

Telangana HC seeks explanation on police presence, political role in Siddipet land row

Hyderabad: Justice NV Shravan Kumar of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday questioned the State authorities over the need for deploying a large police force and the alleged entry of ruling Congress party MLAs, MLCs and other public representatives into a private property belonging to PCR Infra.

The Court also questioned why the authorities had intervened in respect of one particular property on the pretext of verifying the status of assigned lands in Survey No. 271 of Velikatta Village, Kondapaka Mandal, Siddipet District. The Judge sharply criticised the State's high-handed approach towards the company and observed the political involvement in the matter.

SI on Ganesh immersion duty succumbs after hit-and-run on NTR Marg in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A 55-year-old Sub-Inspector of Police, who was on Ganesh idol immersion duty at crane-2 on NTR Marg, died after he was allegedly knocked down by an unidentified motorcycle on Tuesday.

According to police, Venkanna was on duty at NTR Marg when the unidentified motorcycle hit him and fled the spot. The sub-inspector lost his balance and fell on the road.

As he was suspected to have sustained only minor injuries initially, Venkanna decided to return to Warangal. However, after reaching Warangal, he developed giddiness and was shifted to MGM Hospital for treatment. He later died while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Revanth Reddy reviews power crisis after BRS thermal plant inspection call

Hyderabad: Hours after the BRS announced visits to thermal plants to assess the power crisis, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday held a high-level review of the power situation and directed officials to ensure full-capacity generation at Yadadri Thermal Power Station before Dasara festival.History

The timing of the review comes against the backdrop of a power shortage persisting for nearly three months, with industrialists seeking uninterrupted and quality supply and farmers staging protests at substations. The government had not held a similar high-level review despite these warning signs, including declining coal production from Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

30,000 police personnel deployed in Hyderabad for Ganesh immersion procession



Hyderabad, Sep 23 (IANS) Around 30,000 police personnel have been deployed in Hyderabad as part of the massive security arrangements for the Ganesh immersion procession, scheduled to be conducted on Friday, Telangana Director General of Police C. V. Anand said on Wednesday.

He said with the 10-day Ganesh festival entering its final phase, immersion processions have already begun at several locations and larger numbers are expected over the next two days.

The police chief said 30,000 police personnel have been deployed for security, crowd management and traffic regulation during the immersion processions.

Commissioners of Police and Superintendents of Police across Hyderabad and the districts are personally monitoring the arrangements, he said.

DGP Anand was talking to media persons after visiting the Khairatabad Ganesh idol. He offered prayers, wishing peace, prosperity and well-being for the people of the State.

He appealed to devotees and organisers to ensure that the Ganesh immersion processions are conducted peacefully and safely.

Anand recalled his long association with the Khairatabad Ganesh celebrations, dating back to his tenure as Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Zone.

He thanked the festival committee members, police personnel and officials of various government departments for their cooperation in conducting the celebrations.

The police are working in coordination with the GHMC, Electricity, Irrigation and other departments to facilitate the immersion processions.

Arrangements have been made at Hussain Sagar and other immersion points across the city, while cranes have been positioned at required locations along Tank Bund.

Special measures have been taken along the procession routes to prevent theft and harassment of women. SHE Teams and Task Force personnel have been deployed, while the Traffic and Law and Order wings are working in coordination to manage the movement of vehicles and crowds.

Anand reminded festival organisers and devotees of the Supreme Court guidelines governing the use of DJs and crackers during processions. He said excessive noise could cause inconvenience to the public, particularly children and senior citizens.

He welcomed the decision of festival committees to voluntarily refrain from using DJs and crackers and appealed to everyone to celebrate the festival responsibly and ensure that the immersion processions pass off in a peaceful atmosphere.



KTR offers prayers at Khairatabad Bada Ganesh pandal in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Sept 23

: BRS working president KT Rama Rao offered special prayers to Lord Maha Ganapathi idol at Khairatabad on Wednesday as part of Ganesh Navaratri celebrations. He prayed for good rains, prosperity and the welfare of farmers.Read Political News

Rama Rao was accompanied by BRSLP deputy leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav and other senior party leaders. He also performed special puja at Ganesh pandals in LB Nagar and other places across the State. He extended his greetings to devotees and Ganesh festival organisers.

Speaking on the occasion, the BRS working president said he had prayed for peace, happiness and prosperity in the lives of people across Telangana and the country. He also wished that people of different communities in Hyderabad continue to live together in peace and harmony. He said politics would always be there, but festivals came rarely, and urged people to set aside political differences and celebrate the festival with their families and children.

Indian Railways rolls out KAVACH 4.0 safety system for 1st time in Hyderabad division

New Delhi, Sep 23 (IANS) Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone with the successful commissioning of the latest KAVACH Version 4.0 enhanced safety system for the first time on South Central Railway (SCR), according to an official statement issued on Wednesday.

The upgradation from KAVACH Version 3.2 to Version 4.0 has been successfully completed over 108 kilometres on the Malkajgiri-Kamareddi section of Hyderabad Division.

The state-of-the-art version incorporates further technological improvements based on the experience gained from the deployment of KAVACH Version 3.2 over 1,465 kilometres on South Central Railway.

KAVACH 4.0 brings greater safety, advanced technology, higher reliability and safer train operations, and is planned for large-scale deployment across Indian Railways, the statement said.

KAVACH 4.0 has been developed, tested and is now being deployed by Indian Railways as an Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. The latest version incorporates major improvements required to cater to the diverse operational and technological requirements of the Indian Railways network.

Key improvements in KAVACH 4.0 include increased location accuracy, enabling more precise train positioning; improved information of signal aspects in bigger yards, strengthening situational awareness during train operations.



EAM Jaishankar urges united push for UNSC reform

United Nations: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Wednesday called on countries affected by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)'s failures to address crises and its slow reform process to join forces to push for change.

He co-chaired a consultative meeting of the foreign ministers of L.69, a group of more than 30 Global South countries working for reform, at which the leader of the C-10 African group also participated.

After the meeting, Jaishankar wrote on X, "As directly impacted stakeholders, L.69 and C.10 members join forces to keep pushing for UNSC reform".

Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Swaray Rahman, coordinator of the C-10, a group of ten African nations advocating reforms, participated in the meeting.

BJP appoints Sunil Bansal as in-charge for Telangana, Arvind Bhadoria for Andhra

Hyderabad, Sep 23 (IANS) The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed Sunil Bansal and Arvind Bhadoria as the new in-charges for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, respectively.

BJP National President Nitin Nabin appointed the new in-charges and co-in-charges for various states on Wednesday

Abhay Patil and Rekha Sharma have been appointed co-in-charges for Telangana, while Vanathi Srinivasan has been named as the co-in-charge for Andhra Pradesh.

Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao conveyed his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Sunil Bansal on his appointment as in-charge for the party's state unit. He also congratulated Abhay Patil and Rekha Sharma on their appointment as co-in-charges.

"Under our National President Nitin Nabin ji, and with your leadership and guidance, we will work to further strengthen BJP across Telangana and strive towards forming a double-engine Sarkaar in the State under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji," he posted on X

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy also conveyed his heartiest congratulations to BJP National General Secretary, Sunil Bansal, on his appointment as the BJP Telangana in-charge. He also congratulated the new co-in-charges for the party. "Looking forward to your direction and guidance in further strengthening the BJP in Telangana," he wrote on X.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, also took to X to congratulate the new in-charge and co-in-charges.

Wishing everyone great success in strengthening the organisation and taking the party further forward, he said.BJP's Andhra Pradesh unit President PVN Madhav congratulated and conveyed his best wishes to Arvind Bhadoria of Madhya Pradesh on being appointed as the new party in-charge for the state,

He also congratulated Vanathi Srinivasan from Tamil Nadu, who has been appointed as co-in-charge.

Madhav hoped that with their experience and guidance, BJP will be further strengthened in Andhra Pradesh.



Election panel hijacked: Opposition demands CEC's ouster, arrest

New Delhi, Sept 23

The Opposition on Wednesday demanded action against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, with the Congress seeking his immediate resignation for allegedly "hijacking" the Election Commission and bulldozing dissent within the constitutional body, Mamata Banerjee calling for his removal, and Arvind Kejriwal demanding his arrest and prosecution for sedition.Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav sought the Supreme Court's intervention after reports that the other two Election Commissioners had repeatedly raised objections to decisions of the poll panel over the past 10 months.Addressing a press conference in the national capital, Congress Working Committee member Abhishek Manu Singhvi said Kumar had "no right to continue in his position even for a second" and accused him of running the constitutional body as a one-man institution.

Law mandates EC's decisions to be unanimous or by majority

New Delhi, Sept 23

Even as a media report claimed that two Election Commissioners had repeatedly objected to the poll panel's actions, including its electoral-roll revision exercise, the law governing its transaction of business mandates that its decisions be unanimous or by a majority.

The report claimed that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi objected to the Election Commission's actions 14 times in 10 months on a range of issues, including changes to Form 6, the centralisation of ERONET controls in Delhi, voter-deletion appeals in West Bengal and the alleged exclusion of eligible voters from electoral rolls in Goa.

However, the law governing the EC's transaction of business leaves no room for a minority to prevail over the majority in the three-member poll body.

EC sources maintained that all decisions of the poll panel, including relating to the special intensive revision (SIR), had been unanimous and with the approval of both the Election Commissioners and the Chief Election Commissioner.

According to Section 18(1) of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, "The EC may, by unanimous decision, regulate the procedure for transaction of its business and also allocation of its business amongst the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners."

Section 18(2) states: "All business of the EC shall, as far as possible, be transacted unanimously, and if the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners differ in opinion on any matter, such matter shall be decided according to the opinion of the majority."

Further, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in TN Seshan versus Union of India & others (1995) favoured collective decision-making as it ruled that the poll panel should strive for unanimity, but if opinions differed, the majority view should prevail.



Applicant's Advocate: Mrs.Amruta Gokhale

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE [S.D.] KALYAN AT KALYAN

MISC.APPLN.NO. 655/2026. Exh. no. 8

1) Mr.Bilal Abrar Ahmed Khan, aged about 32 years, occupation Service, Mobile No. 9819386169 2) Smt.Ruhi Abrar Khan, aged about 38 years, Occupation service, Mobile No. 7977442280 3) Smt.Anjumnaz Abrar Khan, aged about 64 years, Occupation Housewife, No.1 to 3 all residing at 204, Om supreme Building, D Mart, Opp.Zojwala Petrol Pump, Bail Bazar, Kalyan (West) 421 301.

...Applicants,

V/S.

... Opponents

WHEREAS the applicants hereinabove have applied for Heirship certificate with respect to the property mentioned in the Schedule C hereunder written, to which was owned and possessed by deceased Mr.Abrar Ahmed Irshadulla Khan, who was expired on 20th Feb,2017 at Kalyan.

TAKE NOTICE THAT, if any one has any objection to issuing heirship certificate in the name of applicants with respect to the scheduled property mentioned hereunder, the same shall be submitted in writing to this Court within 30days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection are received this Court will issue Heirship Certificate to the applicants on their compliance with all legal formalities.

Property No.C:- House bearing H.No.92/LIG (M.C.K.House No.15-26-92) situated at Kukatpally Housing Board Colony, Kukatpally, RangaReddy District, constructed by Government of India Housing Board (Low Income Group Housing Scheme) vests in the Andhra Pradesh Housing Board. The said house was sold to the deceased purchaser Sr.Abrar Ahmed Khan S/O Sri.Irshadullah Khan, on the basis of Hire Purchase system. The Local authority KPHB LIG of Circle No. 52-Kukatpally has given Municipal Tax No. PTIN1141502787 to the said house. Property valued at Rs.44,800/-

Given under my hand & seal on this day of 10/08/2026

COURT SEAL

Sd/- Registrar Civil Judge [S.D.] Kalyan

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Chaos continues in SIR process

Placing the burden of proof on voters is the key problematic area of the ongoing electoral rolls revision exercise in several States. Authorities are issuing notices at random, asking people to submit additional documents to prove they are genuine voters. Despite the Supreme Court's intervention to simplify the process and provide relief to ordinary citizens from the stifling procedures, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls remains mired in controversy. Some of the country's most prominent citizens have received notices over discrepancies in their voter records. A look at the list would certainly leave one baffled. It includes former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal. Ironical as it may seem, even Election Commissioner SS Sandhu has been issued a notice under this exercise being conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI). If this is the situation befalling high-profile individuals, one can well imagine the plight of lesser mortals who are at risk of being removed from the rolls. While there should be no two opinions about the need for revision of electoral rolls as mandated under the Constitution, it is the manner in which the EC is going about the process that has raised concerns. The poll panel must adopt a more flexible approach so that all eligible voters can exercise their franchise. There are genuine concerns that unreasonable procedures and an ever-expanding set of additional documents could lead to mass disenfranchisement. Send Money Overseas

Marginalised groups such as migrant labourers, women and the poor would be the most affected. This negates the very purpose of democracy, which is to facilitate accessibility, rather than raise barriers. Instead of inspiring confidence, the Election Commission's hasty drive has created confusion among the people. More than 33 lakh notices have been issued in Delhi alone, particularly in cases where voters could not be mapped to the 2002 intensive revision. The ECI and Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer have stressed that receiving a notice does not mean vote deletion. Voters are being given an opportunity to submit documents and respond, with final decisions subject to due process. Electoral rolls must be periodically updated to remove duplicate, ineligible or deceased voters while ensuring that eligible citizens are not excluded.

Grand Ganesh Puja Held at Suryanagar Colony

“Devotional Celebrations Coupled with Awareness on Drugs and Cyber Frauds

“Alwal, September 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE)“A grand Ganesh Puja was organised by the Bhavani Youth Association at Suryanagar Colony in Alwal with devotion and religious fervour. A.H.O. Sujatha and S.I. Raghavendra Reddy attended the programme as chief guests and performed special prayers to Lord Ganesha. Following the devotional ceremony, an awareness programme was conducted for local residents focusing on drug abuse, thefts, financial scams and cyber frauds. The officials explained the harmful consequences of drug use and urged residents to remain vigilant against suspicious activities and fraudulent transactions. The of-



ficials advised the public to immediately inform the police if they come across any suspicious activity or become victims of financial or cyber fraud. They stressed the importance of public awareness and timely reporting in preventing such incidents. BJP leaders Macharla Srinivas, Uday Prakash and Yugandhar, along with Bhavani Youth Association members Jagadeesh, Bhupathi Reddy, Ravinder, Naveen, Santosh and Manoj, others, participated in the programme and contributed to its successful conduct. Residents appreciated the organisers for combining the spiritual celebrations with an important message on public safety and social responsibility.

Agitators' Fight for Assurances Enters Seventh Day in Alwal

“Telangana Agitators' JAC Intensifies Relay Hunger Strike Demanding Implementation of Government Promises“Alwal, September 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE)“The relay hunger strike launched by the Alwal Circle Telangana Agitators' JAC, demanding the implementation of assurances made by the government to Telangana movement activists, entered its seventh day on Wednesday. As part of the seventh-day protest, Putnala Krishna and Sattaiah sat on hunger strike. Former Corporation Chairman Pittala Ravinder and senior journalist Sreeramulu attended the programme as chief guests and extended their support to the protesting activists. Patolla Surender Reddy, A.D. Dayakar, Delhi Paramesh, Mallesh, Nagesh, Sangameshwar and Ramesh were among those who participated in the programme and expressed solidarity with the agitators. The JAC leaders urged the government to fulfil the promises made to Telangana movement activists without further delay. They stated that the relay hunger strike would continue until their demands are addressed.



Free Medical Camp Organised by Aashray-Aakriti Organisation



“September 22: A free screening camp for ear and eye-related health issues was organised for students at the Government High School in Vanasthalipuram on Tuesday under the aegis of Aashray-Aakriti voluntary organisation. During the programme, ENT specialist Dr. Sivaramaulu, Audiologist Mr. Bhargava Rao, and Vision Technician Ms. Roopa examined the students for various ear- and eye-related problems. Necessary medicines, eye drops, and ear drops were also provided to the students. Speaking on the occasion, the medical professionals said that some students suffer from severe stammering problems, which can affect their confidence and cause them to fall behind in their studies. They explained that treatment for stammering at private hospitals can cost up to around 75 lakh, making it a significant financial burden for middle-class families. They stated that Aashray-Aakriti is providing free medical services to people suffering from stammering and appealed to students facing the issue to approach the organisation for assistance. Several people appreciated Aashray-Aakriti for initiating such a meaningful programme. School teachers and students participated in the programme.



Tree Plantation Programme Held to Raise Awareness on the Effects of El Niño



“Hyderabad, LB Nagar: Under the aegis of Aditya Educational Institutions, a tree plantation programme was organised to create awareness about climate change and the rising temperatures associated with the effects of El Niño, while promoting environmental protection. A large number of NSS Unit volunteers, led by Kavya Sri, actively participated in the programme and planted saplings. Students were educated about the importance of trees in maintaining ecological balance, increasing greenery, and providing a healthy environment for future generations. College Principal R. Nagendra Babu and Vice-Principal N. Amarnath participated in the programme and appreciated the students for their efforts. They emphasised that everyone has a responsibility not only to plant saplings but also to protect and nurture them. The programme was conducted under the coordination of NSS Programme Officer Kavya Sri. Students and staff of Sri Venkateswara Degree College of Commerce, under Aditya Educational Institutions, participated in the programme.

Special attention should be given to traffic and safety of people on immersion routes: Police Commissioner



INDIAN CHRONICLE KHAMMAM K SANJAY

“Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt has directed the police personnel to perform their duties vigilantly to conduct the Ganesh immersion program peacefully and safely. The police commissioner gave key instructions in the program organized at YNMR function hall on the duties of police personnel on the occasion of immersion. It is suggested that special attention should be given to traffic, people capacity and safety in immersion routes. Every officer and staff should attend their assigned point on time and undertake duties. It has been mentioned that strong security should be established at dipping routes, main intersections, sensitive areas and dipping centers. He said that it should be seen that the processions of the idols go on the prescribed routes and the movement of vehicles should be regularized without disrupting the traffic. He said that steps should be taken to prevent a large number of people from board-



ing the immersion vehicles and not to travel dangerously. Action should be taken against those who drink alcohol and participate in processions, DJs, loud noise, provocative slogans and fireworks as per the rules. Special priority should be given to the safety of women, children, the elderly and the disabled. The officials were advised to check whether the arrangements of barricading, lighting and security personnel at the immersion centers are proper. Constant monitoring should be done to ensure that no one goes dangerously into the water and immediate coordination with rescue/medical personnel in case of emergency. The staff should treat the people politely and guide them where necessary and perform their duties to increase the confidence of the people. If any untoward incident occurs, respond immediately without delay and inform the superiors. Additional DCP Ramanujam, Additional DCP Kumaraswamy, Vijayakumar, ACP Ramanamurthy, SB ACP Mahesh, Srinivas were present in the program.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Participates in Ganesh Puja and Annadanam Programme in Beerappagadda

“BEERAPPA GADDA, SEPTEMBER 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy participated as the chief guest in a Ganesh Chaturthi puja and annadanam programme organised in Beerappagadda Division at the special invitation of local leader Salla Veera Reddy. At the Ganesh pandal, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, along with senior BRS leaders, performed special prayers and offered worship to Lord Ganesha. Later, he inaugurated the free annadanam programme organised by the organisers and personally served prasadam to the devotees.

Pooduri Jitender Reddy Extends Financial Support to Thang-Ta Player

“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Vedashree, an Intermediate student from Shantinagar in Uppal Division, has been selected to participate in the 32nd National Thang-Ta (Martial Arts) Championship. She will compete in the Under-52 kg category at the national-level championships, which will be held in Jammu and Kashmir from September 25 to October 4. As Vedashree had to travel to Jammu and Kashmir to participate in the national-level competition, her family faced



difficulties in meeting the travel and other expenses. The family approached senior Uppal BRS leader Pooduri Jitender Reddy (Uppal PJR) for assistance. Responding immediately, Jitender Reddy came forward to provide financial support of Rs. 15,000 to help meet her expenses. The financial assistance was handed over to Vedashree's family members on Wednesday through Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy wished Vedashree success in the national-level championship and expressed hope that she would perform well and bring recognition to Uppal. He appreciated Pooduri Jitender Reddy for coming forward to encourage and support sportspersons.

