

KTR’s Miryalaguda protest gets nod, rally denied

Nalgonda: The BRS has secured police permission for the farmers' public meeting in Miryalaguda on Thursday, but its proposed rally through the town was denied. The party working president KT Rama Rao is scheduled to participate in the protest meeting. The BRS planned a farmers' rally from the flyover bridge to Rajiv Chowk, followed by a public meeting, to protest the Congress government's alleged failures and the non-release of water to the Nagarjuna Sagar Left Canal. However, the police cited traffic and law-and-order concerns and initially denied permission for both events.

Retd Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra named first CEO of Ram temple trust

Ayodhya (UP):, SEpt 2

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust that manages the Ram temple on Wednesday appointed retired Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra as its first CEO and former treasurer Govind Dev Giri as new general secretary as part of a major overhaul in the wake of donation theft allegations.

Mishra, who headed the Western Air Command during Operation Sindoor, was selected from a shortlist of three candidates after the trust's selection committee scrutinised 5,585 applications.

At a meeting here, the trust also announced Mahesh Bhagchandka as treasurer and inducted Madan Mohan Pandey of Ayodhya, Bhagchandka of Delhi and Dr Nirmala Yadav of Shikohabad as new trustees.

After being named the CEO of Ram temple trust, Air Marshal Mishra thanked the selection committee and the trust for giving the opportunity and expressed confidence that he will be able to do justice to the responsibility given to him.

The trust's meeting was held in two sessions, with the newly inducted trustees joining the second session online, interim secretary Krishna Mohan said.

Mishra, who hails from Deoria district in Uttar Pradesh, has served in the Indian Air Force receiving several military decorations, including the Yudh Seva Medal.

Pandey is an advocate who represented Ram Lalla Virajman in the Ram Janmabhoomi case, while Yadav is a retired college principal and academician.

According to a statement issued by the trust, the selection committee was tasked with shortlisting three candidates for the CEO's post within a month.

Krishna Mohan said the committee submitted three names including that of Air Marshal Mishra. After considering the three names, the trust decided to appoint Mishra as its first CEO, he said.

Mishra, 62, was commissioned into the Indian Air Force as a fighter pilot in December 1986 and retired on April 30 this year after more than 39 years of service.

During his career, he logged over 3,000 hours of flying and held several senior command and staff positions, including commandant of the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment and deputy chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations).

"I consider this the blessings of Shri Ram... He has given me the opportunity to serve the temple and Ram bhakts," Mishra said.

"I also consider myself fortunate and look forward to doing my best," the Air Force veteran told NDTV.

The meeting was attended by the trust's president



Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, Giri and other trustees, while several members participated online.

Giri said Krishna Mohan had played a crucial role in steering the trust through "troubled times".

He said the trust may appoint a joint CEO or deputy CEO if required and would prepare an SOP specifying

Student from Secunderabad’s Old Bowenpally drowns in Kondapochamma Sagar

Siddipet: A visit to Kondapochamma Sagar turned tragic for a group of students as one of them drowned in the water body on Wednesday.

The deceased, Nepali national Mohana Prasad (18), a resident of Old Bowenpally in Secunderabad, was studying B Com in a local college. Prasad, along with his friends, arrived at the water body. They ventured deep into the reservoir and met a watery grave. The police registered a case.



Revanth Offers 416 Acres for DRDL Facility in Mahbubnagar

Hyderabad, Sept 2

: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday offered 416.18 acres of land in Devarakadra mandal of Mahbubnagar district to the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) for a prestigious defence project. The Chief Minister sought the cooperation of the Centre for strengthening Telangana's defence and aerospace ecosystem.

The Chief Minister made the offer during his meeting with defence minister Rajnath Singh in Delhi, where the two discussed investment prospects in the defence sector and various proposals relating to defence infrastructure in the state.

Revanth Reddy invited Rajnath Singh to the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026', being organised by the state government at Bharat Future City from December 7 to 9, and requested him to inaugurate the Defence Expo-2026, which will be held as part of the summit.

The Chief Minister explained that the expo would have a special session on the aerospace, defence and space sectors, besides an air show, industrial exhibition and live demonstrations of land-based defence systems.

He said the participation and guidance of the defence minister would inspire defence industries, startups and young scientists from across the country who are expected to attend the event and exchange ideas and experiences.

Revanth Reddy said Telangana was keen to host the Defence Expo-2026 in Hyderabad to international standards and sought the defence ministry's full cooperation for its successful conduct.

The Chief Minister requested assistance in securing the necessary airspace clearances for the air show and facilitating the participation of Indian Air Force aircraft, besides the Surya Kiran and Sarang aerobatic teams.

He also sought support for a static aircraft display and requested that state-of-the-art defence systems of the Army, Navy and Air Force be showcased at the expo, with senior officials and representatives of the three services participating in the event.

The meeting also discussed arrangements for extensive participation of defence public sector undertakings, including HAL, BEL, BDL and MDL, as well as DRDO laboratories, which are proposed to showcase indigenous defence technologies at the global summit. Revanth Reddy sought the defence ministry's support in facilitating meetings with foreign defence representatives, bilateral defence delegations and prominent representatives of international defence organisations.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister informed Rajnath Singh about the state government's progress on land acquisition for the proposed Adilabad airport. He said Telangana had already acquired 750 acres and was in the process of acquiring another 750 acres, as sought by the defence ministry, taking the total land available for the project to 1,500 acres.

The land would facilitate development of both an Indian Air Force terminal and a civil aviation terminal at Adilabad.

Revanth Reddy further informed the defence minister that the Telangana Industrial and Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIIC) had agreed to allocate 416.18 acres in Devarakadra mandal for a prestigious DRDL project. The land would be leased for 33 years at a nominal annual rent of just '1 for the entire parcel, instead of charging the amount on a per-acre basis. He also highlighted the provision for extending the lease agreement twice, if required.

The meeting was attended by Telangana SHAKTI minister G. Vivek, MPs M Anil Kumar Yadav, Mallu Ravi, Suresh Shetkar and Porika Balram Naik, and state government advisor (protocol) Harkara Venugopal.

Trump taps passport route to curb birthright citizenship

WASHINGTON, SEPT 2

In a move that could raise concerns among thousands of Indians working in the US, the State Department has proposed requiring parents applying for passports for their children to provide proof of their own citizenship or immigration status.

The proposal is a formal follow-up to President Donald Trump's August 6 executive order aimed at restricting birthright citizenship.

Reuters reported that it had the first detailed look at how the State Department could implement Trump's executive order, which targets what the administration calls "birth tourism" and seeks to broaden exceptions to birthright citizenship.

Under the draft guidance, parents applying for US passports for their children would be required to prove their own citizenship or immigration status through documents such as a passport, birth certificate, I-94 form or green card.

The proposed rule could deny citizenship to US-born children whose parents are employees of another country posted in the US, obtained status through fraud or commercial arrangements, or are classified as "alien enemies".

Currently, parents of US-born children only need to prove parentage and provide photo ID to indicate citizenship without submitting supporting documents. The State Department's proposal would significantly change that process.

Indians are among the largest immigrant groups in the US, with substantial numbers on H-1B or student visas or those waiting in lengthy employment-based green card backlogs.

At present, children born in the US to parents on work visas automatically acquire US citizenship. Under the proposed rule, however, parents would have to document their own immigration status when applying for a passport for such a child. A child's citizenship determination could then depend on the status of the parents, rather than solely on the fact of birth on US soil.

The proposal has not yet been finalised and is currently facing legal challenges.

Reuters quoted State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott as saying: "President Trump has been unequivocal that this administration will protect the meaning and value of American citizenship, full stop, and that includes making sure our passport adjudication process fully reflects that standard."

Under the draft proposal, the State Department would require parental information and proof of parental citizenship or immigration status as part of its assessment of a child's eligibility for citizenship.

Restricting birthright citizenship has been one of Trump's key immigration priorities. The US Supreme Court ruled his previous attempt violated the country's Constitution.

Trump's initial executive order would have limited automatic citizenship at birth to children with at least one parent who is either a US citizen or a lawful permanent resident, commonly known as a green card holder.



Uttam showcases Telangana model, presses for unified national water security framework at Delhi summit

Hyderabad:, Sept 2

Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy called for a unified national water security framework under which every water conservation project would have a unique identity, a designated custodian and measurable outcomes. He proposed one water security plan for every village and town, linked to a unified State asset register and common performance-measurement system.

Addressing the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari departmental summit in New Delhi, Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasised the need to treat water security as a public mission covering drinking water, agriculture, rural livelihoods, urban resilience and environmental protection. He suggested geo-tagging every water asset and linking it to its funding source and responsible agency to prevent fragmented planning, duplication and poor maintenance.

Highlighting Telangana's work, the Minister said the State was recognised as the best-performing State under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari in 2025, while 13 districts figured among India's top 50 for water conservation. Of 44,360 water bodies and tanks, works have been taken up in 28,739 and restoration completed in 22,428.

He said Telangana's 159 major and medium reservoirs had a combined capacity of about 929 TMCft, with studies of 18 projects indicating a loss of 40.97 TMCft, or 22.95 per cent, to sedimentation. Pilot desiltation is under way in the Lower Manair, Mid Manair and Kadem reservoirs.

Uttam Kumar Reddy also sought Central assistance for eligible irrigation projects in Telangana under PMKSY, flexibility under FRBM norms, Infrastructure Development Fund loans, environmental clearances and support for reservoir-capacity studies and restoration. He also sought cooperation in inter-State water issues. He urged the Centre and Central Water Commission to strengthen coordination with States and deploy artificial intelligence for rainfall and inflow forecasting, reservoir operations and evidence-based water management.



Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Food warning labels—messaging matters

The quality of our life is largely determined by what we eat today. An alarming rise in non-communicable diseases in India, such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, is mainly attributed to growing consumption of highly processed foods that contain sugars and fats. Of particular concern is the growing incidence of childhood obesity and diabetes because of the easy availability of sugary snacks and soft drinks. Packaged and ultra-processed foods have become increasingly embedded in the diets of children and young adults. At present, the information consumers need most is generally buried in the nutritional table at the back of a packet. It assumes that consumers will read the small print, understand serving sizes and calculate how much sugar, sodium or saturated fat they are actually consuming. Most do not. Against this backdrop, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's latest proposal for front-of-pack warning labels for packaged foods high in sugar, salt and saturated fat is a welcome step towards protecting consumers. As per the proposal submitted to the Supreme Court, prominent warning labels in a red hexagonal format, such as 'high sugar', 'high salt', 'high fat', and 'highly sweetened beverage', would be printed on packaged foods. While this is a laudable move to raise public awareness of the dangers of processed foods, the drive's effectiveness would depend on what lies behind the red symbol. A warning is meaningful only when consumers understand it, and regulation is credible only when it covers products that genuinely pose a health risk. The first phase of the campaign proposes applying the warning only when a product exceeds the prescribed limits for two or more nutrients. This could allow products excessively high in one harmful nutrient to escape scrutiny.

Talasani Distributes KCR-Talasani Kits to 30 New Mothers



“Hyderabad Correspondent, September 2 (Indian Chronicle): Former minister and Sanath Nagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav said the KCR Kit scheme had benefited lakhs of poor families by supporting mothers and newborns. He distributed KCR-Talasani Kits to 30 new mothers at the government hospital in Ameerpet on Wednesday, marking the birthday of former corporator Namana Seshukumar. Talasani said the kits introduced by the previous BRS government contained essential items including clothes, medicines, soaps, oils and toys for mothers and children. He alleged that the Congress government discontinued the scheme after coming to power. Appreciating Seshukumar for reviving the initiative on her birthday, Talasani said the hospital had been upgraded to a 50-bed facility keeping the needs of poor and middle-class families in the area in mind. Later, Seshukumar cut her birthday cake at Lakshmi Narasimha Vilas on Dharam Karam Road in the presence of Talasani, who conveyed his greetings. BRS leaders and local representatives attended the programme.

Prof.M.Kumar Mulugu Selected for Dr.Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Excellence Award



“Hyderabad, September 02 (Indian Chronicle) : Osmania University Vice-Chancellor and senior professor M. Kumar Mulugu has been selected for the Dr.Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Excellence Award-2026 in recognition of his more than three decades of service in the field of higher education, Telangana Intellectuals Forum state president Dr.Raj Narayan Mudiraj said in a statement on Wednesday. He said Kumar Mulugu was the only person from Telangana selected for the award this year. The award will be presented at a programme to be held at the OU VC Lodge Hall on September 4.

Safe Delivery in Wankidi 108 Ambulance“ “Woman Gives Birth to Baby Boy Midway to Hospital“



“Kumrambheem, Asifabad,District.Reporter "Indian Chronicle"September.03.“Wankidi: S. Bagubai, wife of Lachchu, from Bandakas village in Wankidi mandal, experienced labour pains, following which her family members informed the 108 ambulance service. The 108 ambulance staff immediately reached Bandakas village and began transporting her to the Wankidi Government Hospital.However, her labour pains intensified while they were on the way.

Near Doddiguda, the EMT, Santosh, immediately assessed the situation and safely assisted with the delivery inside the ambulance. Bagubai gave birth to a healthy baby boy, her third child.“Following the delivery, the mother and baby were taken to Wankidi Government Hospital for further medical observation and care. Bagubai's family members expressed their gratitude to EMT Santosh and ambulance pilot Bheem Rao for responding promptly and providing timely assistance.

Grandly Held ‘Garjinche Police’ Movie Song Launch Event

“The song launch event of the upcoming Telugu film Garjinche Police which is being made with a blend of action and emotional elements, was held grandly. Members of the film's team and several film personalities attended the event, launched the song, and conveyed their best wishes to the entire team.“Speaking on the occasion, *Sai Venkat* said, “The songs in Garjinche Police are very impressive. This particular song is also very good. I hope the movie becomes a grand success and wish the entire team all the very best.”“Director T. Ramu* said, “I am very happy that the song launch event of Garjinche Police has been held successfully. I am extremely happy with the way the film has shaped up. We are making the movie with action and emotional elements that will appeal to audiences. We hope the songs will receive a good response from listeners.”“Producer Ramasharma* said, “I am very happy with the way Garjinche Police is progressing. Director T. Ramu is presenting the film in a wonderful manner. The songs and action sequences will be major attractions for the audience. I am confident that this song will receive a great response. We are planning to release the movie soon.”“The *heroine* said, “It is a great pleasure to be a part of Garjinche Police. I am very happy to be present at the song launch event. The entire team is working extremely hard to bring a good film to the audience. I hope viewers will definitely appreciate and support the movie.”“The film's team expressed confidence that *‘Garjinche Police’* will re-



ceive a positive response from audiences. Set against a *police backdrop, the movie promises to entertain viewers with a compelling combination of action and emotion. **Chanda Lakshminarayana Naik, Mallem Venumadhav, Praveen, Srinivas* and others attended the event.“Technical Team***Story, Screenplay, Dialogues & Direction:* T. Ramu***Producer:* Ramasharma**Cinematography:* Sarvepalli Venkanna**Music:* Anilkumar (Chennai)**Editing:* Venu Chowdary**Fights:* Sivalingam**Dubbing Engineer:* Kindibavi Venkatesh**Production Management:* Chanda Rosarani, Lakshminarayana Naik**Cooperation:* Narasimha Kumar, Bhogi Kailasam, Dharmasekhar

HICIA Inter-Corporate Sports Tournament Concludes



“Hyderabad, September 02 (Indian Chronicle) : The 25th HICIA Inter-Corporate Sports Tournament 2025-26 concluded successfully, HICIA President Flight Lieutenant Bipin Pendyal said in a statement on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said Infosys and TCS emerged as the overall champions, securing five titles each and recording 11 podium finishes. The closing ceremony was held at the Infosys campus in Gachibowli. Deloitte Consulting India won the Men's Field Cricket and Women's Box Cricket titles. Enviro India emerged victorious in basketball, Entain

Software won the men's football title, D.E.Shaw clinched the tennis championship, and Synchrony International emerged as the winner in pool. More than 270 teams representing over 60 IT and GCC companies, with 2,135 technology professionals, competed across 17 sporting disciplines between February and June. Infosys Gachibowli DC Head Pranab Bharadwaj, PwC India Associate Director Mohammed Asif Iqbal, Brigadier Inder Sethi and 2024 Carroms World Champion K.Srinivas attended the closing ceremony and presented trophies to the winners.

YSR’s Legacy of Public Service Remains Unforgettable: Ponnam Prabhakar



“Hyderabad Correspondent, September 2 (Indian Chronicle): Recalling the late Chief Minister YS Rajasekhar Reddy's contribution to public welfare, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said his services to the poor and vulnerable sections would remain etched in people's memories for generations. On the occasion of YSR's death anniversary, Prabhakar, along with Ministers Vakiti Srihari and Adluri Laxman Kumar and senior Congress leaders, paid floral tributes to his statue at Punjagutta on Wednesday. The ministers recalled YSR's close connect with people and his focus on addressing their needs through welfare and development initiatives. They said his government had brought significant changes to the lives of farmers, women, students, the poor and other marginalised sections. YSR's tenure was marked by a strong emphasis on healthcare, education, agriculture, irrigation and welfare, they said. The ministers particularly recalled the introduction of Aarogyasri to provide free healthcare to economically weaker sections, free electricity for farmers and initiatives aimed at making higher education accessible to students from poor families. Describing YSR as a mass leader who understood people's difficulties by staying connected with them, the ministers said his welfare and development programmes continued

to have a lasting place in public memory. They said the Congress government was committed to carrying forward his vision of public welfare and social justice. Congress leaders, elected representatives, party workers and YSR's supporters attended the programme in large numbers.

Youth Congress Leader Akarapu Arun Patel Participates in YSR Death Anniversary Programme“

“RAMANTHAPUR , SEPTEMBER 2 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Congress leaders paid rich tributes to former united Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and late Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy on the occasion of his death anniversary at Bodrai in Ramantapur.The programme was organised under the leadership of Venkat Reddy Nagar Division Congress Party President Nam Rajireddy. Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President and young leader Akarapu Arun Patel participated in the programme.“On the occasion, the leaders garlanded the portrait of Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and paid their respects. They recalled several welfare schemes introduced by Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy for the welfare of the poor and weaker sections of society.“The leaders praised his services and stated that Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy would remain forever in the hearts of the people.“Senior Congress leaders Mohammed Tofiq, former Ramantapur President and Medchal District General Secretary Jaleel Basha, Secretary Balaiiah, Arun, Sai, Naresh, Satish, Satish Goud, Mallesh, Krishna Goud, Vijay, Bhanu, Shakeel, Sai, Rajesh and others were present.Division-level senior leaders, Youth Congress representatives, party workers and a large number of local resi-

Right Canal Collapses Due to Heavy Rains...

Ajmeera Shyam Naik Inspects Damaged Canal and Road in Manikguda



“Kumrambheem, Asifabad,District.Reporter "Indian Chronicle"September.03.“Steps will be taken for immediate restoration of the canal and repair of the damaged road“Asifabad: The Right Canal located beside the Adi Project near Manikguda village in Asifabad Mandal was completely damaged and collapsed due to the heavy rains received recently. The collapse of the canal has caused serious difficulties in the surrounding areas. The road used by villagers for daily transportation has also been severely damaged, causing inconvenience to villagers and farmers.On learning about the issue, Asifabad Assembly Constituency Congress Party In-charge Ajmeera Shyam Naik visited Manikguda village and personally inspected the damaged Right Canal and the collapsed road. He examined the condition of the canal and the damaged portions of the road and interacted with the villagers to understand their problems.“Farmers Concerned Over Irrigation“The damage to the canal has raised concerns among farmers regarding irrigation water supply. Farmers expressed apprehension that the damaged canal could affect the supply of irrigation water in the future. They also informed Shyam Naik that the damaged road was causing severe difficulties for villagers and farmers travelling to nearby areas.The villagers requested him to take immediate steps for the restoration of the Right Canal and repair of the damaged road.“Will Take the Issue to the Authorities”: Shyam Naik“Speaking on the occasion, Ajmeera Shyam Naik said that the Right Canal near Manikguda had been completely damaged due to the heavy rains and that the adjoining road had also collapsed. He said he had personally inspected the problems being faced by the villagers and farmers. He assured the villagers that he would discuss the issue with the concerned officials and work towards taking immediate measures to restore the canal and repair the damaged road. He said efforts would be made to prevent any further inconvenience to the public and farmers.Shyam Naik stated that resolving people's problems was his primary responsibility and assured the villagers that he would continue to take up their issues with the concerned authorities until appropriate action was taken. Discussion with Panchayat Raj Officials Shyam Naik also discussed the condition of the Right Canal and the damaged road with Panchayat Raj officials. He explained the difficulties being faced by the villagers and urged the officials to initiate necessary repair and restoration works at the earliest.The programme was attended by AMC Chairman Manga, Asifabad Mandal Congress President Raparthi Murali, Malisanga President Shankar Patel, Youth Congress District Vice-President Shivaram Naik, Manikguda Sarpanch Atram Ramu, Deputy Sarpanch Ajay, Bhimu Patel, Ram Anjaneyulu, Bapurao, Bhimu, Pujari, Poti, Raju, former public representatives, villagers, Congress leaders and activists, among others.

