

CM Revanth Reddy announces High level committee to address all land related issues

New policy for Urban land regulation soon““CM blasts KCR for the misuse of Dharani portal
KCR and BRS leaders encroached upon crores of rupees valued lands through Dharani portal
My Home Cements company occupied huge tracts of lands illegally during BRS rule
CM clarifies lands in the prohibited list reduced to 3 lakhs in 2026
6 lakh acres were listed in the prohibited list in the Dharani portal
Pending applications under GO 118 will be solved soon
CM suggests Singareni workers to address their land issues in consultation with the management
CM Revanth Reddy speaks on land issues during a debate in the Assembly today

““Hyderabad :““Following complaints against the 22 A prohibited list of the lands, honourable Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy has announced the constitution of a high level committee to resolve every single issue arising in the ownership of the lands.““Participating in the debate in the Assembly today, the Chief Minister also declared that a new policy would be introduced for regularization of the urban lands and a new system for simultaneous land registration and regularization . Further, the CM said that the Issues regarding authorized layouts will be resolved after verification with the concerned authorities. “ We will issue new guidelines within a week”.““During the lengthy speech in the house, CM Revanth Reddy clarified many issues on the 22 A prohibited list and land management during the previous BRS regime and in the present government. The lands were split into Part A and Part B during the updating of the land records in the Dharani portal . The entire Part B category was listed on the 'prohibited list' and placed 21. 93 lakh acres in the prohibited list. “ We set the records in 2025 and introduced 'Bhu Bharati' to resolve issues. Section 22-A was not introduced by us. It was a law enacted during the time of the united Andhra Pradesh state in 1999”, the Chief Minister said that following High Court orders, we obtained lists from District Collectors in 2025 and placed those lands on the prohibited list. Over 7 lakh acres from the Dharani portal were on the prohibited list. By 2026, It was only 3 lakh acres.““Stating that the government introduced new specific procedures for adding lands to the 22-A list, the CM made it clear that 98 lakh acres of land remained on the prohibited list. Forest lands, assigned lands, and temple lands were included in the prohibited list. Not a single inch of such land would be removed from that list. The dispute was only on 3.77 lakh acres of land

belonging to private individuals.““CM Revanth Reddy blamed former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao for the entire land ownership issues in recent times. The KCR rule introduced a centralized system of the land records at the district Collector level. The Dharani system removed the 'encroachment' column and also scrapped 'Kasra Pahani' to deprive the rights of SCs, STs, and BCs on their lands. In the guise of computerization of the land records through dranani , the previous government hatched a conspiracy to encroach upon the lands, the Chief Minister charged that the BRs leaders plundered the lands worth crores of rupees under Dharani and the lands were owned by a few individuals only.““The CM found fault with KCR who claimed he had devised and introduced Dharani himself. The Dharani system was originally launched in Odisha in 2010. The CAG criticized the Dharani system implemented in Odisha. The Chief minister said that he has been asking KCR to attend the assembly session only to speak on Dharani portal but the latter did not turn up . “ KCR was not satisfied with the commissions from the Kaleshwaram project and eyed on encroaching the lands from Dharani portal. ”, the Chief Minister questioned the enhancement of the cost of maintaining the Dharani portal from 758 crore Rs 1300 crore for five years”.““The government is also ready to expose the Bhoodan lands scam during the BRS rule in the state, CM Revanth Reddy said, claiming it was the Congress that enacted the Land Ceiling Act and the poor are enjoying land rights today. The credit goes to former PM Indira Gandhi.““Referring to Singareni lands, the Chief minister announced that the government would constitute a high-level district committee to address pending land issues. The CM suggested the union leaders hold a meeting with Singareni management

to work out a solution. We will resolve pending applications under GO 118 within a stipulated time frame. The problem of land ownership was also high in the LB Nagar area and the issue will be resolved as soon as possible.““CM Revanth Reddy listed out the lands given to the My Home group and others during KCR rule. Using the Dharani portal as a pretext, the BRS leader obtained title deeds for Bhoodan lands. 106 acres of forest land were handed over to BRS leader Gandra. The Supreme Court reprimanded the Collector regarding this matter. 8,000 acres of assigned lands were also transferred in Sircilla. District Collector Sandeep Jha has already recovered 2,000 acres. The then BRS government handed over 2,647 acres of land adjacent to the airport to My Home's Rameshwar Rao. Bhoodan lands in Mellacheruvu were usurped and My Home was utilizing 113 acres for a cement factory.” Can the My Home group simply take over assigned lands and Waqf lands? They swooped down like hawks wherever they spotted land and snatched away lands worth lakhs of crores”.““We are bringing everything to light, the Chief Minister said that he would also expose the land encroachment in Sangareddy. “ If we forgive such people, future generations will not forgive us”, the CM said he was recommending



SET to probe into all these matters.““The CM said that the government introduced a five-year lock-in period for 'Indiramma' scheme beneficiaries allotted government land. We will provide the opportunity to sell the land after that period. If the NALA fee is paid along with the registration fee, the process of the registration will be completed immediately.““CM Revanth Reddy also brought to the notice of the house that the previous government constituted a committee and drafted rules to safeguard the sanctity of that Chair. The House had approved a rule prohibiting entry while wearing clothing bearing slogans. This rule was approved in the House when Harish Rao was Legislative affairs minister. Police officers performed their duties and implemented the Speaker's orders. The CM strongly objected to the obstruction of the house proceedings by the BRS members .

6 Orphanage Boys Drown During Immersion

HYDERABAD, Sept 16

Six boys from an orphanage drowned in Neredu pond at Pedda Kanjerla village in Patancheru mandal on Wednesday evening during Ganesha idol immersion. Four of the victims were minors, while two were aged 22.

The incident occurred around 5.30 pm when inmates of Sirisha Orphanage, Indresham municipality, along with locals, headed in a DCM van for immersion. While placing the idol, six boys accidentally slipped into 12-ft-deep water and drowned, police said.Two of them tried to save the others but also lost balance and drowned.

Patancheruvu police, along with DRF, Fire and NDRF teams and local gaja ethagarlu (lifesavers), launched a rescue operation with seven boats. After two hours, the bodies were retrieved.There were over 70 students at the immersion. SHO M. Ravinder said the victims hailed from Kukatpally, Kurnool, Warangal, Mahbubnagar and Andhra Pradesh. Families were informed and the bodies shifted to Patancheru government hospital mortuary.Relatives who rushed to the pond broke down on seeing the bodies. “This is the first time my nephew, 17-year-old P. Siddarth, went for immersion. I still can’t believe he is no more,” said P. Govind.Police said the boys could not swim and slipped into deep water near the edge of the pond. Locals raised an alarm and dialled 112. Over 17 villagers and temple committee members dived in but could not locate the bodies.A case of suspicious death has been registered. SI Maheshwar Reddy said it would be altered after investigation. Police have arranged accommodation for the victims’ families in the village.The deceased were identified as Narsimha Raju, 21, a BTech student; J. Sumanth Reddy, 17, and P. Ganesh, 18, both diploma students; Uday Kiran, 22, a third-year diploma student; Sumanth Reddy, 17, a first-year diploma student; and Siddarth, 17, an SSC student.

India Should Aspire to Be Among Early Leaders in Emerging Tech: Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate SEMICON India 2026 in New Delhi on Thursday, a day after asserting that India should aspire to be among the early leaders in emerging technologies.

The three-day conference and exhibition, to be held from September 17 to 19 under the theme “Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem,” will bring together Indian and international companies, policymakers, investors, researchers, start-ups, academic institutions and students from across the semiconductor and electronics value chain.

Chairing a semiconductor roundtable with leading CEOs on Wednesday, Modi said the government was committed to providing a predictable and responsive policy environment. He also emphasised the importance of close collaboration between the government and the semiconductor industry in shaping India’s technological future.

The Prime Minister highlighted India’s strong foundation in talent, technology adoption and infrastructure and called for greater industry participation in skilling, innovation and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing, the Prime Minister’s Office said.

Noting the significant progress made in the semiconductor sector, Modi said the ecosystem was moving from foundational efforts to a phase of greater scale and opportunity.

He reiterated the government’s commitment to providing a predictable and responsive policy environment, while emphasising that policies must evolve in line with technological advances and industry requirements.

Modi invited industry leaders to suggest policy and administrative measures and assured them that their inputs would be considered while further strengthening the sector. He also encouraged them to participate actively

in the next phase of India’s semiconductor growth.

In a post on X, Modi said: “During this evening’s semiconductor roundtable with CEOs, I emphasised: unequivocal support to the semiconductor industry from the Centre; a predictable and responsive policy environment; continued focus on skilling, innovation and infrastructure upgradation; and furthering every effort towards making India a leader in emerging technologies.”

Referring to the target of training one crore people in AI, Modi said India’s talent pool, combined with the experience and capabilities of global industry leaders, could create significant opportunities.

The CEOs appreciated the government’s sustained efforts to develop India’s semiconductor capabilities and noted the progress made in manufacturing, design, infrastructure and talent development.

India rejects Pakistan-China boundary commission, calls it ‘without legal basis’

New Delhi, Sept 16

India on Wednesday rejected the newly operationalised Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission, saying the mechanism had no legal basis and that Pakistan had no locus standi to enter into any arrangement concerning Indian territory under its “illegal and forcible occupation”.

The sharp response came after Pakistan and China held the inaugural meeting of the commission in Islamabad, with Islamabad describing its operationalisation as a “significant milestone” in bilateral ties and saying it would facilitate cooperation on border management, joint border surveys, trade flows and people-to-people connectivity.

“We have seen reports in this regard. Our position on this matter is clear and consistent. There is no boundary between Pakistan and China. We reject the so-called joint commission, which is without any legal basis,” said External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

India asserted that the entire Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh “have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India”.

“Pakistan has no locus standi to enter into arrangements concerning Indian territory under its illegal and forcible occupation,” Jaiswal said.

MEA also reiterated India’s longstanding position that it has never recognised the so-called China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, under which Pakistan ceded territory in the region to China.

“We have never recognised the so-called ‘China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement’ of 1963 and have consistently maintained that it is illegal and invalid,” Jaiswal said.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAVULA NARESH S/O RAVULA UPENDER REDDY (old name) born on 10-02-1993 at Khammam hereby changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as RAVULA NARESH REDDY S/O RAVULA UPENDER REDDY (new name) HNo. 5-48/1 Echoda, Dist. Adilabad 504307 Telangana State.

Place: Echoda
Date: 17-09-2026

DECLARANT
RAVULA NARESH REDDY
S/O RAVULA UPENDER REDDY

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

UCC deadline— Amit Shah's short-sighted idea

Social diversity is the bedrock of a robust democracy. Home to different religions, customs, and cultures, India has been a role model for the world for its unity in diversity. Any attempt to impose uniformity in the name of unifying communities would go against the spirit of democratic diversity. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's call for NDA-ruled States to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections is naive and immature, and reflects a lack of understanding of the country's core ethos. At a time when NDA 3.0 is dependent on the support of allies such as the Janata Dal (United) and the Telugu Desam Party to provide a stable government, it is intriguing that Shah is setting such deadlines for introducing a controversial policy that lacks a national consensus. The time is not ripe for India to experiment with a common code, as it might lead to social friction and an erosion of faith in the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion. Opposition parties have raised objections to the proposed law, dubbing it an anti-minorities move. NDA allies—JD (U) and TDP—also have reservations about the UCC, fearing a backlash from the Muslim community. For the BJP, however, the Uniform Civil Code has been one of the three core ideological agendas, along with the Ram temple at Ayodhya and the abrogation of Article 370. Four BJP-ruled States—Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Assam and Madhya Pradesh—have already passed UCC legislation. The Uttarakhand law provides common rules on marriage, divorce, inheritance and succession, prohibits polygamy and mandates marriage registration. Instead of pushing for a national law on a common civil code, the BJP leadership appears keen on persuading the States to pass such laws.

Centralised kitchen inaugurated in Karimnagar to serve breakfast to 49,025 students

Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar launches facility set up at 8 crore.



Karimnagar September 15, Khaja Sikandar Mohiuddin (Correspondent): State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar on Wednesday inaugurated a centralised community kitchen at the Karimnagar Market Yard to provide breakfast to 49,025 students of government schools and junior colleges in the district. The facility, established at an estimated cost of 8 crore with the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India as the implementation partner, has the capacity to prepare breakfast for about 50,000 students a day. The breakfast programme will cover 669 government schools and 11 government junior colleges across 17 mandals in the district. Students in the Karimnagar, Huzurabad, Choppadandi and Manakondur Assembly constituencies will be covered under the initiative. After inaugurating the kitchen along with MLA Gangula Kamalakara and Collector Chitra Mishra, Mr. Prabhakar inspected the food preparation units and other facilities. He also served breakfast to students and had breakfast with them. The kitchen has mechanised facilities for preparing idli, dosa, puri, bonda and sambar, besides equipment for washing utensils, cutting and washing vegetables and preparing chutney powder. A food-testing laboratory and a milk centre have also been established. Emphasising food safety and hygiene, the Minister said breakfast would be transported to schools in thermally insulated vehicles. The menu, prepared with the support of the National Institute of Nutrition, includes idli-sambar, puri-aloo kurma, dosa-chutney, upma-chutney, millet idli-sambar and bonda-chutney on different days. Milk will be served on alternate days. Mr. Prabhakar said the programme was aimed at ensuring that hunger did not come in the way of students' education. The State Government was focusing on strengthening government schools and providing students with both quality education and essential facilities, he said. Collector Chitra Mishra, Additional Collector Ashwini Tanaji Wakade, Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai, Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India Executive Officer Kauntiya Dasa Swamiji and other public representatives and officials were present.

Harish Rao challenges Revanth to judicial probe into 22-A land row

Hyderabad: BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T Harish Rao on Wednesday challenged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to order an inquiry by a sitting Supreme Court or High Court judge into the Bhu Bharati and 22-A land controversies, including alleged irregularities over the past three years. He said the BRS was ready to face scrutiny of its government and demanded that the same yardstick be applied to the Congress government. In a point-by-point rebuttal to the Chief Minister's allegations, Harish Rao said Revanth Reddy had effectively admitted the BRS's allegations by acknowledging that entire survey numbers had been uploaded to the prohibited list.

People Urged to Make Use of V.B.G. Ramji Scheme Works



Bambara Sarpanch Bendare Krishnaji""Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporter "Indian Chronicle" September. 17. ""Wankidi: Bambara Sarpanch Bendare Krishnaji urged villagers to make full use of the development works being provided under the V.B.G. Ramji Scheme, which is being implemented by the government for rural development and improvement of basic infrastructure. A Gram Sabha was held at the Bambara Gram Panchayat office on Wednesday to discuss various development works that would benefit the village and its residents under the V.B.G. Ramji Scheme. During the meeting, officials explained the benefits available to beneficiaries, the types of works that could be taken up and their

usefulness. The participants discussed identifying individual and community-based works and taking them up on a priority basis. The Sarpanch particularly highlighted the importance of utilising the scheme for construction of toilets, soak pits, sanitation-related works and other development activities required in the village. ""Speaking on the occasion, Sarpanch Bendare Krishnaji said that effective utilisation of government schemes would help improve basic infrastructure in the village and enhance the living standards of the people. He appealed to villagers to cooperate in village development and bring necessary works to the notice of the concerned officials. He also stressed the need to create greater awareness among the public about the benefits available under the scheme. TA Prabhakar explained to the beneficiaries the benefits of the V.B.G. Ramji Scheme, the procedure for obtaining works and their importance. He encouraged eligible beneficiaries to come forward and utilise the opportunities available under the scheme. Deputy Sarpanch Jade Santosh, Field Assistant Ramakrishna Chari, ward members Kotnaka Ramshav, Doke Bantu, Bhuri Salakka and Mahatma Ranjan, former Deputy Sarpanch Boire Prakash, Gram Panchayat Secretary Durgam Dharmayya, beneficiaries and villagers were present.

MRPS Demands Immediate Arrest of Hamara Prasad



""Protest Held at Ambedkar Chowk in Asifabad""Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporter "Indian Chronicle" September. 17. ""Asifabad: MRPS leaders demanded the immediate arrest of Hamara Prasad, alleging that he had made derogatory and false remarks about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and written books containing misleading information about the architect of the Indian

Constitution. ""As part of the protest, MRPS leaders on Wednesday performed a milk abhishekam to the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Babasaheb Ambedkar Chowk in the district headquarters of Komuram Bheem Asifabad. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a Bharat Ratna awardee, a prominent scholar and the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. They condemned what they described as attempts to spread false information about Ambedkar and demanded that legal action be taken against those responsible. The leaders also called upon people to uphold the ideals and principles of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and work towards social equality and justice. ""MRPS national leader Regunta Keshava Rao Madiga, state leader Ponnala Narayana Madiga, district leaders Ippa Nagaraju Madiga, Doodala Ashok Madiga, Maturi Jayaraj, Regunta Mahesh Madiga, Usha Anna, Laxman, Bommena Mallaiah and others participated in the protest.

“Telangana’s Spirit of Freedom Built on Sacrifice

Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporter "Indian Chronicle" September. 17. ""Telangana's Spirit of Freedom Built on Sacrifice""September 17 History Must Be Passed on to Future Generations""Former Wankidi Mandal Congress President Gurnule Narayana in a Special Interview with 'Indian Chronicle'""Question: What is the significance of September 17, 1948, in the history of Telangana?""Gurnule Narayana: September 17 is a significant day in the history of the people of Telangana. It marks the historic development through which the Hyderabad State was integrated into the Indian Union. It is an occasion to remember the struggles, sacrifices and aspirations for freedom of the people. It is the responsibility of everyone to ensure that this historical background is conveyed to future generations. ""Question: How do you view the role of the Congress party in this historic struggle?""Answer: Along with the national freedom movement, the Congress party continued its political role in the process of integrating the Hyderabad State with India. However, the history of September 17 should not be attributed to any single political party. The struggles of the people and the sacrifices made by various sections of society must also be recognised. ""Question: What was the role of the Congress party in the formation of Telangana State?""Answer: The formation of Telangana State was the result of a long-standing people's movement. Against the backdrop of people's aspirations, movements and sacrifices, Telangana was formed through the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act passed by Parliament. Telangana officially became a separate state on June 2, 2014. ""Question: Do you believe September 17 has special significance because the Congress party was responsible for the formation of Telangana State?""Answer: The aspirations of the people were central to the achievement of Telangana State. The formation of the state was legally completed through decisions taken at the Centre and the parliamentary process. There is a need to explain the history of state formation to the younger generation based on facts and historical records. ""Question: How should today's youth understand the history of September 17?""Answer: History should be understood not through the lens of political differences, but through the values of sacrifice, democracy, freedom and social justice. Awareness programmes on the history of Telangana should be conducted in schools and colleges. ""Question: What is your view on the different descriptions of September 17 as Liberation Day, Merger Day or Praja Palana Day?""Answer: There are different political and historical views regarding



the terminology associated with September 17. However, rather than focusing on differences over names, it is more important to respect the history of the day, the sacrifices of the people and democratic values. ""Question: How should the aspirations of the people be fulfilled after the formation of Telangana State?""Answer: The formation of a state does not end with geographical reorganisation alone. Farmers, youth, women, Adivasis, workers and the poor must become equal participants in development. Governance should continue in accordance with the aspirations of the people, with priority given to the welfare of all sections of society. ""Question: How should the government and political parties honour the sacrifices of Telangana martyrs?""Answer: The sacrifices of the martyrs should be honoured by recognising their families, preserving their history for future generations and addressing public issues. Their legacy should not be limited to commemorative events; their ideals should also be reflected through action. ""Question: What is your message to Congress workers on the occasion of September 17?""Answer: Congress workers should remain among the people while upholding democratic values. They should promote the values of freedom, social justice, equality and public welfare. History should be used to promote unity among people rather than political disputes. ""Question: What is your main message to future generations of Telangana?""Answer: The history of Telangana is a history of sacrifices. September 17 reminds us of the values of freedom, democracy and self-respect. Everyone should learn history, strengthen democracy and work responsibly for the development of Telangana. ""In the words of Gurnule Narayana. ""The true tribute to September 17 is to remember Telangana's history and sacrifices while protecting democratic values

Awareness on Drug Eradication and Public Safety“

Ganesh Suraksha Sankalp—2026 Programme Held at Venkat Reddy Nagar Friends Youth Association""



""VENKAT REDDY NAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): As part of the Ganesh Suraksha Sankalp—2026 initiative organised by the Malkajigiri Police Commissionerate, an awareness programme was conducted at the Ganesh pandal of Venkat Reddy Nagar

Friends Youth Association. The programme was organised under the leadership of Akarapu Arun Patel and his team. Uppal ACP Venkat Reddy, DI Ravi Kumar, an SI and members of the EAGLE Team attended the programme as special guests. On the occasion, police officials provided valuable guidance to the public on safety and security. They urged everyone to cooperate in eradicating drugs and called upon the youth to come forward to build a drug-free society. ""The officials stressed the importance of women's safety and advised people to remain vigilant. They also cautioned the public against online fraud and cybercrime, urging them to take necessary precautions to avoid becoming victims of cybercriminals. Awareness was also created among motorists about wearing helmets and following traffic rules. As part of food safety, the public was advised to consume hygienic and safe food. The organisers expressed their gratitude to Akarapu Arun Patel and his team for successfully conducting the programme, as well as to the police officials who participated in the awareness initiative for public safety. They wished everyone a safe and peaceful Ganesh festival.

Residents Flag Alleged Commercial Use of Homes at Ashray Meadows



""Hyderabad Correspondent, September 16 (Indian Chronicle): Residents of Ashray Meadows on Dharam Karam Road in Ameerpet have sought a probe into the alleged conversion of residential buildings in the complex for commercial use, besides alleging intimidation when they questioned the practice. The Ashray Meadows Owners Welfare Association claimed that the buildings were represented as residential properties during construction and that MoUs assured buyers they would be used only for residential purposes. Several families purchased homes based on these assurances, the association said. The residents alleged that commercial activities were subsequently taken up in some buildings, resulting in increased movement of outsiders within the premises. They said the situation had raised concerns among families, particularly women, children and senior citizens living in the complex. The association also alleged that some persons associated with the commercial establishments had pressured and threatened residents who raised objections. Seeking government intervention, the residents called for verification of sanctioned building plans, permissions, MoUs and records relating to the use of the properties. They urged the authorities to determine whether the commercial establishments had the required approvals and whether the buildings were being used in accordance with sanctioned permissions. The association sought action against anyone found violating building-use regulations and a separate inquiry into the alleged intimidation of residents.

