclear weapons to the region. Israel would face strong pressure to reverse that policy, publicly declaring its nuclear status despite the inevitable diplomatic backlash. Israeli leaders might also want to advertise their nuclear capability, by showing off the submarines and missiles that carry the country's bombs. A nuclear test is another possibility. This would be risky, cautions Richard Nephew of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a think-tank. "If they provided a lot of new information about their alleged weapons programmes, they might even expose weaknesses or deficiencies no one thinks they have," he says. "Keeping that club in the bag may have much greater deterrence value than brandishing it, since everyone assumes they must have some top-flight stuff." In any case, the deterrent dynamics between Israel and Iran would be worryingly untested. America and the Soviet Union had worked together as allies for several years before they began their nuclear stand-off. India and Pakistan had well-established backchannels of communication. Israel and Iran have no such history. In the past year their shadow war has turned ever hotter. An Iranian bomb would be a dangerous and unpredictable addition to an already combustible region.

Fuel retailers lose Rs 5 on petrol, Rs 23 on diesel as crude tops \$100

New Delhi: State-owned fuel retailers are losing Rs 5 per litre on petrol and Rs 23 a litre on diesel as fresh hostilities in West Asia pushed international oil prices above USD 100 per barrel — the highest since last July — analysts said on Wednesday.

Brent crude, the international benchmark for oil prices, rose 2.5 per cent to more than USD 100 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude gained almost 2 per cent to about USD 95. This came after tensions rose in the Middle East amid the latest tit-for-tat exchange of fire between the US and Iran. India, the world's third-largest oil importing and consuming country, is particularly exposed to swings in international crude prices. It imports more than 88 per cent of its crude oil requirements — the raw material for making fuels such as petrol and diesel. A sustained increase in prices raises the country's dollar-denominated import bill and can put pressure on the trade balance and the rupee, analysts said. Also, with retail pump rates remaining unchanged, fuel retailers are incurring losses on the sale of petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG. Prashant Vasisht, senior vice-president and co-group head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA Ltd, said that with the escalation in hostilities between Iran and the US, Brent prices had crossed the USD 100 per barrel-mark on Wednesday and the Indian crude basket was at about USD 109 per barrel. "At the average price for the month of September till date, marketing margins on petrol are negative Rs 5 per litre and diesel at negative Rs 23 a litre and under-recoveries on domestic LPG are at Rs 200 per cylinder," he said. "If the current geopolitical situation persists, crude oil prices could rise further given that several countries, including China, were tapping their strategic reserves for a significant proportion of their consumption and their return to the market could increase demand in a period of restricted supplies."

From the moon to MRIs: how space research has transformed healthcare on earth



Many of us may not be aware of healthcare spinoffs that come about as a byproduct of space exploration. A significant number of them, however, have contributed to better healthcare here on earth. Under the United States' space programme, NASA, there are over 2,000 such spinoffs profiled since 1976, in which NASA technologies have benefited life on earth in the form of commercial products. India too, has made some progress in this regard. While ISRO's current annual budget of ₹13,416 crore is 6% of NASA's annual budget, over 350 technologies have been transferred to Indian industries, including several in health/ biomedical sectors (implants, sensors, medical electronics), through ISRO's Technology Transfer Programme.

Just a few examples include ISRO's VSAT terminals and VSAT-enabled mobile medical units to facilitate healthcare delivery in remote locations; an endoscopic catheter mounted impedance probe to assess mucosal health, a capacitive sensor to detect malignancy in leukocytes; the ISRO smart limb – a low-cost bionic limb for amputees, and an artificial polyurethane foot. Here's how healthcare applications on earth that are secondary to space exploration, developed. Patients and even doctors seldom realise that the digital image processing deployed in ultrasounds, CTs, MRIs and mammography images was initially used in planetary and astronomical image analysis. NASA technologies improved MRI and CT imaging primarily by providing advanced digital image-processing, segmentation, and fusion methods that enhance contrast, reduce noise, and help with better distinguishing of tissues, especially at low doses or low signals. These tools originated in processing planetary earth observations, and plasma-physics data. They were then used in clinical radiology as software and workflow concepts. Engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and other NASA centres developed digital enhancement techniques (contrast stretching, filtering, deblurring, edge detection) to analyse lunar and planetary images. These were later adapted to improve CT and MRI images, especially in low-contrast situations. Advanced ultrasound techniques using portable, networked systems, speckle reduction, and elastography algorithms were initially refined on Shuttle Spacecrafts and on board the International Space Station. Infrared ear thermometers using IR sensors and optics were developed for stellar temperature measurement.

Compact blood analysers and miniaturised "lab-on-chip" devices used in Point of Care Diagnostics will eventually make available, a sophisticated laboratory in our homes and perhaps even in our pockets. The impetus and initial funding for this research, which today benefits earthlings, came from sheer necessity for blood tests in microgravity situations 400 km above the earth.

The now commonplace wearables, those monitoring heart rate, ECG, respiration and movement, were originally derived from astronaut biotelemetry. Non-invasive glucose and metabolic monitoring concepts using optical and microwave sensing were initially investigated for in-flight monitoring. Smart clothes with embedded strain gauges, accelerometers, and ECG electrodes evolved from space-suit

biomonitoring. Advanced air and water purification systems (HEPA/particulate filters, catalytic oxidizers) were originally designed for closed spacecraft. Microbial monitoring and sterilisation approaches have all been refined in the context of spacecraft contamination control. Antimicrobial and low-outgassing materials from spacecraft cabins are now used in clinical surfaces, catheters, and implant coatings.

Telemedicine and logistics Satellite-based telemedicine consultations still play a significant role in remote areas where terrestrial internet may not be available. Satellite communication also facilitates disaster management, teleradiology and specialist support including for the health of astronauts. Global disease surveillance and epidemiological mapping using earth-observation and satellite data (environmental correlates, vector habitats, disaster impact on health systems) have played a major role in containing global outbreaks. Solar-powered vaccine refrigerators and medical coolers developed to support off-grid space-related field operations, are now widely used in immunisation programmes. Drone delivery systems for medical supplies rely on satellite navigation and communication. These, too, evolved from space missions.

Devices and interventions Certain Ventricular Assist Devices were co-developed with NASA flow-dynamics expertise to create very small, low-shear blood pumps for management of end-stage heart failure. Programmable pacemakers and rhythm-management hardware resulted from radiation-hardened electronics, miniaturisation and power-management work done for spacecraft. In 2016, ISRO developed a low-cost heart pump that assists the human heart, notably in cases of left ventricle failure, using lightweight rocket material. This device is composed of a special bio-compatible titanium alloy and can pump 3-5 litres of blood every minute. It has been experimented with successfully on animals, and holds promise for eventual clinical trials. Astronaut exercise hardware gave a fillip to robotic and sensor-based advanced rehabilitation systems. Prosthetic limbs and orthoses improved, using space shuttle foam-insulation and composite-material know-how for lighter, better-fitting components. In 1977, the first patent for a cochlear implant was with NASA assistance. Invisible braces are a type of transparent ceramic called translucent polycrystalline alumina (TPA).

The company Ceradyne, developed TPA in conjunction with NASA Advanced Ceramics Research, as protection for infrared antennae on heat-seeking missile trackers. A sunglasses manufacturer, Foster Grant, first licensed a NASA technology for scratch-resistant lenses, developed to protect space equipment from scratching in space, especially helmet visors. Spaceblankets, developed in 1964 for the space programme, are lightweight and reflect infrared radiation. These items are often included in first aid kits. Tech startup BeeHex developed 3D printing systems for food such as pizza, desserts, and icings following a NASA-funded project.

Biomechanical and physiological models (bone loss, muscle atrophy, cardiovascular deconditioning) developed from astronaut data, have contributed to current management of osteoporosis, sarcopenia and enforced bed rest. Radiobiology and radiation-risk models from deep-space exposure studies help cancer risk assessment and radiotherapy safety. Human factors, alarm fatigue and cockpit-style interface design methods from spacecraft have been used in intensive care units (ICUs) and operating room monitoring systems. While the debate about funding space research continues, there is no doubt that investment in space exploration has contributed to better life on earth in a number of ways, particularly in healthcare. For emerging economies in particular, techniques and applications produced by space research can go a long way towards better healthcare delivery and service.



As she opened the door to her modest rented home near the Pathalam bridge road in Ernakulam district's Eloor-Edayar industrial belt, 48-year-old Umaira looked tired. It was around 8:30 a.m. The cough that began the previous night seemed to have lasted far longer than usual. Her eyes remained dry as the persistent cough refused to leave her. "As the wind flows in carrying the pungent smell, I often gasp for breath," she says, pointing across to the Edayar industrial area located on the other side of the Periyar River flowing nearby. The acrid air has equally affected the lives of her family members, including her 52-year-old husband Kabeer, a lottery ticket seller, her daughter, and three grandchildren.

"I worry just as much for my grandchildren. We have been living in this house for over a decade. Unable to bear the situation, some of our neighbours have left the place," she says in a strained voice.

The Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station set up by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board near the Eloor depot is defunct as the annual maintenance contract of the facility expired in February 2025. With the system becoming non-functional, public have no access to data on the air quality index levels in the industrial town.

The Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station set up by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board near the Eloor depot is defunct as the annual maintenance contract of the facility expired in February 2025. With the system becoming non-functional, public have no access to data on the air quality index levels in the industrial town. | Photo Credit: R. K. Nithin Two houses away, 60-year-old Sreekumar had just returned from the nearby Employees State Insurance Corporation Hospital at Pathalam, where his wife, Geetha, 58, had been rushed that morning after her breathing troubles worsened.

Once an employee of Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore at Udyogmandal, it was a natural decision for him to settle in some place close to the industrial heartland. But over the years, resignation replaced hope. "We have learned to live with it. The air was not this heavy when we arrived nearly two decades ago," he says. The decline, he recalls, began five or six years ago, when odour-causing units sprouted along the banks of the Periyar River. Life remains miserable for many residents like Umaira and Sreekumar along the Eloor-Edayar industrial area as the recurrent odour and persistent air pollution continue without any sign of relief. As per the estimates of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (PCB), there are about 350 industrial units in the Edayar industrial area of the Ernakulam District Industries Centre located in the Kadungalloor grama panchayat limits. In 2022, the worsening stench caused by the operation of a total of 20 bone meal units, chicken-waste rendering plants, fish-oil extraction units, and rubber-processing facilities in Edayar prompted the PCB to commission a study.

The study by the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, to assess the extent and sources of the emissions revealed high non-compliant odour threshold levels — up to 2,50,00,000 Odour Units per cubic metre — in one erring unit. The incidents of uncontrolled emissions from the industrial units along the Eloor-Edayar stretch have taken a toll on the lives of the nearby residents. Lack of sustained enforcement and strict implementation of environmental norms have aggravated the situation.

The incidents of uncontrolled emissions from the industrial units along the Eloor-Edayar stretch have taken a toll on the lives of the nearby residents. Lack of sustained enforcement and strict implementation of environmental norms have aggravated the situation. R.K. Nithin Though there is no Indian standard prescribed for odour emission, the nuisance threshold level is defined as the concentration at which not more than a small proportion of the population (less than 5%) experiences annoyance for a small part of the time (less than 2%), says the report. It was revealed that the majority of the units had inadequate storage facilities for raw materials and lacked proper ventilation and refrigeration systems for storing raw materials. Insufficient closure of reactor vessels, reliance on crude odour emission control technologies during processing, and improper design and specifications of odour-emission control units were some of the drawbacks identified by the study.

"Though foul odour may not cause direct health issues, toxic stimulants associated with odour may cause ill health or respiratory symptoms. Secondary effects may include nausea, insomnia, and discomfort in some individuals. A strong odour can lead to nasal irritation and trigger symptoms in people with breathing difficulties or asthma. On the economic front, the loss of property value near odour-caus-

ing operations or industries and in odour-affected environments is partly a consequence of offensive odour," the report says. Though the board had issued closure notices to the 20 erring units between April 2024 and January 2025, it was relaxed following an assessment by the board's Environment Surveillance Centre, Eloor, that the managements had implemented the recommended corrective measures.

Elders residing in areas near the Edayar industrial area are worried as they see no solution to the issue. Stepping out from his flour mill located beside his home near St. Jude's Church, near Pathalam, 70-year-old T.T. Varghese voices his concern. "The authorities shall at least take steps to stop the unbearable stench — an odour like rotting meat that hangs in the air. It's intolerable," he says. "We put the plans to shift to a safe location on hold after real estate prices hit a low in view of the pollution scenario," he laments. Health workers are aware of the impact of the pollution on the residents. Deepthi Santhosh, an Accredited Social Health Activist worker in Ward 6 of the municipality, says that most of the affected residents suffer from respiratory issues. "Besides odour pollution, black fine particles seen on leaves of plants and the exterior of houses are also causing distress to the residents. Doctors often advise them to shift to another place. But it's not that easy for most of the residents," she says.

Despite the concerns of the residents, PCB authorities claim that the odour problem is under control. "Biofilter units for odour control are functional in about 90% of the bone meal, meat rendering, and rubber processing units," says P.K. Baburajan, Chief Environmental Engineer, Ernakulam. "Weekly reviews involving representatives of the Industries department and management of the units are being held," he adds. V. Narendra Kumar, president of the Edayar Small-Scale Industries Association, says that the remedial action taken over the last two years has resulted in improved odour control measures in the 21 bone meal, waste rendering, rubber and fish processing units. "There have been no major complaints over the last month. The lapses, if any, are being addressed promptly, he claims.

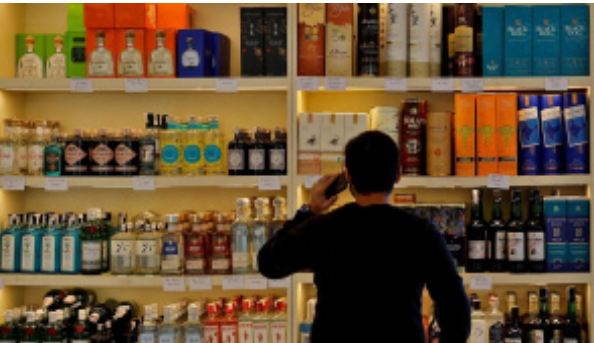
The Industries department has also given a clean chit. "No major pollution issue has been reported since the 2024 mass fishkill along the Edayar stretch," affirms Najeeb P.A., manager of the District Industries Centre. However, Neethu M.R, a former civic representative, refuses to buy the board's position. "The rotten smell of processing raw chicken and other waste emanates both in the morning and evening hours," she complains. Odour nuisance becomes particularly severe during festival occasions and in the days that follow, when huge loads of raw materials are brought to the chicken-waste rendering plants and bone meal units, she says.

Environmentalists too have voiced their protest over the 'blatant violation of the environmental norms' caused by the erring units. Purushan Eloor, spokesperson of the Periyar Malineekarana Virudha Samiti campaigning for the protection of the Periyar river, cites the inordinate delay on the part of the PCB to ensure that the industrial units comply with the various environmental norms.

"The pollution control measures are yet to prove effective even 20 years after a Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee pulled up the government and the industrial units in the Eloor-Edayar industrial belt for violation of the environmental norms. It continues unabated. In a recent incident, a large pile-up of waste from a chicken waste rendering unit was found dumped close to the Periyar river on January 25, 2026. The stench from the site was unbearable," he complains. Suresh Muttathil, former chairperson of the Kadungalloor panchayat, says that the wards near the Edayar industrial area experience odour issues, especially during the rains. "However, the impact is less compared to the problems faced by the people in Pathalam and Eloor," he says.

Environmentalists have also pointed out the shortcomings on the part of the PCB in tracking the pollution sources and carrying out regular air quality monitoring. A senior board official admitted that the agency lacked an olfactometer for smell measurement. "The continuous ambient air quality monitoring station at Eloor remains non-functional after its annual maintenance contract expired in February 2025," he says. Though the Eloor municipality lacked official data on the health impact caused by air pollution, former chairperson A.D. Sujil says that 500 litres of free drinking water is daily provided to about 3,200 families in the region following the shortage of drinking water caused by industrial pollution of water sources. Health experts have cautioned about the implications of getting exposed to various types of pollutants regularly. Rajeev Jayadevan, convener of the research cell of the Indian Medical Association, Kerala, says that symptoms like nausea, vomiting, and headache could sometimes be biological signals that the body needs to escape a harmful environment. "Industrial emission of chemicals can cause chronic airway irritation, aggravating asthma and existing lung diseases. Symptoms such as headache and nausea could be from airborne toxins that are triggering the brain's chemoreceptor trigger zone — an instinct to detect and avoid toxic exposure," he adds. B. Madhusoodana Kurup, former Vice-Chancellor of the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Kochi, who led a people's committee report on the massive fish kill in the Periyar river in May 2024, says that it's high time the authorities conducted a carrying capacity study in the Eloor-Edayar industrial area.

Alcohol, liver cirrhosis, and the point of no return



A 40-year-old male with a long history of daily alcohol consumption presented with yellowish discoloration of the eyes and urine, swelling of the lower limbs, and progressive abdominal distention over a short span of 15 days. These symptoms, which were ignored in the early stages (as is common), revealed significant liver damage. Medical testing and imaging showed severe liver disease, revealing how slowly alcohol-related liver damage might proceed. In this case, the diagnosis of cirrhosis was confirmed after scan results from an abdominal ultrasonography that also revealed a substantial buildup of fluid—known as ascitic fluid—in the abdominal cavity. Bilirubin levels were high, well outside the usual maximum limit of 1.2 mg/dL. Put together, these tests showed that this patient's liver had reached decompensation due to liver cirrhosis, an important point at which the liver can no longer adequately perform all its basic metabolic and detoxifying processes.

Alcohol-related liver disease goes through various phases, the first of which is steatosis (fat buildup). Steatosis can be completely reversed if individuals stop drinking alcohol. Hepatitis is defined as the development of acute inflammatory changes within the liver due to alcohol consumption, and can appear as a change in liver function (i.e., liver parameters/levels), jaundice, abdominal pain, and worsening liver function; alcoholic hepatitis can appear with multiple levels of clinical severity, but if the patient remains abstinent and receives nutritional support and appropriate medical treatment, the outcomes of alcoholic hepatitis are reversible. The most severe form of liver disease is cirrhosis. At this point, scar tissue that cannot be healed completely replaces healthy liver cells. This scar tissue leads to a condition known as portal hypertension, with further possible concerns such as fluid buildup in the abdominal cavity (ascites), bleeding from varices, infections, and issues with brain function (hepatic encephalopathy). As such, a patient with cirrhosis has a poor prognosis. Medical intervention can stabilise the patient's liver, but it won't undo any structural damage or alterations.