BRS Holds Massive Protest in Uppal Against Failures of Congress Government’s 1,000-Day Rule“



–Fight for Public Issues, BRS Stands with the People: UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY““UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 2 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) organised a massive protest at Uppal Ring Road on Wednesday, condemning the alleged failures of the Congress government during its 1,000-day rule, its unfulfilled promises and what the party described as its failure to keep its commitments to the people.The protest was organised as part of the statewide call given by the BRS. Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest and participated in the protest.Speaking on the occasion, the MLA alleged that the Congress government had failed to implement the promises made to the people during the elections and was neglecting public issues. He demanded that the government immediately fulfil its electoral promises and take steps to resolve the problems faced by the people.A large number of BRS leaders, activists and local residents participated in the protest. The participants raised slogans against the alleged failures of the government and expressed their opposition to the non-implementation of the promises made to the people.As part of the programme, a distribution programme of pending cards was also organised.Speaking at the protest, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy said that the BRS would continue to fight for the resolution of public issues and stand firmly with the people. He said the party would continue to mount pressure on the government until the promises made to the people were implemented.BRS Malkajiri in-charge Ragidi Lakshma Reddy, former corporators, former division presidents, BRS leaders, women members and party activists were among those who participated in the programme.

Sirmount School Wins Best Performance Award at Telangana CM Cup

“HYDERABAD , SEPTEMBER 2 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Students of Sirmount School of Excellence showcased their outstanding talent at the prestigious Telangana CM Cup–2026 and won the “Best Performance Award.”“The award was presented during the programme “Telangana Cultural Traditions – The Glory of Public Governance and Cultural Excellence–2026,” held at Ravindra Bharathi. The students of Sirmount School delivered an impressive cultural performance and won appreciation from several dignitaries and guests present at the event.“The school management stated that the achievement was made possible by the students’ talent and dedication, along with the guidance of their teachers and the support of their parents. On the occasion, the school management heartily congratulated the students who won the Best Performance Award and the teachers who guided and encouraged them.”The achievement of Sirmount School of Excellence students at the Telangana CM Cup–2026 has brought pride not only to the school but also to their parents and teachers.



Withdraw Rahul Gandhi’s FIR or Face a Fierce Fight: Congress““Massive protest rally held in Secunderabad against alleged political vendetta“



“DCC chief Deepak John accuses BJP of caste discrimination and misuse of state machinery” “Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, September 02:““Demanding the immediate withdrawal of the FIR registered against senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the Secunderabad District Congress Committee (DCC) organised a massive protest rally on Wednesday.”Led by DCC president Deepak John, Congress leaders and workers marched from the Gandhi statue on M.G. Road to Bombay Hotel crossroads, raising slogans against what they termed the BJP’s “casteist and vindictive politics”.“Addressing the protesters, Deepak John

alleged that the cases against Rahul Gandhi were politically motivated and linked to his demand for stringent action against BJP and RSS members who allegedly “purified” with Ganga water the venue where Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had addressed a public meeting in Haldwani, Uttarakhand.“Questioning the registration of cases against Rahul Gandhi for raising the issue of Dalit dignity, Mr. John accused the BJP of using its political and administrative machinery to suppress voices fighting for the rights of Dalits and other marginalised sections.”“The Congress will not remain silent when the principles of social justice guaranteed by the Constitution are under attack,” he said.“Mr. John further alleged that instead of taking action against those responsible for insulting Mr. Kharge, the BJP was attempting to harass Rahul Gandhi through what he described as baseless FIRs. He warned that the Congress would continue its agitation until the cases against Rahul Gandhi were withdrawn and action was initiated against those responsible.”“MLA Naveen Yadav, Sanathnagar Assembly constituency in-charge Dr. Kota Neelima, Aravind Kumar Yadav, division presidents, DCC office-bearers, senior leaders and a large number of Congress workers participated in the protest.

Pedigree Launches 'Healthy Belly' for Dogs' Digestive Health

“Hyderabad, September 02 (Indian Chronicle) : About 26 per cent of pet owners who feed homemade food to their pets reported observing digestive issues in their dogs, according to an internal study by Mars Pet Nutrition India, said Ayesha Huda, Chief Marketing Officer, Mars Pet Nutrition India, in a statement released in the city on Wednesday. Against this backdrop, Pedigree has launched Pedigree Healthy Belly, a complete and balanced food designed to support healthy digestion in large dogs, she said. Speaking alongside Shyam Nair, Executive Creative Director at 22feet, Huda said the product contains pumpkin, sweet potato, easily digestible chicken and egg proteins, prebiotics and fibre. The product aims to provide a specialised solution for dogs’ digestive health through scientifically formulated nutrition, she added. As part of the product’s promotional campaign, the company has also released a brand film featuring Indian cricketer KL Rahul and his dog.



Another 36.20 Crore Sanctioned for Uppal Bhagayath



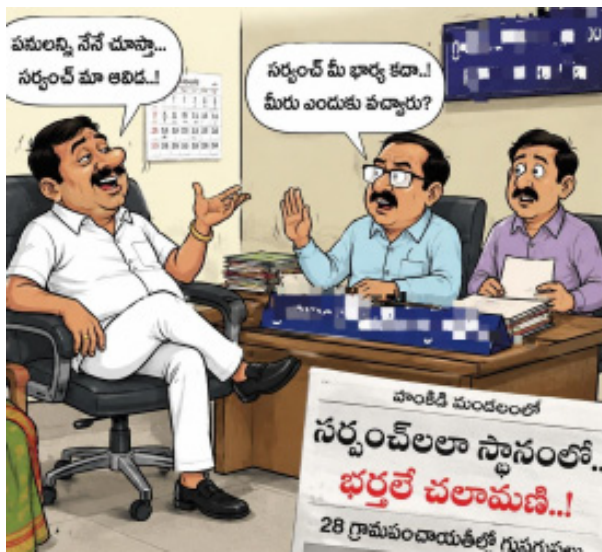
“Initiative by Parameshwar Reddy and Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Bears Fruit“41.16 Kilometres of Footpaths to Be Constructed““UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 2 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Pedestrian difficulties in the Uppal Bhagayath Phase-1 and Phase-2 layouts are set to be addressed soon. A total of ₹36.20 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of footpaths in Bhagayath, with the objective of improving pedestrian convenience and safety and reducing road accidents.“The funds were sanctioned following the initiative of Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge, and former corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy, they said.“With the sanctioned funds, footpaths covering a total length of 41.16 kilometres will be constructed in Uppal Bhagayath Phase-1 and Phase-2. The project is expected

to provide safe and convenient walking paths for pedestrians in the area.“Funds Sanctioned with the Chief Minister’s Special Initiative“Parameshwar Reddy and Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy said they were committed to the development of Uppal Bhagayath. They stated that development funds were being sanctioned for Bhagayath with the special initiative of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.“Parameshwar Reddy said that, with the Chief Minister’s support, efforts were also being made to secure funds and undertake development works in all colonies across the Uppal constituency.

“Details of Sanctioned Funds and Works“Phase-1, Road No. 11: ₹4.40 crore for construction of footpaths covering 5.00 kilometres.“Main Road and other major roads (Road Nos. 6, 48, 55 and 22): ₹5.10 crore for footpaths covering 5.78 kilometres.“Phase-1 Colony Roads (Road Nos. 35, 36, 44, 45, 46 and 47): ₹5.90 crore for footpaths covering 6.74 kilometres.“Phase-1 Residential Area Roads (Road Nos. 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 88, 13, 37 and 38): ₹5 crore for footpaths covering 5.72 kilometres.“Phase-1 Internal Roads (Road Nos. 85, 61, 53, 62, 72, 73 and 74): ₹5.20 crore for footpaths covering 5.96 kilometres.“Phase-2 Major Roads (Road Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14): ₹5.40 crore for footpaths covering 6.16 kilometres.“Phase-2 Connectivity Roads (Road Nos. 1 and 3): ₹5.20 crore for footpaths covering 5.80 kilometres.They said the works would be taken up with the sanctioned funds.The proposed footpath construction in Bhagayath is expected to improve pedestrian facilities and contribute to reducing traffic congestion and road accidents, local residents said.

Women Sarpanches Elected, But Are Their Husbands Calling the Shots?“

“Interesting Debate Across 28 Gram Panchayats in Wankidi Mandal““Questions Over Family Members’ Intervention in Panchayat Affairs; Clarity Sought from Officials““Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporter “Indian Chronicle”September.03.”“Wankidi: The government has been implementing reservations for women in local bodies with the objective of ensuring adequate political representation and empowering women at the grassroots level. Women elected as Sarpanches are expected to play a key role in village development and address the concerns of the people.However, a debate has recently emerged in Wankidi Mandal over allegations that, in some villages, the husbands or family members of elected women Sarpanches are allegedly taking an active role in official and administrative affairs.The issue is reportedly being discussed in villages, government offices and among local groups across the 28 Gram Panchayats in the mandal. Although people have elected women as Sarpanches, there are allegations that in some instances their husbands are taking the lead in meeting officials, discussing development works and bringing village issues to the attention of authorities.At the same time, there has been no official confirmation regarding these allegations. Therefore, the actual situation needs to be established through proper verification.“Incident at an Official’s Office Sparks Discussion“A recent incident, reportedly involving the husband of a woman Sarpanch visiting an official’s office and allegedly acting in the capacity of the Sarpanch, has added to the ongoing discussion.“According to local reports, officials questioned the man about why he had come to the office instead of the elected Sarpanch. However, there is no official clarification yet regarding the exact circumstances of the incident, the purpose of his visit or what exactly transpired at the office.If the incident is found to be true, local residents believe that clarity is required regarding who is actually performing the responsibilities of the elected public representative.“Who Is the Sarpanch and Who Is Taking the Decisions?“When people elect a person as Sarpanch of a Gram Panchayat, the elected representative is officially responsible for carrying out the duties associated with the position.“The Sarpanch has an important role in Gram Sabha meetings, Panchayat meetings, development activities and addressing public grievances. Therefore, allegations that family members are acting in place of an elected Sarpanch naturally raise questions about accountability and village administration.“Residents should not be placed in a situation where they are confused about whether they should approach the elected Sarpanch or her husband to raise their grievances, locals say.However, residents also point out that it would not be appropriate to generalise the issue to all women Sarpanches, as many women representatives are independently carrying out their responsibilities.“What Does Women’s Empowerment Really Mean?“The primary objective of providing political representation to women is to enable them to take decisions independently and emerge as effective leaders at the grassroots level.“Women Sarpanches are expected to understand public issues, interact directly with officials and work towards resolving the problems faced by villagers. If family members instead take over official responsibilities, it could undermine the very objective of women’s political empowerment, many observers feel.At the same time, vil-



lage residents are demanding transparency in matters related to Panchayat funds, development works, sanitation, drinking water, streetlights and roads.They also want clarity on who participates in official discussions with authorities, who attends Panchayat meetings and who is involved in decisions concerning development proposals and public works.“Officials Have a Responsibility“Local residents believe that officials should ensure that elected representatives themselves perform their official responsibilities in Gram Panchayats.“Whenever someone approaches a government office on behalf of a Sarpanch, officials should have clarity about the person’s role and the purpose of the visit, they say.Officials should also provide the necessary support to women Sarpanches so that they can independently discharge their responsibilities and directly address the concerns of villagers.A comprehensive review of the functioning of Gram Panchayats by mandal-level officials could help establish the actual situation, locals believe.“Official Clarity Needed to End the Rumours“Discussions are currently being heard in parts of Wankidi Mandal that although women have been elected as Sarpanches, their husbands are allegedly taking the lead in village administration in some places. However, there is no official information confirming where such a situation exists or to what extent the allegations are true.Therefore, rather than making personal allegations against any Sarpanch or family member without evidence, residents are urging the concerned authorities to examine the matter and provide factual clarity.In a democracy, the person elected by the people should remain accountable to the people. The opportunities provided to women Sarpanches should not remain limited to holding the post; they should be empowered to independently take decisions and lead village development.“Whether the elected women Sarpanches in the 28 Gram Panchayats of Wankidi Mandal are independently handling administrative affairs, or whether family members are taking the lead in some places, can only be established through an official inquiry.Until then, local residents believe that the concerned authorities should respond and clarify the actual situation to put an end to the ongoing speculation.

Uppal Government Degree College Telugu Students Visit Oriental Manuscripts Library

““UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 2 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Students of the Telugu Department of Uppal Government Degree College visited the Telangana State Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Institute on the Osmania University campus on Wednesday.“College Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar formally initiated the visit, while Telugu Assistant Professor Jaldha Viswanath Kumar coordinated the programme.“As part of the visit, former Director of the institution Dr. Palepu Subbarao, Additional Director and Sanskrit researcher T. Aruna, Telugu researcher M. Vasanthi, and Mettu Venkata Narayana organised a special awareness session and an exhibition of manuscripts for the students.“During the programme, the students were introduced to 18 different types of ancient manuscripts, including palm-leaf manuscripts and paper manuscripts, through a PowerPoint presentation. The speakers explained the historical significance of the manuscripts and informed the students that the library houses manuscripts in several languages, including Urdu, Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit and Telugu.“The students were also introduced to the facilities provided by the library for the preservation and digitisation of manuscripts, as well as for research, along with various developmental initiatives being undertaken by the institution.”“Ancient manuscripts are living and enduring evidence of our cultural heritage, history and linguistic diversity,” Telugu Assistant Professor Jaldha Viswanath Kumar said.“The students said that the visit helped them learn many new aspects of the preparation and physical form of ancient manuscripts, their linguistic diversity and historical background. They also said they gained valuable information about prominent Telugu scholars, researchers and editors of classical works, including Manavalli Ramakrishna, Viswanatha Satyanarayana, Panuganti



Lakshminarasimha Rao, Gurajada Apparao, Veturi Prabhakara Sastry, Chilukuri Narayana Rao, Rallapalli Ananta Krishna Sarma, Divakarla Tirupati Sastry, Bandaru Tammaiah, Vedam Venkataraya Sastry, Chilukuri Veerabhadra Rao, Chellapilla Venkata Sastry, C. P. Brown and Madanapantula Satyanarayana Sarma.“College Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar appreciated the students for their keen interest. He said that cultural visits of this nature not only enhance students’ understanding of history but also strengthen their research-oriented outlook. He added that students can broaden their knowledge not only through reading books but also through direct and experiential learning.“He described the visit to the Oriental Manuscripts Library as a rare and valuable opportunity for the students and said that preserving the rich heritage of the past and ensuring that it is passed on to future generations is the responsibility of everyone.“College Vice-Principal and IQAC Coordinator Dr. C. H. Satyanarayana, Academic Coordinator K. Geetha, P. Vijay Kumar, other faculty members and students participated in the programme.

Congress Failed to Implement Its 420 Promises

Former Minister Chamakura Malla Reddy“BRS Holds Massive Protest in Peerzadiguda““

“PEERZADIGUDA , SEPTEMBER 2(INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) organized a protest in Peerzadiguda, alleging that the Congress government had failed to implement the promises it made to the people during the elections, as the government completed 1,000 days in office.“The programme was organized under the leadership of former Mayor Jakka Venkat Reddy, following a call given by BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao. Former Minister and Malkajgiri MLA Chamakura Malla Reddy attended the protest as the chief guest.“As part of the protest, the BRS leaders organized a rally carrying a massive 420-metre-long flex banner, reminding people of the election promises made by the Congress. They also distributed “due cards” and pamphlets to the public, explaining the promises that were yet to be fulfilled and the schemes that were pending implementation.“Speaking on the occasion, Chamakura Malla Reddy criticized the Congress government, alleging that it had failed to fully implement the promises made to the people during the elections. He claimed that people were facing difficulties even with basic necessities such as drinking water and electricity under Congress rule.“He said that the BRS would take the failures of the government and its unfulfilled promises to the people and continue questioning the Congress



government.“Former Mayor Jakka Venkat Reddy said the main objective of the programme was to place the 420 promises made by the Congress before the people and explain the status of their implementation.“He announced that protest programmes would be organized every day for the next seven days and that the BRS would intensify its fight against the government.“BRS General Secretary Yadavalli Raghavardhan Reddy, former corporators Donthiri Harishankar Reddy, Kolthuri Mahesh, Madhusudan Reddy and Kaude Pochayya, Women’s President Nirmala, Working President Enugu Manoran-jan Reddy,

People Are Witnesses to YSR’s Welfare-Oriented Governance

“A Great Leader Who Brought Hope and Progress to the Lives of the Poor and Farmers”:



Selvatkar Pentu“Kumrambheem, Asifabad, District. Reporter “Indian Chronicle” September.03.“Wankidi, Asifabad District: The Congress party observed the death anniversary of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) with solemnity at the Congress party office in Wankidi Mandal headquarters of Asifabad district.“Congress leaders and party workers paid floral tributes to the portrait of the late leader and remembered his contributions to public welfare and development.“Mandal Congress Party Vice-President Selvatkar Pentu paid floral tributes to YSR and recalled the various welfare and development initiatives implemented during his tenure as Chief Minister.“Speaking on the occasion, Pentu said that YSR’s tenure as Chief Minister was a significant period, particularly for poor people, farmers and ordinary citizens. He said YSR did not view governance merely as an administrative responsibility but focused on understanding people’s problems and improving their living conditions through various welfare programmes.“Pentu said YSR worked with the vision that government schemes and benefits should reach even the most disadvantaged sections of society. His approach to governance, he said, placed the welfare of ordinary people at the centre of administration.“Special Focus on Farmers“YSR gave special importance to the welfare of farmers and took several key decisions aimed at strengthening the agricultural sector, Pentu said.He recalled that free electricity for agriculture provided significant support to farmers and helped them continue cultivation. He also highlighted the importance given to irrigation projects under the Jalayagnam programme, stating that efforts were made to address long-standing irrigation problems.“According to Pentu, YSR created confidence among farmers that the government would stand by them and support the agricultural sector.“A Major Step Towards Healthcare for the Poor“Pentu described the introduction of the Aarogyasri health scheme as one of the major initiatives of YSR’s administration.He

said the scheme provided an opportunity for economically weaker families to access treatment for serious illnesses without being forced to bear the entire financial burden themselves.“The programme, he said, provided much-needed support to poor families and helped reduce the risk of families falling into debt because of major medical expenses.“Importance Given to Education“Pentu also recalled the role of the fee reimbursement scheme in helping students from poor and middle-class families pursue higher education.He said YSR believed that financial difficulties should not prevent talented students from continuing their education. By giving importance to education, his government helped many students gain access to higher studies and better opportunities.Education, Pentu said, could transform the future of families, and YSR worked with that vision.“Welfare and Development Given Equal Priority“During YSR’s tenure, welfare and development were given equal importance, Pentu said.He recalled initiatives in areas such as rural development, irrigation, education and healthcare, stating that many of these programmes had a direct impact on the lives of ordinary people.“YSR viewed the problems of the poor from a humanitarian perspective rather than merely as political issues, Pentu said. His ability to connect with people and understand their difficulties was one of his distinguishing qualities, he added.“Pentu recalled that YSR travelled extensively through rural areas and interacted with farmers, labourers, women and students to understand their problems and take steps towards addressing them.“YSR Continues to Be Remembered by People“Even years after his death, people continue to remember YSR with affection, Pentu said.He stated that YSR’s faith in the people and the confidence people placed in him were among the major strengths of his political career.“Positions of power may not be permanent, but the service rendered to the people remains forever, Pentu said, adding that YSR demonstrated this through his public life.

“Message to the Younger Generation“Pentu stressed the need to educate the present generation about YSR’s public service and welfare initiatives.He urged young people to learn from YSR’s life about public service, social responsibility and a humanitarian approach towards the weaker sections of society.He also called upon Congress workers to remain connected with the people, understand their problems and take them to the concerned authorities for resolution.“Taking Forward YSR’s Ideals Is the True Tribute“Pentu said that continuing YSR’s ideals would be the most meaningful tribute to the late leader. He urged Congress workers to give priority to programmes aimed at supporting the poor, addressing farmers’ issues, helping students build better futures and promoting the welfare of women.“Standing with people during difficult times and sharing their concerns, he said, would be a true tribute to YSR.On the occasion of YSR’s death anniversary, Congress leaders and workers paid floral tributes to his portrait and remembered his contributions.Pentu stated that the Congress party would continue to move forward with the goals of public welfare, social justice and development.“End

*BRS Launches Battle Against Congress Government’s “Deceptive Rule



“Where are the Promises? Congress Must Answer the People!“Hundreds of Tamaka BRS Cadres Participate in Massive Dharna Under MLA Padma Rao Goud’s Leadership” “Tarnaka, September 2(INDIAN CHORNICLE).““The BRS party has strongly opposed the Congress government, alleging that it came to power by making several promises before the elections but has now neglected the commitments made to the people. As part of the protests launched by the BRS against what it termed the Congress government’s “deceptive and anti-people rule,” former Tarnaka Division Corporator Alakunta Saraswathi participated in the protest and strongly criticized the functioning of the Congress government.““Promises were showered before the elections, but after coming to power, the people have been neglected. This is the real face of the Congress government,” Alakunta Saraswathi said.



