

143 quintals of PDS rice seized in Medak

Medak: Kulcharm police seized 143 quintals of PDS rice while it was being transported from Bodhan via Medak from Chandrayanagutta in the early hours of Thursday.

The driver of the DCM vehicle agreed that he had collected the rice from the ration card holders in the Chandrayangutta area.The police seized the vehicle and rice which was safely kept in a local rice mill. The probe was on.

CM Revanth Reddy Tells Congress MLAs to Attend Assembly, Raise Local Issues

Hyderabad, sept 10

Honourable Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy instructed all Congress MLAs to attend the ongoing Assembly session and raise the local issues in their respective Assembly Constituencies.

In the CLP meeting held on Thursday, the Chief Minister thanked all the legislators for their unwavering support during 1,000 days of governance. All the legislators should be present in the house during the debates.

The CM told the legislators that people gave a big mandate in the last elections and everyone has to work hard to succeed politically in the future. CM Revanth Reddy warned that every Congress MLA's performance will determine the success of the party and their conduct will influence the chances of winning a second term in the next elections.

The Chief Minister also commended the legislators for strongly countering the opposition's conspiracy and exposing their plot against the government to the public. An inquiry into the incidents that took place has already been initiated. The opposition BRS conspired to disrupt the assembly session. Even after losing power, the BRS refused to shed their arrogance. The opposition leaders abused police officials and also public representatives verbally.

The CM charged that the BRS leaders behaved inappropriately towards officials and caused embarrassment by taking off their T-shirts in the presence of female officers. The use of highly objectionable language to abuse the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly was uncalled for. The BRS also insulted the Dalit



community by "purifying" the ground where Dalits had walked at KCR farm house.

CM Revanth Reddy took a dig at BRS leaders-Sunitha Laxma Reddy and Sabitha Indra Reddy for working against the Congress which had given them a political life. The CM ridiculed KTR's political motives.

Referring to the Census, the Chief minister stressed that the Congress should mount pressure on the Centre to adopt the Telangana model and conduct a caste census alongside the general census. " The caste census conducted by Telangana is a role model for the country and it is the achievement of the state."

CM Revanth Reddy took serious note of the deletion of the votes in the SIR and instructed all the legislators to protect the voting rights of the people . The Chief Minister pointed out that 15 crore adult voter names have gone missing across the country. Total adult population is estimated at 103 crore, yet the voter list shows only 88 crore.



Beijing, Sept 10

Suspense Over: Chinese President Xi to Visit India for BRICS Summit

Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit India this week to attend the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, the foreign ministry announced on Thursday. This will be Xi's first visit to India in nearly seven years.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Xi will attend the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi from September 12 to 13, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

During his visit, Xi is expected to meet Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the summit, according to sources here.

The visit is expected to be a high-profile diplomatic engagement with implications for the ongoing efforts to stabilise bilateral ties between the two Asian powers as well as for BRICS cooperation amid a volatile global situation, particularly the West Asia conflict and the Russia-Ukraine war.

As the current chair of the influential grouping, India will host the 18th BRICS Summit on September 12 and 13 in New Delhi.

Xi last visited India in 2019 for an informal summit with Modi in Mamallapuram near Chennai.

He had earlier visited Goa in 2016 to attend the BRICS summit and made his first visit to India in September 2014, when he held extensive talks with Modi. The 2014 visit came during the first terms of both leaders.

Xi's forthcoming visit is significant, as it comes amid efforts by India and China to normalise relations after a prolonged freeze following the 2020 Eastern Ladakh standoff.

Ahead of Xi's visit, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held extensive talks in Beijing last month on the boundary is-

sue, maintaining peace and tranquility along the border and steps to improve bilateral relations.

During the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks held in Beijing on August 25, the two sides reached an eight-point consensus and agreed to advance discussions on an "Early and Substantial Harvest" of boundary delimitation and border management.

Against the backdrop of these substantive discussions on the boundary and wider bilateral issues, a Modi-Xi meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit is expected to be closely watched for indications of the future course of India-China relations.

The New Delhi BRICS summit will bring together the world's major emerging economies -- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, with multilateral cooperation expected to remain at the core of the grouping's agenda.

BRICS has evolved into a key platform for emerging economies to advocate for greater representation in global governance, reform international financial institutions, strengthen trade and investment links, and advance sustainable development goals.

According to Chinese officials, Xi's participation underscores Beijing's continued commitment to the BRICS framework and its role in shaping a more inclusive global order.

The discussions are expected to cover a wide range of shared interests, including expanding intra-BRICS trade, strengthening payment systems, boosting cooperation in science and technology, addressing climate change, and coordinating positions on major international issues.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

Drug tests ordered for pilots across all airlines

NEW DELHI, SEPT 10

Aviation watchdog DGCA has ordered drug tests for pilots across all airlines, with the exercise to be completed by July 2027, according to sources.

Separately, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Thursday said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is expected to finalise the draft of new norms for drug testing of pilots by the end of this month.

The moves come against the backdrop of the pilot-in-command of an Air India Phuket-Delhi flight, which suddenly lost nearly 300 feet in altitude, testing positive for drug use after the aircraft incident on August 4 left many passengers injured.

On September 4, Air India terminated the services

Singareni trade unions seek fresh elections as two-year tenure ends

Kothagudem: With the tenure of recognized trade union expired at Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), the trade unions want the company management to conduct elections forthwith.It might be recalled that Singareni Collieries Workers Union, the coal mines union of All India Trade union Congress (AITUC), affiliated to CPI won the elections to become the recognized union while Singareni Coal Mines Labor union of Indian National Trade union Congress (INTUC), affiliated to the Congress party got elected as representative union.Download Interactive Maps

India turns diplomatic hotspot as BRICS leaders to share stage

NEW DELHI, SEPT 10

The national capital is set to become the centre of global diplomacy this weekend as Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian arrive for the 18th BRICS Summit, placing India at the centre of discussions on the Russia-Ukraine war, the West Asia crisis and the evolving global economic order.

The summit, scheduled for September 12 and 13 at Bharat Mandapam, will bring together representatives of the BRICS' 11 member countries--Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the UAE and India.

It will also be attended by 10 partner countries--Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam--besides the heads of regional organisations and international institutions, including the UN, WTO, WHO and New Development Bank.

The diverse composition of the grouping presents India with a diplomatic challenge as it seeks to keep BRICS focused on development and cooperation while navigating sharp geopolitical differences among members.

Xi's presence will be closely watched as he makes his first visit to India in seven years. His participation is also expected to provide an opportunity for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chinese President to hold bilateral talks and build on the recent improvement in India-China ties.

Putin's visit will bring the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Moscow's growing economic engagement with India into focus. The Russian President is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Modi on September 11, ahead of the main summit, besides addressing the BRICS Business Forum.

Pezeshkian's presence assumes particular significance amid the continuing crisis involving Iran and wider instability in West Asia. Iran's membership alongside Saudi Arabia and the UAE underscores the challenge for BRICS of addressing regional tensions while maintaining internal cohesion.

The summit will, therefore, test India's ability to manage a grouping that has expanded rapidly but whose members have widely differing political, strategic and economic priorities.

India is keen to position BRICS as a platform for cooperation among developing nations and a stronger voice for the Global South rather than an anti-Western bloc.



Its priorities include economic cooperation, digital payments, technology, critical supply chains, energy and food security, climate resilience and reform of global institutions.

The September 12 meeting of BRICS leaders will focus on strengthening the strategic partnership in politics and security, economics and finance, and cultural and humanitarian ties, besides exchanging views on international and regional issues.

An expanded meeting on September 13 will bring together BRICS members, partner countries, invited states and heads of international organisations.

The absence of Bangladesh's top leadership is likely to draw attention as well. India had invited Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to the BRICS outreach session in his capacity as chair of BIMSTEC.

His non-participation comes against the backdrop of strained India-Bangladesh ties, particularly over Dhaka's demand for the extradition of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has been living in India since her ouster in 2024.

Negotiations over the New Delhi Declaration are expected to be challenging, particularly on the West Asia conflict, where Iran and the UAE hold differing positions. Achieving consensus will be critical to the summit's success and the adoption of a joint statement.

Box: Fewer VIP convoys

To minimise public inconvenience during the BRICS Summit, the government plans to cut down VIP convoys. Union Ministers and Chief Ministers will assemble at Parliament and travel together in a single bus to the summit venue, instead of using separate convoys.

Harish Rao urges Telangana government to lift Krishna, Godavari waters to save crops

Hyderabad, Sept 10

Hitting out the Congress government for its callousness in lifting Krishna and Godavari River water, BRSLP deputy leader T Harish Rao pressed for immediately lifting the available waters to save standing crops in Telangana. In view of the El Nino crisis, he wanted the government to operate all irrigation projects and lift schemes at full capacity.

He also demanded that the government take measures to stop diversion of Krishna River waters in Andhra Pradesh, seek an Apex Council meeting if necessary, release water into the Nagarjuna Sagar canal and divert it to the parched fields of erstwhile Nalgonda district. He emphasised the need to switch on all pumps of the Palamuru projects to safeguard irrigation and drinking water needs of erstwhile Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda districts.

Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao said the Revanth Reddy government was allowing water to flow downstream but was failing to take it to farmers. He said only two of the five motors at the Ellur pump house of the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme were being operated, that too intermittently for an average 11 hours a day. Against the required 1,600 cusecs, only 700 cusecs was being lifted despite a capacity of 4,000 cusecs. He demanded operation of all five motors round the clock.

At the Bhima project, only one of three motors was operating, while just one of four motors at Nettampadu project and one of three at Koilsagar project were being run. Harish Rao questioned why water was not being lifted at Bhima project and instead, allowed to water diversion through Veligonda and Pothireddypadu by the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

He said Palamuru Package-3 could be completed within a month if works were taken up seriously and the government would be able provide water to five to six lakh acres. He alleged that the project was kept pending for last three years to deny credit to the previous BRS regime.Read Political News

The former Irrigation Minister slammed the Congress government, citing Telangana recording its lowest utilisation of Krishna River waters after Telangana



State formation. While only 28.49 per cent utilised in 2024-25 and 25.77 per cent in 2025-26, there is no change for the current year as well. He said Andhra Pradesh had drawn 35 TMCft from Srisailem project against Telangana's utilisation of only seven TMCft.

He pointed out that Kalwakurthy, Bhima, Nettampadu and Koilsagar projects were completed by the BRS government at a cost of Rs 4,000 crore and were providing irrigation to 6.5 lakh acres.

Kalwakurthy's irrigation coverage, rose from 13,000 acres over three decades to 3.07 lakh acres under the BRS government. However, he said the Congress was underutilising all the pumps and putting farmers cultivating crops under these projects at risk.

Harish Rao pointed to farmers staging protests for irrigation and drinking water across the State, including in the Chief Minister's Kodungal constituency and in Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's constituency. He also demanded that the government prevent crop losses and address the reported six-lakh-acre crop holiday.

He alleged that power-generation capacity was also being underutilised. He said the 800-MW KTPS plant and 540-MW BTPS Units 3 and 4 were shut, while Yadadri plant was generating only 2,000 MW against its 4,000-MW capacity.

He demanded adequate power for irrigation, saying farmers needed electricity for pumps and water for fields rather than government presentations.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Who are the “Dimagi Naxals”

Earlier, while conducting its State Conference at Jadavpur University from November 24-26, 2025, the Radical Students Front (RSF), a Maoist front organisation, renamed the Vivekananda Auditorium as Nambala Kesava Rao Auditorium and Jadavpur as Hidma Nagar. At that time, students said it was ‘merely symbolic’ and brushed it aside.

Meanwhile, there have been many attempts to understand what the Prime Minister meant. Call them whatever name one may—they don’t wield weapons; they incite. They are those who surreptitiously propagate the armed overthrow of the state, reject the Constitution and consider parliamentary politics a sham, and undertake various activities to delegitimise the elected government, and thus cause disaffection towards the state.

The problem is not with those who demand health, education, employment, inclusive opportunities and infrastructure. The real problem is with elements that surreptitiously and cleverly manipulate and influence the discourse to promote their own hidden agenda, provide space for armed rebellion and justify it. To add to this cacophony and confusion, it would be useful to understand the Maoists’ United Front (UF) tactics and urban movement perspective and, thus, seek clarity on who is a “Dimagi Naxal”.

A United Front is of two types—‘tactical’ and ‘strategic’. ‘Dimagi Naxal’ elements form the cog of the United Front tactics of the Maoists-Naxals. They steer the ‘tactical’ component of the United Front. They operate openly. They seek to form alliances or linkages with groups that would facilitate the ultimate goal of waging a protracted people’s war (PPW). The emerging Maoist urban strategy, built around United Front tactics and efforts to influence organised sections of society, poses a serious challenge to India’s internal security and democratic institutions

Parents Support Crucial for Holistic Development of CWSN Students



“Instead of calling them ‘disabled’, children with special abilities should be encouraged: Additional Collector B. Sriramulu” Peddapalli, September 10, 2026 (Indian Chronicle): “A district-level sensitisation programme for parents of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) was organised on Thursday at Srinivasa Gardens in Peddapalli under the auspices of the Education Department and Samagra Shiksha. “Additional Collector (Revenue) B. Sriramulu, who attended the programme as the chief guest, formally inaugurated the event. Speaking on the occasion, he said the government was implementing several programmes for the holistic development, education, health and future opportunities of children with special needs. “He said that instead of referring to CWSN students merely as “disabled”, their special abilities should be identified, encouraged and nurtured to bring out their talents. He urged parents to guide their children with confidence, love and constant encouragement. “Anjareddy Inspires by Overcoming Disability” Special guest Anjareddy shared his inspiring life experiences with the gathering. He said that he had lost both his legs in an accident nearly 25 years ago, but through self-confidence, determination and perseverance, he overcame the challenges and rose to a respectable position in life. His motivational message served as an inspiration and guidance to the parents of CWSN students. “Education a Powerful Tool for Empowering Persons with Disabilities” Dr. Madhusudan Reddy, retired Principal of SRR College, shared examples of several persons with disabilities who had excelled as teachers and lecturers and had educated thousands of students through their talent and dedication. He said CWSN students too could achieve great success in society if they were provided with proper opportunities, encouragement and support. “Parents Are the Strongest Support for CWSN Children” Haribabu, an NGO representative from Hyderabad, highlighted the significant role played by parents in the lives of children with special needs. He said parental love, care, encouragement and support were essential for children to develop confidence and move forward in life. “Guidance on Physical and Mental Development of CWSN Children” Dr. A. Jagadeesh, Senior Consultant – Neonatal & Paediatric Early Intervention (Neurodevelopmental Disabilities), Developmental Paediatrics, and HOD – DHC, Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, created awareness among parents about the physical, mental and neurodevelopmental needs of CWSN children. “He emphasised the importance of early identification, appropriate treatment, training and continuous monitoring during the developmental stages of children. “The programme was attended by Additional Collector B. Sriramulu, IE Coordinator G. Kavitha, Planning Coordinator Chepuru Mallesh Goud, Dr. Madhusudan Reddy, Dr. A. Jagadeesh, Haribabu, Mandal Education Officers, parents of CWSN students and other concerned officials. “The programme called upon parents, teachers and officials to work together in coordination to identify and nurture the talents of CWSN students and ensure equal opportunities for their educational, social and health-related development.

FTCCI organises women empowerment conference on Sept

Hyderabad: The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) is organising a full-day International Conference on ‘Women Empowerment – Driving Inclusive Growth and Leadership’ on September 10 at Cyber Gardens, Hitec City, from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm. The conference, supported by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), will bring together policymakers.

DCC Vice President Kuna Srinivas Goud Disburses 4.20 Lakh in CMRF Grants to Needy Beneficiaries.



“Hyderabad “Sep, 10” “In a major gesture of humanitarian support, Medchal–Malkajigiri District Congress Committee (DCC) Vice President Kuna Srinivas Goud formally distributed Chief Minister’s Relief Fund (CMRF) sanction cheques to destitute beneficiaries at his Shapur Nagar residence in the Quthbullapur constituency. “Financial grants

totaling ₹4,20,000 were disbursed to several individuals facing severe medical and financial hardship, including Ramesh, Gayatri, Sattar, Saidaratna, Hemalatha, Sangeetha, Prakash, Navatha, Shankar, and others. “Addressing the assembly, Mr. Kuna Srinivas Goud emphasized that the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund serves as an indispensable safety net for economically marginalized families grappling with exorbitant healthcare costs. He reaffirmed that the state government remains steadfast in its commitment to providing timely financial relief to those enduring critical medical crises. Expressing profound appreciation on behalf of the constituency, he conveyed heartfelt gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and District In-charge Minister D. Sridhar Babu for their swift approval and relentless support in sanctioning these vital funds. “The disbursement event saw key participation from prominent Congress leaders and key cadre, including Jimmi Devender, Buchi Reddy, Balappa, M. Sagar, Mothe Srinivas Yadav, Anjaneyulu Mudiraj, Arva Venkat Ramana, Sreeramulu, Saleem, Chandu Goud, Prabhakar Reddy, Shankar Goud, Chotu, Raghu, Raji Reddy, Ramagiri Rakesh, Rizwan, and Nawaz, among others.

GWAC 10th Foundation Day Celebrations Held in Grand Manner



“Hyderabad, September 10 (Indian Chronicle) : The 10th Foundation Day celebrations of the Gulf Welfare Association (GWAC) were held in a grand manner at the DulSCO Arena Indoor Hall in Al Quoz, GWAC Founder and President Dhoni Krishna said in a statement on Thursday. The event was attended by Indian Consulate Consul

General Immadi Vishnu Vardhan Reddy as the chief guest. He spoke for around 45 minutes on the issues faced by Gulf workers, their welfare and future opportunities. Ganga Sister, popularly known as the ‘Rela Rela’ singer, who had specially arrived from India, participated in the programme and emerged as one of the major attractions of the event. Members of the Telangana Gulf Gangaputra Unity Welfare Association Assistance Fund Foundation also attended the celebrations. Foundation President Tokala Shankar, Vice-President Bingi Raju, General Secretary Pallikonda Ganga Narsaiah, Secretary Bingi Narsaiah, Treasurer Bingi Poshanna, Bahrain Vice-President Deshaboyina Gangadhar and Honorary Advisers Putti Raju and Utnuri Rajanarsaiah were among those present. Former presidents and other members, including Samudrala Tirupathi, Poshetti, Pallikonda Ramulu, Inteppu Naresh, Jumbarti Naresh, Kallela Mahesh, Pallikonda Anil, Bingi Pawan, Pandiri Tirupathi, Kallela Rakesh, Pandiri Raju, Pallikonda Harish, Bonagiri Akhil, Bore Suresh, Dandem Kondaiah, Kallela Bhoomanna and Gaddam Naveen, also attended the celebrations.

Ailamma’s Fighting Spirit Symbolises Telangana Identity

MANDUMULA PARAMESWAR REDDY “RAMANTHAPUR, SEPTEMBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Rich tributes were paid to Telangana armed struggle heroine Chakali Ailamma on the occasion of her death anniversary at her statue located at the Chinna Cheruvu Dhoibighat in Ramanthapur. “Congress Uppal Constituency In-charge Mandumula Parameswar Reddy (MPR) participated in the programme and paid floral tributes to Ailamma. “Speaking on the occasion, Parameswar Reddy said that Chakali Ailamma’s courage and determination during the armed struggle for land, livelihood and liberation from slavery were a symbol of Telangana’s identity. He said Ailamma’s life stands as a great example of the Telangana armed struggle. “He said Ailamma’s life and ideals continue to inspire the spirit of struggle and the identity of Telangana. He called upon everyone to work continuously towards fulfilling her aspirations and ideals. Ramanthapur Rajaka Sangham president Danaiah, working president Boddupalli Ravi, general secretary Jittu, Biddupalli Prasad, Srinivas, Satyanarayana, Bhimesh, Arun Sai, Balraj, Chinna Shankar, Buyishapati and others participated. “Former Floor Leader Kandi Agireddy, DCC vice-presidents Sudhakar Reddy, Taufiq and Jalil Pasha, Upender Reddy, Akarapu Arun, Sandeep, Rafiq, Vallapu Srikanth Yadav, Rajireddy, District SC Cell president Ganesh



Naik, Habsiguda Divisional Congress president Kandi Shraavan Kumar Reddy, former Habsiguda Divisional president Gannaram Vijay Kumar, senior leaders Murali Krishna Mudiraj, Malu Naik, Lakshminarayana, Garika Sudhakar, Anil, Bukka Suresh, Bhavana Goud, Nagaraju, Naga Sheshu, Vijay, Bhaskar, Muthyala Jangayya, Muthyala Babu, Balayya Babu, Samuel, Besta Bhaskar, Shaga Sridhar, Nayeem, Sanjeeva, Chintu Salim, Sandhyarani, Menga Shobha, Ambika, Srilatha, Varalakshmi and others were present.

CM Revanth Reddy Invited to Secunderabad Ganesh Navratri Celebrations“



“Secunderabad, 10 Sept 2026 (Indian Chronicle) “Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has been formally invited to participate in the Sri Ganapati Navratri Utsav celebrations being organized by the Secunderabad Sri Ganesh Temple Committee. “The invitation was presented to the Chief Minister in his Assembly chamber by the Commissioner of the Endowments Department along with the priests of the Sri Ganesh Temple Committee. The delegation extended a cordial invitation, requesting his presence at the auspicious festivities dedicated to Lord Ganesh. “The occasion was attended by Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar and Adluri Laxman Kumar, besides several Members of the Legislative Assembly. “The invitation marks the significance of the upcoming Ganesh Navratri celebrations, one of Telangana’s most prominent religious and cultural festivals, which attracts thousands of devotees across the state every year.