It is commonly believed that there is "safe" limit to alcohol intake, an amount one can consume that does not

damage the liver. . This is a dangerous myth: there is no set amount of alcohol that is safe for anybody. It has been shown that most men develop alcoholic liver disease after consuming an average of 40–80 grams of alcohol per day, whereas women develop this condition after consuming an average of 20–40 grams of alcohol per day. However, this does not imply that those who consume less alcohol are not at risk of developing liver disease: nutrition and concomitant metabolic disorders can also influence a person's risk. If a patient is diagnosed with steatosis or alcoholic hepatitis, the most important step is to entirely abstain from alcoholic drinks, since at these stages of the disease, a person can still recover their health. For cirrhosis, a liver transplant surgery is often the only effective treatment; this procedure is the last option for those who continue to suffer problems related to liver deficiency, even after receiving all the necessary medical care for this complicated condition. What is crucial to understand is the need to treat liver cirrhosis early, rather than trying to cure cirrhosis-related issues after a patient has reached this irreversible stage. Early detection of alcohol-related liver disease and quitting alcohol intake can prevent cirrhosis and the eventual need for surgery and transplants.

Preventing recurrent urinary tract infections

A urinary tract infection (UTI) is a common health problem affecting women. One in three women will have at least one episode of a UTI requiring antibiotics by the age of 25. Half of all women will have at least one episode of a UTI at some point in their life. Approximately 25–30% of women may then have a recurrent infection within six months. Recurrent episodes of UTIs cause discomfort, lead to increased sick leave and increase the risk of antibiotic abuse. Preventing these infections is important — not only for women's health but also to reduce the growing problem of antibiotic resistance. Women have a shorter urethra compared to men, and its opening is close to the vagina and anus, making it easier for bacteria from the bowel to reach the bladder. Vaginal tissues are naturally more receptive to certain bacteria, and this risk is higher during early adulthood (with the start of sexual activity) and again after menopause, when hormonal changes reduce natural protection.

Diagnosis and prevention A recurrent UTI is defined as two or more culture-proven infections in six months, or three or more in a year. Lifestyle changes can go a long way towards preventing UTIs. Some tips include: Appropriate antibiotics must be taken as per the culture report for five to seven days. Low-dose antibiotic prophylaxis — a small daily dose of antibiotics at bedtime. Preferred drugs are Nitrofurantoin, Trimethoprim or Fosfomycin for 3–6 months after completion of the appropriate antibiotic course. Post-

coital antibiotics — A single dose after intercourse if infection is clearly linked to sex. Non-antibiotic measures include: vaginal oestrogen cream - in postmenopausal women, restoring vaginal oestrogen levels can help prevent UTIs. Cranberry products - Patients may be advised to use cranberry products, preferably juice for recurrence prevention, but should be informed that current evidence is of low quality and findings are contradictory. In diabetic patients, cranberry juice with added sugar may worsen glycaemic control, though this can be avoided by drinking it without sugar. Immunomodulatory prophylaxis - Vaccines such as Strovac, OM-89, ExPEC4V, MV140, and Solco-Urovac aim to stimulate the body's immune response against urinary pathogens. However, current evidence doesn't support their routine use. Probiotics - Lactobacillus species may help restore healthy vaginal flora. But benefits remain uncertain. Phytotherapeutics - Plant-derived preparations aim to reduce antibiotic use and support urinary health. Examples include: Xyloglucan, Gelose, Hibiscus, and Propolis, Centaury herb, Levisticum officinale and Rosemary leaf, traditionally used for urinary tract health. Evidence of these, however, is limited. Overuse of antibiotics can lead to multidrug-resistant infections. Hence, an accurate diagnosis, antibiotics for a short duration and preventive measures must be prioritised. If you have frequent UTIs, consult your doctor. A specialist referral may be needed if there is a suspicion of a



complicated UTI. An oft repeated adage for kidney stones is — 'Once a stone former, always a stone former.' However, there are certain measures that can minimise the risk of stone recurrence. The first and most important step would be to ensure two litres of urine output every day. The amount of fluids to take cannot be prescribed by a physician but would depend on the climate and the individual's activity levels. Unhealthy diets can increase stone formation. High levels of salt in junk food increase calcium levels in the urine, and phosphoric acid in some carbonated beverages increase urinary acidity. Irregular food habits and a lack of physical exercise compound the risk of stone formation.

How US share in India’s LPG imports surged to over 50% in 6 months



The stifled supply of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) from West Asia owing to the regional conflict there has led to a surge in the US’s share in India’s LPG imports to over 50% in the six months since the conflict began, up from less than 10% in the preceding six months, as per an analysis of LPG shipping data of the past 12 months.The West Asia war, which started with the US and Israel striking Iran late February, has upended India’s LPG import pie, which was traditionally dominated by Gulf suppliers like the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Amid the supply crunch, India’s overall LPG imports fell over 40% sequentially in the March-August period, while imports from the US nearly quadrupled as India scrambled to find alternative supply sources not constrained by geopolitical conflict.

The West Asia war led to an effective halt in vessel movements through the critical chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz, which accounted for a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) flows. The strait is a narrow waterway that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, and is the primary route to evacuate energy supplies from the broader Gulf region.The disruption in energy supplies through the strait has caused a headache for various energy importing countries, including India. While the country’s crude oil and LNG supplies have also been impacted, LPG supplies have been impacted the most. Around 40% of India’s crude oil imports, 60% of its LNG imports, and a whopping 90% of its LPG imports regularly came from West Asia through the Strait of Hormuz. The country’s dependence on imports stands at over 88% for oil, 60% for LPG, and about 50% for natural gas. This means that the Strait of Hormuz effectively saw the movement of around 54% of India’s LPG consumption.

An analysis of tanker data from commodity market analytics firm Kpler shows that India’s overall LPG imports in the six months to August declined 43.1% from the previous six months (September-February) to 7.14 million tonnes. Supplies from the US surged 281.1% to 3.78 million tonnes, accounting for 53% of India’s LPG imports for March-August. In September-February, Washington supplied about 993,000 tonnes of LPG, making up 7.9% of New Delhi’s LPG imports.Share of the UAE, which was the biggest source of LPG for India before the war, contracted to 13.4% in the six months to August from 37.8% in September-February. Import volumes crashed 79.8% to about 958,000

tonnes. Similarly, import volumes from Qatar plummeted by 84.7% to about 405,000 tonnes in March-August; its share in India’s LPG import pie shrunk to 5.7% from 21.1% in the previous six months.

Kuwait, which had a 15.1% share in India’s LPG imports in September-February, saw it contract to 4.9% in March-August as volumes were down 81.7% to about 346,300 tonnes. LPG import volumes from Saudi Arabia in the six months to August were down 76.1% sequentially to about 423,700 tonnes. In September-February, Riyadh had a share of 14.1% in New Delhi’s LPG import basket, which shrunk to a mere 5.9% in the following six months.“This growth (in LPG imports from the US) is particularly due to the constrained supply from the Middle East. US is a major LPG supplier globally and became a readily available option for India. This LPG is accessible in this constrained supply environment. This is similar to Russian (oil) barrels flocking to India (amid the West Asia supply disruption),” Nikhil Dubey, lead analyst-refining at Kpler, told According to experts, American LPG flows to India are expected to remain strong till the time West Asian supply normalises, on which there is no clarity at present.“Washington has been the biggest LPG exporter worldwide even before the crisis, and US propane was already cheaper than Asian supplies before the war. Once the shortage hit, and with no other option nearby, India was willing to pay more to bring it from further away because keeping cooking gas available was the priority,” Abu Dhabi-based energy analyst Natalia Katona told .She expects the share of the US could come down if supplies from West Asia recover meaningfully, even as security around the Strait of Hormuz remains the “big uncertainty”.“What’s interesting now is the discussion around 2027 contracts. The government has reportedly asked Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan petroleum to secure at least 15% of next year’s LPG imports through annual US deals. Nothing has been finalised yet, but that tells me India wants diversification built into its purchasing plans. There’s also a trade-talks angle: buying more American energy could help negotiations with Washington on the US-India trade deal,” she added.

The disruption in LPG supplies from West Asia forced India to ration LPG supplies to industrial and commercial consumers in a bid to prioritise crores of households that depend on the fuel to run their kitchens. There are over 33 crore households in India with LPG connections. As a demand management tool, the minimum gap between LPG refill bookings by households was also increased.Moreover, domestic refineries have been maximising domestic LPG production to partly offset the loss in imports, and refiners scrambling for LPG cargoes from alternative geographies.

Some of the emergency measures have since been withdrawn as domestic production increased and imports from the alternative geographies picked up, predominantly from the US. The supply gap, however, is still too wide to be fully bridged.India’s annual LPG consumption stood at a little over 33 million tonnes, or about 90,000 tonnes a day, with an import dependency level of 60%. But with the disruption in flows through the Strait of Hormuz, the country’s LPG consumption declined to about 80,000 tonnes a day, according to estimates shared by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in May.