She alleged that the Congress came to power by misleading the people and securing their votes, but is now attempting to backtrack on its promises one by one.“In this context, hundreds of BRS leaders and activists from Tarnaka Division gathered in large numbers and extended their support to the massive dharna held under the leadership of Secunderabad MLA Sri Padma Rao Goud. Alakunta Hari personally participated in the dharna and expressed solidarity with the BRS movement.“BRS leaders questioned whether the Congress government could not see the difficulties faced by the people and whether it lacked the commitment to implement the promises made during the elections. They warned that if the government mistakes the patience of the people for weakness, it will have to pay a heavy political price.““The Struggle Will Continue Until All Promises Are Implemented““BRS leaders made it clear that the party would continue to stand with the people and fight until every promise made by the Congress government is implemented.““The people themselves will teach a fitting lesson to the Congress for deceiving them. If the government fails to implement its promises, we will intensify the movement. The BRS struggle will not stop until the Congress government is forced to implement its commitments,” Tarnaka BRS leaders warned.“Hundreds of BRS leaders, activists, youth leaders, women leaders and party cadres from Tarnaka Division participated in the massive dharna and raised slogans against the Congress government.

70th SGF Zonal-Level Sports Selections Held at Joshi Vidyanikethan

“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 2 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Zonal-level sports selections for the 70th SGF competitions were held grandly at Joshi Vidyanikethan School under the Uppal Zone. Students who excelled in various sporting disciplines participated enthusiastically and showcased their sporting skills.“Uppal MRO Pool Singh Chauhan attended the programme as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the sports selections. He observed the students’ performances and congratulated the athletes who demonstrated outstanding talent.Speaking on the occasion, Pool Singh Chauhan advised students to give equal importance to sports along with academics. He said that sports help develop discipline, perseverance and self-confidence among students. He noted that developing an interest in sports from a young age can provide opportunities to reach higher levels of achievement in the future.“He wished the students selected for the zonal-level competitions success at the next level and advised them to further improve their skills. He also urged school managements, teachers and physical education teachers to extend their full support in encourag-



ing young athletes.“School management representatives, teachers, physical education teachers and students participated in the programme.

Lack of Accreditation in Engineering colleges

The News“ “Lack of Accreditation in Engineering colleges .“36 Engineering Colleges of Bihar couldn’t get Accreditation by NBA (National Board of Accreditation) yet and pass out students from such institutions have to face a lot of problems in abroad when they want to get their admission for higher degree course or to get good job.“ As the sources said that the MIT College of Muzaffarpur and Chandi College have got Accreditation in some faculties.As about 15,183 students get the degree of B Tech in various faculties from such institutions. But when they try to get admission in MTech and other higher course in the universities of abroad they have to face trouble.As in this month the team of NBA is about to come in some Engineering colleges of Bihar for the inspections.As 18 technical institutions have applied for this .“ As the single Government Engineering College of Kumarbagh in West Champaran could not get the Accreditation from NBA yet .As the College has been established in 2019 and first batch of the students passed out in the session of 2023-24.As some passed out students got placement from the institution.The institution provides good quality of education in various faculties as some students said.“ As the Dean of Kumarbagh Engineering College Dr Yogeshvar Divedy said that for the Accreditation from NBA the posting of Professors and Associate Professors should be completed as well as three batches of students should be passed out.As the shortage of Associate Professors would bring obstacle to get Accreditation. In Bihar the recruitment of Associate Professors could not be completed yet.As the government has taken decision to recruit Associate Professors in the Engineering Colleges of Bihar and after that the problems would be solved.“ As it is noted that to provide technical education among the students of Bihar the state government has established several Government Engineering colleges, Polytechnic Colleges and ITI colleges in several districts of Bihar.After that the students of both rural and urban areas showed their interest towards technical education which has brought a change among the adolescent of Bihar towards education. As almost all students want to get technical degree to get job so they complete their technical education and get opportunity for job either in the country or abroad.On the whole the technical education has become a boon for the students of Bihar.The

government has also launched various platforms to provide them job after completing of technical education.They can also start their start up in this field and several schemes have been launched to help them financially from the banks.““ NEXT““ The havoc of the Gandak and spotting of crocodiles. ““ After the flash flood in Nepal and the receding trend of the Gandak river ,the erosion and the movement of crocodiles from the river have made the situation alarming in several areas of West Champaran District of Bihar .“ As it is noted that the Gandak originates from the area of Tibbat and it is called the Trishuli river.To cross some areas of Nepal it is known as the Narayni river.When it enters the area of West Champaran it is known as the Gandak in Indian territory. The river crosses several districts of Bihar as West Champaran,East Champaran,Gopalganj, Saran and Vaishali .In Vaishali district it falls into the Ganga near Sonpur.Now the Gandak has become the second largest hub of crocodiles after the Chambal river.Every year the forest department and it’s Associate NGOs released baby crocodiles every year.The climate of Champaran and the water of the Gandak is fertile for crocodiles.“

As the movement of crocodiles from the river belt towards human habitation ,orchards and agriculture fields has made the situation panic. As in the area of Chaumukha village under Yogapatty block of West Champaran several crocodiles were spotted which created the situation alarming.As the dwellers of the locality have informed the forest authority regarding the movement of crocodiles. The fear of crocodiles has stopped the movement of peasants towards their agriculture farm as well they are afraid of crossing the way near river belt .The movement of the dwellers has paralysed in several areas of the Gandak basin .“ Not only this the erosion of the Gandak has badly affected the people of the river adjacent villages .Their houses and crops are being submerged in the river.Hundreds acres cane crop has been submerged in the Gandak under the areas of Bagha Subdivision and Bettiah subdivision of West Champaran,East Champaran and Gopalganj districts of Bihar.Now the government should try to launch a plan to save the property of the peasants of West Champaran and other affected districts of Bihar from the havoc of the Gandak.“ END.

Gangaputhras should be allowed in the fish ponds to be constructed under the Jalsiri scheme.

“TGS state secretary Tunguturi Rajesh Khanna Gangaputra““HYDERABAD: Tunguturi Rajesh Khanna, State secretary of Telangana Gangaputra Sangham, has urged the Gangaputra government to give priority to the poor orthodox traditional fishermen of the Gangaputra caste, who are making a living by fishing and selling fish as a caste vocation, in the fish farming ponds to be constructed across the State under the Jalsiri scheme.““Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr. G. Parameshwara were present at the event. The petition was submitted by Chinna Reddy.““Rajesh Khanna said that under the Jalsiri scheme, about 50 thousand ponds / pomponds will be constructed across the state and if the Gangaputras are provided with the necessary opportunities for fish farming in them, they will be able to get employment and additional income through fish production besides continuing their traditional occupation.““He said that many of the Gangaputra families who have been dependent on fishing and fish marketing for generations are economically backward. By providing such families an opportunity for fish farming in ponds and ponds through the Jalsiri scheme, their standard of living can be improved and fish production in the state can also be increased significantly.““The water bodies to be constructed under the Jalsiri scheme should not only be limited to water re-



serves, but should also be used for the livelihood of traditional fishermen. We want the government to give priority to fisheries, especially to the poor Gangaputras, and provide them with permanent employment opportunities. "Rajesh Khanna said.““Keeping in mind the livelihood and welfare of the Gangaputras, he urged the government to consider their request positively and give due priority to the Gangaputras in the Jalsiri scheme

Telangana CM Revant Reddy Requests for Heli Tourism & Cargo, Passenger & MRO(Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul) facilities at Warangal & Adilabad Airports



Indian Chronicle“02 Sept 2026““Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu to expedite the development and construction works of the Adilabad and Mamunur (Warangal) airports in the state. CM Revanth Reddy also urged the Union Civil Aviation Minister to support the development of heli-tourism in Telangana. He said the initiative could provide a major boost to the state’s tourism sector and improve connectivity to various tourist destinations.““Officials from the Civil Aviation Ministry informed the Chief Minister that a report on the feasibility of seaplane landing at Hussain Sagar would be submitted to the Telangana government within two weeks.““The meeting was attended by MPs Anil Kumar Yadav and Suresh Shetkar, State Government Advisor (Protocol) Harkara Venugopala Rao, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Chief Minister’s Secretary Manik Raj, and other senior officials.““CM Revanth Reddy also urged the Union Civil Aviation Minister to support the development of heli-tourism in Telangana. He said the initiative could provide a major boost to the state’s tourism sector and improve connectivity to various tourist destinations.““Officials from the Civil Aviation Ministry informed the Chief Minister that a report on the feasibility of seaplane landing at Hussain Sagar would be submitted to the Telangana government within two weeks.““The meeting was attended by MPs Anil Kumar Yadav and Suresh Shetkar, State Government Advisor



(Protocol) Harkara Venugopala Rao, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Chief Minister’s Secretary Manik Raj, and other senior officials.

Warangal & Adilabad Airports To Get a Boost as CM Revanth Reddy Meets Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu“

“Indian Chronicle“Manikonda““Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu to expedite the development and construction works of the Adilabad and Mamunur (Warangal) airports in the state.““The Chief Minister met the Union Minister at the Civil Aviation Ministry’s office at Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan in New Delhi and discussed various issues concerning the development of the aviation sector in Telangana.““During the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy said that the land acquisition required for the Mamunur airport had already been completed and handed over by the state government.“

SP questions Ram Temple Trust CEO selection process, demands HC supervised panel



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

New Delhi: Samajwadi Party MP Awadhesh Prasad on Tuesday criticised the report concerning the selection process for the CEO of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, saying the Trust had not been given any authority in the matter and reiterating his demand for a committee to be constituted under the supervision of the High Court. “Whatever has happened has no meaning, and the Trust has not been given any authority in this matter. We have said this many times, and our leader Akhilesh ji has also said that a committee should have been constituted under the supervision of the High Court, because this is a major issue,” Prasad said.

“Those who are responsible and accountable should be held responsible. This incident has happened to protect

those who are responsible, and there is no meaning to this report. The entire country will one day raise its voice against this, and the Bharatiya Janata Party and its associates will have to face the consequences,” he added. Meanwhile, a search committee has been formed to select the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. The committee held its first meeting on September 11 and finalised the eligibility criteria for the post. Applications will now be invited from eligible and interested candidates. The selection committee for the first CEO of the Ram Temple is scheduled to submit the names of three shortlisted candidates to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Tuesday. The final report of the selection process will be submitted to the Trust at the Ram Janmabhoomi premises. The trustees are likely to announce the name of the temple’s first CEO during an important meeting scheduled for Wednesday. The members of the committee constituted to conduct the CEO interviews have arrived in Ayodhya. The panel comprises retired Justice Pramod Kohli, retired Lieutenant General Vishnu Kant Chaturvedi and expert member Suresh Hawade. The series of meetings will begin at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at Maniramdass Cantonment, where several key decisions concerning the Trust are likely to be taken. The appointment of the temple’s first CEO comes in the wake of the reported theft of offerings at the Ram Temple. The Trust is also likely to formally fill another vacant official position during the meeting. Two important positions became vacant following the resignations of Champat Rai and Anil Mishra, who had served as senior office-bearers of the Ram Temple Trust.

All wars should be resolved through dialogue, not on battlefield: PM Modi at SCO Summit

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Bishkek: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reiterated India’s stance that all conflicts should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, and not through war. Addressing the 26th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Kyrgyzstan’s Bishkek on Tuesday, PM Modi said that the conflict in West Asia is not confined to that region and impacts the energy security, maritime trade and supply chains of the whole world.

“In today’s interconnected world, the scope of security has expanded even further. The crisis in West Asia has shown that conflict in one region is not confined to that region. It impacts the entire world’s energy security, maritime trade, and supply chains. Countries in the Global South bear the brunt of this. Therefore, India has been calling for the resolution of all tensions and wars through dialogue and diplomacy, not on the battlefield,” he said. The Prime Minister flagged drug trafficking as a serious threat to the young generation and regional security. He welcomed the centres being established within the SCO to address challenges like security threats, organised crime, information security, and narcotics as a “positive step” and called for making them effective instruments of practical coordination and timely action.

On connectivity, PM Modi expressed India’s support for efforts to connect markets, facilitate trade and create new pathways for development. “Another foundation for our shared development is strong and reliable connectivity. India supports all efforts that connect markets, facilitate trade,

and open new avenues for development. However, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries is essential in these efforts. This is also the core spirit of the SCO Charter,” he said. The Prime Minister stressed that terrorism continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and called for dismantling the entire ecosystem of terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalisation, and safe havens. He asserted that there can be no room for double standards on terrorism. “Terrorism continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity. In our fight against it, we cannot limit ourselves to a mindset of action and reaction. We must dismantle the entire ecosystem of terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalisation, and safe havens,” PM Modi said.

“We must speak with one voice that there can be no room for double standards on this serious issue. Those countries which make terrorism a tool of their policy, provide shelter and support to terrorists, will have to be given a strong message that terrorism cannot be a strategic asset for anyone,” he added. The Prime Minister said that India has been and will continue to contribute to the development and humanitarian assistance of the people of Afghanistan. He outlined three main pillars of India’s approach to SCO—Security, Connectivity and Opportunity. “Over the past 25 years, the SCO has developed a strong tradition of dialogue and cooperation across the vast Eurasian region. Together, we have made valuable contributions to the well-being of our peoples and to the development of humanity. Over these 25 years, we have laid a strong foundation for cooperation. Now, in the coming twenty-five years, our goal must be to translate this cooperation into tangible results,” he said.

Indian Railways approves Rs 170 crore for Kavach 4.0

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

New Delhi: Indian Railways has approved deployment of Kavach Version 4.0 on the remaining sections covering 712 route kilometres of the Moradabad Division, Northern Railway, at a total cost of Rs.170 crore, an official statement said on Tuesday. The approved work will strengthen the division’s safety infrastructure through deployment of the indigenous Automatic Train Protection system, the statement from the Ministry of Railways said. The implementation of Kavach 4.0 will provide an advanced safety layer for train operations across the identified sections, the ministry said. Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system designed to enhance operational safety. It helps prevent Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD), automatically applies brakes when required to avert unsafe situations, controls train speed in critical conditions, and significantly reduces the risk of collisions. “The initiative forms part of Indian Railways’ continued efforts to expand Kavach coverage across its network and modernise railway signalling and train protection systems,” the statement noted. Safety on Indian Railways has improved markedly, with train accidents dropping 88 per cent to 16 incidents in 2025–26 from 135 in 2014–15 and just two in the current



year up to June, the ministry had informed in July. Consequential Accident Index—accidents per million train-kilometres—fell to 0.01 in 2025–26 from 0.11 in 2014–15, marking a reduction of about 91 per cent. Expenditure on safety-related activities has risen steadily, from Rs 39,200 crore in 2013–14 to Rs 1,20,389 crore in 2026–27. Electrical and electronic interlocking systems with centralised operation have been provided at 6,671 stations and complete track circuiting at all these stations. Interlocking of Level Crossing (LC) Gates has been provided at 10,395 Level Crossing Gates for enhancing safety at LC Gates.

Karnataka CM Shivakumar after protests over park land rule

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Lalbagh protest Bengaluru, Lalbagh protest, Bengaluru park land, Karnataka parks amendment, Karnataka Parks Preservation Act, 5 per cent park land rule, Lalbagh land rule, Cubbon Park land, Bengaluru parks, Lalbagh tunnel project, Tejasvi Surya Lalbagh, Karnataka parks law, Bengaluru news, Indian Express news Bengaluru residents participate in the campaign “Walk in Lalbagh. Walk for Lalbagh”, demanding protection for the few open spaces in the city. (Express Photo) Days after Bengaluru residents and BJP leaders protested in huge numbers against a legal amendment allowing the use of 5 per cent of the city’s protected park land for public utilities, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday said the government would revisit the decision. Speaking to the media near his residence, Shivakumar said, “I will examine why this proposal to allocate 5 per cent of park land came about, what the previous government did, and which land was given to whom. I will call for the files, and we can discuss this again in the Assembly.” “There was no discussion while passing the amendment to the Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) Act. Now, they are staging a protest and let them do it. I am ready to hold discussions on it. I know how they (BJP) also allotted parks and other lands. There’s no need for anyone to worry. I know how to protect park land,” he said. The chief minister was referring to the “Walk in Lalbagh.



Walk for Lalbagh” protest held in Bengaluru. “I am open to suggestions from the Opposition. I will also consider suggestions from the public. It is not my intention to create any confusion. The decision will be taken keeping the larger public interest in mind,” he added. The Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) (Amendment) Act 2026 amends the original 1975 Act, allowing the state “to alienate park land by way of sale, lease, gift, exchange, mortgage, or otherwise, up to an absolute limit of 5 per cent of the total area”. Critics fear the law will open the door to real estate development and infrastructure projects, but the government says it applies only to public utility projects undertaken by government departments, statutory authorities, public sector companies, or local authorities.

Can barcodes stop fake Paithani saris? Designers and weavers weigh in on Maharashtra plan



A quintessential Maharashtrian craft, the Paithani sari represents the pinnacle of handloom dexterity, luxury, and silk weaving. With intricate designs taking anywhere from a month to a full year to complete, the booming market for these prized heritage saris has inevitably attracted a wave of counterfeits and powerloom imitations. To combat fakes, Maharashtra Textile Minister Sanjay Sawkar recently announced a remedial measure: Paithani saris will soon carry barcodes and official logos to authenticate genuine handloom pieces.

While designers, weavers, and industry leaders have welcomed the initiative’s intent, they responded with measured optimism, pointing out critical challenges related to implementation, durability, and anti-tampering safeguards. Some say that existing safeguards, such as ‘Silk Mark’ and ‘Handloom Mark’ tags, are already frequently forged on counterfeit products, while paper or plastic barcodes attached to a sari can easily be detached or swapped. Nivedita, a designer who works extensively with Paithani weavers for her heritage wedding collections, says the success of this initiative will depend on the robustness of its implementation.

“I wholeheartedly welcome the textile minister’s announcement on introducing barcode-based traceability for Paithani. ‘Paithani Sarees and Fabrics’ have been GI-registered since 2010. The new initiative, therefore, has the opportunity to take this existing geographical identity a significant step further by creating individual, verifiable traceability for each sari,” she says. A Geographical Indication (GI) registration is a legal status given to products that come from a specific place and have special qualities linked to that location. Yet, she flags several important questions. “I

Young doctor’s death raises uneasy questions in Maharashtra

For Dr Amol Bansude, a medical intern at Pune’s Sassoon General Hospital, the death of his friend Dr Rajendra Rupnavar is a personal blow. Dr Rupnavar, who was working as a medical officer on contract at the Sub-District Hospital in Phaltan in Maharashtra’s Satara district, had confided in Bansude about the pressures he faced. “I spoke with him around two weeks ago and tried to persuade him to leave the job and come to Pune, where there were openings at Kamala Nehru Hospital. But he refused. He believed in justice and was determined that justice be done,” Dr Bansude told Dr Rupnavar, who had allegedly been facing pressure over issuing a medical fitness certificate required for a firearm licence by individuals linked to a political party, attempted suicide in Mumbai on August 27 and succumbed to his injuries on Monday. The doctor, who was in his twenties and came from a low-income family in Mandve village in Solapur district, had spoken about the alleged harassment and political pressure through WhatsApp statuses, Instagram reels, and other social media posts, his colleagues claimed. He allegedly said he was being harassed, facing action, and that attempts were being made to remove him from service. He had sought government intervention and action against those responsible, his colleagues added.

Despite hardships, Dr Rupnavar earned admission to Grant Medical College in Mumbai and later joined as a contractual medical officer at Phaltan, where he served for one and a half years. On July 29, he posted a suicide note written on his left palm as his WhatsApp status. Dr Apurv Dalvi, national coordinator of the All India Medical Students Association, immediately alerted the Indian Medical Association (IMA). Dr Rupnavar had also called Dr Dalvi earlier. “I am feeling so bad that I was caught up with a protest—foreign medical graduates in New Delhi—that I could not immediately attend Dr Rupnavar’s call a fortnight ago,” Dr Dalvi told After Dr Santosh Kulkarni, IMA Maharashtra president, received a call from Dr Dalvi, he contacted Medical Superintendent Dr Leela Madane. “This was three weeks ago when we asked them to conduct a proper enquiry. Dr Madane informed us that he was fine and at his brother’s house,” Dr Kulkarni said.