Applications Invited for Global Icon Teacher International Award“



""Hyderabad, September 16 (Indian Chronicle) : Applications have been invited for the 2026 Global Icon Teacher International Award and the Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan National Best Teacher Award on the occasion of World Teachers' Day. All The Best Arts Academy Founder-President Lion Dr. E. S. S. Narayana Master said in a statement on Wednesday. He said the award ceremony would be held in Hyderabad on October 11. Principals, headmasters, professors, assistant professors, lecturers, teachers and retired teachers from government, aided and private educational institutions, as well as cultural, sports, arts and yoga teachers, are eligible to apply. Applicants have been asked to submit photocopies of their educational qualification certificates, teaching experience records, photographs, newspaper clippings and details of previous awards, along with four passport-size photographs. Applications should reach All The Best Arts Academy, Door No. 1-20-164, Gokul Nagar, Venkatapuram, Post: Tirumalgi, Secunderabad-15, by September 30. For further details, contact 9652347297.

Legal Luminaries Honoured on International Day of Law

""Hyderabad, September 16 (Indian Chronicle) : To mark International Day of Law, the Telangana Citizens Council organised a programme at the High Court premises on Wednesday under the leadership of State President Dr. Raj Narayan Mudiraj. The speakers emphasised the need to



create greater awareness about justice and protection of victims' rights. On the occasion, Telangana High Court Government Pleader S.L. Srinivasulu Goud, Public Pleader C.S. Suman and Assistant Public Prosecutor G. Vijayakumari were felicitated with shawls and floral garlands. Advocates C.H. Samsang Babu, Mohammed Akhtar Sharif and C.V. Narasimha, along with the organisation's Coordinator G. Venugopal and others, participated in the programme.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.G. LIMITED
OPERATION : CYBERCITY CIRCLE
E-Procurement Notification No.02/26-27, Tender Notification-06/26-27
TGSPDCI intends to float tenders and sealed bids are invited from eligible bidders E-Procurement 1) 5NOS Bifurcation work of 11KV Feeder in Gachibowli Div. Tender Notification-06/26-27 1) Replacement of 11KV feeder from AB Cable to UG cable in Kondapur Division and other various works in Cybercity Circle. For further details please visit www.tgspowerpower.org & www.eauction.telangana.gov.in & www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in. Sd/-, SE/O/Cybercity, Rehbowl, DIPR.NO. 10096-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2026-27, Dt: 16.09.2026, Nanal Nagar X Road, Hyd-28.

Special Pujas Performed for Lord Ganesha Under the Leadership of Nerdam Eshwaramma Goud Family---



Annadanam Distributed to Local Residents After the Puja""UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Special pujas were performed for Lord Ganesha under the leadership of Nerdam Eshwaramma Goud at the Ganesh pandal set up at Nerdam Residency in Beerappagadda, Uppal. Following the puja, annadanam (free food) was distributed to local residents. Members of the Nerdam family participated in the programme and offered prayers to Lord Ganesha with devotion. Those present included Nerdam Bhaskar Goud, Vijayalakshmi, Nerdam Prasad Goud, Soubhagyalakshmi, Nerdam Raju Goud, Sneha, Nerdam Balakrishna, Eshwar, Nerdam Veer Goud, Dr. Nerdam Manisha Goud, Advocate Nerdam Anusha Goud, Nerdam Bhagyashree Goud (MBA, South Korea), Nerdam Vivekavardhini, Nerdam Divija Goud, Nerdam Dhyanshi, Nerdam Dvithi Goud, Ragula Narasimha, Krishnaveni Mudiraj and others."The puja programme and annadanam distribution held on the occasion of Vinayaka Chavithi created a devotional atmosphere at Nerdam Residency. A large number of local residents participated and received the annadanam.

Negligence Alleged in Employment Guarantee Works



Delay in Construction of Kitchen Shed at Kishtapur School""Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" September. 17. ""Rebbena: Alleging negligence and delay in the construction of a kitchen shed at MPUPS Kishtapur School under the Mahatma Gandhi National Ru-

ral Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Sweros district leader Goleti Nagesh urged the authorities to take immediate action. "The kitchen shed work was sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹2,76,565 and is shown as "Ongoing" on the government's official portal. However, according to Nagesh, the work is not progressing as expected at the ground level. He said that the new kitchen shed has not been completed and that the removal of the old structure has caused inconvenience to students. Nagesh questioned why the work was being shown as ongoing in official records when there was little progress on the ground. He urged the concerned officials to regularly monitor MGNREGS works and verify whether the progress and dates recorded on the portal reflect the actual situation at the site. He said the kitchen shed was intended to provide students with a clean and safe facility for preparing mid-day meals and that the delay was defeating the purpose of the project. Nagesh demanded that senior officials conduct an immediate field-level inquiry, verify the records against the actual status of the work and ensure that the construction is completed according to quality standards. He warned that if the authorities and public representatives failed to respond, villagers and parents of the students would launch democratic protests seeking completion of the work.

Telangana Rakshana Sena District President Vinod Meets Kavitha and Expresses Gratitude

""Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter "Indian Chronicle" September. 17. ""Asifabad: Keermilla Vinod Kumar, newly appointed President of the Telangana Rakshana Sena for Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, met Kalvakuntla Kavitha and expressed his gratitude for appointing him to the position. He thanked her for placing her trust in him and entrusting him with the responsibility. Speaking on the occasion, Vinod Kumar said he would work dedicatedly to strengthen the TRS party across Asifabad district. With the support of party workers, supporters and well-wishers, he said efforts would be made to strengthen the party from the grassroots level. He assured Kavitha that they would work collectively to ensure the TRS party flag is hoisted in both constituencies of Asifabad district in the upcoming elections. He further stated that he would effectively discharge the responsibility entrusted to him and continue working for the strengthening of the party. He also



expressed his special thanks to all party leaders, workers, supporters and well-wishers who supported his appointment.

Book Insulting Ambedkar Must Be Removed Immediately: Shekhar Maas



UPPAL, September 16 (Indian Chronicle): Scheduled Castes Rights Protection Association Medchal District President, Uppal Constituency Mala Associations In-charge (JAC), Chilkanagar Mala Welfare Association President and senior BRS leader Shekhar Maas demanded the immediate removal of the book "Kalpita Nayakudu," written by Hamara Prasad, alleging that it insults Dr. B.R.

Ambedkar. ""He strongly condemned the writing and release of the book. Speaking at a protest programme held in this regard, Shekhar Maas said that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, is a symbol of self-respect for millions of oppressed communities. ""He stated that writing and publishing books that demean Ambedkar cannot be justified. Such writings, he expressed concern, could damage social harmony among different sections of society. ""Shekhar Maas questioned why the Congress government in Telangana had not taken action against the book, while Rahul Gandhi was holding the Constitution book in Delhi and speaking about protecting the Constitution. He demanded that if the Congress party genuinely respects the Constitution and Dr. Ambedkar, the Telangana government should respond immediately to the release of the book. ""He called for immediate steps to remove the book and initiate legal action against those responsible. He warned that if the government failed to protect Ambedkar's dignity, the Congress government would bear full responsibility. ""Shekhar Maas made it clear that the AISCPS would continue its democratic struggle for Ambedkar's ideals, constitutional values and social justice.

September 17 Should Be Officially Observed as Telangana Liberation Day

Vaddeppally Rajeshwar Rao, Kanchi Mahender""Fatehnagar: BJP Telangana Liberation Committee leaders submitted a memorandum to the Tehsildar/ Mandal Revenue officials demanding that September 17 be officially observed as "Telangana Liberation Day." BJP leaders Vaddeppally Rajeshwar Rao and Kanchi Mahender participated in the programme. ""They urged the authorities to implement the "Seven Resolutions of Telangana" proposed by the BJP to preserve and pass on the history of the Telangana liberation struggle to future generations. ""The memorandum called for officially observing September 17, establishing a memorial for Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, constructing a Hyderabad-Telangana Liberation Museum, setting up district-level memorial centres, incorporating the history of the Telangana liberation movement into school textbooks, constructing memorial pillars at historical sites, and developing a Telangana Liberation Tourism Circuit. ""The



leaders said there was a responsibility to honour the sacrifices of those who lost their lives during the liberation struggle and to ensure that their history is preserved for future generations. They urged the government to take appropriate measures to permanently safeguard the history of the Telangana liberation movement.

Central Team Arrives in Bihar

On the direction of the Prime Minister a central team led by the Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan arrived in Bihar to assess the damage of flood on Wednesday. The team visited in several areas of Vaishali district with the CM Samrat Chaudhary. As both the CM and the Agriculture Minister visited in flood affected area by tractor Trolley and the boat and see the present situation of the area like Terasiya and Saraipur localities. " As the flood of the Gandak and the Ganga badly affected the area of Vaishali district where the crops are under flood water. The Banana farming has collapsed due to the flood water. As Hajipur locality of Vaishali district is famous for banana farming. The demand of the banana of Hajipur is in several parts of the state. Banana farming is the backbone of rural economy in Vaishali district. As the vegetables farming has also totally collapsed in the area of Vaishali and other adjacent districts of Bihar. After the coming out of flood havoc the people have to face the skyrocketing prices of vegetables. As the flood water of the Gandak, the Ganga, the Sone and the kosi has badly affected the several districts of Bihar. As the central assessment team will also do an ariel survey of Bhagalpur and Begusarai districts of Bihar. The central team contained with both the Agriculture Department and the Rural Development Department. As it may be possible that central government will issue a special package for the flood victims of Bihar. The crops of the farmers has fully destroyed. The rural economy has dwindled. The peasants of Bihar have urgent need for financial help to restore their Agriculture work. As in some areas of West Champaran the erosion has badly affected the area. As JD (U) leader Mobin Ahmad has demanded the rehabilitation of the erosion victims of the Gandak in the area of Bagha Subdivision in West Champaran District ""

Vigilance Sleuth raids" On Wednesday the team of Vigilance Investigation Bureau conducted raid in three premises of a Superintending Engineer of Bhavan Nirman Vibhag (Building Construction Department) Patna named Satendra Kumar Chaudhary. As the raid team has conducted raid in two premises of the Engineer in Patna and one premises in Purniya. The raid was conducted against

him as alleged to amass property out of his income. As the Vigilance search is on. As it is noted that in last week a Vigilance search was also conducted against a Superintending Engineer of Jal Sansadhan Vibhag Bihar. In previous several raids by Vigilance Department were conducted in several areas of Bihar and several corrupt and dishonest officers and government staff were trapped in Vigilance net. As the property of several corrupt government staff was confiscated in previous.

eva Sankalp Abhiyan Organises""Seva Sankalp Abhiyan is going to organise on 17 September 2026 to 17 October 2026 on the occasion of the completed public service of 25 yrs with full dedication by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As the program will be known as " Ashirvad Ka Diya" which will be celebrated on school buildings, Health Centres, Anganbadi Centres, and Jivika centres of the district. For the preparation and success of this program a meeting was organised at Bettiah collectorate of West Champaran District in Bihar On Wednesday in which several officers of the District participated. " As the District Magistrate West Champaran Taranjot Singh said that the program Ashirvad Ka Diya would be celebrated with full cooperation and dedication. All the officers of the District would be active for the success of this program. " Others who were presented in this meeting as the Commissioner Nagar Nigam Bettiah Miss Shivakshi Dixit, the ADM -Rajeev Ranjan Sinha, the Land Acquisition Offi

Anti Encroachment Drive Launches""For the beautification of Bettiah town in West Champaran district a drive was launched against encroachment.

As on Wednesday the drive started from the Raj Dyodhi locality of Bettiah town which proceeded towards Naya Bazar Chauk, Bulaki Singh Chauk and Kalibagh locality of the town area where the illegal encroachments were removed for smooth traveling on the roads of the locality. As the Bettiah Nagar Nigam authority cleared that no encroachment would be tolerated. The Nagar Nigam Authority also urged the people not try to encroach the land of road in town area for the betterment of traffic facilities. ""Ajay Kr Mishra "Bettiah/Bihar

Manappuram Gold Loan New Branch Inaugurated by Kandi Shravan Reddy

"HABSIGUDA, SEPTEMBER 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The new branch of the prominent financial services company Manappuram Gold Loan was inaugurated with grandeur at Street No. 8, Habsiguda, on Wednesday. "Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy, President of the Habsiguda Divisional Congress Party, attended the inauguration as the chief guest at the invitation of Branch Manager Keerthana and Assistant Manager Shiva Kumar. He cut the ribbon and inaugurated the new branch, followed by a traditional lighting of the lamp and cake-cutting ceremony. He conveyed his best wishes to the branch management. "The company representatives explained the services offered by the branch, including safety lockers and cabins. "Speaking on the occasion, Kandi Shravan Reddy said that Manappuram Gold Loan has earned a good reputation as a trusted financial services institution. He expressed his wishes for the company to expand its services further and urged the residents of Habsiguda to make use of the new branch. Senior Habsiguda Congress leaders Gannaram Vijay Kumar, Murali Krishna Mudiraj, Dharma Naik, Raju Naik, Youth Congress President Vasu Naik,



Suman Naik, Manappuram Area Head Mahadev, Ram Krishna Mandal, FZM Mohan Reddy, employees Manoj and Rajeshwari, and other staff members attended the programme.

Energy Efficiency Key to Achieving Net-Zero Goal

"Hyderabad, September 16 (Indian Chronicle) : Energy efficiency, clean technologies and AI-driven decision-making are crucial for achieving a net-zero economy, organisers said in a statement on Wednesday at the 25th CII Energy Efficiency Summit 2026. Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who attended the summit as the chief guest at HICC, said energy efficiency is an economic competitiveness strategy. Energy Efficiency Summit Chairman Tejpreet Singh Chopra, Power Plant Summit Chairman Ajay Sharma, PaperTech Chairman Ganesh Bhaddi, CII Telangana Chairman Gautam Reddy, former CII Andhra Pradesh Chairman Y. Harish Chandra Prasad, CII IGBC National Chairman C. Shekar Reddy, CII Green Business Council Executive Director K.S. Venkatagiri, and CII Green Business Centre Executive Director P.V. Kiran Ananth, among others, participated in the event. The 22nd Power Plant Summit and 20th PaperTech-2026 were also held at the venue. Three publi-



cations were released, while 263 industries from over 15 sectors participated in the National Energy Management Excellence Awards. More than 1,600 delegates, over 60 speakers and 75 technology solutions were part of the event and exhibition.

9.18 Crore Drainage Projects to Make Kowkoo Flood-Free Soon*

""Kowkoo, September 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE)""With the objective of transforming Kowkoo into a flood-free area, major drainage development works worth ₹9.18 crore are set to commence soon. Former MLA and Telangana dynamic mass leader Mynampally Hanumanth Rao visited the Lower Basti area of Kowkoo and inspected the site where the proposed box drain works are scheduled to begin. Speaking on the occasion, Thudimella Mallikarjun, senior Congress leader of Malkajgiri constituency and social activist, said that approvals had already been secured for several major drainage projects aimed at providing a permanent solution to the long-standing flooding and drainage problems faced by residents. The upcoming works include a ₹2.50 crore box drain in Lower Basti, a ₹4.30 crore drainage project from the existing nala at Priyadarshini Enclave to Venrag, and a ₹2.38 crore project from Venrag Enclave to Om Sri Grand. Together, the projects are estimated at ₹9.18 crore and are expected to begin shortly. Mallikarjun said that the drainage and flooding issues were brought to the attention of Mynampally Hanumanth Rao last year along with local residents. He stated that Hanumanth Rao responded immediately, discussed the issues with the concerned officials and extended the necessary support for taking the projects forward. He further said that drainage works worth more than ₹20 crore in areas including Villa Orchids, Janapriya and Prashanth Vihar Colony are currently under the budget process. These projects, he added, would play an important role in providing a permanent solution to the problems that residents have been facing for several years. Mallikarjun appreciated Mynampally Hanumanth Rao for treating the problems of Kowkoo residents as his own and working towards bringing major infrastructure projects to the area. Later, Mynampally Hanumanth Rao visited the Kowkoo Model Market building. Local residents warmly welcomed him and



expressed their heartfelt gratitude for his support in protecting the model market for public use. Former Corporator Jithender Nath, Malkajgiri Congress Party In-charge Thota Lakshmi Kant Reddy, Medak District Congress Party President Anjaneyulu Goud, Mahipal Reddy, Chitra Gokul, Boddhi Srinivas Yadav, Gokul, Alli Mallesh, Pandu, Venu Goud, Sathi Reddy, Narender Reddy, Shivraj, Shravan, Asifulla Khan, Syed Aslam, Mahesh Yadav, Kiran, Anuradha, Pushpa and Vani, along with a large number of party workers and supporters, participated in the programme.

Indian Navy Chief gets traditional Maori welcome in New Zealand



Indian Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan was accorded a traditional Maori Powhiri welcome on Monday at Te Taua Moana Marae, the spiritual and cultural home of Royal New Zealand Navy personnel, at the HMNZS Philomel naval base in Auckland.The warm welcome reflected mutual respect, friendship and the strong maritime ties between India and New Zealand.

In a post on X, the Indian Navy wrote, "Tradition spoke before words did. Adm Krishna Swaminathan, CNS, was accorded a traditional Maori Powhiri at Te Taua Moana Marae, at HMNZS Philomel, Devonport Naval Base, Auckland – a powerful expression of manaakitanga, respect and welcome, deeply woven into the identity of the NZ Navy. A uniquely New Zealand beginning to a visit anchored in enduring bonds, mutual respect and shared maritime traditions."During his official visit, the Indian Navy Chief also interacted with the Indian High Commissioner to New Zealand Muanpui Saiawi and Consul General Madan Mohan Sethi."CNS' visit comes at a time when India and New Zealand have seen elevation of the bilateral relation-

ship and strengthening of maritime cooperation," the Indian High Commission in New Zealand posted on X.

Admiral Swaminathan arrived in Auckland following his successful engagements in Australia. This visit is aimed at strengthening naval ties between India and New Zealand.The visit to New Zealand builds upon renewed momentum in India–New Zealand relations, following the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Oceanic nation in July this year.During PM Modi's visit, India and New Zealand elevated their bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership and agreed to deepen cooperation across several areas, including defence and maritime security, read a statement issued by the Ministry of Defence ahead of Admiral Swaminathan's visit.Admiral Swaminathan will hold talks with senior leadership of the Royal New Zealand Navy and senior New Zealand defence leadership. The engagements will focus on further strengthening operational interaction, information sharing, training and professional exchanges between the two navies, the statement noted.He will visit key operational and training establishments and interact with personnel of the Royal New Zealand Navy and officers undergoing professional military education.According to the Defence Ministry, the visit assumes significance in the backdrop of the recently concluded Maritime Cooperation Arrangement, which provides an expanded framework for practical maritime cooperation between India and New Zealand.The visit, it said, underscores India's growing defence and maritime engagement with Australia and New Zealand and the commitment of the Indian Navy to further deepen cooperation with the Royal Australian Navy and Royal New Zealand Navy through practical and sustained maritime engagement, contributing towards peace, security and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Manoj Jarange alleges conspiracy to kill him during Mumbai march



GNS News Agency, Sept 16Jalna (Maharashtra): Activist Manoj Jarange Patil on Sunday alleged a conspiracy to kill him and create trouble during his proposed 'peaceful' march to Mumbai to press for Maratha reservation, asserting that he would not succumb to pressure.People associated with the ruling parties could be sent into the march to create chaos and target him, Jarange, whose hunger strike entered its 16th day on Sunday, claimed while addressing supporters and media persons at the protest site at Antarwali Sarati village in Maharashtra's Jalna district.

"I will accept death, but I will not surrender," he said, adding that the government still had eight days to resolve the issue before the proposed Mumbai agitation."We will have to respond when someone steps on the tail of a snake," Jarange stated, warning that his supporters could politically challenge some ministers.

Targeting Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, he alleged that those in power were conspiring against him and claimed there was a plan to create trouble during his proposed Maratha march to Mumbai.Jarange on Saturday announced that he and his supporters would set out for Mumbai on September 15 and start an indefinite hunger strike at Azad Maidan in the state capital from September 19 for Maratha quota in jobs and education.The activist has called for the march during the Ganpati festivities, to be held from September 14 to 25.

On Sunday, the activist claimed that some Maratha MLAs from the BJP and the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena were calling his supporters and asking them not to participate in the march."There is a conspiracy to shoot me during the march. They do not want to kill Marathas, but want

to target me," he alleged. "I will not surrender," Jarange asserted.He urged supporters not to join if they were afraid, but made an emotional appeal for them to march to Mumbai and, if necessary, even join his funeral procession.Jarange said he would leave Antarwali Sarati for Mumbai on September 15. "I will reach Mumbai on September 19 and sit on a hunger strike at Azad Maidan at 10 am. We believe in the law and the judiciary," he said.Jarange said an application had been submitted seeking permission for the protest and that the government could impose conditions on the agitation."I am going to Mumbai. What is my mistake? Am I violating the law? If you want to impose conditions, impose them," he said.Jarange said he had earlier trusted Eknath Shinde and returned from Vashi in Navi Mumbai in January 2024 after a government resolution (GR) was issued over the Maratha quota demands."When we honoured Shinde, Marathas were dear to him. If Fadnavis accepts all our demands and wins the battle, what will happen to the others?" he asked.Jarange also said he would not be intimidated by government inquiries against him or his associates."Even if inquiries are ordered, I will not surrender. I will accept death, but I will not surrender," he said.He also claimed that 58 lakh Kunbi records had been found and demanded that the government issue certificates to eligible Marathas.

Among Jarange's main demands is that a Government Resolution (GR) be issued allowing Marathas to claim the reservation available to the Kunbi community in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) segment based on old records and gazette documents.OBC groups have opposed the demand, claiming their share of benefits will be affected.Jarange maintained that the proposed protest would be peaceful and democratic and appealed to Marathas to participate in the agitation.He also said recent rains had brought relief to farmers after a difficult period and that agricultural work had largely been completed, making it possible for supporters to join the Mumbai agitation.On Friday, the Bombay High Court refused to pass any urgent order on a petition seeking to stop Jarange's fresh protest in the state capital. The court said every person has the right to protest and that no restraining order can be issued merely on the apprehension of law and order trouble.On August 29 last year, Jarange had launched an indefinite hunger strike at Azad Maidan in Mumbai to reiterate his demand for Maratha reservation. The agitation led to chaos in parts of the city, and it was called off after the government accepted some of his demands.