Laxman Receives 19,000 CMRF Assistance“

“RAMANTHAPUR, SEPTEMBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Laxman, a resident of Venkata Sai Nagar Colony, has received ₹19,000 financial assistance under the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund (CMRF) towards medical expenses incurred following his surgery. “The assistance was sanctioned with the special initiative and support of Uppal MLA Sri Bandari Laxma Reddy. The sanctioned CMRF cheque was handed over to Laxman by Venkata Sai Nagar Colony President Sri Vijayender Reddy, along with honorary members and team members of the colony. “Speaking on the occasion, Vijayender Reddy appreciated MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy for responding to the problems of people and extending support to poor and middle-class families during times of medical and financial need. He thanked the MLA for helping the Laxman family secure CMRF assistance, which provided some financial relief during the treatment. He stated that four beneficiaries have so far received CMRF assistance through the Venkata Sai Nagar Colony Welfare Association, reflecting the



association’s continued efforts to support residents in times of need. Honorary members and team members Ravikumar, Gopal, Sanjeev, Shankar, R. Govind, Ashok, Srinivas Goud, Bhooopathi Narasimha, Ramakrishna, C. Shekhar, Swamy, Naresh, B. Chalapathi Rao, Venugopal, Ailesh Yadav and others attended the programme.

Strict Guidelines Issued for Ganesh Celebrations in Manthani



Manthani Peddapalli District, Sep 10 (Indian Chronicle): “A meeting was held in Manthani on Thursday with Ganesh idol organisers to ensure the peaceful and safe conduct of Ganesh festivities and processions. The meeting was conducted by the Sub-Inspector of Police, Manthani, along with the CI of Manthani. The Manthani Tahsildar, municipal officials and representatives of the Electricity Department also participated. “During the meeting, officials issued several instructions to Ganesh mandap organisers and procession committees. “Officials directed organisers of every public Ganesh mandap and procession to submit prior intimation through the Telangana Police portal. They instructed organisers to obtain only authorised DISCOM electricity connections and strictly prohibited illegal power hooking. Necessary fire-safety precautions must also be maintained at every mandap. “Regarding sound systems, organisers were instructed to use only two box-type speakers inside the mandap. Loudspeakers must not be used after 10 p.m., and only devotional bhajans should be played. “Officials further directed organisers to ensure the presence of at least three volunteers round the clock at every mandap. The names of volunteers should be maintained in a register. CCTV cameras with recording facilities and power backup must also be arranged. “The police warned organisers against the use of political slogans, consumption or serving of liquor, lucky-dip programmes and coercive collection of donations during the celebrations. “With regard to immersion processions, officials instructed organisers to carry out immersion only at the notified local tank. Only one vehicle should be used for each idol, and the use of DJs or speakers on immersion vehicles was strictly prohibited. “The officials appealed to all Ganesh festival organisers to cooperate with the police and other departments and ensure that the celebrations are conducted peacefully, safely and in accordance with the prescribed rules.



CM Relief Fund Cheques Distributed to Ailing Patients “Nacharam September 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “CM Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques sanctioned with the support of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy were distributed to nine ailing patients in the Meerpet–H.B. Colony Division. “Former Corporators Jeripothula Prabhadas and Gundarapu Srinivas Reddy handed over the cheques to the beneficiaries.

SBH Colony Residents Urge Municipal DC Anand to Release Funds for Pending Works“



“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Representatives of the SBH Society met Uppal Municipality Deputy Commissioner Anand and submitted a representation seeking the release of necessary funds to complete the pending development works in SBH Colony. “SBH Society General Secretary Sandeep Bhushan and President Mohammed Gafour brought several issues concerning the colony to the Deputy Commissioner’s attention. They requested completion of the first-floor construction of the SBH Colony Community Hall and removal of the one-metre-diameter pipeline running along the colony’s main road. “They also urged the authorities to take up CC road works, remove construction debris accumulated in the colony park and prevent unauthorized vehicle parking in the park. “The representatives further requested completion of the watchman’s room in the park and installation of play equipment for children. “Sandeep Bhushan appealed to the municipal authorities to allocate funds at the earliest and resolve the pending issues in view of the difficulties being faced by colony residents. “Deputy Commissioner Anand responded positively and assured the representatives that necessary funds would be allocated and the pending works would be completed at the earliest. He also assured that the issues raised by the residents would be addressed. “SBH Society Vice-President Ramesh Goud, Treasurer Shekhar More and executive members V. Venkateshwara Rao, S. Vinod Kumar, T. Manoj Kumar, K. Vijay Kumar and others were present.

Grain procurement centers to be set up from 1st October - Additional Collector Srinivasa Reddy.



“Khammam, September 10, Indian Chronicle.”“Additional Collector P. Srinivasa Reddy directed officials to strictly adhere to quality standards at grain procurement centers during the Vanakalam season 2026-27. On Thursday, the Additional Collector reviewed preparations for Kharif season grain procurement with officials of the concerned departments, grain transport contractors, and warehouse managers at the Collectorate. Additional Collector P. Srinivasa Reddy said that according to estimates by the District Agriculture Department, about 2.79 lakh metric tonnes of grain is expected this season, and therefore instructed officials to complete all arrangements, including procurement centers, warehouses, transportation, and other facilities, well in advance. He ordered that steps be taken to ensure that all grain procurement centers in the district are opened from October 1, 2026.”“? Farmers should be given advance awareness”“The Additional Collector suggested that extensive awareness be created through Rythu Vedikas and Agricultural Extension Officers so that farmers necessarily clean the grain before bringing it to procurement centers. He said farmers should be informed to bring the grain to procurement centers only after it reaches the prescribed moisture percentage. He made it clear that only grain conforming to the quality standards prescribed by the government should be procured.”“? Staff and training at procurement centers.”“The Additional Collector ordered that one staff member from the panchayat be appointed at every grain procurement center. He suggested conducting necessary training programs so that every center in-charge has complete awareness of the grain procurement process, quality standards, record maintenance, and other related

matters. He said a plan should be prepared to conduct one training meeting for every three mandals. He instructed that all records related to procurement centers be properly recorded and preserved from time to time. He suggested that officials continuously monitor the procurement process to ensure there is no scope for any lapses.”“? Details of procurement centers should be registered with photographs.”“The Additional Collector ordered that details of the infrastructure available at every grain procurement center, along with photographs, be registered in the newly introduced procurement center monitoring application by October 10. He made it clear that all procurement centers should be ready with standards as per the Central Government guidelines, and that no commission payments would be made to centers where arrangements are not in accordance with the rules.”“? Rs.500 bonus for seven fine varieties of grain.”“The Additional Collector said that as per the minimum support price announced by the government, Rs.2,461 per quintal will be paid for A-Grade grain and Rs.2,441 per quintal for ordinary-grade grain. He said that a bonus of Rs.500 per quintal will be paid only for A-Grade grain of the seven fine varieties recognized by the government, namely BPT-5204, RNR-15048, HMT Sona, Jai Sriram segment, KNM-1638, WGL-44, and KNM-7715.”“He suggested that Agriculture Department officials certify the seven fine varieties of grain and prepare samples for each variety. He ordered that a total of 300 samples be prepared and that samples of all seven varieties of grain be made available at every grain procurement center.”“? Warehouse locations should be prepared in advance.”“The Additional Collector suggested that procured grain be transported only to officially identified warehouses. He ordered officials to identify and keep ready the warehouse locations required in the district in advance. He suggested to grain transport contractors that GPS-based monitoring devices be installed in every vehicle transporting grain. The Additional Collector suggested taking steps to ensure that all necessary facilities are available at grain procurement centers so that farmers face no difficulties, and that officials effectively monitor every stage from procurement to transportation to warehouses. Assistant Civil Supplies Officer Mallikarjuna Babu, District Agriculture Officer Pullaiah, District Cooperative Officer Gangadhar, officials of the District Rural Development Agency, District Civil Supplies Corporation officials, MEPM?, Markfed, Weights and Measures Department, Transport Department officials, and others participated in the meeting.

Ailamma Fought Against the Bondage of “Banchan Dora, Nee Kaalmoktha”



FORMER CORPORETER BANNALA GEETHA PRAVEEN“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The 41st death anniversary of Telangana armed struggle heroine Chakali Chityala Ailamma was observed with great solemnity at Raghavendra Nagar Colony in the erstwhile Chilkanaagar Division. The programme was organised under the leadership of Kolluri Shyam, president of the Telangana Medelayya Rajaka Sangham, Uppal, along with committee members. Former Chilkanaagar Division corporator and GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha and Bannala Praveen Mudiraj attended the programme as chief guests. They paid floral tributes to the statue of Chakali Ailamma. “Speaking on the occasion, Bannala Geetha said that Ailamma fought valiantly for land, livelihood, liberation from bonded labour and the self-respect of oppressed communities. “At a time when the Nizam’s rule, feudal domination and atrocities by landlords prevailed, Ailamma, as a woman, raised her voice against bonded labour and discrimination against women. Belonging to a poor Rajaka family, she boldly challenged the authority of feudal lords and asserted her right over the land she cultivated through her own hard work.”“Geetha said that Ailamma

became associated with the people's movement during a period when the Andhra Mahasabha and later the Communist movement were mobilising farmers, labourers and poor people against the problems they faced in rural Telangana. She also turned her own home into a centre for movement activities and helped create awareness among the people.”“Despite harassment of her family and attacks and atrocities against women, Ailamma never backed down, Geetha said. What began as a struggle to protect her own family's rights later became an inspiration for the rights struggles of numerous poor families. The courage displayed by a woman like Ailamma instilled confidence among the people of Telangana, she added.”“Chakali Ailamma is not merely a name; she is a history. She was the brave woman who put an end to the slavery symbolised by ‘Banchan Dora, Nee Kaalmoktha’,” Bannala Geetha said. “She recalled Ailamma’s historic struggle against the Visnour Deshmukhs and feudal domination, saying that she challenged the authority of the gadis (feudal strongholds) and became a symbol of resistance.”“Geetha stressed that even today there is a need to fight against injustice and exploitation faced by backward and weaker sections of society.

She said Ailamma’s sacrifice and struggle would continue to inspire generations to come.”“District president and secretary of the Telangana Rajaka Vrittidarula Sangham Jyothi and Upender, Subhadra, BRS state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Nerdham Bhaskar Goud, Jalli Mohan, Kokkonda Jagan Mudiraj, Yeddula Kondal Reddy, Ramanjaneyulu, Satyaraj Goud, Masa Shekhar, Allibilli Mahender, Ravinder Goud, Balender, Auto Balu Yadav, Naveen Goud, Medelayya Rajaka Sangham Uppal president Kolluri Shyam, general secretary Bhamandla Raju, Kanakaiah, Srinu, Mallesh, Sai Kiran, Rakesh, Ravikumar, Mahender, Raju, Saraiah, Lingam, Sadanandam and others participated in the programme.

Liquor Smugglers Attack Police.

On Thursday, liquor smugglers attacked the police team at Basra Thikra Tola under Raiyam PS in Darbhanga district of Bihar and also torched the police vehicle. As the police reached the village to conduct a raid against liquor trade the anti social elements attacked the police team. Although the police arrested 10 liquor smugglers.”“As the government made Bihar a ‘dry state’ in April 2016 .The law stops people from making, selling, buying and drinking. In Bihar liquor was banned to reduce domestic violence, protect household finances for poor families and fulfilled a key election promise of the former CM Nitish Kumar who acted on strong demands from women groups who argued that liquor abuse directly caused violence against women and family abuse at home. Nobody can legally carry or possess liquor in Bihar because the state enforces total prohibition. As a fine ranging from 2000 to 5000 if the offender fails the fine, they face a month (30 days) in jail. But in Bihar the illegal transportation of liquor is on which has come to the light after the raids of police and recovered contraband liquor. As in some rural areas the manufacturing of illegal local made alcohol is also on and some times the police of respective areas conduct raid and vengeance occurs between the police and the liquor mafias. As the border of some northern districts of Bihar as West Champaran, East Champaran and Sita Madhi etc touch open Indo Nepal Border and in Nepal liquor is without ban. It is an adage ““Surya Asta Nepal Mast”so one who wants to consume liquor very easily enter the area of Nepal and consume it. The boarder of West Champaran District not only touches Indo Nepal Border but also touches the boarder of Uttar Pradesh where liquor is unbanned. As the liquor smugglers try to transact their liquor business from the area of Uttar Pradesh to the area of West Champaran but the police foil their business. “ As a Social worker cum JD (U) leader of Gaunaha block area in West Champaran Mobin Ahmad said that the government should launch awareness program against the bad effect of liquor on village level to aware people against this as well as the policing against liquor should be tight in both rural and urban areas of state to control its illegal consumption. “

Two Imposter arrest ““The Sachivalya Police Patna arrested two imposter from the locality who cheated the people to become the officer of the Health Department as well as assured them to appoint in the department. The arrested were identified as Ajay Kr Shukla and his relative Raja Kumar .The police also recovered fake Identity cards and police worthy from their possession.”“

SDM Inspects Hospital““On Thursday the SDM Bagha in West Champatan, Bihar inspected Bagha Hospital suddenly and found several doctors and ANMs were absent from their duty. After that she directed the Hospital Superintendent to start proceeding against such absentee staff , regarding the stopage of their salary. The SDM took action in this regard after the complaint of the public. As several people of Bagha localities alleged the poor treatment of the patients in Bagha Hospital. As it is noted that Bagha Hospital is an important Hospital of Bihar where the people of tribal dominated area as called ‘Tharuhat’ get treatment as well as the people of the Gandak basin also arrive at Bagha Hospital for their treatment. In these days casualties took place due to the straying of wild animals from the forest zone of VTR (Valmiki Tiger Reserve) and wildlife as Tiger, leopard and bear etc reach towards human habitation and attacks human. Some times peasants are made the victims of wildlife attack and very soon they are rushed to Bagha Hospital for treatment. Therefore the Hospital has its own importance for the welfare of the people of Bagha Subdivision.

Rupee falls 25 paise to 95.33 as crude oil crosses USD 100

Mumbai: The rupee depreciated 25 paise to 95.33 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday as Brent crude prices crossed the USD 100-per-barrel mark, sharply increasing concerns over India’s import bill. Forex traders said elevated crude oil prices and persistent dollar demand also weighed on investor sentiment.

UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY Pays Tribute to Chakali Ailamma at ECIL



“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): On the occasion of the death anniversary of Telangana’s

legendary freedom fighter Chakali Ailamma, Uppal MLA Sri Bandari Lakshma Reddy paid rich floral tributes to her statue at ECIL crossroads. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy said Chakali Ailamma was an enduring symbol of the self-respect of all sections of society, women’s empowerment and the struggle for the rights of the oppressed and weaker sections. He recalled that Chakali Ailamma courageously stood up against the exploitation of landlords and Razakars and fought for the rights of poor and weaker sections. Her courage, determination and fighting spirit would continue to inspire Telangana society for generations to come, he said. The MLA stated that Ailamma’s struggle for self-respect and equality would remain a source of inspiration for the present generation as well as future generations. “He paid homage to Chakali Ailamma, remembering her sacrifices and contribution to the Telangana struggle.”“BRS party leaders and activists, along with leaders of the Rajaka community and others, participated in the programme.

“Kaloji, the Flag-Bearer of Self-Respect Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar

“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Kaloji Narayana Rao, who breathed life into the ideals of self-respect and democracy, remains a symbol of self-respect, said Dr. A.C.H. Satyanarayana, IQAC Coordinator of Government Degree College, Uppal. “To mark the birth anniversary of Padma Vibhushan Kaloji Narayana Rao, the Telugu Department of Government Degree College, Uppal, organized Telangana Language Day celebrations in a grand manner. As part of the programme, first-semester Telugu students conducted seminars on the life and literary contributions of People’s Poet Kaloji.”“Telugu Assistant Professor Jaldia Viswanatha Kumar said that Kaloji’s path and ideals remain relevant and worth following for the present generation. He recalled that Kaloji participated in various people’s movements in Telangana and consistently stood on the side of the people. He also participated in the Vande Mataram Movement and the Telangana Armed Peasant Struggle.”“He said that Kaloji’s poetry was compiled in the collection Naa Godava and that his writings played a significant role in creating awareness among the people. Kaloji had immense love for the Telangana language and culture and made it clear that Naa Godava was, in fact, the struggle of all the people. His straightforwardness and frankness are clearly reflected in his poetry, he said, urging students of the present generation to read Kaloji’s works. As a people’s poet, Kaloji’s poetic lines became deeply rooted in the language of ordi-



nary people, he added. “College Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar said that Kaloji remained passionately committed to the realization of Telangana State until his last breath. He praised Kaloji’s dedication, noting that even after his death, he donated his mortal remains to a medical college.”“

The Principal said Kaloji strongly disliked those who were born as Telugu people but could not speak Telugu and instead struggled to express themselves in English, reflecting his deep love for the Telugu language.”“P. Vijay Kumar and other faculty members, along with first-semester students, participated in the programme.

Cyberabad Traffic Police Reviews Ganesh Immersion Arrangements

“Kukatpalli”10 Sept 2026“Indian Chronicle”“Cyberabad Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Sunpreet Singh, IPS, on Thursday inspected IDL Lake and surrounding areas in Kukatpally to review traffic and safety arrangements for the upcoming Ganesh idol immersion.”“Accompanied by Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. G. Srijana, IAS, Kukatpally Zonal Commissioner Mayank Agarwal, IAS, and senior officials from the Traffic Police, CMC and HYDRA, Singh reviewed arrangements at the IDL Lake entrance, Rainbow Vista T-Junction and Rangadhamuni Temple U-Turn.”“Officials were directed to facilitate regular traffic wherever possible and introduce diversions towards JNTU and Moosapet during heavy idol movement.”“Seven cranes will be deployed at IDL Lake, including two for idols taller than 20 feet, while HYDRA will arrange swimmers for safety.”“The Joint CP also reviewed congestion at Kaithalapur Signal and asked officials to examine the feasibility of installing ANPR cameras for vehicle counting and traffic analysis.”“Singh stressed close coordi-



nation among the Traffic Police, CMC and HYDRA to ensure safe immersion operations and smooth traffic movement during the Ganesh festivities.

Two Arrested in Six Two-Wheeler Theft Cases“Two Arrested in Six Two-Wheeler Theft Cases; Six Vehicles Worth 4.20 Lakh Recovered



“Medipally, September 10 (Indian Chronicle): Medipally Police have arrested two persons in connection with six two-wheeler theft cases reported under the limits of Medipally Police Station and recovered six stolen vehicles worth approximately ₹4.20 lakh.”“The arrested persons were identified as V. Vijender alias Rajendra (30), a vegetable vendor and resident of Sripur Colony, Peerzadiguda, and Basant Muduli (22), a labourer from Tukkuguda and a native of Balugam, Chitrapur Post, Ganjam district, Odisha.”“During the investigation, police found that the two accused were involved in six two-wheeler theft cases. Police recovered six stolen vehicles, including two Honda Activa scooters, one Hero Splendor motorcycle, one Hero Passion motorcycle, one Honda Shine motorcycle and one Jawa motorcycle. The total value of the recovered vehicles is estimated at ₹4.20 lakh.”“The accused were arrested and produced before the court, which remanded them to judicial custody.”“Medipally Police Station SHO Sri Jalandhar Reddy appreciated the Medipally Crime Team personnel for their effective investigation, apprehending the accused and recovering the stolen vehicles.”“Police Appeal to the Public”“Medipally Police urged the public to take necessary

precautions while parking their two-wheelers and ensure that vehicles are properly locked and secured. They also appealed to citizens to immediately inform the nearest police station if they notice any suspicious activity or if a vehicle is stolen.”“Add the police commissionerate dateline”“Clarify the case-discovery wording”“Use consistent accused terminology

Clay Ganesha Idol-Making Programme Promotes Environmental Protection



MEDIPALLY , SEPTEMBER 10 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): A clay Ganesha idol-making programme was organised under the aegis of the Environmental Club at PM SHRI ZPHS, Medipally, with the aim of promoting environmental protection.”“Students enthusiastically participated in the programme and showcased their creativity by making different varieties of Ganesha idols using clay. Prizes were presented to the students who made the best idols.”“School Headmaster L. Satya Prasad and all the teachers participated in the programme and appreciated the students for their efforts. Awareness was also created among the students on the importance of using clay Ganesha idols as part of environmental conservation.

Bombay HC pulls up Palghar Police over hospital attack probe



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday pulled up the Palghar Police over what it termed “laxity” in the investigation into the assault of hospital staff by Shiv Sena workers, questioning whether police had “not learnt any lesson” from an earlier case involving the assault of civic doctors in Thane. The court warned that the Palghar hospital assault investigation could be transferred to the Mumbai Police Crime Branch if the Palghar Police failed to demonstrate that it was seriously investigating the case.

A bench of Justices Ajey Gadkari and Kamal R Khata was hearing a suo motu petition on incidents of assaults on doctors and medical staff. The proceedings were initiated after Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre was booked

for allegedly assaulting municipal doctors at Dombivli Civic Hospital on July 6. The court was particularly critical after Palghar Superintendent of Police Yatish Deshmukh informed it that Shiv Sena city chief Rahul Gharat had been arrested, but nine other accused remained absconding. “There seems to be no investigation done after lodging of the FIR. It is because of your laxity that the accused are absconding,” the bench orally observed. It questioned why police had failed to take effective steps to trace the accused and described the approach as “absolutely casual” in a sensitive case. “Did you not learn any lesson from the Thane case?” the bench asked, warning that it would consider handing over the investigation to the Mumbai Crime Branch if the police did not act. Deshmukh assured the Bombay High Court that the nine absconding accused will be arrested. The court also raised concerns whether the investigating officer had followed the prescribed procedure for maintaining the case diary, which records the day-to-day progress of an investigation. When asked what action would be taken against the investigating officer, Chief Public Prosecutor Shishir Hiray, appearing with instructions from the state DGP, said the DGP would call for the case records and examine the matter. The court posted the matter for further hearing on September 11 and directed the state to file an affidavit on the progress of the Thane case. The court was informed that a chargesheet had been filed in that case and a Special Public Prosecutor had been appointed.