Work Together to Make Telangana a Global AI Hub : Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju

“Hyderabad, September 23 (Indian Chronicle) : Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, IAS, called upon the government and industry to work together to transform Telangana into a global AI hub. The CII Telangana organised the AI Summit 2026 in Hyderabad on the theme 'Telangana to the World : Global AI and GCC Transformation.' The summit focused on key areas including AI products, intellectual property, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), data centres, GPU infrastructure, skill development and responsible AI. 'Build here, create



here and invest here,' Sanjay Jaju urged industries, highlighting Telangana's potential to emerge as a global destination for AI innovation and investment. IAS officer Anudeep Durishetty, M. Gautham Reddy, M.V. Reddy, Sanjeev Deshpande, Neelotpal Kumar Dutta, Rajan Navani and Gaurav Maheshwari, among others, shared their views on AI innovations, secure infrastructure, startups, GCCs and industry-government collaboration. [5:17 PM, 9/23/2026] +91 99661 71672: End

CAR-T Cell Therapy Offers New Hope to Lymphoma Patient

“Hyderabad, September 23 (Indian Chronicle) : A 50-year-old woman with lymphoma, whose disease relapsed just two months after completing chemotherapy, has shown a positive response following CAR-T cell therapy at CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills. The patient was diagnosed with Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL) and underwent CAR-T cell therapy under the leadership of Dr. Sathwik Raghuram Y, Director-Medical Oncology and Hemato-Oncology, and his medical team. As part of the treatment, T-cells were collected from the patient's blood, genetically modified to target cancer cells, and then infused back into her body. Following the therapy, the medical team continuously monitored her for potential complications, including Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS) and neurological side effects. According to the doctors, the patient is currently in stable condition and has shown a positive response to the treatment. Abhinav Joshi, ZCOO, CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, said the treatment marked a significant step forward in making advanced therapies available for patients battling complex and difficult-to-treat cancers.



Girish Juyal elected as National President of Hindustan Scouts and Guides

Triennial elections concluded in Jammu
Representatives from 17 states attended



the activities of the organization across the country. Speaking on the occasion, National Chairman Karunakar Pradhan expressed confidence that the Hindustan Scouts and Guides organization will play a key role in the development and expansion of the organization in the next three years. National Chief Commissioner Madhusudan Gupta thanked the representatives from various states of the country who participated in the election process. "Representatives from Telangana participated in the national level elections and exercised their right to vote. Telangana representatives M. Mahender Nayak – Telangana Nodal Officer" P. Nagaraju – Representative"Swathi – Representative"Divya Archana – Representative"Telangana representatives participated in the national election process held in Jammu and exercised their right to vote in the election of the new executive committee of the organization. He said that they will contribute their best to further strengthen the organization at the national level along with the expansion of Scouts and Guides programs in the state. "Priority for expansion across the country" The newly elected executive committee said that it will give priority to further expanding Hindustan Scouts and Guides programs across the country. It was revealed that the Scouts and Guides program will be widely organized in urban as well as rural areas and educational institutions, and that it will focus on involving the youth in service activities. They stated that the main goals of the new executive committee are to develop a sense of service, discipline, and leadership qualities among the youth, and to further strengthen the organization's activities.

""Kukatpally: The national level triennial elections of Hindustan Scouts and Guides were held at Agrawal Dharamshala in Jammu. Representatives from about 17 states across the country participated in the election process and exercised their right to vote. Girish Juyal was elected as the National President in this election. Similarly, Dr. Karunakar Pradhan was elected as the National Chairman and Madhusudan Gupta as the National Chief Commissioner for the second consecutive term. Dr. Om Prakash Srivastava, Dr. M. Rajani, Deepak Kalita, Vanita Sharma and Awadhesh Sharma were elected as the National Vice Presidents. The leaders announced that the new executive committee will work to further expand

Rs 2 Crore CSR Funds for Beautification of Ramanthapur Small LAKE— Development Path Cleared Through the Efforts of PARAMESWAR Reddy



"RAMANTHAPUR, SEPTEMBER 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Development and beautification works at the Ramanthapur Small Lake have received a major boost, with ₹2 crore in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds being allocated for the project through the efforts of Uppal Assembly constituency Congress Party in-charge Mandumula Parameswar Reddy. "On Wednesday, Parameswar Reddy, along with representatives of the Ramanthapur Gangaputra Association, met HYDRA Commissioner AV Ranganath. He brought to the Commissioner's attention the difficulties faced earlier in taking up development and beautification works at the lake due to inadequate funding and certain technical issues. "Parameswar Reddy requested the Commissioner to take advance measures to prevent the recurrence of such problems, sanction the required funds and ensure that the development works were completed within the stipulated time. "Responding positively to the request, HYDRA Commissioner Ranganath spoke over the phone with the management of GENPACT in Habsiguda and requested them to immediately allocate ₹2 crore under CSR funds for the development of the lake. The GENPACT management responded positively. "Following this, the Commissioner directed the concerned officials to immediately initiate development and beautification works at the Ramanthapur Small Lake. "Ranganath stated that the ₹2 crore would constitute the first phase of funding and that, after preparing a comprehensive estimate for the lake's development, the remaining funds required for the project would also be sanctioned. The HYDRA Commissioner also assured that, following a request from Parameswar Reddy, an opportunity would be provided to members of the Gangaputra community to establish fish stalls at Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu. "Division president Sandeep, Poosa Sattanna, Gudamani Bhaskar, Rafiq, Ashok, Jampayya, Anjaiah, Gangaiah, Shiva, Srikanth Yadav, Bhaskar, Bullet Ashok, Mateen, Sai, Saleem, Naveen and others participated in the meeting.

Uppal Sri Mahankali Temple Hundi Counted — Rs. 2.10 Lakh Collected;

Amount to Be Used for Development Works: Chairman Telkala Mohan Reddy



"UPPAL, September 23 (Indian Chronicle): "The hundi at Sri Mahankali Temple in Uppal was opened and counted on Wednesday. The offerings made by devotees were counted in the presence of temple committee members, trustees, priests and staff. Temple Chairman Telkala Mohan Reddy said that a total amount of Rs. 2.10 lakh was collected through the hundi. "Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Telkala Mohan Reddy said the amount was generated through the offerings made by devotees visiting Sri Mahankali Temple with devotion. He said the hundi collections would be utilised for the development of the temple, provision of basic amenities for devotees and various

development activities. "He said the cooperation of devotees was crucial for the development of the temple. The temple committee was continuously working to provide better facilities to devotees, he added. He further stated that the temple administration would be strengthened further in accordance with the trust and faith of devotees. "Temple Executive Officer Srinivasa Rao, Supervisor K. Surendra, trustees Gumidelli Krishna, M. Raghavendra, P. Venkatesh, G. Bhaskar Reddy and Jangayya, priest Shashank Tiwari, devotees A. Krishna Reddy and G. Raju, along with temple committee members and staff, participated in the hundi counting process.

MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Visits Ganesh Mandaps

— Offers Special Prayers to Lord Ganesha "Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations Held Grandly in HB Colony Division

"Nacharam, September 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations are being held with devotion and enthusiasm across the HB Colony Division. As part of the festivities, Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, along with former corporator Jeripothula Prabhudas, Gundarapu Srinivas Reddy, local BRS party leaders, activists and Ganesh mandap organisers, visited several Ganesh mandaps across the division. "During the visits, the MLA and other leaders offered special prayers to Lord Ganesha and sought the blessings of the deity for the happiness, good health, peace and prosperity of the people. "The leaders said that it was appreciable that the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations were being organised in a manner that promotes devotion, unity and brotherhood among people. They interacted with the mandap organisers, reviewed the arrangements and extended their greetings on the occasion. "Former corporator Golluri Anjaiah, local BRS leaders Vanjari Praveen Karipe, Gummadi Jampal Reddy, Mallesh Goud, Kailash Sharma, Pawan Sharma, Lingam, Malla Reddy, Harinath Reddy, Bhupal Goud, Narasimha Goud, Sanjay Naik, Rizwan,

Chari, Balaiah Goud, Anjaiah, Jaipal, Koti Reddy, Satish Reddy, Karunakar, Shiva, Shekhar Goud, Pochayya, Ramakrishna, Ashok, Kiran Afroz, Srinu, Mahesh, along with youth, devotees and Ganesh mandap organisers,



participated in the programme in large numbers.

Commissioner Conducts Field Inspection in Boduppal Circle "Review of Ganesh Immersion Arrangements, Sanitation, Traffic and Infrastructure

""BODUPPAL, SEPTEMBER 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation Commissioner conducted a field inspection in Boduppal Circle on Wednesday and reviewed arrangements for Ganesh immersion, sanitation, traffic management, greenery, drainage, lighting and other civic infrastructure. The Commissioner issued several instructions to the officials to ensure that all necessary measures are completed on time. The Commissioner visited the Chengicherla Baby Pond and inspected the arrangements being made for Ganesh immersion. Officials were instructed to provide adequate toilets, drinking water, tents and other essential facilities so that devotees do not face any inconvenience. Continuous monitoring of sanitation and public amenities should be maintained until the completion of the immersion process, the Commissioner directed. "Later, the Commissioner inspected the free-left area at Chengicherla T-Junction and interacted with local residents to understand the traffic-related problems. Officials were instructed to coordinate with TGIIC and the concerned departments and take necessary measures to ensure that the free-left facility remains convenient and accessible to pedestrians and motorists. "Review of Swachh Auto Performance" The Commissioner reviewed door-to-door garbage collection being carried out through Swachh Autos. Officials were clearly instructed to carry out the scanning process only after the waste has actually been collected. Field-level monitoring should be strengthened to ensure that door-to-door garbage collection is carried out properly every day in every ward. "The Commissioner also inspected the management of graveyards in Boduppal Circle. Officials were instructed to co-ordinate with the Urban Biodiversity (UBD) teams and prepare necessary estimates for greenery maintenance, sweeping and cleanliness of the surroundings, followed by the tendering process as per the prescribed procedures. "The Engineering Department was directed to prepare estimates for drain repairs, lighting and other infrastructure works and initiate the tender process in accordance with the rules. "Ganesh Immersion Arrangements Reviewed at Peerzadiguda Lake" The Commissioner visited the Peerzadiguda Lake and inspected the arrangements for Ganesh immersion. Officials were instructed to coordinate with the concerned Police ACP



and take an appropriate decision regarding shifting the crane to other immersion locations, depending on the requirement. "The Commissioner directed officials to give special attention to the safety of devotees, traffic movement, sanitation and other public amenities at all immersion points. "The Commissioner further instructed officials to ensure systematic daily sanitation across Boduppal Circle and regularly undertake fogging, mosquito-control measures and other public health activities. Special sanitation teams should be deployed at Ganesh immersion points and the surroundings should be kept clean until the completion of the immersion activities. "The Commissioner emphasized that all departments should work in coordination to provide better sanitation, traffic facilities, greenery and civic infrastructure to the public. Officials were instructed to implement the directions issued during the field inspection within the stipulated time and continuously monitor the progress of the works. "Deputy Commissioner A. Shailaja, Municipal Engineers AE Rakesh and AE Sai Kiran, ACP Nagireddy, UBD Manager Haritha, along with officials and staff from the concerned departments, participated in the inspection.

'Marella Padu Lift Irrigation' fulfills farmers dream

.""Khammam, September 23, Indian Chronicle. "Bhadradi Kothagudem, Aswapuram Mandal The inauguration ceremony of the Marella Padu Lift Irrigation, which farmers in Aswapuram Mandal of the Pinapaka constituency had been waiting for for many years, was successfully held on Wednesday. Completed as part of the Sitarama Project, this lift irrigation scheme will provide irrigation benefits to several thousand acres of ayacut. With this, irrigation security for farmers in Aswapuram Mandal as well as the Pinapaka constituency will be further strengthened. State Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information & Public Relations Ponugleti Srinivas Reddy, State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Mahabubabad MP Porika Balaram Naik, MLAs Payam Venkateswarlu, Tellam Venkata Rao, Koram Kanakaiah, Jare Adinarayana, the Collector, Sub Collector, DFO, District Congress President Thota Devi Prasanna, Irrigation Department officials CE. Srinivas Reddy, SE. Maheshwara Rao, EE. Tellam Venkateswarlu, senior officials, public representatives, leaders and others participated in the inauguration ceremony. "On this occasion, Pinapaka local MLA Payam Venkateswarlu said that the inauguration of the Marella Padu Lift Irrigation is a very happy occasion for the farmers of the Pinapaka constituency. He said it was a matter of great joy that the dream of irrigation that farmers had been waiting for for many years had become a reality today. He stated that with this lift irrigation scheme becoming available as part of the Sitarama Project, irrigation security for farmers in Aswapuram Mandal as well as the Pinapaka constituency would be further strengthened. MLA Payam Venkateswarlu said that with the Marella Padu Lift Irrigation becoming available, several thousand acres of ayacut would benefit from irrigation. He said this would reduce farmers' dependence on rains for cultivation, while also creating an opportunity to increase the cultivated area and crop production. The MLA said that providing irrigation security to farmers would not only promote the development of the agricultural sector but also give further impetus to the rural economy. He stated that the Sitarama Project would enable the use of Godavari



waters for agricultural needs, providing long-term benefits to farmers in the Pinapaka constituency. In particular, with increased availability of irrigation water for ayacut lands in Aswapuram Mandal, farmers would have greater opportunities to undertake agriculture on a wider scale, and MLA Payam Venkateswarlu said they would work to further improve the irrigation facilities required for farmers welfare and agricultural development. With the long-awaited dream of irrigation becoming a reality, farmers and people of Aswapuram Mandal as well as the Pinapaka constituency expressed their happiness. With the inauguration of the Marella Padu Lift Irrigation, conditions have been created for water to reach farmers' fields, strengthening agriculture and providing further impetus to the economic development of rural areas. On this occasion, farmers and people of the Pinapaka constituency, Congress Party leaders, public representatives, sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, former public representatives, senior leaders, youth leaders, women leaders, activists and supporters participated in large numbers and made the Marella Padu Lift Irrigation inauguration ceremony a success.

Lucknow biryani stall owner brutally beaten, police seize meat for test



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

A 40-year-old biryani stall owner was assaulted allegedly by three youths who accused him of carrying prohibited meat, in the Itaunja area of Lucknow on Sunday morning. Police said the accused also threatened to kill Rizwan. According to police, Rizwan was carrying meat for his shop when the accused — all in their 20s — assaulted

him. The matter was resolved following the intervention of residents of the area. A video of the incident went viral on social media, purportedly showing the accused brutally beating Rizwan. Rizwan, a resident of Kasai Mohalla, operates a biryani stall near Badi Masjid in Mahona on Sundays and Thursdays. He sustained injuries to his head and face, and was discharged from hospital on Sunday evening after receiving medical treatment. Based on the complaint filed by Rizwan, police have registered an FIR against three youths — identified as Rana Yadav, Shanu and Suraj. “They have been booked for allegedly assaulting Rizwan, accusing him of carrying prohibited meat, and for threatening to kill him. No one has been arrested so far,” said a police officer. The three have been booked for criminal intimidation, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, voluntarily causing hurt and attempt to commit culpable homicide. Police said the meat has been seized, and a report has been sent to the veterinary officer. “Samples have been collected, and the situation at the spot remains peaceful, with law and order under control,” said Inspector Vinod Kumar, posted at Itaunja police station.

Why Noida’s Sector 108 is drawing big developers

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Last week, real-estate developer M3M outbid Gurgaon giant DLF for a 12.5-acre land parcel in Noida’s Sector 108, quoting around Rs 1,850 crore — more than twice the Noida Authority’s reserve price of Rs 835 crore. The bid has put the spotlight on Sector 108, one of the areas along the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway where developers are looking for space as older parts of Noida become saturated. According to an official of the Noida Authority, older sectors in the northern part of the city, including Sectors 19, 27, 28 and 30, have become saturated, leaving limited scope for new development. Sectors along the Expressway, meanwhile, are emerging as attractive locations for mixed-use projects, the official said. Sector 108, in particular, is surrounded by premium residential projects, commercial developments, institutional areas and green spaces. This concentration is also driving demand in the area, the official said. “The sectors between Sector 44 and the Expressway have several premium residential projects where property rates go up to Rs 9 crore... This generates a huge demand from high-end customers for commercial establishments to be set up in this area. There are also institutions such as Amity University located in Sector 125, also schools such as Lotus Valley,” the official said. The area also has private hospitals such as Felix and Yatharth within a radius of 6 km. The Sector 108 parcel has been sold for a mixed-use project, with a maximum of 40% residential and 60% commercial use. “This proportion is lucrative for builders, since there are many Grade A commercial spaces built for IT and IT-enabled services such as Advant Navis Business Park and Skymark One in Sector 98... Employees working here might look for residences nearby, of which Sector 108 could also be a choice. Here, there is a dedicated recreational green space and parks and playgrounds,” the official said.

Expressway, airport add to the pullSector 108 is well located from key locations: it is a 14-minute drive (9.5 km) from the Delhi Noida Direct (DND) flyway and a 50-minute drive (52 km) to the Noida International Airport. The opening of Noida International Airport in Jewar has added another



factor to its appeal. “For people travelling from Noida to the airport, the Expressway is currently the main road route. The airport’s freight operations could also generate demand for logistics parks and related commercial activity along the corridor,” the official said. The area is also well connected, the officer said, with e-buses regularly plying to the airport. “There is a metro line from Botanical Garden which goes till Sector 137... There are also proposals from the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) to set up a line to boost connectivity from this sector,” the officer said. The interest in Sector 108 comes as developers increasingly compete for land along the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway. Reetesh Singh, Managing Partner, Realistic Advisory & Consultancy, said there is very limited land now available along the Expressway. “Now, big builders don’t want to lose a spot,” he said. The growing presence of large real-estate brands along the corridor is another sign of the competition, said Paras Satija, Founder & CEO, PlanWell Realty. “It is not just Sector 108 but the entire Noida Expressway is changing the dynamics of real estate in Noida and the country,” he said. According to Satija, Noida Expressway has seen many big real estate brands and branded residences coming up in the last one year. Due to this, he said prices have increased drastically — as high as four times. For instance, in Sector 105, adjacent to Sector 108, the price of land in 2016 was around Rs 1,50,000 per sqm but now it is Rs 3,70,000, he said.

Fake apps, mule accounts, crypto trail: Bengaluru police uncover fraud network



The Bengaluru cyber police have arrested three men in connection with an alleged large-scale online trading and investment fraud that cost a city resident nearly Rs 94 lakh. In the process, they also uncovered a sprawling network involving over 500 mule bank accounts and digital trails leading to Kolkata, Hong Kong, and California.

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Bengaluru cyber fraud, Bengaluru online trading fraud, Rs 94 lakh investment fraud, Bengaluru cyber police, mule bank accounts, online investment scam, fake banking apps, ZNPAY fraud, cyber crime Bengaluru, Binance wallet fraud, I4C cybercrime probe, Indian express news, Bengaluru newsThe Bengaluru police have arrested Amit Mishra (left), Parashuram Sadanand Kannanavar (centre), and Tausif Ahmed (right) in connection with the alleged cyber fraud.

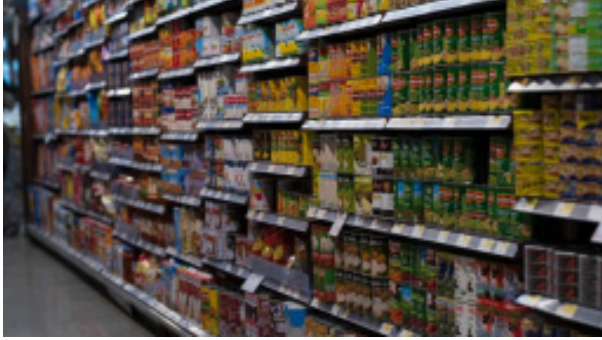
The Bengaluru cyber police have arrested three men in connection with an alleged large-scale online trading and investment fraud that cost a city resident nearly Rs 94 lakh. In the process, they also uncovered a sprawling network involving over 500 mule bank accounts and digital trails leading to Kolkata, Hong Kong, and California. The case began with a complaint filed by a Peenya resident on May 28 this year, who claimed he was forced to transfer Rs 93,58,555 to multiple bank accounts as part of the alleged scam. The probe also revealed details connected to 507 bank accounts allegedly procured from various individuals and supplied to the cyber fraud network. Investigators said approximately Rs 13 lakh in fraud proceeds moved through a government-owned bank account, while more than Rs 38 lakh passed through a specific private bank current account. Although the police had almost no leads in the case, they found a mobile phone and traced it to a building in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The police then found that a man, Amit Mishra, a resident of East Singhbhum district in Jharkhand, was behind the crime. “We were tracking him for nearly two months and on September 8, he arrived in Bengaluru. We arrested him from the hotel where he was staying,” a police officer said. During the investigation, the police came across two

names — Tausif Ahmed and Parashuram Sadanand Kannanavar, alias Pavan Kumar, who were living in Bengaluru.