SC directs Haryana Police to produce murder accused after ‘victory procession’

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

New Delhi: Taking a stern view of a murder accused taking out a "victory procession" after being granted bail by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the Supreme Court has directed Haryana Police to produce him before the court.Learn Self DefenseA bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta also recorded in its order that despite a non-bailable warrant being issued against the accused, he had not been produced in custody.The bench took note of the submission of counsel for the complainant that the accused, Vishal, had taken out a "victory procession" after being granted bail by the High Court and had threatened witnesses.Consult Trial LawyersOn September 8, when the matter was taken up for hearing, the bench noted that the accused was represented through his counsel.Run Back-ground Checks

The bench directed Vishal to surrender and then seek bail, pulling him up for taking out the "victory procession" after being granted bail."We will hear you once you surrender and then seek bail. Taking out a victory procession on bail is not right," it said.The bench noted that the non-bailable arrest warrant issued in August had not been executed and the accused had not been arrested by the police. It added that the warrant could not be executed for reasons that the court was not going into at present."However, we direct the superintendent of police, district Charkhi Dadri, Haryana to ensure that a non-bailable warrant is executed and respondent no 2 is produced before this court on the next date, which is being fixed as September 21, 2026," the top court ordered.Download Interactive MapsIt directed the



registry to forward a copy of the order to the SP within 24 hours by email and other modes.

The High Court granted bail to the accused in the murder case on April 23.The incident took place on October 27, 2022, following which Vishal was arrested and remained in custody for more than three years.The altercation between the accused and family members of the complainant, Rajbala, took place after Vishal allegedly started constructing tin sheds on a disputed plot of land.During a heated exchange, Vishal allegedly hit several people with a lathi and an axe, grievously injuring several persons belonging to the complainant's side, one of whom later died.The High Court had rejected Vishal's bail petition four times but accepted it the fifth time after it was pointed out that material witnesses had been examined in the case and he had spent more than three years in custody.

BRICS Summit focuses on trade, investment and strategic cooperation



New Delhi: Trade, investment, strategic cooperation and the vision of a multipolar world dominated discussions on the second day of the 18th BRICS Summit, with experts and industry leaders on Sunday describing the grouping as an increasingly important platform for the Global South.Speaking to IANS, SWFI Chairman and IBRICS 2026 Lead Co-Chair Lakshmi Narayanan said the tariff-related challenges facing many economies were not created by BRICS nations but were a consequence of the broader global trade environment, particularly the impact of US policies.He said BRICS members had agreed to address such challenges through collective cooperation and economic coordination.According to Narayanan, three key outcomes emerged from the summit: efforts to boost bilateral and multilateral trade, positive progress toward resolving border-related issues between India and China, and an understanding between India and Russia to expand bilateral trade to \$100 billion.Narayanan said these developments could strengthen both economic and strategic cooperation among BRICS countries. He also highlighted the role of IBRICS as a platform focused on translating discussions into investments, projects and business opportunities.

Meanwhile, Defence Expert Ranjit Rai described the Delhi Declaration adopted at the summit as an important document for global security and international cooperation.He said the event provided world leaders with an opportunity to gain a closer understanding of India and reinforced the need for collective action on issues such as climate change, security and economic development."BRICS' original objective is to strengthen a multipolar world order, where global decision-making is not limited to a few countries."

Former Vice Chairman of SETU Commission, Rajshekhar Joshi said BRICS had emerged as one of the most influential examples of Global South cooperation, representing more than half of the world's population and around 40 per cent of global GDP.Apart from that, industry representatives also praised India's hosting of the summit. Indo

Navy. He was briefed about the ship's activities and interacted with the crew as well as cadets. The visit highlighted the enduring friendship and growing India-Italy maritime cooperation.Indian Ambassador to Italy Vani Rao also visited INS Sudarshini at Livorno and interacted with officers, sailors and cadets on board. She welcomed Italian dignitaries who attended the onboard reception."Ambassador Rao highlighted the longstanding India–Italy maritime linkages, strategic convergences and efforts to strengthen maritime security cooperation. She wished the crew fair winds, following seas and success for the Lokayan26 voyage," the Indian Embassy said on X.INS Sudarshini Commanding Officer (Commander Ravikanth Nandoori) called on Rear Admiral Alberto Tarabotto, Italian Naval Academy Commandant, and shared experiences from the ongoing expedition.Interactions were also held with Luca Salvetti, Mayor of Livorno, and Edoardo Lombardi, Vice Prefect of Livorno.

"As part of the training exchanges, Indian sea trainees visited ITS Virginio Fasan and the Italian Naval Academy, while Italian naval personnel visited INS Sudarshini, fostering professional cooperation and mutual understanding," the Ministry of Defence noted.A deck reception was hosted onboard, attended by senior Italian naval officers, local authorities, diplomatic representatives and distinguished guests."As INS Sudarshini continues her voyage as part of Lokayan 2026, she carries forward the spirit of maritime partnership and the vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)," the Ministry said.

Wings Private Ltd CEO Paras Jain said India's management of the event had enhanced the country's global profile, while Nick Booker of Indogenius said the participation of global leaders reflected India's growing importance in international diplomacy and economic engagement.

Teacher walks 5 km through forest daily to teach one student in Maharashtra

Kolhapur: Every morning, when most teachers head to school by vehicle or public transport, Jivan Mithari sets out on a 5-km walk through dense forest, braving rain, wild animals and the absence of a motorable road, only to teach a single student.

For the past 13 years, the 55-year-old teacher has been walking to the Zilla Parishad school at Kawaltek Dhangarwada, a remote hamlet in Gaganbawada taluka of Maharashtra's Kolhapur district, bordering Sindhudurg.The hamlet has no electricity, and vehicles cannot reach the school. Located 2.5 km from the nearest road, the school makes Mithari's daily journey a 5-km walk to and from the institution.His decision to seek a transfer to the remote school was something of a dare.

Before moving, Mithari had served as chairman of the Kolhapur District Primary Teachers' Cooperative Bank. He said his fellow teachers once remarked that influential figures like him usually secured postings at well-connected schools, while others were left to work in difficult, far-flung locations."I said I will go," Mithari recalled, explaining that he sought a transfer and chose the remote school.The school once had a much larger student population. The hamlet, comprising Kawaltek Dhangarwada and Anandur Dhangarwada, earlier had between 70 and 100 families. But after 2000, migration in search of livelihoods in Kolhapur city gradually thinned the settlement, reducing the number of children.This year, Mithari has just one student officially enrolled: Swara Bodake, who is in Class 3. Her younger sister, who is not old enough for formal education, also attends classes since the hamlet has no anganwadi, the government-run women and child care centre. She is expected to enter Class 1 next year.The low enrolment, however, has not changed Mithari's commitment.The journey itself carries risks. The route is frequented by gaurs, leopards and other wildlife.



"You have been appointed as a permanent staffer in the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation's water supply department... You are required to report to the concerned department head at 11 am on September 5 to take charge of your duties. Your office timings will be from 11 am to 6 pm. All the best for a successful tenure."The letter, issued on what appeared to be an official-looking Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) letterhead, instructed the recipient to report for duty with original educational certificates and identity proofs. Complete with a fake signature of the head of the department and warnings regarding municipal service regulations, the promised civic government job was entirely fictitious.

The Pimpri-Chinchwad police crime branch has arrested Pratik Rajesh Dhainje, 26, a Class 12 dropout and repeat fraud offender, for allegedly issuing forged appointment letters to job seekers. Dhainje allegedly cheated people out of Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000 each by promising permanent positions in the PCMC water supply department. The police have traced at least six victims defrauded of over Rs 1.5 lakh, with more victims stepping forward.Forged lettersDhainje, a resident of Bhosari and originally from Akkalkot in the Solapur district, previously worked on civic projects on a contract basis. The police said his method relied on leveraging official government credentials to build credibility.They said the forged letters carried the official PCMC water supply department heading, referenced an "office order/appointment" dated September 2, and cited

rules governing municipal employees to simulate authenticity.Candidates were directed to report for permanent duty on September 5, between 11 am and 6 pm. Dhainje allegedly collected money from candidates by claiming direct access to top PCMC officials."The appointment letters were designed to closely resemble official PCMC correspondence. We have recovered three such letters till now," said a crime branch officer.

Rohidas Pawar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime), said, "Acting on confidential information, a team traced him and took him into custody... We are investigating whether Dhainje approached more job seekers using the same method and whether others assisted him in preparing or circulating the forged documents."

History of fraudThis is not Dhainje's first arrest for similar frauds. In January 2025, the police registered a case against him at the Bhosari police station for allegedly defrauding people of Rs 22.4 lakh by promising low-cost houses under a fake Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) scheme.In the MHADA scam, when the promised housing failed to materialise, Dhainje allegedly created a WhatsApp group titled 'MHADHA update group' to send continuous assurances and revised possession dates to victims.

Heavy rain lashes Hyderabad, parts of Telangana

Hyderabad: Heavy rains lashed several parts of Telangana in the last 24-hours under the influence of renewed active monsoon conditions.Based on the rainfall data from Telangana Development Planning Society (TDPS), Siddipet district had the state's highest downpours with Kondapak mandal recording 145.3 mm rain fall.

Three killed, 15 wounded in shooting ahead of BARMM parliamentary election



Manila: Three people were killed and 15 others wounded during a shooting incident before midnight Sunday at a polling center in Cotabato City, Maguindanao del Norte province in southern Philippines. The shooting occurred ahead of the parliamentary election in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), which started on Monday to choose its first elected parliament, Xinhua news agency reported.

According to local police, rival political factions struggled for position in the queue for polls, leading to shov-

ing, fistfights, and eventually gunfire in the crowded area. According to local media reports, over 2 million voters are eligible to vote for 80 parliamentary seats being contested by 13 parties. Security has been stepped up across the BARMM in recent days, with over 20,000 security personnel deployed to polling areas and rapid response teams set up to deal with potential violence. Monday's historic vote is seen as a crucial step towards self-governance after decades of insurgency and violence in the Muslim-majority region. Nearly 2.4 million voters are registered to cast their ballots in the election, which international partners and peace monitors see as a crucial test of whether the regional autonomy established under a 2014 peace agreement between Manila and Muslim separatists can be sustained through democratic institutions. The autonomy arrangement was designed to bring an end to a conflict that claimed more than 120,000 lives, displaced around 2 million people. "The election marks a milestone in the continuing journey of BARMM towards lasting peace, democratic governance and ?meaningful self-determination," President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said in a video message urging voters to take part in what he also described as a "defining moment" for the ?region ?and the country.

Congo says Ebola outbreak 'under control' despite persistent risks

Kinshasa: The government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) said that its ongoing Ebola outbreak is "under control" and has passed its peak, although local flare-ups, continued transmission and the spread of the disease to a seventh province point to persistent risks. "The 17th Ebola outbreak is under control, and the peak was reached at the beginning of the third week of August 2026," government spokesperson Patrick Muyaya said while reading a report from a cabinet meeting on Friday, citing Health Minister Roger Kamba. According to the government, all major indicators point to a decline in cases, with 10 health zones affected before the latest expansion of the outbreak reporting no new cases for at least 21 days, while transmission has slowed in several regions in the eastern province of Ituri, the epicenter of the outbreak, reports Xinhua news agency.

The authorities nevertheless called for continued vigilance and strict contact tracing, saying close surveillance remains necessary in regions where recent flare-ups have been reported. Former Congolese Health Minister Jean-Jacques Mbungani Mbanda, now a member of parliament, urged caution over the assessment, saying on Saturday that the downward trend in some areas should not be taken to mean that transmission has been brought under control everywhere. In an outbreak involving multiple transmission foci, different areas may reach their peaks at different times, he said, adding that the epidemic curve reflects detected cases and could be affected by infections that remain unidentified in communities. In its latest weekly report on Tuesday, the World Health Organization said the outbreak "remains uncontrolled and increasingly heterogeneous," with transmission easing in some areas while intensifying or spreading geographically elsewhere.

How Anthropic says Claude was used for weapons, spying and cyber operations

CHINA-TAIWAN AIR DEFENSES: Anthropic said a China-based actor used Claude to develop an electronic-warfare and air-defense suppression software suite that ranked targets and modeled radar jamming. During the project, the actor changed a simulation to include 12 targets in Taiwan, including early-warning radar, Patriot and Tien Kung missile batteries, air bases and a command bunker. Anthropic said account information linked the actor to Chinese research institutions including the People's Liberation Army Academy of Military Sciences. Anthropic banned accounts linked to the actor. China's foreign ministry said it was not aware of the Anthropic report and that the government maintains that AI should be developed for good and opposes distortion of facts and smears against the country.

China claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory ?and has never renounced the use of force to bring the island under its control. Taiwan rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims. CHINA ANTI-TORPEDO SYSTEM: Anthropic said another China-based actor used Claude to help develop specifications and fire-control software for an anti-torpedo system intended for the Chinese navy. The actor used Claude to produce a technical proposal of more than 200 pages, compare the system with U.S. Navy technology and simulate hostile technical reviews to improve the proposal. "We assess the actor was associated with a Chinese defense industry manufacturer aiming to produce a weapons specification and acquisition proposal for the People's Liberation Army Navy," Anthropic said.

CHINESE RESEARCH INTO MICROWAVE WEAPONS: A China-based defense-intelligence actor used Claude to research foreign high-power microwave weapons, identify components and suppliers and trace supply chains, Anthropic said. The actor sought information that could help reverse-engineer the weapons and develop countermeasures, and drafted restricted briefings for senior Chinese Communist Party, military or state-security officials, the company said. YEMEN MISSILE DEVELOPMENT: Anthropic said a cell of threat actors in northern Yemen used Claude to help develop software for a guided rocket, a planned ballistic missile with a range of more than 2,000 km and a missile variant incorporating a hypersonic glide vehicle. The actors used Claude for coding, simulation ?and troubleshooting, including after a guided-rocket test appeared to fail. Anthropic said it had no evidence they successfully fielded an operational weapon. "Our safeguards blocked many of their requests, but not all of them," Anthropic said.

The disclosure comes as the Iran-aligned Houthis, who control most of northern ?Yemen, have intensified attacks on Saudi Arabia and its energy infrastructure. The Anthropic report did not identify whether or not the threat actors were Houthis. RUSSIAN DRONE SWARM: Anthropic said likely freelance Russia-based actors used Claude to develop software for an autonomous swarm of first-person-view attack drones, including terminal guidance, target selection and coordination between multiple aircraft. Small FPV attack drones have become a central ?weapon in the war in Ukraine, where Russia and Ukraine have deployed them

Iraq says Saudi pipeline attack originated from its territory



Baghdad: Iraq said attacks on a key Saudi oil pipeline were launched from its territory, as US President Donald Trump appeared to blame Iran. Meanwhile, the number of displaced people in Yemen is rising quickly after a swift advance by Iran-backed Houthi rebels threatens a key alternative to the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb. And Lebanon and Israel will hold new direct talks next month.

Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi ordered an investigation into the operations command in Maysan province, which borders Iran, and dismissed its commander after authorities determined that the attacks on the Saudi pipeline were launched from the province, the government said. Geographic ReferenceThe Saudi Foreign Ministry blamed the attacks on drones that came from Iraq and said the kingdom would not retaliate to give the Iraqi government "an opportunity to take the necessary measures."

The East-West pipeline has been vital to Saudi Arabia's oil exports since the Iran war disrupted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. According to the International Energy Agency, Saudi oil exports through the Red Sea port at the pipeline's end have more than doubled. Regional officials have told The AP that the Houthis and the Iraqi militias recently coordinated attacks on Saudi oil facilities.

Trump says Iran is 'probably' behind Saudi pipeline attack Asked if he thought Iran was behind the attack that closed the East-West pipeline, Trump told reporters: "Well, I think they are. Probably they are." Trump said his administration has "had discussions" with the Houthis, though he did not say when. "The Houthis called us, and they don't want to fight with us," he said. "They would much prefer not having us involved, and they're letting most ships go through." Executive BranchThe Houthis have said they are only targeting neighbouring Saudi Arabia's shipping.

Asked about a recent call with Saudi's crown prince, Trump said: "He's a good friend of mine, and I can just say everything's going to work out fine and dandy. It's going to be very good." People fleeing in Yemen describe a hysterical panic

Thousands of people have fled the Houthis' advance. In Aden, held by Yemen's Saudi-backed internationally recognised government, residents have opened their homes. In one, dozens of men lay on a floor carpeted with thin mattresses and sheets. "We set out in hysterical panic on a motorcycle, not knowing where we were heading," said Alaa Ali Salem, who fled from al-Khawkhra district. "The roads suddenly became extremely congested, and while I was driving, the motorcycle overturned. My wife, my children and I were all injured." The International Organisation for Migration said at least 76,000 people have fled since July as fighting escalates between the Houthis and government forces, up from 46,000 just days earlier. Some fear a return to the civil war that killed 1,50,000 before a 2022 ceasefire. "I saw the soldiers as they were withdrawing. They told us we must escape," said a tearful Durrah Ali Hassan, who took shelter in a relative's house. She said

Global AI stocks fall as industry chiefs call for slowing development

AI-linked ?stocks across the globe plunged on Monday after leaders of the biggest AI companies warned of risks from rapid development, the starkest threat yet to the billions of dollars ?being poured into the industry that have pushed world markets to record highs. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, in a lengthy essay shared on X on Saturday, called on AI companies to slow the rate at which they advance model capabilities amid mounting fears of misuse of artificial intelligence. Both Elon Musk, who runs xAI, and Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, said they agree with Amodei. Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here. Altman also said the company would not proceed with an IPO this year, citing safety concerns. The CEOs' comments deepened ?the scrutiny on AI-related sectors, triggered by companies increasingly relying on debt and circular financing to fund their AI ambitions, while also raising spending forecasts at a time when global yields, ?an indication of borrowing costs, have soared to multi-year highs.

"If the AI race slows materially, the key question becomes: who pays for all that infrastructure? The ?leases, debt and power commitments remain even if expected compute demand and revenue growth slow. And that could bring credit risk increasingly into the AI story," said Ipek Ozkardeskaya, senior analyst at Swissquote. Futures tracking ?Wall Street's Nasdaq e-mini futures fell 1.9%, with chip stocks, which have led the AI sugar rush, down the most.

Amodei wrote that in six to 12 months, AI agents "could be capable of taking over the entire internet potentially causing hundreds of billions of dollars in damage." San Francisco-based Anthropic released a threat intelligence report on Thursday detailing how several actors had used its Claude AI models for activities ranging from weapons development and cyber operations to surveillance and fraud. Alarm about ?the potential harm from AI grew when Anthropic researcher Jacob Coxon resigned, opens new tab

, stating that the "people building AI earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade." OpenAI's Altman said in an interview that risks of human extinction posed by AI were "unacceptable". And while several U.S. lawmakers have raised concern about AI's rapid progress and called for new rules, U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday likened AI critics to "very negative forces" bringing up scenarios that will not happen, and said he wanted to make sure that the U.S. remains the industry leader. AI-related trades have powered much of the gains in global equities since OpenAI released ChatGPT in 2022, but more recently cyberattacks by rogue AI agents and public discontent with data centre construction have raised opposition to the development of the industry. The U.S. and Chinese governments are expected to hold AI safety talks as part of bilateral discussions taking ?place this month, according to two people briefed ?on the plans. But China's state-backed Global Times blasted ?the Anthropic essay in an editorial, calling it a "Cold War playbook" intended to

she was worried about the toll of the chaos on her pregnant daughter, who had been bleeding and was now in a coma at a hospital. Lebanon, Israel to hold new talks next month

Geographic ReferenceLebanese and Israeli negotiators are scheduled to meet in Rome in October for US-brokered talks. A planned round this month was postponed without explanation. The US State Department said Lebanese and Israeli ambassadors to the US will meet at its headquarters in Washington next week to discuss ongoing developments and the continued implementation of the framework agreement reached in June. Lebanon and Israel have held seven rounds of talks in Washington and Rome over the past months in search of a way to calm the latest fighting between Israeli forces and the Lebanon-based Hezbollah militant group. Lebanon's president made a rare visit to a southern city Saturday, close to where Israel captured a strategic hill.

Iran's president meets with Abu Dhabi crown princelranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held talks on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi, according to a UAE government statement, signalling efforts to maintain engagement despite growing instability across the region. Iran has sharply criticised the security partnerships some Gulf states maintain with Western powers, while the UAE has backed efforts aimed at containing Iran's military influence. Oil spill in Gulf of Oman doubled: environmental groupA large-scale oil spill, believed to be from a tanker struck by the US military, doubled in size between Wednesday and Thursday, endangering two protected areas off Oman and Iran, said Nina Noelle of Greenpeace Germany.

The tanker RIESCO was one of four attacked Tuesday in the Gulf of Oman. A fifth was destroyed in the Strait of Hormuz off Iran's Kharg island. The visible area of pollution measured about 400 square kilometres on Thursday, Noelle said. Satellite images reviewed by The AP showed the spill stretching almost 70 kilometres.

The spill is located between the Musandam protected area on the Omani side, which includes one of the region's most important seabird breeding islands. On the Iranian side is the Hara-e Roud-e Gaz Protected Area in Hormozgan province that includes mangrove forests. Video shows Israeli troops firing on Palestinians in West Bank

Israeli troops opened fire at a group of Palestinians who did not appear to be posing a threat in the occupied West Bank, wounding one man, according to video obtained by The AP. The video, shot by a witness, showed the man falling near the Palestinian village of Faqqua. At least 14 shots were fired and continued as men rushed to move the man to safety before tying a tourniquet around his leg. Mahmoud Shahin, a resident, said the Palestinians had rushed to the area after receiving reports that Israeli settlers had arrived with sheep. He said Israeli soldiers then came and began firing in the air and toward the Palestinians. He said the man was undergoing surgery in Jenin. Israel's military said the video was authentic and confirmed its forces had fired toward the Palestinians, wounding one man, and said commanders would review the incident. Settler violence in the West Bank has surged under the ultranationalist government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The international community largely considers Israeli settlements to be illegal. Syrian Energy Minister Mohammed al-Bashir told journalists in Damascus Saturday that the country is facing a crisis in oil derivatives due to the ongoing war in the region, exacerbating existing energy issues in the country that is trying to rebuild its infrastructure after 14 years of civil war.