ACs, beds tossed from rooftops as MCD readies Satya Niketan buildings for demolition

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

ACs, refrigerators, washing machines, almirahs and beds came crashing down from the upper floors of buildings in South Delhi’s Satya Niketan on Wednesday, as workers from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) cleared out belongings from structures marked for demolition. The action came after a five-storey hostel in the locality collapsed on Sunday, killing seven people — five of them Delhi University (DU) students. The workers used crowbars and sledgehammers to break through weak walls and railings. No bulldozer was brought to the area. Around 50 MCD officials also went door to door, asking residents of 10-15 structures to vacate. They checked whether they lived in a PG or owned the flat, how many people were staying in each room, and whether construction on their floor was authorised.

The lane where the hostel once stood has been cordoned off and is now almost deserted. Nitish, 42, who runs a shop nearby, watched the appliances come down one after another. “ACs worth Rs 50,000 are being thrown like paper... Why are they throwing expensive things from the top floor? They could just bring them down and let people use them,” he said. Satya Niketan demolition Students vacate their PGs in Delhi’s Satya Niketan on Wednesday. (Photo by Afshana Ali) “MCD officials are going around asking who lives where — whether it’s a PG, how many are staying inside, whether the floor itself is even legal,” added Sridharan.

As the MCD action continued, students streamed out of their PGs. For many, the collapse has uprooted their lives. Pranav, a third-year student at Aryabhata College who lived in a PG two lanes away on Fourth Street, loaded blue polybags stuffed with his clothes, photo frames, black-and-white jholas lined with his books, and trolleys in an e-rickshaw. He was going to his aunt’s place in RK Puram. He was paying a rent of Rs 30,000 at the PG. “I am leaving Satya Niketan, I cannot live with the constant fear of dying. Last night, every time I heard a loud noise, I thought my building was going to fall. My aunt’s house is relatively sturdy and newly built.” He added, “I participated in a candle march



yesterday in my college against the university’s silence and apathy on the incident. They do not have hostels to accommodate more than 2 lakh students enrolled at DU, and the hostel capacity is around 7,000. Who is responsible for this incident? Who is accountable, the MCD, the government, or the college authorities? Thousands of students are still living in these poorly constructed buildings.” Aarti, a statistics student from Sri Venkateswara College, was going to pack her things and leave her PG. She paid Rs 21,000 for a single room, electricity not included. “The building was so fragile, it felt like it would fall any day. I had applied for the hostel last month, and officials told me that I was on the waiting list,” she said. “My parents want me to shift to Malviya Nagar now, so I’ve asked my PG owner for my deposit — Rs 52,000 rupees including the brokerage charge — back, but they’ve refused.”

Aarti said all her belongings were still in her room. I’ll pack as much as I can and leave. I will go to a friend’s place temporarily.” Sridharan K, a student at Motilal Nehru College who lived two buildings away, was among those asked to leave. “MCD officials asked me to vacate my flat. I could only take one bag with my books and clothes. Most of my important things — my documents, clothes, washing machine, toaster — are still up there,” he said. “We were told our things would be handed back to us. But I heard they’re throwing appliances and belongings off the rooftop instead.”

Scientist CNR Rao’s name in SIR ‘discrepancy’ list; officials deny serving notice



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Bengaluru Urban District Election Officer Maheshwar Rao said on Wednesday that no notice was issued to Bharat Ratna laureate and eminent scientist Professor CNR Rao in connection with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Malleshwaram Assembly constituency. Maheshwar Rao’s statement came amid a controversy over Professor Rao’s name being included in a list of voters to whom notices would be served. The 92-year-old’s name features in part 59 of the ‘discrepancy elector’ report of Malleshwaram Assembly constituency uploaded online by the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka. The

reason cited is “self-name mismatch”.

“...Rao was enrolled as a voter in Part No. 129, Serial No. 431 of the 76-Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency in the electoral roll of 2002. At that time, his name was recorded as ‘Rama’. At present, he is registered as a voter in Part No. 59, Serial No. 187 of the 157-Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency, under the name ‘Prof. C. N. Rao M’. Accordingly, his name has also been included in the draft electoral roll,” the statement by Maheshwar Rao said. After noticing the discrepancy in the name, the booth level officer, “without issuing any notice, has recommended inclusion of his name in the final electoral roll, considering him to be a respected person,” the statement added. Professor Rao’s office also denied that a notice was issued to him. “We are not aware of any notice being served. We have not received an alert either on the registered mobile number or on his email,” Rao’s assistant, Chandrashekar, told The Indian Express. Professor Rao is among the 43 lakh voters to whom notices have been generated by the Karnataka chief electoral officer. Those who receive notices will have to submit relevant documents to verify their identities before their name can be included in the final electoral roll scheduled to be published in the last week of October.

Clay Ganesha Idols Best for Environmental Protection: KTR

Uppal Ganesh Utsav Samithi Representatives Present Clay Ganesha Idol to KTR“UPPAL, September 10 (Indian Chronicle): As part of an initiative to promote environmental protection, the Uppal Ganesh Utsav Samithi organized a programme emphasizing the use of eco-friendly clay Ganesha idols. “Uppal Ganesh Utsav Samithi Founder President Akula Mahender, in the presence of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, presented a clay Ganesha idol to BRS Working President and former Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR). “Speaking on the occasion, the organizers said that the Uppal Ganesh Utsav Samithi has been conducting Ganesh festivities with devotion while also giving priority to eco-friendly initiatives and creating awareness among the public. “They said that using clay Ganesha idols instead of Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols can help protect the environment. They appealed to people to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in an eco-friendly manner with the message, “Clay Ganesha – Protection for the Environment, Symbol of



Devotion.” “Former Uppal Ganesh Utsav Samithi president Bhashapalli Niranjan Chary, Maddy Yugender Reddy, Alexander, Sampath Goud, Ramesh Goud and others participated in the programme.

Amid Nitesh Rane’s remarks, Amruta Fadnavis says Garba should be inclusive; Congress backs ‘Bhabhiji’



Amid a controversy over the Vishva Hindu Parishad’s (VHP) call to restrict the entry of Muslims to Garba and Dandiya events during Navratri celebrations in Maharashtra — a call backed by minister Nitesh Rane — Amruta Fadnavis said she believed the festival should be inclusive and would not object to a Muslim person attending and enjoying such events. “I feel our festival is inclusive. If a Muslim person comes and enjoys Garba and leaves, I would not find anything wrong with it,” Amruta Fadnavis said.

Refusing to comment on the remarks made by Nitesh Rane, Amruta Fadnavis said, “He must have said this after thinking something; I do not want to get into its depths. Garba is a national celebration, and it is even celebrated internationally, so if anyone from any community or faith wants to come and see this peacefully without creating any chaos, I

think that is alright. But I haven’t studied what other reasons there are behind it.” Amruta Fadnavis’s remarks come against the backdrop of guidelines issued by the VHP asking organisers of Garba and Dandiya events in Maharashtra to restrict entry of Muslims into such events, while also tightening rules for those attending — such as verifying attendees through Aadhaar cards and applying tilak on their foreheads as measures to establish their Hindu identity. “Navratri is not just about songs and dance. The festival is about worshipping the Goddess. Why should Muslims, who are against idol worship, participate in the festival?” Nair said, adding that the guidelines were precautionary measures. Maharashtra Cabinet Minister Nitesh Rane welcomed the VHP demand while claiming that some people enter Garba events using Hindu names and target Hindu women under what he described as “love jihad”. “If Garba and Navratri continue to become headquarters of ‘love jihad’, then it is the responsibility of the VHP and Hindutva activists like us to stop it,” Rane said. Meanwhile, Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar supported Amruta Fadnavis’s statement and said, “What Bhabhi ji has said is absolutely true. I welcome and congratulate her for her vision of taking everyone in the state along together. But I have one demand: if your views are truly like this, then will Amruta ji also ask the Chief Minister to remove Nitesh Rane from the position of minister, because he repeatedly makes inflammatory statements against the Muslim community? This is my question to her.”

New platforms for grievance redressal, transparent roadworks in Bengaluru

GNS News Agency, Sept 10 Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byregowda on Wednesday announced plans to launch Sahay 3.0, a software tool to make grievance redressal more citizen-friendly, transparent, and effective. It will replace Sahay 2.0, which allows mobile complaint submission, officer accountability, and a three-tier appeal mechanism. Speaking at a consultation meeting with residents at the Greater Bengaluru Authority headquarters, Byregowda said the upgraded version would incorporate suggestions from residents and experts. “The goal is to simplify grievance filing and ensure transparency at every stage of resolution,” he said. Proposed features include voice-based complaint registration, multilingual support, low-bandwidth accessibility, anonymous complaint options in select cases, and citizen confirmation before closing grievances. A public dashboard will also display complaint status, pending cases, and resolution timelines, he said. Gowda said that Sahay 3.0 would allow users to upload photos, location details, and voice notes, reducing the time taken to file complaints. Automated alerts will notify officials of pending cases. “Citizens will also be able to easily reopen unresolved complaints,” the minister said. Real-time updates on ongoing and proposed works Alongside Sahay 3.0, the government is building a comprehensive digital portal for infrastructure works under the Road Infrastructure Management System (RIMS).

Designed to improve coordination among departments,



RIMS will record all road projects, including construction, pipeline laying, and cable installation, at least six months before commencement. The GIS-linked platform will provide real-time updates on ongoing and proposed works, along with a complete “road history” of past projects. “Data from 2022-23 to 2026-27 covering more than 2,000 km of road works and Rs 9,151 crore in grants has already been integrated into RIMS. Citizens will be able to view progress through interactive maps, while officials can monitor weekly updates,” he said. The aim is to bring accuracy, efficiency, and transparency to grievance redressal and infrastructure management. With Sahay 3.0 and RIMS, citizens will have a clear view of every stage of complaint resolution and road development, the minister added.

Gujarat finds ‘should be 90% done’ flyovers are at 40%. And have rusted steel

Shoddy workmanship and delay in construction prompted the civic body in Gujarat’s Rajkot to suspend two engineering officials and issue show-cause notices to two senior supervisory officers overseeing three flyovers being built in the largest city in the Saurashtra region. The move came after a report by the Project Management Unit (PMU), set up by the Municipal Commissioner Tushar Sumera to investigate the delay in construction, flagged defects and rusted steel rebars, apart from the slow pace of construction of the three flyovers located in Phase-I of the RR-2, between the Jamnagar road and Kalavad road intersections.

The three flyovers — BR-2, BR-3 and BR-4 — are part of the ongoing expansion of the two-lane Phase-I stretch of RR-2 into a four-lane road, along with additional infrastructure. The original two-lane section was completed in 2016. The three flyovers together have an estimated project cost of around Rs 40 crore. Following the findings and an on-site inspection by Sumera on September 7, the civic body suspended Deputy Executive Engineer (Civil), Ward No. 9, Vijay C Kariya, and Assistant Engineer (Civil), West Zone, Vishal M Vagadia. “The survey report filed by the PMU found shortcomings in the work of three bridges. Due to the clear lack of workmanship in the work and serious negligence, laxity and carelessness towards duty, Kariya and Vagadia were suspended from their duties,” the civic body said in a statement. In addition, the civic body issued show-cause notices to Deputy Municipal Commissioner of West Zone Chetan Nandani and Executive City Engineer Kuntesh Mehta. This action came after an on-site review conducted by Sumera on September 7, in light of the PMU survey. Accountability, however, was not limited to those overseeing the project.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Sumera said the inspection had uncovered several concerns. “The steel used in the construction was found to be rusted, which means proper care has not been taken. Further, there are spacing



issues in the placement of the steel,” he said. He added that the project was significantly behind schedule. “The work should have reached 90 per cent completion by now, but it has barely reached 40 per cent. The timeline has not been followed, and quality has not been followed, and such compromise cannot be allowed in such structures,” Sumera said. According to the Commissioner, the PMU was set up after the delay in construction came to his notice. Its survey subsequently found that the problem went beyond delays. “Apart from the delay, even the quality is an issue. So I visited the sites, and then took action,” he said. A detailed investigation is now expected to follow. Sumera said the Vigilance Department would probe the project and determine whether any portions need to be demolished. He said notices would also be issued wherever corrective work is required. The contractor will also be held accountable, Sumera said. “We will also be issuing notice to the contractor company, which is bound to give us quality work as per the tender protocols.” In October 2025, The Indian Express published a report on the condition of the RR-2, its shortfalls, and the need for upgrades to meet the burgeoning population and connectivity needs of Western Gujarat.

Indian space startup GalaxEye wins US patent for OptoSAR imaging technology

New Delhi: Indian space technology startup GalaxEye said on Tuesday it secured a US patent for the core technology behind its OptoSAR imaging system which combines optical and synthetic aperture radar (SAR) sensors to capture aligned Earth observation data. It further noted that the patent covers the architecture and system used to synchronise optical and microwave sensors for simultaneous, spatially and temporally matched data acquisition. However, the same foundational technology has already been patented in India. The US patent strengthens its intellectual property position as it prepares to scale a planned 30-satellite constellation over the next five years, GalaxEye said. It has a growing commercial pipeline across domestic and international customers and expects the network to serve defence, government and commercial applications, including agriculture, infrastructure, insurance, maritime intelligence and disaster management. Moreover, the tech-

nology addresses a challenge in Earth observation where optical and SAR sensors have traditionally operated independently or been combined through post-processing. Data captured at different times, viewing angles or from different platforms can create temporal gaps and spatial misalignment. GalaxEye’s patented architecture is designed to synchronise the two sensing technologies at the system level, combining the visual and spectral information of optical imaging with SAR’s day-and-night and all-weather capabilities. “This is an invention that came out of India,” GalaxEye founder and CEO Suyash Singh said. He added that the US patent validates the ability of Indian deep-tech companies to develop globally differentiated technology. The technology is linked to GalaxEye’s Mission Drishti which launched on earlier in May. It said Drishti was the world’s first OptoSAR imaging satellite, combining multispectral imaging and SAR on a single satellite platform.

Rs 41 lakh cash snatched from Indore businessman in gold deal fraud in Powai, 3 booked



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The Powai police Saturday launched a manhunt for three men who allegedly duped an Indore-based businessman of Rs 41 lakh. The complainant, Piyush Gupta, said his friend had promised gold biscuits at a rate below the market price and called him to Mumbai for the deal. During the transaction, three men arrived in an Innova car, allegedly assaulted Gupta's friend, and fled with a bag containing cash. The accused, Amit Jain, Rajesh Jain, Shubhash, have been booked under sections 318(4) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Gupta, 48, runs an import-export garment business in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. He said his friends, Nadeem Khan of Andheri and Nasir Khan of Bandra, contacted him last month, claiming to know someone who could supply gold

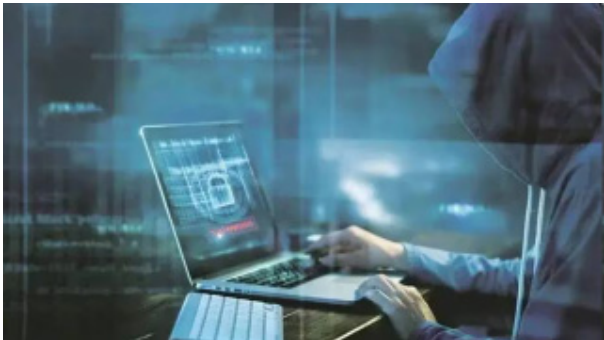
at 10 per cent below market price. Gupta travelled to Mumbai in the first week of September, where he was introduced to a woman named Vaishali Samant and a man identified as Manoj Dhulia, as per the complaint. The initial meeting near Mahim station was cancelled because of the Ganesh immersion festivities. Gupta had Rs 20 lakh in cash, which he stored at a friend's house in Malad after the deal was postponed. Subsequent meetings in Chembur and Wadala were delayed by the accused, who cited concerns over police surveillance, as per the complaint. Gupta returned to Indore on September 4 but received another call from Rajesh Jain promising a 15 per cent lower price. He said he returned to Mumbai on September 10 and met the accused on September 12 near Santosh Bar on Saki Vihar Road in Powai. According to the complaint, a man in his 20s showed Gupta a gold biscuit and demanded cash. The three accused allegedly took Rs 41 lakh and instructed Gupta to follow them for a short distance. Meanwhile, an Innova car without a registration plate arrived, two men got out, assaulted the 20-year-old man, made them sit in the car, and fled, leaving Gupta behind, according to the complaint. The businessman became scared and returned to Indore. He called Amit and Rajesh Jain, both of whom claimed to be policemen and promised to give him gold or return his cash soon. But later, he found that their numbers were switched off, and he then realised that he had been duped. He came to Mumbai and registered a case in the Powai police station Saturday, said Senior Inspector Jitendra Sonawane.

Former banker loses Rs 23 crore in ‘digital arrest’ fraud in Delhi

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

According to the police, in August, Malhotra received a phone call claiming that his mobile number had been used for fraudulent and illegal activities. According to the police, in August, Malhotra received a phone call claiming that his mobile number had been used for fraudulent and illegal activities. A 78-year-old former banker from South Delhi allegedly fell victim to a 'digital arrest' scam, losing approximately Rs 23 crore over several weeks. The scammers, posing as telecom officials and Mumbai police, duped him after claiming that his personal information was linked to fraud and terror activities, said the police. The Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Delhi Police Special Cell filed an FIR on September 19 based on the complaint of the victim, Naresh Malhotra, 78, who resides alone in the Gulmohar Park area in South Delhi. According to the police, in August, Malhotra received a phone call claiming that his mobile number had been used for fraudulent and illegal activities. The caller claimed to be a senior official from a telecom company and later claimed that Mumbai police officers were involved in the probe.

As per Malhotra's complaint, when the calls started coming initially, he was sent a bail order, which the callers claimed was to ensure he was not arrested. The scammers allegedly asked him to appear on a video call every two hours between August 4 and September 4 and made him sign an undertaking to maintain secrecy. The scammers allegedly told him that his passport had been seized and that



he would not be able to fly out. The scammers who impersonated Mumbai police officials asked him to share his bank details and other investment details, as per the complaint. The scammers allegedly told Malhotra that his Aadhaar card details had been used to open accounts in various banks.

They also allegedly told him that links to terror groups were found when his accounts were scanned. He told the police that they threatened to harm his family members if he did not give them the money they demanded. Malhotra claimed that he sold his shares and transferred approximately Rs 22.92 crore into different accounts in multiple transactions. Based on Malhotra's complaint, the IFSO unit began a probe and froze approximately Rs 2 crore transferred from Malhotra's account.

Kanpur police search Yamuna after man ‘murders partner, stuffs body in black suitcase, throws it into river’

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Police in Kanpur and neighbouring districts of Uttar Pradesh have launched an extensive search in the Yamuna after a 22-year-old allegedly killed his partner, put her body into a black suitcase, and threw it into the river, officials said. Police said the accused carried the suitcase containing the body on a motorcycle for 100 km from Kanpur to Banda district before dumping it into the Yamuna. He also photographed himself with the suitcase at the riverbank and later shared the image as his WhatsApp status, police said. The victim was identified as 20-year-old Akansha, who is reported to have been missing since July 22. On Saturday, Kanpur police arrested the main accused, Suraj Kumar Uttam, and his friend Ashish Kumar (21), whom police accused of driving the motorcycle on which Uttam transported the suitcase. A search is now underway for the suitcase and the body. According to police, Uttam, an electrician from Fatehpur district, came in contact with Akansha a few months ago through Instagram.

"We have arrested the accused on the basis of evidence, such as call records and his location details from the time the victim went missing. He has also confessed to the crime during the course of the investigation. We have recovered a photograph of the suitcase from his cellphone and circulated it, along with case details, to police in neighbouring districts, including Banda, Chitrakoot, Fatehpur, Kaushambi and Prayagraj," said Rajeev Singh, the SHO of Hanumanth Vihar police station.

Akansha's mother, Vijayshree, a resident of Kanpur Dehat district, had lodged a report at Hanumanth Vihar police station in Kanpur, saying that she had no contact with her daughter since July 22. She told police that Akansha had been working at a hotel in Kanpur with her elder sister for about 10 months, and that they had been living together in rented accommodation in the Barra area of the city. In June, Akansha started working at a different hotel, and by July, she had moved to a new house in the Hanumanth Vihar area. The mother also expressed suspicion about Akansha's friend, Uttam, claiming that when she asked him about her daughter's whereabouts, he gave evasive answers and tried to mislead her. In August, the mother approached the police with a complaint regarding Akansha's disappearance and alleged that she was abducted, following which an FIR was lodged. Investigating the case, officers discovered that it was on Uttam's advice that Akansha had left her previous job and moved to a new house. The investigation further revealed that on July 21, Uttam and Akansha had a heated argument at the hotel, officers said. Scrutiny of call records indicated that both Uttam and Akansha were present at the rented house on the evening of July 21. It was also found that the following day, Uttam travelled to Banda district. Based on these findings, the police detained Uttam for questioning and examined his cellphone for further evidence. Initially, Uttam claimed that he did not know where Akansha lived, but further investigation revealed that he had, in fact, arranged the house for her, police said, adding that eventually, Uttam confessed to the crime. "Uttam said that on the afternoon of July 21, he had a heated argu-



ment with Akansha after she accused him of having an affair with another girl. Later that evening, when they returned home, the argument escalated again, with Akansha demanding that he marry her. The confrontation turned violent, and during the ensuing scuffle, Uttam strangled her to death," SHO Singh said. Uttam then called his friend, Ashish Kumar, in Fatehpur and asked him to come. "Together, they stuffed her body into a black suitcase that belonged to her, carried it on a motorcycle to Banda, and threw it into the Yamuna River near Chillaghat. Before disposing of the suitcase, they took a photograph of it, which was later uploaded on WhatsApp," the SHO said. Around two days after the murder, Suraj used the victim's cellphone to send messages to her friends and family, claiming that she had joined another hotel in Lucknow, police said, adding that he later disposed of her phone by throwing it onto a moving train.

Centralized community kitchen, sponsored by SCCL, inaugurated in Mancherial

Mancherial: A modern centralised community kitchen, managed by the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation, was formally inaugurated by MLA Kokkiralra Premasagar Rao on the premises of the Old Medical College here on Monday.

