

Telangana SIR likely to be extended by three weeks

Hyderabad: The ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is likely to be extended by a minimum of three weeks in the State. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is shortly expected to issue an order extending the deadline. According to Telangana Chief Electoral Office sources, the State government recently wrote to the ECI seeking an extension of the SIR process. "The ECI sought a response from us and we gave our feedback. Mostly, the SIR process will be extended by three weeks, with final electoral roll publication scheduled for the last week of November," sources said. City & Local Guides As per the current schedule, claims and objections on the draft electoral roll can be filed up to September 16, while the notice phase and disposal of claims and objections will continue up to October 15. The final electoral roll publication is scheduled for October 19.

160 detonators seized near Bollaram army camp

Hyderabad: The police seized around 160 electric detonators allegedly abandoned by unidentified persons near the Madras Regiment Army Camp at Bollaram raising fresh concerns.

Army personnel noticed a suspicious light-green plastic bucket near the rear wall of the firing range on Wednesday and alerted the Bollaram police. On inspection, police found 160 electric detonators packed in eight bundles.

Complete Jal Jeevan Mission Works on War Footing and Ensure Drinking Water Supply to Villages Rapthadu MLA Paritala Sunitha



"Anantapur, September 03: "Rapthadu MLA Paritala Sunitha and District Collector O. Anand conducted a review meeting on the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission drinking water supply works in the Rapthadu constituency at the Mini Conference Hall of the Anantapur Collectorate on Thursday. "The meeting reviewed the progress of works being carried out in Atmakur, Anantapur Rural and Rapthadu mandals, including the works completed so far, pending works and areas where additional works are required." Rapthadu MLA Paritala Sunitha directed the officials and contractors to complete the Jal Jeevan Mission works on a war footing and ensure drinking water supply to villages at the earliest. She reviewed the status of various water supply works, pending pipelines, filter beds, pumping systems, overhead service reservoirs and other infrastructure. "She pointed out that several works were still pending, including the 600-metre main pipeline near PABR Dam, filter bed works, pumping motors, HNSS canal bridge works, OHSR and sump works at Atmakur, pump room and motor works, and mini-tank works at Pampanur and Chinnampalli. She instructed officials to immediately attend to minor repairs and ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply to villages. "District Collector O. Anand directed the officials and contractors to complete all Jal Jeevan Mission drinking water supply works within two months. He stressed that, in view of the prevailing El Niño conditions, the works should be expedited and drinking water should be supplied to 30 villages within the stipulated period. "The Collector instructed officials to complete all infrastructure

works within the prescribed deadlines. He directed that new sand filters at the pumping house, estimated to cost Rs.60 lakh, be taken up immediately and completed within the next two months. "He also directed officials to expedite the order process for Kirloskar pump sets through the subcontractor and complete the payment process within the next 3-4 days so that the order could be officially finalized. "The Collector further directed that approvals for revised working estimates relating to sand filters, increase in pipeline diameter and other technical modifications be obtained from the SE/CE-level authorities within a week. "The pending 350-metre pipeline works each at Kurugunta and Syndicate Nagar should be completed within one month, he said. Any difficulties should be resolved immediately in coordination with local public representatives and officials. "The Collector emphasized that PABR Dam is the main source of drinking water supply for the area and said that the progress of these works would be reviewed every month. He directed all departments and contractors to work with the primary objective of completing the works within the stipulated time and preventing drinking water shortages for the public. "Regarding land requirements, the Collector directed the Revenue authorities to immediately provide the remaining 1.75 acres of land at PABR, out of the total 2.5 acres required, as 75 cents had already been provided. He also instructed the officials to immediately provide 10 cents of land behind Oddupalli Sub-Station for construction of the PPT. "RWS SE K. Srinivasulu, Rapthadu DE Sridhar, AEs and contractors participated in the meeting.