“Initially, we thought they could be victims but on September 8 when the technical analysis of Amit Mishra was being done, we found they were his partners. We arrested both of them on September 9,” a police officer said. The police also recovered six mobile phones from the three accused. A fourth suspect, identified as Anoop alias Julpi, along with individuals operating under the Telegram handles “@zhangxueyou123” and “@SZNKM,” remain untraced, and efforts are underway to identify and locate them. The probe has also mapped out several other associates allegedly linked to the case, including individuals identified as Sumon, Nick, Dilawar, Itfikharr, Abhinav, and Vivek, said to be connected to the “ZNPAY” platform and linked to Mishra. Mishra in turn is allegedly connected to others identified as Nawaz, Shihab Boy, Dinesh, Sulpikar, and Ashraf, with further links reportedly extending to individuals named Jayakumar, Pavan Kumar, and Tausif Ahmed. The police said they are investigating each individual’s specific role and extent of involvement. During the probe, they found that the accused operated by procuring current, corporate, and trust bank accounts along with net banking credentials and linked SIM cards from various individuals, offering them commissions in exchange. According to the probe, they operated from a hotel in Kachuvanahalli, which served as a makeshift operations centre.

“They used to lure people owning current accounts, especially trust bank accounts and corporate bank accounts, promising them huge donations. All they needed to do was go to the hotel, stay there a whole day, from where the money was being re-routed to multiple accounts through the current account,” a police officer said. These account holders were allegedly put up in hotels, where fraudulent apps — described as “ZNPAY” and SMS-forwarding APKs — were installed on their phones. These apps allegedly intercepted banking OTPs and SMS alerts sent to the linked SIM cards and forwarded them to the fraudsters, allowing the accused to remotely access and operate the bank accounts to funnel proceeds of the fraud. The accused, along with other “bank account suppliers” and intermediaries, allegedly received a cut of the proceeds for their role. “The account holders were not allowed to step out of the place during these transactions. They sent money to multiple accounts and later to a Binance crypto wallet. The mule account owners were being paid Rs 1.5 to 2 lakh,” the officer added. Details of the fake apps along with 51 other suspicious APK files have been forwarded to the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) for technical analysis of their functionality and usage. Digital forensics on Telegram, Botim, and WhatsApp accounts used by the accused and other absconding suspects reportedly revealed IP addresses associated with Kolkata, Hong Kong, and California in the United States. The police said verification is underway with the relevant service providers and that preliminary findings suggest the fraud network may extend beyond India’s borders and rely on foreign IP infrastructure.

UP cracks down on food products showing packing date as manufacture date



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Packaged food products, which are packed in Uttar Pradesh, will now have to carry their actual date of manufacture, with the Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA) Department directing food businesses not to show the date of packing as the date of manufacture. The directive follows special inspections of food manufacturing units, during which officials found instances of products being manufactured and stored for long periods before being packed into smaller packets. In some cases, the date of the packing was mentioned on the package instead of the original manufacturing date. Officials maintained that the shelf-life of a food product begins from the date of its manufacture or processing, and not from the date on which it is subsequently packed. If a product is manufactured and

stored for several months before being repacked into smaller packets, the date on which it is repacked cannot be shown as its manufacturing date, officials said. They added that doing so could give consumers the impression that the product is relatively fresh despite having been manufactured much earlier. “The issue becomes more significant when such products are subsequently used as ingredients in other food items. Without the original manufacturing date, it may be difficult to establish whether the product is still within its prescribed period of use,” said an official. The department said the practice had also been observed in cases involving re-labellers and re-packers, where only the packing date was being mentioned. Under the new directions, food businesses will have to clearly display the actual date of manufacture on the package. The subsequent packing date cannot be substituted for it. The Food Safety and Drug Administration Department will check the dates mentioned on packaging and labels during inspections and enforcement action. “The decision has been taken referring to the provisions concerning food safety, consumer interest and public health under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006,” an official said. According to the department, the measure is intended to improve traceability and transparency in the food supply chain and ensure that consumers have accurate information about the age and shelf life of packaged food products. It is also expected to reduce the possibility of older or quality-affected products entering the food chain under a later packing date.

Shimla residents flag blasting, cracks in houses, NHAI denies claims

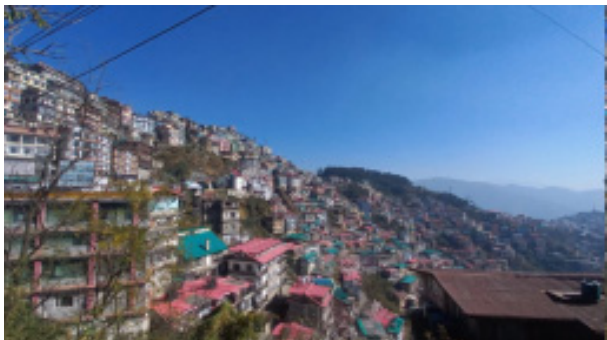
GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Locals in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, have alleged “rampant blasting” during the construction of twin tunnels on the Kalka-Shimla National Highway bypass, and have raised concerns over cracks appearing in the foundations and retaining walls of several houses. The tunnels pass beneath the densely populated Cemetery locality. The project, executed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), has been temporarily halted following complaints from residents.

A 65-year-old retired college professor said, “We are three families who jointly purchased land here and subsequently constructed our houses separately. That was almost 10 years ago. We never noticed any unusual activity affecting the foundations, retaining walls, or walls of our houses. But in the last fortnight... we noticed large cracks in the retaining walls and foundations, which are supported by concrete bases because of the hilly terrain.” Surjeet Singh Patial, while pointing to a visible crack in one of the retaining walls near his two-storey house, also said the residents were aware of the ongoing twin-tunnel construction from both sides. “We believe these cracks are due to the tunnelling work.” Patial said the NHAI officials had responded to the complaints and temporarily stopped the tunnelling work while repairs were undertaken.

“NHAI has taken note of the situation and stopped the work. Repairs have been started using grouting, crack sealing and other measures. But we do not know whether this will provide a permanent solution,” he said. Another resident, on the condition of anonymity, said, “We spent all our savings on constructing this house, and now the house is also showing signs of damage.” Just about 15 metres away, another multi-storeyed building houses several independent residential units. One of them belongs to 60-year-old Parshotma Devi. She asked, “There is hardly a wall in my house that has not developed cracks... They appeared within a week. We have been living here for the last 12 years. Why have these cracks appeared only now?” Pointing to a large crack in her kitchen, Devi said, “God knows what is behind those loud noises. Some people say blasting is being carried out, while others say the noise is generated by vehicular movement.”

Vineet Sharma, the councillor of Ward 22, said, “There have been numerous complaints about alleged blasting being carried out between 2.30 am and 4.30 am for tunnel construction. Residents believe the cracks are emerging due to blasting. We lodged complaints with the local administration and the Deputy Commissioner, Shimla. Initially, no one paid heed to our concerns, following which we decided to protest.” He also said a team of senior administrative officials inspected the affected houses and directed NHAI and the construction companies to stop the work until the damage was assessed and the cause was established. This ward is located in Shanti Vihar, which includes the affected Cemetery area. The house of Brijesh Dhareul, a Cemetery



resident, has also developed cracks. Dhareul said, “The under-construction twin tunnels are not straight; there are curves in the alignment. While rocks can be excavated using machinery in some sections, it becomes more difficult in curved sections. We strongly suspect that blasting has been used for rock excavation and cutting.” The NHAI officials, however, denied all claims of blasting at the affected site. The Project Director of the Kalka-Shimla highway project, Anand Dhayia, said the claims of blasting were based on rumours. “Blasting at this site has been suspended since November 2025. Blasting cannot be carried out without the approval of the district administration. So far, there is no permission for blasting for this twin-tunnel section.”

The Project Manager of Bharat Construction (India) Pvt Ltd, Sadanand Mohanty, said controlled blasting was carried out at another section of the project until November 2025. “That was at another end of the tunnel, near Chalonthi. Later, residents raised objections... We stopped the activity.” About the cracks in the Cemetery area, Sanjauli, he said, “We have started repairing the cracks... installed equipment, including Geodetic Reflective Targets and Ground Settlement Markers, to assess any disturbance or movement affecting the land, houses and the hill.” Shimla Deputy Commissioner Anupam Kashyap said residents had approached him with complaints that the cracks had developed reportedly because of the tunnelling work. “I deputed officials to visit the affected houses and areas. Based on the preliminary findings, we instructed NHAI and its concessionaires to stop the ongoing tunnelling work. The exact cause of the cracks is yet to be ascertained.” A team from the Geological Survey of India (GSI) also visited the affected site to assess the situation and prepare a report on the possible causes of the cracks. Additional District Magistrate (Protocol) Gyan Sagar Negi also led a team that inspected the affected houses on Saturday and assessed cracks reported in eight buildings. Meanwhile, CPI(M) leader and former Shimla Municipal Corporation mayor Sanjay Chauhan demanded a high-level inquiry into the project, saying the visible cracks could indicate a larger problem. “If corrective measures are not adopted, these cracks could turn into a catastrophic situation — Cemetery is a densely populated area.”

The ‘Rakhandars’ are walking from village to village — to protect Konkan

From a proposed river diversion on the Goa-Karnataka border to mining concerns in Sindhudurg, large development projects in Ratnagiri and the sale of coastal land to outsiders, a group of young people from Konkan believes the region is facing a common challenge: how to protect its land, water and way of life while development projects move ahead. Since June, they have been walking from village to village as part of the Rakhandar Yatra, meeting residents, farmers and fishing communities and discussing local environmental and social concerns. Rakhandar means a protector or guardian. The idea comes from Vetoba, or Vetal, a guardian deity worshipped in parts of Konkan and Goa. For the group, the deity offers a way of connecting an old cultural idea with contemporary environmental concerns.

The yatra began in June at the Mauli temple in Kankumbi village on the Goa-Karnataka border. The choice was deliberate. Kankumbi is associated with the Mandovi river, and the group began its journey amid opposition from local residents and environmentalists to a proposal to divert water from the river towards the Malprabha basin. konkan Rakhandar means a protector or guardian. “Our cultures grew on the banks of rivers. Kankumbi is the birthplace Mandovi river, hence we chose it. From locals to environmentalists are opposing the plan to divert this river’s water to Malprabha. In the name of mitigating drought, the natural course of water is being planned to divert for industrial use. The aim is to protect the natural treasure,” said Malhar Indulkar, a young biologist from Chiplun in Ratnagiri and one of the core members of the team. The group spends four to five days every month travelling through villages in one area. After covering villages along the Goa-Karnataka border, the yatra entered Maharashtra in July. In Sindhudurg, it travelled through Dodamarg and Banda, where the group raised concerns over mining and unplanned development. It then moved through Malvan and Vengurla, holding discussions with fish-

ing communities. “Villages in Dodamarg, Banda are exposed to the threat of mining and unplanned development,” said Satyajit Chavan, coordinator of the yatra. In August, the group travelled through Ratnagiri, including Jaitapur, Madban and Barsu. These areas have been at the centre of protests over projects, including a proposed nuclear power plant and chemical refinery. The state government is also considering private nuclear power projects in the region. In most villages, the group begins at the local temple. After offering prayers to the gramaivat, or village deity, members sit with residents and discuss problems affecting the village. The discussions range from land, water and forests to agriculture and fishing. The group also discusses issues such as addiction among young people and social harmony. The cultural idea behind the yatra is rooted in Konkan’s village traditions. Deities such as Sateri, Sukai, Chatkai, Kalkai, Zolai and Janai are worshipped as gramaivat in different villages. Their traditions are often closely connected to the landscape and community life. The Rakhandars say Vetoba represents the same idea of protection at the village boundary. “Vetal is a protector, who is always alert with open eyes, ready to shield the deities and resemble human behaviour. When the village is in danger, Vetal awakens. We felt it was the apt symbolism in today’s time as whenever the villages in Konkan are threatened with forced developmental projects, the locals rise,” Indulkar said. The group has also used Konkan’s ancient rock art as part of its visual identity. Its logo is inspired by the petroglyphs found on the region’s laterite plateaus. The Geoglyphs of Konkan Region of India were added to UNESCO’s Tentative List in 2022, with sites, including Kasheli, Rundhye Tali, Devache Gothane and Barsu in Maharashtra. For the organisers, however, protecting Konkan is not limited to opposing large projects. Prasad Gawde, one of the key members of the yatra, is a content creator whose YouTube channel, Konkani Ranmanus, has over 5.89 lakh subscribers.

ED finds Rs 3.3 crore, Africa link in raids linked to Karnataka minister, family



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Satish Jarkiholi ED raidAfter the ED allegedly seized Rs 3.3 crore in unaccounted currency from premises linked to him, Karnataka PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi said the agency was targeting Opposition leaders.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said searches at 21 premises linked to Karnataka minister Satish Jarkiholi, his family members, and associates had yielded Rs 3.3 crore in unaccounted Indian currency and documents indicating alleged bribery in issuing contracts and undisclosed overseas investments. While Jarkiholi denied wrongdoing, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar described the action as “politically motivated”. The searches, conducted on September 9 and 10 across Bengaluru, Belagavi, Gokak and Kolkata, were carried out under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) as part of a probe into alleged undisclosed overseas investments.

The central agency said it had seized foreign currency, including US dollars and euros worth approximately Rs 15 lakh, along with digital devices and documents allegedly indicating irregularities in the Public Works Department (PWD) and the collection of bribes from contractors. The premises searched included those linked to the PWD minister, his daughter and Chikkodi MP Priyanka Jarkiholi, son Rahul Jarkiholi, and brother-in-law YD Manjunath, along with Jarkiholi’s officer on special duty and personal assistant Malagouda Patil and associates Raju Daragshetti, Vittal Parasannavar, and Dr Girish Sonwalkar. According to the ED, the searches yielded documents indicating that Priyanka, Rahul and Mahadevi Manjunath—Jarkiholi’s sister and wife of YD Manjunath—had acquired stakes in foreign companies, including Eldorado Mining Resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nava Aarum Mining Ltd in Zambia. The agency further alleged that Jarkiholi held nearly 40 per cent in Magnitude Star SARL, a gold-mining company in Congo, and said it recovered documents relating to other foreign entities with mining interests in Africa, along with evidence of cash investments and expen-

diture in a Congo-based entity allegedly routed through unauthorised channels. The probe has also drawn in Bharat Vanijya Eastern Private Ltd. Searches were carried out at its offices and the residences of its officials. The ED alleged the company paid a substantial bribe to secure a PWD tender, and said it is examining whether the proceeds were used to acquire assets abroad. Incriminating material was also recovered from accounts of an entity allegedly controlled by YD Manjunath. May have made minor mistakes: Satish Jarkiholi Satish Jarkiholi said Opposition leaders, particularly those from the Congress and regional parties, were being targeted. “Central agencies are letting go of big fish and are coming after small fish. I may have made some minor mistakes. No one can say that we were 100 per cent correct in all our business dealings. But then, they seem to be targeting only Congress and Opposition parties like regional parties,” he said. Jarkiholi said Chief Minister D K Shivakumar had earlier warned Congress leaders about such operations and claimed that Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president B K Hariprasad had told him that eight Congress leaders from Karnataka could be targeted.

Clarifying that the ED action was a “search and not a raid”, Jarkiholi said the agency had issued a notice over alleged FEMA violations, particularly relating to proposed overseas investments. He maintained that the investments had not yet been made and that he had only sought permissions from agencies, including the Reserve Bank of India. Jarkiholi said he and his family members and associates cooperated with ED officials and that he faced no harassment or political pressure during the search. He also said no ED officer had asked him to join the BJP or offered to drop the investigation in return. Jarkiholi said ED officials took documents and around Rs 2 crore in cash during the searches. He said the family had claimed ownership of the cash and would seek its release through legal means by submitting the required documents. He added that he would cooperate with the investigation and face the legal process.

Nothing to hide: CM DK Shivakumar The raids triggered a sharp exchange between the Congress and the BJP. Chief Minister D K Shivakumar dismissed the searches as “politically motivated”, accusing the BJP of misusing central agencies and saying the timing—coinciding with the state government’s 100-day celebrations—was no coincidence. “The ED raids against him are not something we are unaware of... He is a senior minister and is involved in business and commercial activities... there is nothing to hide,” Shivakumar said, adding that Jarkiholi would respond legally. Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Karge called the raids part of a “larger strategy to target Opposition leaders”.

Government call on drought declaration only after survey: Gujarat minister on Opp demand

GNS News Agency, Sept 23

THE STATE government increased agricultural power supply provided to farmers by two hours, taking the timing up to 10 hours in 21 of the 34 districts, to help draw water from borewells to save standing crops following a long dry spell in the midst of the monsoon season. Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Rushikesh Patel gave this information in the Gujarat Assembly on the final day of the three-day monsoon session on a demand raised by four Congress MLAs, on the steps taken to declare a drought.

At least four districts – Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar and Jamnagar – were critically rain-deficient till Friday while 12 were between 20 and 59 per cent deficient according to the India Meteorological Department website. Patel suggested that the decision on whether to declare a drought or not could be taken after a survey to be carried out at the end of the Kharif season by October 31 as per the Centre’s Manual for Drought Management, 2016 and not merely on the basis of rain deviation. The minister said, “As of September 3, 2026, according to the report from the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), the state has recorded a total average seasonal rainfall of 75.43% (685.53 mm). South Gujarat received an average rainfall of 103.91%. Rainfall has been uneven in several districts across Saurashtra, Kutch, and North Gujarat, with Devbhumi Dwarka recording 6.41%, Porbandar 19.12%, Jamnagar 28.88%, and Kutch 29.29%.” Congress legislators Tushar Chaudhary, Amit Chavda, Kirit Patel and Vimal Chudasama raised a matter of urgent public notice referring to scanty rainfall in a number of districts. The minister also provided figures of sowing in the state and stated, “According to data as of August 31, 2026, sowing has been completed across 80.39 lakh hectares, which accounts for 94.24% of the state’s average sowing area (85.30 lakh hectares).” Patel said that there is enough water available for irrigation and drinking purposes and that arrangements have been made for ensuring power supply for farmers. He said, “To protect standing crops for farmers, the Energy Department of the state government has increased the agricultural power supply by 2 hours, extending it from 8 hours to 10 hours. This facility is currently implemented across 132 taluka groups in 21 districts of the state, including Kutch, Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Rajkot, Mehsana, Botad, and Sabarkantha. To bridge the gap between demand and supply, GUVNL (Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited) has made adequate arrangements for additional short-term power purchases for September and October 2026.”

The minister also said that as a precautionary measure, district collectors have been empowered to distribute fodder at concessional rates. In this context, he also said that a stock of 402.54 lakh kilogram of grass is available with the state government. During the discussion of the issue, Congress legislator Amit Chavda said that there are 112 talukas in the state that have not received rainfall for eight weeks and demanded immediate action from the state government instead of waiting for a survey to be done by October 31. Chavda also demanded that the government take immediate action in favour of farmers since the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is not implemented in the state and there is no alternate scheme for the purpose.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Gopal Italia said that the government should immediately declare drought specifically when a circular – dated June 11, 2021 – of the Gujarat government on simplifying the process to declare drought provides for the same. The circular was issued when late Vijay Rupani was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. In reply, Patel said that the state government is following the Central Government’s Manual for Drought Management, 2016 which was amended in 2020. In his written reply, Patel also said, “Under the provisions of the Central Government’s ‘Drought Management Manual-2016 (Updated 2020)’, a drought cannot be declared directly based



solely on rainfall inequality or rainfall deviation. After indicators under Trigger-1 and Trigger-2—such as rainfall, crop sowing area, NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index), soil moisture, and groundwater levels—are met, a 10% physical verification (Ground Truthing) must be conducted in affected villages using GPS/smartphone apps before harvest at the end of the Kharif season (by October 31). The final decision regarding a drought is made based on the extent of crop damage recorded during this process... According to the Central Government’s Manual for Drought Management, 2016, an appropriate decision is taken following this scientific evaluation and Ground Truthing.” He also said that the measures that are required to be taken in the event of drought are already being addressed and managed in advance.

Goa shack operators welcome early licences ahead of tourist season

EMS News Agency, Sept 16 Panaji: Goa’s shack operators on Saturday welcomed the timely grant of licences and permissions by the state tourism department, saying the move would enable them to complete preparations ahead of the upcoming tourist season. The operators met Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte on Friday and thanked him and the Goa government for facilitating the early licensing and registration process. The move has provided greater clarity and certainty to prepare shacks for the arrival of tourists, they said.

“Shack operators, who are our tourism ambassadors, showcase Goa’s colourful beachside identity to visitors from across India and the world. Their contribution to tourism is extremely important, and the government has consistently worked to support them,” Khaunte said. Efforts over the last two years have ensured that shack licences are renewed well in advance, allowing operators to complete preparations before the tourist season, the minister added.

“We have ensured their licences are renewed in advance and that by mid-September, they are ready to welcome tourists. This is important because Goa must be prepared to receive visitors, particularly during the peak holiday periods,” he said. Khaunte also stressed the importance of providing continuity and support to traditional shack operators, many of whom have been associated with the trade for several years and depend on it for their livelihood.