The facility, sponsored by SCCL under its CSR initiative at a cost of Rs 8 crore, will provide breakfast to around 50,000 students from government schools and colleges in Mancherial, Peddapalli and Jagtial districts. Speaking on the occasion, Premasagar Rao said it was laudable that both the foundation and SCCL had come forward to provide thousands of poor students with quality food. He said human resources were the wealth of the State and that the government was committed to shaping students into diamonds by providing better amenities. The legislator thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka for establishing the kitchen in the district.

In flood-hit Punjab, paddy farmers concerned about ‘haldi rog’ and ‘Chinese virus’ diseases



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

As Punjab's paddy crop enters its final ripening stage, farmers already affected by devastating floods are struggling with two major threats—haldi rog (false smut) and "Chinese virus", officially known as the southern rice black-streaked dwarf virus (SRBSDV). The dwarf virus has affected paddy crops in around 11,000 acres, mostly in Patiala (7,000 acres) and Fatehgarh Sahib (3,500 acres) districts, even though it was detected in June, barely a month after transplantation.

The farmers are also reporting widespread cases of haldi rog (false smut), a fungal disease also called richmen's disease. It has been spotted in almost all districts but only a couple of acres have been affected in some districts, while several acres have been affected in others. The disease typically strikes during the flowering stage, coating grains with yellow powdery balls, resembling turmeric—hence the name haldi rog. "False smut, often nicknamed the 'rich man's disease', tends to appear in fields with high soil fertility and on high-yielding paddy varieties. We emphasise that it is not a contagious disease—if one or more grains on a panicle are infected, it does not spread to other grains on the same panicle, nor does it move to other panicles of the same plant," said Dr Mandeep Singh Hunjan, Principal Plant Pathologist

How Mumbai Metro's expansion will transform urban mobility in India's financial capital

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

In a landmark development for urban mobility in Mumbai, the city's first fully underground metro line, Metro Line 3, also known as the Aqua Line, is set to become fully operational on September 30. Spanning 33.5 km from Aarey in the north to Cuffe Parade in the south, this corridor features 27 stations and is poised to transform commuting, particularly in the city's most congested areas. This milestone is part of a broader expansion of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) metro network, which currently includes 17 lines that are completed and are under various stages of completion and planning. By the end of the decade, these lines are expected to cover 319 km, connecting key parts of the extended metropolitan region. A closer look at how these new lines are set to reshape travel across the city and the timelines for their completion.

MMR's operational metro lines The inauguration of the final stretch of the last phase of Mumbai's Aqua Line on September 30 will bring the number of fully functional metro lines in MMR to five, covering 91 km. Currently, these lines are used by approximately 9 lakh passengers daily. The addition of the final leg of the Aqua Line is expected to increase ridership to 20 lakh passengers per day. Line 3 (Aqua Line): Cuffe Parade – BKC – SEEPZ – Aarey Colony, 33.5 km. Its final 9 km stretch, connecting Acharya Atre Chowk (Worli) to Cuffe Parade, is expected to be inaugurated for public use on September 30, 2025, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This stretch includes 11 major stations: Science Museum, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai Central, Grant Road, Girgaon, Kalbadevi, CSMT, Hutatma Chowk, Churchgate, Vidhan Bhavan, and Cuffe Parade. Line 2B (DN Nagar – Mandale): 23.6 km elevated route with 20 stations and interchanges at Bandra, Kurla, and Chembur. Expected phased opening: 2025–2026, at an estimated cost of Rs 10,986 crore. A 5.39 km section between Mandale and Diamond Garden, spanning five stations, is expected to open this year. Line 4 & 4A (Wadala – Gaimukh): 32.32 km + 2.88 km extension. The 10.5 km stretch from Cadbury Junction (Thane) to Gaimukh is nearing completion, with 10 stations at key junctions including Kapurbawdi, Manpada, Tikujiniwadi, Dongripada, Vijay Garden, and Kasarvadavali. Expected completion: year-end 2025. Line 5 (Thane – Bhiwandi – Kalyan): 24.9 km fully elevated corridor, estimated cost Rs 8,416 crore. Civil work on the Thane–Bhiwandi section is almost complete, while the more challenging section to Kalyan is still under review. The Thane–Bhiwandi section was expected to be completed by the end of this year, but it is likely to miss the deadline.

Line 6 (Swami Samarth Nagar – Vikhroli): 15.3 km, estimated cost Rs 6,700 crore. With 78 per cent of civil work complete, it is expected to open in late 2026.

Line 7A (Andheri East – CSMAI): 3.17 km with two stations (Airport Colony elevated and CSMAI Terminal 2 underground), estimated cost Rs 1,998 crore, targeted completion December 2026.

Line 9 (Dahisar East – Mira Bhayandar): 23 km elevated corridor in two phases. Phase 1 is expected to be-

at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU). "Continuous rain-fall during August created favorable conditions for its development. Where it occurs, the affected grains swell and turn into distinct yellow balls, making the disease quite visible in the field. The encouraging fact, however, is that crop losses from false smut are negligible – very little," said Dr Hunjan. "Farmers need not panic or spend money on unnecessary sprays at this stage when the crop is almost ready for harvest. The infection actually occurred in mid-to late August. What farmers see now is only its visible form. With the return of sunshine, it will not spread further, and infected grains cannot be revived," he explained. Dr Hunjan said that preventive sprays are effective only if applied at the early stage of panicle emergence—half a kilogram per acre of PAU-recommended fungicide. "After this stage, sprays are of no use. False smut is also more common in fields where excessive nitrogen has been applied. Some farmers, aware of their soil conditions, even resort to preventive 'blind sprays' before panicle development to check the disease," he added. As far as the dwarf virus is concerned, farmers reported cases of stunted or dwarf paddy plants, particularly in PR-131 and PR-128 varieties, though a few other varieties were also affected. It is a viral disease spread by the whitebacked planthopper, a pest common in Punjab's rice-wheat belt. The disease, first reported in Punjab in 2022, damaged nearly 34,000 hectares that year. Infected plants show poor growth, narrow and upright leaves, shallow roots, and are often just half or even a third of the normal height. In severe cases, they wilt and die prematurely, causing major yield losses. "Under the conditions of outbreak of this disease, infected plants should be uprooted and buried deep to check spread. This disease completely destroys an affected plant," Jaswant Singh said. Haldi rog has appeared only recently and field reports are being collected," he said, adding that to avoid the outbreak of any disease, the regular monitoring of the fields is important by the farmers and also recommend balanced fertiliser use.



come operational by end 2025, with the entire corridor anticipated to be completed by mid-2026.

Line 12 (Kalyan – Taloja): 22.17 km, expected to connect Kalyan to Taloja, completion pegged at end of 2027. Proposed lines Line 8 (CSIA – NMIA Airport Connector): 35 km corridor connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai airports, estimated cost Rs 20,000 crore, target completion late 2028. The corridor begins underground at CSMAI, surfaces near Chembur, and continues elevated through Mankhurd, Vashi, Nerul, Belapur, and NMIA. An additional 8.5 km loop is proposed to connect Seawoods with NMIA. Line 10 (Gaimukh – Shivaji Chowk, Mira Road): 9.2 km, estimated cost Rs 4,476 crore Line 11 (Wadala – CSMT): 12.77 km underground corridor with 14 stations, nearly 9 km underground, estimated cost Rs 16,000 crore. Line 13 (Shivaji Chowk – Virar): 23 km fully elevated corridor, estimated cost Rs 6,900 crore. Line 14 (Kanjurmarg – Badlapur): 39 km corridor with underground, elevated, and at-grade sections, estimated cost Rs 13,500–18,000 crore. CIDCO is also planning additional metro lines in Navi Mumbai to improve connectivity within the city and to the upcoming airport. Official speak "Once all metro lines are fully operational in the city, they will greatly enhance the transport system, making commuting easier and more efficient for Mumbaikars," said Ashwini Bhide, managing director, Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL). As metro projects in the city gain momentum, there is also a growing focus on creating a fully integrated transport system for the public. Dr Sanjay Mukherjee, Metropolitan Commissioner, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), said, "Our effort is to build a truly integrated transport network by interlinking existing and upcoming metro corridors with arterial roads, flyovers and connectors, so that citizens of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region can experience faster, reliable, and eco-friendly travel." The metro expansion is also expected to relieve pressure on the suburban railway, which continues to carry over 70 lakh passengers daily. With multiple interchanges, the metro will function as a parallel mass transit system, distributing passenger loads more evenly. For commuters long reliant on overcrowded trains and slow road traffic, the metro is reshaping daily travel. By 2030, Mumbai is expected to have a metro network almost as extensive as its suburban railway, offering efficient commuting alternatives.

Telangana to get 110-km railway multi-tracking project

Hyderabad: Telangana is set to receive a major railway infrastructure boost with the Union Cabinet approving a 110-km multi-tracking project between Ghatkesar in Secunderabad division and Kazipet. The project is part of a five-project package approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday at an estimated total cost of Rs 10,021 crore. The Secunderabad (Ghatkesar) – Kazipet multi-tracking project is aimed at increasing rail capacity on one of Telangana's important and heavily utilised corridors. The works are planned to be completed by 2029-30.

The additional railway capacity is expected to ease congestion, improve train operations and enhance the reliability of passenger and freight services in the State. The corridor is also important for the movement of commodities, including coal, cement, iron and steel, containers, automobiles, foodgrains, petroleum products and fertilisers.

The project is part of a larger railway capacity-enhancement programme covering 17 districts across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Together, the five approved projects will add about 540 km to the existing

Indian Railways network. In Telangana, the multi-tracking works are expected to strengthen connectivity towards the northern parts of the State and improve the movement of people and goods between the Hyderabad-Secunderabad region and Kazipet.

The Centre said the projects have been planned under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, with an emphasis on multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency. The improved railway network is also expected to benefit connectivity to important tourist and religious destinations in Telangana, including Yadagirigutta, Bhongir Fort, Surendrapuri and Swarnagiri Temple. According to the Union government, the five projects will improve connectivity to around 2,121 villages, with a combined population of approximately 52 lakh. The capacity augmentation is expected to facilitate an additional 47 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of freight traffic. The Railways has also projected environmental benefits from the shift of freight traffic to rail. The projects are expected to help reduce oil consumption by around 8 crore litres and cut carbon emissions by approximately 42 crore kg, equivalent to the environmental benefit of planting about 2 crore trees.

How dynamic spectrum sharing could solve the spectrum crunch



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Columbus: Every time you make a phone call, stream a video or connect to Wi-Fi, your device is sending and receiving invisible signals through the air. So are your baby monitor, garage door opener, GPS, weather-monitoring satellites and the radars keeping planes safely apart. All of these rely on the same invisible resource: the radio spectrum. The demand for wireless data — driven by smartphones, video streaming and billions of connected devices — keeps growing, making available spectrum scarce. But it does not have to remain that way. As an electrical engineer who studies wireless communications, I am part of a field of research working to address the radio spectrum supply crunch.

The solution engineers and regulators have been developing is dynamic spectrum sharing. The core idea is straightforward: Instead of reserving a portion of spectrum exclusively for one user forever, allow multiple users to share the same frequencies — intelligently and with clear rules to keep them from interfering with each other's signals. Radio spectrum is at the low end of the electromagnetic spectrum, with frequencies below microwaves, light and X-rays. You can think of it as a vast collection of invisible highways, running at different frequencies and carrying signals through the air. Television, air traffic control, cellphones and remote sensing of distant stars — they all travel on different parts of this same invisible road network. These communication highways span an enormous range, from very low frequencies used for submarine communication to frequencies approaching those of visible light. Higher frequencies carry signals over shorter distances but can move more data through wider highways. Because there is only so much spectrum to go around as a matter of fundamental physics, governments have historically managed it by issuing exclusive licences — dedicating certain highways to specific users and telling everyone else to stay off. This system worked well enough for decades, especially because the highway network was sufficient for the demand. Studies measuring actual spectrum use over many years have found something surprising: Large stretches of licensed spectrum sit idle much of the time. For example, a military radar system may operate only in certain locations on certain days. Burgeoning demand for radio spectrum has left some of these roads clogged with traffic jams, while others nearby sit almost completely empty.

Making dynamic spectrum sharing work requires radios that are more flexible than the fixed-frequency devices of the past. Today's smartphones and wireless devices are increasingly built on software-defined radio technology,

meaning the frequencies on which they operate can be adjusted by software rather than being locked into hardware. Think of it like a car that can switch lanes automatically rather than being stuck in one lane forever. Early researchers called the vision behind this "cognitive radio" — the idea of a radio that could sense its environment and adapt accordingly.

This flexibility opens the door to a layered approach to spectrum sharing. At the top of the hierarchy sit incumbent primary users — those who hold existing rights to a frequency, such as the military or licensed broadcasters. Below them, other secondary users can access the same spectrum when and where the incumbents are not using it, stepping aside automatically the moment an incumbent returns. A more everyday version of this kind of sharing already exists in the Wi-Fi frequencies you use at home. Multiple devices — your laptop, phone and smart TV — share the same spectrum without a central authority assigning each one a dedicated slot. They do this by briefly sensing whether the channel is busy before transmitting and by automatically adjusting their speed based on how crowded things get. The protocol resembles drivers at a four-way stop — informal rules that mostly work without anyone directing traffic. A significant recent example of dynamic spectrum sharing in the United States is the Citizens Broadband Radio Service, or CBRS, operating in the 3.5 GHz frequency band. The Federal Communications Commission created a three-tier system. Incumbent users — primarily U.S. Navy radar systems — sit at the top. Businesses and organisations that pay for priority access sit in the middle. And the general public can use whatever is left over. A central computer system — the Spectrum Access System — acts as a real-time traffic controller, constantly tracking where Navy radar is active and automatically coordinating access for everyone else. When a Navy ship is not using the spectrum in your area, hospitals, factories, warehouses and campuses can use it for their own private wireless networks. When the Navy needs it back, everyone else steps aside within seconds. The biggest technical hurdle in spectrum sharing is interference — what happens when two signals overlap and scramble each other, like two people shouting different things in your ear at the same time. As more devices crowd the airwaves, each with different power levels and bandwidth needs, keeping signals from colliding becomes increasingly complex.

My lab and other researchers are now turning to artificial intelligence for help. AI can learn from experience and adapt in real time to changing conditions — deciding who transmits when and at what power level, in ways that older rule-based systems could not. At the same time, new challenges are emerging, such as satellites and ground-based networks increasingly needing to share the same frequencies. The way radio spectrum is managed may not seem like a kitchen-table issue, but it shapes everything from how fast your phone loads a video to whether a factory can automate its floor and the reliability of a rural school's internet access. Future wireless technologies, including those that connect self-driving cars and enable remote surgery, will depend on having access to enough spectrum. Dynamic spectrum sharing is a way to make room for all of it without dismantling the systems already in place. The airwaves are finite. But with smarter management, they can do far more than was once thought possible.

Rajnath Singh, Sri Lankan Prez Dissanayake reaffirm commitment to working together for regional security



Columbo: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo on Wednesday, and both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work together for the welfare and development of both nations. During the meeting, Singh conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's warm greetings to Dissanayake. They also discussed ways to ensure the safety, security, peace and prosperity of the region. India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha and other officials were present during the meeting. In a post on X, Singh wrote, "Had a warm and extremely productive meeting with H.E. Mr Anura Kumara Dissanayake, President of Sri Lanka in Colombo, today. I conveyed to him greetings on behalf of PM Shri Narendra Modi and extended felicitations on successful completion of two years of his government."

"We reaffirmed that as civilisational twins, close neighbours and maritime partners India and Sri Lanka, would continue to work together for the development of our countries and welfare of our people as well as work jointly to ensure the safety, security, peace and prosperity of our

region," he added. On Tuesday, Rajnath Singh interacted with the Indian community in Colombo and hailed their role in strengthening ties between the two nations. "Delighted to interact with the Indian community in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Indian diaspora plays a crucial role in strengthening friendship between India and Sri Lanka. The Indian community is the 'Sethu' between India and Sri Lanka. India will always stand firmly with Sri Lanka whenever the island nation faces a crisis," Singh wrote on X.

Singh arrived in Colombo on Tuesday for a three-day official visit to Sri Lanka, aimed at deepening bilateral defence and maritime cooperation. Prior to emplaning for Colombo, Singh said that he looked forward to productive engagement with Sri Lankan leadership. Sri Lankan Deputy Minister of Defence Major General Aruna Jayasekara (Retd.) and Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha warmly welcomed Singh at Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo. According to the Ministry of Defence, Singh's visit will further strengthen the traditionally strong and friendly bilateral relations in mutually beneficial areas, including a strong maritime and defence partnership. "India and Sri Lanka share deep civilisational ties and a multifaceted partnership, anchored by regional security, defence, economic and trade cooperation and strong people-to-people ties. The bilateral relationship received further impetus when India assisted Sri Lanka during the economic crisis and provided assistance, as one of the first responders, in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka in 2025," a statement by the Ministry of Defence said. "It underscored India's continued commitment and emphasis on 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)," it added.

Minister Rajnath Singh approved the acquisition of additional Russian S-400 air defence missile systems, further underscoring the growing defence cooperation between New Delhi and Moscow. The Ministry of Defence stated that, for the Indian Air Force, proposals were cleared for the procurement of Medium Transport Aircraft, S-400 Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile System, Remotely Piloted Strike Aircraft and overhaul of Su-30 Aero engine Aggregates. The induction of Medium Transport Aircraft by replacing the transport fleet of AN32 and IL76 will meet the strategic, tactical and operational airlift requirements of the Services, it said. "The S-400 system will counter enemy long-range air vectors targeting vital areas, while the Remotely Piloted Strike Aircraft will enable undertaking Offensive Counter and Coordinated Air Operations, also providing stealth Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance activities.

Floods disrupt Nepal-China trade route, raising supply concerns



Kathmandu: The devastating flash floods in Nepal's Bhotekoshi River have severely disrupted trade with China, raising concerns about the timely supply and prices of Chinese goods ahead of the festival season, a media report said on Wednesday. The flash floods have damaged the border infrastructure and connecting roads, disrupting the movement of cargo trucks carrying goods imported from China, the Rising Nepal newspaper reported. It has forced traders to look for alternative routes at a time when demand for consumer goods is expected to surge ahead of the festivals of Dashain, Tihar and Chhath.

Importing goods from China to meet the immediate demand has become a challenge, Ram Hari Karki, president of the Nepal Trans-Himalayan Border Commerce Association, said. He said the disruption could affect the supply of festival-related goods and increase transportation costs. "More than 500 to 600 Chinese containers carrying goods for Teej, Dashain, Tihar and Chhath were moving from China towards Kerung. Many of these cargoes have been stranded after the Rasuwagadhi border was damaged," he said. Meanwhile, more than 200 Nepali containers were swept away by the floods. "The floods swept away 200 containers, while businessmen have suffered losses of at least

NPR 2 billion," he said. Rasuwagadhi is one of Nepal's major trading points with China and handles a significant volume of Chinese imports. The situation has become more challenging for traders as the Tatopani border, another important Nepal-China trade route, is also not operating normally. With both major northern routes disrupted, traders have been compelled to divert cargo through the Korala border in Mustang, said Karki. According to Karki, around 176 cargo trucks have already been diverted towards Korala. However, he said the route could not serve as a practical year-round alternative to Rasuwagadhi because of its difficult terrain, high altitude and longer transportation time. "Using the Korala border is our compulsion, not an alternative," Karki said. The diversion of cargo through Korala is expected to increase both transportation time and import costs. Karki said it could take at least 10 to 12 days to transport cargo from China to Nepal and back through the Korala route, compared with the relatively shorter routes previously used by traders. According to traders, the transportation cost of a cargo vehicle travelling from the Korala border to Kathmandu is currently around NPR 450,000 to NPR 500,000. This represents an increase of around 10 to 15 per cent in transportation costs, Karki said. Chinese goods account for a substantial share of merchandise sold in Nepal during the festival season. Traders import garments, footwear, electronics, electrical goods, household items, decorations, toys and other consumer items from China. Traders are now concerned that goods already ordered for the festival season may not reach the Nepali market on time because of the longer route and disrupted border infrastructure, said businessman Narayan Pandit. "Traders are worried about bringing goods already ordered from China on time for the upcoming festivals because of the longer route," he said. As of Wednesday, more than 1,350 people have died due to the flash floods while search and rescue operations for more than 5,000 missing people continue.

US destroys five Iranian oil tankers after alleged IRGC missile attacks

GNS News Agency, Sept 10 Washington: The United States military has destroyed five Iranian crude oil tankers after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) twice targeted an American warship with ballistic missiles, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said. The strikes were carried out Tuesday (Local time) in the Gulf of Oman and near Iran's Kharg Island, an important hub for the country's oil exports.

CENTCOM said the American warship successfully evaded both attempted attacks, which occurred over the previous two days. No US personnel were injured. The military command identified the tankers destroyed in the Gulf of Oman as M/T Kaviz, M/T Charminar, M/T Horizon 1 and M/T Riesco. A fifth tanker, M/T Derya, was attacked near Kharg Island. US forces instructed the crews to abandon the ships before striking them and rendering the vessels inoperable, according to CENTCOM. The military did not report any casualties among the tanker crews. CENTCOM described the vessels as crude oil carriers operated by the IRGC and said they formed part of a multibillion-dollar network used to finance the Iranian military organisation and its regional proxies. The US military did not disclose which American warship Iran allegedly targeted, where the attempted attacks occurred or how many ballistic missiles were fired. The latest operation marked the second US attack on Iranian oil tankers in four days.



On September 5, CENTCOM forces destroyed three Iranian crude oil carriers after the IRGC attempted to attack a US aircraft carrier and a guided-missile destroyer. Kharg Island, located in the Persian Gulf, has historically served as the principal terminal for a large share of Iran's seaborne crude oil exports. Military activity near the island could heighten concern about the security of commercial shipping and energy supplies in the region. Any sustained disruption to shipping through the region could affect tanker insurance, freight costs and global oil prices, with potential consequences for India, which depends heavily on imported crude oil.

Trump bans Canadian alcohol, dairy products and motorcycles amid trade row



Washington: US President Donald Trump has ordered bans on a broad range of Canadian alcoholic beverages, dairy products and motorcycles as his administration escalated its trade confrontation with Canada. The import bans will take effect at 12:01 a.m. Eastern time on September 29, according to a series of White House proclamations. Canadian goods imported before that date but not cleared for consumption will remain subject to the existing 50 per cent duty.