LONDON, SEPT 3

The Russia-Ukraine war will not be resolved by determining who buys Russian oil, minerals, metals or fertilisers, but through dialogue, diplomacy and negotiations, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in Kyiv on Thursday, while making it clear that India was ready to help in any manner to bring the conflict to an end.

Jaishankar's remarks came during his visit to Ukraine, where he held talks with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha and later called on President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The visit comes as the war enters its fifth year amid renewed calls for an

"India has consistently maintained that this is not an era of war, and that solutions will not emerge from the battlefield," Jaishankar said after his talks with Sybiha.

"Just two days ago in Bishkek, Prime Minister Modi declared that the endless war must now give way to the end of war. Every passing day of conflict only means more deaths and more destruction," he said.

The EAM underlined that India was prepared to contribute to efforts aimed at ending the conflict.

"Understandably, it is for the parties involved to find a way. But, if India can be of any help in any manner, we are ready, and this was the core of my discussion with Foreign Minister Sybiha," he said. Jaishankar also voiced concern over the human cost of the war, referring to the killing of an Indian national in an attack in Kyiv two days ago.

"We join in mourning every life lost and convey our deepest sympathy to every affected family," he said.

The EAM said his discussions with Sybiha were "very free and very open", noting that the two foreign ministers had remained in regular contact and had met several times in recent months, including in Cyprus, France and Munich.

To a question whether India would reduce its purchases of Russian oil if the US approved a legislation imposing sanctions on countries buying it, Jaishankar stressed the scale of India's energy challenge.

He said the issue had to be viewed against the backdrop of the task of providing energy to 1.4 billion people at a time when the global energy situation remained "very, very difficult".



"The Ukraine side has its perspective, which we respect, and we have ours, which I would expect others to also respect," he said.

But he drew a sharp distinction between economic pressure over Russian energy exports and the fundamental question of how the war itself could end.

"But let me add, this conflict, which is today in its fifth year, will not be solved because somebody is buying or not buying oil or aluminium or minerals or metals or fertiliser," Jaishankar said.

"This conflict will be solved by dialogue, diplomacy and negotiation, and that is why it is something we would encourage," he said.

The minister said attacks on commercial shipping also figured prominently in his talks with Sybiha. Indian seafarers, he noted, served on ships flying the flags of several countries and had been among those affected by the conflict.

Disruptions to shipping, he said, were also having wider consequences across the Global South, contributing in different ways to shortages of fuel, fertilisers and food.

Sake Dheeraj Earns a Place in the International Book of Records

Rare recognition at the international level



"Dheeraj receives the award from the District Collector "Completes a 1,152-metre road skating feat at the age of 2 years and 8 months" Anantapur, September 02: "Two-and-a-half-year-old Sake Dheeraj of Anantapur city has achieved a rare distinction at the international level, bringing pride to the district. Dheeraj has been officially recognized by the prestigious International Book of Records for his remarkable skating feat and has been honoured with the titles "Super Talented Kid" and "One in a Million."

"On this occasion, Dheeraj, along with his parents, met District Collector O. Anand, IAS, at the Anantapur Collectorate. Appreciating the young child's exceptional talent, the Collector presented Dheeraj with a medal and official certificate and felicitated him. The Collector praised Dheeraj, stating that achieving such a record in the demanding sport of road skating at such a young age was a matter of great pride.

"Record Details "Master Sake Dheeraj, aged just 2 years and 8 months, completed a continuous distance of 1,152 metres on the road using quad skates in just 11 minutes and 50 seconds. "Recognizing the child's remarkable physical endurance, concentration and speed,

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The International Book of Records Committee officially entered Dheeraj's name in its records and presented him with the award. "The Collector wished Dheeraj greater success in the future and hoped that he would bring recognition to the country at the national and international levels. He also appreciated Coach Anji of Ashra Roller Skating Academy and the family members for their encouragement and support in helping Dheeraj achieve this remarkable feat.