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curb the country's technological development. Some investors dismissed the warnings from Anthropic and OpenAI. Michael Burry, whose prescient bets against the U.S. housing market before the 2008 financial crisis were chronicled in the movie "The Big Short", said in a message on ?X the warnings were "hype and puffery" and "cover for real uncontrollable slowing growth".

Others argued that record capital spending commitments suggest AI development is unlikely to slow, ?such as Morgan Stanley's Brian ?Nowak who forecast AI spending will surpass \$1.2 trillion by 2027. "The key question is whether this is the first sign that the extraordinary AI investment cycle might eventually moderate. For now, that seems unlikely. The competitive race between companies and countries remains intense, and it's difficult to imagine firms voluntarily stepping back while rivals continue to push ahead," Deutsche Bank said in a note.

Almost echoing that stiff competition, Amodei's Anthropic pushed ahead with its public debut, ?expected next month ?as sources told Reuters that the company is in talks to bring Nvidia as an anchor investor. Still, the warnings are likely ?to remain an overhang. "In the short term, these warnings could still weigh on AI and chip stocks," said Charu Chananana, chief investment strategist at Saxo Bank in Singapore. "Their valuations assume both strong demand and a relentless pace of technological progress," she said. "When expectations ?are this high, even a possible delay can trigger profit-taking."

Anthropic blocks AI misuse for cyber, bio threats



San Francisco: Anthropic said Thursday it has blocked efforts by bad actors to use its artificial intelligence models for malicious activity such as cyberattacks, surveillance, and research that could have led to biological weapons.Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence

As AI models grow more powerful, elaborate cyberattacks no longer require sophisticated skills and even lone individuals can create threats that would not have been possible even a year ago, Anthropic said. The company said it has added stronger safeguards in its latest models to restrict biological research that could also be used to make weapons.“The cases we share here aren’t typical misuse, but rather examples of the most notable and novel threat activity we’ve identified to date,” Anthropic said in its third report since March 2025 describing AI misuse. The report includes snippets of the malicious code and AI prompts Anthropic said it found and it urged governments and AI competitors to identify and prevent similar abuse.“We’re publishing this work because we believe we have a responsibility to disclose malicious misuse of our services. As models become increasingly capable, their risks will increase, unless AI developers and society’s defenders act to make them safer,” the company said.The lengthy report by the AI startup, which is planning an initial public offering this fall, was published two days after one of its researchers announced he’s resigning over concerns that Anthropic and its competitors are not acting responsibly in AI development. He echoed concerns raised inside and outside of the industry about the technology’s potential to elude human control.Dictionaries & EncyclopediasClaude was asked to support making a virus more harmful Between December 2025 and August 2026, researchers at Anthropic found misuse by actors ranging from spyware vendors and “politically motivated individuals” to state-sponsored groups spreading propaganda.

Among the findings in the company’s report are unnamed actors attempting to use its models for research that could have led to biological weapons. In one instance, Anthropic said its systems blocked a request for Claude’s assistance in authoring a grant application for

“The work discussed in the application involved gain-of-function research (that is, research that genetically alters an organism to create a new or enhanced biological property) on the chikungunya virus. This gain of function research was aimed at the virus’ transmissibility and immune evasion properties,” the report said.Chikungunya is

a mosquito-borne virus that causes debilitating symptoms such as severe pain and fever. The request involved a grant proposal for research seeking to enhance mutations to make the virus progressively more harmful. While such research could “certainly” be used to develop better vaccines and treatments, Anthropic said, “it could also be used to make the pathogen more dangerous.”None of the cases Anthropic included in its report were found to be using its newer, more powerful Claude Fable or Mythos-class models, with the exception of one illicit distillation case that Anthropic described as “an industrial-scale, covert campaign to extract a model’s capabilities and replicate them in another model without authorization.”Anthropic said its older models, such as Claude Opus 4 and Claude Sonnet 4.5, from 2025, “were well below the threshold where they could meaningfully assist a sophisticated user in carrying out dangerous biological research.” “As a result, safeguards on these models were less stringent, directed mostly at preventing access to content that might uplift novices in recreating known bioweapons,” the report said. “But for today’s models — which are capable of assisting in a range of complex scientific research tasks — the evidence is no longer certain, and we cannot make that same assurance.” Because of this, Anthropic has applied “stronger safeguards that restrict access to a wide range of dual-use biological research queries” in its more recent models, such as Claude Fable 5, the report said.As companies introduce increasingly powerful AI models, experts have called on governments to regulate the technology, rather than relying on the industry to police itself.Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence

John Thickstun, an assistant professor of computer science at Cornell University, said it is an uncomfortable position for companies like Anthropic and OpenAI to be in when they are expected to determine what is safe vs. unsafe behaviour and make “value judgments at societal scale without any kind of democratic or deliberative oversight.”Anthropic also found groups that created hundreds of social media accounts that look like they belong to ordinary people and then posted material amplifying the same political view over the course of a week. The company outlined nine such cases it found, originating in Russia, Iran, Turkiye and across the Persian Gulf, South Asia, Africa and Europe.While social media companies can detect influence operations on their platforms once posts are circulating, “we may see it on Claude while the operation is still being built.” Anthropic released this report after one of its researchers, Jacob Coxon, announced he’s resigning amid fears the company and its chief rival OpenAI “are racing straight to self-improving superintelligence and gambling with our lives.” Coxon’s post warned that some of his colleagues now believe AI could threaten human life by the end of the decade.But Anthropic said it has blocked each of the malicious activities it identified, used the experience to strengthen safeguards and shared information with government authorities and industry partners.“We hope that the findings in this report will help other developers recognize similar patterns on their own platforms, give governments and civil society a clearer view of how emerging threats take shape, and strengthen collective defences,” Anthropic said.

Weight-loss drugs for children: Breakthrough or cause for caution?



A Phase III trial by Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk has shown that about four in 10 children with obesity, who received once-weekly semaglutide, were no longer classified as having obesity after 68 weeks.

The STEP Young trial, which involved 165 children aged 6 to under 12 years, found that 40.4% of children treated with semaglutide moved below the obesity threshold, compared with none in the placebo group. The trial met its primary endpoint, showing a greater reduction in body mass index (BMI) among children receiving semaglutide. Importantly, the drug was studied alongside lifestyle modification. Both the semaglutide and placebo groups followed a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity throughout the 68-week trial. More than 85 per cent of the children enrolled had class II or class III severe obesity at the start of the study.

So, how significant is this result? In India, where childhood obesity is an escalating problem, a 40.4 per cent reduction to below the obesity threshold is clinically meaningful. This is particularly important because many children with severe obesity are already on a trajectory toward early-onset Type 2 diabetes, metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), hypertension, polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) and premature cardiovascular disease. Achieving substantial weight reduction within roughly a year, particularly in children with severe obesity, may alter their long-term metabolic trajectory and in fact, change their life completely. However, sustained benefits will depend on maintaining healthy behaviours and appropriate long-term management.

Even in the trial, both the semaglutide and placebo groups received a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity. Because both groups received lifestyle intervention, the difference between the groups largely reflects the additional effect of semaglutide. The substantial difference in weight reduction, therefore demonstrates that semaglutide can provide an important incremental benefit when added to lifestyle measures. However, lifestyle modification remains fundamental. Children need to develop sustainable eating, activity, sleep and behavioural habits; medication should complement these changes, not replace them.

The bigger question is whether pharmacological treatment should be begun at such a young age, particularly in children aged 6 to under 12? In carefully selected children with severe or clinically significant obesity, pharmacological treatment may help interrupt the progression toward adolescent type 2 diabetes, hypertension, fatty liver and other obesity-related complications. It may also improve physical functioning and reduce some of the psychological

burden associated with severe obesity, including weight-based bullying and social stigma which may result in mental stress and depression.The key concern about pharmacological treatment in primary school-aged children raises legitimate questions about long-term safety, effects on nutrition and development, duration of treatment, affordability and access. There is also a risk of medicalising obesity without adequately addressing the family and environmental factors that drive it. In India, the high cost and limited availability of these therapies mean that they are currently inaccessible to the vast majority of families. Cost consideration is particularly important given the possibility of long term therapy.

The available clinical trial data are reassuring, with no major adverse signals regarding growth or pubertal development over the relatively short period studied (68 weeks). However, these data cannot answer questions about decades of exposure, and long-term surveillance remains essential. Nutrition deserves particular attention in India because obesity can coexist with micronutrient deficiencies — the so-called double burden of malnutrition. Semaglutide markedly reduces appetite and food intake, so adequate intake of protein, micronutrients and other essential nutrients must be ensured during periods of rapid growth, when linear growth and acquisition of peak bone mass are especially important. Such attention to nutrition must continue during treatment and when treatment is being withdrawn.

For Indian parents, where cultural perceptions have sometimes equated a chubby child with a healthy child (hata-katta bachcha), a fundamental change in mindset is needed. The focus should be on improving metabolic health, physical fitness, nutritional quality, psychological well-being and sustainable behaviour. Management should therefore be comprehensive: appropriate assessment of glucose metabolism, lipids and liver health; improvement in physical activity and fitness; adequate protein and micronutrient intake; reduction in excessive screen time and ultra-processed foods; and attention to mental health. Most importantly, childhood obesity is a family and environmental problem. Parents need to modify household eating and activity patterns alongside the child.Medication may have an important role in selected children with severe obesity, but it should be viewed as one component of a broader, long-term treatment strategy, not a substitute for healthy family habits.

Telangana State Under-15 Chess Championship from September 18

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Sub-Junior (Under-15) Chess Championship will be held from September 18 to 20 at Karthik Gardens, Lalaguda, here for boys and girls separately.

Players born on or after January 1, 2011, are eligible to participate. There will be no spot entries, and players must produce their birth certificates at the time of registration.

Can it really reduce puffiness and bloating?

Lymphatic walking is a wellness term for gentle, rhythmic walking that may support normal lymph flow through muscle movement, breathing and changes in tissue pressure.Lymphatic walking is a wellness term for gentle, rhythmic walking that may support normal lymph flow through muscle movement, breathing and changes in tissue pressure.In an age where almost every aspect of fitness is being reinvented, renamed and repackaged, it is refreshing to return to something humanity has always known: walking.

Before gyms, fitness trackers and structured exercise programmes, movement was woven into the fabric of living. Today, that familiar act has acquired a new name — “lymphatic walking” — and gained traction largely because of claims that gentle, rhythmic movement can help reduce the puffiness and bloating associated with fluid retention, prolonged sitting, travel or simply waking up feeling swollen.“Lymphatic walking” is not a formally defined medical exercise protocol. It is a wellness term generally used to describe gentle, rhythmic walking in which muscular activity, joint movement and breathing may support the normal transport of lymph. The lymphatic system does help return excess fluid from tissues to the bloodstream, and movement can contribute to this process. That provides a physiological basis for the trend.

What the lymphatic system actually doesThe lymphatic system is an intricate network of vessels, lymph nodes and lymphoid tissues that works alongside the cardiovascular and immune systems. One of its fundamental tasks is maintaining fluid balance. Blood continuously filters fluid into the tissues surrounding cells; much of that fluid returns directly to the bloodstream, while the lymphatic system collects the remainder, including proteins and other larger molecules that cannot readily re-enter blood capillaries. This fluid becomes lymph and is eventually returned to the venous circulation.

The system also has an important immunological role. Lymph carries antigens, immune cells and other material from tissues towards lymph nodes, where immune cells can detect and respond to potential threats. In this sense, the lymphatic system is not simply a drainage network. It is also part of the body’s surveillance system.

Why walking helps in lymphatic functionLymphatic collecting vessels contain smooth muscle and can contract rhythmically on their own. Their valves help prevent backward flow and allow lymph to move progressively towards the larger lymphatic ducts and, ultimately, back into the bloodstream. Respiration, arterial pulsations, changes in tissue pressure and skeletal-muscle contractions provide additional forces that influence lymph movement. Walking matters because it brings several of these mechanisms together.With every step, muscles contract and relax around tissues containing blood and lymphatic vessels. This produces changing pressure that can assist the movement of

fluid. The repeated movement of the ankles and legs is particularly relevant because skeletal-muscle activity can contribute to lymph transport as well as venous return. Research shows that lymph flow can increase with skeletal-muscle activity, although the relationship is more complex than the simple idea of a “lymph pump” suggests.The lymphatic vessels themselves remain active participants in the process. Walking provides repeated muscular activity, rhythmic breathing and changes in tissue pressure that support normal circulation and fluid movement. It also offers the much broader physiological benefits of regular physical activity.

What about puffiness?Perhaps the most visible appeal of lymphatic walking is its promise of looking — and feeling — less puffy. The trend has gained traction partly because people associate gentle movement with a fresher face, lighter limbs and a reduction in swelling that can follow sleep, long periods of sitting, travel or a salty meal. There is a physiological basis for some of this: lymphatic circulation helps return excess fluid from tissues to the bloodstream, and movement can assist that process. But the leap from this basic physiology to the claim that a particular walking technique can “drain” the body or rapidly debloat it is not supported by clinical evidence. Any reduction in ordinary, temporary puffiness is more appropriately understood as a change in fluid distribution than as a detoxification effect.Where breathing comes inBreathing contributes another layer. The diaphragm is a major muscle of respiration, and each breath changes pressure within the chest and abdomen. These pressure fluctuations interact with the large veins and lymphatic channels passing through the thoracic and abdominal regions and can influence the return of fluid towards the central circulation.This is one reason relaxed, diaphragmatic breathing naturally complements gentle movement.

Exercise is often framed in the language of intensity: push harder, go faster, burn more, achieve more. Yet physiology does not operate according to motivational slogans. The body is constantly adjusting blood flow, pressure, fluid distribution, temperature, breathing and energy expenditure in response to movement and rest. A comfortable walk respects that complexity.

How much is enough?

Ten to twenty minutes can be a simple starting point, particularly for someone who spends long periods sitting. A few minutes of walking between sedentary periods may be useful; a longer morning walk may provide a more substantial cardiovascular stimulus.The appropriate pace depends on the purpose. A gentle walk is not equivalent to brisk aerobic exercise, and it should not be marketed as such. But gentle movement still has value. The lymphatic system is quietly working all the time. Walking simply gives the body another opportunity to move, breathe and regulate itself.

At 77, he couldn’t take blood thinners: How docs treated his heart in a rare procedure



For 77-year-old Jagdip Shah, taking medicines to prevent a stroke had itself become a health risk. Shah, a resident of Juhu, Mumbai, with a history of heart failure after bypass surgery, developed repeated episodes of atrial fibrillation (AF), a condition in which the heart beats irregularly. Doctors prescribed blood-thinning medicines to reduce his risk of a stroke. But each attempt at treatment led to severe bleeding from stomach ulcers, sometimes requiring blood transfusions.

Doctors guided a specialised catheter into the left atrium and positioned it around the areas where these abnormal signals were originating.Doctors guided a specialised catheter into the left atrium and positioned it around the areas where these abnormal signals were originating.For 77-year-old Jagdip Shah, taking medicines to prevent a stroke had itself become a health risk. Shah, a resident of Juhu, Mumbai, with a history of heart failure after bypass surgery, developed repeated episodes of atrial fibrillation (AF), a condition in which the heart beats irregularly. Doctors prescribed blood-thinning medicines to reduce his risk of a stroke. But each attempt at treatment led to severe bleeding from stomach ulcers, sometimes requiring blood transfusions.

This left doctors with a difficult choice. Stopping the medicines increased his risk of a stroke, while continuing them could trigger another serious bleeding episode.Doctors at Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre have now addressed both problems in a single procedure. On August 14, a team led by cardiologist and electrophysiologist Dr Dhiraj Gupta performed a rare combination of two catheter-based procedures to treat Shah’s irregular heartbeat and reduce his risk of a stroke.

What is atrial fibrillation (AF)?

AF is the most common type of abnormal heart rhythm. When the heart does not beat regularly, blood can remain in one part of the heart for longer than usual and form a clot. A small pouch in the heart called the left atrial appendage is a common site for these clots in people with AF. If a clot travels to the brain, it can cause a stroke.People with AF may therefore be prescribed blood-thinning medicines. These reduce the chance of a clot forming, but some patients can develop serious bleeding while taking them. In Shah’s case, the bleeding was severe enough to require blood transfusions, and doctors had to stop the medicines.

What were the procedures about?

The first part of the procedure was aimed at preventing clots from forming in the left atrial appendage. Doctors inserted a thin catheter through a vein in the groin and guided it through the blood vessels to the heart. From the right side of the heart, they crossed the wall separating the two upper chambers — the interatrial septum — to reach the left atrium. This is known as transseptal access and allows doctors to

reach the left side of the heart without open-heart surgery.Using imaging to guide the catheter, the team positioned it at the opening of the left atrial appendage. A collapsible plug-like device was then delivered through the catheter and expanded inside the appendage. Once its position and stability were confirmed, the device was released, sealing off the pouch from the rest of the left atrium.

This procedure, known as left atrial appendage occlusion (LAO), is intended to prevent blood from pooling inside the appendage and to reduce the risk of clots escaping into the bloodstream. Over time, tissue grows over the device, further sealing the opening.The second part of the procedure addressed the abnormal electrical activity causing Shah’s irregular heartbeat. In atrial fibrillation, disorganised electrical signals in the upper chambers of the heart can cause the atria to quiver instead of contracting normally. In many patients, abnormal signals originate around the pulmonary veins, which bring blood from the lungs into the left atrium.

Doctors guided a specialised catheter into the left atrium and positioned it around the areas where these abnormal signals were originating. Instead of using heat or freezing, they delivered a series of very short, high-voltage electrical pulses. These pulses temporarily create pores in the membranes of targeted heart muscle cells. When the exposure is sufficient, the damage becomes irreversible, and the affected cells die, producing small areas of scar tissue that can no longer conduct the abnormal electrical signals.This technique is called pulsed field ablation (PFA). By creating an electrical barrier around the pulmonary veins, doctors aim to prevent abnormal impulses from triggering or sustaining atrial fibrillation.Unlike conventional thermal ablation, which destroys tissue using heat or extreme cold, PFA uses electrical energy to selectively affect the targeted cardiac tissue.

Why is this surgery one of its kind?

“Jagdip Shah presented a unique challenge with his age and multiple risk factors for stroke; episodes of bleeding made it difficult for him to remain on blood thinners for life. Our objective was to address both issues in a single procedure. During the procedure, we eliminated the primary source of clot formation and treated the abnormal heart rhythm,” says Dr Gupta.The two procedures were performed during the same minimally invasive intervention. Because both involve catheter access to the left side of the heart, the team could perform them sequentially during the same session rather than subjecting Shah to two separate procedures. The combined procedure took about one-and-a-half hours.Shah recovered at home after the procedure and is now completely off blood-thinning medication. At a follow-up examination on August 27, specialised imaging showed that the device was in the correct position and he was maintaining a normal heart rhythm, Dr Gupta says.

For Shah’s family, the biggest change has been being able to live without the constant fear of another bleeding episode. “For years my father lived with constant uncertainty. While he was taking the blood thinners, he faced a risk of serious bleeding, which affected his daily life and his confidence to live life freely. Simple activities became a source of everyday worry,” says son Kaushal Shah.“Since undergoing the procedure, he has regained his confidence to get back to his routine and enjoy life without the same constant fear,” he adds.Age alone does not determine whether a patient is suitable. According to Dr Gupta, a patient’s overall fitness and frailty are more important. Patients should generally be mobile and need little help with their everyday activities. “In experienced hands, the combined procedure takes around 90 minutes, and most patients can go home the following day,” says Dr Gupta.

Why agri-tech might need a different approach to boost innovations



Primarily an agrarian economy, India holds large potential for research and technological innovation in agriculture. Nevertheless, innovations in this space which is estimated to be around \$24 billion, have barely scratched the surface given the myriad challenges such as low market adoption, high customer acquisition costs, lukewarm investor interest, high infrastructure costs, and more. Compared to tech in other sectors, Indian AgriTech might need a different approach to turbocharge innovations in this space, say experts. IIIT-B, for example, takes an interdisciplinary approach and often looks at developing solutions as digital public goods.

The institution has been developing a host of AgriTech projects with the idea of introducing higher efficiency in agricultural processes. These include AutoGrow - an Autonomous greenhouse System for Precision Agriculture, Smart Greenhouse with secure long-range connectivity, a Remote Compost Monitoring system for Sustainable agriculture and AgriSense (an IoT system for with a soil monitoring device) among others. An India-specific problem“Autogrow, which is the autonomous greenhouse system for precision agriculture, is an autonomous system for growing food. We are trying to solve a very India-specific problem,” says Ramesh Kestur, faculty at IIIT-B.

The system seamlessly integrates biological food production with an IoT/AI-based system and includes automated greenhouse control of climatic conditions, irrigation, and nutrient supply to plants. This can provide substantial gains in increasing the efficiency of crop production while using optimal resources and thereby reducing costs.“If you see in the West, they lack resources such as lighting and therefore cannot grow throughout the year. So, we should not imitate their solution. We have enough light, and we can grow 365 days a year. We just need to control whatever is critical for our condition,” Kestur explains.Given the abundance of sunlight and temperature in the country, his team avoided including components like LED lights in the system which helped to reduce cost and complexity. After eliminating the unnecessary, the team then looked what needed to be controlled.