A senior administration official told reporters on Tuesday (local time) that the measures were designed to counter Canadian retaliation, protect American production and restore what the White House considers a level playing field. The official said the import bans would affect Canadian trade valued in the "single-digit billions". Changes to the existing tariff list would not significantly alter the roughly \$20 billion in trade covered by those duties.

"The actual economics of it is much more challenging for Canada than it is for us," the official said, arguing that the measures covered about 0.1 per cent of overall US consumption. The prohibited alcoholic beverages include packaged beer, sparkling wine, cider, sake, whisky, bourbon, rum, gin, vodka, tequila, brandy, liqueurs and other spirits. Trump also barred designated Canadian dairy-related goods, including whey protein concentrates, modified whey, fluid whey, dried whey and several forms of molasses. Non-alcoholic beer is also covered. A separate proclamation bars Canadian motorcycles and cycles fitted with engines exceeding 800cc. Alongside the bans, Trump modified the range of Canadian products subject to the existing 50 per cent duties. Those changes will take effect on September 15.

The revised list adds several categories of paper, iron and steel structures, aluminium products, metal fittings, golf carts, small motor vehicles, outboard motorboats, furniture, mattresses and lamps. It also adds certain cheeses not made from cow's milk. The administration removed salt, Portland cement, refined lead, certain household paper products, switchgear assemblies and some fishing rod parts

Varun Motors launches new Baleno in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Varun Motors Pvt Ltd launched the Stunning new Baleno, designed to captivate young, ambitious urban achievers who lead their lives with sophistication and elegance. Member of Parliament, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Debjyoti Dutta, CCO (South East Zone), Ganesh Dutt and Anand, Regional Manager TM Manoj Deputy General Manager, Retail Loans, SBI, Varun Dev, Managing Director, Varun Motors, RC Raju, Executive Director Varun Motors, RV Niranjan, Business Head Varun Group participated in the unveiling at Banjara Hills Showroom in the presence of Adla Srikanth, GM and Hema Prasad from Varun Motors and other staff members. The Stunning New Baleno introduces segment-first features including Level 2 ADAS, Front Ventilated seats also a modern rendition of the signature NEXWave grille, various additional safety & life style features, a press release said. Equipped with a radar and camera combination, the ADAS system offers advanced driver assistance features including Advanced Emergency Braking (AEB), Lane Keep Assist, Lane Departure Prevention, Lane Departure Warning, Adaptive Cruise Control, High Beam Assist (HBA), Vehicle Sway Warning and Forward Collision Warning.

‘President of the rich’ under strain as France lurches from crisis to crisis



The motions, tabled by the far-left La France Insoumise (LFI) and the far-right National Rally (RN), garnered 271 and 197 votes respectively, falling 18 votes short of the 289 needed to topple the administration. This outcome, while a win for Mr. Lecornu and President Emmanuel Macron, underscores the fragility of their minority government amid a deeply divided Parliament. Mr. Lecornu’s survival hinged on tactical concessions, including the suspension of Mr. Macron’s controversial pension reform and pledging not to invoke Article 49.3 — a constitutional tool allowing Bills to pass without a vote, often derided as undemocratic. The win was made possible largely by the Socialist Party’s abstention, secured through Prime Minister Lecornu’s decision to freeze the pension reform. Although an uneasy truce, it allowed the government to stand united, if only briefly, amid France’s deepening political chaos.

The roots of France’s political turmoil trace back to June 2024, when Mr. Macron — reeling from a humiliating defeat to Marine Le Pen’s RN in the European Parliament election — called snap legislative election in a bid to regain control. No single bloc secured an absolute majority in the 577-seat National Assembly. The left-wing New Popular Front (NFP) alliance emerged as the largest group with around 180 seats, followed by Mr. Macron’s centrist Ensemble coalition with 163 seats, and Ms. Le Pen’s RN with 143. The rest were divided among smaller centrist and conservative parties. This hung the Parliament and triggered a series of short-lived governments, each felled by no-confidence threats or resignations. Macron’s second term

Mr. Macron’s second term, which began in 2022, has been marred by successive crises. His 2023 pension reform, raising the retirement age from 62 to 64, provoked months of nationwide strikes and protests. The measure, pushed through using Article 49.3, became a symbol of executive arrogance and democratic bypass. Since 2022, five Prime Ministers have cycled through Matignon — each undone by coalition fractures, Budget disputes, and the threat of no-confidence votes. This instability has eroded public trust and made France’s governance appear dysfunctional by European standards. Meanwhile, economic anxiety has deepened the malaise. Data from Statista show that public debt has reached 114% of GDP, breaching EU fiscal targets. Ifop’s popularity indexes show only 19% of people say that they are satisfied with Mr. Macron’s performance as President. This is the lowest satisfaction level recorded since the start of his term in 2017. Once hailed as Europe’s pragmatic reformer, Mr. Macron has locked himself into the image of the “President of the rich”. Above all, he faces accusations of economic mismanagement and political hubris. The immediate trigger for the October crisis was the chaotic appointment of Mr. Lecornu following the resignation of Francois Bayrou in September. Mr. Bayrou, a veteran centrist and former ally of Mr. Macron, quit after failing to form a government capable of passing the 2026 Budget. Facing an October 15 deadline to present fiscal plans to the EU, Mr. Macron turned to Mr. Lecornu — his loyal Defence Minister and trusted ally. Mr. Lecornu’s initial days in office, however, were chaotic. The 39-year-old was brought in on

Why cloud seeding is not a solution to Delhi’s air crisis | Explained

Delhi’s plan for cloud seeding is being sold as a bold solution to air pollution. In reality, it is a textbook case of science misapplied and ethics ignored.

Why is Delhi’s air fouler in winter?

Across North India, air quality is poor throughout the year, but it reaches extreme levels in the post-monsoon and winter months. After the monsoon withdraws, dry continental air masses from the northwest dominate the region. The winds weaken and the air becomes stagnant, keeping pollutants from being dispersed efficiently. Cooler air holds less absolute water vapour and the stable, high-pressure systems that prevail during these months suppress the upward motion needed for clouds to form. The sky may look hazy, but that haze comes from trapped pollution, not from rain-bearing clouds. Rain cannot be conjured out of thin air. It needs water vapour. For most of the highly polluted cooler months, the atmosphere is too dry and stable to support significant rainfall. Rain does occur occasionally during these months, but these brief spells are typically caused by western disturbances, weather systems that originate in the Mediterranean region and can bring moisture from that region or interact with local systems drawing up moisture from our neighbouring seas. These events can be predicted a few days in advance, but are not a reliable or consistent source of rainfall for North India.

Does cloud seeding help?

Cloud seeding depends on natural clouds; it can’t create them. And even when clouds exist, the evidence that seeding reliably increases rainfall remains weak and contested. And when it rains and reduces pollution, the respite is temporary at best. The overwhelming evidence is that pollution levels go back up within a day or two. The air pollution problem is not just confined to Delhi. Across North India, air quality is dangerously poor year-round. Yet public debate often treats smog as a seasonal nuisance, normalising pollution and noticing it only when it becomes unbearable. Cloud seeding is just another gimmick in a series of similar unscientific ideas, like smog towers, suggesting that flashy interventions can substitute for serious, structural solutions.

What are the risks of cloud seeding?

The temptation to engineer a shortcut to fix air pollution is understandable — but it raises deeper ethical questions about how science is used, what risks are justified, and who bears responsibility when things go wrong. Even if the science behind cloud seeding were robust, which it is not, it still involves dispersing compounds such as silver iodide or sodium chloride into clouds to trigger condensation. Silver iodide works for cloud seeding because its crystal structure is very similar to that of ice, so it ‘tricks’ water droplets in the clouds into freezing onto it. These newly formed ice crystals then grow heavy and fall as rain or snow. While generally considered low risk in small doses, repeated use can accumulate in soils and water bodies. The long-term effects

September 9 to restore order. His task was to steady a presidency losing its grip. But his government barely lasted four weeks as he resigned on October 6, just 26 days into his new role, only to be reappointed four days later. This episode, widely ridiculed as political theatre, further eroded confidence. Ms. Le Pen called the political drama as “the end of the joke”, demanding a dissolution of the National Assembly. Outgoing Minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher slammed the “circus” of French politics, while Socialist MP Arthur Delaporte declared: “Macronism is plunging the country into chaos.”

When Mr. Lecornu presented his austerity-laden Budget proposal, Opposition parties seized the moment. LFI’s motion condemned cuts to social spending as an attack on workers, while RN’s motion attacked the government’s “disorder” and immigration policies. Both failed, but the debates exposed the depth of national discontent and the impossibility of stable governance without genuine coalition-building. Macron’s last loyalist Mr. Macron’s choice of Mr. Lecornu reflected his preference of loyalty. A former Republican who joined Mr. Macron’s centrist movement in 2017, Mr. Lecornu cultivated a reputation for pragmatism and loyalty. As Minister of the Armed Forces, he managed France’s support for Ukraine and maintained defence readiness amid budgetary constraints. Politically, Mr. Lecornu’s provincial roots and administrative experience were meant to counter Mr. Macron’s image as an out-of-touch Parisian. However, critics see the appointment as another sign of Mr. Macron’s insularity. Mr. Lecornu’s brief resignation, followed by his reappointment, reinforced perceptions of dysfunction and indecision. His narrow survival in October underscores how little room for error remains. Meanwhile, pressures on Mr. Macron’s presidency mounts. Politically, he faces isolation. Some Opposition leaders are urging him to call snap elections or even step down, while key allies such as former Prime Minister Edouard Philippe have publicly distanced themselves from the Elysee. Leaders from RN’s Le Pen to LFI’s Jean-Luc Mélenchon demand systemic change and a “Sixth Republic” to curb presidential power. Public sentiment is equally hostile. On social media, the phrase “Macron’s chaos” trends, encapsulating widespread frustration with the endless cycle of resignations, crises, and parliamentary deadlock. France’s once-proud self-image as a stable democracy now faces ridicule at home and abroad. Despite calls for his resignation and new elections, Mr. Macron has vowed to serve out his full term. Speaking from Egypt on October 13 during a Gaza peace summit, Mr. Macron urged “stability over chaos,” accusing rivals of undermining Mr. Lecornu’s first cabinet. Lecornu’s tightrope walk For Mr. Lecornu, the path ahead is perilous. His pledge to suspend pension reform may soothe tempers temporarily but risks angering fiscal hawks and EU partners pressing for Budget consolidation. Meanwhile, the looming 2026 Budget negotiations will test his ability to build consensus among ideologically opposed blocs.

Mr. Lecornu’s background in defence and local governance could prove an asset in crisis management, yet legislative gridlock remains his Achilles’ heel. Any misstep could trigger new no-confidence votes or even early elections. France’s near-term future hinges on whether Mr. Lecornu can navigate between fiscal discipline and social stability. The left demands wealth taxes and expanded social spending; the right insists on austerity and migration curbs. Neither side appears willing to compromise. If Mr. Lecornu fails to pass the 2026 Budget, France could face automatic spending rollovers, EU fines, or even credit downgrades. Protests could reignite as living costs rise and unemployment persists. Meanwhile, Mr. Macron’s shrinking influence within the EU threatens France’s leadership role in Europe. Without renewed legitimacy, either through a functioning coalition or fresh elections, France risks sliding deeper into governability crisis.



Across North India, air quality is poor throughout the year, but it reaches extreme levels in the post-monsoon and winter months. After the monsoon withdraws, dry continental air masses from the northwest dominate the region.

on agriculture, ecosystems, and human health remain poorly understood. Beyond these environmental risks, there is the question of accountability. If cloud seeding coincides with intense rainfall that leads to flooding, causing damage to infrastructure, crops, and livelihoods, or loss of life, who will be responsible? Even if the rainfall and flooding are unrelated to seeding, public perception could still link the two, undermining trust in both science and governance.

What can ‘fix’ the air?

Science has long identified the real cause of North India’s hazardous air: the lack of effective control over emissions from vehicles, industry, construction, power plants, waste burning, and seasonal agricultural fires, compounded by unfavourable meteorology during the cooler months. The solutions are equally clear but remain largely unimplemented: cleaner transport, sustainable energy, better waste management, and urban planning that actually reduces pollution sources. Yet, instead of reinforcing these priorities, parts of the scientific ecosystem — researchers, advisors, and institutions — are lending credibility to a costly spectacle that will do little to address the sources of the crisis. By attaching their authority to the illusion of quick fixes, they risk wasting scarce public resources, undermining trust, and diverting attention from systemic changes that could make a real difference. Snake-oil solutions will not clear the air in Delhi or the rest of North India. Instead, courage is required on the ground: to reduce the sources of pollution and pursue equitable, evidence-based action. Anything less is not just misplaced science — it is an ethical failure, a diversion from the patient, unglamorous work needed to ensure clean air throughout the year. Shahzad Gani is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi. Krishna AchutaRao is a Professor at the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi

Do you need an AI detox?



In my previous column, I outlined a three-step approach to optimizing workflows before integrating AI tools. I showed how capturing relevant information, developing a process, and consistently executing it can lead to effective AI deployment. Now, I’d like to take a step back into the significance of cultivating your own intelligence in the face of rapidly advancing AI tools. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, intellect encompasses the ability to think logically and comprehend concepts. Breaking it down, you find three distinct components: the capacity to learn, logical deduction, and the ability to make connections. This three-part system shapes and sharpens our minds. However, the advent of AI tools has gradually shifted this mind-forming system. AI tools can now generate images, summarize text, write lines of software code, and even complete entire PhD theses. Consider this: if you allow every idea you can’t complete to be finished by an app, every sketch you can’t draw to be auto-completed, and every knowledge gap to be filled by a prompt, you’ll gradually cease developing the very mental muscles that generated those ideas in the first place.

So, how can you regain control? The solution isn’t Luddism, but rather deliberate rebalancing. Begin with a short AI detox by selecting a daily window of at least ninety minutes where you disable all generative AI tools and force yourself to work with paper, a whiteboard, or a blank screen. During this time, capture raw observations, draft

Through masks and memories, artist Anupama alias Anil' solo show in Hyderabad tells a story of resilience



Artist Anupama, who goes by the name Anupama alias Anil as a tribute to her late husband and artist Anil Xavier, ushers in a new language of expression through her solo show A Room for Refuge at Kalakriti Art Gallery. The exhibition brings her mixed media works and assemblages, each shaped by personal experiences. Her mixed-media works are populated with self-portraits wearing masks, set against abstract, layered landscapes that symbolically mirror the complexities of the mind — interwoven with thoughts, memories, and lived moments. Anupama often uses her own face as a recurring motif, but her work also references the broader experience of womanhood. “I am part of it, but there are others too,” she says, positioning herself as both subject and collective voice. This introspective journey began in 2014 during what she calls an “intense time” in Hyderabad. Alone in her studio, she found herself conversing inwardly, as stories and characters from her childhood merged into a fusion of emotions and imagination. The experience, she recalls, was “intense but blissful” — a moment that blurred the lines between individual and collective experience and inspired her to explore deeper themes of interiority and existence.

While pursuing her Master’s in Fine Arts at Hyderabad Central University, Anupama began to engage with ideas of

Language route to a better future: A.P. nursing graduates learn German

A symphony of voices emerges from the other side. With their eyes rolling in uncertainty and lips breaking into shy smiles, the students, many from poor families in the State’s hinterland, shape simple German sentences with visible effort. Laughter occasionally ripples through the room, as they share relief, pride and the joy of learning something profoundly new. The young trainees are nursing graduates drawn from districts across Andhra Pradesh, learning German under the International Skilling programme rolled out by the State government, through A.P. State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and its subsidiary, the Overseas Manpower Company Andhra Pradesh (OMCAP).

“It’s not easy,” admits G. Venkata Lakshmi, a native of Timmapuram village in Bheemunipatnam mandal in Visakhapatnam district. “But every new word feels like a step closer to my goal. I never thought I’d be speaking German,” says the 32-year-old, who packed her bags and headed to the nursing college in Guntur to attend German classes after working as a nurse at a private hospital in Visakhapatnam for a year. G. Sandeep, a 35-year-old nursing graduate recently enrolled for German classes, hoping to secure employment in Germany. Back home at Jammalamadugu in Kadapa district, he has a 10-month-old son, his “bundle of joy,” whom he finds it almost impossible to part from. Yet, Sandeep says a well-paid job abroad seems like the only way out of the severe financial crisis his family is facing. “I hate the thought of going away from my family, but I have to do it for their happy and secure future,” he says softly.

As part of Skill International Initiative, the APSSDC and OMCAP have roped in partners like Indo Euro Synchronisation and Hallo Language Centre, to implement German training-linked international placement programme for nursing professionals in Andhra Pradesh. The training is open for B.Sc, M.Sc Nursing students and post-B.Sc Nursing graduates with a minimum experience of six months. Hundreds of youths are being trained under this fully funded programme, which helps them secure placements in Europe, particularly in healthcare, hospitality and technical trades. APSSDC officials say it was initially difficult to convince nursing graduates to enrol for the Skill International Initiative. The Corporation’s Executive Director D. Manohar recalls the series of brainstorming sessions with college principals and training partners to understand what the State’s nursing graduates truly wanted and what held them back from considering overseas opportunities.

The discussions moved beyond logistical challenges

rough arguments, and sketch connections without relying on suggestions. This is not punishment but a training regimen to build attention, recall, and associative thinking muscles that only grow when exercised. Next, develop a simple triage framework that distinguishes between tasks suited for your intelligence and those that can be handled by the machine. Tasks that demand learning, synthesizing novel connections, ethical judgment, or persuasive explanation are your domain; repetitive transformations, surface research that can be verified, and layout or formatting are where AI can assist. Practice explicitly switching modes by dedicating an hour to “you-first” session where you resist autocomplete and another hour to “AI-assisted” session where you refine and scale your projects. Over time, you’ll rediscover the value of mental friction as a productive force.

Establish a daily habit of focused, incremental practice. Select a narrow subject and allocate ten to twenty minutes each day to reading primary material. Then, spend another ten minutes explaining it in writing without references. Utilise teach-back to explain the concept aloud as teaching forces organization, uncovers gaps, and enhances long-term retention in ways passive consumption never can. After each creative session, allocate five minutes to note your decisions, the reasoning behind them, and where you relied on intuition versus explicit rules. Maintain a concise “decision log” that tracks your reasoning evolution. This creates evidence of improvement and highlights habits you want to retain or eliminate. Complement this with small projects that require integration, such as writing a short essay, designing a simple product, or building a tiny script where you intentionally avoid using templates or AI from the outset. Only after you’ve completed a comprehensive human draft should you invite the tool to critique, summarize, or polish your work. Employ AI tools as amplifiers by requesting them to challenge your premises, provide counterexamples, or suggest overlooked edge cases. By consistently practicing this detox, you’ll not only survive the rise of AI tools but also enhance their value as machines tend to amplify whatever intelligence they are paired with.

womanhood, femininity, and the social realities of women. She sourced rice paper from Kolkata to create depth and layering in her mixed-media works — a process that, for her, became symbolic of self-discovery. “I felt like a woman whose flesh slowly uncovered the layers,” she says, referring to her Island of Hope series. Her early influences include the striking African masks she encountered at the Louvre Museum in Paris, and Theyyam, the ritual art form of Kerala where performers wear elaborate masks and headdresses. For Anupama, the mask symbolises transformation and power. “It makes the performer a divine being who transcends to another realm,” she explains. “The audience too experiences a kind of social transformation — in that moment, the boundaries and inequalities between them and the performer dissolve.” Anupama’s work not only explores vulnerability and transformation but also the emergence of identity and hope. In her research on masks, she examined the histories of Latin American cultures and their deeply rooted belief systems. “The women I depict may have vulnerabilities and face challenges, but they also undergo transformation. The mask becomes a symbol of power — a way to lead, to choose,” she notes. Among the most personal pieces in the exhibition is a portrait of a Malayali couple from the 1980s — a self-portrait with her late husband Anil, dressed in traditional attire, with a trunk box placed in a corner of the canvas. The assemblages displayed in the show are drawn symbolically from this very box, holding fragments of memory and emotion. “My husband Anil, who passed away in 2024, was a great inspiration,” she says. “He was the co-sculptor of the statue of Rohit Vemula (the Dalit student whose death at Hyderabad Central University sparked nationwide protests against caste discrimination). I came from an applied arts background and wasn’t sure of my artistic direction, but he was the one who encouraged me to pursue it.”

and the team discovered that many young people hesitated at the thought of working abroad because of limited exposure to the idea. “We found that there was no real tradition of overseas placements, except in a few districts like Kadapa and East and West Godavari,” said the official, explaining that most youth didn’t know how to begin and some even feared how society might judge them.

To help them overcome their psychological barriers, the department printed pamphlets, organised awareness camps and officials travelled from one college to the other. Yet, the classrooms remained thinly filled until the idea of language became the bridge. Realising that the language route would open new doors, the State launched in 2024 Project Vasudha, a German language training and placement programme for nursing graduates. “The results are encouraging. Out of the 50 nurses who completed training, 10 are already placed in Germany, and 2,713 more are undergoing language training,” says MD and CEO of the State Skill Development Corporation Ganesh Kumar. To tap into the benefits of language proficiency, the government went a step further and, through G.O. No. 121 this year, directed all the 13 government nursing colleges in the State to include foreign language training in the B.Sc (Nursing) curriculum. Training in more languages like Italian, Japanese and English (OET/IELTS) would be included soon, the G.O. reads. Most candidates struggle with grammar and gender, two of the trickiest aspects of German, but Y. Divya, the language trainer at the Government Nursing College in Guntur district, says German is a “structured” language. “Once you understand its logic, it actually feels mathematical,” she adds. “The problem is that in German, every noun has a gender—masculine, feminine or neuter,” says Y. Hynry, 27, a trainee from Bhimunipatnam. “But there are very few logical rules to rely on. So, in most cases, you just have to memorise them”. Teaching a foreign language comes with its own challenges. Many of the candidates lack even a basic understanding of English grammar, which makes it difficult for them to grasp the nuances of German. As a result, the learning process is often slow and requires extra patience and guidance, explains Divya. The minimum marks to pass the exam is 60. A significant number of trainees also drop out. Some lose interest or struggle to keep up with the lessons while personal or domestic problems force others to discontinue their classes. Online training Parallely, Project Sarvasethu was launched to provide online German training to ITI students with the help of Indian diaspora professionals in Germany. Currently, 150 ITI students are learning German.