However, Dr Bansude recalled that ‘Raj’—as he was known to his friends—was extremely upset. “I told him to forget this episode and move on. He came from a very poor family and had been alone from his early days; his uncle supported him. Only recently did he finish paying his loan and settle down,” Dr Bansude added. According to his colleagues, Dr Rupnavar had travelled to Mumbai to bring the matter to the attention of senior authorities. They alleged that he was unable to meet the officials concerned. Following his suicide bid, he was rushed to Sion Hospital in a critical condition. According to the Sion Hospital administration, Rupnavar had suffered a cervical injury and developed complications related to it. He subsequently suffered a cardiac arrest during treatment and died on August 31. “The exact

would love to see addressed at a policy level whether the final technology is a 1D barcode, QR code, RFID/NFC tag, or even a woven-in identifier, and whether it needs careful evaluation for durability, accessibility, scalability and tamper-proof authentication. Secondly, who will issue and authenticate each code? How will weavers and weaving clusters be registered?” she asks. Moreover, how will the yarn, zari, place of manufacture and individual artisan be recorded, she asks. “How will existing Paithanis be brought into the system? What will distinguish an authentic Paithani from a semi-Paithani or imitation? Who will maintain the database, and how will consumers access and verify this information?” she asks, adding that she would like to see these aspects considered to make the framework truly bulletproof. “Done thoughtfully, this could become a landmark model for protecting India’s GI crafts and empowering the artisans behind them,” says Nivedita. Rizwan Quereshi, a fourth-generation weaver from Aurangabad, says there are many rip-offs of Paithani, including powerloom products made from polyester rather than silk. “The industry is being hit as a result of these fakes. While we welcome the minister’s desire to help the craft, we are not clear on how the government’s bar code initiative will function or how easy it will be for weavers to use,” he says. Anagha Ghaissas of Saudamini Handloom, who is also a filmmaker, teacher and a supporter of textiles, is expected to speak to the minister about the bar code. “This is a positive step. All these years, no government has made an effort to protect the originality of Paithani and ensure that only pure Paithani reaches buyers. The minister’s announcement of having a bar code is welcome, though we need to understand the technical steps,” she says. At the end of this year, Saudamini Handloom itself is taking a step to strengthen the Paithani industry. It will open a 100-handloom cluster and experiential centre by the waters of Manas Lake in Bugaon. One of the best-known Paithani brands in the country, Paithanis by Mruga Kirloskar, was also an innovator and pioneer. Every Paithani sari by the exclusive designer Mruga Kirloskar features a running deer logo woven near the pallu. “Having a barcode is a great step. But you can start with good intentions and find that some people misuse them. Ideally, the state’s focus should be on promoting the craft and educating the customers on how to detect authentic Paithani and how to buy it. It is important that buyers are educated in the qualities and value of Paithani,” says Kirloskar.



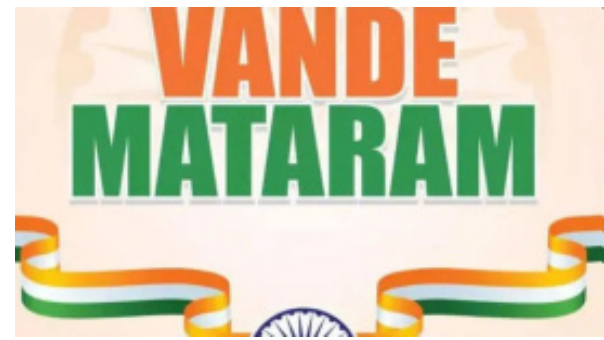
medical cause of death will be established through the medical and post-mortem records, which will be submitted to the police. The circumstances that led to the suicide attempt, and whether the alleged pressure had any connection with it, will have to be established through an investigation,” said an official from the hospital administration. On Monday, Dr Leela Madane, Medical Superintendent of Phaltan Sub-District Hospital, was suspended, with the order stating that she had allegedly been insensitive and used harsh communication with junior medical officers. The order also mentioned that an inquiry committee had found mismanagement and lack of control in the hospital administration.

Dr Rupnavar’s death also brought renewed attention to the death of a woman doctor who had worked at the same hospital and died by suicide in 2025. Allegations of workplace harassment and pressure had emerged in that case as well, and doctors’ organisations had sought an impartial inquiry. ‘Need safe environment for doctors’ The central unit of the Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) has demanded an immediate, impartial and transparent investigation into the circumstances of his death. “We need a safe, dignified and supportive working environment for every doctor,” said MARD president Dr Atharva Shinde, calling for strong laws and institutional mechanisms to prevent mental harassment of doctors. Dr Dalvi added that a grievance portal should be set up to allow direct complaints and timely intervention, while Dr Kulkarni described the second such incident at the hospital as deeply concerning. “No doctor should be driven to the brink of despair because of harassment or external pressure,” he said. Meanwhile, Satara district police officials said a First Information Report was registered at Dadar railway police station on Monday. “This was a zero FIR registered based on the complaint filed by the family members of the deceased. Charges of abetment of suicide have been invoked.

The Government Railway Police (GRP) then sent the case to Satara police,” an officer said. “The case registered at GRP Dadar has been transferred to Satara police, and a probe has been launched,” Nikhil Pingle, Superintendent of Police of Satara, said.

Naga students demand Assembly resolution against Vande Mataram

Kohima: The Naga Students’ Federation on Tuesday marched to the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, demanding a resolution against the singing of Vande Mataram at official events, saying the protest was not intended to insult the nation but was prompted by the song being “against our faith”. On the first day of the Monsoon session of the Assembly in the Christian-majority northeastern state, the protesters marched from Naga Solidarity Park, raising slogans. NSF president Mteising said the students’ organisation would not compromise on the rights and religious beliefs of the Naga people. “We outrightly reject the imposition of Vande Mataram as it goes against our religion,” he said, while clarifying the protest was not intended to insult the nation or the national song. Mteising called upon the Naga people to stand for their “right to protect their faith”. He also urged Naga MLAs to prioritise their religious convictions, saying, “They are Christians first, then politicians.” The NSF president said they demand the Assembly pass a resolution against the singing or playing of Vande Mataram at official as well as



private programmes in the state. He said the move was aimed at safeguarding the secular character of society. Mteising further informed the gathering that the NSF had submitted a representation to the chief minister and the Assembly speaker, urging them to facilitate the adoption of an Assembly resolution against the imposition of Vande Mataram.

Karnataka man kills brother’s ‘murderer’; mother rewards him



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

A man, allegedly instigated by his mother over the years, killed his elder brother's suspected murderer in Karnataka's Hubballi last week. The police said they have arrested the woman and her son, along with four others, in connection with the crime. On August 28, Veerendra, alias Mujuji Talakal, and another accused allegedly hacked to death Dadapeer Udayakar, 35, who was acquitted of the 2015 murder of Maruti Talakal. The police said Veerendra was a minor when his brother was killed but continued to harbour a grudge against Dadapeer.

"His mother Shakuntala Talakal would repeatedly tell her younger son that Dadapeer was responsible for the death

of his elder brother. She created a sense of fear in him, telling him that if he did not act, Dadapeer could one day kill him as well. She kept provoking him and telling him that he should take revenge for his brother's murder," said N Shashi Kumar, Commissioner of Police, Hubballi-Dharwad. The police said that Shakuntala congratulated Veerendra after the murder, gave him a reward, and told him that she had been waiting for him to kill Dadapeer.

Dadapeer attacked with machetes near salonDadapeer had come to Hubballi with an elderly man on August 28. After tracking his movements, the accused allegedly collected machetes and other weapons concealed at their homes and elsewhere. Veerendra attacked him with a machete while he was sitting near a salon at Basava Colony Cross, the police said. He tried to escape but was hit by a two-wheeler and fell. The accused followed him and fatally attacked him with machetes near Siddeshwar Park. The police identified Veerendra and Deepak Chalawadi as the main accused, along with Shakuntala Talakal, Rakshit Bandivaddar, Taufiq Horakeri, and Farooq Nargund, who allegedly assisted them by arranging a vehicle, money, clothes, and weapons for the murder, besides helping them evade detection. The police further said Deepak also had previous enmity with Dadapeer. The police are on the lookout for three or four more people suspected of involvement in the murder. Further investigation is underway.

Bengal’s cleanliness crackdown begins: Check new fines for spitting, littering

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

West Bengal new fines, Kolkata fines September 1, public spitting fine West Bengal, littering fine West Bengal, public urination fine, open defecation fine, banned plastic bags fine, West Bengal civic rules, Bengal civic violations penalty, West Bengal cleanliness rules, Indian Express newsBengal Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul had announced the drive will start in September. (Express File Photo by Amit Chakravarty)

Starting Tuesday, West Bengal will fine people for spitting, littering, open urination and defecation in public, and violations involving banned plastic carry bags to improve cleanliness and civic discipline. Authorised civic inspectors will be on the streets, in public spots, hospital zones, and transport hubs to issue instant fines and collect them only through digital payment modes. "The move aims to improve urban cleanliness, public hygiene and civic discipline across Bengal's cities and towns. A major step towards cleaner and healthier public spaces," said an official. This follows an initial trial run across the hills of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, and Mirik earlier this summer. State Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul previously announced the drive will start in September. Paul and local leaders hit the streets in July and August, sweeping market stretches, handing out dustbins, and warning commuters that the awareness phase is officially over. "From September 1, let's change the habit and change Kolkata. A cleaner, safer and more disciplined city is not the government's responsibility alone. It begins with every citizen. Say no to littering, public spitting, illegal parking and single use plastic, and let's work



together to build a cleaner West Bengal. Small changes in our habits can create a big change in our city," senior BJP leader and party spokesperson Locket Chatterjee said on X.

1. "Open defecation or urination in public places other than designated toilet/restroom facilities."
2. "Littering, depositing, dumping or throwing any solid waste, plastic waste, garbage, debris or other waste material in public streets, roads, drains, water bodies, open spaces or any place other than designated waste collection points, and the use or carrying of banned plastic carry bags in violation of applicable laws and Government orders."
3. "Spitting in public places, hospitals, educational institutions, religious places, markets, assembly or congregation buildings, public utility buildings or structures, and other public premises."

Court ruled woman was murdered. Her family now fights corporation for her death certificate

GNS News Agency, Sept 2For Ashwini Bidre-Gore's family, the nightmare of losing her has continued long after her murder 17 months ago. The family has since been struggling to get her death certificate. For the first time since she died in 2016, the Executive Magistrate, relying on a court judgment, directed civic authorities to issue her official death certificate.

The order dated July 31 had confirmed Ashwini Bidre-Gore's death based on the sessions court judgment on April 21, 2025. It also directed that a death certificate be issued to her husband, Raju Gore, under the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, and relevant State Government resolutions. The order directed that the Registrar, Birth & Death Registration Department, Panvel Municipal Corporation, 'shall make the necessary entries in the official records as per this order and issue the requisite certificate to the applicant, Mr. Raju Balasaheb Gore'. "Despite the order by the Executive Magistrate, the Panvel Municipal Corporation has not issued a certificate. After the order on July 31, we have submitted over 400 supporting documents sought by the competent authorities of the Corporation, but we are yet to receive the death certificate after over a month," Gore said. He added that the delays have resulted in the denial of post-death benefits to their daughter, who is pursuing higher education. The Indian Express reached out to the Panvel Municipal Corporation but is yet to get a response. On April 21, a court in Panvel found former inspector Abhay Kurundkar guilty of murdering Ashwini in 2016. The court stated that although Ashwini's body or any remains were never found, circum-



stantial evidence showed she was murdered at Kurundkar's residence on April 11, 2016; her body was then dismembered and thrown into a creek to destroy evidence. The appeal is pending before the Bombay High Court.

As per Indian law, a missing person can be presumed dead seven years after their disappearance, allowing their legal heir to seek rights like succession, insurance, inheritance, assets, gratuity benefits, pension, or any other welfare schemes. Gore has been writing to authorities, including the Navi Mumbai Police Commissionerate, in whose jurisdiction Ashwini worked and resided in 2016; the Thane Municipal Corporation, in whose jurisdiction Kurundkar resided and is convicted for killing Ashwini; the Thane Rural police, where her dismembered body was thrown; and officials in Hatkanangale town in Kolhapur, where Ashwini lived with Raju Gore.

Mamata Banerjee’s niece found dead at home in Bengal’s Birbhum

Mamata Banerjee's niece, Bristy Mukherjee (Special arrangement photo/ Image enhanced using AI)Mamata Banerjee's niece, Bristy Mukherjee (Special arrangement photo/ Image enhanced using AI)Ex-Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's niece, Bristy Mukherjee, was found dead at her home in Birbhum district, police said Tuesday afternoon. Bristy Mukherjee was the daughter of the Trinamool leader's cousin, Nihar Mukherjee. The police said the 28-year-old was found dead on the second floor of her house. Nihar Mukherjee is Mamata Banerjee's maternal cousin and a regional Trinamool leader. The body has been sent for an autopsy and an investigation into her death has begun. Sources close to the family said the young woman had been battling depression for the past few years and was receiving medical treatment. She was among those who lost their job – as a non-teaching staff member of the Bolpur Upper Primary School – in March 2023 after the Supreme Court scrapped recruitment orders for teachers in state government-aided schools in the alleged 'cash-for-jobs' case. Nearly 26,000 teaching and non-teaching staffers were dismissed. The appointments were struck down by the Calcutta High Court and the Supreme Court then upheld that order.



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‘Slept in my car for a charging spot’: Noida cabbies frustrated with Vietnam venture



Their turquoise electric cars were lined up at the company's charging facility in the basement parking area of Urbtech Trade Centre in Sector 132 when the power went out. A murmur of grumbling spread through the group. A company supervisor stationed at the site announced: "There is no light, remove the chargers now, put it back on once the power is back." A driver in his 20s, who joined the fleet two weeks ago, told a fellow driver, "Now we will have to restart the process all over again." Around two-and-a-half months after Vietnam-based mobility company Green SM launched its electric taxi service — Green SM Limo — in Delhi-NCR, drivers said they are spending hours waiting for chargers or going offline to conserve battery. The result: fewer hours available to take passengers and complete the targets linked to their weekly pay. A charging queue before the first ride

"We take the cars out in the morning from the hub in Ek Murti, around 17 km from here. Charging takes around 2.5 hours in case there is a long queue. Even after this, there is no guarantee that we'll get our ride immediately. We get out, drive around the area and then a ride might come," said the driver. Another driver, who joined the fleet 15 days ago, faces the same problem. He said he leaves his home in Loni, Ghaziabad, at 8 am but often gets his first ride only around 1 pm. "Every day since my first day, I have waited for around an hour at the station. Then the charging takes two hours," he said. By then, a substantial part of the day has already gone. That matters because drivers have to complete either 35 trips or 580 km over six days to earn the weekly Rs 7,500 payout. "I'm left with only five to six hours in a day to complete the weekly target," said the first driver, inserting the charger as the power comes back.

The charging problem is particularly frustrating because the company's highest per-kilometre rate is paid during the hours when drivers most want to be on the road. Green SM pays Rs 16 per km during its peak periods of 7-10 am and 5-8 pm, said another driver. So drivers have begun trying to secure chargers before the rush — sometimes at considerable personal cost. "I once parked my vehicle near the

charging station overnight and slept inside so I could get a spot early in the morning," said the driver.

The station closes at 11 pm, he said, and private vehicles also use the chargers. Charging is itself a lengthy process. Drivers said it takes about 30 minutes to go from zero to 20% battery, around an hour to reach 80%, and another 35 minutes to complete the remaining charge. Back at Urbtech, the queue outside the charging facility had grown longer. A security guard from a nearby school asked drivers to move their vehicles to make way for school buses. Waiting in line, a driver who has been with the company since its launch said he had gone offline with only 15% charge left in his vehicle.

"We were told there is some issue with the charging, so we've had to wait for at least half an hour for the past five days," he said. "It's been a bother. If the battery drains to 20%, I close the app so I don't get a ride. I sometimes come to charge my vehicle on my week-offs." Why most cars are ending up at Sector 132 Drivers make a beeline for the Sector 132 facility because it has more fast chargers than the company's other two Noida locations. There are 12 fast chargers and 3 slow chargers, which can facilitate the charging of around 30 vehicles at a time, said an official from Jio BP, which has installed the chargers. A company official, who looks after operations in Noida, said drivers have raised concerns and these have been raised with the management.

"We have chargers in Sector 135 and 80 as well, but a majority of cars, around 100-150, go to Sector 132 as it has more fast chargers," he said. "We don't have permission to install them in our Noida hub as it is in the basement, but we have put two chargers on the ground floor. These are slow chargers," the official said. He added that a facility is being set up at Golden I, which is 2-3 km away from the hub. "We are planning to expand the network in two-three months," he said. According to Green SM India's representative, charging infrastructure is an important part of the firm's long-term growth strategy in India. "We are progressively developing charging access across Delhi-NCR, including Noida, in line with fleet size, actual demand, and the operational conditions of each area. The network will continue to be developed in phases, ensuring that charging access grows effectively alongside the expansion of Green SM's operations in the market," they said. "Green SM takes feedback from drivers seriously and has established direct channels through which they can raise operational concerns with the company," added the representative. For the drivers, the issue remains pressing: every hour spent waiting to charge their vehicle is an hour they cannot spend taking a ride. The driver who comes from Loni said, "The company just wants targets to be completed. ... I worked till late the day before yesterday and could not charge my car, so today it is taking longer for me to hit the roads," he said.

Farmers intensify protests across Punjab over land pooling, trade deal

The Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) and the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ektu) Ugrahan, along with the other farmers and labour organisations, intensified their protests on Monday. The KMM held day-long gatherings in all 22 districts outside the Deputy Commissioner's offices, while the other farmers' body continued its indefinite dharnas outside Deputy Commissioner offices in 17 districts.

The KMM claimed that hundreds of farmers, labourers, youth and members of the public participated in the gatherings, with Amritsar witnessing a particularly large turnout. The organisation raised several demands, including procurement of basmati, maize, moong, mustard and potato crops at MSP, complete loan waiver for farmers and labourers, compensation and jobs for families of suicide victims, and an effective policy to deal with floods, ground-water depletion and air and water pollution. The Morcha also demanded withdrawal of the land pooling policy, cancellation of the India-US trade deal and withdrawal of police, railway and stubble-burning cases registered during farmers' and labourers' movements. The body also opposed the four labour codes, Seed Act 2025, Electricity Amendment Bill 2025 and VB-G RAM G Act.

farmers protest Farmers take part in a sit-in protest outside the Deputy Commissioner's office pressing for action on a range of issues affecting agricultural labourers, in Amritsar on Monday. (ANI Photo/Raminder Pal Singh) The BKU Ugrahan's indefinite dharnas, launched outside DC offices in 17 districts on Sunday, entered their second day



on Monday. Protesters have brought tractor-trolleys to the sites to stay overnight. In Bathinda, large groups of farmers, labourers and women joined the protest. While in Sangrur, the protestors have blocked the road adjacent to the Deputy Commissioner's office. The Ugrahan leaders demanded that Punjab issue a clear policy statement on land surveys being conducted through drones and other means in Bathinda and Sangrur.

They said the surveys have created anxiety among people and warned that teams entering agricultural fields for such surveys would face protests and gheraos. The BKU Ugrahan leaders also announced participation in a major gathering on September 9 to mark revolutionary poet Avtar Singh Paash's birth anniversary, adding that the indefinite dharnas would continue.

No trial for Mumbai’s ‘miracle doctor’? Court case halted over Munir Khan’s health



In his discharge plea in 2025, Khan denied cheating anyone. He claimed that he was a businessman who manufactures ayurvedic substances through his firm, and a false case was filed against him after he refused to pay extortion money to a man.

A special court in Mumbai has halted the trial against 'miracle doctor' Munir Khan for advertising and prescribing a medicine named "body revival" as a sure-shot cure for multiple ailments, including cancer, due to his 'precarious' health. During a hearing, the court noted that Munir Khan, who is in his 70s and was produced via video-conferencing last month, was not in a position to remain present for the trial. On Monday, the special court said it will proceed to

frame charges against three of his co-accused in the case filed by the Enforcement Directorate in 2013. In 2009, Versova Police registered a case against Munir Khan, with claims that he was prescribing a 'Body Revival' medicine as a cure for cancer, diabetes, and a host of other ailments. He had also appeared alongside several film and television stars in commercials to promote the products. In 2008, the food safety regulator claimed that "Dr" Munir Khan had no medical degree and was mixing Ayurvedic herbs with honey to sell them as a cure for Rs 16,000 per 100ml bottle. The police had said that it had received complaints from over 100 individuals about worsening health conditions, with one complainant alleging that his wife lost her eyesight after using one medicine prescribed by Khan as eyedrops.

In his discharge plea in 2025, Khan denied cheating anyone. He claimed that he was a businessman who manufactures ayurvedic substances through his firm, and a false case was filed against him after he refused to pay extortion money to a man. In December 2025, the court rejected the discharge plea in the Mumbai Police case.

"The offence alleged is a serious offence of pretending to invent medicine to the public at large by giving advertisements on television and causing wrongful loss to the public at large... by posing to be a doctor based on fake degree certificates," the court had said. An appeal against this order is pending before the Bombay HC. While the charges have not been framed in the 2009 Mumbai Police case, Khan was produced via VC on July 13 in the ED case. The court verified his health condition and noted he is "very old and in a precarious condition." Special Judge SV Sahare said, "Trial cannot proceed against accused number 1, in view of his medical and physical condition." The court said it will proceed against the three others, directing them to remain present for framing of charges on September 11.