He said Goan food and local preparations served at beach shacks, including fish curry rice, mackerel and other fresh local delicacies, form an important part of the experience offered to domestic and international visitors. The Goa government has already started the process of allowing licences for beach shacks ahead of the tourist season starting next month, he said.

In a first, Punjab Police secures extradition of gangster from Europe



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

In a major breakthrough against transnational organised crime, the Punjab Police, with help from central agencies, secured the extradition of a fugitive criminal from the Republic of Moldova, marking its first extradition from a European country. Amritpal Singh alias Amrit Dalam, a key operative of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang, was brought back to India on Saturday. Allegedly affiliated with gangster Harry Chattha abroad, Dalam is wanted in 21 cases in Punjab, including murder, attempt to murder, narcotics, and offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Arms Act, among others.

Dalam is allegedly involved in targeted killings, extortion, murder, and weapons smuggling. He was suspected

Gujarat Speaker orders privilege proceedings against Congress MLA



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly Shankar Chaudhary on Friday decided to initiate Privilege Committee proceedings against Congress MLA Imran Khedawala for “disrespecting Vande Mataram” by sitting midway through the recitation of the national song in the House on the first day of the monsoon session. Passing an order in this regard on the last day of the monsoon session on Friday, the Speaker referred the matter to the Privilege Committee, asking it to investigate the same and submit a report before the House. The Speaker passed the order while acting on a point of order raised by Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi against Khedawala, who represents the Jamalpur-Khadia seat in Ahmedabad and is the lone Muslim MLA in the 182-member assembly.

On the first day of Gujarat Assembly’s monsoon session on Wednesday, Khedawala sat down after completion of the second stanza of the Vande Mataram, during the customary rendition of the song in the House. Some other members of the Congress were also present in the House, but all of them stood up through the rendition of the entire song. Speaking to the media, Khedawala had defended his act, stating that it was his personal decision. Congress leaders had distanced themselves from Khedawala’s act, saying that it was his personal decision and that it was not the stand of the Congress. Taking objection to Khedawala’s act, Sanghavi had moved a Point of Order against him, calling the matter “very serious”. Speaking on the Point of Order, Congress leaders Amit Chavda and Shailesh Parmar had expressed regret over the incident while affirming that it was not the stand of the Congress. What speaker says Speaker Chaudhary announced his decision to refer the matter to the Privilege Committee, while holding that Khedawala had openly violated the established standards of conduct of the House. “...I have seen the video footage of the House. Imran Khedawala had stood up along with other members when Vande Mataram’s recitation began. However, then in the midway of Vande Mataram he sat down on his seat. Thus,

of being in the UAE before shifting base to Moldova. A rival of the Bambiha, Lucky Patial, and Ghanshampuria gangs, Dalam recently claimed responsibility for a shootout that killed gangster Gora Bariar. Punjab Police records list 21 criminal cases against Dalam, whose father Hira Singh is from Dalam Nangal in Gurdaspur, in the state. Four are at the trial stage in Batala. Investigations continue in the other 17: seven FIRs in Batala, four in Gurdaspur, two each in Amritsar Commissionerate and Hoshiarpur, and one each in Ludhiana Commissionerate and State Special Operations Cell, Amritsar. The case categories include five murder cases, nine cases under the Arms Act, one Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act case, one case under UAPA and explosives provisions, cases for extortion and the Passport Act (for fake passport). A specific case cited in connection with the Interpol notice is FIR No 168, dated October 20, 2024, at Bulloval police station in Hoshiarpur, involving a double murder. Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said Operation Eastern Reach, a six-month intelligence-led international manhunt, succeeded due to sustained surveillance and Punjab Police’s close coordination with central agencies and international partners. “I commend Anti Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Punjab & Overseas Fugitive Tracking and Extradition Cell (OFTEC) Punjab for their relentless efforts. We thank the Moldovan authorities, Azerbaijan Authorities, IPCU-CBI, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of External Affairs and all other central agencies as part of this international cooperation,” he added.

despite the recitation of Vande Mataram being ongoing in the Legislative Assembly, the member, instead of standing up to maintain its dignity, sat in his place and opposed the recitation of the song Vande Mataram. This is not merely a matter of an individual’s behavior, but rather of an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly who has taken an oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as established by law, and to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India.” The Speaker also said that there are higher expectations from a person who has taken a constitutional oath of office as a legislator to adhere to the Constitution of India, its established national symbols, and the applicable rules and standards of conduct. “This incident became extremely serious as it occurred in the State Legislative Assembly, the supreme institution of democracy,” he said. Chaudhary also said that in accordance with the directives of the Government of India, the six-stanza version of Vande Mataram has been sung in the House since February 2026. “It is the duty of all of us to uphold this noble tradition and decorum, and we all abide by it... Imran Khedawala has blatantly violated these established norms of decorum and conduct in the House and has committed contempt of the House,” he said. He also mentioned that Khedawala had given media bites on his act, but remained absent when Sanghavi raised the Point of Order in the House and forfeited the opportunity to clarify his stand. “It stands established that the member committed this act intentionally. Furthermore, it is improper for the member to offer his clarification to the media instead of presenting it before the House,” the Speaker said. Chaudhary also stated, “Despite instructions being issued from the Chair before the singing of Vande Mataram began asking everyone to stand in their places, the member (Khedawala) intentionally disregarded the Chair’s directive.” Privileges Committee of Gujarat Assembly The Privileges Committee of Gujarat Assembly is headed by BJP MLA from Bhuj constituency Keshubhai Patel and has six other members. Five of the members are from BJP – Aniruddha Dave, Mahesh Kaswala, Jethabhai Ahir, Keyur Rokadiya and Kishor Kanani. The sole Congress member in the committee is Vadgam MLA Jignesh Mevani. A senior official of the Gujarat Assembly said that the act of Khedawala is more or less established and he himself has admitted it before the media. So now, the committee is expected to give him a hearing while following the principle of natural justice before preparing its report and recommendation for submission to the House. The Committee is also expected to decide the gravity of the issue. Suppose, he (Khedawala) accepts his mistake before the committee and tenders an apology, the gravity decreases,” the official said. When contacted, panel head Keshubhai Patel said they will begin the process of investigation after formally getting the order of the Speaker.

Ease of Doing Business Bill cleared in Assembly: ‘Main aim to cut regulatory burden, simplify processes’

Gujarat Assembly passes Ease of Doing Business Bill 2026, proposing simpler processes, self-certification, 24/7 business operations and risk-based regulations. Gujarat Assembly passes Ease of Doing Business Bill 2026, proposing simpler processes, self-certification, 24/7 business operations and risk-based regulations. THE STATE Assembly on Friday passed by a majority vote the Gujarat Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026, that proposes to amend certain provisions in five legislations in the state “to enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business”. The Bill was presented in the House by Minister of State for Industries Jayram Gamit. Quoting Gamit, an official statement said, “...the main objective of this Bill is to reduce the unnecessary regulatory burden on industries and citizens, simplify processes, promote self-declaration and self-certification, and strengthen a risk-based and technology-driven administrative system. It outlines a path toward trust-based governance by reducing the need for mandatory prior approvals and physical touchpoints in low-risk activities.” By bringing 12 corrective clauses across five different state laws under a single umbrella, this Bill has simplified the legislative process and saved the time of the House,” it added.

The five state laws certain provisions of which have been proposed to be amended in the Bill include The Gujarat Medical Council Act, 1967, The Gujarat Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act, 2013, The Gujarat (Right of Citizen to Public Services) Act, 2013, The Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019, and The Gujarat Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Facilitation of Establishment and Operation) Act, 2019. Listing some of the salient proposed amendments in The Gujarat Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act, 2013, the statement added that fire safety standards have been made risk-based and performance-

oriented. “Rules will be aligned according to local conditions and building types, thereby reducing compliance costs,” it said. About proposed amendments to The Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019, the government release stated, “Registration will become easier through self-declaration and self-certification... Shops and establishments will have the facility to operate 24/7 on any day of the week, subject to applicable laws regarding working hours, rest intervals, and terms of employment.” It also said that with the proposed amendments to The Gujarat Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Facilitation of Establishment and Operation) Act, “The ‘Right to Business’ framework for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) will be further strengthened. Additional 8 state laws—including those related to cooperatives, electricity, GIDC, and irrigation—have been aligned with the facilitation framework.” Whereas with amendment to Gujarat Medical Council Act, 1967, the release stated, “It will become easier for doctors registered in other states to obtain registration in Gujarat on the basis of self-declaration, thereby accelerating medical services and professional mobility.” Under the proposed amendment to The Gujarat (Right of Citizen to Public Services) Act, 2013, a technology-driven ‘auto-appeal’ and ‘auto-escalation’ mechanism will be implemented so that if a public service or grievance is not resolved within the prescribed time frame, the matter automatically gets escalated to higher authorities. Quoting Gamit the statement added, “

These legislative amendments will prove to be an important milestone for the Gujarat Industrial Policy 2026—announced with the resolve of ‘Viksit Gujarat to Viksit Bharat @2047’—as well as ... for the upcoming 11th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2027 (‘Viksit Gujarat – Shaping Global Future’) to be held next January.”

India warns nationals against seeking jobs in Malaysia using visa-free entry

New Delhi: The High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur has issued an advisory cautioning Indian nationals against misusing Malaysia’s 30-day visa-free entry facility to travel to the country in search of employment, warning that such attempts could lead to overstay, illegal immigration status, exploitation, detention and legal action.In its advisory issued on Tuesday, the High Commission said there had been “a noticeable increase in Indian nationals arriving in Malaysia using the 30-day visa-free facility, to seek employment.”It urged Indians travelling to Malaysia on tourist entry to strictly comply with the conditions of their stay and “alerts Indian nationals travelling to Malaysia on tourist visas against taking up employment.” The mission also warned travellers about unscrupulous agents offering fraudulent employment opportunities.

According to the advisory, “Many Indian nationals are misled by unscrupulous agents with false job promises, leading to overstay, illegal status, exploitation, detention and legal action.”The High Commission stressed that seeking employment through the visa-free facility violates Malaysian immigration rules. It clarified that the facility, which allows Indian passport holders to stay in Malaysia for up to 30 days, is intended “for tourism and social visits only.”Indian nationals travelling to Malaysia for tourism have also been advised to carry valid and verifiable travel documents to avoid immigration-related problems upon arrival. These include a confirmed return ticket, hotel booking, and proof of



online submission of the Malaysia Digital Arrival Card (MDAC) three days before the date of arrival. Travellers have further been advised to ensure that their passports have a minimum validity of six months.

Reiterating its warning, the High Commission said, “Once again, Indian nationals are strictly advised not to travel to Malaysia for work / employment purpose without work permit or visa with reference (VDR).”The advisory comes amid concerns over Indian nationals being lured by false job offers and subsequently finding themselves in violation of Malaysian immigration regulations. The mission urged prospective workers to obtain the appropriate authorisation before travelling to Malaysia for employment.

telanganatoday.comIndia’s demand for Russian oil driven by supply shocks, not discounts: Report

New Delhi: India’s increased Russian crude imports are being driven by West Asia supply disruptions rather than discounts, with imports averaging 60 million barrels per month, since the start of the US-Iran war, compared to 46 million barrels a month during FY23-26, a report showed on Tuesday.Since the start of the US-Iran war, India has imported 298 million barrels of Russian crude, according to the Axis Bank Economic Research report.

While Russia’s share in India’s imported crude basket jumped from 0 per cent to 30 per cent between March 2022 to ne 2023, likely due to discounts, the additional 1 million barrel per day since March 2026 “can’t be explained by price dynamics alone”. “First, the average discount on Russian crude vs. West Asia has been stable at \$3-5/bbl since 2023.Second, Russia’s share of Indian crude imports rose despite premiums of up to \$7/bbl. If India were to procure these excess 60-80 mn barrels in the spot market, oil prices would likely be higher than today,” the report argued.Recent experience shows that the threat of very high tariffs is more useful as leverage in trade negotiations than tariffs themselves, and higher oil prices have a more direct passthrough on US retail inflation, said the report.

Republicans are already on the back foot in the mid-terms due to elevated energy prices.“Congressional back-



ing makes this tariff threat legally durable, while pending outcomes of Section 301 on excess capacity could raise tariff volatility. For India, a useful anchor is the 18 per cent headline rate agreed before the US Supreme court invalidated tariffs under the IEEPA authority in February 2026,” the report mentioned.When applied, the effective rate also tends to be lower than the headline rate due to exemptions. India’s exports this fiscal (to date) have grown 19 per cent year-on-year, led by electronics, auto/parts, metals and refined petroleum products, while exports to the US have also recovered.

Trump praises Mamdani after rare visit to New York mayor’s residence

New York: Donald Trump made an unusual visit for a sitting president to the official residence of the city’s mayor for a meeting with Zohran Mamdani.

The visit, marked by bonhomie, came as a surprise on Monday because Mamdani is a Democratic Socialist, while Trump has made attacks on socialists a running theme of his campaign for Republican candidates in the midterm elections.It was Trump’s first appointment in the city after he arrived there for the United Nations high-level week.After their meeting, Trump praised Mamdani, saying he was “off to a good start” and was “going to be a great” mayor.

The populists from the two ends of the political spectrum appear to have hit it off despite their ideological differences and their belligerent bases, and this was the first time in 44 years a president has visited the city’s mayor at his residence.They appeared to have bonded over their interest in building structures.Mamdani has proposed a massive housing complex with 12,000 housing units built on top of a rail yard.“What we’re talking about is something very rare in our city; it’s the possibility of constructing an entirely new neighbourhood,” Mamdani said at their news conference.He said it would require federal assistance.Recognising the nationwide housing shortage, Trump has proposed plans to ameliorate it.Mamdani said that he aired his opposition to Trump’s policies, including the immigration crackdown and the withdrawal of temporary immigration status given to people from countries in turmoil like Haiti.“I shared my very strong opinions about how we can keep New Yorkers safe, how we can keep immigrant New Yorkers safe”, Mamdani said.Trump said Mamdani felt “very strongly” about the issue.

Despite their differences, Trump, a native New Yorker, said he had seen “numerous different mayors ... some great ones and some not so great ones.”“I’ll be able to say you’re going to be a great one, and you’re off to a start”, he said.A



reporter asked Mamdani about Trump banning reporters from CNN and MS Now networks, and Politico news outlet.He said, “I told the president that we’re going to have all of the members of the press here on the lawn and that is something that I believe in.”Pointing to the presence of the media, Trump said, “It’s interesting ‘cause they said they were gonna boycott me, but they never boycott me. So, I wasn’t very worried about that. Look at all that press”.He accused the media of propagating “fake news” and said he had an “obligation” to keep them out.Mamdani and Trump had earlier met in February at the White House, which was also marked by surprising friendliness.According to Politico, true to his socialist roots, Mamdani was scheduled to meet Bernie Sanders, the leftist senator and vehement critic of Trump, who has been like a mentor to him.The mayor’s 15-room residence set on 4.5 hectares along the East River is officially known as Gracie Mansion.Trump, who has an eye for decor and architecture, called it “a beautiful place” and had said earlier on Truth Social that he had visited the mansion several times before becoming president.

Heavy rain, strong winds batter Japan as typhoon nears eastern coast

Tokyo: Japan’s weather agency warned of heavy rain, strong winds, flooding and landslides as a large and powerful typhoon moves toward the country’s eastern Pacific coast on Monday.

As of 10 am local time, Typhoon Dujan, located about 100 km west-southwest of Hachijo Island in the Izu Island chain near Tokyo, was moving north at a speed of 25 km per hour (kph). It had a central atmospheric pressure of 960 hectopascals, packing maximum gusts of 198 kph, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).The year’s 25th typhoon is expected to pass near the Boso Peninsula in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, from the evening to late on Monday.

On Monday morning, heavy downpours have already battered the Kanto-Koshin region in eastern Japan as well as the Tokai region in central Japan, reports Xinhua news agency. There have been reports of road inundation in multiple cities in Chiba, and the JMA has also issued a level 4 landslide alert for parts of the prefecture. The weather agency forecast up to 350 mm of rain in the Tokai region, 300 mm in the Kanto region and the Izu Island chain, and 200 mm in the Tohoku region in northeastern Japan in the 24 hours through 6 a.m. on Tuesday.



The typhoon’s approach coincides with a five-day holiday period in Japan. Residents have been urged to check the latest weather information and take precautions, including considering rescheduling their plans during extreme weather.The typhoon has disrupted transportation, forcing the closure of parts of highways, and may also cause delays and cancellations of bullet train services connecting Tokyo and western Japan on Monday afternoon.Earlier in August, Typhoon Chan-hom made landfall in the eastern Japanese prefecture of Ibaraki. Seven people sustained minor injuries

World leaders to meet at UN amid wars, global crises

United Nations: This week 140 world leaders and representatives of another 53 countries will be meeting here this week under the shadow of intractable wars and conflicts for the annual high-level meeting.When the meeting starts on Tuesday with the traditional first national address by Brazil’s President Lula da Silva, followed by US President Donald Trump, the Gulf Conflict, the Ukraine War, the Gaza situation, and the Sudan civil war of genocidal proportions will hang heavy over the General Assembly chamber.

The perils of a runaway artificial intelligence will be added this year to the climate crisis, terrorism, and global hunger and poverty as top areas of concern. The high falutin speeches in the General Assembly chamber, threaded with boasts and recriminations, but also genuine insights into global problems, may be the face of the high-level meeting, but the real action is in the meetings in missions, hotels and temporary cubicles erected in the UN hallways. And even in informal encounters in the halls of the UN.Cynics will say nothing substantial to find solutions to the crises will emerge from the lectures, but results can emerge from these meetings on the sidelines of the official high-level meeting.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, speaking to reporters, said about the utility of the high-level week, “I think we must take profit of this week to allow for a large number of meetings between those leaders that are relevant in the context of the crisis that we are facing”. “I would remind you that last year, there was a very important meeting of the United States with a number of Muslim countries that led to the peace plan for Gaza”, he said.Even Trump, a constant critic of the UN, agreed with him on this point about the session’s utility, telling reporters that the formation of the Board of Peace for Gaza flowed from that meeting last year.Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, who



was elected General Assembly president for the current session, will preside over the meeting from the high rostrum, above the speaker’s lectern.“Restoring trust, managing transformation: A UN that delivers for all”, is the theme this year. As presidents, kings, prime ministers and ministers take their turn at the dark marble lectern with a gold UN insignia, three major leaders will not be there: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Presidents Xi Jinping of China and Vladimir Putin of Russia.External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will deliver India’s address to the General Assembly on Saturday.Xi’s absence from the UN this week will be striking because he will be coming to the US to meet Trump in Washington on Thursday. But a notable presence will be Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian, who will be speaking a day after Trump of the US, his nation’s adversary in the conflict now in its seventh month.Ukraine’s President Volodymyr, whose country is now facing the fifth year of Russia’s invasion, will be there. While Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be taking the podium on Thursday to justify his country’s widely condemned actions in Gaza, the US shut out Palestine’s President Mahmoud Abbas by denying him a visa.

US to open two new military bases in Greenland, sources say

COPENHAGEN/WASHINGTON, Sept 21 (Reuters) - The US plans to re-establish a Cold War-era military base in southern Greenland and set up ?another on the east coast, now used by the Danish dog sled patrol, under ?a deal to be signed with Denmark and Greenland on Tuesday, according to three people familiar with the matter.The sites are Narsarsuaq, whose population has dwindled to a few dozen people since the US closed its Bluie ?West One military base in the 1950s, and Mestersvig, a military outpost used by ?the Sirius Dog Sled Patrol, a Danish special forces unit, said two of ?the people.Get a look at the day ahead in European and global markets with the Morning Bid Europe newsletter. Sign up here.