Gold, graft, and governance: Sabarimala Ayyappa temple hogs the headlines, yet again



It was just past 8 p.m. on September 7, 2025 a sleepy Sunday. The Sabarimala hillock, from its bustling base at Pampa-Triveni to the sacred heights above, was slowly sinking into the stillness of the night. The Onam festivities at the Ayyappa temple atop the hill had just concluded, and the devotees who thronged the temple in hordes had all gone back. The hill temple, which usually teems with devotees even during brief pilgrimage periods, was mostly deserted.

The portals of the famed temple remained closed, leaving behind only a handful of Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) officials and priests at the Sannidhanam, the place where the temple is located. As the hillock slipped into the quietness of the chilly night, the TDB officials, led by the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner (official in charge of the valuable ornaments used to adorn the deities of the temples) and a devaswom smith, carefully removed the gold-inlaid copper plates from the Dwarapalaka (idols that stand guard to the deity at the gate of the sanctum sanctorum) idols.

The process, which lasted under an hour, was video-recorded and a mahazar (the document in which the proceedings of an official inspection are recorded) was prepared by incorporating the physical condition and weight of all 12 sheets before they were removed to the vaults of the temple. By dawn, the plates were escorted to Smart Creations, a private firm in Chennai, which claimed to have been specialising in gold plating, for re-plating, as the metal plates had reportedly lost sheen and developed cracks on the surface. The developments came as a shock for R. Jayakrishnan, Special Commissioner for Sabarimala temple appointed by the Kerala High Court to oversee temple management and related matters. Pilgrims carrying paddy spikes for the blessings of Lord Ayyappa at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple when it was opened for the Niraputhari ritual. To his disbelief, Jayakrishnan, also a serving district judge, discovered that the gold-inlaid copper plates were removed from the Dwarapalaka idols and shifted out of the temple premises without the prior approval of the Devaswom Bench of the court. Wasting no time, Jayakrishnan brought the issue to the notice of the Bench through his report. "The repair of gold ornaments is normally carried out on the temple premises and only with prior court sanction. The court was not informed of this work. Strict directives must be issued to ensure that no major maintenance at the Sannidhanam or Malikappuram is undertaken without the High Court's permission," noted the report.

While filing his report, little did Jayakrishnan realise that he was throwing light on a series of alleged irregularities and misdeeds that would go on to rock the State in an unprecedented manner. What had initially appeared to be routine maintenance of the damaged gold-inlaid copper plates reportedly turned out to be a well-planned loot, carried out by a cohort of officials, middlemen, and temple administrators, going by the observations of the court. Taking a cue from Jayakrishnan's report, a Division Bench, which had Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan and K.V. Jayakumar, raised the pertinent question of how the gold plating lost its sheen in six years of restoration. The court, which was convinced of the apparent breach of its earlier orders, called for the immediate seizure of all related documents. The Makarajyothi darshan at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple during the last pilgrim season.

An examination of the records revealed that the gold-inlaid copper plates weighed four kg less when they were returned to the temple after gold plating. More shocking irregularities were lying unnoticed in the records to be revealed later. The gold-clad copper plates were marked as copper plates in the mahazar, while handing them over to Unnikrishnan Potti, a Bengaluru-based Keralite, who offered to sponsor the gold-plating works. It has also emerged that six years after the reported loss of weight of the metal sheets, TDB officials chose to conveniently overlook the aspect and once again dispatched the metal parts for re-plating to Smart Creations. The TDB authorities had ignored an earlier warning of the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner that the agency lacked expertise for gold plating in the process. The Vigilance probe held TDB officials Murari Babu, D. Sudheesh Kumar, and S. Jayashree responsible for the wrong recording of gold-clad sheets as "plain copper" in 2019. A special investigation team is probing all angles of the scam following a High Court order. Meanwhile, Potti, the prime accused, was arrested and interrogated in police custody. TDB presi-

dent P.S. Prasanth, however, is unfazed by the reported findings of the Vigilance officials regarding the alleged connivance of TDB officials and the involvement of Potti in the scam. "A verification of the communication between the board and various parties would show that Potti's name was not mentioned anywhere, and that the plates were taken to Chennai under tight security. Unfortunately, the court chose to cast aspersions on us for no fault of ours," he says. The High Court, alarmed at the repeated lapses, directed the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer of the board to probe further, while also raising concerns about the existence of a second set of pedestals of the Dwarapalaka idols, reportedly donated to the temple by Potti. The case, from this point, took a sensational turn when Potti claimed the pedestals had been missing for six years. The complaint came close on the heels of the Global Ayyappa Sangamam, a conference the TDB, organisers of the event, and the Kerala government claimed as the meeting of Ayyappa devotees worldwide to identify and prioritise the development needs of the temple and its pilgrims.

The TDB promptly denied the custody of the pedestals, while Vigilance officers found that the second set of pedestals had been returned in 2021 and kept at the house of one of Potti's close aides. Subsequent investigations exposed a series of procedural violations, unauthorised interventions, and financial dealings linked to the 2019 gold-plating, including outsourced work on side frames, door portals, and lintels of the temple. "The incidents have exposed the unholy nexus between TDB officials and certain outsiders, who claim to enjoy close ties with the temple," points out a TDB source.

"Last year, the High Court had to intervene to stop the nearly 10-year-long stay of a high-profile businessman in one of the TDB guest houses. The latest developments confirm the existence and operations of individuals favoured by the TDB," he says. G. Raman Nair, a former TDB president, feels that there are many systemic gaps that corrupt officers on duty at the Sannidhanam could exploit to pilfer valuables or money from the hill shrine. "The valuables and income at Sabarimala are documented by these officials. Any slip-ups in the documentation, whether inadvertent or deliberate, can easily open the door to loot. Officials with impeccable records should be posted at the Sabarimala temple," he says. A senior TDB official observes that the case has confirmed the existence of a wider ecosystem operating around Sabarimala, which thrives on the cult of Lord Ayyappa. The network often operates beyond the Kerala borders, especially in southern States. "The way Potti allegedly took the temple's doors and ornaments for rituals and exhibitions to the homes of wealthy people in Bengaluru and Chennai indicates his manipulative skills," he says. Prasanth too acknowledges the existence of such networks, which capitalise on the huge devotee base of Sabarimala and Lord Ayyappa, especially in southern States. "There is little the board can do, as these unsolicited activities mostly occur outside Kerala. Individuals such as Potti market themselves among the affluent, claiming to possess connections to the hill temple, and collect money by conducting rituals and offering sponsorship," he says. For the ruling Left Democratic Front government, the Sabarimala controversy could not have come at a worse time. Just as it appeared to have secured the backing of the Nair Service Society and the SNDP Yogam, the two prominent Hindu caste organisations for the Sangamam, the scandal erupted. The State government, too, is feeling the heat of the issue, as at least three TDB presidents appointed during its tenure are under intense scrutiny. Devaswom Minister V.N. Vasavan suspects that a political game is being played out at Sabarimala to defame the government. "Just after the Global Ayyappa Sangamam concluded, a revelation by Potti on missing pedestals was telecast on a TV channel. The next day, the Leader of the Opposition raised it in the Assembly, highlighting the contents of the revelation. In the following days, the stolen item was eventually recovered from Potti's possession." The developments, suspects Vasavan, might be part of a well-scripted conspiracy to defame the government. The NSS is taking a guarded approach to the controversies, whereas the SNDP Yogam has demanded a CBI probe. The developments, for the Congress-led Opposition, have presented an opportunity to corner the government, especially at a time when the elections to local bodies are due. The present devaswom board removed the Dwarapalaka sculptures and other items in violation of the Devaswom Manual and the High Court's ruling. The Devaswom Minister and the TDB are equally culpable in the case. The Devaswom Minister should resign owning up the responsibility for the scam and the board should be dismissed," says V.D. Satheesan, Leader of the Opposition. Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party, which had been watching the developments from the sidelines, has hit the ground running with a public protest in Pathanamthitta. Seven years after the turbulent protests following the Supreme Court's order permitting women's entry to the Sabarimala, the temple has once again found itself in the midst of political battles and raging controversies.

Samples of India's only active mud volcano in Andaman date back to 23 million years: GSI



The samples collected from India's only active mud volcano at Baratang in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands belong to the Oligocene age, which was around 23 million years ago, a Geological Survey of India (GSI) official said. The lithoclasts ejected from the crater were found to be composed of sandstone and shale of the Mithakari Group, belonging to this geological period, he said.

The Oligocene is a geological epoch that lasted from around 33.9 to 23 million years ago, marked by the expansion of grasslands, global cooling, and the evolution of several modern mammal species, including the first elephants, cats, and dogs. "We visited the site on October 8-9 to assess the mud eruption reported on October 2. We had collected the mud sample and found that it belonged to the Oligocene age," GSI's Deputy Director General Santanu

Bhattacharjee told PTI. "A total of four clusters of mud volcanoes consisting of several small vents have been observed, spread over an area of about 500 sqm with a height of about 2 metre at the centre. This marks a significant increase in the area of the eruption site from the earlier record of 100 sqm and height of one metre. All clusters of vents were continuously emanating liquid mud and gases," he said. Mr. Bhattacharjee said the surface temperature of the mud volcanoes ranged from 29.3°C to 30.07°C, with a pH between 8.0 and 8.3, indicating the weakly alkaline nature of the mud fluid. "An oily blackish sheen was also observed at a few vents as thin layers on the surface of the muddy material," he said.

When asked about the origin of the eruption, Mr. Bhattacharjee said that it could be attributed to several processes. This includes diapiric movement of over-pressured surface shale layers due to loading of terrigenous sediments, rapid subsidence or lateral tectonic compression, hydrocarbon generation in deep subsurface and expulsion of fluid from depth along deep-seated fracture/fault," he said. The GSI has asked the Andaman and Nicobar administration to restrict public access and construct a viewpoint at the end of the approach way to maintain a safe distance between the vent clusters and visitors. "We have asked them to reinforce fencing and hazard signage for sensitising the public regarding the unpredictability of violent mud eruptions, and maintain closure of all other approaches other than the viewpoint," Mr. Bhattacharjee said.

The tailwinds from lower global oil prices



If asked about the most consequential current foreign trend for India, the replies may range from Gaza to Ukraine and even United States President Donald Trump's tariff war. But we are also approaching an even more impactful battle: for the global oil market. It is being waged between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)-Plus and the remaining oil exporters, with consumers playing an increasingly decisive part. Depending on who prevails, the gains for India, the world's third-largest importer, could vary from tangible to substantive. Crude is the world's most valued commodity, with over 100 million barrels per day (mbpd) produced, nearly half of which is traded globally. Depending upon the prevailing unit price, the daily global crude trade currently tops \$3 billion. Thus, crude is not only a vital input for transport and petrochemicals; it is also a financial lubricant.

Consumption trendsOver the past two decades, technology and economics have had a profound and largely bearish impact on the oil market. From the supply side, new technological disruptions such as shale, horizontal drilling, and ultra-deep continental shelf drilling have greatly enhanced production.

On the other hand, global demand seems to be approaching a peak. While relatively robust growth in crude consumption continues in the Global South from a low base, the consumption of fossil fuels has been stagnant in the industrialised countries due to factors such as an anaemic post-COVID-19 economic recovery, climatic concerns and the growing popularity of electric vehicles (EVs). Thus, for example, in 2025, the global crude demand is expected to grow by 1.3 mbpd or 1.2%, with only a tenth of that coming from the 38 countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) with 46% of the world's GDP. Crucially, the consumption in China, the world's largest importer, has been curbed largely by an economic slowdown and by the growth of EVs, which now account for half of the vehicles sold. On the other hand, production of crude has surged by 5.6 mbpd last month over last year, with 3.1 mbpd coming from the OPEC+ (as it unwound COVID-19-era production cuts) and the rest mainly from higher production from (in order of their growth) the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Guyana and Argentina. The resulting supply overhang is beginning to be felt. The Brent oil prices, currently

at \$61 a barrel, have declined by 16% since the beginning of the year, with nearly half of that fall coming over the last month. The drop would have been even steeper but for the consumers leveraging the low prices to replenish their strategic petroleum reserves, and the producers hoarding over 100 million barrels of unsold crude on tankers on high seas. Global events as disruptorThe decline is despite geopolitical disruptions such as the China-U.S. tariff war and concerted Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian hydrocarbon infrastructure. The looming supply glut has affected the inner dynamics of the OPEC+ group of producers: while Saudi Arabia, the leading exporter, wants to quickly unwind the remaining production cuts to regain its market share and reverse the revenue shortfall, Russia, under severe crude exports sanctions, favours a more gradual course.

There are several imponderables, however. First, although it is normal for producers and consumers to see the crude market differently, there is an unusually poignant dispute in the analyses this time. OPEC and the International Energy Agency (IEA), in their respective monthly reports in mid-October, reached diametrically opposite conclusions. While OPEC sees the global supplies in 2026 being some 50,000 bpd short of the demand, the IEA projects an unprecedented overhang of 4 mbpd. The majority of other think-tanks largely agree with the IEA projection and predict an oversupplied market next year, with Brent prices declining to the low fifties per barrel, a further 10% to 20% fall from their current level. Technicals apart, the proverbially slippery oil market can also be affected by several geopolitical developments, including the end of sanctions on Russia, Iran and Venezuela, resumed West Asian tensions and the de-escalation of the Trumpian tariff wars. Further, the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook (WEO) released on October 16, describes the global economy as "in Flux, Prospects Remain Dim", predicting a marginal slowdown of the global economic growth rates to 3.2% in 2025 and 3.1% in 2026, with risks to the downside. Further, it sees world trade growth come down to 2.9% in 2025-26, significantly slower than the 3.5% in 2024. Most of these factors tilt towards downside risk to the oil prices.

The outlook for IndiaThe simultaneous decline in both oil price and the U.S. dollar it is priced in is likely to have a net positive impact on India. India's oil imports in 2024-25 were \$137 billion, and a dollar's decline in oil prices improves its current account deficit by \$1.6 billion. It also reduces the subsidy burden and inflation. With the government keeping most of the gains from lower prices, the fiscal balance improves, boosting capital expenditure and giving a tailwind to growth. The oil glut may also reduce the reliance on discounted Russian crude, thus removing the underlying cause for the tariff frictions with the U.S. On the flip side, the remittances, exports and investments may stagnate as the West Asian economies attenuate. However, given the highly cyclical nature of the global oil market, any relief may be short-lived. India would be well advised to keep its consumption mitigation strategies on course.

What does the recent study on Indian diets reveal? Explained



Indian diets are characterized by high intakes of low-quality carbohydrates (white rice, milled whole grains and added sugar), high levels of saturated fat and low intakes of protein, and this rapid dietary transition in India has been associated with an alarming rise in cardiometabolic diseases, found a study, 'Dietary profiles and associated metabolic risk factors in India from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-INDIAB survey-21'.

Where are diets going wrong?

The study found that reducing carbohydrate intake by 5% and replacing it with protein could help control non-communicable diseases such as obesity, hypertension and diabetes. Additionally, the study found that both rice and wheat showed the same impact on diabetes and obesity and noted that overall protein intake in India remains suboptimal, averaging 12% of daily calories, with the highest at 14% in the Northeast, according R.M. Anjana, lead author of the study, Department of Diabetology, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, Chennai. "We also investigated the associations between dietary factors and metabolic risk, and evaluated the effects of isocaloric substitution of macronutrients on glycaemia and adiposity," noted researchers.

What data was used?

The study was conducted using data from the national Indian Council of Medical Research -India Diabetes Survey (18,090 adults) where researchers had examined India's dietary profile and the effect of isocaloric substitu-

tion of carbohydrates with other macronutrients on metabolic risk. The ICMR-INDIAB study was a national cross-sectional population-based survey conducted from November 2008 to December 2020. The largest survey of its kind in India, it was conducted by the ICMR to assess the prevalence of metabolic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including diabetes, hypertension, and obesity in a nationally representative sample. Dietary data from every fifth participant were used to characterize India's dietary profile across regions and examine inter-regional and intraregional differences in macronutrient intakes. The survey reported (weighted for region, age and sex) prevalence of type 2 diabetes (T2D) and prediabetes as 11.4% and 15.3%, respectively. The prevalence of generalized obesity and abdominal obesity was also high at 28.6% and 39.5%, respectively. NCDs account for 6.3 million (68%) of all deaths in India. The diet-health connectionThe present study found that unhealthy diets contribute substantially to the NCD burden. Improving diet and physical activity can prevent nearly 50% of the incident of type 2 diabetes (T2D). "Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are major contributors to morbidity and mortality worldwide, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries. India, home to nearly 20% of the global population, has undergone rapid nutrition and epidemiological transitions over the past two decades, resulting in an alarming increase in NCD prevalence," warned the study. In India, data from epidemiological studies and national nutrition surveys, such as those by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) and National Sample Survey Organisation, indicate that Indian adults currently consume ~65% to 75% of calories from carbohydrates (one of the highest in the world), 9–11% from proteins and 14–23% from fats. Recommendations for a balanced diet state that only 50-55% of total calories should from carbohydrates, with no more than 45% coming from cereals and millets. Economic costs of bad dietBy 2060, the economic costs of overweight and obesity are projected to reach \$839 billion (2.47% of the nation's GDP). Given the enormous public health burden of NCDs and their associated economic costs, it is crucial to identify cost-effective, practical strategies for reducing NCD risk.

Is Punjab's stubble burning problem really declining? | Explained

Paddy harvesting has picked up momentum in Punjab, the country's key grain-producing State, and so have stubble burning incidents. This year, stubble burning has been relatively fewer because the State faced one of its worst floods in decades, leaving vast stretches of farmland inundated. Close to the autumn season every year, paddy stubble burning is considered to be one of the contributing factors of air pollution across the country's northern region, including New Delhi. The paddy crop, harvested using combine harvester machines, leaves behind a stubble of stalks. To destroy this stubble, the farmers consider setting the crop residue on fire the most 'effective' method, as they need to prepare the fields for sowing the next winter crop. The short time window between paddy harvesting and wheat sowing — roughly three weeks — is a key reason why farmers resort to stubble burning.

Are stubble burning incidents declining?

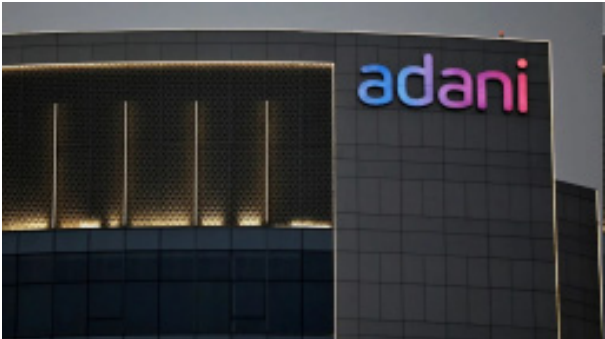
The governments, including the State and the Centre, have claimed that incidents of paddy stubble burning have significantly declined over the years, thanks to a range of measures, including stricter enforcement, access to subsidised machinery for crop residue management.

Punjab government data, based on satellite aggregation, shows that in 2024, there were 10,909 cases of farm fires in the State, compared to 36,663 in 2023, marking a 70% decline. While Punjab has reported a significant drop in farm fire incidents since 2021, the total area scorched by these fires has largely expanded. Satellite data from the Punjab Remote Sensing Centre and the Punjab Pollution Control Board show that in 2024, the area under 'residue burning for paddy', which gives a relatively stronger sense of farm fire menace, stood at around 19.17 lakh hectares, compared to around 19.14 lakh hectares in 2023.

Why do the data differ?

Although the number of stubble fire counts has significantly declined, experts believe that the total burnt area could have increased for several reasons. Fire count measurements often miss smaller, low-intensity, or partial burns. Farm fire incidents in Punjab, and in other States as well, are recorded by satellites using thermal imaging based on temperature differences. A recent study conducted by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, published in Science of the Total Environment, highlights several limitations of satellites in collecting fire emissions.

BlackRock, Temasek back Adani Airports in \$1 billion equity deal



Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL), the airport arm of Adani Enterprises Ltd, has entered into binding agreements to raise around \$1 billion (Rs 9,825 crore) in primary equity from a consortium of leading domestic and global investors, the company said on Wednesday. The investment will value AAHL at a pre-money equity valuation of around \$18 billion, providing an external institutional valuation benchmark for the airport platform. The consortium comprises Adani Wave Global, Premji Invest, Temasek, and funds managed by BlackRock. After completion of the transaction, which will be carried out in three tranches, the investors will collectively hold approximately 5.54% in AAHL. The final tranche is expected to be completed by July 2027, the company said.

The fresh capital will be used to expand and modernise airport infrastructure across AAHL's portfolio, develop integrated airport-city ecosystems and scale passenger-facing and other non-aeronautical businesses, including ground handling. Airport capacity to be increased. AAHL said the investment would support its plans to increase airport capacity to serve around 200 million passengers annually. The company also plans around 22 million square ft of mixed-use development in the first phase of its Adani Airport City projects around its airports. The airport operator said the investments are expected to deepen commercial monetisation, improve passenger experience and strengthen its integrated airport ecosystem. The funding comes as India's aviation sector enters a phase of sustained passenger growth, capacity expansion, and infrastructure investment. The transaction follows Adani Enterprises' Rs 15,000-crore qualified institutional placement (QIP) in July 2026, described by the company as India's largest QIP by a non-financial corporation. AAHL said the two transactions reflect continued access by the Adani portfolio to long-term domestic and global institutional capital. "This partnership marks an important milestone in building out the Adani Airports platform, and we are privileged to have such marquee, long-term investors along-

side us on this journey," Jeet Adani, non-executive director of AAHL, said. He said expansion in air connectivity could catalyse trade, tourism, employment and regional development beyond airports, adding that the company would continue to invest in infrastructure, city-side developments and non-aeronautical businesses. AAHL Chief Executive Arun Bansal said the company aimed to scale AAHL into the world's largest airports platform, citing growth opportunities in India, rising consumer spending, and the momentum of city-side developments in urban centres. AAHL manages eight airports across India, according to the company. It serves more than 23% of the total passenger traffic and operates an integrated platform covering aeronautical operations, passenger-facing non-aeronautical offerings, and city-side development.