New CEO Gebremariam, chairman Chandrasekaran list safety as key priority for Air India

Incoming Air India CEO Tewolde Gebremariam and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran have identified safety as top priority, urging employees to raise concerns and help build a stronger safety culture.Incoming Air India CEO Tewolde Gebremariam and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran have identified safety as top priority, urging employees to raise concerns and help build a stronger safety culture.Incoming Air India chief executive Tewolde Gebremariam and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran on Monday identified safety as a key priority for the airline going forward, with Gebremariam seeking support of the airline staff to “make Air India great again”, borrowing from US President Donald Trump’s ‘MAGA’ or ‘Make America Great Again’ slogan. The comments were made at an Air India townhall meeting addressed by Gebremariam, Chandrasekaran, and outgoing CEO and MD Campbell Wilson.

“I am coming from the US so allow me to borrow a phrase, MAGA. We will Make Air India Great Again...A safety-first culture has to be our number one priority. It is not enough to say it. We must live it every day,” Gebremariam said, calling on all Air India employees to actively contribute to a stronger safety culture. A former group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, Gebremariam will assume the role of the airline’s CEO and MD after his security clearance from the government comes through, which is expected in a few weeks.“If something is not right, stop. Every employee should feel empowered to raise concerns, and I will support that culture,” Gebremariam said in his first address to the airline’s staff.

“I need your support and cooperation. We cannot bring about meaningful change without the commitment of our people...Together, we can build a safer, stronger and truly world-class Air India,” he added.Gebremariam oversaw one of aviation’s most successful long-term transformations, turning Ethiopian Airlines into a global airline and the largest carrier in Africa, and turned Addis Ababa into a major aviation hub. He also has a track record of driving sustained profitability while navigating complex economic cycles and dynamic and challenging global markets.

He is taking over the reins at Air India at a crucial juncture for the airline — in the aftermath of the deadly AI 171 crash in June last year and intensified scrutiny of the carrier’s operational safety, and amid external headwinds like the Pakistani airspace closure and surging jet fuel prices due to geopolitical conflict in West Asia. Gebremariam will be steering the loss-laden airline through the next phase of its ambitious transformation programme to become a world-class carrier.Chnadrasekaran, who is the chairman of Tata Sons as well as Air India, acknowledged that the past 18 months had been particularly challenging for the airline, and looking ahead, the next phase of its growth must focus on safety, customer trust, operational execution, and cost discipline.“The most important thing Air India should aspire to have is trust in the minds of people...Air India must be known for caring about safety above everything else. Our safety record should not just match the best airlines in the world, it should be better than the best...Safety is not about what we say. It is about what we do every day,” said Chandrasekaran, who is slated to step down as Tata Sons and Air India chairman once his term ends in February. The airline returned to the Tata fold from government control in January 2022 under his leadership.“For me, bringing Air India back to the Tata Group is one of the most important



milestones of my career, a very very significant event. Air India belongs to a billion people. It is not just another business. It is probably the only business that a billion people talk about, have views on, criticise fiercely and appreciate at times. But one thing we should always remember is that all these one billion people are rooting for Air India. That is our biggest strength,” Chandrasekaran told employees.Various aspects of Air India’s transformation — from pilot training to maintenance practices and operational decision-making — will also be judged through the lens of safety as the shadow of the AI 171 crash still looms. Passengers, regulators and investors will all expect evidence that safety systems, operational oversight, and organisational culture are improving continuously.

Chandrasekaran emphasised to Air India staff that achieving this would require world-class processes, rigorous compliance, and personal accountability across the organisation. He also called for a stronger focus on consistency in customer experience and greater agility in responding to a rapidly changing operating environment. Emphasising the importance of financial sustainability, he urged employees to help build a stronger culture of cost consciousness.

Gebremariam also highlighted the importance of operational excellence, noting that customer experience is ultimately determined by reliable and consistent delivery. “Operational excellence is about getting the basics right every day: on-time departures, on-time arrivals, baggage delivery and clean aircraft...Customer experience is a function of operational excellence. We need to minimise disruptions and when they do occur, handle them professionally and take care of our customers,” the incoming CEO said.Gebremariam served in Ethiopian Airlines for over 36 years, 11 of which were as group CEO. He took an early retirement from the airline in March 2022 due to health issues, and was a senior strategic advisor to Delta Air Lines of the US until recently. For Air India, which is attempting a highly ambitious airline turnaround, Gebremariam’s experience would be particularly relevant, according to industry watchers.Under outgoing CEO Campbell Wilson — Air India’s first post-privatisation chief executive — the carrier embarked upon an ambitious transformation programme to shrug off its legacy image of a rundown government-owned airline. Despite the challenges that the airline has been grappling with, the foundational parts of its transformation plan have been executed under Wilson’s watch.A new brand identity is in place, group airlines have been consolidated into two from four, synergies in their networks and operations has gone up considerably, massive aircraft orders are in place to ensure a steady stream of new jets, a large number of its legacy jets have been given modern cabins and more are being retrofitted

What Pune marathoner’s death tells us about cardiac arrest: Top cardio explains how the heart can stop twice



The death of 65-year-old Pune runner Sanjay Kadam during the Satara Hill Half Marathon has raised an unsettling question: How can someone who is apparently fit enough to run 17 kilometres suddenly suffer a cardiac arrest, be revived and undergo angioplasty to open a blocked artery, and then suffer another cardiac arrest hours later?

The answer lies in understanding what happens to the heart after a major coronary blockage. Kadam, a retired scientist from the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), was an experienced and enthusiastic runner. He had hypertension but trained regularly. He was participating in the Satara Hill Half Marathon for the first time and had completed about 17 km of the 21.1-km course when he collapsed. A cardiologist participating in the race, Dr Riyaz Mujawar, immediately began CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Kadam was taken to hospital, where angiography reportedly showed a blockage in a major coronary artery. Doctors performed angioplasty. He was initially stabilised, but later suffered another major cardiac arrest and died.“The first 24 hours after angioplasty are particularly important because opening a blocked artery does not immediately mean the heart has recovered. If the heart has been deprived of oxygen during a heart attack or cardiac arrest, some of the heart muscle may already be injured or temporarily weakened, and it can remain electrically unstable even after blood flow is restored. This can trigger dangerous abnormal heart rhythms and, in some cases, another cardiac arrest. This is why patients who undergo angioplasty after a major cardiac event are kept under close observation,” says Dr Ranjan Shetty, lead cardiologist and medical director, Sparsh Hospital, Bengaluru. He explains the science to

Heart attack and cardiac arrestA heart attack is primarily a plumbing problem. Blood flow through one of the coronary arteries becomes severely restricted or blocked, depriving part of the heart muscle of oxygen.A cardiac arrest is an electrical problem. The heart’s electrical system becomes so unstable that the heart can no longer pump blood effectively. The person loses consciousness, stops having an effective pulse and can die within minutes without CPR and defibrillation.The two can occur together. A blocked coronary artery can damage heart muscle and destabilise the heart’s electrical system. That can trigger a dangerous rhythm such as ventricular fibrillation, causing cardiac arrest.

Why did his hypertension matter?

Hypertension does not mean that someone cannot exercise or run. In fact, regular exercise is one of the most

Endometriosis could be genetic: First Indian genome study sheds light

For years, women with endometriosis (where tissue lining the uterus overgrows outside it) have been telling doctors the same story: severe period pain, chronic pelvic pain or infertility, often after years of suffering and sometimes with a mother or sister reporting similar symptoms. Now, India’s first genome-wide study of the disease has found evidence that genetic susceptibility may play a role in Indian women, while also identifying genetic signals that could be particularly relevant to the Indian population.

The study, published in Scientific Reports, identified 21 suggestive genetic regions associated with endometriosis in Indian women. The strongest signal was near the LINC00415/SHISA2 region on chromosome 13. Researchers also found genetic signals with previously identified endometriosis triggers and found that a risk score developed from European populations showed relevance in the Indian cohort.The findings are not ready for clinical use or individual risk prediction. But researchers say they provide an important starting point for larger studies, particularly among South Asian populations that have been underrepresented in genetic research on endometriosis. “When I started working on endometriosis research nearly two decades ago, I was struck by how many women had lived for years with severe period pain, chronic pelvic pain or infertility before receiving a diagnosis,” said Dr Rahul Gajbhiye, Scientist and Head, Clinical Research Laboratory, ICMR–National Institute for Research on Women’s Health (ICMR–NIRWoH), Mumbai, and principal investigator of the study.

“Some women also told me that their mother or sister had suffered from very similar symptoms but had never been diagnosed. At that time, I could see a possible familial pattern, but I did not have the scientific tools or Indian genetic data to answer why this was happening,” he said.

Building an Indian genetic datasetGajbhiye began examining the genetic basis of endometriosis more systematically during his INSA postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Queensland, Australia, in 2017–18, where he received training in the genetics and genomics of the disease.After returning to India, he was awarded a DBT Wellcome India Alliance Clinical and Public Health Intermediate Fellowship in 2019. The fellowship enabled the establishment of the Endometriosis Clinical and Genetic Research in India (ECGRI) initiative and the creation of a clinical and genomic dataset of Indian women.The study involved 18 centres across India, bringing together gynaecological laparoscopic surgeons, clinicians, researchers and laboratory teams. Women with surgically confirmed endometriosis and control participants were recruited from different geographical regions and ancestry backgrounds.Dr Sandhya Anand, lead author of the study, said the 21 suggestive genetic regions provided new leads for understanding endometriosis in Indian women. “Our findings are not for immediate clinical testing, but they provide an important foundation for future South Asian studies on endometriosis biology, genetic risk and early recognition,” she said.