Denmark, Greenland and the United States are expected to sign their new agreement at the ?United Nations General Assembly in New York City at 10:30 a.m. ET (1430 GMT) on Tuesday.The text ?of the agreement has not been made public and the three people familiar with the deal, speaking on condition of anonymity, said its details will not be finalized until it is signed.The governments of Denmark and Greenland did ?not immediately respond to a request by Reuters for comment.Item 1 of 2 General view of Mestersvig military outpost in Mestersvig, Greenland, September 18, 2025. REUTERS/Guglielmo Mangiapane/File Photo[1/2]General view of Mestersvig military outpost in Mestersvig, Greenland, September 18, 2025. REUTERS/Guglielmo Mangiapane/File Photo Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tabA White House spokesperson declined to comment ?on the details of the agreement, repeating an earlier statement that its signing on Tuesday would “secure and defend ?the security ?of Greenland and the United States.”Denmark says the agreement puts Arctic security under the watch of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the military defense alliance, rather than leaving it solely to the US and Denmark.The deal follows months of pressure from US President Donald Trump, who has long said he ?wants the US to ?control Greenland and has ?at times refused to rule out military or economic force to acquire the semi-autonomous Danish territory. The idea has been rejected by an overwhelming ?majority of Greenlanders, polling shows.Trump’s threats, which peaked in January, triggered a ?diplomatic crisis ?within NATO and pushed Denmark and Greenland into negotiations with Washington aimed at defusing the pressure.During the Cold War, the US maintained 17 military installations and more than 10,000 personnel in Greenland. Today only Pituffik ?Space ?Base remains, with some 150 US military personnel.Reporting by Stine ?Jacobsen in Copenhagen



and Gram Slattery and Erin Banco in Washington; Additional reporting by Jacob Gronholt-Pedersen in Copenhagen, and Phil ?Stewart and Steve Holland in Washington; Writing by Jonathan Allen; Editing by Don Durfee and Nia WilliamsOur Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles., opens new tabStine Jacobsen is a Senior Correspondent at Reuters, where she has worked for more than a decade. Currently based in Copenhagen, she reports on politics and business across the Nordic and Baltic regions. Coverage spans major Danish companies including Novo Nordisk, Orsted, Vestas, Maersk and Lego, as well as Arctic affairs and regional security. She serves on the board of the International Press Centre in Copenhagen.

Erin Banco is a national security correspondent focusing on the intelligence community. She covers everything from the wars in Ukraine and Gaza to U.S. covert operations overseas. She previously worked at POLITICO as a national security reporter. Banco has a long history covering the Middle East region, from Cairo to Baghdad to Aleppo where she’s reported on the Arab Spring and its aftermath, including the civil war in Syria and the rise of ISIS. Her 2017 book, Pipe Dreams, focuses on the development of the oil and gas industry in the northern Kurdistan region of Iraq. Banco attended The University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she majored in Arabic and journalism. She earned a master’s in public administration from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs in 2014.Gram Slattery is a White House correspondent in Washington, focusing on national security, intelligence and foreign affairs. His work covers how key U.S. foreign policy decisions are debated, shaped and executed. He was previously a national political correspondent, covering the 2024 presidential campaign. From 2015 to 2022, he held postings in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Santiago, Chile, and he has reported extensively throughout Latin America.

Worsening El Nino threatens Asia with drought, potentially raising food prices globally

Banten: All signs are pointing toward a record-breaking El Nino this year, which experts say may cause severe drought in Asia and other extreme weather across the world, threatening food security for millions of people.El Nino is part of a natural climate cycle of warming ocean temperatures, but this year’s is expected to reach new extremes of drought, heat waves, flooding and other climate-related disruptions in South America, Africa and Asia.Southeast Asia is one of the world’s most climate vulnerable regions. It’s already beset by an energy crisis triggered by the war in Iran. El Nino is already fueling wildfires across farmland, depleting water supplies for major cities and hurting fish catches in the region.Asian governments that have been drawing on their financial reserves to mitigate the war’s ripple effects of higher energy costs and scarce fertilizer supplies have less capacity to cope with this year’s intensifying El Nino, which is forecast to peak in December.The phenomenon may amplify other crises in Southeast Asia, according to Paul Teng, with Singapore’s ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, who said, “El Nino is only compounding all the other problems that we see.”

Extreme El Nino may threaten global food securityDuring El Nino years, sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean are warmer than usual. This happens every few years and often alters global weather patterns. This year, the seas already are hotter than average, with global oceans hitting new temperature records in August as the climate warms, said Kareff Rafisura, chief of the Disaster Risk Reduction Division at the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.This intensifying El Nino may be the “strongest in living memory,” according to the United Kingdom’s national weather and climate service. Similarly, the U.S.’ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said there is a 69% chance that this will be the strongest recorded El Nino since record-



keeping began in 1950.El Nino’s impact will be felt differently across regions, but it is expected to jeopardize food security worldwide. It could push at least 49 million more people into acute food insecurity by the end of 2027, according to the United Nations’ World Food Program.The problem will be worst in parts of Central America and southern Africa, with significant effects also anticipated in eastern Africa and South and Southeast Asia, warned the food agency.El Nino is already hitting parts of Asian Southeast Asia, wildfires are torching forests and peatlands in Indonesia, sending up plumes of toxic haze.

The water level of a major reservoir supplying the bustling capital city of Jakarta – the world’s biggest metropolis – is dropping inch by inch.As the lake dries, the ruins of one of 11 villages that had been inundated by the reservoir have emerged, as alarm grows over the need for alternative water supplies for the city of 42 million.“I would have rather not moved. There were plenty of livelihood opportunities here,” said Hussen, who only uses one name, as he ferried people across the receding reservoir.

Will the state be India’s next big travel destination?



I grew up in Guwahati in the 1990s, a time when Assam rarely made it to national conversations, let alone global news. It was often defined by insurgency, bandhs, and a sense of isolation — both geographical and cultural. Yet, life carried on in its own unhurried rhythm. Rainy mornings smelled of petrichor, afternoons were reserved for sistas and freshly brewed lal cha, and summer evenings unfolded by the Brahmaputra’s banks. Bihu and Durga Puja brought the city alive, momentarily dissolving the troubles of the time. But for those beyond its borders, the state remained a distant, unfamiliar land — reduced to tea gardens, dense forests, and one-horned rhinoceros. The idea of it as a thriving tourism hub felt improbable.

Cut to 2025, and Assam is making headlines for all the right reasons. There was the recent UNESCO addition of Charaideo Moidams — the 700-year-old mound burial

system of the Ahom dynasty, often called the ‘Pyramids of India’ — to its World Heritage List. It has brought the medieval kingdom’s legacy into the global spotlight, leading to the announcement of a new Charaideo Museum. The state, which banks heavily on its wildlife destinations to attract tourists, has also declared Sikhna Jwhlwao, a vital corridor between Manas and Raimona National Parks, as its eighth national park, further cementing its reputation as a biodiversity hotspot. The fact that Assam was ranked No. 4 on The New York Times’ ‘52 Places to Go in 2025’ list — for its “incomparable biodiversity”, “tea estates and river islands”, and its deep-rooted history and indigenous cultures — has also added to the buzz. And the developments don’t end there. Luxury tourism is on the rise with The Postcard Hotel’s debut in the Durrung Tea Estate and Reliance’s partnership announcement with the Oberoi Group to build a seven-star hotel. Is Assam finally on the brink of a long-awaited tourism breakthrough?

Tourist arrivals in Assam have surged dramatically over the past five years, signalling a shift in the state’s travel landscape. Domestic footfall, which had plummeted to just 13.5 lakh in 2020-21 due to the pandemic, rebounded sharply to 98.12 lakh in 2022-23 before settling at 70.36 lakh in 2023-24. International arrivals tell a similar story — rising from a mere 347 in 2020-21 to a high of 26,128 last year, according to Assam Tourism. Come summer, when temperatures climb to a toasty 32 degrees Celsius, the state government hopes the numbers will increase even more.

In aid of this, last month, at the Advantage Assam 2.0

Summit held in Guwahati, the state secured ₹4.91 lakh crore in investments, with 270 MoUs signed, focusing on tourism, culture, and hospitality. At a time when overtourism in popular destinations such as Goa and India’s many hill stations — and its attendant troubles of environmental degradation, rising real estate costs, and overstretched infrastructure — are driving tourists to seek less congested options, Assam hopes to step up as a tranquil alternative. “Earlier, people only knew about Kaziranga [home to the endangered rhino] and, to a lesser extent, Manas. Now, with Instagram and content creators, even community festivals that were once local events are getting national attention,” says Amit Kumar, executive editor of EastMojo, one of the Northeast’s leading digital multimedia news platforms. He points to hidden gems such as Goalpara’s Jain Caves and Kaipholansgo Waterfall in Karbi Anglong, now weekend destinations thanks to social media creators seeking fresh, high-engagement content. “With insurgency at an all-time low [according to Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah this week, “violent incidents in the state decreased by 70%”], previously inaccessible regions are now welcoming more visitors,” he adds. The state is also further strengthening its appeal. There are the ‘Awesome Assam’ campaigns in other Indian states, proactive tourism initiatives, better road and digital connectivity, and the introduction of a tourist police force to ensure visitor safety. The Guwahati airport is undergoing a major expansion, too. Scheduled to open soon, it is increasing its runway capacity and will be able to accommodate 13.1 mil-

lion passengers annually. Rural tourism is coming up, with homestays in Majuli, Goalpara and Nagaon offering immersive experiences. “I work with women to help them set up homestays — not just as a business but as a way to introduce authentic Assamese culture to travellers,” says Arijit Purkayastha of Koyeli Tours and Travels. Tea tourism, once confined to specific seasons, is also expanding, reinforcing Assam’s position as a year-round destination.

There’s a shift towards experience-driven tourism as well, exemplified by hospitality brands such as The Postcard. Set within the 140-year-old Durrung Tea Estate, this boutique property marks a turning point for high-end hospitality in a region long overlooked by luxury travellers. “From the very inception of The Postcard, we recognised the immense potential of India’s Northeast. Durrung stood out for its accessibility, deep-rooted tea legacy, and seamless connection to Assam’s culture and wildlife,” says founder and CEO Kapil Chopra. In 2022, the Assam government allowed tea estates to use 5% of their land for eco-friendly tourism.

“We chose Assam as our first destination in the Northeast for a very strategic reason: India’s tea trails begin here. Durrung is also surrounded by five national parks and offers excellent accessibility — just three hours from Guwahati, two from Itanagar, and 15 minutes from Tezpur airport, which is being upgraded,” states Chopra, adding that instead of a large-scale development that disrupts the place’s natural beauty, “we’ve taken a more thoughtful approach, with just 12 rooms spread across 1,400 acres of pristine tea estate”.

Student violence in Kerala: The many layers behind the mayhem

When he retires as Principal of a government school in Palakkad district this May, A.K. Anilkumar is likely to carry the memory of an incident that happened towards the fag end of his 36-year-long career, though he would prefer to forget it. In January 2025, the video of a 17-year-old Plus One student from his school went viral on social media. Furious over the confiscation of his mobile phone, which was not allowed in the school, the boy could be seen making a death threat at his teachers, including Anilkumar. It created such a furore that it prompted the State government to order a probe. “It was the first such experience in my long teaching career. It wasn’t the fear of bodily harm that hurt me but the pain of whether all my years in teaching have been rewarded in such a manner,” rues Anilkumar.

The incident came close on the heels of another incident in which a man was stabbed to death by two minor boys, aged 14 and 16, for allegedly questioning the public use of drugs at Thekkinkadu Maidan in Thrissur district on the New Year eve. Since then, a spate of violent incidents involving youngsters has struck Kerala, claiming many lives and disrupting several families. A gang war-like clash between two groups of teenage students led to the death of a 15-year-old boy at Thamarassery in Kozhikode. Several instances of group clashes involving school students have gone viral on social media. The violent incidents involving schoolchildren and teenagers have triggered a debate about what has gone wrong with the youth. While some blame it on the drug menace and the alleged influence of violent movies, others have raised deeper concerns that include gaps in parenting, mental health anxieties, and the impact of tech and social media on Gen Z. Arun B. Nair, Professor of Psychiatry, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, feels that the younger generation is facing a social disconnect syndrome, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 lockdowns and the digital revolution. “Digital revolution appears to have made humans more impulsive and impatient. The revolution, which facilitates instant fulfilment of a desire, whether going for a movie or expressing love, has also eliminated the previously existent time lapse between a desire and gratification. This leaves the brain hardly any time to evolve an alternative plan if that desire goes unfulfilled, resulting in aggressive overreaction with suicidal or homicidal ramifications,” Dr. Nair says. Thampy Mathai, Director of Maithri, the Kochi chapter of Befrienders Worldwide, a global organisation working for suicide prevention, points out that “suicidal tendencies are often found to be triggered by relationships, which, in the first place, are built on fleeting interactions on social media. When those relationships go haywire, they are hell-bent on either self-destruction or the destruction of the other partner,” he says.

Aseel Muhammed, a social media influencer and a third-year psychology student at Farook College, Kozhikode, accuses the older generation of setting the narrative over the violent conduct of the new generation and the mainstream media running debates pandering to that. “The older generation who runs the system is not willing to admit their follies in parenting and deficiencies in academic curriculum. They are even unwilling for a course correction. They, along with the media, are impatient to wrap up the debate by finding convenient scapegoats such as cinema and solutions like bringing back corporal punishment to straighten up the children. The stressful surroundings in which children are growing, their emotional well-being, and lack of avenues to express themselves are often neglected,” he says. Amruth G. Kumar, Professor of Education, School of Education, Central University of Kerala, attributes the child aggression to a large extent to the authoritarian and violent parenting styles, unresolved sibling rivalry, feuds between family members and with neighbours, and lack of parental supervision. “Violence can be used as a tool to establish dominance and status in peer groups. Students grab this idea from their surroundings. Violence for dominance is rampant around them and if the family environment also suggests that violence is an effective means for gaining control or respect, children tend to emulate it,” he says. Award-winning Malayalam filmmaker Blessy says that a few recent movies in Malayalam, which had an overdose of violence and reaped success at the box office, had tried to normalise killings or murdering. “I feel there is an attempt to celebrate such violence on screen knowingly or unknowingly,” he says. Muhsin Parari, a popular scriptwriter, questions the very premise of the debate, which he alleges has put the entire Gen Z under the needle of suspicion.

“Have we carried out any scientific study yet on whether there is a spike in violence among the youth? Isn’t it irresponsible to make such inferences without concrete data-based evidence?” he wonders. Coming to the defence of cinema, Parari feels that the grip of a social media giant on public opinion was way more dangerous than cinema’s influence on the youth. The public falls for algorithm-driven sensationalism and populism, producing absurd paranoia to evade accountability, he says.

Blessy agrees that the blame of instilling aggression and violence in the minds of the youth cannot be placed on cinema alone, as it figures among several other psychological and social issues prevalent in society. “But cinema is capable of an instant transfer of an emotion to the audience,” he says. A few members of the film fraternity, who



preferred not to be quoted, share the apprehension that the debate may even lead to backdoor censorship of cinemas, which, according to them, the moralistic elements in society have been craving for long. The first salvo has been fired with the Central Board of Film Certification denying satellite rights to a recent Malayalam flick on the grounds of extreme violence, points out a popular filmmaker, who wished not to be quoted.

P. Vijayan, Additional Director General of Police, Intelligence, who was behind the concepts of social policing and Student Police Cadet programme, feels that attributing the violence amongst youth to a few convenient factors may result in a lopsided conclusion. “The general deterioration in mental health, loss of a values-based system, the rising pleasure-seeking attitude, and the environment around the younger generation also play a role in shaping their responses and behaviour,” he says. “Films and drugs may serve as triggers but portraying them as foundational issues will not help. Working in silos will not help but collective societal efforts are needed. Also, scientific studies on behaviour of the youth are needed,” he says. Prof. Kumar has called for the elimination of undemocratic spaces in households and society as the first step towards preventing violence among children, besides a collaborative approach from the family, school, and community. “Parents shall provide emotional security and a safe home environment for their children.

Also, schools should learn to decode the cues to understand the problems students face at home and in the community, their fears, and concerns. Rather than having a counsellor in every school, every teacher needs to become a psychologist who understands the child,” he says. Dr. Nair finds faulty parenting practices as problematic, especially parents’ lack of communication during their children’s adolescence. “Adolescents often complain that parents either don’t listen to their problems or trivialise them while parents complain of their adolescent children being not obedient. What is needed is not authoritarian parenting, which the previous generations were used to, but authoritative parenting, which is a blend of affection and discipline. Parents need to understand that their children were born in a more rights-based world with greater emphasis on personal rights and space,” Dr. Nair says. He also warns that addition to gadgets and graphically violent online games could serve as a trigger to a generation, which is already subjected to faulty parenting and is impatient and impulsive owing to their over exposure to digital technology. Anilkumar remains worried about the aggressive behaviour of his teen-aged student. So are many parents and teachers about the lives of the youth lost to violence on the streets.

A new discovery sheds light on our long-extinct cousins

Hyderabad: Fragments of face bones from a species of extinct human previously unknown, dating from between 1.2 million and 1.4 million years ago, were discovered in the caves in the Atapuerca Mountains in Spain during archaeological excavations, which were going on for the last 50 years.

The human traces stretched from the Bronze Age to hundreds of thousands of years into the past — before modern humans like us (Homo sapiens) even existed. These are earliest human remains ever found in Western Europe. Back in 2022, during an annual field season, the team unearthed a series of bone fragments from a cave called Sima del Elefante (Pit of the Elephant).

The fragments are from the left side of the mid-face of an adult human. In 2008, a human jawbone more than 1.1 million years old had been found at the same site. The new fragments were found around two metres deeper than the jawbone, which suggests they are even older. Since the discovery, the team spent more than two years meticulously studying the remains.

The National Education Policy, 2020, encourages students up to at least Class 5 to learn a regional language in addition to the local language or mother tongue and English. While the Central government asserts that the choice of the additional regional language is left to the States, the NEP’s strong pitch for the three-language formula has led to fear, especially in Tamil Nadu, that there is an attempt being made to impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking States. This week, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin dubbed the NEP a “Hindutva policy” aimed at promoting Hindi, rather than focusing on India’s overall development. Is learning Hindi as a third language necessary? Yogendra Yadav and T.M. Krishna discuss the question in a conversation moderated by K.V. Prasad. Edited excerpts:

Should learning a third language be made compulsory?

Yogendra Yadav: Absolutely not. First, because the spirit of federalism and respect for diversity is foundational to the Union of India. So, nothing can be imposed on any State, least of all a language policy. If we have different views on language, they are resolved through consensus, not through imposition. I’m entirely with the DMK and the people of Tamil Nadu on the imposition issue. T.M. Krishna: If I may ask, why learn three languages? To be clear, we are not talking about students learning other languages of their own accord, which is anyway happening. A government that selectively deletes chapters from history textbooks, stating that there is too much of an education burden on students, is not even willing to look at the fact that learning another language is definitely a burden on them. Also, children in primary and middle school don’t have an imagination of time or the distant future. So asking them to learn a third language, in the name of future benefit, is basically an imposition. There is also the argument being made that learning more languages creates unity. This is a smokescreen. Forcing a language on someone is not unity. Yogendra Yadav: Once we disentangle the idea of teaching three languages from Central imposition and the compulsion of Hindi, we can discuss the issue dispassionately. The point about the burden of education is something that experts have handled. They have come to the conclusion that if you teach a third language, it only helps your primary and secondary language, so I believe that the three-language formula merits serious consideration on grounds of pedagogy and national unity. As for practicality, I know of schools which do follow this formula. They do not give you the option of all the 22 languages (recognised in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution), but they give you three or four options to choose from. These things can be worked out provided there is a political will and a capacity to teach anything at all.

If compulsory learning of an additional language will be a burden on students, will it not be equally burdensome on schools, since they will need qualified teachers and funds for this purpose?

T.M. Krishna: More than 5,000 schools in Uttar Pradesh are managed by a single teacher. Bihar has a massive teacher shortage. So, even in terms of resources, this formula does not make sense. When resources are few, it makes more sense to look at the ways in which we can teach primary subjects better. And when the mother tongue is the mode of learning and communication in class, and there is English as well, I don’t believe that adding another language is necessary.

Is it fair to make adoption of the three-language formula a pre-condition for the release of Central funds for schemes?

Yogendra Yadav: Holding back grants is unconstitutional. This is part of a political assault on the autonomy of the Tamil Nadu government, led by the Governor himself. I understand why not just the DMK, but all parties and the people of Tamil Nadu feel slighted. T.M. Krishna: It is unconstitutional, unethical, and devoid of any basis. Some people say, let the people decide whether they want three languages or two. But people did not decide about the three-language policy; individuals in the Union government made this decision.

Why is there so much resistance to an educational policy that stresses on the need to learn an additional language?

Yogendra Yadav: My suspicion is that the resistance does not come from pedagogical concerns. It emanates from distrust with double standards. Frankly, the formula was sabotaged by north India. The expectation was that all the southern and eastern States would learn Hindi, while the Hindi speakers found a shortcut for themselves — they used Sanskrit as a shield so that they would not have to learn a new language. So, in effect, the policy meant that everyone would be forced to learn the mother tongue of Hindi speakers, but they would not have to learn anyone else’s mother tongue. That legitimate unease has clouded the debate on multilingualism in our country. T.M. Krishna: Multilingualism is not just a political problem; it’s pedagogic too. The pedagogical methods have changed. At the primary and middle-school level, activity-based learning and experiential learning should be the focus. There are already two languages at play; that itself is multilingualism. I do not view multilingualism in terms of language alone; it is a way of making people be diverse in feeling and in being. People learn languages when they forge relationships, for instance. We can’t forget



that cultural character and emotional connections make people learn a language. Monolingualism is predominant in many Hindi-speaking States, irrespective of the three-language formula. Yogendra Yadav: The problem is the false sense of pride that many people in north India have developed, especially in Hindi-speaking areas, that somehow Hindi is a more privileged language than any other language. Many people in the north use the term ‘national language’, which is nowhere mentioned in the Constitution. This is what irks the non-Hindi speaker. The Hindi that we know today is a recent and young language, unlike Tamil or Kannada, which are some of the oldest and richest languages in the world.