The proposed fund-raising will value Adani Airports as one of the world's most valuable airport platforms, with a post-money equity valuation of about \$19 billion and an enterprise value of nearly \$21 billion. The valuation translates into around 37 times trailing and 28 times forward EV/EBITDA, according to the company. The transaction is also expected to bring in long-term capital from some of the world's leading infrastructure and investment institutions, including Alphawave, Premji Invest, Temasek and BlackRock. Adani Airports sees the participation as a validation of the long-term growth potential of India's aviation sector, which it expects to compound at more than 10% annually over the next 15-20 years. Multiple growth avenues in aviation market. India's aviation market has significant headroom for growth, with passenger traffic at only around one-third of China's. This leaves ample scope for expansion in air travel, airport infrastructure and related businesses. The fresh capital will support airport infrastructure and related projects aimed at boosting trade and tourism. The company also sees significant growth potential in assets and initiatives already under development. Navi Mumbai airport, commissioned in December 2025 with 20 million-passenger capacity, is ramping up and entering its next development phase. Adani Airports also expects its non-aeronautical businesses to drive growth. The company has spent the past four years building out these businesses, with the strategy now beginning to yield results. Another major growth opportunity is the development of airport cities around its airports. Adani Airports had announced a 22-million-square-foot development in the first phase of its airport-city plans a few months ago. The company expects the latest capital infusion to accelerate the creation of large-scale commercial and infrastructure developments around its airport network, creating additional revenue streams beyond aviation and strengthening the long-term value of its airport assets.

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

The stifled supply of liquefied 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 come 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.

In data: US dominates as West Asia falters. An analysis of 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 shrank 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 The Indian Express.

Hormuz factor remains critical. 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 The



Indian Express. 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.

Coforge chairman resigns amid board evaluation concerns

New Delhi: Shares of IT services provider Coforge tumbled more than 8 per cent on Wednesday in early trade after chairman and non-executive independent director OP Bhatt resigned with immediate effect following concerns identified in an internal audit review of the board evaluation process. The IT stock declined as much as 8.67 per cent or Rs 169 per share to hit an intraday low of Rs 1,780.10 by 9:50 am on the BSE. In an exchange filing, the company said the board had noted Bhatt's resignation and that he had also ceased to be a member of its committees. Bhatt said in his resignation email that he had acted in good faith and that continuing on the board while there remained a disagreement over his actions in the board evaluation process would not be conducive to its effective functioning. "The matters referred to above are the material reasons for my resignation, and I confirm that there are no other material reasons for my resignation," Bhatt said in the email which disclosed by the IT firm.

PhonePe unveils decade-long fintech roadmap at GFF 2026



Mumbai: PhonePe on Wednesday highlighted its vision for the next decade at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026. In a keynote address, Sameer Nigam, founder and CEO of PhonePe, detailed the company's strategic roadmap to drive digital progress for individuals, households and businesses across the country, marking a decade of pioneering technology and massive scale. To kick-start the session, Sameer spoke about PhonePe's core philosophy and its focus on inclusive growth.

He said, "True progress isn't measured by how fast the top 10 per cent move; it is measured by whether we leave anyone behind. Over the past decade, PhonePe has operated as a technology pioneer charting India's progress. Every product across our ecosystem has been thoughtfully crafted to honour our core purpose, removing friction from progress and ensuring that financial security and growth belong to everyone." He added, "Real financial inclusion was never about building a product based on socio-economic strata. It's about building one system, flexible enough to meet every Indian exactly where they are." He further highlighted that PhonePe has worked alongside NPCI to systematically break down the "walls" — smartphone, bank account and border barriers — that have historically kept people out of the digital economy. Talking about addressing the hardware barriers that have historically locked more than 20 crore feature phone users out of the digital economy, Sameer highlighted the rollout of UPI 123Pay. He noted that this non-internet, SMS, IVR, missed-call and voice-based technology stack brings the complete power of UPI directly to feature phones, with more than 8 lakh enabled devices already shipped in partnership with leading OEMs. The official also spoke about how products such as UPI Circle are allowing primary account holders to safely delegate spending to dependents, making digital payments a household habit.

Finally, addressing the border barrier, Nigam shared how PhonePe has expanded UPI for travellers in countries such as Singapore, the UAE, France and Nepal, while enabling seamless payments for more than 35 million NRIs through NRE/NRO accounts. Touching upon the democratisation of wealth and savings, he introduced

Tata Trusts get until Oct 15 to respond to Mehli Mistry's objections

The Charity Commissioner of Maharashtra has given Tata Trusts time until October 15 to present their arguments on objections raised by former trustee Mehli Mistry concerning change reports recording his exit from three Tata trusts, alleged governance lapses and the eligibility of certain trustees of the Bai Hirabai Trust. The matter was listed for hearing on Tuesday and has now been deferred to next month as the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) sought more time citing the exit of trustee Vijay Singh.

Mistry resigned as a trustee of three trusts last October after their boards voted not to renew his appointments. In a separate matter, Mistry has challenged the eligibility of certain trustees of the Bai Hirabai Trust. The trusts' lawyers, however, maintained that Vijay Singh is no longer a trustee, as he chose not to seek another term when his tenure expired on August 14. The dispute traces back to Mistry's departure from the trusteeship after his term was not renewed. A long-time Tata Group insider and close associate of the late Ratan Tata, Mistry's exit has since evolved into a major controversy, with allegations touching on the governance of certain Tata trusts, potential conflicts of interest and the manner in which trustees are appointed. Mistry has raised a series of questions before the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner, ranging from compensation and commissions received by certain trustees from Tata Group companies to potential conflicts of interest arising from trustees simultaneously holding positions on the boards of group entities.

Apart from questioning his own removal from the SRTT, Mistry raised issues of governance and decision-making within the philanthropic institution. In filings submitted to the regulator in June, Mistry has questioned trustee appointments, board-level decisions, remuneration arrangements, and governance practices across the Tata Trusts ecosystem. A key theme of Mistry's argument relates to the fiduciary responsibilities of trustees overseeing charitable institutions. He has sought an examination of whether

PhonePe's "Sachetization Philosophy". Comparing it to the accessibility of a Rs 2 shampoo sachet, he elaborated on how the platform is turning heavy financial commitments into simple, everyday habits for daily-wage earners and small businesses. This includes flagship innovations such as PhonePe Daily FD, allowing users to start a bank-grade fixed deposit with as little as Rs 100 a day, alongside daily gold, silver and mutual fund SIPs starting at just Rs 10. Addressing the need for guidance in the investment space, he introduced CRISP, a tool providing users with real-time market clarity, while noting that the platform also scales seamlessly to support high-net-worth (HNW) users with lump-sum investments and F&O trading. Addressing the critical need to reshape credit access at scale, Nigam shared how PhonePe's AI-driven underwriting now enables loan disbursements in just 2.5 minutes.

Highlighting the gaps in the previous system, he said, "A vegetable vendor who has made Rs 800 in disciplined daily sales for five straight years, with a payments trail to prove it, remains nearly invisible to traditional credit scoring." PhonePe is addressing this by using daily settlement history as a credit score for automated daily-repayment merchant loans. He emphasised that the company is extending credit to millions of users without a prior score, highlighting the newly introduced Wish Credit Card, which helps first-time borrowers build credit starting with a simple fixed deposit, alongside premium offerings such as RuPay Credit Cards on UPI in partnership with SBI and HDFC. Expressing excitement about unlocking progress for the merchant ecosystem and the broader economy, he introduced an integrated suite of intelligent tools aimed at driving scalable growth. An anchor to this is the rebuilt PhonePe Business App, serving as a gateway to hyperlocal online advertising, personalised market insights and no-code payment setups. The ecosystem includes SmartConnect and SmartStore, data-driven CRM, loyalty engines and predictive inventory planning to maximise customer lifetime value and streamline operations. Physical store innovations include smart speakers and AI audio alerts, leveraging AI-driven voice synthesis to deliver personalised audio payment alerts in iconic celebrity voices. PhonePe Payment Gateway innovations include Smartpages, a no-code solution that creates AI-prompted payment pages in under 10 minutes, and an AI Integration Agent that reduces merchant setup times from weeks to minutes with zero errors. Concluding the session, he presented PhonePe Pulse Pro, a hyperlocal intelligence platform fuelled by more than 11 billion monthly transactions. It delivers insights mapped down to a 40-square-metre cell to empower businesses and policymakers to make strategic growth decisions.



remuneration and other benefits received by trustees from Tata group companies are consistent with those obligations.

The filings further contend that compensation earned by trustees in their capacity as nominees of charitable trusts should accrue to the trusts themselves rather than be retained by individual trustees. Mistry argued that the trustees of the SRTT and the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust had unanimously passed a resolution on October 17, 2024, to renew the tenure of existing trustees in order to ensure continuity following the death of Ratan Tata. However, he alleged that despite this consensus, certain trustees later voted against the renewal of his term. Mistry had also challenged the appointment of two trustees of Bai Hirabai Trust — Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh — before the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner as they are non-Zoroastrians. However, Srinivasan and Singh are no longer trustees of this trust. Tata Trusts had earlier deferred indefinitely its much-awaited board meeting scheduled for Saturday following an order from the Charity Commissioner of Maharashtra. An inquiry into complaints — pertaining to the number of perpetual trustees — has already been ordered and a report of the inquiry is awaited, the Charity Commissioner said in the order. Interestingly, the order has made reference to representation/complaint from Tata Sons Director and Tata Trusts Trustee Venu Srinivasan and Adv Katyayani Agrawal.

Economy maintains strong start to FY27 as industrial production rises 6.7% in July



India's industrial sector maintained its strong start to 2026-27 despite the headwinds caused by the West Asia conflict, with its output rising 6.7% year-on-year in July, aided by robust double-digit growth in the production of capital goods. This suggests investments were strong, a positive sign for the economy that has been waiting for the private sector capital expenditure cycle to take hold. While July's growth rate was lower than June's upwardly-revised figure of 8.8%, Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist at CareEdge Ratings, pointed out that "industrial activity has been largely resilient" this fiscal in the face of global uncertainties and elevated energy prices.

According to data released Friday by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), industrial growth, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), in the first four months of 2026-27 was 6.3%, well above the 4% recorded in the corresponding period of 2025-

26. The IIP growth figure for June has been revised sharply upwards to 8.8% from the provisional estimate of 7.3%. In July 2025, growth was 5.4%. "July IIP data confirms that growth momentum in the economy remains strong," said Rajni Thakur, Chief Economist at L&T Finance. "Even though the headline growth number at 6.7% is softer than in June, it is largely on the back of weather-related slowdown in the mining sector," Thakur added. Mining output in July was 0.9% lower compared to last year. Rains impede mining and quarrying activity, which adversely impacts the sector's output. Manufacturing output grew 7.3% last month. While lower than the 9.5% growth recorded in June, it was higher than 5.1% in July 2025. The sector accounts for three-fourth of the IIP. Within manufacturing, 19 of the 23 industry groups — such as textiles, chemical products, furniture, among others — recorded higher production in July compared to last year, pointed out Devendra Pant, Chief Economist of India Ratings & Research. The four that saw a contraction in output in July on a year-on-year basis were tobacco products, wearing apparel, chemicals and chemical products, and basic pharmaceuticals products and pharmaceutical preparations. These saw lower production primarily due to weak demand from abroad. Apart from manufacturing, the 'electricity and gas supply' sector saw its production rise 8.7%, while that of 'water supply, sewerage, and waste management' was 7.4% higher. The IIP data for July comes before the release of GDP numbers for April-June on Monday. While the Reserve Bank of India has forecast GDP may have grown 7% in the first quarter of 2026-27, some economists think growth may have been as high as 8%.

In return to Champions League, Manchester United stymied by same old problems



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes, left, celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Ipswich Town in Manchester, England, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026. (AP Photo/Dave Thompson)Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes, left, celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Ipswich Town in Manchester, England, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026. (AP Photo/Dave Thompson)The last time Manchester United played in the Champions League in 2023/24, they finished dead last in their group and were eliminated. The next year, they played in the Europa League, managed to reach the final but finished 15th in the Premier League. This season, they are once again back in Europe's biggest competition after finishing third in the league in 2025/26.

But with the Premier League, FA Cup, Carabao Cup and eight guaranteed Champions League matches, manager Michael Carrick will have his baptism by fire. Last season, United did not qualify for Europe, were knocked out early from the domestic cup competitions and had their sole focus on finishing high in the league table. Their players were well-rested throughout the season with the club having to play just 40 matches. This year, they might have to play over 60 in all competitions.If recent history is to be believed, United don't do well when they are juggling multiple competitions. After finishing 15th in 2024/25, United spent a major portion of their transfer budget on forwards with Benjamin Sesko, Bryan Mbeumo and Matheus Cunha all coming through the door last season. They also strengthened the goalkeeping position, buying Senne Lammens and sidelining the error-prone Andre Onana.

Manchester United's Benjamin Sesko, right, celebrates scoring their side's second goal of the game during the English Premier League soccer match between Everton and Manchester United in Liverpool, England, Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026. Manchester United's Benjamin Sesko, right, celebrates scoring their side's second goal of the game during the English Premier League soccer match between Everton and Manchester United in Liverpool, England, Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026. (Peter Byrne/PA via AP)The new signings had a

decent season, propelling United to third. While they lack an alternative to Sesko, the addition of Marcus Rashford, back from a title-winning campaign at Barcelona, gives them an adequate forward line for this season. So, this season's transfer targets were mostly midfielders for United with Carlos Baleba, Andrey Santos and Youri Tielemans all joining the squad. With Bruno Fernandes and Kobbie Mainoo, the midfield might look steady on paper but it's definitely not worldclass and pose little to no threat to elite teams in the Champions League. They also have a big Casemiro-sized hole to fill as well.

Out of ideasThe signs of the midfield not clicking is apparent from the first game of the season where United looked lethargic and out of ideas as they went down to newly promoted Hull 2-0. They then slammed Ipswich 5-2 with Bruno doing all the heavy lifting with a hattrick while they reverted to type, getting held 2-2 by Everton in their last EPL encounter. The midfield has become totally dependent on Bruno and has been since 2020 and any time he does not click, United look hapless. It's been six years and United have found no alternative for Bruno, and that does not really bode well for the Champions League season.If the midfield is passable, the state of the defence is outright miserable with Luke Shaw, Lisandro Martinez, Harry Maguire and Diogo Dalot starting their last match against Everton on Sunday. This is the same back four deployed by ex-United manager Erik ten Hag for his first match in 2022. It's not as if they haven't signed defenders in the interim but for some reason or the other, things don't seem to come together at the right time for the club. Matthijs de Ligt, who started last season brightly was ruled out of the entire year due to back injury and he still hasn't returned. Leny Yoro was one earmarked for the future when he was brought in but he hasn't yet lived up to his reputation while Patrick Dorgu and Ayden Heaven are inconsistent at best.

Yet, United neglected their defence in the transfer window and are going into a packed season with an under-par backbone, an ordinary midfield and a workable attack. While they might still manage domestically, the Champions League will be an outright nightmare for them with clashes against Atletico Madrid and Bayern Munich lined up. The relatively less featured fixtures are no walk in the park either with Italy's Como and Roma, Portugal's Sporting CP, Germany's RB Leipzig and Spain's Villarreal all waiting in the wings.United, however, have a relatively easy fixture to start their campaign, taking on Sabah FK, a club from Azerbaijan, which came into being in just 2017 and are playing their debut Champions League season. United have a chance to start their European campaign off to a bright start but they historically have a habit of slipping up against smaller teams. Like the times they were stunned by Midtjylland in 2016 as well as losing 4-3 to Copenhagen in 2023. With the team having difficulty breaching low blocks, the match against Sabah will be the real litmus test for Carrick and his men.

‘It was news to me as well’: Babar Azam on PCB’s decision to send 7 players back

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Pakistan's England tour was sent for a tailspin last month when the Pakistan Cricket Board called 7 of their Test players back and replaced them with 7 new players with not much experience in the longest format after they lost the second Test to England.Ahead of the third Test, captain Babar Azam was asked if he knew that these major changes were coming. "It was news to me as well. I only found out about all these things later. PCB made the decisions, so they can explain it to you better," he said.Last month, Muhammad Rizwan, Imam-ul-Haq, Salman Ali Agha, Ali Usman, Khurram Shahzad, Aamir Jamal and Muhammad Awaiz Jafar were sent back after the defeat in the second Test. Out of these seven players, Aamir Jamal and Muhammad Awaiz Jafar did not play in either game but they still penalised. In their place, Saim Ayub, Abdullah Fazal, Arafat Minhas, Mohammed Imran Jr, Said Baig, Mohammad Imran and Razaullah were called up. Of these seven, only the first two have played Tests for Pakistan.

Head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and his assistant Umar Gul were also sacked with Pakistan white-ball coach Mike Hesson and former Australia seamer Ashley Noffke taking charge for the final Test.With the third and final Test set to start on Wednesday, Babar on Tuesday said that Pakistan have nothing to lose and the team should now play more



freely."The series is lost but we have nothing to lose. We should play freely and believe in ourselves as a team. We've practiced a couple of days and explained things to the new boys. Any young player who comes in is excited, and that excitement is visible. I believe that will be visible in the match, too," he said."Whenever you go into a series or tournament, you back yourself to perform. As a senior player, you have to take on more responsibility. I firmly believe you need to grab opportunities and perform in difficult conditions. That's why we play cricket, because we have to perform and dominate in difficult conditions. We need to forget about past failures and shift focus to the future," he added.

India A squads for AUS series: Pandya returns; Padikkal, Gaikwad named captains



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya is expected to make a return to competitive action for the first time in five months as the national selectors named him in the India A squad for next month's white-ball games against Australia A in Puducherry.Pandya, who led Mumbai Indians during the IPL 2026 season after lifting his second successive T20 World Cup, missed four matches due to back spasms. He was subsequently ruled out of India's home series against Afghanistan due to a quadriceps strain. While he was expected to soon attain full fitness, Pandya suffered a fresh leg injury, ruling him out of the three-match Afghanistan T20Is, starting Sunday.While Pandya's availability for the three-match white-ball leg that begins on October 6 remains subject to a fitness clearance, the selectors have named Ruturaj Gaikwad as the skipper for the 50-over side. Pandya's addition to the squad means that the 32-year-old will miss India's three-match ODI series against the West Indies, starting on September 2027 in Thiruvananthapuram. India are also slated to play five T20Is against the Windies between October 6 and 17.Devdutt Padikkal, who recently cracked twin centuries at No. 3 during India's Test tour to Sri Lanka, was named captain of the squad picked for the two four-day games, starting in Puducherry on September 22. The Karnataka batter is currently in action for South

Zone in the Duleep Trophy final in Chennai.With a chunk of first-choice players set to be away for India's Asian Games campaign, the selectors have blooded in a line of performers from the previous domestic season, including the 2026 IPL season. The red-ball leg of the tournament will also coincide with the Irani Cup tie, starting October 1 in Srinagar, involving J&K and a Rest of India side that will be picked by the national selectors.India A Multi-day squad: Aman Mokhade, Ayush Pandey, Devdutt Padikkal [C], Sai Sudharsan [VC], Yash Rathod, Shaik Rasheed, Kumar Kushagra [WK], Shams Mulani, Tanush Kotian, Tushar Deshpande, Anshul Kamboj, Praful Hinge, N Jagadeesan [WK], Nachiket Bhute, V Vyshak*India A One-Day squad: Priyansh Arya, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal [VC], Ruturaj Gaikwad [C], Rajat Patidar, Kumar Kushagra [WK], Nishant Sindhu, Vipraj Nigam, Arshin Kulkarni, Arshad Khan, Naman Dhir, Hardik Pandya*, Prabhsimran Singh [WK], Gurjapneet Singh, Yash Thakur.

Shelton ends Alcaraz title defence in US Open thriller

New York: Ben Shelton had gone toe-to-toe with Carlos Alcaraz for five exhausting sets and, finally at 3:33 a.m. Wednesday, got the chance to end the defending US open champion's title reign.Shelton fired an ace at 146 mph, a ball that Alcaraz could not have returned even with fresh legs.That gave Shelton a 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (10-7) victory in a marathon tussle that became the latest-finishing match in US Open history."Carlos is one of the greatest champions of our sport. It was the most enjoyable match I've had in my career, for sure."Alcaraz had his 18-match winning streak in Grand Slam tournaments ended in a match that lasted four hours, 28 minutes, after he fought deep into the night and early into the next morning in a bid to win the trophy again.

Sachin Tendulkar praises Shelton after epic five-set Alcaraz thriller



New Delhi: Former India cricketer Sachin Tendulkar hailed the thrilling US Open quarter-final between Ben Shelton and defending champion Carlos Alcaraz, describing the five-set contest as 'some tennis' after the American pulled off a stunning upset.Shelton defeated Alcaraz 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(10/7) in a four-hour and 28-minute battle that went down to a deciding-set tiebreaker."That was some tennis! Every time it looked like one of them had the match, the other fought his way back. And then it came down to the final few points.

"Well played, Ben Shelton! Tough luck, Carlos. Coming back after an injury makes this one even tougher,"

Women’s Asia Cup: India seek middle-order answers against Bangladesh



Dubai: Seven-time champions India will aim for having batting stability, especially in the middle-order, when they face a spirited Bangladesh in the Women's Asia Cup semi-final, to be played at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Thursday.The winner of the clash will book their place in the title clash, to be played on Sunday. India have dominated Bangladesh in recent years by winning their last eight T20I meetings against them. But memories of the 2018 Asia Cup, where Bangladesh stunned India twice en route to a historic maiden title, including defeating them in the final, remain a clear reminder of their ability to disrupt the heavyweights.While India, the Group A toppers, enter the clash as firm favourites, their batting line-up has shown occasional vulnerability, something which Bangladesh, who finished second in Group B, will look to fully exploit.