A disease affecting millionsEndometriosis affects about 10% of women of reproductive age, according to widely cited estimates. Despite its prevalence, diagnosis is often delayed for years, with symptoms such as severe menstrual pain frequently normalised or dismissed.Researchers say the problem is particularly important in India, where awareness, early recognition, ac-

important lifestyle measures for cardiovascular health. But years of high blood pressure can silently damage the cardiovascular system. Persistent hypertension places additional stress on the artery walls and makes them more prone to plaque deposition, which is an important risk factor for coronary artery disease.Besides, someone may have excellent endurance and still have a significant narrowing or blockage in a coronary artery. In Kadam’s case, doctors found a major coronary blockage after he collapsed.

Extreme endurance exercise places considerable demand on the cardiovascular system, particularly when someone is exercising at high intensity or beyond what they are accustomed to. The heart is working harder for an extended period. Heart rate and blood pressure rise, and the heart requires more oxygen. If a coronary artery is significantly narrowed or blocked, there may be a point at which the heart’s oxygen requirement exceeds the supply available through the coronary circulation.The American Heart Association notes that the risk of acute cardiovascular events can rise during extreme endurance exercise, particularly in people who are inadequately trained or have previously undetected heart disease. That is one reason exertional symptoms should never be dismissed simply because someone is otherwise fit.

Why can the heart arrest again after angioplasty?

A stent or angioplasty can restore blood flow through a blocked coronary artery. But opening the artery does not instantly make an injured heart completely normal. After a major coronary event, several problems may persist. The heart muscle may already have been injured. Even after blood flow is restored, the heart may remain weak or electrically unstable, a risk factor for cardiac arrest.Finding and treating one blocked artery is important, but there could have been unstable blockages in other heart vessels. The clinical team therefore has to assess not only the blockage that has been opened but also the overall condition of the heart, its pumping function and its electrical stability.Cardiac arrest itself is a massive physiological crisis. Even after circulation is restored — what doctors call return of spontaneous circulation, or ROSC — the patient remains critically ill. This is why surviving the first cardiac arrest is not necessarily the end of the emergency.

What warning signs should runners take seriously?

Chest pain or pressure is the obvious warning sign, but heart problems do not always announce themselves dramatically. Account for chest tightness, breathlessness, sudden exhaustion, dizziness or light-headedness, fainting or near-fainting, an unusually rapid or irregular heartbeat, pain or discomfort spreading to the arm, shoulder, back, neck or jaw and a sudden and unexplained decline in exercise capacity.For someone with hypertension — particularly as age increases — the sensible approach is to keep blood pressure controlled, have cardiovascular risk factors reviewed and discuss any new symptoms or major increase in exercise intensity with a doctor. Someone preparing for a half marathon after a period of relatively lower activity should also build training progressively rather than suddenly increasing distance and intensity.Rapid CPR, immediate medical attention, defibrillation when indicated and rapid treatment of the underlying coronary problem can make the difference between life and death.



cess to specialised care and population-specific research evidence remain limited.Much of the existing genetic research on endometriosis has been based on populations of European ancestry. The new Indian dataset, therefore, adds an important South Asian component to global research into the disease.

Dr Geetanjali Sachdeva, Director, ICMR–NIRWoH and a co-author, said Gajbhiye had established one of the largest Indian research datasets on endometriosis, combining detailed clinical information with genomic data and a dedicated biorepository. “This platform is one of the first of its kind in India for endometriosis research and provides a foundation for future studies on disease mechanisms, risk prediction, non-invasive diagnostics and translational women’s health research,” she said.

Potential for earlier diagnosisThe study comes as the World Health Organization (WHO) is developing new guidelines on endometriosis management, reflecting the growing recognition of the disease as a major public health concern.Researchers caution that the genetic findings cannot yet be used to tell an individual woman whether she will develop endometriosis. But they could eventually help scientists understand why some women are more susceptible, identify biological pathways involved in the disease and explore new approaches to earlier diagnosis and treatment.For Gajbhiye, the findings “provide a foundation for larger studies on earlier recognition and, eventually, more personalised treatment.”

Copper hits record high above \$14,500 on US tariff fears

New Delhi: Copper hit a record high on the London Metal Exchange as expectations of wider US tariffs on refined metal drove traders to move supplies into the United States, tightening availability elsewhere. Benchmark three-month copper futures rose as much as 0.8 per cent to \$14,533 a metric tonne, surpassing the previous record of \$14,527.50 set in January.In addition, the metal is up about 17 per cent this year and 47 per cent over the past 12 months. In the domestic market too, copper futures (September) jumped as much as 1.21 per cent or Rs 16.8 to hit an intraday high of Rs 1,403.50 by 10:30 am on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

How a return to domestic grind fuelled Ishan Kishan's comeback



Ishan Kishan doesn't pause for a second when asked about the phase when he was dropped from the India team, told to go back to the domestic circuit and fight his way up again. "Mujhe mazaa aagaya (I enjoyed it)," he says. The two years that he spent out of the national set-up has ensured India has got to see the best version of Ishan, one who is not just adventurous and daring, but also responsible. Having missed out on a big score in the two previous matches of the Duleep Trophy, the East Zone made up for it with 270 against South Zone in the final at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Monday. The attack didn't test him much, the pitch was on the flatter side, and Ishan ensured he got the job done. Having made a comeback into India's white-ball set-up, Ishan felt it was the domestic grind that helped him evolve as a batsman. "I genuinely enjoyed it," Ishan said about his time with Jharkhand. "I went back, had to grind and work hard for about two years. But sometimes, when we play regularly for India, you just keep playing in a flow. You might be a very good player which is why you're playing for India, but your growth stagnates at a certain point," the 28-year-old said.

"So when you take a step back and return to domestic cricket, you start from zero again. You start thinking, 'I

need to get even better,' because today, there are so many players scoring runs. To get back into the team, your only option is to perform much better than them." The wicketkeeper said that more than technique, it is the mindset tweak that has helped him. "You get time to reflect on what you missed earlier, why you couldn't convert your starts into big scores. The batting doesn't change that much; it's just the mindset that changes over time. When you process these things and keep working hard, and then make a comeback, you rarely think about things like 'I will smash this, I will hit him like that.' You stay in the moment, taking it one over at a time, or one ball at a time. You remain relaxed and just play," Ishan added. Ishan Kishan was at the crease for 522 minutes, where he faced 334 deliveries for his 270, which included 30 boundaries and seven sixes. (TNCA Photo) Ishan Kishan was at the crease for 522 minutes, where he faced 334 deliveries for his 270, which included 30 boundaries and seven sixes. (TNCA Photo) Mature innings

From the time Ishan walked into the middle, the South Zone attack tried different ways to frustrate him. First up, they laid a short-ball trap and bowled with a heavy leg-side field and on Monday, when Tripurana Vijay bowled, there were just two fielders on the off-side. But Ishan didn't try to manufacture strokes. He was prepared to grind it out. "I was extremely focused because I couldn't afford to gift them my wicket. When they are trying tactics because the pitch isn't offering much, trying to bait me into doing something rash, that is when I refuse to make mistakes. The longer we drag them out and tire them, the easier it will be for us to score runs later on," he said. With 708 runs on the board, East Zone are firmly in control of the final. With the red soil pitch starting to take turn, South Zone have an uphill task to come anywhere close to a first innings lead. "We battled for two days. We know this is essentially a one-innings game. So our primary task is to take the first 10 wickets," he said.

Infantino re-election bid: Look at numbers, dates for path to staying FIFA chief

FIFA president Gianni Infantino, who is in the eye of the storm for his failed plan to sell a stake in FIFA competitions to private investors, will be standing for re-election, seeking his fourth term. Infantino has faced calls from his resignation from UEFA, the ?AFC and CONCACAF but retains support from the African and South American confederations. The UEFA are also reportedly looking to file a criminal complaint against Infantino for possible financial mismanagement after the latter's failed plans to sell future World Cup profits to private investors. "UEFA and its counsel are contemplating a Swiss criminal proceeding against Infantino and possibly other FIFA officials for criminal mismanagement under Article 158 of the Swiss Criminal Code," UEFA's lawyers had stated in a 56-page document. Here's a look at the key numbers and dates for Infantino's path to staying FIFA chief till 2031

When did Infantino announce his re-election bid?

While Infantino said that he is seeking re-election as FIFA president in April, it was made official on September 6 through an official statement. "The FIFA president announced in April that he will stand for re-election ?in 2027. ?Of course, nothing has changed. Mr Infantino will be standing for ?re-election," ?a FIFA spokesperson said in ?a statement.

When is the FIFA election?

The FIFA presidential election will be held in March 2027 and the last date to file nominations for it is November



18, 2026. How is a person elected as FIFA president?

In order to become the FIFA president, the candidate needs to receive the backing of 106 FIFA affiliated member associations out of 211. Why has UEFA withdrawn the idea of vote of no confidence?

In order to pass the motion of no confidence, it would need three-quarters of the members or 159 votes, which is considered unrealistic, as per the BBC.