One was the inputs which were essentially water and nutrients.“We thought we will try to build a system and control those things. With this motivation, we built systems for three configurations; One is the hydroponic system. The other one is what we call the vertical system where we can vertically stack growbags. And the last is the open field.”“It’s a non-linear control system where the inputs are continuously monitored, and the required amount of nutrition is administered. It is a control system realized with sensors and

AI-ML algorithms,” notes Kestur, adding that no sensors are placed in the soil as it can lead to quick draining of battery. Instead, the temperature and moisture sensors are placed in the input tank where levels of nutrition such as nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium are monitored.The project is done in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology, IIHR, Bengaluru. The wick irrigation technology developed at IIHR has been incorporated into the system.AgriSense and Smart Greenhouse Monitoring System are led by professor Jyotsna Bapat at IIIT-B. Both are sponsored by the Government of Karnataka.The Smart Greenhouse Monitoring System aims to transform greenhouse farming by leveraging IoT to improve crop health, automate environmental controls, and facilitate remote monitoring. The idea is to enable farmers to monitor environmental conditions like temperature, humidity, soil moisture, and pH remotely, providing real-time data for precise control over crop conditions.The system looks at features such as real-time data monitoring utilising a network of sensors, automated control based on sensor data, remote accessibility for farmers via app and data analysis and alerts with the help of machine learning.Optimising inputsIn agriculture finding the optimum watering level to ensure maximum output has always been a problem. Yet another challenge is the deteriorating health of soil due to over application of fertilisers. AgriSense, an IoT system developed by the institute to address these challenges, uses Agri-cone a mushroom shaped soil-monitoring device.“We were initially looking at the bigger farms where we could help the farmers to ensure irrigation is done in the correct way. By measuring the soil moisture content and looking at the predicted forecast, we could advise them on the irrigation that should be done,” explains Bapat.

“Another aspect is the soil content and we measure carbon dioxide and ammonia in it. If the soil is of good quality, then the amount of carbon dioxide will be relatively higher. If there is too much of urea or any of the other fertilizers, the amount of ammonia released would be higher. So, we can advise them based on these too.“Inside Agri-cone, a coin battery powers various sensors for monitoring soil moisture and temperature. The sensors detect gases such as including CO2 and ammonia. Humidity sensors track air moisture levels around plants, helping to prevent diseases and promote healthy growth.“Right now, we have put a small battery. But the goal is to put solar surface on top of the mushroom so that it becomes completely sustainable,” Bapat notes.“Right now, we just use Wi-Fi. But the other solution is something called LoRA. It is used for IoT a lot in Europe and in Netherlands, their entire IoT network is on LoRA. It is more power efficient, and the range is higher which makes it suitable for a vast field,” says Bapat.The team led by Bapat has also been working on a Remote Compost Monitoring system. The idea was to build a prototype for an intelligent IoT system that remotely monitors and manages compost which can then be used as fertilizer.Bapat explains that the system developed by them can help compost Bengaluru’s garbage piles, with a lot of food waste in it, correctly while avoiding odour.The solution developed by the team comes with a sensor hub associated with each bin to monitor pH values, temperature, humidity, and CO2 levels of the compost inside them. It also allows remote monitoring

The need for gender equity in urban bureaucracy



India is in the midst of a profound urban transformation. By 2050, over 800 million people, about half the population, will live in cities, making India the largest driver of global urban growth. As cities expand spatially, economically and demographically, they are rewriting the social contract of a modern India and shaping the future of its democracy and development.In the last three decades, progressive constitutional reforms have advanced gender equity. The 73rd and 74th Amendments mandate 33% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Governments (ULGs), further strengthened to 50% by 17 States and a Union Territory. Today, women comprise over 46% of local elected representatives (Ministry of Panchayati Raj, 2024), as a rising presence of mayors and councillors.However, the bureaucratic apparatus that implements their decisions remains overwhelmingly male. While women’s representation in grass-root politics has increased, administrative cadres (city managers, planners, engineers, police) exhibit a stark imbalance, limiting the ability of cities to respond equitably to all citizens. As we invest in highways, metros, and smart cities, we overlook a foundational aspect of inclusive development — gender equity in bureaucracy.The bureaucratic gender gap

Despite more women entering the civil services, the urban administrative architecture remains male-dominated. As of 2022, women constituted just 20% of the Indian Administrative Service (IndiaSpend-2022), with even lower representation in urban planning, municipal engineering and transport authorities. In policing, only 11.7% of the national force are women (Bureau of Police Research and Development-2023), and often confined to desk roles.This gap is cause for concern. In cities, the engagement of women is different. They rely more on public transport, make multi-stop journeys for work and caregiving, and depend on neighbourhood-level infrastructure. An Institute for Transportation and Development Policy and Safetipin study found that 84% of women in Delhi and Mumbai used public or shared transport; it was 63% for men. Yet, urban planning prioritises mega-projects over safe, accessible, neighbourhood-level mobility. A 2019 Safetipin audit across 50 cities found over 60% of public spaces were poorly lit. With few women in policing, community safety initiatives often fail to resonate with women.This underrepresentation is not superficial; it affects outcomes. Women officials bring perspectives shaped by lived realities. Studies by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations and UN Women show that they prioritise water, health

and safety, and improve public trust in law enforcement through empathetic enforcement. Gender-sensitive design requires gender-diverse institutions.Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), which integrates gender considerations into public finance, is a promising but underutilised tool in India’s urban governance. Introduced globally in the 1990s, GRB recognises that budgets are not neutral and can reinforce inequities if left unchecked.

India adopted a Gender Budget Statement in 2005-06, with Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Kerala leading efforts. Delhi has funded women-only buses and public lighting; Tamil Nadu applied GRB across 64 departments in 2022-23, and Kerala embedded gender goals through its People’s Plan Campaign. Yet, studies by UN-Women and the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy show that most such efforts suffer from weak monitoring and limited institutional capacities, especially in smaller cities. For many ULGs, GRB remains tokenistic, overlooking essentials such as pedestrian safety or childcare in urban planningIn contrast, countries such as the Philippines mandate 5% of local budgets for gender programmes; Rwanda integrates GRB into national planning with oversight bodies; Uganda mandates gender equity certificates for fund approvals; Mexico ties GRB to results-based budgeting; and South Africa pilots participatory planning to anchor GRB in lived realities. These are not just fiscal reforms but also a reimagining of citizen-centric governance in cities.

Building inclusive cities requires moving beyond political quotas to ensure women’s presence in bureaucracy. This demands systemic reforms in recruitment, retention and promotion across administrative and technical roles. Affirmative action, through quotas and scholarships in planning and engineering, is key to dismantling structural barriers.Globally, countries as varied as Rwanda, Brazil, and South Korea show the impact of representation. Rwanda boosted maternal health and education spending; Brazil prioritised sanitation and primary health care; South Korea’s gender impact assessments reshaped transit and public spaces and Tunisia’s parity laws gave women more technical roles, improving focus on safety and health. The Philippines uses gender-tagged budgeting to fund gender-based violence shelters and childcare. Gender-balanced bureaucracies are not about fairness alone. They are essential for building safer, equitable, responsive cities.As India aspires to become a \$5 trillion economy, its cities must also aspire to be more than economic growth engines. They must become spaces of inclusion and equity. Gender must be mainstreamed into planning and implementation through mandatory audits, participatory budgeting, and linked evaluation. GRB should be institutionalised across ULGs, supported by targeted capacity-building.Representation must also translate into agency, and help dismantle glass ceilings. Local gender equity councils and models such as Kudumbashree offer templates, especially for small and transitioning cities. Women are already reshaping governance as elected leaders. They must now shape how cities are planned, serviced and governed. When cities reflect women’s lived experiences, they work better for all. To build cities for women, we must start by building cities with women.

‘Health, social bonds, happiness’: Participants list benefits of ‘disputed’ Kerala exercise programme



Around 5.45 am, men and women wearing white T-shirts start trickling into the spacious compound of the Narikkuni English Medium School at Chembakkunnu village, located 18 km from Kozhikode in Kerala. Fifteen minutes later, as some in the group, between the ages of 40 and 60, start with their morning walk, a trainer instructs, “Line up.”Soon, men and women take their positions in separate formations, marking the beginning of another day of the multi-exercise combination (MEC-7) programme, which has become the subject of a political row lately, after the ruling CPI(M) alleged that the Jamaat-e-Islami and Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), the political wing of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), were using the platform to further their political agendas.

Raising alarm over the fitness programme, CPI(M) Kozhikode district secretary P Mohahan recently said, “Lifestyle diseases should be fought and remaining physically fit is important for everyone. However, the Jamaat-e-Islami and the SDPI are using MEC-7 for their narrow politics. The Jamaat is using it as a shield for its campaign for Islamic nation. Secular society should be vigilant against such attempts.”Mohanan was forced to soften his stance — which was seen by some as continuation of the CPI(M)’s attacks on “radical” Muslim outfits — after it emerged that CPI(M) leaders in Kozhikode district supported the programme. CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan also stepped in, saying the party did not consider MEC-7 a tool for communal activities.While a section of Muslim clerics also came out against MEC-7, their stand did not get any support from the larger community.Even as the controversy was in the limelight, Congress Palakkad MP V K Sreekandan inaugurated a new session of the fitness programme in Pattambi, saying he wanted MEC-7 to be expanded across India, and underlined that there were “no religion elements” in it.

Kerala exercise programme After the final exercise, the participants break out of their formation to stand in a circle, and end the day’s session by shaking each others’ hands.At the Chembakkunnu school compound, the trainer guides those gathered through the paces. The MEC-7 programme comprises 21 exercises in all, each for the duration of a minute, performed over 21 minutes.The brief instructions to the 130-odd participants are about the only sounds around as they navigate from one exercise to another — jumping jacks, ankle rotations, knee rotations, hip rotations, head rotations and so on.The sound of synchronised inhaling and exhaling fills the ground as the second set of exercises, focusing on breathing, begins. A minute later, with their fingers interlocked, the participants stretch both arms over their heads while holding their breath. Next, the participants begin clapping overhead, and then stretching their arms behind their backs and bending forward, as they exhale.

In Telangana, birds of a feather ‘hunt’ rogue drones together

Seconds after the bird of prey soars under the blue Telangana skies, the “hunt” is over and it is on the ground with its “prey” — a rogue drone ensconced in a net that the eagle has been trained to deploy as part of its training for the Garuda Squad, the state police’s unique bird squad.Among the latest additions to the Telangana Police security apparatus, the five-bird squad has been undergoing training to intercept nano (weighing up to 250 grams) and micro (between 250 g and 2 kg) rogue drones, especially in no-fly zones during VIP movement. The squad’s primary role is to secure no-fly zones, say trainers.

Deployed recently, the Garuda Squad has proved to be cost-effective and efficient in counter-attacking small drones (costing around Rs 1 lakh), which have become a headache for security forces due to their size and maneuvering abilities.By teaching the birds to deploy nets, the Telangana Police has taken care of a critical concern — the safety of its squad from the spinning propellers of rogue drones as they are intercepted.telangana A collage showing an eagle from the Garuda Squad deploying “hunting down” a drone during a training exercise. (Photo: Special Arrangement)

“The training process involved a lot of trial and error, but no birds were harmed in the process. Instead of the bird seizing the drone directly, they have been trained to deploy a net, ensnare the drone and drag it to a secure, predetermined location, away from public areas,” says Tafseer Iqbal, Deputy Inspector General, Intelligence Security Wing.Stating that Telangana is now ready to assist or share its knowledge and capabilities with other police departments and security forces across the country, Iqbal says, “The Garuda Squad, the first-of-its-kind, was conceptualised in 2021, following a state government order. Three years on, it has achieved operational readiness and is currently being utilised on a pilot basis.”Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had spoken about the need to establish a “comprehensive” anti-drone unit to protect the country from threats posed by drones. Shah was referring to a laser-equipped anti-drone gun mount system that has been developed, especially for border areas.

However, training the squad, which comprises kites and eagles, was easier said than done. “There were challenges, because these are birds and not machines. But the Garuda Squad is operationally ready for deployment now. We have been utilising their services for a while,” says Iqbal, director, Integrated Intelligence Training Academy (IITA), Telangana’s premier institution that provides expert training in canine handling, bomb detection and disposal techniques, and specialised instruction for both personal security officers (PSOs) and private security agencies.At the sight of an aerial intruder, a bird is released from its location to snatch from the skies the rogue drone — just as it would its prey.

“As an advanced training measure, the team has been acclimatising the birds to different scenarios, including crowd and noise levels that they would encounter in real-life situations,” says an officer.telangana An eagle from the Garuda Squad deploys a net to snag a drone during a training exercise.

The next steps of the routine are sit-ups and acupressure, in which participants squeeze the sides and centre of their stomachs. After a moment’s rest, they begin with abdomen vibrations, meant to strengthen muscles and improve blood circulation, and then toe jumps for the next minute. After a pause, standing with their eyes closed, they begin meditating. Once that is over, they massage their faces with both hands.After the final exercise, the participants break out of their formation to stand in a circle, and end the day’s session by shaking each others’ hands.The participants say that the MEC-7 programme in Chembakkunnu began nearly four months ago, and has been part of their morning routine, for both men and women, since.It was more than a decade ago that ex-CISF assistant sub-inspector Salahudheen P conceptualised the programme, and now an estimated 1,000-plus groups which follow it, concentrated in Malappuram and Kozhikode.

A public sector bank employee, K M Venugopalan, 54, says he has been attending MEC-7 sessions since they began in 2012. “I used to go for morning walks, but got interested when I heard about the programme and joined it in the initial days itself. I lost 3 kg after I started regularly doing this exercise. People from all parties and religions take part. Every morning, we meet for nearly half an hour. This gives a pleasant start to the day, apart from helping us build social bonds,” he says.Shafeeque K M, the instructor at Chembakkunnu, says more and more people are drawn to the programme due to such benefits. “Social life and personal relations have improved. We have two brothers who had been estranged, hadn’t spoken to each other for several years. But after they started attending MEC-7, change came, as every participant has to shake the hands of all the others before leaving the day’s session,” he says.Many participants at Chembakkunnu tell The Indian Express the exercise session has helped them manage weight, lower cholesterol and blood pressure, plus regulate their mornings, which otherwise they may have idled away.Aneesha, who works as a public relations officer at a nearby hospital, says that for women in particular, MEC-7 has been a game-changer. “This has grown into a collective of women. Homemakers get an opportunity to meet people of their locality and improve their bonds. We all live in the same village, but are not familiar with one another. This session gives us a positive energy for the day,” she says.Graphic designer Shiny, who is in Chembakkunnu these days on a work-from-home assignment, agrees. “Homemakers are now celebrating their social life. All us women participants at MEC-7 recently went on a tour and are planning another next month. We discuss our issues and look at how we can help a member in need,” she says, adding that the sessions have taught them a way to be happy.Usha, a homemaker, says her family was accommodative when she wanted to make MEC-7 part of her daily routine. “We rescheduled the domestic chores... I take a half-an-hour break from the kitchen. Earlier, by noon, I used to get exhausted both mentally and physically. Now, I feel the change.”MEC-7 Kozhikode district coordinator Asharaf Pulparambil says the controversy has not impacted the fitness programme’s conduct or popularity. “We are getting inquiries to start more such clubs... No religious element is involved in the exercise module,” says Pulparambil.He also dismisses the claim of Muslim clerics that the exercise is against religion, putting it down to their fears regarding the intermingling of genders. “Women have separate sessions at MEC-7 and they too realise that health is important,” the coordinator says, adding that they expect more units in Kozhikode after the present issues settle down.



“As an advanced training measure, the team has been acclimatising the birds to different scenarios, including crowd and noise levels that they would encounter in real-life situations,” says an officer.

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As K Aravind Rao, Deputy Superintendent of Police, IITA, reiterates that the bird squad offers “an efficient and cost-effective alternative”, Alladi Nagesh, who heads the team of trainers — Mohammad Fareed and Abir Bandari — says the species chosen for the squad are “aerial hunters with a killer instinct”.Different birds have been designated for different purposes depending on their nature, size, flying pattern, hunting style and ability. For instance, kites are used for aerial surveillance due to their ability to fly at great heights with stability. “Cameras have been attached to the kite for such surveillance. Besides providing extremely stable visuals, they go unnoticed in the skies,” say officials, adding that eagles have been deployed for an attack over a short distance.Yet another bird on the squad — officials declined to reveal the species — is best suited for long-range sniper-like attacks. Nagesh, who heads the team of bird trainers, says the squad’s “sniper” can hit a speed of 390 miles per hour (approximately 620 km per hour), something a drone cannot achieve even while trying to evade a hit.Nagesh adds, “The birds are identified while still young and trained just like a canine — by using feeding as incentive. GPS trackers are attached to the birds so we don’t lose them. They are given training in different real-life scenarios involving public address systems and loud music, to prepare them for various operational environments.”Talking about a “key limitation”, officials say the birds are unable to distinguish between authorised drones and the rogue ones.Calling the inclusion of birds in safeguarding the country’s internal security a “welcome” move, Rajeev Khandelwal, general secretary, Hyderabad Birding Pals, an NGO dedicated to promoting birdwatching across Telangana, says, “As long as the birds are trained ethically, internationally set norms are followed, and they are not hurt or tortured and allowed to fly freely, it’s a fantastic move.”

Quarrying crisis in Tamil Nadu’s Uthiramerur leaves residents in distress



If one were to have a bird’s eye view of Uthiramerur taluk in Kancheepuram district, it would possibly be a canvas of grey with small patches of green. However, it was not like this in the not-so-distant past. A vast portion of the land known for its kuda olai system of election and bewitching temple architecture is “greying”, thanks to a large number of granite quarries and crushing units. Almost every tree and plant, roads, mud on the roadsides, and crops in the fields have turned grey in and around villages including Siruthamur, Pazhaveri, Arungundram, Pazhaya Seevaram, Alanjeri, and Thirumukkudal, thanks to quarrying and stone crushing units that make M-sand. On a cloudy, still afternoon in November, the roads around these units feel eerie, and the trees seem frozen as if petrified.

Estimates show that close to 60 villages in this region are affected by quarrying, and there are around 80 quarries. According to a mapper, data from the National Remote Sensing Centre show that in 2005-06, a total of 4.21sq. km. was under mining in the erstwhile Kancheepuram district. The area increased to 33.13 sq. km. in 2015-16, but this figure includes some sand mining areas too. The district also saw a reduction in land under paddy, with quarrying being a major cause.

Farmers at Alanjeri said a proposed quarry (Kori as they call it) that they were protesting against had fenced off land where a channel bringing water from a hillock runs through. “The channel, constructed by the Rural Development Department, used to carry water to our irrigation tank wherein two wells that meet our drinking water needs are situated. The water gets contaminated by quarry dust and if the water does not fill up the Alanjeri tank, a chain of 10 other tanks won’t get water. We used to grow three crops of paddy a year. Now, we struggle to grow one crop,” said V. Balakrishnan, a farmer. The village only has Dalit farmers and they claim the first quarry in their village is located on Panchami land unknowingly sold in bits and pieces to others. “We have been petitioning the Collector for several years to stop the operation of the quarry and not allow a second one to come up. The new one lies on the route of the annual procession of our village deities Theni Amman and Palani Amman. They won’t allow us to take a detour even,” said Vijayakumar, another farmer.Farmers lead the battle

C. Devaraj of Arungundram said his father Chinnapaiyan was the first to die in an accident caused by the heavy vehicles carrying stones from a quarry. “He was one of the first to protest against the quarry operations in the area. It was in November 2003.” In one village, the panchayat president refused to pass a resolution against the quarries since he himself owned one. “The quarries are so close to each other in some cases that we have no space for our animals to graze,” he added.Last year, farmer leaders from several villages joined to stage a hunger strike seeking relief to Rajendran, a farmer whose land could not be cultivated, with the well drying up because of quarry operations. “We were denied police permission even to use chairs for the protest,” said Hari Krishnan of Pazhaveri. Mr. Rajendran said it was 12 years since his well dried up. “I have been holding up against the quarry operators and managing with the income from milch animals. If I approach elected representatives, they tell me to sell off the land handed down by my forefathers. I don’t want a car or air-conditioner; I want to grow crops on my land and pass it onto my son to grow food for the people,” he said.Farmer leader Manavalan said public hearings for new quarries are not held in the village or nearby, but in places where quarry owners muster enough supporters to out-number those opposing them. “Last year, a public hearing for a quarry witnessed very angry exchanges between farmers and an IAS officer. We told him to travel with us by bike without a helmet to feel the kind of dust we inhale from the trucks carrying the stone without cover. People are getting asthma and wheezing. The quarries do not follow basic rules like sprinkling water regularly to prevent the dust from flying.” Mr. Hari Krishnan added.Up in arms: Farmers at Alanjeri say a proposed quarry that they are protesting against has fenced off land where a channel bringing water to the irrigation tank runs through. They used to grow three crops of paddy a year, but struggle to grow even one now.Up in arms: Farmers at Alanjeri say a proposed quarry that they are protesting against has fenced off land where a channel bringing water to the irrigation tank runs through. They used to grow three crops of paddy a year, but struggle to grow even one now. | Photo Credit: B. Jothi Ramalingam

The village roads running around the taluk are like a dirt patch for the mighty trucks that carry blue metal and stones. “Since the vehicles are always overloaded, they cannot stop as soon as they should. We shudder to send children to school as accidents keep happening. We are waging a continuous battle with the trucks. Two bridges across Palar River, connecting Pazhaya Seevaram and Thirumukkoodal and and Avalur and Walajahbad, have a continuous flow of vehicles on all days, except on Sundays,” said Premkumar of the BJP, which has been holding protests in the area, calling for restriction in the timing for the trucks to ply. Farmers have been demanding that the timing of the trucks be regulated so that students can travel safely.

Quarries and stone-crushing units are a major source of fugitive dust, a significant environmental concern that arises at nearly every stage of the operation. Dust is emitted during unloading of raw materials, crushing, screening, conveying, and storing of finished products. As stones are broken, shaken on vibrating screens, transported along conveyor belts, and stored in open stockpiles, fine particles — particularly stone dust — become airborne. A 2023 study in the International Journal of Health Sciences and Research found that prolonged exposure to silica dust significantly impairs lung function among stone quarry workers in South India. The researchers observed that lung impairment was the highest among loaders, followed by stone grinders, drillers, blasters, and stone cutters. The problem is particularly acute with fine materials, like stone dust, which are easily carried by the wind and can linger in the air for long. Dust from stone quarries not only affects the workers on site but also people living nearby. Poornima Prabhakaran, Director, Centre for Health Analytics Research and Trends at Ashoka University, said that though the dust particles released from quarries are relatively large, they are hazardous to human health. Prolonged exposure to high dust levels can lead to respiratory problems, silicosis, and skin or eye irritation, she added.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has outlined stringent guidelines for stone-crushing units. They include the requirement for full enclosure around crushers and screens to contain dust at the source. Additionally, units must install fine-mist water sprinklers to dampen dust particles, along with bag filters and dry dust-extraction systems to capture airborne dust. Conveyor belts are to be fully covered to prevent dust from escaping, and discharge points must be fitted with telescopic chutes to control dust release when materials are transferred. Stockpiles of crushed material should either be kept wet or covered to reduce dust dispersion, ensuring that emissions are minimised and air quality is preserved within and around the crusher zones.S.M. Shiv Nagendra, a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, and an expert in air quality monitoring, said the carrying capacity of areas near quarries should be assessed. He noted that quarrying close to residential areas contributes significantly to pollution.The CPCB guidelines also mandate that internal roads be paved to prevent dust resuspension; wind-breaking walls and foggers be installed; and accumulated dust cleaned regularly. Units must also recycle water used for suppression and conduct ambient air monitoring to ensure the control of particulate emissions. While industries are required to implement continuous real-time air quality monitoring, quarries are not bound by the same regulation. However, even with these monitoring systems in place, they may not fully capture the extent of the pollution. Mr. Nagendra pointed out that current air quality monitoring stations measure pollution only in a one-kilometre radius, leaving out the full extent of pollution affecting surrounding areas.