HOLY BHANDARA OF PARAM PURUSH PURAN DHANI HUZUR SOAMI JI MAHARAJ ON JANMASHTAMI, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 AT DAYALBAGH, AGRA

Dayalbagh, Agra - The Holy Bhandara on the Birth Anniversary of Param Purush Puran Dhani Huzur Soami Ji Maharaj, Founder and First Sant Satguru of Radhasoami Faith, will be observed with devotion and spiritual fervour at Dayalbagh, Agra on Friday, September 4, 2026, Janmashtami. "Huzur Soami Ji Maharaj was born as Seth Shiv Dayal Singh Ji on the holy night of Janmashtami, between August 24-25, 1818 at Panni Gali, Agra. He revealed Surat-Shabda-Yoga as a direct path to Nij Ghar and opened the doors of public Radhasoami Satsang on Basant Panchami, 15th February 1861. "Bhandara Week will be observed from September 2 to 6, 2026. The holy occasion will also be observed across various branches in India and abroad

on Sept 4th. Satsangi brothers-sisters and registered Jigyasu participants from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Odisha, Eastern States and Europe are scheduled to arrive at Dayalbagh. "In the holy Guru tradition, Most Revered Huzur Prof. Prem Saran Satsangi Sahab is present as the Eighth and Present Waqt Sant Satguru of Dayalbagh. "Programme on Sept 4: Holy Aarti in the morning and Holy Bhandara in the fields in the second session. "Dayalbagh presents a unique synthesis of spirituality, Seva, simple living, education, agriculture and community life as revealed by Soami Ji Maharaj.

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Ganga swells, PM reviews flood situation

VARANASI, SEPT 3

The water level in the Ganga has crossed the warning mark in Varanasi and several districts of Bihar.

In this regard, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the Mayor and Collector of Varanasi and took stock of the flood situation in the city. He was briefed on the relief measures being undertaken. Modi asked them to ensure that citizens face the least possible inconvenience.

Water levels in several rivers in Bihar, including the Ganga, Kosi and Gandak, have risen rapidly following flash floods in Nepal, forcing residents of low-lying areas to evacuate their homes and move to safer locations.

According to the Central Water Commission, the water level of the Ganga in Varanasi was recorded at 70.29 metres against the warning level of 70.26 metres.

Officials said 13 relief camps had been set up in the district, where 935 people from 219 affected families are currently staying.

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Thursday inspected stretches along the Ganga in Patna and Mokama districts and directed officials to take necessary measures in view of the potential flood situation.

The river's water level is rising and is likely to breach the highest flood mark at Gandhi Ghat in Patna on Thursday night, the Disaster Management Department said in a statement.

The department also warned people living along riverbanks and in low-lying areas of Bhojpur, Patna, Saran, Vaishali, Nalanda, Begusarai, Lakhisarai and Jehanabad districts to remain alert and avoid unnecessary movement near ghats and embankments.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Why India still needs reservation

Every few years, the debate over reservation in India returns with renewed force. Some argue that reservation has served its purpose and should now be reduced, capped, or gradually withdrawn. The argument is often framed in terms of merit, equality of opportunity, or the country's changing social and economic conditions.

These are legitimate questions in a democracy. But before asking whether reservation should be withdrawn, we need to ask a more fundamental question: Has the underlying problem that reservation was intended to address actually been resolved? The evidence from India's institutions suggests otherwise.

Consider the judiciary, an institution often perceived as operating above social divisions such as caste. Government data placed before the Rajya Sabha in December 2023 show that, of 650 High Court judges appointed between 2018 and 2023, only 23 belonged to Scheduled Castes, representing 3.54 per cent, while 10 belonged to Scheduled Tribes, representing 1.54 per cent. OBC representation was 11.7 per cent, and religious minorities 5.54 per cent.

SCs and STs alone constitute roughly one-quarter of India's population, while estimates of the OBC population range from about 41 per cent in National Sample Survey Organisation data to 52 per cent in the Mandal Commission's 1980 estimate. The point is not that every institution must mechanically reproduce the demographic composition of the population. Rather, persistent underrepresentation raises a legitimate question about whether equal opportunity has translated into equal access to positions of authority.