Who is the opposition candidate to stand against Infantino? As of writing, there has been no one who has put their hat in the ring against Infantino but UEFA are confident that a candidate can be found on time. The most likely person to contest CONCACAF president Victor Montagliani, as per reports.

Japan announce squad for one-off T20I vs India

GNS News Agency, Sept 9 Ahead of their one-off T20I against India on September 22, Japan announced the squad which will face the defending T20 World Cup champions. Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming, Japan's leading run-scorer, will captain the side while it also boasts the experience of veteran players like Ibrahim Takahashi and Declan Suzuki-McComb. The match is set to be played under the banner of the Suzuki Cup and will commemorate the 75th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations. "As part of their Asian Games preparation, the side have opted not to include players who are eligible to play T20Is under ICC regulations but ineligible under Asian Games rules," ICC said in a press release.

The 30-year-old Kadowaki-Fleming has appeared in 55 T20Is and scored 1871 runs at a strike rate of 139.41. He has two hundreds and 12 half centuries to his credit. The Asian Games begin on September 19. The men's cricket competition will get underway from September 24. Ranked No. 1, India are the reigning T20 World Cup champions, while Japan are placed 41st in ICC T20 rankings.

The 15-member Japanese squad also includes wicket-keeper Wataru Miyauchi and leg-spinner Makoto Taniyama, who is inspired by late Australian great Shane Warne. He is Japan's leading wicket-taker. Rookie spin-bowling all-rounder Jake Kusuda-Nair has also been included on the basis of his domestic performances along side medium pacer Tsuyoshi Takada. The India and Japan cricket boards



had stated that the match will be the first step of "Sport 75", an initiative that stems from an agreement reached during a summit between Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and aims to promote human exchanges and cooperation between India and Japan in the field of sports, "taking note of India's ambition to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2036". Japan's Squad: Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming (c), Charlie Hara-Hinze, Benjamin Ito-Davis, Alester Kadowaki-Fleming, Kohei Kubota, Jake Kusuda-Nair, Wataru Miyauchi (wk), Reo Sakurano-Thomas, Alex Shirai-Patmore (wk), Shoma Sugaya-Slater, Declan Suzuki-McComb, Tsuyoshi Takada, Ibrahim Takahashi, Makoto Taniyama, Lachlan Yamamoto-Lake.



Alastair Cook on Pietersen-McCullum pairing: 'They are mavericks'



Cook, who played alongside Pietersen for England, felt the appointment represented something of a shift in McCullum's approach, with England gradually adding more experienced voices to the backroom staff. Cook, who played alongside Pietersen for England, felt the appointment represented something of a shift in McCullum's approach, with England gradually adding more experienced voices to the backroom staff. Cook, who played alongside Pietersen for England, felt the appointment represented something of a shift in McCullum's approach, with England gradually adding more experienced voices to the backroom staff. Cook, who played alongside Pietersen for England, felt the appointment represented something of a shift in McCullum's approach, with England gradually adding more experienced voices to the backroom staff.

Pietersen was appointed specialist mentor of England's white-ball sides on Monday in the build-up to next year's ODI World Cup in South Africa, returning to the national set-up more than a decade after his international career ended. Cook, who played alongside Pietersen for England, felt the appointment represented something of a shift in McCullum's approach, with England gradually adding more experienced voices to the backroom staff. "I suppose we're going full circle a little bit with the coaching staff now. Brendon McCullum, when he first came in, got rid of everyone and just wanted two or three people around. And now they seem to be adding a bit more experience. He will have a lot of experience," Cook said on the Stick to Cricket podcast. Cook believed Pietersen's unconventional thinking could make him a valuable sounding board for England's players, but acknowledged that his strong personality adds

an unpredictable element to the set-up. "If KP sees something he doesn't like, he will say it," Cook said. "They (McCullum and Pietersen) are mavericks. So they will have different opinions on certain things. Managing that relationship—McCullum, who is actually a very good people's person, so it might not be an issue—but if they start, if they start having different ideas, that could leave Harry (Brook) in the middle. This is like the worst-case scenario.

"The best-case scenario, you've got a bloke who's extremely talented, thinks probably differently because those guys do. Adding that experience into the mix of players, stardust as well, and players like being surrounded by people with stardust, and that could, that could just generate some more things. "The worst-case scenario, as we all know, goes like that and they clash heads. That's the worst case. "Michael Vaughan also backed the move, pointing to Pietersen's work ethic during his playing days and England's willingness to bring back someone who has publicly criticised the team's preparation in the recent past. "They've been willing to appoint someone that's had a pop at them not too long ago, which I like. I like the fact that Rob Key has gone, 'You know what? He'll help the England team.' And some of the things he said was about preparation and practice. He had a right good go at them in India for not practising hard enough in the white-ball series," Vaughan said.

"He's had a pop at them before the Ashes last year about preparation. So maybe he'll be the one. There wasn't—Alastair was right up there with the hardest workers as well—but there was no one that worked harder in my time as an England cricketer than Kevin Pietersen. So he'll definitely bring that drive to the England scene. "Vaughan also described Pietersen as "an absolute diamond" during the early years of his England career. "I always say, in my time, that I got Kev from 2004 to 2008; honestly, I thought he was a diamond. An absolute diamond. "Honestly, I couldn't have asked for a better person in the team. You told him to do something, he'd do it. Always trained hard, he was always on time, very disciplined. And then it started to go, and the whisper was, because I wasn't around, that he got a bit too kind of IPL-focused and upset one or two in the team," he said.

Selector Bailey defends including Labuschagne in Australia squad for South Africa tour

Australia batter Marnus Labuschagne has come under a lot of flak for his ordinary performances in Tests, most recently in the series against Bangladesh where he scored just 36 across 3 innings in the two matches. With the batter getting selected in the squad for the crucial 3 Tests against South Africa, set to begin on October 9, Australia selector George Bailey said that Labuschagne can still make a positive impact even though there was no guarantee that he'll be in the playing XI for the 1st Test. "We are not shying away from the fact that we'd like some more runs from Marnus. That's clear, but we're also confident that he can still make a positive contribution to that squad. I think our batting group in its entirety, not just Marnus, probably hasn't been functioning as successfully as we would like, but also not shying away from the fact that we've continued to win a lot of Test matches over that period. And that ultimately, I think that's the key, isn't it? Scoring more runs than the opposition that you're playing the game in," Bailey said on Monday.

"I think Marn (Labuschagne) will continue to prepare and refine how he will prepare for this series. Clearly there's potentially a simplification or an ability to focus purely on red-ball cricket for him in the fact that he won't be in the one day series leading up to it. So that may be a benefit. He'll prepare incredibly well and specifically for this tour. And as I said, in that squad of 16, I'm confident that he can still



make a positive contribution," he added.

Labuschagne has been ordinary for Australia in recent times with his last century in the Baggy Green coming in July 2023. Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting and former opener Mathew Hayden have criticized Labuschagne for his performances, indicating that the Aussies should move on from the player. Labuschagne was widely seen as a second Steve Smith due to his eccentric mannerisms while batting and his extraordinary form between 2019 and 2022. Since then, however, Labuschagne's graph has been on a downturn. He hasn't been able to score a century since his last one during the 2023 Ashes and has scored 121 runs this year in five innings.

Karun Nair takes dig at exclusion from South Zone playing XI in Duleep final

Karun Nair, who was not selected in the South Zone playing XI for the Duleep Trophy final against East Zone, on Monday directed a dig at the selection process. Nair had scored 699 runs in last season's Ranji Trophy and him missing the Duleep final raised a fair few eyebrows. After his non-selection, Nair had left the team with South Zone coach Vikram Verma saying that the batter had departed for personal reasons. However, Nair was seen in action on Monday for the KSCA Secretary XI at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in the Thimmappiah Trophy where he slammed 104 runs.

On Tuesday, Nair quote tweeted a post which said that he was inexplicably left out of the Duleep Trophy final, tweeting out, "Inexplicable would be an understatement" with a laughing emoji. In the Duleep Trophy final, Ishan Kishan made a stupendous 270 to lead East to a mammoth 700-plus first innings total. In fact, South ignored the Karnataka batter rather inexplicably in the semifinal also, which was played last week at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

"Actually, we went with a good combination because every team has two left-hand spinners. So, we thought a left-hand batter in the middle order would give us a good chance to dominate them," said coach Verma. "So again, we thought about what is best for the team. Now since Devdutt Padikkal has come back, the team combination matter was there. It is very difficult to miss him (Karun) out, but that's the combination we have." Verma attributed Karun's absence to "personal reasons." "He went back due



to personal reasons at home. He mailed us and took the permission for his travel due to family reasons," he said.

But Karun's participation in a tournament in his home city, however, indicated that him non-playing the domestic season opener has more to it than mere "personal reasons." The 34-year-old's hundred ensured that Secretary's XI finished day 1 of the match against Chhattisgarh at 277 for 9 in 90 overs. It may also tell that South Zone missed a trick by overlooking Karun, after conceding 708 runs against East Zone in the Duleep Trophy title clash on a placid pitch. The Karnataka batter, a dominant player against spin, would have loved to take on tweakers at the Chidambaram Stadium. However, Verma thought South Zone are still in the contest. "Our plan is to play session by session and build partnerships so that we bat 5 sessions from now, so that we can chase it (East's total of 708) down," he said.