T.M. Krishna: It is difficult to get data on this, but I would like to know how many schools in north India that profess to teach three languages really do that. Is the policy actually being followed?

Yogendra Yadav: As I said, in most north Indian States, Hindi is taught along with English and Sanskrit. Sanskrit has become a way to bypass the requirement of the third language. So, technically, yes, it is followed. T.M. Krishna: Exactly my point. There is a very important cultural point that needs to be understood about the Tamil people and the Tamil language. Tamil as a language is very distinct from every other Sanskrit-based or Sanskrit-derived language. Fundamentally, it is a very difficult task for a Tamil speaker to even learn Hindi or its cousin languages. In Tamil Nadu, people have learned other languages on their own. The dominant positioning of Sanskrit in the NEP, especially for a Tamil speaker, is intimidating especially when the language is so distinct and different grammatically and structurally. Yogendra Yadav: To position Sanskrit as the sole carrier of our cultural heritage is a serious mistake. Besides, Sanskrit is not being taught to inculcate classical learning, but mainly to sabotage the three-language formula. In effect, Hindi speakers are not learning a new language or script.

What do you propose is the way forward to end the current stand-off?

Yogendra Yadav: Learning three languages, which are distinct from each other, is a good idea to nurture multilingualism that is inherent in our cultures. But this cannot be imposed on anyone. Students should learn a modern Indian language that is distinct from their mother tongue. In the north, it would be “preferably a south Indian language” — exactly what the original formula had mandated and was never implemented. T.M. Krishna: The distinctness is exactly why I feel there should be only two languages. English is already so distinct from whatever language you speak, be it Hindi or Tamil. Therefore, adding another language is not going to help.

Nothing to accelerate its ‘Make in India’ initiatives

New Delhi: Leading consumer electronics brand Nothing said on Friday it will continue to add more workforce in India, as it has always believed in working with the local economy to provide the necessary boost. India will play a pivotal role in the global smartphone industry in the years to come, and Nothing is committed to accelerating its ‘Make in India’ initiatives and boosting domestic production. Nothing’s Co-founder Carl Pei has just announced to hiring of two Chiefs of Staff to run the company in the US and in India. “This is all in line with our larger plan of ensuring India’s key status in the scheme of things,” said Pranay Rao, Head of Marketing, India, Nothing. “We currently have 500 employees in our Chennai factory, of which 95 per cent are women, 800 plus employees in the Noida factory and 80 plus employees on-role across functions.

“As we scale we will continue to add more workforce,” Rao noted. The London-headquartered company just launched the Nothing Phone (3a) series which has been strategically priced keeping Indian consumers in mind. “Starting at Rs 22,999, the Phone (3a) is what we expect will get the general consumers ticking who are looking for good overall performance with a best-in-class camera module,” said Rao. On the other hand, if I talk about the Pro version, “we are hoping that those with inclination towards photography will make the pick considering the introduction of the 50 MP Periscope lens with Sony LYTIA 600 sensor which delivers lossless in-sensor zooming at up to 6x and when boosted with AI clarity-enhancing algorithms.

He adds, “We have access to a larger pool of players, so a lot of new designers take our help to test their games, and players have been responding very well to Indian games,” he says, adding that a particularly interesting game is Chappal vs Cockroach (?999 on amazon.in) by Bengaluru-based startup Nightingame. The rules of the game are simple — the player who hits a cockroach card fastest with a chappal card from their hand wins! The rise in popularity of card games has many catalysts according to Phalgun Polepalli, the founder of Mozaic Games, a Bengaluru-based game-maker. “Card games are affordable and portable, and they are designed to accommodate many players, unlike most board games that max out at four players,” he says. “The Indian market is unique in this sense because while the rest of the world is looking at single-player games, we want games that include bigger and bigger groups.” He adds, “These are designed for quick-play and the rules are simpler to hold attention” he says, adding that manufacturing card games is easier than manufacturing board games. “Card games are cost-effective because the investment is less.

The Teesta dam and the long shadow of climate change



2025, an expert committee constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change recommended a proposal to rebuild the Teesta-3 dam on the Teesta river in Sikkim. In October 2023, a powerful glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) from the South Lhonak lake had decimated the dam and its hydroelectric power generation facility. The waters also carried debris from the dam forward like a fluid battering ram, heightening the damage further downstream. In all, over 100 people were killed while more than 80,000 people in four districts were affected. It became clear later that a moraine on the South Lhonak lake's flank suffered a slope failure, weakening the terminus. The failure also sent rocks tumbling into the lake, generating a strong ripple. The outlet subsequently gave way, with satellite data indicating that around 50 billion litres of water had spilled into the valley. The event also set off multiple landslides about 30 to 40 kilometres downstream. Experts who have since been monitoring the lake also said the moraine has remained unstable. The link with global warming

As global warming and particulate matter — especially black carbon, also known as soot — accelerate the melting of Himalayan glaciers, more runoff is pooling into new lakes or adding to the existing ones. The rate of melting is inversely proportional to the volume, so, as glaciers shrink, they melt faster. A report by the Central Water Commission of last year found that the number of “glacial lakes and other water bodies” in the Himalayan region had become 10.8% more numerous between 2011 and 2024 and that their combined surface area had increased by 33.7% in the same period. The South Lhonak lake itself was formed in the early 1960s and grew to 167 hectares by 2023. Glacial retreat has also been known to destabilise extant geological formations and create new sources of risk. Against this background, the expert committee's decision to recommend the rebuilding of the Teesta-3 dam is worrisome.

As The Hindu has reported, the committee's decision was motivated by the fact that Teesta-3 was “successful” and “commercially viable” and that its power-generating equipment “was largely intact” following the GLOF. Environmental activists and hydrogeology experts alike have expressed misgivings about large hydroelectric power projects in the Himalaya and have questioned the new design's green clearance. Teesta-3 has also been the subject of several public interest litigations asking for it be scrapped: because of its location (in an earthquake- and landslide-prone area); issues in its techno-economic clearance; its non-compliance with a 1996 notification to have Sikkim hold 51% equity; and alleged corruption. According to the committee, Teesta-3 2.0 is to be built with concrete alone rather than concrete and rocks as before; to have a spillway nearly three-times more voluminous; and to have an early-warning system for flooding. The facility's new design is reportedly based on a “worst-case scenario” modelled by the India Meteorological Department, with the “maximum possible rain” in the next century in the region. But one of the hallmarks of climate change is that it is a risk-multiplier. If the slope failure off the South Lhonak lake had

occurred without there being a lake, there is unlikely to have been a flood. Likewise, if the moraine had not collapsed, the gradual accumulation of water may have caused the overtopping to flow into the valley less violently than during a GLOF.

The proliferation of glacial lakes, geological instability, dynamics of transient landscape features, and even the flux of atmospheric soot blowing in from industrial centres in the Gangetic plains all increase risks in a way that cannot reasonably be captured by a rainfall-centric model, however. Experts had already doubted whether the 2023 GLOF was triggered by heavy rain because local weather stations recorded only moderate rainfall or less in the area around the time. Professor Raghu Murtugudde has also written in The Hindu (“The value of attributing extreme events to climate change | Explained”, May 24, 2024) that the relationships between climate change and local rainfall are hard to characterise because the data for modelling is seldom sufficient. In his words, climate models are “notoriously bad at properly capturing normal rainfall and worse at extreme ones”. On January 30, 2025, an international team including experts from the Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, the Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru, the Indo Tibetan Border Police, and the Government of Sikkim published a comprehensive assessment of the GLOF (“The Sikkim flood of October 2023: Drivers, causes and impacts of a multihazard cascade”). Among other things, they wrote: “Prevailing GLOF modeling and assessment approaches insufficiently account for processes of erosion and sediment transport, as well as hillslope-channel interactions such as riverbank collapses and landslides triggered by toe-undercutting as well as the impact of sediment transport on local bed elevations and hence water levels. The latter is of particular importance in large river basins because water waves move faster than sediment waves...”

The commercial viability of Teesta-3, pre-GLOF, speaks to India's soaring power demand and the pressing need to produce it somewhere. But since climate change multiplies risk everywhere, production in specific locales should be weighed against the consequences. Property and livelihoods downstream of Teesta-3 1.0 suffered greater damage due to the dam being in the swelling river's way. If the new design holds, Teesta-3 2.0 may be able to reduce the downstream damage due to a (hypothetically) identical flood. But if a stronger and/or significantly different flood occurs, the damage could be even greater. A new facility with more moving parts will also create both new success and failure modes. The social security of the region's residents will have to be improved accordingly so that, in the event of a disaster, they are able to piece their lives back together without slipping on any social, health, and/or economic indicators. Brian Stone, Jr., a professor in the School of City and Regional Planning at the Georgia Institute of Technology, U.S., wrote in a 2024 article (“The lunacy of rebuilding in disaster-prone areas”), “We cannot engineer our way out of climate change; retreat is inevitable.” That is, if the climate-change-induced risk to X in an area is to be kept constant, in time either the area will shrink or the costs of maintaining X will increase. X could be property, livelihoods, even human lives.

That the facility was commercially viable is an insufficient excuse to restore it. Instead, the decision should be made within a framework of priorities led by the need to minimise risk to locals, their property, and their livelihoods and maximise their socio-economic resilience. The framework should also include a risk determination matrix with a response plan and a hard ‘unacceptable risk’ level. The cost of these measures should be included in the dam's hydroelectric power tariff rather than externalising it in the determination of commercial viability. Anything else would be unsustainable by definition.

Addressing the growing threat of forest fires

As wildfires swept throughout Los Angeles last month, destroying homes and causing casualties and displacements, the urgency of addressing and preventing forest fires took centre stage once again. Unfortunately, forest fires become a point of conversation only when some major incident causes irrevocable damage and captures media and public attention. The fires are a stark reminder that no place is immune from their impacts and that we need a clear pathway to prevent and manage them as their frequency increases. In India, the situation is equally alarming. According to the Forest Survey of India, more than 36% of the country's forest cover is prone to fire. An analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water states that there has been a 10-fold increase in forest fire incidences in the last two decades, whereas the total forest cover has increased by merely 1.12%.

Living on the fringes of the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand, I see the immense value of India's forests, not just as critical enablers of wildlife conservation and sources of biodiversity, but as lifelines for local communities that live around them. While Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh often capture headlines for forest fires, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Karnataka, among others, are also grappling with the frequency and intensity of forest fires. According to various reports, nearly 90% of these fires are caused by human activities such as deliberate land clearing, slash-and-burn agriculture, and unattended campfires. These factors, coupled with climate change-driven factors such as rising temperatures and extended dry spells, intensify the risk of forest fires. Forest fires have widespread consequences — natural, social, and economic — that are all interconnected. Besides the direct loss of trees, wildlife, and biodiversity, they contribute significantly to carbon emissions. A report by the World Resources Institute estimates that Indian forest fires emit approximately 69 million tonnes of CO2 annually. Forest fires result in the loss of timber and non-timber forest products, essential for forest-dependent communities, contributing to direct economic losses. A 2018 report by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change estimated that forest degradation (including forest fires) results in an annual economic loss of approximately ₹1.74 lakh crore. Forest fires also disrupt the water cycle, cause soil fertility degradation, and worsen human-wildlife conflict as animals seek refuge in human settlements. India has put in place several policies and schemes to address forest fire management, such as the National Action Plan on Forest Fires and the Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FFPMS). The centrally sponsored FFPMS assists State governments in strengthening their forest fire prevention and management capabilities.

A more robust responseHowever, given the growing intensity of forest fires in India, much more remains to be done. First, Budget constraints have proven to be an obstacle. For example, the FFPMS's funding allotment has



fluctuated over time. In 2019-2020, it received ₹46.40 crore, followed by ₹32.47 crore in 2020-2021, ₹34.26 crore in 2021-2022, and ₹28.25 crore in 2022-2023. The budget projection for 2023-2024 was ₹51 crore, which was revised to ₹40 crore. The planned allocation for 2024-2025 is ₹50 crore. This shows the need for more steady support. On the technology front, the existing Forest Fire Alert System cannot distinguish between forest fires and other types of fires, delaying ground-level validation and response. India could use advanced predictive modelling to help identify high-risk areas based on climatic and geographic data. This must be supplemented by using drones equipped with thermal imaging cameras to monitor fire-prone areas, assess damage, and guide firefighting efforts. States such as Tamil Nadu and Odisha have already piloted such initiatives, which could be scaled nationally. In addition, there is merit in also exploring how relevant and existing data from the Forest Survey of India, the India Meteorological Department, and the Indian Space Research Organisation can be integrated and analysed for better forest fire management.

Equipping more and more local communities to collect and share real-time data to report fires as soon as they are sighted through mobile applications, toll-free helplines, and SMS-based systems can strengthen early warning systems and ensure rapid, localised response. In Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, self-help groups, primarily women, collect pine needles to blunt future fires. India can also draw from Nepal's Community Forest User Groups and Indonesia's Fire-Free Village Program to strengthen community forest fire management. Empowering communities with awareness, training, and resources and engaging youth as ‘forest fire scouts’ can foster stewardship, combining local knowledge with modern tools like fire risk mapping and controlled burns. Forest fires are not just an environmental issue — they are societal and economic, affecting livelihoods, health, and the foundation of our ecosystems. Addressing this challenge requires the collaboration of policymakers, scientists, civil society groups, and communities. From creating supporting infrastructure through policy intervention, improved budgeting, technology adoption, and building a cadre of trained personnel to empowering communities — all measures must go hand-in-hand to turn the tide.

Bandipur authorities intensify awareness drives in villages surrounding the tiger reserve to prevent forest fires



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Bandipur is rich in wildlife, including tigers and elephants, and fire prevention measures are taken seriously to protect the habitat. Bandipur is rich in wildlife, including tigers and elephants, and fire prevention measures are taken seriously to protect the habitat. | Photo Credit: M.A. SRIRAMA

So far, 65 awareness camps and drives have been conducted in a bid to curb the outbreak of fires, which are a major concern in Bandipur during the dry season. The tiger reserve has a history of devastating fires that have previously ravaged vast stretches of forest. S. Prabhakaran, director of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, told The Hindu that the awareness drive will continue until nearly all the hamlets and villages bordering the forests are covered. “This is a proactive measure to build goodwill and gain the trust of the local community in protecting the fragile ecosystem, which is highly vulnerable to fire,” he said. The importance of this initiative stems from the need to enlist local cooperation in the early detection of fires. Also, fire prevention is most effective when the community is involved and feels a sense

The two sides of the rising phenomenon of internet-based self-diagnosis of mental health disorders

People in general are more aware now in terms of both physical and mental health due to the widespread dissemination of information on the internet, say doctors. People in general are more aware now in terms of both physical and mental health due to the widespread dissemination of information on the internet, say doctors. | Photo Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto

Both psychologists and psychiatrists in Bengaluru say they have noticed an increase in the number of patients who walk into their clinics with such diagnoses. Anxiety, depression and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are some commonly self-diagnoses in such patients. “We see many young adults, specifically in their 20s or early 30s, coming in with information they have derived from social media. For instance, they say things like, “I procrastinate, so I have ADHD. Medical terms are very loosely used on the internet and people see these broad, vague, non-specific criteria and diagnose themselves,” said Arohi Vardhan Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at Cadabams Hospitals. In a country like India, where speaking about, or seeking help for mental health issues has been taboo and stigmatised for a long time, doctors believe that celebrities coming out and speaking about their mental health issues has led to greater awareness and openness, and may have led to more people trying to identify their own issues. “People, in general, are more aware now in terms of both physical and mental health due to the widespread dissemination of information on the internet. One in five persons usually suffers from either anxiety or depression and while these problems existed in society for a long time, there was a lot of stigma around it. It is evident in literature that when there is more awareness in the community, people reach out for help more and that leads to better outcomes,” says Senthil Reddi, professor of psychiatry at NIMHANS. He added, “A lot of famous people have spoken about their disorders, including learning disabilities and this has been helpful in starting a conversation around mental health. The fact that people are coming in and seeking help is a good thing, as there have been some changes even in the classification of diseases recently. It has been recognised that there is



an overlap of disorders and when it comes to ADHD, autism and similar diseases, it is difficult to compartmentalise, and it is important to identify those who are struggling across the spectrum and not just the ones struggling with severe symptoms.”

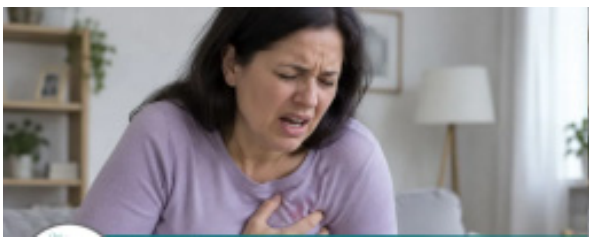
While being largely appreciative of the fact that people are seeking help, doctors have also noticed that a chunk of such patients tend to convince themselves that they have a specific disorder or that medicines have side effects. This sometimes leads to the development of the infamous ‘Internet Derived Information Obstructing Treatment (IDIOT) syndrome, doctors have observed. “While patients may have some features of a disorder, it should be decided by a professional as to whether they actually have that disorder. But some patients decide that they have a specific disorder and seek specific treatment. It is very difficult to convince them that their symptoms indicate a different disorder. We usually evaluate them in the first few sessions and then tell them what the core disorder is. Then, most people are very understanding,” Dr. Vardhan said. Similar issues were also flagged by Shashidhar Bilagi, a practising psychiatrist in Bengaluru. “Most people seek information on the internet and just go to a therapist. However, for severe disorders, it is very important to consult psychiatrists. When it comes to medicines especially, there is a lot of misconception and wrong information on the internet about side effects. Patients refuse to take these medicines and suffer from severe disorders. To reduce the stigma, they go on the internet, but fail to seek the right kind of treatment. It is important that patients do not rely on the internet for help,” he said.

Why mainframe education is key to thriving in Hybrid IT

As we navigate the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in IT, mainframe technology remains critical. Once viewed as legacy systems, mainframes now play a vital role in Hybrid IT environments, supporting essential applications across sectors such as banking, healthcare, and government. However, for mainframes to remain competitive, we must bridge a notable skills gap, one that is compounded by rapid digital transformation and evolving industry needs. To meet the demands of Hybrid IT, an enhanced focus on mainframe education is essential. Here is why fostering specialised skills and encouraging advanced educational initiatives is critical to thrive in this field. As AI enhances mainframe capabilities, traditional mainframe expertise and advanced AI-driven skills are required. This new skill set encompasses machine learning, data analysis, cybersecurity, and generative AI integration and requires an interdisciplinary approach where mainframe experts not only handle legacy systems but also manage and optimise AI-powered processes, using tools to modernise applications for the cloud. To address this, mainframe education must expand beyond foundational knowledge to include training in AI integrations, Hybrid IT architecture, and secure coding practices. Universities and technical institutes play a crucial role in preparing students for a career in mainframe technology. While traditional programming and IT management remain important, there is a growing need for partnerships with tech organisations to introduce advanced mainframe courses. Collaborative programmes such as IBM's Academic Initiative offer hands-on experience and tailored certifications for students to acquire theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Moreover, institutions could enhance curriculums by including industry-led workshops, simula-

tions, and real-world case studies. In doing so, they equip students with applied skills in areas such as mainframe application modernisation and Hybrid IT integration, bridging the gap between academia and industry expectations. Technology has redefined educational delivery methods. Virtual labs, interactive simulations, and AI-driven tutoring platforms are reshaping how students engage with mainframe technologies. Online certification programmes such as those offered by IBM, Coursera, Interskills and BMC make it easier to gain credentials in specialised areas such as mainframe administration and AI-powered system management. Additionally, advanced learning platforms incorporate gamification to make learning more engaging, especially for complex topics such as mainframe security and hybrid cloud management. Digital tools also facilitate remote internships and mentoring programmes. For example, BMC Software's DevOps initiatives integrate mainframe training into development processes, enabling students to practice real-world mainframe applications and collaborate on virtual projects with industry experts. By harnessing these technologies, students and professionals can acquire skills that are practical and directly applicable in today's IT environments. Certifications are increasingly recognised as a valuable means to stay competitive in the mainframe space. Popular certifications such as IBM's z/OS Mainframe Practitioner Professional Certificate focus on foundational skills, while advanced certifications in AI integration, cloud computing, and cybersecurity are now also available. BMC's AMI for Security certification, for instance, is gaining popularity as companies prioritise secure, AI-enhanced mainframe operations to safeguard sensitive data.