10 lakh CC road work launched in Bommakal.



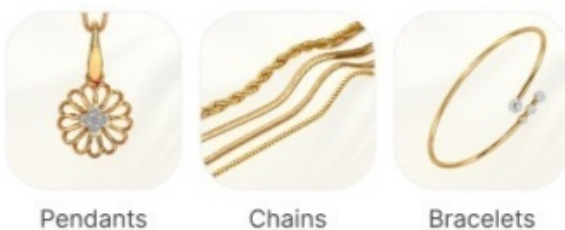
Karimnagar September 03 (Correspondent): Former Minister and Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakara on Wednesday launched the construction of a cement concrete (CC) road at Road No. 2 in Bommakal under Division 5 of the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation.

The work is being taken up at an estimated cost of 10 lakh from the Corporation's general funds. Mr. Kamalakara, along with Mayor Kolagani Srinivas, launched the work. Maulana Aleemuddin Nizami Biyabani offered the inaugural prayer on the occasion. Mr. Kamalakara directed the officials and the contractor to ensure quality in the construction and complete the work at the earliest so that it could be made available to residents. Division corporator Gade Rupa Srinivas welcomed the guests and felicitated them with bouquets and shawls. Residents of the division participated in the programme.

Paytm Partners with CaratLane to Offer Jewellery on Its Platform



Explore By Category



“Hyderabad, September 03 (Indian Chronicle) : Paytm (One97 Communications Limited) has partnered with CaratLane to make a range of jewellery, including rings, earrings, pendants, necklaces, bangles and bracelets, available on its platform, Paytm Vice President Veer Mishra said in a statement issued in the city on Thursday. Speaking alongside CaratLane Managing Director Soumen Bhawmik, Mishra said customers can use Paytm Digital Gold to purchase jewellery, while the remaining amount can be paid through UPI, credit and debit cards, net banking and other payment modes. He said the partnership provides customers with the facility to convert their Digital Gold into jewellery, offering greater flexibility in making jewellery purchases through the Paytm platform. CaratLane will handle packaging, order fulfilment and home delivery of the jewellery, he added.

Popular Director Sai Rajesh Unveils ‘Dear Heart’ Motion Poster



““The motion poster of ‘Dear Heart’, a film presented by Bobba's Presents under the Vaarahi Arts banner and produced by Raavi Sowjanya, was unveiled by popular Cult director Sai Rajesh. “Starring Lakshman Tekumudi, Radhika Joshi, and Supriya Chavan in the lead roles, the film is directed by GD Narasimha. Actors Suresh Guru, Prudhvi Raj, Sathya Prakash, Jabardasth Nookaraju, Jagadeeshwari, and others play key roles in the movie.” The recently released motion poster has garnered attention with

its soulful portrayal of love. The poster carries an emotional narration: ““Some love stories are remembered only for a few days... but some stories remain etched in our hearts as long as time exists. Every time you came before me, even time seemed to stop for a moment and look at you. Until my last breath... every beat of my heart echoes just one name — yours. If I live, it will be with your love; if my breath stops, it will be with your memories. Not every love story may reach its ending... but every true love deserves to be remembered in history... just like ours.” “The motion poster has created a strong impression with its emotional and romantic feel. ‘Dear Heart’ is set to be a youthful, feel-good love story. Director Sai Rajesh wished the entire team all the very best for the film. “Aravind B is the cinematographer, while S. Suhas is composing the music. The makers will announce further updates about the movie soon.” “Cast” Lakshman Tekumudi, Radhika Joshi, Supriya Chavan, Suresh Guru, Prudhvi Raj, Sathya Prakash, Jabardasth Nookaraju, Jagadeeshwari, and others.” “Technical Crew” “Banner: Vaarahi Arts” Presented by: Bobba's Presents “Director: GD Narasimha” Writers: Lakshman Tekumudi, Ajay Yarlagadda “Cinematography: Aravind B” Music: S. Suhas “PRO: Sai Satish

Anjan Kumar dismisses BRS ‘charge sheet’ as a ‘sheet of lies’.