India U19 replaces Rohit Yadav over age issue

Hyderabad: The Junior Cricket Committee has named Saurashtra Cricket Association's Aryan Savsani as Rohit Yadav's replacement in India U19's One-Day squad, while Haryana Cricket Association's Tanmay Baloda has been named as his replacement in the Multi-Day squad.

Rohit, who was named in India's U19 squads for the upcoming fixtures against Australia U19 at Rajkot and Ahmedabad, has been withdrawn from the squad due to age-related discrepancies.

India U19's updated squad for One-Day matches: Lakshya Raichandani (C), Yashbardhan Chauhan (VC), Rajat Baghel (WK), Aaryavir Sehwal, V.K. Vineet, Kushagra

Ojha, Arjun Rajput, Manal Chauhan, Anvay Dravid (WK), V. Yashveer, Shavin Vinodh, Mohit Ulva, Chigurupati Venkata, Kavya Patel, Aryan Savsani



Biswas (WK), Ishan Om, Ayaan Akram, Pranav Ragavendra, Priyanshu Singh, Mohit Ulva, Aryan Yadav, Tanmay Baloda.

Suriya-Jyotika played a married couple on screen three days before real-life wedding



Suriya and Jyothika in Sillunu Oru Kaadhal, which released three days before the couple married in 2006 (Photo: IMDb) Suriya and Jyotika in Sillunu Oru Kaadhal, which released three days before the couple married in 2006. Twenty years ago today, a Tamil romance about an arranged marriage that slowly turns into real love opened in theatres across Tamil Nadu. Three days later, on September 11, the two actors who played the married couple, Suriya and Jyotika, got married in real life. The film was Sillunu Oru Kaadhal. What followed after the film release is a marriage that lasted two decades, two children and a combined filmography that has shaped Tamil cinema. The film, against all commercial logic, has lasted just as long.

What is Sillunu Oru Kaadhal about Sillunu Oru Kaadhal, which translates to "A Breezy Love," was directed by N Krishna and starred Suriya as Gowtham, Jyotika as Kundavi and Bhumika Chawla as Aishwarya. The story follows Gowtham and Kundavi, who marry through an arranged match in the small town of Ambasamudram in Tirunelveli district. Neither of them were happy about it. Six years later, they are living in Mumbai with a young daughter and are deeply in love. The crisis arrives when Kundavi discovers Gowtham's old college diary and learns about his past relationship with Aishwarya. Rather than confronting him, she quietly arranges for the two to meet again, believing he would rather be with his first love.

The film was originally titled Jillunu Oru Kadhal before being changed to Sillunu Oru Kadhal to use a pure Tamil word. Interestingly, Vijay was initially cast in the lead before the role went to Suriya. No official reason was given for the change, but the switch proved decisive. With Suriya and Jyotika playing a married couple while their own real-life wedding was days away, the film carried an emotional weight that a different casting combination could not have replicated.

In an interview with Ananda Vikatan, Bhumika Chawla revealed that director N Krishna initially offered her the role of Kundavi, the wife, the part that eventually went to Jyotika. Bhumika turned it down and chose instead to play Aishwarya, the college love interest. She said the character had two distinct shades in the film and was far more challenging as a performer. "The character I played had two different shades and was very challenging. That was the reason I opted for it," Bhumika said, adding that she signed the project specifically for that role. Before Bhumika accepted the role, it was offered to Asin, who was one of Tamil cinema's biggest names at the time following the success of Ghajini with Suriya. Asin declined, reportedly feel-

ing the role did not have enough scope. The director also offered her three songs in the film as an incentive but she turned those down as well.

Suriya and Jyotika first met on the sets of Poovellam Kettuppar, directed by Vasanth. It was one of Jyotika's earliest Tamil films. She had moved from Mumbai and was still struggling with the language. Suriya helped her feel comfortable with Tamil dialogue on set, and the two became close friends during the shoot. But it was not Poovellam Kettuppar that turned friendship into love. That happened four years later, during the making of Gautham Vasudev Menon's Kaakha Kaakha. It was Jyotika who had recommended Suriya's name to Menon for the film after being impressed by his performance in Nandha. During the shoot of Kaakha Kaakha, the two fell in love, and eventually the subject of marriage came up. Suriya and Jyothika on the sets of Poovellam Kettuppar Suriya and Jyotika on the sets of Poovellam Kettuppar.

However, it was not a smooth path to the altar. Suriya's father, veteran actor Sivakumar, was initially opposed to the match. The objection stemmed from cultural differences. Jyotika, born Jyotika Sadanah, comes from a Punjabi-speaking family in Mumbai. The Sivakumar family is rooted in Tamil culture and tradition. The gap between the two backgrounds was enough to give the patriarch pause. Suriya, however, was not willing to negotiate. In a Galatta interview, Sivakumar recalled his son's resolve. "Initially, I didn't accept his love. However, he was very adamant and said that he would only live with her; otherwise, he would remain single for life," Sivakumar said. The ultimatum forced the veteran actor to reconsider. "Then I thought about how, over the course of my career, I acted in around 150 films, and most of them were around the idea of love marriages. So I finally agreed," he said. On September 11, 2006, three days after Sillunu Oru Kaadhal opened in theatres, Suriya and Jyotika married at the Park Sheraton Hotel in Chennai. The wedding was attended by family and friends from the industry, including Sivakumar, who had by then fully accepted the match. The couple eventually had two children, daughter Diya, born in 2007, and son Dev, born in 2010.

Playing husband and wife while becoming husband and wife The casting created an emotional overlap that no screenplay could have manufactured. Suriya and Jyotika were not yet married when they filmed the wedding scene in Sillunu Oru Kaadhal. They were playing a couple whose arranged marriage slowly, over years, turns into genuine love. They were doing this while their own relationship, which had started on a film set seven years earlier, was heading toward its own wedding. The scenes between Suriya and Jyotika in the Mumbai portions of the film carry a warmth that goes beyond what the script provides. Their domestic sequences, the meals, the small arguments, the way she adjusts his collar before he leaves for work, the way he watches her play with their daughter, feel lived-in rather than performed. These are two people who know each other deeply, who are comfortable in each other's space, who do not need to act the intimacy because it is already there. What makes their love story beautiful is that the timing of September 8 and September 11, 2006 was never planned. The film's release date was set by the producer and the wedding date was set by the families. The three-day gap was a merely just a coincidence. But it gave the film something no marketing budget could have bought: a real ending that happened off screen, with the same two people who had just played it on screen in a theatre.

'Rishi Kapoor blasted me, I started crying': Child actor recalls how Nana Patekar helped him



Marathi actor Pushkar Jog worked in the 1995 film Hum Dono at the age of 7, alongside late actor Rishi Kapoor. However, one of the shoot days of the movie turned out to be a bitter experience for Jog, as a child artist. In a recent interview, the actor recalled being scolded by Rishi Kapoor, after which veteran actor Nana Patekar blasted at him for snapping at a child on set. During a candid interaction with Galatta India, Pushkar Jog shared, "Yes, Rishi Kapoor sir had scolded me at that time. I was just a 7-year-old kid. I didn't know anything. I was seeing a Hindi film set for the first time, with 100-150 people. Nana Patekar sir gave that film to me, without auditioning. He just said, 'Mera Pune ka bacha hai, vo karega yeh role (He is my child from Pune, he will only do this role)'."

Recalling how everyone on the set was scared of Rishi Kapoor, he said, "I came for the shoot and my first day there, I remember Rishi Kapoor sir, very reserved, not talking much, and he had an aura. Everybody was scared of him. He was very blunt. I was also scared, because he looked very firm and scary."

The actor further revealed that the incident happened when they were shooting a song and he accidentally dropped flower petals on Rishi's head during a rehearsal shot. "We were shooting a song with Rishi sir, choreographer Farah Khan, and Pooja Bhatt. Farah was very kind as usual. She told me beforehand to do well, otherwise Rishi sir might feel angry. I told her that I will do it." The sequence was that Jog works in a garage, where Rishi and Pooja arrive in their new car. Mistakenly, the actor showered all the flower petals that were given to him on the late star's head. "I don't know what pissed him, but after the cut, he just snapped at me. I started crying there only. He said, 'Who have you got on the set? Who is this? At least teach him something before bringing here'," Jog recalled. When he started crying, filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan consoled him and took him to the van. "My mother was also on the set, she was scared. He used to get angry frequently, but I don't know why. I told this to Nana sir, because I was close to

him. He heard everything and said that he will do something," he recalled. The next day, Nana Patekar wasn't shooting, but he came to the set to rebuke Kapoor. "He blasted Rishi Kapoor sir, he gave it back to him. He said, 'Whoever you are, don't you know how to treat a child? He is a 7-year-old kid, how would he know about take and rehearsal. Why would you shout at him?' But, he had that kindness and audacity to say that in front of Rishi Kapoor sir. God bless his soul, but I have this unpleasant memory with him. We all still love him and respect him," Jog shared. The 1995 film Hum Dono featured Rishi Kapoor, Nana Patekar, Pooja Bhatt, Alok Nath, and Mohan Joshi. The action-thriller narrated the story of two half-brothers who were forced to join hands for their inheritance while handling murder attempts by their greedy relatives. Directed by Shafi Inamdar, the movie was produced by Ravi Malhotra, Tinu Pandey, and Shabuddin Choudhary under the banner of R.M. Films.