At 42, she had a heart attack at work though she was fit and a non-smoker: What hidden condition caused it?



Unlike a conventional heart attack, which is usually caused by a cholesterol plaque rupturing and forming a clot, SCAD occurs when a tear or separation develops within the wall of a coronary artery. (Photo/AI-generated) Unlike a conventional heart attack, which is usually caused by a cholesterol plaque rupturing and forming a clot, SCAD occurs when a tear or separation develops within the wall of a coronary artery. (Photo/AI-generated)

She was 42 and walked into our hospital with chest discomfort and collapsed almost instantaneously. She seemed fit enough, was one of the most productive professionals at work, had betrayed no signs of illness, was cheerful during the day and felt uneasy and dizzy on the stairwell on her way out of the office. She had no family history, no known conditions or risk factors, and was a non-smoker. Most importantly, she was in the reproductive age, when every woman gets benefits of estrogen which protects the heart. What went wrong then? Such cases are no longer rare and over the course of the last decade, I am seeing more and more women in their 30s and 40s presenting with heart attacks and other acute coronary syndromes. The American Heart Association's 2026 scientific statement on acute coronary syndromes in premenopausal women highlights this as an under-recognised problem and points to both conventional and non-atherosclerotic causes of heart attacks in younger women.

A different cause of heart attack in younger women

One condition that is triggering heart attacks in younger women is spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD). Unlike a conventional heart attack, which is usually caused by a cholesterol plaque rupturing and forming a clot, SCAD occurs when a tear or separation develops within the wall of a coronary artery. Blood can enter the artery wall, separating its layers and narrowing or blocking the channel through which blood reaches the heart muscle. This can cause a heart attack and, in severe cases, trigger dangerous heart rhythms that can lead to cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac death. SCAD disproportionately affects women and

Anna University student dies after 4 days of fever: What's scrub typhus about?

Anna University student dies of scrub typhus after 4 days of fever: Warning signs to know The student, who was staying in a campus hostel, developed high fever and was admitted to a government hospital after about four days of illness. He death of a 20-year-old Anna University student from scrub typhus has brought attention to an infection that can begin with what appears to be an ordinary fever but, in some patients, can progress rapidly and impact several organs. The student, who was staying in a campus hostel, developed high fever and was admitted to a government hospital after about four days of illness. He was subsequently referred to Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, where doctors reported that he arrived with altered sensorium, characterised by disorientation, confusion, incoherent speech and drowsiness. He tested negative for dengue but positive for scrub typhus. According to the hospital, complications included respiratory distress and multi-organ failure, and he died soon afterwards. The case is particularly important because scrub typhus is one of several infections that can initially present simply as acute fever. Its symptoms can overlap with dengue, malaria, leptospirosis and other infections that are common or seasonally prominent in India. So the bigger question is how easily can scrub typhus be missed, and what should a timely assessment look like? "Scrub typhus is treatable if diagnosed early but complications can become serious. A doctor assessing someone with unexplained fever may need to consider questions such as have the symptoms deteriorated, is the patient getting better or deteriorating? Have they spent time around grass, bushes or other vegetation? Is scrub typhus circulating in the area? Are there laboratory abnormalities or developing symptoms suggesting involvement of other organs? The diagnosis is not based on one symptom alone," Dr Jatin Ahuja, Consultant, Infectious Disease, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi told The Indian Express.



The central bank's move was part of a broader package announced in June to encourage foreign capital inflows and ease pressure on rupee. The RBI had also relaxed rules to facilitate overseas borrowing by state-owned enterprises, while other measures were announced to encourage foreign investment in Indian debt markets. The surge in inflows has strengthened the external-financing cushion available to the Indian banking system. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra had said in August that the robust flows further fortified India's external position, while maintaining that the central bank does not target any particular exchange rate for the rupee. The latest data underline the unprecedented scale of RBI's 2026 forex mobilisation exercise, with the three windows together drawing nearly \$144 billion of foreign currency inflows by September 18. Given the swap arrangement, these inflows will add to an already abundant rupee liquidity backdrop, which was at a four-year high this month, depressing overnight rates. While organic drivers such as tax-related outflows, and seasonal currency leakage, in addition to CAD (1.1% of GDP), portfolio outflows and maturity of the forwards book will act as counter-balancing factors, yet concerted steps will be required to drain the potential surge in liquidity, said an analyst.

cally be treated for scrub typhus. It means that where the clinical picture is compatible and suspicion is sufficiently high, the possibility of waiting too long for confirmation has to be weighed against the risk of progression.

When does scrub typhus become dangerous?ICMR guidance specifically identifies Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), acute renal failure, meningo-encephalitis and multi-organ dysfunction as complications warranting referral to a secondary or tertiary centre. For that reason, a patient with fever who develops breathing difficulty, confusion or altered consciousness, falling blood pressure, reduced urine output, severe weakness or other evidence of organ dysfunction needs urgent reassessment and escalation of care.

Who should doctors think about when considering scrub typhus?

Anyone living in or travelling through an area where scrub typhus occurs can potentially become infected. People who spend time around vegetation, grass, bushes or other mite habitats may have greater exposure, including agricultural workers, gardeners, forestry workers and people undertaking outdoor activities.

Google faces \$463 million GDPR fine over location data breaches

Dublin: Google has been fined 403 million euros (USD 463 million) for breaching the European Union's strict privacy rules because it mishandled users' location data, the bloc's data privacy watchdog said Monday. Ireland's Data Protection Commission said its investigation found Google did not lawfully or fairly process location data in users' Web & App Activity, a Google setting that tracks browsing and search history, and in their Location History, a service that maps places they've been with their mobile phones.

Regulators also found the company failed to be lawful, fair and transparent when it processed personal data in its Location Accuracy feature in the Android mobile operating system. Ireland is the lead regulator for Google in the 27-nation EU because the US tech giant's European headquarters is based in Dublin.

The investigation, which opened six years ago, examined how Google applied the EU privacy rule book, known as the General Data Protection Regulation, from the time it took effect in 2018 until February 2020. "This case centres around historical policies that have since been updated," Google said in a statement. "From 2019 onwards, we've significantly evolved our practices and launched robust tools that make managing location data simple."

Regulators said that location data is a type of personal data that's collected by Google and can be used to infer someone's location. "Location data can bring both benefits and harms to individuals," Deputy Commissioner Graham Doyle said. "It can greatly enhance the utility of online services, but it can also reveal a significant amount of information about an individual, including information that is inherently private." It's the fourth biggest EU privacy fine issued by the Irish watchdog, which has previously handed out bigger fines to TikTok and Meta, including a 1.2 billion euro fine for Meta. The regulator said it still has three other ongoing privacy investigations involving Google.

for agriculture and mining and quarrying sectors. For the others, input and output values were 'deflated' by the same number, with the Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index being used. This can be problematic when input and output prices change at different rates. As such, double deflation more accurately measures how much value each sector creates, thus resulting in better estimates of real GDP and real growth. While MoSPI moved to double deflation at the time of the new GDP series' release in February, the numbers released at the end of August made another transition with the use of the output Producer Price Index (PPI) for double deflation. "The transition to double deflation marks a major step forward in capturing true economic growth, aligning with global standards and modern statistical practices," the MoSPI report said. The publication of the 'Sources and Methods for Compilation of National Accounts Statistics' document comes seven months after the release of the new GDP series with 2022-23 as the base year. This, MoSPI said, is the shortest time it has ever taken to release the full document. Previously, the full document has taken up to three years to be released after the publication of a new GDP series. The document brings together the concepts, definitions, data sources, methodologies, and compilation practices used in the new GDP series. It does not contain new data and brings together the recommendations of three reports of sub-committees of the Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics. These reports – on methodological improvement for the base revision of GDP, constant price estimates', and incorporation of new data sources, rates and ratios – were published back in February.

Washington Sundar keen to experience cricket's growth in Japan



Sano (Japan): Impressed by Japan's advanced technology and pristine surroundings, India's off-spin bowling all-rounder Washington Sundar on Monday said the team was excited to be part of the historic one-off men's T20I against the hosts at Sano, despite its primary focus being on winning gold at the upcoming Asian Games. "I mean, it's beautiful. I feel the technology is so much more advanced than most of the countries I've been to. It's just a beautiful place to be and for us to be also playing cricket over here, we're all really looking forward and we've got two sort of big series or big tournaments coming up. Obviously, the one against Japan, we're all looking forward," Sundar told reporters on the eve of Tuesday's one-off clash. The match, scheduled to be played on Tuesday, is under the threat of Typhoon Dujuan. "I think India is playing Japan for the first time ever and for all of us to be a part of such a historical game and an event, we're really grateful. Obviously, the Asian Games as well, and we're going to prepare in Tokyo. So, all of us are really sort of excited to experience all of the facilities and be really ready whenever the Asian Games come," he said. Admitting that he knew little about the opposition lineup, Sundar expressed his eagerness to interact with the local players and understand the growth of cricket in Japan. "Honestly, I haven't seen most of the players, but really looking forward to play a good game against them and obviously have a bit of interaction with them and understand what they think about cricket in Japan. Obviously, it'll be lovely to see them travel across the world and play some high-quality cricket. But yes, tomorrow is going to be a big day for all of us and all of us are excited," he said. With cricket included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, Sundar high-

lighted the unique excitement of competing at multi-sporting events, recalling his previous appearance at the Asian Games. "Very much. Obviously, I was lucky enough to be part of the Asian Games last year in China as well and yes, all of us are looking forward to Olympics as well. "It's a big stage and there will be a few more countries who play cricket really well, and compete in that tournament and yes, if we can win the gold medal in Olympics, it will be a massive blessing," he said. Outlining the squad's core objective on the Japan trip, Sundar said India, the current T20 World Cup holders, remained focused on winning the gold medal at the Asian Games.

"To obviously win the gold medal and can play to our strength and potential here. We've always been unstoppable and we've been extremely strong, especially in this format. So, we're just looking forward to prepare over here in Tokyo and be really prepared by the time we go to Asian Games and have a great set of games over there and eventually win the gold medal." Reflecting on his initial impressions of Japan, Sundar praised the country's infrastructure, cleanliness and overall atmosphere. "I mean, some of my friends have already come over here and they've always told me that when you experience Japan, you can expect it to be at least 10-15 years ahead of time and yes, I mean, we've not had much time to go out yet but it just looks really beautiful. "The facilities are amazing, especially this hotel and around the hotel, everything is so clean. So, obviously, looking forward to play a lot of games here and understand the conditions, what the conditions are like here and have a great experience in Japan. "Obviously, playing a big tournament like Asian Games, it's just a great blessing for all of us to be here and if we could play some good cricket and win the gold medal as well, I think we would all carry all the memories through this tour and obviously the gold medal for a very, very long time. "Off the field, the Chennai-based Sundar said he was eager to explore Japanese cuisine and try local delicacies. "To be honest, I'm a massive fan of Japanese food. So, I'm definitely looking forward to try a lot of Japanese delicacies and just go to different Japanese restaurants and more authentic restaurants and understand what it's like over here. "Obviously, it will be more local and it will be more authentic over here and just try and go to a few restaurants and have a great experience of having good meals from Japanese restaurants," he concluded.

Suchika settles for MMA bronze after semifinal draw and weight-rule decision

Nagoya: Suchika Tariyal's historic Asian Games MMA campaign ended with a bronze medal after a controversial semifinal defeat, with coach Nikhil Kunder explaining that the result was ultimately decided by the lower-weight contestant rule after arbitration declared the bout a draw. Suchika was initially awarded a defeat against Singapore's Hui Hoon Teo, prompting the Indian camp to lodge a protest against the decision. Following the protest, the bout went into arbitration, where three new judges reviewed and rescored the contest. Kunder said the re-evaluation did not produce a winner, leaving the bout tied and bringing the weight criterion into play.

"We were confident that Suchika had won the fight. According to the rule, when arbitration happens, we select three judges. Those three judges get a chance to score the bout again. After they scored the bout again, it was declared a draw," Kunder said. He explained that once the bout was declared a draw, Singapore had the option of either pursuing counter-arbitration or relying on the weight criterion under the rules of the Asian Mixed Martial Arts Association (AMMA).

"Now when it's a draw, the opposition team, Singapore here, has an option. They can either counter-arbitrate or they can go with the weight criteria. These are AMMA (Asian Mixed Martial Arts Association) rules. This is in accordance with the rules of the AMMA Federation. "Singapore chose not to pursue counter-arbitration and instead went with the



lesser-weighted contestant. Unfortunately, Suchika was 700 grams heavier than her. And on those grounds, this match has been awarded to her opponent," he added. Kunder maintained that the weight-based outcome did not reflect his assessment of Suchika's performance during the fight. "But if you look at the technicalities and scoring of the fight, Suchika won." Despite the semifinal result, Suchika secured India's first-ever Asian Games medal in MMA. The 36-year-old, who has competed in judo, kurash and fighting jiu-jitsu, had earlier defeated Mongolia's Altanchimeg Baigalma 2-0 in the quarterfinals to book her place in the last four. MMA is among the sports making their Asian Games debut at Aichi-Nagoya, making Suchika's bronze a landmark result for Indian combat sports.

Cricket expanding into uncharted territories, says Shreyas Iyer ahead of Japan T20I



GNS News Agency, Sept 23

Tokyo: India playing a bilateral T20 in Japan shows cricket has been successful in expanding into uncharted territories, said their skipper Shreyas Iyer on Monday ahead of the historic game against the host nation. India will play Japan in Sano for the first international fixture between the two nations, launching the celebration for 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two Asian countries. India arrived here on Sunday ahead of Tuesday's game before heading to Nagoya for the Asia Games. It is unusual for Indian cricketers to visit a country like Japan where cricket remains on the margins. "No, I never thought about it, but yes, I mean, cricket is picking up in every country now, and all the teams are becoming dominant in their own ways, so I'm sure this will be an exciting match as well tomorrow," said Iyer. Incessant rain meant India had to cancel their training session before the game. The match will be held in Sano, roughly 100 kms from Tokyo. "It's beautiful. The time we landed, we saw the people, very cordial, generous, and helpful in nature, which we see it back at home as well. The hospitality is brilliant," said Iyer talking about his first impressions of Japan. "It's too early to talk about it (only been a day), but I've heard special things from people about Japan as a country and Tokyo as a city as well, so looking forward to explore more." Iyer and the players are looking forward to the on field action weather permitting. "Yes, it is going to be a thrilling and exciting match for us. This is the first time we will be playing Japan, and I don't know much about the conditions, the wicket, but looking forward to have a great match. "I saw a little bit of reels going here and there, but yes, we will be doing our studies and knowing about the players more, and super excited for the game tomorrow. Hopefully it doesn't rain, and all the viewers and the specta-

tors who will be coming to the stadium will get a nice competitive game," said Iyer. It has been a "different" experience for Iyer and the players thus far in a country known for its natural beauty and remarkable efficiency. "Yes, definitely it's completely different from what we've been used to doing in terms of going to Australia, England, New Zealand. "It's our very first time, and the culture and the people are very different in terms of how they are in terms of discipline. I'm someone who loves to embrace new culture and get used to the vibe and the accommodation as quickly as possible, so this is a new challenge for us," said the captain. The 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi inevitably was mentioned in the media interaction when the questions moved to the success of the IPL. "I feel that it's a great platform for them to showcase their talent. Recently there is a youngster in our team, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, he came up the ranks through IPL and that's basically a solid platform for everyone who is seeking to showcase their talent and come up the ranks. "I feel that it's also a great platform to come into the Indian team because whenever you perform in the IPL, the eyes are always on you and you get recognized pretty quick," he added.

Akshaj's five-wicket haul helps St Andrews HS beat Khammam District I

Hyderabad: Fine spell by G. Akshaj (five for 22) helped St. Andrews High School (Bowenpally) record a 51-run win over Khammam District I in the HCA Inter-schools and Colleges (Under-16) one-day cricket tournament here. Bengal Under-23 men's team tour to Hyderabad: Hyderabad 127/9 in 20 overs (Alankrit Rapole 42) lost to Bengal 128/3 in 12.3 overs (Sanjay Balmiki 45, Salman Ahmed 44). C-Division one-day league: HPS Begumpet 233 in 41.4 overs (Srivats Viswanath 69, M Srikar Avaneesh 3/35, Paarth Soni 3/34) bt HPS Ramanthapur 182 in 37.1 overs (Paarth Soni 56, Tanay Bhandari 4/39). Greenlands 48/5 in 14.5 overs vs Secunderabad Club — washed out. St. Patrick's 55/4 in 19.5 overs vs RJCC — washed out. Kishoresone 244 in 42.3 overs (Armaan Youusuf 46, Ali Salam 71, C Aryan 4/28) bt PPMCC 139 in 36.5 overs (Putta Ravi 40, Abhishek Madhav 4/20).

Asian Games 2026: Srihari Natraj clocks 25.52s to finish 10th



Tokyo: India's Olympic swimmer Srihari Natraj finished 10th in the men's 50m backstroke final at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre here on Monday. Natraj was up against a strong field of Chinese and other Asian swimmers and clocked 25.52 seconds to finish 10th in the final, as China's Xu Jiayu won the gold with a Games record of 24.04 seconds. Natraj started well and stayed with the lead pack but fell behind in the second half of the 50m and finished nearly 1.5 seconds behind gold medallist Jiayu. It was a double podium finish for China, as Wang Zicheng finished second in 24.49 seconds to take silver, while South Korea's Jihwan Yoon bagged the bronze in 24.54 seconds.

Natraj had earlier finished joint ninth overall in the heats with a time of 25.37 seconds, qualifying for the final. An-

other Indian, Rishabh Das, clocked 25.41 seconds to finish 10th and failed to make the cut for the final after being the first reserve for the medal clash. Elsewhere, India's Akash Mani and Heer Gitesh Shah failed to advance to the men's 50m freestyle final, finishing 26th and 28th overall, respectively. Akash clocked 23.43 seconds, while Heer Gitesh Shah finished in 23.57 seconds in the heats. In the men's 100m breaststroke heats, India's Danush Suresh finished 22nd overall with a time of 1:03.46 and failed to qualify for the final. In the men's 4x200m freestyle relay, the Indian team of Dhakshan Shashikumar, Sajjan Prakash, Aneesh Sunil and Vedaant Mahadevan failed to make the final and have been placed as first reserves. India is represented in 14 individual events, as well as the men's 4x100m freestyle, 4x200m freestyle and 4x100m medley relays, at the Asian Games.

Srihari and Sajjan are among the most experienced Indian swimmers in the squad. Srihari represented India at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympics, while Sajjan swam at the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Olympics. India have not fielded any women swimmers at the Asian Games 2026, as was the case at the Commonwealth Games. India are looking to end a 12-year wait for an Asian Games swimming medal in Japan. Sandeep Sejwal was the last Indian swimmer to make the continental podium, winning bronze in the 50m breaststroke at Incheon 2014. Indian swimmers returned from Hangzhou 2023 without a medal despite setting six national records.

India begins Asian Games kabaddi title defence with 49-24 win over Japan

Hyderabad: India began the defence of their men's kabaddi title at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya with a commanding 49-24 win over hosts Japan in their opening Group A fixture at the Tokai Citizens Gymnasium on Monday morning. Under captain Sunil Kumar, India asserted authority from the opening whistle, with Ashu Malik's three-point Super Raid setting the tone early. He was ably supported by PKL star raiders Arjun Deshwal, Devank Dalal and Ayan Lohchab as the Indian team mounted the pressure. The Indians kept the Japanese raiding unit in check throughout the first half, inflicting three All-Outs for six points in addition to racking up 24 out points of their own.

Japan struggled to generate any sustained momentum against India's defensive combinations, managing just five touch points and leaning on four bonus points to stay on the scoreboard. By the break, India held an unassailable 22-point lead at 31-9. Japan regrouped after the interval, playing with sharper tactical discipline. Backed by calculated bonus-line hunting and quick hand touches, they pushed India into a tighter 18-15 second half, holding India to just 12 points after the break. But the Indian defence refused to let the contest slip, inflicting a fourth All-Out and showing clutch



awareness with a timely Super Tackle while down on numbers to snuff out any hope of a comeback. India's offence had already done the bulk of the damage early, with direct dismissals accounting for 36 of their 49 points, against a Japanese attack that drew more than a third of its total from the bonus line. The result gives India a winning start to their title defence, with the men's team looking to extend a run that has yielded eight golds from the last nine editions of the Games.