Karimnagar September 03 (Correspondent): Karimnagar Corporation Congress Committee president and corporator Vaidyula Anjan Kumar on Thursday criticised BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao and working president K.T. Rama Rao over the “charge sheet” released by the BRS against the Congress government. Addressing a press conference at the DCC office, Indira Bhavan, Mr. Anjan Kumar described the document as a “sheet of lies” and alleged that it reflected the frustration of the BRS leadership after losing power.

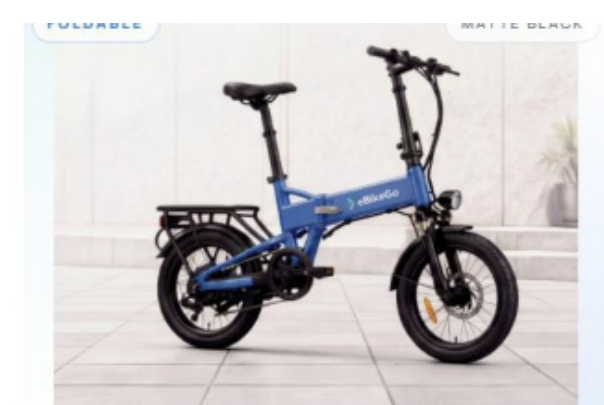
He questioned the BRS criticism of the Congress government, citing the State government's claims on farm loan waiver, Rythu Bharosa, recruitment, distribution of new ration cards, free electricity and free travel for women in TSRTC buses. He also referred to Indiramma housing, the BC caste census and SC categorisation, asking whether the BRS “charge sheet” was directed against these measures and their beneficiaries. Mr. Anjan Kumar alleged that the BRS leadership had failed to accept its electoral setbacks and criticised Mr. K. Chandrashekar Rao for remain-



ing largely confined to his farmhouse. He also accused the previous BRS government of corruption and challenged its leaders to face the Congress government in the Assembly. He said the people of Telangana would judge the performance of the two parties and rejected what he described as attempts by the BRS to mislead them. Other Congress leaders were present at the press conference.

eBikeGo to open 50 stores across India 35 crore investment planned over 12 months; expansion to create up to 800 jobs

Indian chronicle Secunderabad August 03: “eBikeGo, the mobility arm of EBG Group, plans to open 50 integrated bicycle and e-bike stores across India over the next 12 months, with an investment of more than ₹35 crore, the company said on Thursday. “The expansion is expected to create over 300 direct jobs and 500–700 indirect employment opportunities once the network is fully operational.” The rollout will begin with pilot stores in Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Coimbatore, before the company expands to other cities through a metro-first, cluster-based model. The first 15 stores will form the initial network and help strengthen product availability and after-sales services. “The stores will combine bicycle and e-bike sales, rentals, servicing, spare parts and fleet solutions, positioning them as neighbourhood mobility hubs rather than conventional bicycle dealerships.” eBikeGo expects the network to generate more than five lakh customer interactions and one lakh mobility transactions annually once fully operational. “EBG Group founder and chairman Dr. Irfan Khan said the growing use of e-bikes for commuting, student travel, last-mile connectivity and gig work was changing consumer perceptions. “An organised retail and service ecosystem is becoming important as consumers increasingly consider operating costs, convenience, reliability and access to service,” he



said. “The company's portfolio includes the eBikeGo City, Flare, Flare Pro, Fold, Momentum and Horizon models. The 250W electric-assist bicycles offer, depending on the model, assisted speeds of up to 25 kmph and an estimated range of 35–55 km, along with removable batteries and select models with Shimano gearing and foldable designs. “The 50-store rollout is the first phase of eBikeGo's larger plan to build a network of more than 1,500 stores across the country, using a partnership-led expansion model.