'Hanuman Ansh' earns Rs 150 crore at box office



New Delhi: "Hanuman Ansh", based on the life and teachings of spiritual leader Neem Karoli Baba, has earned over Rs 150 crore at the box office. The film is directed by Vishal Chaturvedi and follows a grieving young Lakshminarayan, who embarks on a spiritual journey in search of God after the death of his mother. As he travels across North India seeking answers to life, death and human suffering, he eventually transforms into the revered saint Neem Karoli Baba, whose teachings of love, service and compassion touched countless lives. It features Shobhinav Satya in the lead role alongside Vibaan Shedge, Chandan K Anand, Purnima Tiwari, Anil Rastogi, Gulshan Pandey and Bhagvandas, among others. According to the trade tracking website Sacnilk, the film has earned Rs 156.63 crore gross at the domestic box office. The film, which was released in Indian theatres on August 7, had a slow start at the box office, registering paltry collections in its first two weeks before gaining momentum through a strong word-of-mouth.

Tigmanshu Dhulia slams Ranveer Singh's Rs 3,000 crore Dhurandhar



Director Tigmanshu Dhulia has criticised the storytelling in films like Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar, arguing that Hindi cinema is increasingly losing its focus on original stories. Speaking at an event, Dhulia cited Dhurandhar as an example of what he sees as the decline of storytelling in mainstream Hindi cinema. While he praised the film's presentation and entertainment value, he argued that its plot could be reduced to a very basic premise.

Tigmanshu Dhulia on Dhurandhar: 'Is that a story?'

At an event organised by The Wire on 'The State of Media and Film Industry', Dhulia discussed how corporate culture has influenced the kind of films being made today. He named commercial hits such as Pushpa, KGF and Dhurandhar, arguing that many mainstream films now follow similar templates and described them as "fictional biopics". "Because it is a corporate culture, the same kind of films are being made. Every film is a biopic, a fictional biopic. Every film, you can watch Pushpa, you can watch KGF, Dhurandhar. I am talking about commercial mainstream cinema," he said. Dhulia then turned his attention to Dhurandhar, making it clear that his criticism was not about the film's execution. He said he enjoyed the first instalment and praised its presentation, music and ability to keep audiences engaged. "If I ask you to tell me the story of Dhurandhar, I liked that film by the way, the first part. Very well presented, very engaging, good use of music." Dhulia questioned whether the film's story could be explained beyond its basic premise. "But if you ask someone to tell you its story, you won't be able to tell the story of Dhurandhar."

There is a man, he is a cover spy, he goes to Pakistan and wreaks havoc there. Is that a story? Stories have disappeared from films." According to him, filmmakers with unconventional ideas are often discouraged from pursuing them because of concerns about whether such films will find an audience. "For one, the people who tell stories have disappeared, and those who want to tell them are not allowed to make them. They are not allowed to tell those stories because they think, 'This story won't work.' There is only one template." Dhulia attributed this growing uniformity to what he described as the effects of extreme capitalism. He argued that the loss of individuality is visible not only in cinema but also in everyday life, with people and cities increasingly beginning to look alike.

"This is what extreme capitalism does; people also start looking the same. Go anywhere, everybody looks the same. Every city has started looking the same. The character of every city has disappeared." The filmmaker then gave the example of his hometown Allahabad, saying the city has lost some of the distinct identity it once had. Praises its presentation & music but questions its depth: "An undercover spy goes to Pakistan and causes havoc... is that really a story?" ?? "My city, Allahabad, which was once a beautiful city, now looks like any other city. The same malls, the same cars, everything is the same. This kind of political system kills individuality."

About Dhurandhar The Dhurandhar films follow Ranveer Singh's character, an undercover Indian intelligence operative who enters Pakistan and infiltrates Karachi's criminal and political networks. His mission is linked to dismantling a terror network targeting India. The franchise features a large ensemble cast, including Akshaye Khanna, Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal, R. Madhavan and Sara Arjun, along with Rakesh Bedi, Gaurav Gera and Danish Pandor. Both films have been written and directed by Aditya Dhar. The two movies have together earned more than Rs 3,000 crore at the worldwide box office, making Dhurandhar one of Bollywood's most successful film franchises.

Who is Tigmanshu Dhulia? Tigmanshu Dhulia is a National Award-winning filmmaker and actor best known for directing Haasil and Paan Singh Tomar, which starred his frequent collaborator, the late Irrfan Khan. Dhulia is currently awaiting the release of Ghamasaan, his upcoming ZEE5 Original starring Arshad Warsi and Pratik Gandhi. The film is scheduled to premiere on ZEE5 on September 11.

Durg teacher vows to pay off Rs 10 lakh gambling debt, quits at Rs 25 lakh question



KBC 18: Amitabh Bachchan-hosted Kaun Banega Crorepati 18 saw a new contestant on the hot seat on Monday, September 7. Durga Prasad Sahi, from Durg, Chattisgarh, who is a teacher as well as a farmer shared his story during the episode where he opened up about his gambling debts and said that he would like to repay his debts with the winning amount. Durga Prasad managed to answer all questions correctly until Rs 12.5 lakh, but it was the question for Rs 25 lakh that made him quit the show. The question for Rs 25 lakh was: Most species of which of these reptiles give birth to live young instead of laying eggs? The options were: Komodo dragon, Anaconda, Gharial, Galapagos Tortoise.

Durga Prasad did not know the correct answer so he decided to quit and walk away with Rs 12.5 lakh. Upon quitting, when he was asked to guess the answer, he said 'Gharial', which was the wrong answer. The correct answer was 'Anaconda'. 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. Anacondas are ovoviviparous, which means that the eggs develop and hatch inside the mother's body, and she gives birth to live young. The gestation of green anacondas is of six-seven months, following which, they can give birth to 20-40 offspring. Yellow anaconda can give birth to up to 80 offspring.

Durga Prasad Sahi opens up on his Rs 10 lakh gambling debt During the episode of KBC 18, Durga Prasad opened up about his personal life and shared that he was previously fond of predicting cricket scores but this turned

into a betting habit, which gave way to a gambling addiction. He shared that he started by betting just Rs 10-20 amongst friends, but before he knew it, he was borrowing bigger sums like Rs 50,000 to pay off his debts. Since he was borrowing money to pay his existing debts, the debt started piling up. He said that he did not even realise when Rs 10 turned into a debt of Rs 10 lakh. "I took a shortcut," he admitted in front of Amitabh Bachchan, and shared that even his family could not do much about it as they did not know about his addiction. "I would feel ashamed of myself," he said and added that he would feel upset as he was setting a bad example for his students.

'Don't bet this money now' In 2020, Durga Prasad turned a new leaf and with the help of his family and friends, he tried to get out of this gambling cycle. He shared that he wants to pay off his debts with the winnings on the show. As he won Rs 12.5 lakh, Bachchan told him, "Don't bet this money now." And Durga Prasad assured him that he has now left all of that behind.

Shreya Ghoshal's husband, with Rs 500 cr net worth, 'takes care of home, washes dishes'

Shreya Ghoshal married her longtime partner, Shiladitya Mukhopadhyaya, over a decade ago and the two have one of the most beautiful marriages in the film industry. In a recent interview, Shreya praised her husband and said that even though they both lead busy lives, he takes care of the whole house, and they divide their domestic chores equally. Shiladitya, as per his LinkedIn profile, is the Global Head of Truecaller for Business, and his net worth, as per Planifyr, is estimated to be between Rs 500 crore and 700 crore, as of 2025. As per Companies Market Cap, Truecaller is worth \$750 million (approximately Rs 7,086 crore).

'He does his own dishes, cleans the kitchen' During a recent chat shared on Hauterrfly's YouTube channel, Shreya was asked about her husband and she said that she "got lucky, I got this guy." She added, "He takes care of the whole house. He does not even... because he loves to live on his own terms, he will wash his own dishes, and he will clean the kitchen. And he will get upset if I do it." She said that since they both work "rigorous hours" so they always do their household chores together.

Since Shreya's work demands that she be out of the house, sometimes for months, she said that her husband has always been supportive. "He has never demanded, 'Why are you not here?' Sometimes, I am not there for months. Since the time we were dating, he was that secure. He knew that she would be there for me. He does not have ego hassles, and neither do I," she said. Shreya shared that both their parents are opinionated and have always been discussing the tiniest details of the house. But she and her husband have had very few debates. "We are both very quiet so we have very few debates. We are the only Bengali couple where there are no heated discussions," she said and added, "Our child is the centre of our world right now and every discussion is only about him." Shreya Ghoshal



family Shreya Ghoshal with husband Shiladitya Mukhopadhyaya and son Devyaan. (Photo: Shiladitya Mukhopadhyaya/Instagram)

Shreya and Shiladitya dated for 10 years before getting married. Shreya and Shiladitya got married in 2015, after dating each other for 10 years. In an earlier chat with Zoom, Shreya opened up about the proposal and described it as "cute, funny and intimate." "We dated for 10 years. So we were just waiting for the right time to do it. We were at a friend's wedding in Goa. He just prepared the whole setup, so I was wondering what was going on. I had no idea what was going to happen. But he had dropped a few hints and checked my ring size."