In July 2025, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) to enforce stricter standards for granting or renewing Consent to Operate (CTO) for quarrying and mining units in the State, after several units came under the scanner for violations. It ruled that quarrying activities should not continue unless penalties for past environmental violations were fully paid. These violations included failure to maintain safety distances, inadequate fencing and greenbelt development, insufficient dust control measures, and exceeding the approved extraction limits.The NGT instructed the TNPCB to require water sprinkling, greenbelt development, black-topped roads, and equipment enclosures before granting CTO. It also recommended that greenbelt development begin at the application stage to ensure saplings are ready when operations start.

G. Sundarrajan of Poovulagin Nanbargal, an environmental organisation, called for the identification of quarry clusters and a third-party audit of the Cumulative Impact Assessment to evaluate the effect on groundwater and air quality. He also pointed to other States, like Telangana, which use satellite imagery to monitor sand mining and storage in near real-time and suggested that Tamil Nadu adopt a similar approach. A channel brings water from a hillock to the Alanjeri tank. The water gets contaminated by quarry dust. If the water does not fill up the tank, a chain of 10 other tanks will not get water.A channel brings water from a hillcock to the Alanjeri tank. The water gets contaminated by quarry dust. If the water does not fill up the tank, a chain of 10 other tanks will not get water. | Photo Credit: B. Jothi Ramalingam

A senior hydrogeologist, who preferred to remain anonymous, said the lack of a proper law to govern mining and groundwater extraction is the main reason for the current situation. The management of groundwater is governed by a mere government order: MS 142. A draft Tamil Nadu Groundwater (Development and Management) Act has been drawn up, but is yet to be enacted. Mining is a major subject in this Act because mining for coal or sand or rock will affect groundwater extraction. In Neyveli, the groundwater level, which used to be at 6 feet, is now at 35 feet-40 feet with continuous mining, he said. He said there is regulation only at the individual mine level now. Nobody is seeing the larger picture, and this is leading to environmental damage.An ecologist said that when people keep scooping stuff out of the quarries, the surrounding groundwater level will go down. In the long run, the nature of the soil will change owing to water loss. This will lead to gradual desertification, the kinds of plants able to grow on such a soil will change, and farmers will have to change their crops. Food crops will vanish. One day, the soil, instead of becoming grey, will go “bald” and will not be able to grow anything.

No alternative to M-sandA former government official who had worked in Kancheepuram said the district administration was seized of the matter and there were times when up to 30 quarries had been shut down. “The quarry owners have been warned to keep the truck tops closed with tarpaulin and instructed to carry only the permitted load. The TNPCB is the one that has the larger role in controlling the quarries,” he said. However, without the quarries, construction activities and road laying in and around the city would come to a standstill. “Give us an alternative material to M-sand, gravel, and blue metal. As river sand cannot be mined, the administration has no other option but to allow rock mining,” he pointed out.The District Environmental Engineer of Kancheepuram acknowledged the complaints and representations about the pollution from stone quarries. “We have received representations forwarded from the Collectorate. They have sought a report, and we are starting work on it,” he said.

India’s AI job postings surge nearly 6x since 2019

New Delhi: India’s artificial intelligence (AI) job postings have grown nearly six-fold since 2019 amid the country’s rapidly expanding role as a global AI talent and execution hub, a report showed on Wednesday. The data compiled by strategy consulting firm Redseer Strategy Consultants said the rise in AI-led hiring is expected to significantly reshape India’s office market, with demand for flexible workspaces witnessing strong growth over the next few years. The report, titled “AI and the Future of Flexible Workspaces”, stated that India’s knowledge-economy office stock could witness an additional demand of nearly 79 million square feet between 2025 and 2030, over and above the pre-AI growth trajectory. “The conversation around AI has largely centred on workforce disruption, but what we are seeing on the ground is a structural shift in how enterprises consume office space,” Chhavi Singh, Associate Partner at Redseer Strategy Consultants said. “AI-led teams are becoming more specialised, collaboration-heavy, and dynamic in scale. That is accelerating the move toward ‘core plus flex’ workplace models, where enterprises want agility without compromising on infrastructure or employee experience,” Singh added. According to the report, AI job postings in India crossed 290,000 in 2025, driven by growing demand for talent in machine learning, Generative AI and ML Ops.

Uranium found in breastmilk of lactating mothers, more studies expected in other states



: A recent study has revealed alarming levels of uranium (U238) in the breastmilk of lactating mothers across several districts in Bihar, raising serious health concerns for their infants.Researchers from multiple institutions have found that uranium exposure through breastmilk could pose significant non-carcinogenic health risks to infants.

Speaking with ANI, Dr Ashok Sharma of AIIMS Delhi, who is a co-author of the study, said, "The study analysed breast milk from 40 lactating mothers and found uranium (U-238) in all samples. Although 70% of infants showed potential non-carcinogenic health risk, the overall uranium levels were below permissible limits and are expected to have minimal actual health impact on both mothers and infants.The highest average contamination occurred in Khagaria district and the highest individual value in Katihar district. While uranium exposure may pose risks such as impaired neurological development and reduced IQ, breastfeeding should not be discontinued and remains the most beneficial source of infant nutrition unless clinically indicated."The study showed that: 70% of the infants had HQ > 1, indicating possible non-carcinogenic health risks from uranium exposure through breast milk. Uranium exposure in infants may affect: Kidney development, Neurological development, Cognitive and mental health outcomes (including low IQ and neurodevelopmental delay) if long-term exposure continues."

"However, based on the observed uranium concentrations in breast milk samples (0.5-25 ug/L), the study still concludes that the actual impact on infant health is likely low, and most uranium absorbed by mothers is excreted primarily through urine, not concentrated in breast milk. Therefore, breastfeeding remains recommended, unless a

Auramine in Indian food: why a banned dye keeps returning | Explained



India continues to face recurring episodes of chemical adulteration in food, particularly through the use of non-permitted synthetic dyes. One of the most persistent among them is auramine O, a bright yellow industrial dye banned under Indian food-safety regulations.Recent inspections by state food-safety departments, academic studies and even everyday observations such as unnaturally bright yellow chickpeas sold in public have again uncovered its presence in sweets and savoury items. This concern is not new, India has dealt with multiple waves of dye-related adulteration for nearly four decades, from metanil yellow in turmeric, rhodamine B in cotton candy and curry masala, Sudan dyes added to spices, Argemone oil mixed with mustard oil, calcium carbide used to ripen fruits, urea added to milk to thicken, mineral oil mixed with edible oils to chalk powder added to flour revealing systemic vulnerabilities in both regulation and awareness. Auramine’s re-emergence is part of this larger pattern.

What is auramine? Auramine O is a synthetic yellow dye extensively used in industry, including textile and leather processing, printing inks, paper manufacturing, and certain microbiological staining procedures. It has a vivid colour and is inexpensive, but Auramine O is not approved for use as a food colour in India, the European Union, the United States, or most other regulatory jurisdictions.Toxicological research has linked its ingestion to a range of health risks, including liver and kidney damage, enlargement of the spleen, mutagenic effects that can alter genetic material, and potential carcinogenic outcomes. Animal studies have consistently demonstrated organ lesions and disruptions in metabolic processes even at relatively low doses of exposure. Reflecting the seriousness of these findings, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies auramine as a substance that is possibly carcinogenic to humans.

How does auramine enter food? Despite longstanding prohibitions, auramine continues to enter the food chain largely due to its easy availability and low cost. Industrial-grade colours are sold informally in local markets, and small-scale sweet makers or street vendors often rely on these unlabelled powders because they provide a bright, appealing yellow that mimics saffron, turmeric, or permitted synthetic colours. In many cases, producers remain unaware of regulatory restrictions or view enforcement as sporadic and avoidable. During festive seasons when large quantities of brightly coloured sweets, snacks, and fried items are produced the use of inexpensive colourants tends to spike, raising the likelihood of auramine contamination.

What have earlier investigations in India shown? Findings from different regions consistently show that dyes such as auramine, metanil yellow, rhodamine B, and malachite green appear in certain samples of sweets, savoury snacks, condiments, and pickles. These violations are particularly common in unorganised food sectors, where oversight is limited and ingredients are often procured through informal supply chains.Regulatory challenges compound the problem. India’s food production landscape is dominated by micro and small enterprises, many of which operate with limited technical knowledge of safe manufacturing practices. While the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, provides stringent provisions against adulteration, enforcement remains uneven due to variations in laboratory capacity, staffing, and surveillance systems across states. In several toxicology reports, long-term ingestion of

clinical indication suggests otherwise," he said Dr Ashok also said that such studies will be conducted in other states to know about the presence of heavy metals."We are under the process of examining the heavy metals in other states and their impact on human health which is a need of the hour."The study, conducted on 40 randomly selected lactating women from various districts of Bihar, involved quantification of U238 in breastmilk.All samples tested contained uranium, with the highest levels observed in the Katihar district.Health risk assessments showed that infants are particularly vulnerable due to their limited ability to eliminate uranium from their bodies.The study estimates that 70 per cent of the infant population analysed could experience non-carcinogenic health effects from exposure.Uranium, a naturally occurring radioactive element, is commonly found in granite and other rocks. It can contaminate groundwater through natural processes and human activities such as mining, burning coal, nuclear industry emissions, and the use of phosphate fertilisers.On further studies to identify the presence of pesticides, environmental pollutants in breastmilk Dr Ashok said, "the article does address future directions, and pesticides are included in their plans.From the study’s discussion and conclusion sections, this investigation focused on uranium (U-238) in breast milk; our previous work had already identified arsenic, lead, and mercury in breast milk. We further highlight the need for continued biomonitoring of toxic contaminants, including environmental pollutants such as pesticides in breast milk, to better understand infant exposure risk.

"The World Health Organisation (WHO) sets a provisional limit of 30 micrograms per litre (ug/L) for uranium in drinking water, while some countries, such as Germany, have adopted stricter limits of 10 ug/L.In India, uranium contamination has been reported in an estimated 151 districts across 18 states, with 1.7 per cent of groundwater sources affected in Bihar.Globally, elevated uranium levels have been observed in countries including Canada, the United States, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, China, Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, and the lower Mekong Delta region.Though prior global studies have shown high uranium concentrations in groundwater, clear clinical symptoms among exposed populations have not been consistently observed. However, the current research underscores the urgent need to monitor U238 in Bihar to assess and mitigate potential health risks to mothers and their infants.

non-permitted dyes including auramine -- has been linked to physiological degeneration, organ pathology, and genetic damage in animal studies. Yet, despite repeated crack-downs, the recurrence of auramine in food samples indicates that economic incentives and supply-chain fragility continue to override compliance.

What is the global context? The concerns surrounding auramine are not unique to India. Historically, several countries encountered similar issues in the mid-20th century, when industrial dyes including auramine were occasionally used in foods before emerging toxicological evidence prompted universal bans.Today, regulators in the U.S., EU, and East Asian nations classify auramine strictly as an industrial dye, and its presence in consumables triggers product recalls and import alerts.In recent years, isolated reports of auramine contamination have surfaced in turmeric consignments, pickles, and brightly coloured sweets across parts of South Asia and Africa, underscoring its global status as a prohibited and hazardous additive.

Why are these violations significant for India today? Despite improvements in food safety systems, the wide variety of street foods, festival sweets, and locally prepared snacks in India can sometimes increase exposure to products that may contain industrial dyes, largely because these items often move through complex and informal supply chains. Children who tend to consume a disproportionate share of brightly coloured foods are at increased risk of long-term harm.Recurrent contamination erodes consumer trust and creates pressure on regulatory authorities to strengthen surveillance. The continued detection of auramine also highlights structural challenges related to informal manufacturing, limited awareness of safety standards, and the affordability gap between permitted and non-permitted colourants.

What steps are being taken? The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) periodically intensifies sampling, surveillance, and enforcement efforts, particularly during festive seasons when colour adulteration peaks. Several states have launched targeted drives against illegal colourants, leading to seizures of unlabelled dye packets and prosecution of violating units.Alongside enforcement, awareness programmes for small food manufacturers and street vendors are being expanded to encourage safer manufacturing practices. There is also a push to strengthen laboratory infrastructure and develop rapid testing kits that can detect industrial dyes at the point of sale.What lies ahead?

Eliminating auramine from the food chain will require a multilayered approach. This includes tighter regulation of chemical markets selling industrial dyes, sustained community-level education for small manufacturers, broader deployment of easy-to-use testing tools, and stronger penalties for chronic violators. Consumer education especially regarding the risks associated with unnaturally bright foods will also be crucial.

9 in 10 SMBs in Hyderabad adopt AI as digital transformation accelerates: LinkedIn stud

Hyderabad: Small and medium businesses (SMBs) in Hyderabad are leading India’s AI adoption wave, with 9 in 10 SMBs (91%) already investing or planning to invest in AI solutions, according to new LinkedIn research. At the same time, 91% of decision-makers expect business growth over the next year, signaling a sector focused on smarter systems, skilled talent, and trusted digital platforms.

The study highlights that AI is central to SMB strategy in Hyderabad. 57% of SMBs say AI and automation are critical to staying competitive, 52% view operational efficiency as key to protecting margins, and 51% prioritize securing future-ready talent for survival.

Hyderabad has 515 GCCs, another 50-70 expected within a year



New Delhi: Hyderabad has around 515 Global Capability Centres (GCCs), and 50-70 more are expected to be set up within a year, as the city offers a huge talent pool and cost advantage to foreign companies, according to a FICCI and Anarock report. Industry body FICCI and property consultant Anarock have come up with a joint report titled ‘Hyderabad: The Rise of a Global Capability Powerhouse’.

The report highlighted that there were around 515 GCCs in Hyderabad as of March 2026, employing more than 3 lakh people. Hyderabad accounts for around 20 per cent of the total GCCs in India, transforming the city from a cyber city into a GCC hub. The report noted that GCCs have become a key demand driver for Hyderabad’s office market. The leasing of office space by foreign firms to set up

GCCs rose to 4.5 million sq ft in 2025 from 1.9 million sq ft in 2021. In the first six months of this year, the figure has crossed 3 million sq ft. “The sustained leasing momentum reflects the deepening of Hyderabad’s GCC ecosystem and the increasing preference of global enterprises to establish larger and more sophisticated operations in the city,” Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said. Hyderabad’s GCC proposition is broadening well beyond conventional IT-ITeS functions, said V V Rama Raju, Chairman, FICCI Telangana State Council. The city’s proposition is broadening beyond traditional IT-ITeS into a multi-sector ecosystem, including BFSI, life sciences, semiconductors, engineering and healthcare.

Besides having a huge talent pool, Hyderabad’s prime office rent of Rs 95-115 per square ft is lower than that of Bengaluru and competitive with Pune. On the future potential, the report said that 50-70 additional GCCs across technology, engineering, BFSI, life sciences, analytics, consulting and digital operations are expected to come up within a year. Sattva Group and Blackstone-sponsored Knowledge Realty Trust CEO Shirish Godbole said, “The GCC boom reinforces Hyderabad’s position as one of India’s most important office markets for the next decade.” The joint report mentioned that the current Grade A office stock in Hyderabad is 125 million sq ft, comprising nearly 15 per cent of India’s inventory. Around 36 million sq ft of new office space supply is expected to come up over the next few years, it added.

After Subhash Chandra case, bankruptcy board’s push for tighter safeguards

The proposal has come in the backdrop of a special National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) bench staying the order of its single bench in the Subhash Chandra case. The proposal has come in the backdrop of a special National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) bench staying the order of its single bench in the Subhash Chandra case.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy board of India (IBBI) has proposed four key amendments in the insolvency resolution process of personal guarantors to corporate debtors for providing safeguards to the banks or creditors in line with the protections already available under corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) of a company. The board has proposed that any creditor who is a ‘related party’ of the guarantor shall not get any voting right in approving the resolution plan. Under the CIRP, a ‘related party’ of a debtor company has no right of voting in the committee of creditors, which takes decisions on the resolution plan. In personal guarantor resolutions, an ‘associate’ is barred from voting. However, the definition of ‘associate’ is much narrower compared to the definition of ‘related party’, said the IBBI.

“For instance, a company that habitually acts on the guarantor’s advice or instructions, without the guarantor holding any shares in it or otherwise controlling its board, would qualify as a ‘related party’ even though it would fall outside the definition of ‘associate’,” said the regulator in its discussion paper seeking public comments until October 3. The proposal has come in the backdrop of a special National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) bench staying the order of its single bench in the Subhash Chandra case. On August 25, the NCLT single bench approved a repayment plan involving personal guarantor and Essel Group founder Subhash Chandra, under which creditors were offered just Rs 6.25 crore against their admitted claims of Rs 22,006.57 crore. Chandra’s case puts bankruptcy code under scrutiny. The matter created a major controversy in the public domain, with experts questioning the efficacy of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which was introduced in 2016 to revive companies under huge debt and ensure repayment to banks.

In Chandra’s case, the banks alleged that the non-bank entities were associates or related parties of the guarantor and acted under Chandra’s influence to push the plan with a huge haircut. The IBBI’s proposed amendment also mandates resolution professionals to examine whether the guarantor was party to any avoidance transactions — undervalued, preference transactions, and extortionate credit transactions — during the resolution stage itself, present their findings to creditors prior to voting, and initiate legal proceedings with creditor approval. Unlike CIRP, when the



guarantor’s repayment plan is put to a vote, the resolution professional is under no obligation to examine whether any such transaction took place and if the guarantor made full disclosure of affairs. Asset valuation, creditors’ views and reasons to be recorded. The third proposed amendment relates to the asset valuation of the personal guarantor in the resolution process. The resolution professionals will have to appoint a registered valuer to determine the fair value and realisable value of assets and submit the valuation report to creditors, along with the repayment plan, for their consideration.

“This would enable creditors to make an informed and commercially prudent assessment of the adequacy of the proposed security, the overall viability of the repayment plan, and the potential recovery available from the assets of the guarantor,” said the IBBI. The insolvency regulatory body also proposed to include detailed objection and assessment of the creditors regarding the repayment plan. As of now, in personal guarantors’ cases, the resolution professionals are only required to record raw voting tallies without documenting the commercial reasoning of the creditors. The proposal says that resolution professionals will be required to record, in the minutes of the meeting of creditors, the deliberations of the creditors and the reasons for their decision on the repayment plan.

“Where the amount proposed to be paid to creditors under the repayment plan is significantly lower than the amount of their admitted claims or the estimated realisable value of the assets of the guarantor, the creditors should specifically record the commercial rationale for considering approval of the repayment plan as a better alternative to the decision of initiation of a bankruptcy process,” said the board. IBBI said this will promote transparency, accountability and informed decision-making. It will ensure that approval of a repayment plan rests on an objective assessment of the recovery prospects available to them.



The 1033 helpline is a crucial system to save lives in road accidents since national highways account for over 36% of road deaths, though it forms only 2.3% of the total road network. The emergency response system is important especially for the “Golden hour”- the first 60 minutes after an accident.

Under the existing system, the caller often has to restate information across from one person to another and the system relies heavily on callers verbally describing landmarks or manual location entry by agents. However, in the new system, the user has to state their problem only once and the system itself will identify the location. Apart from this, currently the system allocates emergency resources such as ambulances using straight line distance calculation. However, the new system will deploy the dynamic dispatch algorithm based on live road ETA, factoring in real-time traffic and carriageway geometry to recommend the nearest suitable resource within 30 seconds. The IHMCL has also proposed the full integration of the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112) under the new system, along with the Rajmargyatra citizen app etc.

Inflation rates rise in August, eyes turn to RBI’s October meeting



A range of indicators measuring prices rose in August, with the main gauge of household inflation rising to 4.82% from 4.45% in July — the highest in at least eight months — government data showed on Monday, bringing the focus on the October 5-7 meeting of the Reserve Bank of India’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which could see the first interest rate hike in three-and-a-half years. While food inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose to 5.95% in August from 5.52% in July, upward pressure in prices were clearly visible for several items, such as sugar and certain vegetables like onion.

The price index of sugar in the CPI surged by a massive 19% in August from July, with the price 24% higher compared to August 2025. Prices have jumped due to lower-than-expected sugar production and inventory falling to multi-year lows. In light of the soaring price of sugar — a key ingredient during the festival season for sweets — the government last month allowed duty-free imports of up to 10 lakh tonnes of raw sugar until October 31. The price of onion, on the other hand, was up 26% in August compared to July, with the late rains delaying planting. “The inflation outlook remains vulnerable to both external and weather-related risks,” said Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist at CareEdge Ratings. According to Sinha, while the RBI is likely to remain data-dependent, a sustained uptick in inflation “could strengthen the case for a rate hike in the coming months”. This makes the October meeting of the MPC “crucial to watch, especially as some major central banks have already embarked on a rate-hiking cycle”. The latest CPI inflation print comes three weeks before the next meeting of the MPC. Minutes of last month’s meeting had shown that Governor Sanjay Malhotra and Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta were both hinting towards an increase in interest rates. The MPC last increased the repo rate in February 2023. The RBI is legally mandated to keep CPI inflation at 4% in a band of 2-6%. However, this is the third month in a row that headline retail inflation has come in above 4%. The central bank, which last month left the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, expects CPI inflation to average 4.7% in July-September, 5.9% in October-December, 5.5% in January-March 2027, and 5.3% in April-June 2027. With inflation ticking up and the economy far more robust than anyone had expected — GDP growth was a surprisingly strong 7.8% in the first quarter of 2026-27 — more and more economists have been warning that the MPC must soon increase interest rates. Although CPI inflation has and is expected to remain within the 2-6% band of the RBI, there are fears of price pressures spreading from food and fuel to other categories.