Grand Celebration of Advance Krishna Ashtami at Krishnaveni High School Manthani



“Manthani Peddapalli District, Sep 03 (Indian Chronicle): Ahead of the auspicious occasion of Krishna Ashtami, Krishnaveni High School in Manthani organized a grand advance Krishna Ashtami celebration. Students dressed up as Lord Krishna and Radha, adding a festive charm to the event. “As part of the celebrations, students presented cultural programmes depicting various aspects of Lord Krishna's life and his childhood leelas with the

Gopikas. The little ones' dances, songs, and colourful costumes were among the major highlights of the event. “Speaking on the occasion, the school management advised students to follow the values taught by Lord Krishna, including dharma, truth, love, and dedication to duty, and to incorporate these principles into their daily lives. “School teachers and students actively participated in the celebrations and contributed to the success of the programme.

IPPB Internship Certificates Distributed at Gayathri Degree & PG College

“PEDDAPALLI, SEPTEMBER 3 (Indian Chronicle): Gayathri Degree and PG College hosted a certificate distribution ceremony today for students who successfully completed their professional internship program conducted by India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). The event saw active participation from prominent officials, including IPPB Senior Manager Rajesh, College Correspondent Allenki Srinivas, IPPB Manager Srinivas, and Post Woman Anusha, who presented the completion certificates to the

aspiring graduates. “Addressing the gathering, College Correspondent Allenki Srinivas encouraged the students to leverage the practical skills and hands-on experience gained during the program to accelerate their career growth. Gayathri Educational Institutions Chairman Srinivas, along with faculty members and students, expressed sincere gratitude to the IPPB team, highlighting that such industry-oriented internship initiatives serve as crucial stepping stones toward a bright and secure future.

Ramantapur Young Bodybuilder Karthik Chari Honoured by Gaddam Sai Kiran



““RAMANTHAPUR, SEPTEMBER 3 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Ramantapur-based 26-year-old bodybuilder Vadla Karthik Chari has brought pride to the locality by winning three medals at the ICN Hyderabad National Bodybuilding Championship, held in Hyderabad on August 29 and 30. Competing for the first time, Karthik Chari secured second place in the Men's Bodybuilding – First Timer category, a Top 5 position in the Men's Muscle Model category, and a Participation Medal in the Men's Fitness – First Timer category. “Recognising his achievement, Gaddam Sai Kiran felicitated Karthik Chari and congratulated him on his success.

He expressed his wishes for Karthik to achieve greater success in future national and international-level competitions. “BJP leaders Dharam Venkatesh and Pawan also participated in the felicitation programme and congratulated Karthik Chari's parents, Vadla Srinivas Chari and Vadla Jyothi, as well as his coach Chakravarthi. They said that when youth excel in sports, they become an inspiration to society, and Karthik Chari's achievement would serve as a role model for many other young people.

Make the Sankalpa Sabha a Success on 6 th : S.Vivek



“Hyderabad, September 03 (Indian Chronicle) : Telangana State Spouse Forum president S. Vivek has called upon employees, teachers and their families to participate in large numbers in the Sankalpa Sabha to be organised by the TGE JAC (Lachiredy) on September 6. The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday at Nampally Exhibition Grounds in Hyderabad to press for the implementation of the PRC, sanction of six pending DAs, completion of the remaining spouse transfers and abolition of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS).

Vivek urged spouse couples and employee-teacher couples to attend the meeting along with their family members and make it a success. He appealed to all employees and teachers to unite and participate in the Sankalpa Sabha to achieve their legitimate demands. He called for the success of the meeting under the slogan, ‘Together for Our Rights.’