Global bond rout deepens as Japan yield hits key milestone

TOKYO/LONDON/SINGAPORE, Sept 1 (Reuters) - A sell-off in global bond markets deepened on Tuesday, with Japan's 10-year bond yield hitting 3% for the first time since 1996, the latest manifestation of trader angst about energy-driven inflation, monetary tightening and worsening fiscal conditions. The rout took ?in major economies from the United States to Germany as well as Britain, where bond yields surged 10 basis points, playing catch-up with global moves after Monday's UK public holiday. Euro zone yields hit fresh over-10-year highs as the Middle East crisis stokes price pressures globally, driving market bets central banks will raise interest rates soon. Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here.

A deluge of bond sales from big tech companies aggressively raising money to fund the AI boom, in an environment where the U.S. debt load has passed \$40 trillion, has exacerbated government bond selling in recent weeks. Yields rise when bond prices fall. Governments are jittery, and last month the U.S. Treasury stepped into markets in ?a bid to cap a rise in borrowing costs. Still, 30-year Treasury yields have already recovered around two-thirds of their fall after that move. And the ?scale of the global shift is underscored by the rise in 10-year Japanese government bond (JGB) yields to 3% for the first time in 30 years, something seen as practically unthinkable until recently after over a ?decade of massive central bank debt purchases kept rates artificially low. The rise in U.S. and Japanese yields reflect inflation and fiscal worries, said Tai Hui, APAC chief market strategist at J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

"The ?stalemate in the Middle East risks pushing energy prices higher ... meanwhile, few actions have been taken to consolidate fiscal deficits in both economies." Brent crude rose 2% to over \$92 a barrel on Tuesday and European natural gas prices were at their highest since March, after Monday saw the first exchange of direct attacks between the U.S. and Iran in a month.

END OF ERA? DEFINITELY For Japan in particular, higher yields increase the cost of servicing the developed world's biggest debt pile ?at a time when Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is planning aggressive investment. Five-year JGB yields hit a record high 2.26%. U.S. 10-year Treasury yields also pushed to the highest since January 2025 at around ?4.79%, while the 30-year yield was at 5.27% just 6 basis points shy of levels before August's intervention. Germany's 10-year yield was at 3.35%, its highest since 2011, and France's at 4.21%, its highest since 2008, as data ?showed euro zone inflation ?rose above 3% in August, cementing bets on a September European Central Bank rate rise. Britain's 10-year gilt yield rose to 5.25%, its highest since 2008. Analysts noted some different forces at play as global borrowing costs rise. "In Europe and the

Iran urges US to comply with interim deal after Trump threatens further strikes

DUBAI, - Iran said on Tuesday it would reciprocate if the United States honoured its commitments under a ?June interim deal on halting their conflict, but tensions remained high after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened Tehran with further strikes. Oil prices rose after the ?first exchange of direct attacks since late July, and following reports of two tankers coming under fire leaving the Strait of Hormuz, the global oil supply waterway that Iran has effectively closed to shipping.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. The six-month-old conflict had shifted into an economic standoff before a U.S. attack on Iran's Larak Island on Sunday, which Iran responded to by launching missiles overnight at two U.S. air bases in Jordan. "We're going to hit ?them hard ... There will be a response," a Fox News reporter quoted Trump as telling the channel on Monday, although the president separately told reporters that the renewed strikes ?did not signal a return to full-scale war. A senior Iranian source told Reuters the exchanges of fire were a "limited and contained confrontation" ?but said Tehran would deliver a harsh response if attacked again. While neither side appears to want a return to all-out war, their pledges to respond to further attacks highlight how ?quickly a conflict that has increasingly been fought through sanctions, blockades and economic pressure could spill back into military action.

FEARS THAT IRAN CONFLICT COULD 'RUN AND RUN' Tehran has repeatedly said it ?will allow free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz only if Washington implements the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by both sides in June but quickly unravelled. The MOU declared an end to fighting but deferred many of the most difficult issues and paved the way for a broader 60-day negotiation period - which passed without further agreement.

"I am stating clearly that if the U.S. returns to its ?commitments under the Memorandum of Understanding, the Islamic Republic of Iran will immediately reciprocate," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said. He was speaking in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, during a summit ?of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, whose members also include Russia, China, India and Pakistan.

He had also said on Monday that war was in no one's interest and that Tehran was still open to a ?negotiated solution. But ?there has been no sign of a breakthrough and the heightened tensions this week have renewed fears of oil supply disruptions from the world's key crude-producing region, with Brent futures rising another 1.3% on Tuesday. "The tit-for-tat missile exchanges between the US

Hindu identity not tied to worship: RSS chief at Toronto event

Toronto: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has said Hindu identity cannot be defined by a particular language, form of worship or way of life, arguing that its central principle is respect for diversity and recognition of the unity of existence. Addressing a gathering of more than 2,000 Hindus and friends of the community in the Greater Toronto Area, Bhagwat said outward differences were natural but did not divide humanity at its core. "When I say Hindu, the word Hindu cannot be defined by any specific language, through any specific worship, or through any living style," he said. "All these are there. These are diversities of human beings. Hindus respect all, Hindus accept all. They don't mind," Bhagwat added. His remarks came at a Hindu Vishwa Bandhu gathering centred on the theme "Embracing the world in friendship." The programme brought together com-



UK it is more because of heightened inflation expectations, while in the U.S. the upticks in long-end yields are still more driven by higher real yields although inflation expectations have been creeping up too," said Frances Cheung, OCBC's head of FX and rates strategy. Real yields are the returns that a bond investor demands above inflation, an indicator of true borrowing costs for governments ?and companies.

Concern that the U.S. Federal Reserve was ?too relaxed about inflation has also been ?in the mix for Treasuries. This started to shift last week, as new Fed Chair Kevin Warsh sounded tough on inflation, sending longer-dated yields lower and shorter-dated ones higher as bets on a September Fed rate hike rose. "The idea... is that the hawkish pivot by Chair ?Warsh at Jackson Hole was going to rein in long-end yields and restore stability and inflation credibility," said Kenneth Broux, head of corporate research FX ?and rates at Societe Generale.

"The ?resumption of the conflict between the U.S. and Iran and higher energy prices has effectively killed that idea and added new bearish impetus to bonds." U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent shrugged off worries about the bond market in an interview with Reuters on Sunday, saying the effect of higher energy prices would fade and higher yields reflected confidence in the economy. But as governments competing for the same broad pool of capital, higher yields ?in one market ?can push them up elsewhere. Australian 10-year yields notched their sharpest rise in five months on Tuesday, in part due ?to fears higher JGB yields would mean fewer Japanese buyers of Australian debt. Further Japanese yield rises could drive a gradual re-allocation into Japanese assets, said TD Securities senior rates strategist Prashant Newnaha. "It's a genuine regime change. JGBs were the anchor for global ?fixed income for a long time," he said.



and Iran bring validation to those who believe that even if not a 'forever war', this conflict will run and run," said PVM analyst John Evans. Highlighting such concerns, two supertankers carrying Saudi oil were struck by unknown projectiles within minutes of each other while transiting outbound through the Strait of Hormuz late on ?Monday, according to data from shipping intelligence and ?tracking firms Marisks and Kpler.

ECONOMIC PRESSURE Thousands ?have been killed in the conflict, mainly in Iran and Lebanon, since it began with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28. Washington has increasingly relied on economic pressure to try to force Tehran to stop blockading the Strait and end the conflict. U.S. ?Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has warned that countries doing business with Iran could face U.S. sanctions and said secondary sanctions are likely to be ?unveiled weekly in the effort ?to pressure Iran, with an initial focus on banks. Iran's central bank governor, Abdolnaser Hemmati, said on Tuesday that Tehran had sufficient foreign currency reserves. The central bank was ready to inject up to \$2 billion into the foreign exchange market to calm recent volatility, Hemmati was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

"I am telling the president of the United States: Iran has (foreign) currency ?and it has ?enough," he said. His comments appeared partly aimed at reassuring markets after Iranian officials, including Pezeshkian, pointed to growing ?difficulties for Iran's economy. Iran's currency plunged to a record low in August, crossing the psychological threshold of 2 million rials to the dollar, while annual inflation reached 66% in July. Additional reporting by Dubai newsroom, Phil Stewart and Kanishka ?Singh in Washington, David Lawder in Asheville, North Carolina, Helen Coster in New York and Yasmine Ghania and Hatem Maher in Cairo; Writing by Timothy Heritage; Editing by Kevin Liffey

munity and faith leaders, scholars, professionals and representatives of organisations from across Canada. Bhagwat said India's civilisational traditions had trained people to identify a common principle beneath visible differences. "They have been trained to see the unity underlying the diversity," he said. "So in Bharat, diversity is never a problem for unity because our tradition tells us not only unity in diversity, diversities of unity." "He said differences should be accepted, respected and celebrated because they were expressions of an underlying unity. "We have to serve, accept, respect this diversity because it is expression of unity. It beautifies it. It is the decoration. We celebrate it," Bhagwat said. India, he said, had always contained many castes, faiths, languages, traditions and styles of living. Its unity did not require those differences to disappear.

Nepal battles misinformation as AI-generated visuals flood social media after disaster

Kathmandu, Nepal is battling a deluge of misinformation, alongside rescue and relief operations as fake and AI-generated visuals inundated social media following the devastating flash floods, prompting the government to order 72 users to remove inappropriate content over the past few days. The Nepal Press Council, the country's media regulatory body, has opened a dedicated portal, titled "Special Complaints on the Bhotekoshi Incident", through which the public can report misinformation and graphic material related to the disaster, The Kathmandu Post reported on Monday. The move comes as social media platforms have been inundated with dramatic videos and images purportedly showing the destruction caused by the flash floods in the Himalayan nation. While some of the footage is genuine, fact-checkers have found that several widely circulated videos and images are from disasters in other countries, recycled from earlier events or generated or manipulated using artificial intelligence, the report said.

The rapid spread of misleading content has complicated an already chaotic information environment at a time when families are desperately searching for missing relatives and authorities are trying to establish the full extent of the disaster. For social media users chasing views and virality, the tragedy has also become a source of lucrative content, prompting concerns among authorities, journalists and fact-checkers. According to Nepal Press Council Chairman Umesh Shrestha, 72 social media users have been instructed to remove inappropriate content, most of it posted through personal accounts.

The council's dedicated portal had received 101 complaints by 5 pm on Saturday, including complaints against 67 personal accounts that had posted gruesome visuals, Shrestha said. "Similarly, complaints have been lodged against some online news portals and their social media pages," he said, adding that mainstream media organisations had largely avoided publishing misleading information and excessively graphic visuals. "This is a positive takeaway," Shrestha said. One widely circulated video purported to show Home Minister Sudan Gurung inside a tunnel at the disaster site helping with rescue operations. The footage, however, was traced to a tunnel rescue operation in Uttarakhand, India, and had originally been posted by the Fire Service Uttarakhand Police on August 14. Another video posted on X on August 27, showing what appeared to be a catastrophic flood, garnered more than seven million views. It was assessed by Hive Moderation, an AI detection tool, as 97.2 per cent likely to have been gener-



ated through artificial intelligence, while X's community notes also flagged it as fabricated.

A separate video purporting to show a bridge collapsing during the Nepal-Tibet floods was also assessed as entirely AI-generated. Nepal Fact Check, a fact-checking website, debunked another video claiming to show a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) in Rasuwa. Fact-checkers traced the footage to a glacial outburst flood at Columbia Glacier in Alaska, the United States. Similarly, "before and after" photographs claiming to show a settlement in Rasuwa before and after the floods were found to be fabricated by the Australian Associated Press fact-checking unit. Fact-checkers say the growing use of AI has added a new dimension to the longstanding problem of recycled and falsely attributed disaster footage. The government's Social Media Regulation and Management Committee, which has been tasked with addressing graphic content, AI-generated misinformation, fake QR codes and other forms of online deception, has also begun discussions with social media platforms, the Post report said.

The crisis has also raised concerns over the circulation of graphic footage showing bodies, injuries and devastated communities, often without warnings or consideration for victims and their families. The flash floods, believed to have been triggered by a collapse or avalanche of ice and rock near the Nepal-Tibet border, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal on August 26. Over 900 people were killed, while more than 4,245 people are still missing following the disaster, authorities said. The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, carried the floodwaters downstream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects.

Majority of Americans oppose Trump's new Canada tariffs, renaming Lake Ontario, Reuters/Ipsos poll finds

WASHINGTON, A majority of Americans ?oppose President Donald Trump's moves last week to raise taxes on imported Canadian goods and his order to rename Lake Ontario as "Lake America," a new Reuters/Ipsos poll found. The three-day poll, which concluded on Sunday, showed Americans are ?wary of the feud with Canada — for decades a top U.S. trading partner — which ?has escalated since trade talks between the two countries collapsed and Trump last ?week ordered the hike in tariffs on Canadian goods.

The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here. Only 20% of poll respondents supported higher ?tariffs on Canadian goods compared to 57% who opposed them and 21% who couldn't say where they stood. ?About one in five poll respondents hadn't heard about the development.

U.S. households are already under financial pressure from the surge in gasoline prices since Trump launched a war on Iran in February, and American voters rate the ?cost of living as the top issue determining how they will vote in November 3 midterm elections. ?Trump's Republican allies will be defending slim congressional majorities in the elections. Trump's approval rating in recent weeks has ?been mired ?at the lowest level of his political career. The trade conflict took a theatrical turn last week when Trump on Thursday renamed Lake Ontario, one of the five Great Lakes of North America, as "Lake America." Trump's designation applies to U.S. federal usage about the lake, and



does not govern ?what Canada, international bodies or ?other organizations call ?the lake. The president has often ribbed Canada, threatening to annex the longtime ally as a 51st U.S. state. He ordered the Gulf of ?Mexico be renamed the "Gulf of America" at the start of his second ?term in ?January 2025. Just 14% of Americans in the Reuters/Ipsos poll said they supported changing the name of Lake Ontario, which has gone by that name for more than 400 years. Sixty-three percent of poll ?respondents opposed ?the name change and the rest were unsure or didn't ?answer the question. The poll, which was conducted online and nationwide, gathered responses from 1,023 U.S. adults and had a margin ?of error of 4 percentage points.

Germany set to blame Russia for attempted airport drone attack



Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul stopped short of fully confirming the reports on Tuesday during a visit ?to Algeria but signalled new measures against Russia were being contemplated. When he returns to Germany ?later on Tuesday he is du

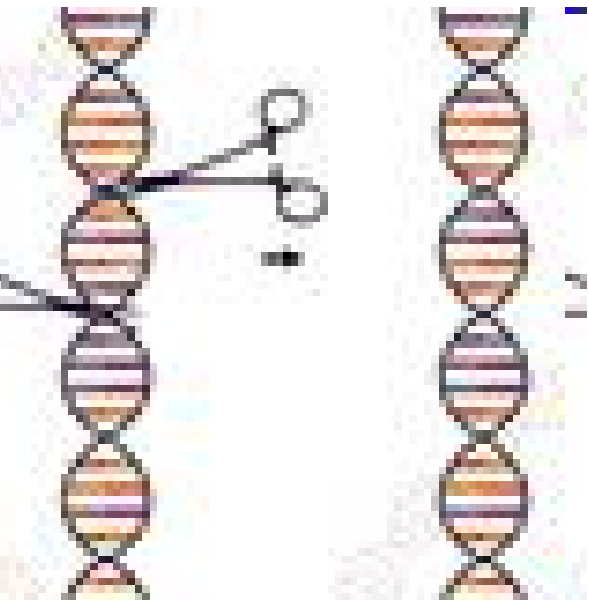
BERLIN, Germany is set to blame Russia for an attempted drone ?attack on a Ukrainian cargo plane at Leipzig/Halle airport in August and could prepare new ?sanctions against Moscow in coordination with allies, two sources said on Tuesday. Airport workers had found a drone laden with explosives and a detonator at the airport, an important civilian freight and NATO logistics hub in eastern Germany ?that is also a base for several giant Ukrainian Antonov An-124 cargo planes. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides

all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here. Germany had ?previously stopped short of blaming Russia but called the incident part of a ?hybrid war being waged on Europe. Relations between Russia and the West collapsed after the ?full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The two sources who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed reports in ?German media that the government would blame Russia and could prepare new sanctions. They did not disclose details of the proposed sanctions.

Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul stopped short of fully confirming the reports on Tuesday during a visit ?to Algeria but signalled new measures against Russia were being contemplated. When he returns to Germany ?later on Tuesday he is due to hold a press conference alongside Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt. "There is no ?overreaction on ?our part, but there is a response when we are attacked," Wadephul said. "Russia must understand that Germany is a stabilizing force in Europe — one that is always ready to negotiate but will not be intimidated in any way."

The Russian embassy had no immediate comment, but it has previously ?dismissed accusations about its possible ?involvement as a "fabricated ?provocation" and as "a new wave of anti-Russian hysteria in Germany". European intelligence officials have long monitored what they describe as Russian sabotage incidents in Europe aimed at ?weakening NATO's unity and its member states' willingness to support Ukraine against ?Russian aggression. Marie-Agnes ?Strack-Zimmermann, the German chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Security and Defence, called for Russia to be clearly identified as the mastermind behind the attempted attack. "I believe we need to call a spade ?a ?spade and acknowledge that Russia is behind this," she said ?on Tuesday. She argued that the focus should shift away from describing such incidents as "hybrid attacks", as these constitute "actual attacks."

Engineering medicine: The future of CAR-T and CRISPR technologies



The fourth industrial revolution marked by the fusion of technologies is blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological worlds. And it is at this intersection that the future of medicine is being written, with innovations like CRISPR and CAR-T therapy unlocking the potential to not only treat diseases but cure them. From editing the human genome to reprogramming immune cells to fight cancer, these approaches promise to transform healthcare as we know it. But as we stand on the brink of this new era, the question is no longer if these technologies will change lives — but how they will reshape the framework of human biology, ethics, and society itself. In 2012, Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier published their groundbreaking work, revealing that CRISPR/Cas9 could be re-engineered as a gene-editing tool. They won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for this, in 2020.

On December 8, 2023, the United States' Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved of a gene therapy treatment for transfusion dependent beta-thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia (SCA) patients — a decision that will revolutionise medicine and change countless lives. Yet, I find myself grappling with mixed emotions. While technology and medicine have always been intertwined, never have we imagined breathing life into extinct creatures or mending/tailoring our genes, ideas nothing short of science fiction.

What is CRISPR?

Casgevy and Lyfygenia, the two cell-based gene therapies approved by the FDA, utilise the CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing technology. Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) /CRISPR-associated protein 9 (Cas 9) evolved naturally as a defence mechanism in bacteria and archaea. It was first reported in *E. Coli* in 1987 by Ishino et.al. In a nutshell, the system serves as a genetic memory for past infections by incorporating a part of the viral genetic material into its own, so that the next time it is invaded, the bacteria is capable of recognising the virus and destroying it. The bacteria, in short, has developed an immunisation mechanism to ward off unwanted viral invaders. Watch:2020 Chemistry Nobel for developing CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors

The CRISPR system is easy to manipulate. Researchers have adapted it as a tool to cut, delete, or add DNA sequences at precise locations opening doors to treating genetic disorders, in diagnostics, creating disease/drought resistant plants, or in de-extinction projects involving the woolly mammoth and the dodo. The progress in CRISPR has been rapid. In only a decade since its discovery, we now have a technology with the potential to rewrite genetic code. As exciting as the prospect is, conversations around ethical, societal and safety issues must progress parallelly. Ethical considerations A siren rang across the scientific world in 2018, when Chinese scientist He Jiankui announced he had altered a gene in three human embryos to render resistance to HIV. He was imprisoned for three years in 2019 by a court in China. The scientific community also condemned his actions, and this self-regulation was crucial as it was a clear violation of guidelines that banned germline editing. But nonetheless “designer babies” became a reality. The sole purpose of Jiankui and his team experimenting with the embryos was to monitor the evolution of two babies, as the genetic intervention was different for each embryo. The idea of such tools in the hands of scientists like Jiankui is terrifying. In an article, Françoise Baylis, a bioethicist at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, rightly pointed out “There is a difference between making people better and making better people.” There is also concern amongst the public that the wealthy will exploit this technology for genetic enhancement. While CRISPR, right now, is being used to treat monogenic disorders, it is capable of altering multiple genes. Admittedly however, factors like intelligence are complex traits influenced by many genes and the environment, making it difficult to tailor. In addition, CRISPR has also got its own safety problems, such as off-targeting, that aren’t fully understood yet. While there is a consensus within the scientific community to use CRISPR for therapeutic purposes, incidents like the Chinese case are always possibilities. And so, when benefits outweigh the risks where will scientists draw the line? Is it ethical to perform germline editing, even for the purpose of treating diseases? When it comes to human embryos, we face numerous unresolved moral questions and have much to learn about what is right and wrong in this rapidly evolving field. For many in the disabled community, their genetic anomalies are part of their identities. This raises important questions about the intersection of ableism and CRISPR, particularly regarding the potential implications of societal attitudes towards disability as genetic technologies become common. While most would choose gene therapies, there is a concern that such emerging technologies could reinforce the notion that disability is an abnormality rather than a natural aspect of human diversity. This makes it necessary to include disabled voices in discussions from the beginning, prior to clinical applications, and at the policy-making level.