In a sign that price pressures may be broadening, as many as 314 of the 358 items in the CPI saw higher prices in August compared to July. The number was 310 in July and 236 in February, before the war in West Asia had begun. Meanwhile, the number of items whose inflation was

more than 4% rose to 110 in August from 101 in July. Signs of higher prices becoming “structural” was also visible in wholesale inflation numbers, according to Devendra Pant, Chief Economist at India Ratings & Research. This, Pant said, could be seen in the fact that wholesale inflation of seven sub-categories of the manufacturing sector — tobacco products, textiles products, chemical products, rubber and plastic products, base metals, electrical equipment and other manufacturing — has remained above 10%. These seven categories make up more than a quarter of the manufacturing group, which in turn accounts for almost two-thirds of the entire WPI. Policy action is also seemingly expected from the US Federal Reserve, which will announce its own interest rate decision on Wednesday. Markets are expecting the US central bank to hike the federal funds rate target range by 25 bps to 3.75-4% after inflation data released on Friday showed American consumer prices rose 0.4% month-on-month in August as against a 0.1% increase in July, with the year-on-year headline inflation rate steady at 3.4%. “We recently changed our fed funds (rate) view to forecast a mini 75 bps tightening cycle,” ANZ economists led by Brian Martin said on Monday. “We had pencilled in December for the start of that but acknowledged that poor September inflation data could see the cycle start earlier. This is now the case.” Martin now expects the US Fed to raise interest rates by 25 bps this week, followed by further hikes in October and December to take the key rate to 4.25-4.50%.

Hours before the household inflation numbers, the commerce ministry released Wholesale Price Index (WPI) data for August, which showed that wholesale inflation rose to 9.92% from 9.78% in July. This increase was driven by food and fuel prices, with Rahul Agrawal, Principal Economist at ICRA, noting that wholesale food inflation hitting a 20-month high of 7.05% in August was largely due to higher prices of fruits, vegetables, milk, spices, and sugar. “We expect food inflation to harden further in September-October on the back of an unfavourable base, as well as the stronger-than-usual sequential hardening in prices of some food items such as sugar, which could sour sentiment during the festive season,” Agrawal said. ‘Sequential hardening’ refers to a rise in price from one month to the next. According to Rajeev Sharan, Head of Research at Brickwork Ratings, the “main risk” to household inflation, in addition to any rise in crude oil prices and fresh volatility in vegetable prices, is high wholesale food and input costs eventually being passed on to consumers. In addition to the WPI, the commerce ministry also released producer price data for August on Monday, with inflation based on the output Producer Price Index (PPI) edging up to 9.81% from 9.57% in July.

The output PPI is a new measure of inflation at the factory-gate level and is not very dissimilar from the WPI. However, the output PPI excludes indirect taxes and trade and transport margins. It is expected that the WPI will be phased out by 2031, by when the output PPI will become the default measure of inflation for producers. MoSPI is already using the output PPI to ‘deflate’ nominal GDP to arrive at real estimates. Meanwhile, the input PPI — which is currently being released on a trial basis for the manufacturing sector — fell 1.6% month-on-month in August from July. This decline was almost entirely driven by ‘other manufacturing’ and ‘manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products’, whose price indices slumped 14% and 13%, respectively, in August from July. These two groups together make up 16.1% of the entire input PPI and therefore exert strong influence over the headline number.

India approves 18-hour power supply to Nepal amid hydropower losses



The Centre on Monday approved Nepal government’s request for early import electricity from India to mitigate a generation shortfall due to the recent disaster. In a statement, the Ministry of Power said it has approved power exports to the Nepal Electricity Authority for 18 hours a day, from midnight to 6 pm, largely covering solar-generation hours, from September 13 to December 31.

“Approval has been given for up to 600 MW of export through Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar 400 kV D/c line and up to 54 MW through Tanakpur-Mahendranagar 132 kV S/c line. The quantum of power to be exported from January 2027, will be reviewed in December, 2026,” the power ministry said. “The recent floods have caused significant damage to hydropower infrastructure in Nepal, reducing its domestic power generation capacity and creating an additional requirement for electricity. The approval will help Nepal meet its power requirements during this difficult period and further strengthen the close and longstanding energy cooperation between India and Nepal,” the ministry added. The decision to allow electricity exports during solar-generation hours is understood to be driven by India’s relatively comfortable power availability during the day, mainly due to the significant expansion of solar capacity in recent years. Notably, grid operators have at times had to curtail solar generation during the day as the power system struggles to absorb the surplus electricity.

However, India’s power system faces tighter supply conditions during the evening and night as solar generation falls. This has become more significant as the country faces an unusual surge in power demand this September, with peak demand approaching levels recorded during the peak summer months. On September 10, peak power demand touched 269 gigawatt (GW), the highest ever recorded for the month. The highest peak demand recorded so far this year was 270 GW in May, during the peak summer period. Data from Grid India show that on September 9, when peak power demand touched 267 GW, the night-time shortfall was around 7.7 GW. On September 10, when peak power demand reached 269 GW, the night-time shortfall was 6.1 GW. To bridge the evening and night-time shortfall, grid operators have been relying on relatively expensive gas-based power, while coal-fired power plants are also operating at near-maximum levels. Electricity generation from gas-based power plants rose 80.32% during September 1-9 from the same period last year, an analysis of data from the National Power Portal shows. Similarly, coal-based gen-

eration during the September 1-9 period increased by 25.30%, from 26,135.72 million units (MU) in 2025 to 32,748.95 MU in 2026. Since April, coal-based power generation increased by 10.64%, from 553,730.78 MU in 2025 to 612,663.37 MU in 2026, reflecting heavy reliance on coal to meet the demand during non-solar hours.

The approval for export comes after the Nepal government in August sought advance approvals to import electricity from India from September following the devastating flash floods that hit the country on August 26. The Indian Express had earlier reported. Electricity trade between Nepal and India is seasonal, with Nepal exporting surplus power to the country during monsoon and importing electricity during the dry winter months when domestic hydropower generation declines. Usually, Nepal makes such requests for electricity imports from India around October. This year, however, the request has come earlier after flash floods damaged the country’s power generation capacity. According to some assessments available with Indian government officials, Nepal’s domestic power generation capacity has fallen by around 550 megawatts (MW) following damage to hydropower facilities. Consequently, cross-border power flow to India is reduced by approximately 400 MW from previous peak export levels of around 900-1,000 MW. The floods affected 13 hydropower plants, including several under-construction projects, as well as a solar power plant, Nepal’s Energy Ministry had said in an earlier statement.

No BRICS currency proposal yet, says MEA

New Delhi: There is no proposal for a BRICS currency “as of now”, while discussions on trade in local currencies have been underway for some time, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Saturday. In a press briefing, MEA’s Secretary, Economic Relations, Sudhakar Dalela, said: “There is no proposal in the BRICS for a BRICS currency as of now.” “Discussions on trade in local currencies have been underway for some time,” he said. “We believe local currency settlement is a practical mechanism to reduce transaction costs in bilateral trade. This has been encouraged as complementary to the global payment and settlement system, improving overall global trade across nations,” he said. The mechanism can help reduce transaction costs in bilateral trade and is being encouraged as a complement to the global payment system. Dalela further stated that the ‘BRICS MSME’ cooperation portal, cooperation on global value chains, and logistics frameworks were among the key highlights during the BRICS Summit. He said that BRICS cooperation on DPI, a science and research repository, and collaboration on startups were also the key highlights. Dalela said it had been a year of robust participation and engagement, with more than 350 meetings held under India’s BRICS chair. He described it as a “whole-of-nation effort”, with BRICS engagement taking place in more than 30 cities across the country.

President Murmu congratulates India women on Asia Cup win, calls team an inspiration



New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Monday lauded the Indian women's cricket team for their Asia Cup win, stating that the players are a source of "great inspiration" for India's youth, while adding that they have made the country proud. India won the Women's Asia Cup for a record-extending eighth time, defeating Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the 2026 Asia Cup final on Sunday.

In a post on X, President Murmu said, "My heartiest congratulations to all the members of Team India on winning Women's T20 Asia Cup Championship 2026. They played superbly as a team throughout the tournament, winning all the matches. They have done the country proud." "They are a source of great inspiration for our youth,

especially our daughters. I am sure, they will script many more inspiring chapters of success and excellence," she added. The Women in Blue starred across all departments to avenge their 2024 final loss to Sri Lanka, as they continued to boss the Lankan side in the Asia Cup finals. This was India's sixth win against Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup finals, including the ODI format and the 2004 tournament when India beat Sri Lanka 5-0 in the two-team tournament.

India posted a strong total of 183/5, with Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana setting things up with a record 129-run stand for the opening wicket and scoring strong half-centuries. The Indian bowlers backed things pretty well as Shree Charani picked up four wickets, while Deepti Sharma also scalped two wickets to take the Women in Blue home. Shafali and Mandhana laid the foundation for the win with their 129-run stand. Shafali smashed 68 from 39 balls and also hit the fastest half-century in the history of the tournament, when she raised her bat for the milestone off just 24 deliveries. Mandhana made a composed 59 from 39 balls, but Sri Lanka made a strong comeback in the latter half of the innings. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur struggled at No.3, falling for 14 before Richa Ghosh was also removed for 17, while G Kamalini, playing her first match of the tournament, made a five-ball 15 to give the Women in Blue a strong finish. Brief Scores: India 183/5 (Shafali Verma 68, Smriti Mandhana 59; Mithali Ayodhya 1-33) beat Sri Lanka 111/10 (Chamari Athapaththu 36, Nilakshika Silva 22; Shree Charani 4-20, Deepti Sharma 3-19) by 72 runs.



New York: Alexander Zverev captured his second Grand Slam title and second major of the year by defeating American Ben Shelton in the US Open men's singles final, 6-3, 7-6(2), 5-7, 6-2. With his three-hour, 33-minute victory, Zverev has moved 700 points clear of Sinner atop the ATP Live Race To Turin, which serves as a barometer for who will claim ATP Year-End No. 1. Zverev was contesting his sixth Grand Slam final and third this year, while Shelton had never before reached that stage in his career.

The German, who is 25-2 at the majors this year, is

Abhishek Sharma's 82 powers India past Afghanistan in 1st T20I

New Delhi: After defeats in Ireland and England laid bare the issues with its understrength bowling unit, including severe injury setbacks to key personnel, current T20 World Cup holders India finally found its cutting edge with the ball, setting the foundation for a clinical seven-wicket victory over Afghanistan in the T20I series opener at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday. Jasprit Bumrah's impactful return from a left knee injury instantly restored bite to the frontline pace attack, as he removed Rahmanullah Gurbaz for a duck to trigger an early Afghanistani collapse. Alongside Arshdeep Singh's standout 3-19 and a frugal stump-to-stump leash from spin duo Axar Patel and Varun Chakaravarthy, who picked a scalp each.

It also meant that, apart from pace bowling being lightweight, India got better returns from its spinners, an area that hurt the three-time T20 World Cup winners on the trip to the United Kingdom. What would concern India, though, was the fifth-bowler quota, shared between Nitish Kumar Reddy, Abhishek Sharma, and Shivam Dube, who conceded 59 runs at an economy rate of 14.75. Afghanistan found its way back as Azmatullah Omarzai hit a brilliant, unbeaten counter-attacking 64 off 44 balls, pushing Afghanistan to 156/8, including an 83-run stand with Mohammad Nabi (33). But the total proved hopelessly inadequate once India began their reply. Abhishek Sharma watched the ball like a hawk and left 25, 165 fans drenched in a relentless shower of boundaries. With his incredible ball-striking, Abhishek reached fifty off 22 balls before extending it to a blistering 32-ball 82. His ruthless assault flattened the Afghan bowling attack and put India in cruise control from the get-go. Partnering with Ishan Kishan (42) in an explosive 121-run stand, Abhishek ensured India made a complete mockery of the 157-run target, cruising home with 38 balls to spare and taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. After winning the toss, India struck almost immediately as Bumrah extracted steep bounce, forcing a simple catch off Gurbaz's glove edge to Abhishek Sharma at first slip. Arshdeep provided support from the other end, but Sediqqullah Atal produced brief fireworks in the third over, hitting a boundary and a flat six off Bumrah. But Afghanistan's momentum was quickly halted when Zadran was run out after being caught short of his crease by a sharp throw from Ishan Kishan. Arshdeep then removed Atal when his mistimed stroke was caught comfortably at gully. With spin introduced early in the bowling attack, Axar made an instant impact by sending Gulbadin Naib to point, while Chakaravarthy, returning to the international fold, struck in his opening over, cleaning up Darwish Rasooli with a skidding delivery that rattled the leg stump.

From 43/5, veteran Nabi (33 off 27 balls) and Omarzai then stabilised the innings with a steady partnership. With Reddy not in his element, Nabi and Omarzai had no trouble hitting him and Abhishek for boundaries, including the former producing a magnificent straight six off the seam-bowling all-rounder. But Nabi fell to Arshdeep's clever change of pace when a slower ball left his stumps in disarray. Arshdeep quickly added a third to his tally by removing Rashid Khan, while a sharp direct hit from Shreyas Iyer ran out Noor

firmly in contention for the year-end crown despite having won only two titles — both of them Grand Slam trophies. In his victory speech, Zverev paid special tribute to his mother and intimated that not winning a Grand Slam was hardly the hardest obstacle he faced. "When your 4-year-old son gets diagnosed with diabetes and doctors in the office tell you that life and sports will be very limited for that child, it takes a very, very strong mother to walk out of those offices and say 'My son will be whatever he wants to be,'" Zverev said.

"If he wants to be a tennis player, he'll be a tennis player. If he wants to do something else, he'll do something else. But this illness will not define us. And I'm happy that we worked through it, and that we're doing things that we're doing right now," he added. Shelton was vying to become the first American man to win a major since Andy Roddick achieved the feat in Flushing Meadows 23 years ago. But he could not overcome the No. 1 seed, who lifted his maiden Slam trophy at Roland Garros this spring. The American was also aiming to become just the second African American man to triumph at this level after Arthur Ashe in 1975. Despite defeat in his first major final, the 23-year-old, who defeated defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in the quarter-finals, will rise to a new career-high No. 4 in the ATP Rankings.



Ahmad in the 19th over. After completing his fifty off 39 balls, Omarzai took full charge in the final over bowled by Dube, smashing him for two massive sixes over long-on and deep extra cover, before Mujeeb Ur Rahman hit successive boundaries off him to take Afghanistan past 150, a target that had seemed a distant prospect in the seventh over of the innings. In the chase, India were in cruise control from the outset. Sanju Samson set the early tone with a flick and loft off Fazalhaq Farooqi. But the flick eventually brought Samson's downfall, as he was too early into his shot and was caught by deep square leg off Omarzai. But Abhishek, who got off the mark with an inside-out loft off Mujeeb Ur Rahman, launched an all-out assault — after lofting and pulling Omarzai for boundaries, he tore into Farooqi. He first lofted him over cover for a crisp six before walloping a slower bouncer into the deep midwicket stand. He looted 26 runs off the fifth over from Farooqi, alongside Kishan, who launched him for a mammoth second-tier six, before backing away to carve another boundary over point. Mohammad Nabi's spin as Abhishek got a streaky slice past gully for four, before swatting him over mid-on for six as India got 82 runs off the power-play.

Abhishek brought up India's century and his 12th T20I fifty off just 22 balls with a gentle tuck to the leg side, before tearing into Rashid Khan — after stepping out to launch a towering six over mid-wicket, he ended the ninth over with a flat-batted hit over deep extra cover. Abhishek's relentless assault when he pulled a skiddy length ball from Noor Ahmad over wide long-on for six, before leaning into a gorgeous lofted drive going over deep extra cover for another maximum, even as Kishan drilled one past the wrist-spinner for four. After leaving Afghanistan fielders shocked by slog-sweeping Nabi for six, Abhishek couldn't get hold of a full toss and holed out to long-on, who took a reverse-cupped catch before sliding on the ground. Thereafter, Kishan, who later holed out in the deep off Nabi, Shreyas Iyer and Tilak Varma applied finishing touches on a dominant victory to send the Delhi crowd into a frenzy. The spectators reserved their loudest cheers for the Indian team playing as visitors, ensuring they felt right at home despite Afghanistan being the designated hosts. Brief Scores: Afghanistan 156/8 in 20 overs (Azmatullah Omarzai 64 not out, Mohammad Nabi 33; Arshdeep Singh 3-19, Varun Chakaravarthy 1-16) lost to India 157/3 in 13.4 overs (Abhishek Sharma 82, Ishan Kishan 42; Mohammad Nabi 2-28, Azmatullah Omarzai 1-14) by 7 wickets

India beat Sri Lanka by 72 runs to win record-extending eighth title

Dubai: India lifted the Women's Asia Cup trophy for a record-extending eighth time by defeating Sri Lanka in the 2026 Asia Cup final here at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium by 72 runs on Sunday. The Women in Blue starred across all departments to avenge their 2024 final loss to Sri Lanka, as they kept bossing the Lankan side in the Asia Cup finals. This was India's sixth win against Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup finals, including the ODI format and the 2004 tournament when India beat Sri Lanka 5-0 in the two-team tournament.

India posted a strong total of 183/5, with Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana setting things up with a record 129-run stand for the opening wicket and scoring strong half-centuries. The Indian bowlers backed things pretty well as Shree Charani picked up four wickets, while Deepti Sharma also scalped two wickets to take the Women in Blue home.

Shafali and Mandhana laid the foundation for the win with their 129-run stand. Shafali smashed 68 from 39 balls and also hit the fastest half-century in the history of the tournament, when she raised her bat for the milestone off just 24 deliveries. Mandhana made a composed 59 from 39 balls, but Sri Lanka made a strong comeback in the latter half of the innings. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur struggled at No.3, falling for 14 before Richa Ghosh was also removed for 17, while G Kamalini, playing her first match of the tournament, made a five-ball 15 to give the Women in Blue a strong finish. Sri Lanka were found wanting in their top-order performances, and it was not a big improvement over their previous outings, as Imesha Dulani was dismissed in the first over by Kranti Gaud. India kept the lid on Sri Lanka batters as captain Chamari Athapaththu was not being let free to score. They were kept at 38/1 at the end of the powerplay.

Athapaththu showed her muscles when she saw leg-



spinner Prema Rawat coming in for her first over in the ninth over. She hit her for a six and four as Sri Lanka dreamt of their captain around. However, Deepti hit the body blow when she got Athapaththu stumped out in the 10th over and then doubled the blow when she bowled Vishmi Gunaratne in the same over. The two wickets meant Sri Lanka were already staring down the barrel by the end of the 10th over. With 121 needed off 60 balls, India did not let the 2024 champions breathe easy as Shree Charani got Harshitha Samarawickrama for nine to become India's leading T20I wicket-taker of the year. She continued her good work and took three more wickets, with two coming in the 15th over as she removed Kavisha Dilhari and Nilakshika Silva in the space of three balls. Shafali also took a wicket, while Prema Rawat scalped one too before Deepti closed things out on the final ball of the match after cleaning up Kaushani Nuthyanga to bowl the 2024 winners for 111 and win by 72 runs. Brief Scores: India 183/5 (Shafali Verma 68, Smriti Mandhana 59; Mithali Ayodhya 1-33) beat Sri Lanka 111/10 (Chamari Athapaththu 36, Nilakshika Silva 22; Shree Charani 4-20, Deepti Sharma 3-19) by 72 runs.

Had told before Asia Cup final we won't take trophy from Naqvi: Devajit Saikia

Despite winning a record eighth Asia Cup title, the India women's team will head home — like the men's team did last year — with no trophy to show for their efforts. After India defeated Sri Lanka in the final of the Asia Cup in Dubai on Sunday night, Harmanpreet Kaur & Co refused to take the medals and the trophy from Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who also happens to be Pakistan's interior minister. "We had taken a conscious decision considering all prevailing aspects, and our position had been communicated to the ACC in advance, that the Indian team would not participate in the trophy presentation under the circumstances," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a statement

It is understood that the BCCI had communicated on the eve of the final that if Naqvi were to hand over the medals and trophy, the Indian team wouldn't be receiving them. The scenes were a repeat of what happened when the men's team under Suryakumar Yadav had refused to take the trophy from Naqvi. The men's tournament, held soon after the Pahalgam terrorist attacks and Operation Sindoor, saw Indian players refuse to shake hands with their Pakistani counterparts at the toss as well as at the end of the matches. The women's team has been following a similar policy, which incidentally isn't followed by India's hockey teams or athletes in other sports when they compete against Pakistan in global events.

While the Indian government has spelt out the guidelines as to when and where they will play Pakistan, there is no directive as such about shaking hands or accepting medals handed over by individuals from across the border. However, Saikia said it was an institutional decision to not receive the trophy from Naqvi. "Our participation in the Asia Cup was in fulfilment of our sporting commitments as a member of the Asian Cricket Council by adhering to the policy in place, and there was never any question of compromising on the spirit of the game or our commitment to international cricket. However, participation in a multinational tournament and the manner in which the trophy is received are two separate matters. Given the circumstances and the sentiments prevailing in the country, the BCCI felt that it would not be appropriate for the team to receive the trophy in the proposed manner. This was a firm institutional decision, reflective of the position we have maintained, and was



not directed at the players, the tournament or the sport," the BCCI secretary said.

Deja vu Like after the men's Asia Cup final, the waiting time for the presentation reached 50 minutes after the final delivery. The Sri Lankan players had collected their runners-up medal from Naqvi. However, with Indian players not moving an inch, the presentation ceremony ended abruptly with Naqvi walking away without the trophy. During the men's event, Naqvi, who also happens to be the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman, had taken the trophy with him and it is yet to be handed over to India. "The Indian women's team has done what matters most, they have won the Asia Cup through their outstanding performance on the field. We as well as the whole nation are immensely proud of the team, and the achievement belongs to the players and to Indian cricket. Now, our focus is on the Asian Games and we do not allow any distraction at this stage from the preparation for the same," Saikia said. After the presentation ceremony, India coach Amol Muzumdar explained the team's decision.