Historic Suzuki Cup to kick off 75th anniversary celebrations

Hyderabad: The Suzuki Cup marks the launch of celebrations for the 75th anniversary of India-Japan Diplomatic Relations, with the world champions set to light up Tokyo in a milestone one-off T20I. Tokyo is set to be a witness to history as India and Japan prepare to face each other in a historic first-ever men's T20 International in the Suzuki Cup, bringing together two nations for a landmark cricketing occasion. The contest at the Sano International Cricket Ground in Tochigi Prefecture on Tuesday, September 22, will also mark the launch of celebrations for the 75th anniversary of India-Japan Diplomatic Relations. With the action getting underway early in India at 9:30 AM, fans can catch the historic encounter live on Star Sports Network.

The occasion will see the World T20 champions, fresh off recent series wins, take centre stage in Japan as they build up to a blockbuster home season. The contest will be a massive opportunity for Japan and its players as they share the field with one of the top T20 sides in the world, while the Men in Blue gets a chance to showcase its talent in a different part of the world as it looks to continue its splendid form. Tokyo will see some of India's top stars, including Captain Shreyas Iyer, Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson, Jasprit Bumrah and Ishan Kishan, among others, with the Japanese players set to face a full-strength Indian side.

Beyond the contest itself, the Suzuki Cup will shine a spotlight on the growing footprint of cricket in Japan and the role of sport in strengthening ties between the two countries. The match will serve as the first step of "Sport 75", an initiative aimed at promoting human exchanges and coop-



eration between India and Japan, making the occasion part of a wider celebration of the relationship between the two nations. With a first-ever India-Japan T20I, the reigning world champions in action and the 75th anniversary celebrations adding to the occasion, the Suzuki Cup promises to be a watershed moment in the cricketing relationship between India and Japan and the sport in general.

Which sport has won India the most medals?

Across the previous 19 editions, India have won 778 medals across disciplines at the Asian Games. (Express Archive/File Photo) Across the previous 19 editions, India have won 778 medals across disciplines at the Asian Games. (Express Archive/File Photo) India's bid to raise their legacy at the Asian Games will officially be underway in the 20th edition of the continental event, starting Saturday in Aichi-Nagoya in Japan. Over the past 19 editions, India have amassed a haul of 778 medals, ranking them fifth on the all-time leaderboard. India have named a contingent comprising 503 athletes for the Games this time in the hope of raising the bar set at the 2023 edition of the Games in Hangzhou. India put on their best-ever showing then, bagging 106 medals with a record 28 gold medals and finishing fourth in the standings. Here's a look at India's best-performing sporting events at the Asian Games India's sport-wise presence suggests certain strong zones, with athletics emerging as a contributor to their success over the years.

Nearly 37 per cent of India's total medals in Asian Games history have come from Athletics. The track and field events have garnered India 283 medals of which 85 are gold, 102 silver and 96 bronze medals. PT Usha holds the record for the most medals won by an Indian at the Asian Games, with 11 athletics medals across four editions between 1982 and 1994. Usha, the current Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president, won four gold and seven silver medals. All four of her golds came at the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, where she triumphed in the 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles and 4x400m relay. She also won silver in the 100m at those Games. Behind athletics, shooting has won India 80 medals since the 1962 Jakarta Games, including



16 gold medals. Wrestling and Kabaddi rank a joint-third for 11 gold medal wins each, with the former contributing 80 medals in total.

CSK MD Viswanathan confirms Dhoni's role in Zaheer's appointment

New Delhi: Legendary former India captain MS Dhoni was actively involved in the decision to appoint former India pacer Zaheer Khan as the new head coach of Chennai Super Kings (CSK), franchise managing director Kasi Viswanathan said on Monday. Five-time champions CSK on Monday named 47-year-old Zaheer as their head coach for IPL 2027, filling the high-profile vacancy left by former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, who parted ways with the franchise after an 18-year association.

As Bethlehem Kudumba Unit earns Rs 321 cr, co-producer Fahadh Faasil decodes its success



As Nivin Pauly's Bethlehem Kudumba Unit nears the Rs 325 crore mark, co-producer Fahadh Faasil explains why the film resonated with audiences. Fahadh Faasil breaks down the secret behind Bethlehem Kudumba Unit's historic run. (Credit: Facebook/ @NivinPauly, Youtube/RedGiantMovies) Despite completing a month in theatres and becoming the highest-grossing Malayalam film of all time, director Girish AD's Bethlehem Kudumba Unit, starring Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju, shows no signs of slowing down. In fact, it is still minting more than Rs 1 crore even on weekdays. The romantic comedy is now eyeing surpassing the lifetime theatrical collection of director H Vinoth's Jana Nayagan, which marked Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay's final film as an actor. Memories of Blunder | Wile E Coyote meets Rajinikanth: How KS Ravikumar's Lingaa became an unintentional comedy Fahadh Faasil on Bethlehem Kudumba Unit's historic success

Meanwhile, actor Fahadh Faasil, who co-produced Bethlehem Kudumba Unit with Dileesh Pothan and Syam Pushkaran under their Bhavana Studios banner, reacted to the movie's blockbuster success. Weighing in on what drove the romantic comedy's triumph, he told Variety India, "I believe good and fresh content will always work." Fahadh Faasil continued, "All credit goes to the entire team, especially director Girish AD and Nivin Pauly. What a wonderful, honest script — the age-gap romance, the packaging, the humour... everything landed perfectly. And we got the perfect release date during the Onam holidays." "As a producer, I'm glad to see that Bethlehem Kudumba Unit worked big-time with audiences and that it is our biggest hit so far. At Bhavana Studios, we believe in choosing meaningful stories, supporting fresh ideas and giving the product the correct platform," he added.

Bethlehem Kudumba Unit box office collection The Nivin Pauly-starrer has thus far grossed Rs 321.42 crore globally, just behind Jana Nayagan's Rs 324.59 crore, according to industry tracker Sacnilk. At this rate, Bethlehem Kudumba Unit will surpass Jana Nayagan by mid-week. Must Read | My Dear Kuttichathan: How India's first 3D film, with rotating sets, was made for Rs 40 lakh On Sunday, September 20, the romantic comedy recorded an India nett collection of Rs 2.65 crore. While its original Malayalam version earned Rs 2.25 crore, the Telugu and Tamil editions made Rs 21 lakh and Rs 19 lakh, respectively, taking its total domestic earnings to Rs 157.78 crore. Despite it being its 31st day in theatres, Bethlehem Kudumba Unit saw impressive footfall and registered an overall occupancy of 54.39 per cent in the Malayalam market. While the morning shows opened at 32.58 per cent occupancy, the rate improved significantly as the day progressed, reaching 59.58 per cent in the afternoon and 63.17 per cent in the evening, before dipping to 50 per cent during the night screenings. Only in SCREEN | Law and Order movie review: Ranjith turns Mammootty's most iconic character into a joke Also starring Sangeeth Prathap, Suresh Krishna, Vinay Forrt, Roshan Shanavas, and Shyam Mohan in key roles, Bethlehem Kudumba Unit is jointly penned by Girish AD and Kiran Josey. It features music by Vishnu Vijay, cinematography by Ajmal Sabu, and editing by Akash Joseph Varghese.

Bengali actor Mithu Mukherjee dies at 71 after prolonged battle with cancer

Veteran Bengali actor Mithu Mukherjee died on Sunday night after a prolonged battle with cancer. She was 71 and had been undergoing treatment at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital. Mithu Mukherjee made her big screen debut with Chitta Bose's Shesh Parba in 1972. However, she rose to prominence after playing the lead role of Marjina in Dinen Gupta's Marjina Abdulla. She went on to appear in prominent roles in several Bengali films, including Nishi Kanya (1973), Mouchak (1974), Swayamsiddha (1975), Hotel Snow Fox (1976), Bhagyachakra (1980) and Sandhi (1980). Mithu Mukherjee made her Bollywood debut opposite Shatrughan Sinha in Dulal Guha's Khaan Dost (1976). She later starred alongside Vinod Mehra in Safed Jhoot (1977), but neither film performed well at the box office. In 1978, she appeared in Dillagi and Do Ladke Dono Kadke. After Dujane (1984) failed at the box office, Mithu Mukherjee took a seven-year hiatus from films. She returned to the big screen with Chandra Barot's drama Ashrita (1990). However, she subsequently stepped away from the entertainment industry and largely remained out of the public eye, with Ashrita marking her final film appearance. Actor Prosenjit Chatterjee took to X to mourn Mithu Mukherjee's demise. He wrote, "The news of Mithu Mukhopadhyay's passing is extremely heartbreaking. Her memory and her work will live on forever among us. With deepest respects."

All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) also paid tribute to Mithu Mukherjee. Their statement read, "Mithu Mukherjee was a celebrated Bengali and Hindi film actress who made her cinematic debut with Shesh Parba and went on to become a familiar and respected face of Indian cinema during the 1970s and 1980s. She is remembered for her memorable performances in acclaimed Bengali films including Marjina Abdulla, Nishi Kanya, Mouchak, Swayamsiddha, Hotel Snow Fox, Bhagyachakra, Sandhi, Father and Ashrita. She also appeared in Hindi films such as Khaan Dost, Safed Jhoot, Dillagi and Do Ladke Dono Kadke." It further read, "Her passing has left the entire Bengali



film industry in deep shock and mourning. She was not merely a celebrated actress, but an integral part of the film fraternity and a cherished member of the larger film family. Her departure marks the end of an era in Indian cinema. Her contribution to the Bengali film industry, Ollywood and the Indian film industry as a whole will always be remembered. Her remarkable performances and the films she enriched with her talent will continue to live on in the hearts of audiences and generations to come. Today, the entire film fraternity mourns the loss of a beloved artist. All eyes are filled with tears as the industry bids farewell to an actress whose presence and contribution will never be forgotten. Her films, her performances and her legacy will continue to be remembered with love and respect. All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) pays its heartfelt and deepest tribute to the legendary actress Mithu Mukherjee."

'Very bad': Gauahar Khan, Sajid back Qazi Touqeer after Rhiti Tiwari clash on Bigg Boss 20

Music composer Sajid Khan and actor Gauahar Khan have extended their support to Qazi Touqeer following his heated confrontation with Rhiti Tiwari on Bigg Boss 20. Gauahar, who previously participated in the reality show, praised Qazi for maintaining his composure during the argument, while Sajid said he did not like the way Rhiti spoke to him. The controversy began after Qazi's prank involving a fake medical emergency was discussed during the Weekend Ka Vaar episode. Salman Khan confronted Qazi over the prank, while several housemates expressed their disappointment after believing that he was genuinely unwell. The discussion later turned into a heated exchange between Qazi Touqeer and Manoj Tiwari's daughter Rhiti Tiwari. She criticised him over his actions and called him "fake baba" and "fraudster." When Qazi objected to her language, the argument escalated, with Rhiti asking him, "Who are you?" Kalesh b/w Manoj Tiwari daughter Rhiti Tiwari and Singer Qazi Touqeer inside Big boss house pic.twitter.com/Td7yYQTDJRj Reacting to the incident, Gauahar Khan shared videos on her Instagram Stories and praised Qazi Touqeer for the way he handled the confrontation. "Qazi Touqeer, jis beauty se aapne wo cheez handle ki. Kisi ne aapke upar spit kiya, kisi ne aapke upar apashabd bole, kisi ne apko 'kaun hai be tu' pata nahi kya-kya bola. Pata nahi kahan se aaya woh frustration, obviously jealousy se ("Qazi Touqeer, the way you handled that situation so gracefully was commendable. Someone spat on you, someone hurled abusive words at you, and someone even said, 'Who the hell are you?' I don't know where that frustration came from, obviously from jealousy," Gauahar said. "You held your calm, you held your language. You knew that you had made a mistake, but you also knew that it wasn't such a big mistake. That's why the confidence you have — I always say that the truth

within you shows in your actions," she added. Gauahar also praised Mahhi Vij for speaking up during the situation, while noting that she may not agree with everything Mahhi does. She concluded her reaction by saying, "So Kazi and Mahi, killing it."

Sajid Khan also supports Qazi Sajid Khan also reacted to the controversy and expressed his disappointment over the way Rhiti Tiwari spoke to Qazi Touqeer. "Yesterday I was watching it and the way that girl spoke to that boy, Qazi, I didn't like it. I'm so sorry, you know. Very bad," Sajid said. He also defended Qazi's presence on the show, saying viewers were enjoying his antics. "At least Bigg Boss ke andar koi to hai jo thoda bahut entertain kar raha hai (At least there is someone inside the Bigg Boss house who is entertaining us, at least to some extent)," he said. Actor Ridhi Dogra also took to Instagram Stories to express her support for Mahhi Vij and Qazi Touqeer. Ridhi wrote, "Sending love to @mahhivij ... the same grounded, sensitive girl I knew all those years ago. You are being true to yourself, being your self wholeheartedly without needing others for footage.... And usually people like that are not liked or hated the moment others get a chance. Coz they HATE their guts to walk ALONE.... It felt good that the whole misunderstanding was cleared about what you said." She added, "Also Loved how you supported @qazitouqeer official Another soloist who people will pull down because on his own he's being appreciated. It was terribly disheartening seeing how negatively everyone reacted. Just like trolls. Huge shout out to Qazi. Why do people forget that we live in a civilised society. And that we can in fact maintain dignity and still disagree. @mahhivij @uditisinghh and @arishfakhan138 are like 3 beautiful versions of each other in different times of life

Why Katrina Kaif's mother lives without electricity, internet in a Tamil Nadu village



While Katrina Kaif's life today is synonymous with Bollywood stardom, luxury and a successful business, her mother's world could not be more different. After Katrina rose to fame following her 2003 debut and a string of successful films including Namastey London, Partner, Welcome and Singh Is Kinning, her mother chose to move away from the glamour and settle in rural Tamil Nadu, dedicating her life to charity, education and helping children from disadvantaged communities. She lives there with limited access to electricity and zero luxury.

It all began in 2008 It all started when in 2008, Katrina's mother, who was based in London, relocated to Tamil Nadu, where she founded the NGO Relief Projects India with the aim of helping children from rural communities build brighter futures. What began as a small network of free evening tuition centres for children attending government schools eventually grew into a community development organisation working across rural Tamil Nadu. The organisation later expanded into health and protection programmes, and in 2015, Suzanne founded Mountain View School. What started as a small nursery for fewer than 30 children between the ages of three and five, primarily from economically disadvantaged nearby villages, eventually grew into a recognised nursery and primary school. Today, the school has more than 300 students. Speaking about her mother, who raised eight children on her own while continuously being involved in charity work, Katrina told ABP around a decade ago, "My mom stays in Madurai where she has started a school for children. She is a teacher. She teaches there. And she is happy. It is because of her charities and blessings that I have reached these heights." She added, "It is not easy to live there. They don't have access to electricity. It is available for 12 hours. Sometimes, when I want to FaceTime my mother, I cannot, because there is no electricity or

sometimes even internet. So we have a normal call." Speaking to Colors Cineplex around seven years ago, Katrina opened up about her childhood and how her mother's work had influenced her and her siblings. "The countries that I grew up in when I was very young... they were always countries which had a lot of people who lived below the poverty line like we do here. It is something I have always been exposed to because my mom has done charity work. We didn't grow up in a life of privilege or luxury. We had a very frugal and basic childhood. That's the life I come from. I came from starting out, working in the industry and having absolutely no money. Needing to work to be successful and if I wouldn't have been successful then I would have had to look for another job where I could have security." She added, "She has this school in Madurai. This is a school she built from scratch. I think we have about 250 kids there. She teaches at the school. She has made curriculum, she trains the teachers there."

Speaking about the challenges her mother faces while living there, Katrina said, "A person who lives in a village where there are hours in a day when there is no electricity there. It's incredibly hot and because you don't have electricity, so the ACs are not there. She lives in this condition and she has always done because she enjoys helping people. It's a tough life. It takes a different kind of person. I don't know if I could do that. My mom has been there for more than 15 years I think." Katrina makes secret donations for the underprivileged kids To support the school, Katrina contributes a portion of her film earnings as well as money earned through reality shows. A source told Mid-Day, "Katrina loves the work her mother is doing and posts about it on social media sometimes. However, she doesn't like to bring her contributions to attention. Since she is busy with her film commitments and hence cannot always visit the place, she donates money."

Katrina has also openly appealed for donations through her social media handles. Back in 2012, while speaking about her mother's plans to start a school, Katrina had expressed her hope that Salman Khan's Being Human Foundation could help fund the project. Speaking to Hindustan Times, she said, "I'm happy that my mom is so involved (in education and charity). Now, she's building a school since the children (from the orphanage) are growing up. She's bought a property close to Mercy Home. Hopefully, Being Human can help fund the school for us." According to the official website of Relief Projects India, the NGO has since expanded its community outreach across 25 villages. Its programmes now include adolescent development, women's empowerment, life-skills training, career guidance and cervical cancer screening. Through all these years, Katrina's mother has remained closely involved with the organisation, continuing to live a simple life while working with rural communities. Katrina, meanwhile, has supported the work financially through her earnings and has occasionally used her public platform to seek donations for the cause. Katrina Kaif's mother, Suzanne Turquotte, was married to Mohammed Kaif, but the couple separated when Katrina was still a young girl. Following their separation, Suzanne raised all eight of her children as a single mother.

Katrina Kaif on how motherhood changed her: 'Looking my best is now about feeling my best'



Katrina Kaif Katrina Kaif opens up about how motherhood changed her skincare routine, the importance of barrier care and why looking her best now means feeling her best. Katrina Kaif is not just an actor now — she is a successful entrepreneur and a new mom. In a recent interview, Katrina spoke about her brand, how motherhood and pregnancy changed her, and also what makes her feel most like herself, away from a film set, a red carpet or a brand meeting.

Katrina on finding balance away from work Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter India, the actor spoke about what helps her feel grounded when she is away from films, red carpets and brand commitments. For Katrina, spending time with family and friends is an important part of maintaining that balance. "Having downtime with your family and friends always helps you find your centre. For me, I have to discipline myself to switch off sometimes. It's ingrained in me to constantly be working and creating something, whether with films or with Kay Beauty, so learning to have moments where you disconnect is important to recharge and reset," she said. Katrina further stressed the importance of creating moments of quiet in an increasingly digital world. "In today's fast-paced world where there is limitless information and entertainment available through digital mediums, creating moments of stillness and quiet for the mind to be calm is important," she added.

Katrina Kaif on how motherhood changed her routine Katrina also revealed that her skin became more sensitive after pregnancy, prompting her to become more careful about the products she used. "Post-pregnancy, my skin became even more sensitive, so it was a really tricky time because I had to understand what products were working for me. I found myself looking for products that felt soothing, calming and restorative," she said. Katrina's Kay Beauty

has grown into a major name in the industry in the last seven years after its launch. The brand now has nearly three million customers and crossed Rs 380 crore in GMV (Gross Merchandise Value) in FY2026, according to Nykaa's latest annual reporting.

Katrina Kaif says her definition of beauty has changed Reflecting on how her beauty standards have changed since she began her modelling and acting career, Katrina said she no longer sees looking her best as simply being about appearance. "It's changed a lot. When I started out early through my modelling and acting career, there were a lot of stereotypes about what the beauty standards were. Now for me, looking my best is really about feeling my best, and that comes from taking care of myself as a whole," she said. The actor also listed several lifestyle habits that she believes make a difference to how she feels and how her skin behaves. "A healthy diet, keeping the inflammation in your body under control, staying active, meditation, a phone-free daily hour of your morning and getting natural light first thing in the morning. It all makes a huge difference to how I feel, and ultimately how my skin behaves. I think when you feel healthy, that confidence naturally reflects on the outside." The actor's comments come days after her rare public appearance with husband Vicky Kaushal at the Ambani family's Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in Mumbai, which sparked online discussion about her appearance and postpartum body. Katrina gave birth to her and Vicky Kaushal's son, Vihaan Kaushal, in November, 2025.

Nandita Das celebrates 7 years of 'Manto': 'A journey I will cherish forever'

Mumbai: Actress and filmmaker Nandita Das commemorated 7 years of her 2018 biographical drama, 'Manto' with a heartfelt post on her official social media handle.

Sharing two posters of the film on her IG, Nandita asked the netizens for their views on 'Manto'. The filmmaker said that it is a journey she will cherish forever.

She penned, "7 years ago, on this day, Manto was released! A journey I will cherish forever. If you haven't seen it yet, it's on YouTube and Apple TV. To know more about 'Why Manto?', I have shared the YouTube link on my story." Nandita also revealed that she has written a book on her journey with the movie. "I also wrote a whole book on it called 'Manto & I' that is full of images and stories, right from its inception to its fruition. It's on discount on Amazon and Kindle. Shamelessly promoting it. After all, we make films and write books to share, to communicate what one feels compelled to say. If you do watch/read, I would love to know your thoughts," she went on to add. Lauding 'Manto' in the comment section, one of the Instagram user wrote, "What a wonderful experience this was... Sirazuddin's casting still haunts me @nanditadasofficial".