A collapse of eight wickets for 46 runs against Thailand earlier in the tournament showed that middle-order issues are yet to be resolved. It is a concern that previously proved costly for India during their recent T20 World Cup campaign, where they failed to enter the semi-finals.While Bangladesh have their own batting concerns to take care of, in-form pacer Marufa Akter has struck in her opening spell in every game of this tournament, and has an impres-

Tendulkar posted on X.Shelton ended Alcaraz's 18-match winning streak at the Grand Slams with the biggest victory of his career. The American sealed the contest with a 146-mph ace at 3:33 a.m. local time, making it the latest finish in US Open history.The previous record also involved Alcaraz, who two years ago saved a match point before overcoming Jannik Sinner in a five-set quarter-final that finished at 2:50 a.m.Alcaraz was playing his first tournament after a four-month injury layoff and had dropped just one set en route to the quarter-finals. He was aiming to become the first man since Roger Federer to successfully defend the US Open title. The Spaniard was also chasing his eighth Grand Slam crown after becoming the youngest man to complete the Career Grand Slam with his Australian Open triumph earlier this year.

Shelton, who recently won his second ATP Masters 1000 title in Montreal, has now returned to the US Open semi-finals for the first time since 2023.The American will face fellow compatriot Frances Tiafoe in the last four. Both players will be bidding to reach their first Grand Slam final.Shelton leads Tiafoe 3-1 in their head-to-head record, with two of their four meetings coming at Flushing Meadows. Shelton won their 2023 quarter-final, while Tiafoe prevailed in their 2024 third-round clash.With the victory over Alcaraz, Shelton has emerged as one of the biggest stories of this year's US Open.

sive economy rate of 3.27. Her ability to move the new ball will pose a direct threat to India's top order of in-form Smriti Mandhana, the explosive Shafali Verma, and Pratika Rawal.Pratika, filling in at number three for the injured Jemimah Rodrigues, has managed 36 runs across three innings at a strike rate of 109.09. The high-stakes semi-final presents her with a timely opportunity to make a defining contribution against Bangladesh.

Smriti also needs 69 more runs to become the all-time leading run-scorer in women's T20Is, after having already become the top run-getter across in women's international cricket and centuries list via hitting a memorable 124 against Hong Kong.In Dubai's spin-friendly conditions, India's own bowling attack has been exceptional through their spinners, who have taken 21 wickets at a tournament-best average of 4.42. Left-arm spinner N Sree Charani has been particularly effective by taking 21 wickets across her last eight T20Is.Teams batting first have won eight of the 12 matches played so far, and high evening temperatures exceeding 35 degrees celsius will add to the physical demands of the knockout clash, which will be decided by which batting order steps up to have a memorable day.

Where to watch: The match will be shown live on Sony Sports Ten 1 SD & HD channels on TV. Live-streaming will be available on Sony LIV app and website.SquadsIndia: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana (vice-captain), Shafali Verma, Bharti Fulmali, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), G Kamalini (wk), Arundhati Reddy, Prema Rawat, Radha Yadav, N Sree Charani, Renuka Singh Thakur, Nandini Sharma, Kranti Gaud, and Pratika RawalStream History DocumentariesBangladesh: Nigar Sultana Joty (captain), Nahida Akter (vice-captain), Dilara Akter, Farjana Easmin, Juairiya Ferdous, Sharmin Akter Supta, Sarmin Sultana, Sobhana Mostary, Shorna Akter, Ritu Moni, Fahima Khatun, Rabeya Khan, Marufa Akter, Sultana Khatun, and Shanjida Akther Maghla

Esterhuizen, Pretorius make big gains in ICC T20I rankings



Dubai: South Africa right-handed batter Connor Esterhuizen made a massive 65-place jump in the latest ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings, released on Wednesday, following his impressive performances in the recent tri-series against hosts Namibia and Zimbabwe.The 25-year-old opener scored 126 runs across five innings in the tri-series, with his best performance coming in the final group match against Namibia. Esterhuizen smashed an

impressive 88 in the match, helping him climb 65 places to 25th in the latest T20I batting rankings.South Africa's youngster Lhuan-dre Pretorius also made significant gains after an impressive showing in the tri-series. The 20-year-old rose 61 places to equal 43rd after scoring 226 runs in four innings.Captain Gerhard Erasmus moved up 16 places to 55th, while opener Louren Steenkamp climbed 32 places to equal 73rd following their contributions with the bat in the tournament.Zimbabwe fast bowler Brad Evans was the standout among the gainers in the T20I bowling rankings. The right-arm quick moved up four places to equal 22nd after an impressive tri-series campaign, in which he took 10 wickets at an average of 15.80.Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza also climbed two places in the bowling rankings to 27th.South Africa's Kwena Maphaka climbed 16 places to equal 38th, while Bjorn Fortuin made a significant 37-place jump to equal 78th following their efforts with the ball in the tri-series.Erasmus also received further recognition in the T20I all-rounders' rankings. The Namibia skipper climbed four places to eighth overall and achieved a new career-high rating after scoring 149 runs and taking five wickets in the home tri-series

Asian Games host Nagoya city in Japan sees extensive flooding due to record rain

Central Japanese city of Nagoya, the venue of the upcoming Asian Games, was hit by extensive flooding after record rain fell in parts of the city on Tuesday. It resulted in flooding dozens of roads and homes, and stranding pedestrians and vehicles.However, the athletes who had arrived early for the Asian Games were unharmed, mayor Ichiro Hirotsawa said on Wednesday. "We are not worried about the conditions of the venues and we believe there is no problem holding the Asian Games as planned," Hirotsawa told reporters as per AP.

Hirotsawa said about 400 athletes and staff who are staying in converted shipping containers — remodeled to serve as temporary housing units for the Asian Games — were briefly evacuated to higher ground during the heavy rain. He added there were a number of leaking roofs but nothing more serious around the dozens of Games venues.

On Tuesday, The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) organised a send-off ceremony for the 503-member India contingent, with several athletes and teams in attendance. Several prominent names and teams, including members of the hockey squads and top track-and-field athletes, were absent from the function as they have either already reached the Games venue or are in the final stages of their preparations. At the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China,



India won a record 107 medals, including 28 gold.

The Asian Games, an event with more athletes than the Summer Olympics, open Sept. 19 in Nagoya and surrounding areas and run through Oct. 4.More than 11,000 athletes are signed up from 45 countries and regions in Asia. By comparison, about 10,700 athletes participated in the Summer Olympics in 2024 in Paris.Meanwhile, in a bid to keep costs low, the organisers of the Aichi-Nagoya Games have done away with a conventional 'athletes village'. Instead, the 17,000-odd athletes taking part will be provided with three accommodation options — a cruise ship, hotel rooms, and containers.

Vijay Deverakonda is a ‘savage’ warrior who fights British with violence



Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna as Singanamala Bobbili Ranabaali and Jayamma in the teaser. Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna as Singanamala Bobbili Ranabaali and Jayamma in Ranabaali's teaser. The makers of Ranabaali have released the first teaser of the Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna period action drama, giving audiences their first proper look at the film's brutal, historically inspired world. The two-minute-32-second teaser dropped on Wednesday, ahead of the film's October 16 theatrical release. Vijay Deverakonda, sharing the teaser on X, tweeted, "Never Forget. The Men who came as guests and stayed as oppressors. The Men in our villages, who decided to draw blood. 'The Savage's Oath'"

The teaser opens with a sombre title card that reads: "In memory of eight million Indian lives lost under British rule, 1876-78," a direct reference to the Great Famine of 1876-78 that devastated the Madras Presidency and killed millions across Southern and Western India. The visuals paint a picture of suffering and colonial exploitation, with drought-stricken villages and starving civilians forming the backdrop against which the story unfolds. Arnold Vosloo, the South African actor best known for playing Imhotep in The Mummy franchise, is introduced as Sir Theodore Hector, described as the "Demon of Drought," a ruthless British

officer who plunders India's wealth and shows no mercy to the people under his control. Vijay Deverakonda then arrives on screen as Singanamala Bobbili Ranabaali, and the energy of the teaser shifts entirely. In a rugged, battle-worn look that has nothing in common with the urban, romantic characters his audience has come to expect from him, Deverakonda is presented as a feared figure who stands in direct opposition to the British forces. He is repeatedly referred to as "savage" by the British characters, a label the teaser reclaims as a badge of honour rather than an insult. The combat sequences are raw and physically intense, with Ranabaali shown fighting British soldiers with a ferocity that suggests he has nothing left to lose.

Rashmika Mandanna appears briefly in the teaser as Jayamma, Ranabaali's wife, though her screen time in the promotional material is limited. The teaser focuses primarily on establishing the world, the antagonist and the protagonist's position within it. The teaser builds to a climactic moment where Vijay delivers a line that landed immediately with audiences: "Not a grain of this land will be exported out." Towards the end, a visual of what appears to be a demon's hand closes the teaser, leaving fans curious. The film is set in 19th-century Rayalaseema during British rule, specifically between 1854 and 1878, and is reported to be inspired by real events involving rebellion, drought and chapters of colonial history that have largely been forgotten. The screenplay is written by Pramod Tammineni. Ranabaali is directed by Rahul Sankrityan, who previously directed Vijay Deverakonda's Taxiwaala and Nani's Shyam Singha Roy. The music is composed by Ajay-Atul, while cinematography is handled by Nirav Shah, with editing by Karthika Srinivas R. This is the third on-screen pairing for Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna after Geetha Govindam and Dear Comrade. The two married earlier this year, with the movie team releasing a song promo to congratulate the couple. The film is produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under Mythri Movie Makers, with T-Series presenting it. It will release simultaneously in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada and Malayalam on October 16, placing it in the Dussehra holiday window alongside Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 and Dhanush's Om.

Jason Vijay's first call was to mom after getting debut; Sundeep Kishan calls Vijay 'inspiration'



Actor Sundeep Kishan, who plays the lead in Sigma, the directorial debut of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay's son Jason Sanjay, has publicly thanked Vijay for being the film's identity and biggest inspiration, while Jason Sanjay recounted who he called the first time he signed to direct his debut film. Speaking at a pre-launch event for Sigma, which releases on October 2, Sundeep acknowledged the weight of Vijay's name on the project. "Even though we have worked honestly for this film, our CM Vijay is the identity of Sigma and our biggest inspiration as well," he said. "Thanks to him and his fans. Me, Sanjay and Lyca are going to enjoy from your work's goodwill."

He then quoted a line he said he learned from Vijay: "Kill them with your smile. Bury them with your success." Jason Sanjay, speaking at the same event, re-

vealed who he called first after signing on to direct the film, "I called up my mom to share the news." Thanking his family for always supporting him, he opened up about his experience directing his first feature film. "On the first day, first shot, I was very nervous. But after one take, I became occupied," Jason said. He framed the experience as a lesson for others in his position. "No matter how nervous you are, you'll enjoy your work. That's what I want to say to aspiring first-time directors," he said. Wrapping up the film, however, brought a more complicated set of emotions. The satisfaction of completing his debut feature was mixed with the sadness of a daily routine coming to an end. "On the wrap day, there was a lot of satisfaction, but there was also some sadness because I wouldn't meet my team every day," he said. Sundeep, who was born and raised in Chennai to a Telugu family, then shared a story from his early career that explains why an actor who made his name in Telugu cinema gradually shifted focus to Tamil. "I was born and brought up here. The first chance I got to act in Telugu, I made a good name for myself within four to five years, and everyone started knowing me," he said. The Telugu career came first, with Sundeep debuting in 2008 and building a steady presence in Tollywood through the early 2010s. But a chance encounter on a Chennai set changed his thinking. "While we were shooting a Telugu film in Chennai, a grandmother asked me, 'You're acting in Telugu films back to back. I don't like that. Please make a film that I can watch too,'" Sundeep recalled. "So, after that, I made Maanagaram, Raayan, Captain Miller, and now Sigma," Sundeep said, listing the Tamil films that followed. Sigma is directed by Jason Sanjay, who is making his filmmaking debut. The film, produced by Subaskaran under Lyca Productions, stars Sundeep alongside Faria Abdullah, Raju Sundaram, and Sampath Raj. The music is composed by S. Thaman, cinematography is by Krishnan Vasant, editing by Praveen KL and VFX by Hariharasuthan. The film was originally scheduled for July 31, but was postponed to avoid clashing with Vijay's final film Jananayagan, directed by H. Vinoth. It was later rescheduled to October 2, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti.

Why Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah's Goli, Kush Shah, is cooking for strangers in Mumbai

Kush Shah, best known for playing Goli in Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah, has embarked on a new journey after quitting the popular sitcom in 2024. Kush Shah, best known for playing Goli in Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah, has embarked on a new journey after quitting the popular sitcom in 2024.

Actor Kush Shah became a familiar face on television with his role as Goli in Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah, but after leaving the long-running sitcom, he has discovered a new creative path. The actor has now become a YouTuber, combining his love for cooking with an unusual social experiment.

Sharing the happy news with his followers, the fan-favourite actor shared a clip on Instagram with the caption, "Apparently, making a YouTube video is easy. Press record. Edit. Upload. Except... somehow, it took me 5 years to get to that last button. I've thought about starting a YouTube channel for a very, very long time. Overthought it, planned it, doubted it, postponed it... and then planned it again. And today, I finally pressed Upload. So this isn't really just my first YouTube video. It's me finally getting out of my own way. Welcome to my YouTube channel." In his latest vlog, Kush can be seen approaching strangers on the streets of Mumbai and asking them if he can visit their homes and cook a meal for them. While some people were initially surprised by his unusual request, others recognised him as the actor who played Goli and were happy to welcome him. Eventually, Kush got the opportunity to cook for a family,



preparing and serving a meal for them himself. Kush bid farewell to Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah in 2024 after playing Goli for several years. He subsequently moved abroad to pursue higher studies, with Dharmit Shah taking over the role on the show. Speaking about his decision to leave the sitcom during an appearance on the Just Kidding with Sid podcast, Kush said that although he loved the show and its people, he felt it was time to explore something beyond the series. He also admitted that the sets had become like a second home to him, making the decision to leave an emotional one.

Orry claims Sara Ali Khan pushed a girl off a chair at a party: 'I took the blame'



Orhan Awatramani, popularly known as Orry, has shared an anecdote from his years of friendship with actor Sara Ali Khan. In a recent interview, Orry recalled a party incident in which he claimed Sara allegedly pushed a girl off a chair, only for him to take the blame. Orry and Sara's friendship went sour and he has been targeting the actor and her family since then. According to Orry, he and Sara were at a party looking for a place to sit when they spotted a girl occupying a chair. He claimed Sara pushed the girl off the chair, after which the two of them sat down. However, when the situation escalated, the girl allegedly confronted Orry rather than Sara.

In an interview with Pinkvilla, Orry described the incident involving Sara Ali Khan as a "really funny" story and

claimed that Sara was the one who "created the story". Recalling the incident, he said the two were at a party looking for a place to sit when they noticed a girl occupying a chair. According to Orry, Sara pushed the girl off the chair, after which the two sat down. However, Orry claimed the situation took an unexpected turn when the girl later confronted him instead of Sara. He attributed this to Sara being "very famous at the time", while he was relatively unknown. As a result, he said, he ended up facing the brunt. "I'm going through what I didn't even do," Orry recalled, reiterating that he was not the one who had pushed the girl off the chair.

The anecdote comes months after Orry and Sara's friendship reportedly turned sour. The two were once known to be close, but their equation became the subject of public attention following social media posts, unfollows and pointed remarks. In January 2026, Orry shared a now-deleted Instagram Reel that mentioned "Sara", "Amrita" and "Palak" among what he described as the "3 worst names". Many social media users interpreted the references as being about Sara Ali Khan, her mother Amrita Singh and Palak Tiwari. Sara and her brother Ibrahim Ali Khan subsequently unfollowed Orry, while Orry claimed he had already unfollowed them. Orry has also previously spoken about an incident involving Amrita Singh in 2021, describing that period as one of the darkest phases of his life. However, he has chosen not to reveal exactly what happened, saying only that the experience changed him and affected his equation with Sara and her family. Despite the public fallout, Sara has largely refrained from discussing the matter in detail. Orry, meanwhile, continues to share his perspective on the friendship and its eventual breakdown.

Jaideep Ahlawat joins Tabu as she seeks revenge on Ajay Devgn.

Drishyam The Conclusion trailer: In the 2015 film Drishyam, Vijay Salgaonkar, played by Ajay Devgn, decided to take it upon himself to save his family after they murdered a teenage boy who was harassing his teenage daughter. Over a decade later, Vijay is still trying to save his family. But now, it looks like he might have run out of ways to distract the cops. The trailer for Drishyam The Conclusion dropped on Wednesday, September 9, and it appears that Vijay and his family are out of ways and will probably not be able to save themselves from the many law enforcement officials who have been poking holes in his story in the previous two installments of the franchise.

The new trailer opens with Tabu's Meera Deshmukh, who is the mother of the teenager who was killed by Vijay's family. She has been on his trail for many years now and while she has been confident that Vijay is involved with the murder, she has never been able to prove it. This time, she is joined by Prakash Raj, who plays a lawyer, and Jaideep Ahlawat, who is playing SP Crime Branch, and they are all now trying to trap Vijay and his family so the truth can finally come out. "I don't want justice anymore, I want revenge," Meera declares. Prakash Raj's character admits that Vijay might be uneducated, but he isn't a fool, so he won't make the mistake of underestimating him. Ajay Devgn's Vijay can also sense that his days of freedom might be numbered so he tells his family – wife Nandini (Shriya Saran), older daughter Anju (Ishita Dutta) and younger daughter Anu – that this isn't a game of wits anymore, but just a game of destiny. Thus, they can't prepare for what might come their way now.

The film is being presented as the 'epic conclusion' to the decade-long murder mystery, and will release in theatres on October 2. It seems like the date has been chosen with some thought, as this particular date was of prime importance in the first film. Since then, memes about the film have frequently mentioned this date. Drishyam 3 has been directed by Abhishek Pathak. He also directed the second part of the franchise, after Nishikant Kamat, who directed the first part, passed away in August 2020.

How an ad shoot led to Priyadarshan's Haiwaan with Akshay Kumar and Saif Ali Khan

Priyadarshan's dream project, Haiwaan, is finally set to hit theatres on September 11. While the film is a remake of Priyadarshan's own 2016 Malayalam film Oppam, bringing the story to Hindi has been a long-standing dream for the filmmaker. That dream was made possible by dynamic producer couple, Shailaja Desai Fenn and Satish Fenn. The story of how they came to produce Haiwaan, and subsequently the critically acclaimed Balan: The Boy, is an interesting one. While only two films have been made by their production house Thespian Films, Shailaja and Satish have been associated with the entertainment industry for over two decades.

It has been a great challenge and a huge learning experience producing these two films. Balan, being a Malayalam film, is not as big as Haiwaan in terms of scale. Being a Hindi film itself makes Haiwaan a much bigger-scale project. We shot Balan across Kerala. The film was always on the move. It wasn't like we shot it in one location or a studio. The journey has been fascinating and a great learning experience.

What inspired you to become a producer? My husband and I have a company called Thespian Films. We have been in the business for about 20 years. We run an advertising agency where we represent brands, and we also run a small talent agency. This happened back in 2024, when we were shooting an ad for Kalyan Jewellers. We were producing the ad film and Priyadarshan was directing it for us. That's how we got talking about the kind of films we wanted to make. That's when he told us that there was a film he really wanted to make in Hindi and that if I could put it together, it would be great. We said, "Sure, why not? We will help you with it." Haiwaan and Balan the boy producer A picture of Haiwaan producer Shailaja Desai Fenn.

We met Saif because he is someone my husband, Satish, knows well. Then Akshay Kumar came on board. Once we decided on the casting, we told Priyan sir that we would find a producer for him. That's when he said, "No, it is going to be produced by you." We were taken aback, but then we put everything together. We went to Venkat sir of KVN Productions and presented everything to him to see if he would come on board. He loved the film, gave us his

blessing and became a partner on the film. That's how we ended up producing both Balan: The Boy and Haiwaan with KVN Productions. You made the casting sound too easy, considering the big names involved, like Saif Ali Khan and Akshay Kumar. Is there anything we are missing? Akshay sir's casting was completely Priyan sir's call because they share a great rapport. Akshay has a great amount of trust and faith in Priyan sir. And this was a character he had never played before. It is an out-and-out, completely black character. But he believes in and trusts Priyan sir. I'm sure that for an actor of his calibre, he must have seen something in the character as well as in the director.

Meanwhile, with Saif sir, in our very first meeting, he said, "I am doing this." He is really happy to be working with Priyan sir. It is the first time that he is working with him, and for the first time, he is playing a blind protagonist. We have been blessed that way. I believe there is a God above us who has guided us through this journey.

How do you approach a small-budget film like Balan compared to a big-budget film like Haiwaan? How did you decide to introduce a new face in Balan?

A film is a film. Each film has its own journey and its own dynamics. When you talk about a film like Balan, it is a Malayalam film. The story required a new actor. It is not like we deliberately decided to cast a newcomer. The film would work only if you had a newcomer, a fresh face who doesn't come with any baggage—someone about whom people don't have a preconceived idea of what kind of character the actor would play. If I had cast someone like Nayanthara in that role, the film might not have worked. At the same time, Haiwaan is a big film. It has to have the actors that it has. With a film like that, you market it in a certain way. It's completely dynamic. There are many smaller Hindi films where the story requires a new cast. For us as producers, the one person we listen to the most is the director. What the director wants, we need to provide. And we know our directors are not unreasonable. We have complete faith in them. KVN Productions has produced some of the biggest-budget films of the year, but both have underperformed. How difficult is it to be a producer?