That stand has been taken by the BCCI and we stand by it. For us, this tournament is over, we are the champions. That's good enough. It was on the big board that India are the champions of Asia Cup 2026. This tournament is officially over for us. We're happy that we're the champions and we look forward to the Asian Games," Muzumdar said. India women and men's team will again face Pakistan at the upcoming Asian Games, where it would be interesting to see what happens if a similar situation comes to pass.

play T20 cricket for a while," he said. "What's next for me when I finish? I'm not sure, but yeah, hopefully a bit more time left playing. I've achieved a lot in the game. It's been a great ride for the last 15 years or thereabouts. I've had a lot of fun. I'm still enjoying it, so I don't have an end date; we'll wait and see. But it's been a good ride."

Fabio Menta takes charge as Delhi Toofans head coach

Hyderabad: Delhi Toofans have announced the appointment of internationally experienced coach Fabio Menta as the franchise's head coach, marking a new phase for the team as it prepares for the fifth season of the Prime Volleyball League (PVL), scheduled to commence on November 30. Menta brings more than two decades of experience across professional clubs, national teams and international development programmes in Europe, Asia and Oceania. An FIVB Level II coach and coach instructor associated with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), FIVB and Oceania Volleyball, he has worked across indoor and beach volleyball, while also serving as a technical director, coach educator and mentor to players and coaches internationally. His coaching record includes a national championship in the Bahamas, a bronze medal in the Italian Cup and a bronze-medal finish at the Suomen Cup in Finland. More recently, Menta was part of Creamline's three-title campaign in the Philippine Pro League in 2025, before helping ZUS Coffee secure a silver medal in 2026 and serving as tactician for Letran College's NCAA gold-medal campaign. Science of Modern Volleyball, an educational platform focused on the analysis of modern volleyball systems, skills and trends, and the development of coaches and players. Alok Sanghi, chairman of Resolute Sports, said, "Volleyball in India is entering an exciting phase, with the sport gaining greater visibility, participation and professional opportunities for athletes. We are delighted to welcome Fabio to Delhi Toofans at a time when the league and the wider volleyball ecosystem are evolving rapidly." Delhi Toofans have built a strong competitive foundation in the PVL, reaching the final in their debut season in 2024. The franchise now aims to translate that early success into sustained performances as the competition continues to grow in stature and attract increasing attention from players, coaches and fans.

Steve Smith eyes LA 2028, unsure of Ashes 2027: 'Don't know if I'll be there'



Steve Smith may not know whether he will still be playing Test cricket by next year's Ashes, but the Australian batsman has another target in mind — representing his country at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Cricket will return to the Olympics after 128 years at the LA Games, with six teams each in the men's and women's T20 competitions. Smith, who will be 39 by then, said playing at the Olympics was one of the few goals he still wanted to achieve. "Right now probably it's just the Olympics to try to be a part of that," Smith told The Telegraph. "One of the reasons why I wanted to play with Amsterdam here was just to continue playing as much T20 cricket as I can.

"I was keen immediately to come and play in a new market and, hopefully, share some experiences with the local players and associate players: share a dressing room with them and try to impart some of my knowledge on to them. It's been really good." Smith is currently playing for Amsterdam Flames in the European T20 Premier League. The tournament has allowed him to keep playing T20 cricket as he looks ahead to Los Angeles. While Smith has the Olympics in his sights, he is less certain about how long he will continue playing Test cricket. The 37-year-old has played 125 Tests, scoring 37 centuries at an average of 54, but is now taking his Test career one series at a time.

Smith has never won an Ashes series in England. Asked whether he could finally do so next summer, he admitted that he did not know whether he would still be playing Test cricket by then. "I don't even know if I'll be there yet," Smith said. "I'm kind of a series-by-series proposition, as I've been for a while, and that's still a fair way away for me right now. So, yeah, I'd love to win one there or to have won one there, but you wait and see if that comes to fruition." Smith, however, feels he can continue playing T20 cricket for some time and has not decided when he will retire from the game completely. "I still like to think I could

Child star who challenged Shashi Kapoor, earned Rs 3,500 daily as ‘Junior Amitabh’



Sometimes life chooses a path for you. Sometimes, while walking down one path, you take a turn that leads you somewhere entirely different. And very rarely does a person find success in everything they choose to pursue. Such has been the extraordinary journey of Ravi Valecha, popularly known as Master Ravi and arguably one of India’s first child stars. After becoming one of the highest-paid child actors of his time, Ravi went on to pursue his passion for cooking. He graduated from IIH Mumbai, worked as a professional chef with the Taj and eventually built a career in the hospitality industry. Today, he heads the administration department of a leading company, while also working towards setting up a film institute that would teach acting at an affordable cost. But his journey began with an unlikely exchange between a four-year-old Ravi and veteran actor Shashi Kapoor.

A four-year-old Ravi Valecha challenged Shashi Kapoor—and landed his first film“My brother was working on the film Fakira when I accompanied him on the set. On set, every actor and director had dedicated chairs for them. I was four and outspoken. I was sitting on this chair when this man, after his shot, walked up to me. He told me, ‘You are sitting on my chair.’ I said, ‘But I am sitting and I am not going to get up.’

“He then asked, ‘Can we do some compromise here?’ I was like, ‘Okay, we can do that. How about you sit on the chair and I sit on your lap?’ This man was nobody else but Shashi Kapoor. He liked my confidence. He then told the director to cast me in this film,” Ravi told Explore 1. That is how Ravi Valecha made his debut in Fakira, where he played Shabana Azmi’s four-year-old son. The journey that began in 1976 continued for the next 14 years. During this period, Ravi worked in more than 300 films across nine languages and several film industries, including Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.Ravi Valecha once had a lioness’s milkAt just six, Ravi starred in Cheetah Mera Yaar, a film directed by K Parvez and featuring Vinod Khanna, Amjad Khan and Neetu Singh. Ravi played the role of a prince who is kidnapped, escapes and eventually finds himself in the jungle.Unfortunately, the film never saw a release. But one scene from the movie remains etched in Ravi’s memory. “Filmmaker K Parvez was directing a film starring Vinod Khanna, Amjad Khan and Neetu Singh. I too was part of the film, where I played the role of a prince. The kid gets kidnapped and then escapes and goes to the jungle. Unfortunately, the film didn’t release. There was a scene in the film where a lioness was feeding her cubs. The kid crawls in and also gets fed. This was a true scene, with a real lioness and her cubs. I have had a lioness milk for real,” he told The Hillary Times.Ravi Valecha eventually became particularly famous for portraying a young version of Amitabh Bachchan in several of the superstar’s films, earning himself the nickname “Junior Amitabh Bachchan.”His popularity translated

Ram Kapoor says he was ‘happy, super thrilled’ about father’s death: ‘His pain was over’



Ram Kapoor, last seen on Netflix’s captive reality series, Lock Upp, by Ektaa Kapoor, opened up about one of the most difficult phases of his life and how caring for his father during his final days changed his perspective on death. The actor revealed that while he was helping his father through his battle with cancer, he did not have the time to process what he was doing. It was only after his father passed away that the Bade Acche Lagte Hain fame realised how the experience had a much deeper impact on him. ‘I didn’t know that I could do it’: Ram Kapoor

Recalling the time he spent with his father, Ram told Nayandeep Rakshit, “When I was going through that, being with Dad at that time, I didn’t know that I could do it. I didn’t know that I could actually do what he wanted me to do. He somewhere thought that Ram will be able to do this. I think he saw my strength in this matter. I did not know at that point.”He further went on to describe how difficult it was to watch his father suffer from cancer. “I had my hands full with this dying man. It was not easy. Cancer is a very bad way to go. It’s a very bad disease. Sometimes he’s in severe pain, sometimes he’s hallucinating, sometimes he’s... So I had to deal with all of that.”

Ram Kapoor said he was focused entirely on doing what his father needed until his death. “I didn’t have time to actually think about it. I was just there doing what I needed to do for my father till he passed. Later on, it started sinking in, and I realised later on the amount I’ve learned from that experience. And that’s one of the best things that’s happened to me because I helped my father do something that he really wanted.”The Kasamh Se actor added, “Everybody lives like a king or tries to live like a king. He died like a king. He died on his terms and I helped him do that. So, that was fantastic.”

His father’s demise also changed the way Ram viewed death. “Everybody lives as if they are never going to die. They don’t even talk about their deaths with their family members. Plan it. Discuss it. Plan your will, your assets. I

into a lucrative career. At the peak of his child-acting years, he was reportedly earning Rs 3,000-3,500 per day in the 1980s—roughly equivalent to Rs 75,000-90,000 today when adjusted for inflation.

But Ravi believes his biggest advantage was his ability to deliver a scene in a single take.“I was the one and only child star. Like how they say Rajesh Khanna was the first superstar, similarly, Master Ravi was the first child star. I used to do at least four shifts in a day. Things were very expensive back then. They had rolls back then, so they had to be very precise. I had a record that I never used to give a retake. Maybe this was one of the reasons why directors, actors and producers favoured me. All they had to do was just explain the scene to me once.”

I lost my childhood and teenage yearsThe success came at a cost. Ravi Valecha began working at the age of four and continued until he was 18, missing out on much of a conventional childhood.“I lost too many things. In life, you cannot achieve anything without sacrificing something. I earned name, fame and wealth. But I lost my childhood as I was working from age 4 to age 18,” Ravi told Explore 1. Being constantly exposed to film sets and adult situations also meant that he had to mature much earlier than most children. “I used to think like a 24-year-old at 8. I lost my childhood and teenage.”After 14 years in the industry, Ravi eventually stepped away from acting. But according to him, it wasn’t an impulsive decision—it was a planned break.“It was a planned break. I had worked in several of Manmohan Desai films, the last being Giraftaar (1985). He loved me a lot. So after this film, he asked me to go out of the limelight, work on my personality and said that he would launch me as the lead star. Unfortunately, he died during this time and I was never launched after that.”Having missed school because of his demanding shooting schedule, Ravi Valecha enrolled at IIH Mumbai. “I was very interested in cooking.”He graduated as a professional chef and worked with the Taj for a couple of years. He eventually expanded his experience across different aspects of the hospitality business, including room service, before establishing himself in the industry.Today, Ravi heads the administration department of a leading company. On the side, he is also working towards his dream of starting a film institute where aspiring actors can learn acting at an affordable cost.There was another childhood dream that Ravi never gave up on: flying.“I always wanted to become a pilot. But during those times, you had to study science and the courses were extremely expensive, and we had our limitations. Now, I have applied to the Bombay Flying Club to learn hobby flying. There is no age limit to anything,” he told Diksha Deo.

While Ravi Valecha’s journey may sound extraordinary, his childhood also had a deeply painful side. Despite having supportive parents, he has spoken about being abused as a child. Speaking to The Indian Express, Ravi said, “It happened with me three times.”He recalled one such incident involving a young secretary who had been hired to accompany him to shoots. “A young secretary who had been hired to accompany me to shoots every day would touch me inappropriately in taxis and cars,” he said.Looking back at those incidents, Ravi said the most difficult part was that he had nobody to confide in. “There was nobody I could talk to.”He believes these experiences also contributed to his struggles with anger and a short temper later in life. Recently, Ravi began therapy, where he has been working on himself and anger management through various exercises.From a four-year-old child who found himself on a film set to one of the most successful child actors of his generation, followed by a career as a chef and a successful stint in hospitality, Ravi Valecha’s journey has taken several unexpected turns. And even at this stage of his life, he continues to pursue the dreams he once had to put aside.

mean, it’s going to happen, right? So, why the are you guys ignoring it?” exasperated Ram.Talking about his father’s final moments, Ram said he was relieved that his suffering had ended. “I was super thrilled that his pain was over. So, in that process, I was happy about the death. I was smiling at the death. So, when you start smiling at death, how can you fear it? So, now it’s a joke to me,” shared the actor.Ram acknowledged that his decision to be there for his father had emotional consequences for his family. However, he maintained that he does not regret it. “I don’t think that I did anything wrong because I helped a dying man. So, I have no regrets with this,” stated the actor.Ram Kapoor made headlines during his stint on Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa Season 2, where he emerged as one of the five finalists. He made several candid revelations on the show about his personal life, including his struggles with depression, alcohol and his behaviour during his show, Bade Acche Lagte Hain. He gradually became a controversial character on the show, where his kiss with inmate Shreya became the biggest talk of the town. Despite the controversies surrounding his conduct, Ram made it to the finale week before finishing in fifth place.

Anshuman Jha on ‘Hari-Om’ becoming ‘Om Ka Hari’: ‘We didn’t get the title rights’

Mumbai: Actor Anshuman Jha has opened up about the title change of his upcoming father-son drama comedy, which was originally titled “Hari-Om” and is now called “Om Ka Hari.”The film, starring Jha alongside veteran actor Raghuraj Yadav and Soni Razdan, underwent the change after the makers could not secure the rights to the original title.Explaining the decision, Anshuman said, “We didn’t get the title rights,” adding that Om Ka Hari eventually became the most appropriate title for the story.The film’s makers, First Ray Films, initially hoped to retain the title Hari-Om. However, the title rights were with Tips, which had used the name for a film more than two decades ago and did not agree to relinquish it.Speaking about the same, Anshuman Jha said, “Yes, the film was originally going to be called Hari-Om but because we didn’t get the title rights, we did the next best thing. Om & Hari are deeply spiritual words, culturally resonant with our great nation & Harish Vyas wanted to express the Father Vs Son Dynamic throught the names of the characters which is Om & Hari.”

Rashmika Mandanna’s ‘Mysaa’ to hit screens on November 27 this year!



Chennai: The makers of director Rawindra Pulle’s eagerly awaited action thriller ‘Mysaa’, featuring actress Rashmika Mandanna in the lead, on Tuesday announced that the film would hit screens worldwide on November 27 this year.Unformula Films, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to make the announcement. It wrote, “Resilient by nature. Fearless by choice. Unbreakable by spirit. Get ready to experience the world of #MYSAA with #RashmikaMandanna like never before. IN CINEMAS WORLDWIDE ON 27.11.26.” It may be recalled that the film was recently in the news when its

unit completed shooting a crucial underwater sequence featuring Rashmika.

Taking to his Instagram stories section, producer Ajay Saipureddy had said, “It’s a wrap for the exciting underwater sequence with Rashmika Mandanna.”The film has generated excitement among fans ever since it was first announced. In fact, in May this year, the film was in the news when actress Rashmika Mandanna disclosed that the unit had successfully wrapped up a long schedule in Kerala.Taking to her Instagram page to share pictures of the unit that worked in Kerala, Rashmika wrote, “Guys, a little update is that we successfully wrapped up a long schedule for #Mysaa in Kerala!”She went on to say, “And these were some of the darlings who worked so so hard and made it all possible. Thank you guys and I’ll see you soon again on set.”

Sources close to the unit had told IANS earlier that stunt master Kecha Khampakdi had choreographed some high voltage action sequences for this film which were shot in this schedule. Rashmika is believed to have performed some high intensity action sequences during this schedule along with key actors in the film.The actress had been training hard at an intensive stunt and combat bootcamp in Bangkok, Thailand to perform in the sequences that were to be filmed during this action schedule. Sources in the unit had disclosed that the actress had trained for over eight hours everyday for ‘Mysaa’ in Bangkok.For the unaware, Rashmika plays a tribal Gond girl- a character that demands emotional vulnerability as much as physical ferocity — in the film. The film, apart from Rashmika, also features Eshwari Rao, Guru Somasundaram, and Rao Ramesh in pivotal roles.On the technical front, cinematography for the film is by Shreyaas P Krishna while music is by Jakes Bejoy. International stunt choreographer Andy Long is overseeing the action for this ambitious entertainer.

Annu Kapoor can’t tell Ranbir, Ranveer, Sidharth Malhotra apart: ‘Main nahi janta inhe’

Actors Ranbir Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, and Sidharth Malhotra may be beloved by their fans and famous among today’s younger generation, but for senior actor Annu Kapoor, they are all the same. Admitting that he hasn’t seen any of their movies, Annu recently claimed he can’t even tell the three apart if they stood before him.“Naa shakal se jaanta hu, naa personally jaanta hu; woh mere samne aajaye toh mujhe pata bhi nahi hai. Woh kaun hai mujhe maalum bhi nahi hai (I can’t recognise them by face, nor do I know them personally; if they were to stand before me, I wouldn’t even know),” he said during a conversation with Bhanu Pathak.

He continued, “Ranbir toh Rishi Kapoor ka ladka hai na, isiliye main jaanta hu. Aur baaki... maine unka kaam kabhi dekha nahi hai. Toh kaise bolte hai, kaise khade hote hai, mujhe kya pata ki kya baat karte hai (Ranbir is Rishi Kapoor’s son, right? That’s why I know him. As for the rest... I have never watched any of their work. So, how would I know how they speak, stand, or talk?)”As the interview progressed, Annu also weighed in on legendary actor Naseeruddin Shah’s criticism of Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan’s acting skills. “Jab bhi bologe, nakaratmak hi bologe. Iss country mein tumhe bhi aham bolne wale bahut log hain, ki tum aham actor ho. Unke drishtikon se satya kuch nahi ho jata. Janta ne toh unko (Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan) superstars banaya hai. Woh inn successful star ke baare mein hi kyun bolte hain? (Whenever you speak, you only speak negatively. In this country, there are many people who call you ‘important’ too, saying that you are an important actor. But nothing becomes the truth from their perspective. The public has made them superstars. Why do they only talk about these successful stars?)”For the unversed, Naseeruddin Shah has often criticised Amitabh Bachchan and had once called him a businessman rather than an actor. In a 2024 interview with SCREEN, he had also said, “If you ask Mr Bachchan to play a character like Bhola (the part that he plays in



Manthan), I don’t think he would be able to do it. Similarly, I wouldn’t be able to do his kind of roles.”In a 2010 interview with NewsX, Naseeruddin claimed that director Ramesh Sippy’s Sholay, widely regarded as one of the most influential Indian movies of all time, is “not a great film.” He added, “He (Big B) hasn’t made any great film. Sholay is not a great film; it’s entertaining for sure, but not great.”Similarly, the acting legend also took a swipe at Shah Rukh Khan once, although he lauded him for achieving superstardom without any godfathers in the industry. “For that, I have great admiration for Shah Rukh. But as an actor, he is becoming boring.”

Badshah-Isha Rikhi announce divorce: Secret marriage, no acknowledgement from singer

Rapper Badshah and Isha Rikhi announced their divorce on Monday, August 31, five months after getting married. Speculation about trouble in their marriage had been doing the rounds for some time, but nothing was confirmed until Monday. From keeping their relationship under wraps and away from the spotlight to their hush-hush wedding and eventual separation, here’s a look at Badshah and Isha Rikhi’s relationship timeline.According to several reports, the two met at a mutual friend’s party, where sparks flew and love blossomed. They dated for several years but never made their relationship public, leaving fans guessing about their equation.A strong rumour about Badshah potentially marrying Isha Rikhi surfaced across social media in 2023. However, the Indian Idol judge quashed the reports by taking to his Instagram account. He wrote, “Dear media, I respect you but this is super lame. Im not getting married. Whoever’s feeding you this bullshit needs to find better masala (sic).”In March 2026, Isha Rikhi’s mother, Poonam Rikhi, shared photos of Badshah and her daughter participating in traditional Punjabi wedding ceremonies, hinting that the two had tied the knot.The wedding reportedly took place in the presence of a few close family members.The wedding photos quickly spread across social media, but Badshah never acknowledged the reports. He remained tight-lipped about the matter until Monday, when he announced his divorce from Isha.When Isha Rikhi confirmed their marriageIsha later hosted an AMA (Ask Me Anything) session on Instagram, where she was flooded with questions about her marriage to Badshah. To put an end to the speculation, Isha shared a question from a fan who asked about their marriage and why they did not follow each other on Instagram. In response, Isha wrote, “I’m officially being flooded with questions like, ‘Are you married?’, ‘Are you married to Badshah?’, ‘Why don’t you follow each other?’ and ‘Why don’t you post pictures together?’”

She also addressed the much-asked question about them not following each other on Instagram and asked Badshah to address it. She wrote, “Now, coming to the most asked question: Why don’t you follow each other? Honestly, I think my husband owes all of you an explanation. Pati Dev

(Badshah), the audience has questions. Please address them as soon as possible (sic),” along with a laughing-out-loud emoji.However, Badshah never addressed the questions surrounding his marriage, nor did he share any photos of the two together.Earlier this week, Isha Rikhi shared a video featuring photos of herself with Badshah from their holidays, festivals, family celebrations and gatherings. However, it was the caption overlaid on the video that grabbed attention. It read, “Every storm is a lesson. Every prayer is a hope (sic).”Soon after, Isha shared another emotional post in which she spoke about choosing “courage over fear” after staying silent for long. In the post, she wrote, “There are battles that leave no visible scars. For a long time, I remained silent because I was afraid. I felt overwhelmed by the influence, power, and resources I believed my husband had, and I convinced myself that staying quiet was the safest thing to do (sic).”Isha Rikhi Isha Rikhi’s emotional post that drew support from her industry friends.Isha Rikhi’s industry friends like Suyash Rai, Jasmine Bhasin, and a few others comforted her by asking her to stay strong. “Stay strong. Truth shall prevail (sic),” read Wamiqa Gabbi’s message.Amid Isha’s posts, it was Poonam Rikhi’s cryptic Instagram stories that also attracted attention. Her posts spoke about karma and justice, prompting netizens to wonder whether they were linked to the separation rumours surrounding Isha and Badshah. One of the images showed a woman kneeling and praying to Lord Shiva, accompanied by the caption, “Karma comes back around. If you make life difficult for someone, God will make your death difficult.”Another Instagram story by Poonam read, “Karma never forgives; if you have made someone cry, tears are inevitable for you too. There is no judge greater than Karma; the ledger of Karma never lies. When the time comes, Karma delivers justice without bias. God might forgive you, but your Karma will never forgive you.”Isha Rikhi is a Punjabi actor who made her debut with the film Boys Putt Jattan De in 2013. She went on to feature in films including Happy Go Lucky, Mere Yaar Kaminey, What the Jatt and Ardaas. Apart from these Punjabi films, Rikhi also starred in the Hindi film Nawabzaade.