Another factor is the exorbitant price of such technologies. Casgevy costs around \$2.2 million. Sickle Cell Anaemia (SCA) is mostly seen in certain ethnic groups including people of African, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern descent. In India, SCA is relatively higher in tribal communities. Many people from these groups are economically disadvantaged and find it difficult to afford even primary healthcare. Indian researchers are working towards building a cost-effective treatment with CRISPR. But we are talking about a huge leap from basic - hydroxyurea - first line treatment in India to CRISPR, an advanced tool requiring skilled experts. With CRISPR in the market, it is of paramount importance to first initiate dialogues on health equity. According to fundamental cause theory, health disparities persist because advancements in medicine tend to benefit

the more advantaged segments of society, leaving disadvantaged groups with less access to new interventions. As seen during events like the COVID-19 pandemic, those with higher social status — who have more resources — can access healthcare more readily than minority populations, who often face barriers in obtaining similar benefits. Will CRISPR help farmers, or will it help the agribusiness giants that invest in it? Will it find a way to reach the vulnerable or will it become a tool for the wealthy? And do we really need de-extinction projects when we are failing to protect extant animals? As we move into the future and CRISPR becomes easier to use and is better understood, how will future generations choose to alter human embryos on which currently there is a moratorium? The questions are numerous and the answers blurry. It is still early to say when CRISPR will be affordable to a larger section of people. As these technologies emerge and evolve at a rapid speed, regulatory bodies must establish strict guidelines for ethical, societal, safety and environmental issues at the same pace. CAR-T Cell Therapy

The same year that CRISPR’s use as a gene-editing tool was discovered, a six-year-old’s battle with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) would define the entire field of CAR-T cell therapy. Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T cell therapy genetically alters a patient’s T cells (a type of white blood cell) to fight malignant tumour cells by targeting a protein on the surface of cancer cells. When the experimental treatment was in its earliest days, a doctor, Stephen Grupp, was approached by Emily Whitehead’s parents looking for a miracle to save their daughter as other doctors had given up all hope. The brand-new therapy began its phase I clinical trial and Emily was enrolled. She became the first paediatric patient to receive the treatment and the first ever patient of any age to receive it for ALL. Twelve years later, it’s clear the Whiteheads found the miracle they sought: Emily remains cancer-free. However, the journey was far from easy. Even doctors were uncertain of the treatment’s outcome, learning alongside Emily, as challenges arose throughout her care. In 2017, the FDA approved the first CAR-T therapy, paving the way for hundreds of patients to receive the treatment, thanks in-part to courageous families like Emily’s. It is important to acknowledge though that not all outcomes are as happy as Emily’s. Some patients remain unresponsive or may relapse. Each case is unique and there is a learning curve with each patient. How CAR-T therapy works T cells possess receptors on their surface that can recognise antigens — proteins or molecules identified by the immune system — and when foreign antigens are detected, the immune system signals the T cells to destroy them. However, cancer cells can sometimes express antigens that the body does not recognise as abnormal, preventing the immune system from sending T cells to attack them. In other instances, even if T cells are present, they may not be effective at eliminating cancer cells. CAR-T cells are genetically engineered in a laboratory to include a new receptor that enables them to bind to and kill cancer cells. The development of CAR-T cells involves a multi-step process that begins with collecting T-cells from the patient through a procedure called leukapheresis. These T-cells are then modified in the lab to express CARs on their surface. The gene encoding the CAR is synthesised in the lab, and a vector — often a viral vector, is used to deliver the CAR gene into the T-cells. Once re-engineered, the T-cells are multiplied in the lab to generate millions of cells, which are then sent back to the hospital for infusion into the patient. Typically, patients undergo chemotherapy before receiving the CAR-T cells. Different types of cancer have unique antigens, which means that each CAR-T cell therapy is designed to target a specific cancer antigen. CAR-T cell therapy costs anywhere between ₹3 to 4 crore, excluding hospitalisation charges, rendering it unavailable to most people. While a few insurance plans do cover the expenses of the treatment in the United States, some procedures might not be covered. Logistics, travel and food are other expenses one needs to keep in mind while undergoing this treatment. The unaffordability of CAR-T therapy fuelled Rahul Purwar’s vision of developing an indigenous version. Currently a professor at the Indian Institute of Bombay (IIT-B), Dr. Purwar returned to India in 2013 after completing his postdoctoral programme at Harvard Medical School. Along with his research students — Alka Dwivedi, Atharva Karulkar — and haemato-oncologists Gaurav Narula and Has Mukh Jain from Tata Memorial Hospital, it took a decade to bring this vision to fruition. The process of designing CAR-T cells requires expertise. The researchers collaborated with experts at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to overcome the challenges they faced. The team had to then approach the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for clinical trial approval, which involved several rounds of revisions. It was also a first for CDSCO, as guidelines were not framed with respect to cell therapy, and they evolved along with the technology. In October 2023, India got its first indigenous CAR-T therapy — NEXCAR19 — that costs around ₹45 lakh, a fraction of its U.S. counterpart. This sum, however, still remains unaffordable for a majority of Indians, for whom accessing even primary healthcare is difficult. Proximity to a well-equipped hospital is also necessary, as some cases may require intensive care utilisation after the treatment and follow-ups on a regular basis. And so as with CRISPR, we circle back to the question of health equity with emerging medical technologies. Can we hope the prices will decrease once manufacturing increases? Can these technologies be implemented in sub-urban and rural India? There is no doubt that CRISPR and CAR-T cell therapy are breakthroughs in the medical field. But because they are still in their initial stages, they come with a million-dollar price tag. Developing new therapies is expensive. In addition to the cost of research, manufacturing, labour, logistics, marketing, distribution and intellectual property development, comes the added work of regulatory approval.

Telangana government schools see sharp enrolment decline

Hyderabad: Even as Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who also holds the Education Department portfolio, claims that enrolments in Telangana government and local body schools went up during the academic year 2025-26, the statistics from his own department reveal a worrisome trend.

The statistics released by the Education Department reveal that 17,414 (75 per cent) out of 23,198 government and local body schools in the State had up to 100 or fewer admissions, reflecting poor enrolment. Another worrying aspect was that 7,629 schools had only 1 to 30 students. Of these, a staggering 7,469 were elementary schools and 160 secondary schools. There were enrolments between 31 and 100 in 9,785 schools, with 7,959 at elementary level and 1,826 at secondary level. As per the details, out of the total 17,702 elementary schools, 7,469 had between 1 and 30 students and 7,959 recorded admissions between 31 and 100.

First detailed map of moon’s south pole area made from Chandrayaan data



Astronomers are excited to be poring over the first ever detailed geological map of the moon’s south polar region, where India’s Chandrayaan-3 lunar module, Vikram, touched down on August 23, 2023. The map is expected to throw new light on the moon’s origin and evolution. Researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad, Panjab University in Chandigarh, and the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems, Indian Space Research Organisation, Bengaluru, created the map using data from the rover Pragyan, which was deployed by Vikram on a nine-day mission to analyse the chemical composition of the regolith — the loose rock fragments and dust that cover the lunar surface. The cornucopia of geological information from the mission has helped scientists confirm what they always suspected: the moon harbours an underground ocean of molten rock, or primordial magma. Data from previous missions, such as the US uncrewed Surveyor spacecraft, the crewed Apollo moonshots, and the robotic Russian Luna and Chinese Chang’e 3 probes, indicated the presence of such a sea of lava beneath the lunar surface. But the actual extent of magma on the moon was not known since all the available data came from landing sites near the lunar equatorial and mid-latitude regions, which are far away from the poles.

Chandrayaan-3, however, was the first mission to land in a high-latitude polar region of the moon, 630 km from the south pole, and scientists considered it the best bet to solve the magma mystery. In September 2024, a team of lunar geologists from PRL announced that the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer aboard the Pragyan rover had detected magma under the landing site. This meant the ancient ocean of molten lava extended across the entire moon. The new map of Vikram’s landing site, published in the journal *Advances in Space Research* on January 20, shows an undulating landscape of highlands and low, flat plains around the lander. The researchers traced the alignment of secondary craters — dug up when debris from an impact crater lands elsewhere — and identified Schomberger to be the primary source of the debris covering the Chandrayaan-3 landing zone. Using the map, the scientists calculated the age of the region to be around 3.7 billion years, around the same time the first signs of microbial life emerged on the earth. In fact, the earth and the moon have had similar evolutionary trajectories, as is evident in the dynamics of the earth-moon system. The inclination, or tilt, of the moon’s orbit is for example to the earth’s rotation and both bodies are similarly aligned to the ecliptic plane of the solar system. Their terrestrial and lunar geochemistries are also complementary, with both possessing several common isotopes, pointing to their origins from the same cloud of molten material.

Astronomers believe that some 4.5 billion years ago, when the planets of the solar system were coalescing out of the rubble floating around the sun, the young earth had col-

When Madras disbanded NCC opposing the use of Hindi commands to the cadets

On January 23, 1968, along with the historic two-language policy, the Madras Assembly adopted another resolution to disband the National Cadet Corps (NCC) for “imposing” Hindi by way of commands given to its cadets. It was compulsory then for students to enrol in the NCC. The resolution, moved when C.N. Annadurai was the Chief Minister, said, “that in the National Cadet and other Corps, commands shall not be in Hindi and if the Union Government refuses to accept this suggestion, such Corps shall be disbanded”. What connects Mahatma Gandhi, Hindi and Chennai?

A day before Republic Day, the NCC activities were suspended in Madras, pending a reply from the Centre. Law Minister S. Madhavan said the government would have no objection to continuance of the NCC if the commands were in Tamil or English. That year, in view of the “anti-Hindi feelings” in the State, the NCC decided not to hold the Republic Day parade. Alternative formation The NCC Directorate received telegrams from various towns regarding the suspension of training in schools and colleges and it referred them to the Defence Ministry. Reports from The Hindu archives provide interesting insights. Annadurai had even said that if the Centre did not yield, the State was prepared to start an alternative formation for the benefit of students. Incidentally, around that time, Kerala Chief Minister E.M.S. Namboodiripad told journalists that he had listened intently to the commands given by NCC instructors, but he could not identify the language they used. Strangely, on February 14, when the issue was raised in the Lok Sabha, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs V.C. Shukla said the Madras government had not threatened to disband the NCC units. A week later Deputy Minister of Defence M.R. Krishna informed the Lok Sabha that the Madras government’s request that the commands in the NCC training be in English or the regional language was being considered. In March, after calling on Annadurai at the General Hospital, Krishna said the Centre would “go slow” on this touchy issue and hoped that “things will improve” once the excitement died down. In the midst of this controversy, the Union Education Ministry decided in March to make the NCC an optional activity in colleges from the following academic session. Students were to be given the choice of joining the National Service Corps and the National Sports Organisation, as recommended by the Education Commission in 1967. The Madras government’s opposition to Hindi commands, however, was not endorsed by The Hindu. While welcoming the decision to make the NCC optional, an editorial published on March 25, 1968, said, “The Defence Services have been using Hindustani commands even from pre-Independence days and they can scarcely be expected to change just because one State, Madras, has taken objection to it. Unless a compromise is worked out, the N.C.C. is likely to fade out of Madras, with consequent fall in the recruitment of young men from the State to the Defence Services.” In the Assembly, Swatantra Party member H.V. Hande expressed apprehensions that boys, who looked forward to a career in the Armed Forces, would be handicapped if the NCC was given up. Education Minister V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, how-

lided with a massive planetary rock roughly the size of Mars. The resulting debris from the collision was flung outwards explosively, before it cooled over millions of years. This proto-planetary material gradually solidified into a molten sphere that was eventually captured by the earth’s gravity to become the moon we see today. In those early millennia, the infant moon must have been pummelled by asteroids and space rocks as is evidenced by its surface, which is studded with numerous craters. The Vikram lander had touched down close to one of the oldest of these craters: the South Pole-Aitken Basin, which is also one of the largest impact craters in the Solar System. Lunar craters are of great interest to astrogeologists, who study them to learn more about the evolution of impact craters elsewhere on the earth and on the inner planets of the solar system. The cratering history The airless and arid conditions on the moon render it a sterile environment in which craters can survive erosion for millennia — unlike on the earth where atmospheric elements abrade craters very quickly. In fact, lunar impact basins are veritable time capsules because they preserve the original records of space-rock smash-downs that occurred during the formation of the solar system. The scientific value of lunar craters becomes even clearer when we consider how scientists can’t, even with the help of supercomputers, reconstruct the cratering history of the earth beyond a few hundred million years. Given that lunar craters are important tools for scientists to calculate the age of geological features on other planets with solid surfaces, moon maps like the new one assume greater significance. Sadly, the “magnificent desolation” of the moon — words Apollo 11 astronaut Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin used to describe the crater-studded lunar wilderness — may not endure undisturbed for very long as efforts to colonise the moon get underway. Littering the regolith

After the erstwhile Soviet Union’s Luna 2 lander became the first probe to ‘land’ (it was intentionally crash-landed) on the moon way back in 1959, scores of robotic and crewed spacecraft from the US, China, India, Israel, Japan, and the European Space Agency have reached the moon’s surface. Alas, these missions have also left spacecraft components and other waste items behind, littering the regolith. It is largely unknown how the landers, rovers, and the dozen US astronauts — who planted flags, hit golf balls, drove around in rovers, and collected hundreds of kilograms of moon rock — may have disturbed the regolith, which sustains the thin lunar atmosphere. The moon’s exosphere was formed when space rocks and the solar wind, the stream of charged particles flowing outwards from the sun, kicked up the powdery dust from the lunar surface. Scientists also worry about the contamination of lunar ice reserves by exhaust fumes from lunar landers. When a spacecraft touches down on the moon, the water vapour released from its engines spreads across the lunar surface and ends up freezing at the poles. This leads to inaccurate readings for scientists who are studying the presence and the distribution of lunar water ice. These concerns are bound to increase as more and more missions head for the moon and mining for lunar resources eventually becomes a reality. Compacts like the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 are silent on these issues, merely making vague statements on the need to avoid contaminating space. It is high time an international legal framework is put in place to prescribe rules and guidelines for the first human colonies on the moon, which are not very far away. The sooner this is done, the better the chances of preserving the pristine nature and unique landscape of our nearest neighbour in space.

Samsung launches India’s first glasses-free 3D monitor, 4K 240Hz OLED gaming display

Hyderabad: Samsung has launched its latest 2025 Odyssey gaming display lineup in India with cutting-edge global-first technology to indulge gaming experience. Among the new series are the revolutionary Odyssey 3D, the most advanced 4K 240Hz OLED display in the industry, the Odyssey OLED G8, and Odyssey G9 curved monitor. Top of the line is a 27-inch Odyssey 3D (G90XF) - India has the first glasses-free 3D gaming monitor. Advanced eye-trackers with AI-powered video conversion produce almost real 3D visuals with a 165Hz refresh rate, 1ms response time, AMD FreeSync, spatial audio, as well as edge lighting. Normal video content is even transformed into 3D. This can be achieved using Samsung’s Reality Hub app. To improve and optimize 3D gaming content, Samsung is also collaborating with international companies such as Nexon. Measuring 27” and 32”, the Odyssey OLED G8 (G81SF) is the world’s first OLED gaming monitor with 4K resolution and a refresh rate of 240Hz. It is based on Quantum Dot technology and has a response time of 0.03ms and a VESA DisplayHDR™ TrueBlack 400 certification.



Ensuring reliable power in the times of heat stress



Though parts of India may have seen a wetter April and May this year, rising heat remains a concern. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) recently warned of heatwave conditions in parts of Rajasthan and Haryana, and above-normal maximum temperatures across most parts of the country. Moreover, 57% of India's districts now face "high" to "very high" heat risk, according to a new study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). This puts a significant strain on lives, livelihoods, and the power grids of a growing economy. Summer is a period of high electricity bills and cooling requirements, with peak demand growing higher each year.

In April, India's peak electricity demand was 5% higher than last year's, with total consumption rising by 2%. Space cooling — one of the fastest-growing uses of electricity — is a key contributor to the rise. While the IMD has forecast a cooler May than initially estimated, many regions of the country are still expected to face above-normal heatwave days and hotter nights. So, how can we ensure that electricity remains reliable during rising heat stress? Immediate and long-term measures are needed across the electricity value chain.

First, India must break the vicious cycle of higher carbon emissions from electricity generation, leading to warming. This can be done through a higher renewables target. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), cooling accounted for 15% of the global increase in energy demand in 2024, and half the additional energy-related emissions, as coal and gas stepped in to meet the surge. India added 5.6 GW of coal power capacity and nearly 28 GW of solar and wind energy in 2024.A recent analysis by the CEEW shows that renewables paired with energy storage can reliably meet demand, if India's electricity needs are higher than expected in 2030. A higher renewable energy pathway could save ₹42,400 crore (\$5 billion) in power procurement costs, create one lakh new jobs, and cut air pollutants by 23% in this period. The Union and State government agencies must work together to ensure that land, supply chain, and connectivity challenges to clean energy are addressed. The States such as Maharashtra are leading in making clean energy integration more reliable, for example,

Prevention: tackling diabetes before it happens



There are an estimated 540 million people with diabetes globally, and 95% have type 2 diabetes, the majority of whom belong to developing countries. These numbers are projected to increase to 783 million by the year 2040. India has the second-largest number of people with diabetes in the world with nearly 101 million people currently affected. Today, diabetes is no longer a disease of the rich or older people or an urban phenomenon. Moreover, in addition to the large numbers with diabetes, there are another 136 million people with prediabetes, i.e., people 'at-risk' who are likely to develop diabetes soon. Unless an effective prevention and management strategy is developed, the prevalence of diabetes and associated complications will only increase in India. Diabetes also poses a huge economic burden on our country. But more than the economic impact, it is the social impact of diabetes that is of greater concern. The age at onset of type 2 diabetes is progressively decreasing and the disorder now affects a significant number of adolescents and children. While it is bad enough if diabetes occurs at any age, its consequences when it affects the youth of the nation are not difficult to imagine. The onset of diabetes-related complications typically occurs 10–20 years after the disorder is first diagnosed. Thus, if the onset of diabetes occurs in individuals at 50 years of age, one needs to worry about its complications only around the age of 65–70 years. However, if the onset of diabetes occurs in individuals only around age 20, the possibility of people in their 30s and 40s developing complications of diabetes like kidney failure, blindness, heart attacks, or amputations is very high. This would be a disaster not only for the individual and his or her family but also for society and the nation as a whole. Thus, the adage 'Prevention is better than cure' is most applicable in the case of diabetes. Primordial preventionrefers to a reduction of risk factors of diabetes such as obesity or physical inactivity, thereby decreasing the risk of developing prediabetes or diabetes in the future.

Primary preventionrefers to prevention (or postponement) of diabetes in those in a pre-diabetes stage such as those with impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) or impaired fasting glucose (IFG). Secondary preventionrefers to the prevention of complications of diabetes in those who have already developed diabetes. Finally, the term tertiary prevention is used to describe limiting physical disability and preventing progression to end-stage complications in those who have already developed some complications of diabetes. Although genetic factors undoubtedly play a major role, environmental factors contribute to over 50% of the T2D risk. Our research shows that excess consumption of white rice was strongly linked to a risk of type 2 diabetes due to the high dietary glycemic load. Replacing white rice with brown rice could improve blood glucose and insulin levels. Decreased physical activity is another driver of the diabetes epidemic. In the Chennai Urban Rural Epidemiology Study (CURES), we showed that 50% of new-onset T2D can be prevented just by modifying diet and increasing physical activity. Importance of lifestyle modifications The im-

portance of promoting a healthy lifestyle for the prevention of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases has recently taken center stage. The term 'lifestyle' includes our attitudes, habits, behaviours, physical activity (exercise), diet, and our reaction to stress. Several randomised control studies in the U.S., Finland, China, and India have shown that diabetes can be prevented by lifestyle modification. One of the strongest drivers of the diabetes epidemic is a marked increase in sedentary lifestyles, especially in urban areas. However, awareness of the importance of physical inactivity in the causation of diabetes remains low. In the ICMR–INDIAB study, we showed that only 24.1% of people exercised regularly and achieved the World Health Organization recommendation of 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Therefore, the promotion of physical activity in the community is a key step towards controlling the twin epidemic of diabetes and obesity.

Despite the growing evidence of the benefits of exercise, there are still only a few takers for exercise. The reasons are many. Many have 'starting trouble' and keep postponing the starting of a regular exercise programme. Even after people have begun, adherence to the exercise regime is even more challenging. While lack of knowledge and awareness about the benefits of exercise are often cited as the reason, lack of motivation appears to be the main issue. This is where doctors can play a crucial role. Specific instructions should be given to patients rather than giving general advice. E.g.: rather than just saying, "You need to exercise", a doctor should be saying, "You would benefit very much from a brisk walk of at least 45 minutes six days a week". Such instructions clearly outline the type and amount of time to be spent on the exercise. We need to encourage simple, routine lifestyle changes; tips like using the stairs instead of lifts or parking further from one's destination and then walking the extra distance or walking to the nearby grocery store instead of using a vehicle. In addition to the benefits of physical fitness with respect to reduced cardiovascular risk, regular exercise also lowers cholesterol, increases insulin sensitivity, and leads to a reduction in doses of insulin or tablets. Besides, exercise has an important effect on mental health as it releases 'happy hormones' i.e. 'endorphins' which have antidepressant effects and reduce anxiety and stress levels. Individuals who exercise regularly also report an improved sense of well-being and better self-esteem as their body shape improves. Diet is the mainstay of therapy for diabetes mellitus. When a person with diabetes neglects this important aspect of diabetes management, then his/her blood sugars become uncontrolled.An ideal diabetic diet should:

- Be balanced and individualised.
- Be tailored to the patient's age and weight, physical activity, family diet pattern, and physiological needs, and take into consideration the patient's preference and food habits.
- Ensure normal growth and development and attainment of ideal body weight.
- An obese patient should restrict calories through a reduction in the intake of carbohydrates and fats.
- Ensure that food must be eaten not only at the appropriate time but also in appropriate amounts.
- Cut down on refined and starchy food items such as white rice, wheat, maida, rava, white bread, potatoes, other tubers, processed foods, and red meat.
- Include mainly high-fibre foods like whole grains, pulses, and all green vegetables.
- Include 3-4 helpings of vegetables (preferably raw as salad) and fruits such as guava, apple, oranges, or papaya.

epic choir performs at cleveland thyagaraja festival



Outside the transit gate at the Salt Lake City airport, 50-year-old marketing professional Bharadhwaj Lakshminarayanan was trying to perfect a gamaka, an embellishment applied to notes in Carnatic music. His 12-year-old daughter, Mahathi, corrected him. Moments later, a group of people waiting to board the same flight joined in, singing a Carnatic kriti. Soon, a mini kutcheri unfolded, with curious onlookers wondering about the genre of music being performed. This is a scene from mid April this year, when Bharadhwaj and Mahathi, along with many other Carnatic students, were on their way to the Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival. First celebrated in 1978, it is now considered the largest Indian classical music fest outside of India. At the festival, this group from Bay Area joined several other smaller groups, who had practised the same set of songs. Together, they came to perform for EPIC Choir, Chennai-based Sishyakulam's signature choral ensemble.

This year's performance featured over 250 performers, aged five to 60, sharing a stage before an audience of over 2,000, in an hour-and-a-half long event that is perhaps the largest Indian music choral ensemble ever assembled. "It was like a musical vacation," said Bharadhwaj over a call, "There is an energy when we all sing together which cannot be described in words. For us, as much as the actual performance, the journey to it was very rewarding." He was referring to the months leading up to the event, when

An IIT professor in Chennai finds immense joy in birding

For Susy Varughese, a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at IIT Madras, birdwatching is not a separate hobby she pushes into a packed calendar; it is part of life. "Birding happens along the way," she says. An active member of Chennai's birding community, she can tune into bird calls even during morning walk or while sitting at home with a cup of tea. "I am reasonably good at identifying birds through their calls, especially the species in my patch. I can prepare checklists of birds while doing a walk in the morning or even by just listening from inside the house, especially at dawn or late at night," says Ms. Susy.

Living on the IIT Madras campus has largely been an influence as it is her favourite birding spot in Chennai. "Birds are found in all types of habitats and geographical locations, but the species diversity will vary. Many species we find in Chennai may not be there in Kerala or vice versa. It depends on the type of climatic zones and vegetation, and positioning of the place. For example, if the land mass is on a migratory path, you may find more species during the migratory season," says Ms. Varughese, adding Chennai, as it turns out, is one of those places. From late September to early May, migratory birds drop in and stay for a while. Asked if birding has influenced her profession, she responds thoughtfully. "Nature inspires everything I do. What I get from immersing in these activities such as birding is that it refreshes, rejuvenates, and refills me with energy and novel ideas," says Ms. Varughese. For her, engineering and science are human interpretation of what nature has mastered through evolution over millions of years. "All engineering and scientific theories we teach such as fluid mechanics or mass transfer, heat transfer, materials, sensors, controllers and intelligent information/energy storage and transfer can be learnt from living systems around us," she explains.

Need for National Student Work Policy: Safeguarding students working off and on campus

As India's higher education sector grows alongside its largely unaccounted informal economy, formalizing student employment both within and beyond campuses to safeguard student workers' rights has become a national imperative. A policy that emphasizes on the key aspects of student employment is a requirement. Here's an outline of the policy that starts with key rights and responsibilities of student workers (SWs). Then, within a set of sections, the key areas that such a policy should leverage to safeguard student interests are outlined. It is important to clarify that the primary objective here is directed toward student workers (SWs) operating outside the campus and focuses on the student side of the market.

This is because most of the arrangements made for out-campus employment can be easily applied within campus. The scope for intervention of such a policy is much larger for out-campus than in-campus. The University Grants Commission has the Earn While You Learn scheme paying around ₹4,000 (max.) to students working within campus and a few rules too. But there is a need for a comprehensive policy. Below is just an outline. Further deliberations are needed to address the protection of employer interests and define the roles of other prospective stakeholders. Embedding the symbolism of students' learning and earning in Indian society is neither new nor particularly difficult. However, proposing a nationwide policy to safeguard their future is a more complex challenge.

- Rights and responsibilities
- Under the National Student Work Policy, SWs shall have the following rights:
- The right to a workplace free from harassment, discrimination, and unfair treatment;
 - The right to timely and complete payment for all hours worked, in accordance with applicable wage laws;
 - The right to a work schedule that does not interfere with academic responsibilities;
 - The right to confidentiality regarding academic records and employment details;
 - The right to report workplace concerns without facing retaliation;
 - The right to a safe and hazard-free work environment;

Carnatic music gurus in the Bay Area including Hari Devanath, Akila Iyer and Kasturi Sivakumar reached out to their many students to participate in this endeavour. Conceptualised by Sishyakulam, an organisation founded by Neyveli R Santhanagopalan to promote Indian classical arts, the EPIC Choir was formed to foster a culture where children across the US dedicate hundreds of hours to learning Indian classical music. "It gives these students immense musical growth and exposes them to songs beyond traditional kritis. They also learn harmonies and chords," said musician Shankar Santhanagopalan, CEO of Sishyakulam, and son of Neyveli Santhanagopalan, a recipient of the Sangita Kalanidhi. All this musical action unfolded at the Wolstein Center, which usually hosts basketball events. Over 250 students performed six compositions set to tune by Santhanagopalan.

The final track, 'Aradhanai', set in Nalinakanthi raga, was among the highlights of the performance, with many children enthusiastically chipping in. "It's become the theme song for the festival," said Shankar, who also conducted the choir. He added, "When I told people back home that I had organised a choir, everyone was surprised. But the rewards were rich, not just for the participants but their parents too. It helped normalise the idea of meaningful investment in the arts." For participants like eight-year-old Sabarish Rajagopal from New Jersey, playing the mridangam on such a big stage was exciting. He learns virtually from Chennai-based Patri Satish Kumar. "I made many friends and jammed along with them too," said Sabarish, whose father drove them to Cleveland, an eight-hour car journey during which he played the kanjira to some Carnatic tracks. "I also learnt a lot of new musical ideas," he added. With this year's choir bringing together over 250 classical music students and their families, the hope for a similar event next year is soaring. Shankar promises to be more ambitious in the forthcoming years with this exercise. He said, "We might try to bring together over 300 students and their families, and maybe even apply for an official record, like the Limca Book or Guinness. The sky is the limit."



Her recent birding activities include observing the Indian Grey Hornbill over the past two years on and off, a species she finds particularly exciting to see here. "Sometimes, I have travelled to do birdwatching, one of them is the Eagles Nest Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh. We did a dedicated 10-day birding in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh many years ago," she says. Her love for birds began early. As a child, she was fascinated by sunbird nests near her grandmother's home and warblers flitting through pepper plants during winter. Her curiosity began to grow in her 5th grade by 'Eureka', a children's science magazine, published by the Kerala Shashtra Sahitya Parishad. "But there was none to guide me into 'birding' as we know it today," she says. "I satisfied my curiosity by sketching bird pictures or watching them endlessly. During school, I also had a Myna and Malabar Vernal Parakeet rescued as they fell from the nests." Well, clearly these early encounters, coupled with her innate nature, laid the foundation for a lifelong passion for birdwatching, one that continues like a quiet joy alongside her scientific career.



- The right to receive funded proper training and guidance for assigned job duties;
- The right to access formal grievance procedures and fair conflict resolution mechanisms.
- The right to express political and societal issues without impacting their employment outcomes.

Student workers' responsibilities

In addition to the rights granted, student employees shall adhere to the following responsibilities:

- Punctuality and Attendance- Arrive at work on time as agreed upon with the supervisor.- Notify the supervisor at the earliest possible time in case of absence due to illness or emergencies.
- Work Performance & Professional Conduct- Perform assigned duties diligently and meet departmental expectations during work hours.- Refrain from engaging in personal activities (e.g., studying, unofficial tasks) while on duty.- Use office supplies, equipment, and resources strictly for work-related purposes.
- Commitment to Employment Terms- Fulfill work obligations until the agreed-upon end of the semester or employment period.- Continue work during academic breaks if required by the supervisor.- Provide at least two weeks' advance notice before voluntarily terminating employment.
- Confidentiality & Compliance- Maintain confidentiality as required by the department.- Follow all directives from supervisors and comply with office policies, dress codes, and procedural guidelines.
- Workplace Regulations- Prohibit visitors during work hours and enforce this restriction when necessary.

What Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's 40 says about his mindset, skills



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi needed only 42 balls to reach fifty in East Zone's first innings. In the second, he faced 30 deliveries for 16. The contrast could not have been starker. Set 159 for a place in the final, the 15-year-old did not try to play the way he did in his 92 off 81 balls that had put Central Zone under pressure a day earlier. Saransh Jain shared the new ball, while Aryan Pandey continued to bowl with the discipline that had brought him three wickets in the first innings. This time, Sooryavanshi was prepared to wait. His first delivery, from Pandey, beat him outside off. Jain then beat him with his first ball. There was a sign of impatience when Sooryavanshi attempted a reverse sweep as early as his sixth delivery. But he did not keep looking for the big shot. He got off the mark from his eighth ball with a single to cover and focused largely on rotating the strike.

East managed only 11/0 from their first five overs. By the end of the 10th, they had moved to 25/0. Sooryavanshi was on 16 from 30 balls and Abhimanyu Easwaran nine from 30. It was very different from the first innings, when Sooryavanshi had gone after Yash Thakur almost immediately and forced Rajat Patidar to station a deep point inside the first 10 overs. He took 21 balls to hit his first boundary, lofting Pandey over long-on for six. Even that did not lead to a sudden change in approach. Sooryavanshi went back to being patient. Perhaps it was because East were chasing only 159. Perhaps he felt Central were bowling well and deserved respect. Whatever the reason, it was interesting to see Sooryavanshi play this way. Much of the attention around him has come because of how often he hits boundaries. Here, for a while at least, he was happy not to. Then, almost without warning, the Sooryavanshi from the first innings returned. Thakur came from around the wicket in the

14th over, and Sooryavanshi swatted the first ball over mid-wicket for four. The next ball disappeared over long-off for six with a straight bat. Thakur went short with the third, and Sooryavanshi pulled him to fine leg for four. The fourth ball was upper-cut for another boundary. Four balls had brought 18 runs. After spending most of the innings holding himself back, Sooryavanshi suddenly changed the pace of the chase.

But the same over also brought his downfall. He went after the fifth ball as well, swinging towards mid-wicket. Patidar ran across and completed an excellent catch. Sooryavanshi was gone for 40 from 43 balls. The innings showed a different side of him. His 92 on Monday had been based on aggression against both pace and spin. He attacked Thakur, used his feet against Jain and continued taking risks even after being dropped on 40. His 81-ball innings contained seven fours and seven sixes. On Tuesday, the situation was different. East had a target to chase, and Central's bowlers started well. Sooryavanshi's response was to wait. There was the temptation to attack and get East off to a flying start, but he resisted it for much of his innings. That was significant for a young batsman whose attacking game is already well known. But in the second innings, he showed he could spend time at the crease, take singles and wait for a loose delivery. In the Thakur over he showed that his attacking game was never far away. Once he decided to go, he needed only four balls to change the mood of the innings. The fifth ball, though, showed the other side of playing that way.

That is a balance Sooryavanshi will learn with experience. At 15, there is little reason for him to move away from the attacking style that makes him special. But learning when to attack and when to hold back will be an important part of his growth. For someone still so early in his career, those are lessons that can only come from spending time in the middle. Bowlers will plan for his aggression, fields will change and situations will demand different responses. How Sooryavanshi reacts to those challenges will decide the batsman he becomes. Tuesday's innings was a small step in that process. The 40 was not as spectacular as the 92 he had made a day earlier. But the first 30 balls showed something perhaps more important for his development: Sooryavanshi can play another way, too.

India announce squad for 3-match T20I series vs Afghanistan

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Shreyas Iyer (C) of India with teammates during the 2nd T20 International match between India and Ireland at the Civil Service Cricket Club in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on June 28, 2026. Shreyas Iyer (C) of India with teammates during the 2nd T20 International match between India and Ireland at the Civil Service Cricket Club in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on June 28, 2026. The BCCI on Monday announced the Indian squad to face Afghanistan in a 3-match T20I series. Nitish Reddy, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah and Harshit Rana were all announced for the series but their inclusion in the matches is subject to fitness clearance.

Both Sanju Samson and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi have been included in the squad. This was after the Kerala batter was rested for the Zimbabwe series back in July for Prabhsimran Singh to get a look in. Arshdeep Singh who was also given a breather for the Zimbabwe series after a long Ireland and England tour, was also back in the side. The teams will play three games between September 13 and 17, all set to be played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in the national capital. The Afghans, who toured the country for a one-off Test and three ODIs in June, returns to Delhi to take on Shreyas Iyer's side, shortly before the Asian Games campaign. Over the years, Afghanistan have adopted India as one of their secondary home venues after playing their



first-ever Test in the country in 2018. In June, India hosted the Afghans in the first-ever Test at the New Chandigarh Stadium. They recorded their biggest-ever Test win by an innings inside three days. The teams then met in a three-match ODI series, the first bi-lateral 50-over series between the sides that India won 3-0. India team: Shreyas Iyer [C], Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Sanju Samson [WK], Ishan Kishan [WK], Tilak Varma [VC], Shivam Dube, Nitish Kumar Reddy*, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar*, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah*, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana*

‘There is no logic, selection committee, or play’: Danish Kaneria



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Pakistan's performance in England has been pretty poor. The side changed the entire coaching staff midway through the series after losing the second Test at Lord's and the series. Former players and cricket pundits have been pretty stern with their criticism of the side. Among them was former cricketer Danish Kaneria. "It's a shame that after 70 years, Pakistan has gone through such a disaster. There is no logic, selection committee, or play. They are

just good for nothing. You see, such a bad performance. If a person loses, he tries and fights before losing. The fight has to be visible. Here, there's no fight," Kaneria told news agency I

"No one knows anything. The team selection committee is responsible, but they are not responding. First, you made Babar the captain, then removed him. But there should be a reason. 'Let's make Babar the captain. Let it run for 1-3 years.' But then you removed him from there, then made him captain again. Now you are talking about removing him again. Your cricket won't improve like this," Kaneria added. Kaneria questioned the logic behind hiring a coach and removing him within three months. "You brought coach Sarfaraz. You brought him for 3 months. You said he is going to be removed. Umar Gul is going to be removed. Then why did you bring him?" "I was happy that Younis Khan is coming as a chief selector. The team will improve. Because I know him pretty well. And he has that knowledge. Because he himself is a hardworking boy. He has come a long way in cricket. Because he is a very straightforward person. He talks straightforwardly. He kept his terms and conditions, and the PCB refused. You need to bring someone who can take losses and wins on himself," he said.

Mohsin Naqvi is the worst in the last 70 years. "Everyone is talking about the Pakistan team and how it's the worst touring team in the last 50 years. But nobody is speaking about how the current board is the worst in the last 70 years. Nobody is talking about the worst selection committee and coaches. If you combine these issues, you will get the answer to your question. You will know who has ruined this team. Now you are losing consistently. This is the worst cricket board, that's a fact," Latif said while speaking on Geo TV. Another former Pakistan batting legend, Mohammad Yousuf, took to social media and made a scathing attack on the side. He blamed the batting coaches and said they are poison to the game. He reminded people of the flaws he observed in Babar's game and his lack of corrections on those. "A few years ago, I warned about this, but unfortunately, some so-called coaches around Babar Azam and other players didn't allow him to work on issues that could have been easily resolved. That failure has dragged Pakistan cricket into the decline we see today," Yousuf wrote.

‘Replacements make no sense’: Afridi on decision to send players home mid-series



Former player Shahid Afridi was among the critics who criticized the Pakistan Cricket Board for sending back 7 players of their Test team and replacing them with new players in the middle of the ongoing series vs England. The players sent back home included national T20 captain Salman Ali Agha, former captain Muhammad Rizwan and senior batter Imam-ul-Haq. Mostly youngsters and uncapped players have replaced the seven for the third Test, starting September 9 in Birmingham. Head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and bowling coach Umar Gul were also removed.

This was after Pakistan lost the first two Tests of the three-match series in an abject manner. The visitors lost the series opener by an innings and 103 runs, while the second Test ended in a heavy 194-run defeat. "Not sure what

is the logic or reasoning behind this decision! Even the replacements make no sense – T20 players have been included for a Test match in England? What is this thinking and approach? Why has the coach been axed after 5 Test matches? This is the most shocking decision ever by a selection committee which includes so many experienced selectors," Afridi posted on X. Shahid Afridi Shahid Afridi's tweet on the current Pakistan cricket situation. (X) Pakistan's former foreign head coach Mickey Arthur described the decision as ridiculous. "Absolutely ridiculous decision by the PCB. This is the reason they are in the mess they are because they constantly chop and change players, coaches and selectors and there is no stability! Planning, stability and structure lead to consistent performance," Arthur wrote on social media.

Former Pakistan captain and batting great, Javed Miandad said he was shocked by the decision and felt sorry for the players sent back home and even those sent to England. "The players sent back it is now a mental scar for them and a blot on their career while the players who are replacements will be under so much mental pressure in the one test remaining in the series," Miandad said on Tuesday. Former captain Rashid Latif said Babar Azam should have resigned as skipper when the Board decided to take such a decision. "There is a difference between a captain and a leader and Babar has just stood by and left his players stranded," Latif said.

Korean wrestling president announces pork gift hampers for Asian Games medallists

Korea Wrestling Federation President Kim Ik-heon has turned to desperate measures to prop up its beleaguered wrestling squad headed to the Aichi Nagoya Asian Games. Yonhap News reported that Korean gold medalists in wrestling, would receive a pork gift-set every month for two years should they land atop the podium at Aichi-Nagoya during the September 19 – October 4 Asian Games.

Ik-heon, the federation president, owns a pork processing plant called Sankjuyakgan headquartered in Sangju, Gyeongsangbuk-do, South Korea. It specialises in a chilled pork processing that he patented called "persimmon-fed pork" (Gam-meogun-doeji) which was developed in collaboration with Kyungpook National University. His spontaneous offer came after the coach, a former Olympic champion and a bunch of wrestlers broke down at a see-off ceremony with their medal winning prospects looking bleak after the usual chaos that blights wrestling – corruption and demotivated wrestlers. Ik-heon also announced the silver and bronze medal winners would receive the pork gift-set every month for one year, half of the gold winners.

Yonhap quoted him in an impassioned speech saying, "People in the sport have only been worried about their vested interests; instructors have been too casual in their response, and athletes have been a mess mentally. We cannot afford to just keep saying we will get back on our feet. We all have to look at ourselves in the mirror." This was followed by the announcement of the pork gifts. Followers of K Dramas will be familiar with pork-based comfort food, grilled belly Samgyeopsal and Donkatsu cutlets. The KWF has set its sights on winning at least one gold medal, one silver and six bronze medals at this year's Asian Games, as per Yonhap.

Korean wrestling has sunk since Rio Games, with Tokyo 2020 Olympics being the first time it failed to reach the podium since 1972. Paris drew a blank too. At the last Asiad in 2023 in Hangzhou, Korea managed just two bronze medals, its worst performance in 57 years. An Han-bong, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist who now coaches the na-



tional team, broke down in tears urging his athletes at the ceremony, to change the script at Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games and step up to deliver medals. At the Jincheon National Training Center, Han-bong said, "We have our backs against the wall. I hope our athletes will go out and prove that Korean wrestling is not dead." In response, the wrestlers vowed to flip the narrative. "I think everyone here has the same goal as our coach," Greco Roman 60 kg wrestler Chung Han-jae told Yonhap, as the reigning Asian Games bronze medalist who has moved up to 67kg. "I want to win gold and show how good Korean wrestling is."

This was followed by wrestlers unfurling a Taegeukgi, the South Korean national flag, with words of their resolution and goals written on it after the no-medal performance at the 2024 Olympics. The flag travels with them to all international competitions over the past two years as a reminder of the hurt. "I want to win gold and celebrate by wrapping my body in this flag," Kim Min-seok, who won bronze in the men's 130kg Greco-Roman event at the last Asian Games, was quoted as saying by Yonhap. However the goals might be tad too ambitious. Chung and Kim Min-seok, the two medal contenders, are both dealing with injuries — Chung returning from a broken right elbow and Kim with a torn pectoral muscle. Most others tipped to win medals, lack international experience.

Looking back Messi's first Argentina retirement, and the glorious years that came after

Lionel Messi announced his retirement from international football in a lengthy statement that he put up on his social media handles on Monday. The announcement was followed by an outpouring of tributes from within and beyond the world of football, with many of his teammates expressing sadness that they won't be able to share a dressing room with him any more. At the same time, though, it was an announcement that was largely expected, unlike what was the case when he made a retirement announcement a decade ago. Messi said that he had written the statement he put out on Monday just two days after the 2026 World Cup final and has now released it after the death of his father and longtime agent Jorge. It was a heartbreak that pushed him to put a full stop on his career with Argentina but he was 39 years old by then and had won pretty much every trophy that he could compete for, including and most importantly the World Cup. A decade ago, however, Messi announced his retirement from international football in wake of a defeat in a third consecutive major final.

Messi and Argentina had lost 2015 Copa America Centenario final on penalties to Chile. This came after he lost the 2015 Copa America final and the 2014 World Cup final. With each defeat, questions over his legacy with Argentina and his will to play for the team compared to when he plays for Barcelona only grew steadily louder. After the match, Messi walked out of the stadium and said that he has had enough. "For me, the national team is over," Messi had said quite suddenly. "I was thinking in the locker room that this is it. I am no longer going to play for the national team. Like what I had just said, this is my fourth final, it is not for me. Unfortunately, I have come this far (to the final). It is what I wanted more than anything, but it wasn't meant to be. I think this is it," he told Argentinian TV network TyC Sports, his face a picture of a man resigned to the fact that his legacy would be that of a great player who never quite



matched the heights he reached in club football in his international career.

Unlike what has been the case since Monday, Messi's first announcement was met with shock and an overwhelming appeal from Argentina for him to reverse this decision. The campaign dominated the conversations in the media and spilled on to the streets as well with about 50,000 supporters going to the Obelisco de Buenos Aires on July 2 holding up signs and placards that mostly said 'No Te Vayas Leo' (Don't go Leo). Messi finally did reverse that decision about a month later, stating in August that he will be available for Argentina's 2018 World Cup qualifiers. As it turned out, the floodgates of international honours opened for Messi only after that. On July 10, 2021, Messi won his first international trophy in the form of the Copa America. The next year, he ended his lifelong wait, and Argentina's nearly four-decade long wait, for a World Cup trophy. Argentina beat France on penalties after a 3-3 draw in a match that is regarded as one of the greatest World Cup finals in history. On July 14, Messi and Argentina successfully defended their Copa America title, making it his third international trophy.

How SAI Bengaluru's smart track is helping Indian athletes prepare for Asian Games

Hyderabad: The Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in Bengaluru has become an important preparation base for India's middle- and long-distance track athletes, prepping for the Asian Games 2026. A national coaching camp is currently under way at the SAI centre, scheduled until September 8. The camp, sanctioned by the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), features 800m runner Krishan Kumar, steeplechase star Avinash Sable, high jumpers Aadarsh Ram and Supriya B, decathlete Thowfeeq N, middle- and long-distance runner

Parul Chaudhary, and race walkers Manju Rani and Priyanka. All 8 are part of the approved 73-member (35 men, 38 women) Indian athletics contingent for the Asian Games in Athletics; the competition is scheduled in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19 to October 4. Beyond the conventional camp infrastructure, the athletes at Bengaluru have another advantage: a specialised smart track, which allows coaches to capture real-time performance data during training. "This is one of its kind in India," said Suresh Kumar, Coach (Athletics) at SAI NCOE Bengaluru, explaining the technology embedded into the track. "

Prajakta Koli doesn't see Safed Sagar's Madhavi Reddy as 'red flag': 'She was in love'



Madhavi Reddy, Prajakta Koli's character in Oni Sen's Netflix India period war drama Operation Safed Sagar, has a unique vantage point in the show. At the start of the series, set in the events leading to the 1999 Kargil War fought between India and Pakistan, she's a civilian who just shows up at Indian Air Force (IAF) base. Her longtime boyfriend Bal Reddy aka Baldy (Mihir Ahuja) is too busy with his Flying Officer duties to pay as much heed to their love life as he used to. So, she flees home and just shows up at his door, wishing to live the rest of her life with him.

Is Madhavi Reddy a red flag?

To many, Madhavi Reddy could come across as a red flag. It's the opposite of Farhan Akhtar's 2004 war drama Lakshya, where Preity Zinta's journalist character pushes her boyfriend, Hrithik Roshan's directionless character, to join the Indian Army and fight in Kargil War. Madhavi, having no inkling about what a soldier's life entails, is obsessively and blindly in love. "I actually didn't see Madhavi as a red flag at all. It was a very human, common emotion that anybody feels, when you want to spend your life with somebody you're hopelessly in love with," Prajakta tells SCREEN in an exclusive interview.

She reminds those who would argue otherwise that the characters she and Mihir play in Operation Safed Sagar aren't just "characters written on paper", but living, breathing people with flesh and blood. "And there are so many colours a person has. While he's fighting for our country, he's also a man in love. While she's supportive of her dream, she's also someone who wants a life with him," says Prajakta. She feels in her realm of reality, Madhavi also took a "very brave step" of "leaving everything for the man she loves". In her capacity, Madhavi is somewhere as brave as how a soldier like Baldy is on the battlefield. Mihir Ahuja and Prajakta Koli in Operation Safed Sagar. Prajakta is thus glad that war dramas like Operation Safed Sagar have come a long way from back when soldiers' wives were reduced to weeping women waiting eagerly with open doors for their husbands to return from war. "Operation Safed Sagar deals with so much more of what happens with a soldier than what happens at the frontlines. I love how it humanizes them to have these complex building blocks of life. The fact that I

get to play one of them is such an honour for me," says the actor, who shares that mantle with Amrita Bagchi and Dia Mirza, who play Alka Ahuja and Kamalpreet Kaur, the wives of Kargil War hero Ajay Ahuja and Golden Arrows Commanding Officer BS Dhanoa respectively.

Madhavi Reddy starts as the only civilian at an IAF camp

Madhavi's role in the show goes beyond a flying officer's love interest, as she almost becomes the eyes through which the audience explores a air force camp. "With Madhavi, what's the most beautiful is she's very, very ordinary. She doesn't come from that world. She somehow finds herself there. And then her journey goes from not understanding what this life is to eventually, evolving into this person who accepts responsibility of how Baldy's life does get affected by her. That's beautiful," says Prajakta. Which is why it didn't matter to her if Madhavi was projected as just a woman in love, and not a woman driven by ambition. Thus, she never got into Madhavi's backstory of whether she had a job or wanted to be a working woman at all. "That's not a discussion I ended up having with them. I liked that she was a woman so in love she was ready to leave everything behind for someone she saw a life with. I find that very romantic," confesses Prajakta. "Of course, in no way do I come from a place of not caring about the ambitions she might have had or what she might want to do, but this part of her story deals with her life with Baldy and doing whatever she can to achieve that. So, that's what we focused on more," she argues. A turning point in her arc comes when Alka explains to her why wives don't discuss grave personal issues with IAF officers on the day of a sortie. Has that strategy and ability to compartmentalize her emotions and her husband's priorities also helped Prajakta in her own personal life? "I don't think both are comparable at all. I can't even fathom to understand how the people and the families in our forces deal with this compartmentalization because it's so much more complex than what us civilians can imagine. The most I could do was to get close to an idea of what Madhavi would be in real life. Obviously, in no way would I ever know that as a civilian. But I've tried to interpret what I thought could be done in that case," says Prajakta. She acknowledges that while she relates with Madhavi woman to woman, she can't place both their personal lives on the same pedestal. "Our lives are so much easier and safer because of the people who are guarding us at the borders. For me to ever say if they can compartmentalize, so can I, it's just silly. I honestly don't even know the pressures they must be going through to have that kind of a mental balance," adds the actor. Another moving scene that offers a peek into the sisterhood between the pilot wives at the camp is the one where Madhavi reveals she's pregnant after concealing it for weeks after Ajay Ahuja's death. "It's just the amount of emotions that's common between them — courage, strength, grit, grief sometimes, and hope! There's no way this sisterhood can thrive unless they all collectively feel the same things and be there for each other when needed. I think that's so beautiful," says Prajakta.

'You figure out, fail and win': Dulquer Salmaan reveals best advice from father Mammootty

Unlike many of his peers and colleagues, Mammootty is not known to have pulled strings to facilitate his son Dulquer Salmaan's film debut. Despite having the power to bring in some of the finest Malayalam filmmakers to launch his son and bankroll the film himself, Mammootty never did. In fact, Dulquer Salmaan made his foray into Malayalam cinema through a movie, Second Show (2012), helmed by debutant director Srinath Rajendran and featuring a couple of newcomers in the central roles. Cinema Anatomy | Toxic: Yash, Geetu Mohandas' crime thriller becomes the very monster it set out to destroy. Regardless, the actor never denied that being "Mammootty's son" helped him gain quick entry into Tinseltown and land the lead role in his debut movie itself. Recently, a fan asked Dulquer what the best piece of advice he ever received from his legendary father was. His response not only shed light on the bond the father-son duo shares but also offered a profound lesson on parenting.

'He doesn't interfere': Dulquer Salmaan on Mammootty "I think I'm the most blessed son because my father doesn't interfere too much in my life. He says, 'You do, you figure out, you fail, you win; it should all be you. If anything happens, I'm here as a backup. I'm like your safety net.' Like in the circus, if you fall, there's a safety net," he said.

Dulquer added, "He's my safety net. But he does not tell me what to do. He says, 'You figure, you learn, you make mistakes.' So I think that is my biggest blessing." Dulquer Salmaan made these remarks during a promotional event for his upcoming movie, I'm Game, directed by Nahas Hidayath. Also starring Kayadu Lohar, Mysskin, Antony Varghese Pepe, Samyuktha Viswanathan, Vinay Fortt, and Kathir in key roles, I'm Game will hit the screens on Thursday, September 3. Must Read | 'We knew our careers could end': Parvathy Thiruvothu on forming WCC, facing 'empty threats'

When Dulquer Salmaan recalled earning first paycheck at age 10 In another interview a few years ago, Dulquer revealed that his first paycheck was Rs 2,000, which he received without nepotism. "I was 10 years old. This has nothing to do with my dad; this is not some nepotism advantage. I was randomly picked by director Rajiv Menon's ad agency. They came to my school to pick kids for a televi-



sion commercial (TVC), and I was one of those who got selected. They gave me Rs 2,000 for that," he told Curly Tales YouTube channel. "It (the Rs 2,000) was like unheard-of money, like it was Rs 2 crore or something. I was 9 or 10 years old at that time. I gave Rs 500 to my grandparents and the rest to my mother. And then I used to keep asking her, 'Maa, that Rs 2,000 I have, can I buy this?' So then my mom was like, 'You finished that Rs 2,000 long ago.' She still talks about this," he added.

ICYMI | Kamal Haasan-Asin's Samurai-Kalaripayattu epic, 19th Step, was killed 20 days before filming Dulquer was most recently seen in Selvamani Selvaraj's Kaantha (2025), while his last Malayalam lead role was in King of Kotha (2023). Mammootty was last seen in director Mahesh Narayanan's Patriot, where he shared the screen with Mohanlal after 17 years since Twenty:20 (2008).

Nimisha Sajayan-starrer 'Enna Vilai' heads to US film festival

Chennai: After having won numerous awards, including the award for the Best Feature Film at the Mannheim Arts and Film Festival in Germany, director Sajeev Pazhoor's eagerly-awaited socio-political family thriller 'Enna Vilai', featuring actors Nimisha Sajayan and Karunas in the lead, has now been officially selected for the Atlanta Indian Film Festival to be held in the United States. It may be recalled that just a couple of days ago, the film had also been selected for the Kaia International Film Festival in Istanbul, Turkey. Taking to its Instagram page to share the happy news, production house Kalamaya Cineverse wrote, "Another milestone for #EnnaVilai! Proud to be an Official Se-

lection at the Atlanta Indian Film Festival (AIFF). One Powerful Story. One Global Journey. Taking Tamil Cinema to the world. In Theatres – September 2026. Written and Directed by @sajeevpazhoor." The film, which has caught the attention of critics and film buffs, is to have a theatrical release in September this year. It may be recalled that the makers of the film had chosen to express their gratitude to the village where the film was predominantly shot by getting the entire village to release the first look of their film. Instead of inviting a star to unveil the film's first look, the makers had returned to Paalam village in Dhanushkodi,

After Saiyaara, Aneet Padda takes on a cult leader in JioHotstar's Hunkkaar



After making a smashing debut with Mohit Suri's Saiyaara, actor Aneet Padda will next be seen in the web series Hunkkaar: The Roar. In the upcoming JioHotstar show, Padda plays an assault survivor, while Fatima Sana Shaikh will be seen as a police inspector investigating her case. The OTT platform unveiled the teaser for Hunkkaar on Tuesday. The teaser opens with 17-year-old Meenu

Rawat (Aneet Padda) sitting at a police station with her family. She accuses Sunil Chakosi aka 'Baapiji', a powerful and influential cult leader, of sexual assault. Meenu also reveals that she was a student at Mahasherni School in Baapiji's Shaburi Fort. Police inspector Fatima Sana Shaikh is assigned to investigate the case. Towards the end of the video, when the police tells Meenu that 'Baapiji' will be questioned, she takes a stand against the system and reveals that she would not leave the premises until an official complaint is filed against him. Hunkkaar's teaser also gave glimpses of the rest of the cast, including, Ram Kapoor, Mohd Zeeshan Ayub, Arjun Mathur and Zoya Hussain.

While sharing the teaser on her Instagram handle, Aneet Padda wrote in the caption, "Presenting a little something I shot before Saiyaara. Hunkkaar has been a part of my journey for a while, and I'm glad to finally share it with you all." She added, "Nahi hoga insaaf ka intezaar, bas goonjegi sachhai ki Hunkkaar (There will be no waiting for justice when the roar of truth will rise). Hotstar Specials: Hunkkaar – The Roar, streaming from 25th September, only on JioHotstar. Produced by Birla Studios and Applause Entertainment, in association with Purple Pebble Pictures, A Mangata Films Production."

Hanuman Ansh song makes visually impaired singer viral, once sang in Bundelkhand streets

Director Vishal Chaturvedi's latest film Hanuman Ansh, based on the life of Neem Karoli Baba, has proved the true power of positive word of mouth. The devotional drama, that started with just Rs 10 lakhs on its first day of release on August 7, has now crossed Rs 50 crore worldwide. The film's songs have also been grabbing attention, especially the track 'Tere Hi Bharose Hanuman', sung by a visually impaired Bundelkhandi folk singer Suneel Lodhi. In a recent interview, he recalled how he spent years in Bundelkhand singing with his tambura and has now made his way to Bollywood.

While reacting to the massive success of the song 'Maine Tere Hi Bharose', he told Hindustan Times, "I am getting so many calls congratulating me for the songs. Log keh rahe hain ki viral ho gaya hai gana (People are saying it's viral). Bahut acha lag raha hai... I want to thank God and all the people who helped me in my journey."

The Bundeli singer then opened up about how his relationship with music started when he was very young, around 10 or 11. "I used to sing on the tambura," he shared. Lodhi slowly made devotional and Bundeli folk songs a part of his signature tracks. He mostly performed for people around him before social media gave him a bigger platform. He recalled singing songs for the Bundeli Duniya page since a long time. "That is where my Bundeli songs started getting noticed." One of those songs – "Dula Ban Ke Aa Gai", has reached over lakhs of views, but it was the track "More Sankat Ke Kataiya" that helped him gain more popularity. The song was recorded with Lodhi singing and playing the tambura. Then, filmmaker and music producer Pankaj VRK heard his voice and liked the raw quality of his singing. "I have been working on YouTube for around three years. 'More Sankat Ke Kataiya' sounded very good in his voice, so I wanted to contact him," Pankaj recalled. However, it was difficult to find Lodhi and Pankaj revealed that he had to look "here and there" for his contact number. Later, the singer travelled to Indore for the first time before the journey before going to Mumbai. After getting a call from Mumbai after "More Sankat Ke Kataiya" circulated online, the filmmaker helped him reach Sai Baba Studio in Mumbai, where he recorded around eight songs, with "Maine Tere Hi Bharose" released till now.

"I sang it on the tambura, recorded the vocals in the studio and came back. I did not know that this song would be in a film. More 'Sankat Ke Kataiya' is a traditional Hanuman bhajan. I keep singing these traditional bhajans. 'Maine Tere Hi Bharose' is also traditional," the 25-year-old



singer revealed.

Hanuman Ansh box office The devotional drama was made on an estimated budget of just Rs 2 crore and has already grossed over Rs 53.82 crore at the domestic box office. While the film opened at just Rs 10 lakhs on its first day and 20 lakh on day 2, the numbers started improving after two weeks of release. The surprise success of the film was purely driven by positive word of mouth. According to the industry tracker Sacnilk, the highest single day collection of Hanuman Ansh was on day 24 at Rs 12.75 crore net in India. On day 25, it earned Rs 5.5 crore, taking the overall net box office collection to Rs 45.63 crore. The theatre occupancy of the movie has also been increasing day by day. Hanuman Ansh is based on the life and philosophy of the spiritual saint Neem Karoli Baba. Directed and written by Vishal Chaturvedi, the film features Chandan Anand, Shobhinav Satya, Poornima Tiwari and Vihaan Shedge, along with Sadhu Sushil Tiwari's music. It has been produced by Vishal, along with co-producers Namrata G. Singh, Anupriya Nagar, and Ragini Sona.

Rana Daggubati 'loves' wife Miheeka Bajaj's busy schedule: 'She has zen-like energy'



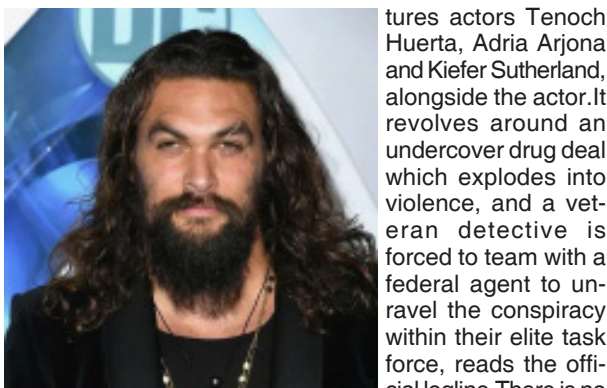
Rana Daggubati and Miheeka Bajaj have often spoken about finding a balance between their personal and professional lives. However, Rana says he is happy to see his wife keeping busy, with Miheeka now travelling frequently for work. When asked if Miheeka's thoughts on work-life balance had influenced him, Rana Daggubati had an interesting answer. He said that these days, she is the busier one in the relationship, with work taking her to different cities. "Well, now she has projects in Bombay, Goa. She travels more than I do. She's on calls longer than I, and I love it. It's great," said the Baahubali actor in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India.

The 42-year-old actor was also asked if they have managed to strike that perfect balance between work and their personal lives. Rana explained that he does not really look at his work as something he needs to take a break from because of his love for movies. He stated, "Now, I don't see any other job or anything else that one can do in life that can keep you so engaged. And it's not like someone's put a gun to my head saying, 'listen, yehi karna hai (you have to do this).'" The actor feels that stepping away from work to maintain a work-life balance isn't ideal. He added that doing something that you are "interested in" and "happy" about, should also be prioritised. During the interview, Rana Daggubati also credited Miheeka with a "Zen-like energy" that's been grounding him — and revealed one of the sweeter details behind their relationship in the process. Her favourite possession, by her own admission, is a handmade Yoda figurine (from Star Wars) he gave her early on, back

when she asked him for something that represented him fully. Rana said, "Oh, it's actually a mould, like a handmade mould of a Yoda which we picked up at some point, somewhere. And I think when we first met, she said, 'Okay, what's something that represents you fully that you can give me and I can keep?' And everything was just pointing to Yoda and nothing else. So, I said, 'this is all the knowledge, this is where I get everything from. Keep it very carefully.'"

Jason Momoa to feature in 'Copperhead'

Los Angeles: Actor Jason Momoa is the latest addition to the cast of "Copperhead". The film is directed by John Swab and produced by Black Label Media alongside Miles Teller's production company Lime Tree Productions and Swab, according to the entertainment news outlet Deadline.



The film also features actors Tenoch Huerta, Adria Arjona and Kiefer Sutherland, alongside the actor. It revolves around an undercover drug deal which explodes into violence, and a veteran detective is forced to team with a federal agent to unravel the conspiracy within their elite task force, reads the official logline. There is no information about Momoa's character in the film. Momoa has recently starred alongside Dave Bautista in the Amazon MGM action comedy "The Wrecking Crew". He will next feature in "Street Fighter", which is based on the game series, "