Jan Seva Regional Meetings Held Grandly



“Hyderabad, September 03 (Indian Chronicle) : Regional meetings of the Jan Seva Sangh were held in Medchal and Petbasheerabad. Jan Seva Sangh Vice-President S.A. Khan said in a statement on Thursday. He said the meetings were conducted under the guidance of Protocol Committee Convenor Srikanth Pandey and under the supervision of Medchal Regional President Dinesh Rajak and Petbasheerabad Regional President Bhola Singh. On the occasion, 30 new members joined the Jan Seva Sangh. The meetings also discussed plans to enroll a large number of new members every month, along with the organization's activities and several key issues, he said. Regional committee members Kapiraj Singh, Ramdhyan Singh, Shashiraj Singh, Karim Bhai, Mannu Yadav, Anand Dubey, Sanjay, Praful Pandey and others participated in the meetings.

We Will Continue the Struggle for the Liberation of 22-A Lands



UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY****UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 3 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Demanding that the government immediately resolve the issue of lands included in the 22-A prohibited list and provide justice to the affected landowners, the BRS organised a protest on Thursday in front of the Uppal MRO office. "BRS leaders alleged that the Congress government had failed to resolve public issues even after completing 1,000 days in office." Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the protest as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, he said landowners who had held rights over their properties for several years were facing severe difficulties because their lands had been included in the 22-A prohibited list. "He said that despite having legal rights over their own properties, landowners were unable to register,

sell, purchase or carry out other legal transactions involving their lands because of their inclusion in the 22-A list. As a result, many families were facing serious financial and mental distress, he said. "MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy demanded that the government treat the issue as a public concern rather than a political issue and take immediate steps to resolve it. He urged the authorities to examine the lands of eligible landowners and take special measures to remove them from the prohibited list. He also called upon officials to take the initiative to ensure justice for those who have legitimate rights over the lands. "BRS leaders criticised the Congress government, alleging that it had made several promises to the people during the elections and come to power, but had failed to address public problems after assuming office. They said the failure to resolve land-related issues had forced ordinary people to make repeated visits to government offices. "MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy made it clear that the BRS would continue its fight on behalf of the people until the issue of 22-A prohibited lands was resolved. He said the party would stand by the affected landowners and fight on every necessary platform to protect their rights. "Later, BRS leaders and activists, under the leadership of MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, submitted a memorandum to the officials at the Uppal MRO office. They requested a comprehensive review of all lands included in the 22-A prohibited list and urged the authorities to remove eligible lands from the list and provide justice to the affected landowners. "BRS leaders and activists, affected landowners and local residents participated in the protest. Raising slogans against the government, they demanded that the issue of 22-A lands be resolved immediately.

KCR Must Resign Immediately:

UPPAL CONSTITUENCY CONGRESSES IN-CHARGE MANDUMULA PARAMESWAR REDDY****.

--Bike Rallies and Protest Demonstrations Held in Habsiguda, Ramantapur and Venkat Reddy Nagar Divisions on CM Revanth Reddy's Call****HABSIGUDA, SEPTEMBER 3 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-Charge Mandumula Parameswar Reddy alleged that K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has completely failed in his role as the Leader of the Opposition. He criticized KCR for remaining confined to his farmhouse instead of attending the Legislative Assembly and raising the issues and concerns of the people. "Parameswar Reddy stated that public money amounting to Rs. 1.24 crore is being spent on KCR's salary and allowances as the Leader of the Opposition, while more than Rs. 21 crore is being spent on his security, bulletproof vehicles and other facilities. He said it was inappropriate for KCR to continue in a position that, according to him, was of no benefit to the people, and demanded that KCR resign from his post immediately. "Following Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's call to conduct statewide protests from September 1 to 5 demanding KCR's resignation, bike rallies and protest demonstrations were organized across all divisions of the Uppal constituency under the directions of Parameswar Reddy. "On Thursday, Parameswar Reddy attended the bike rallies and protest demonstrations held in Habsiguda, Ramantapur and Venkat Reddy Nagar divisions as the chief



guest. Addressing the gatherings, he reiterated his demand that KCR immediately resign as Leader of the Opposition. He also called upon Congress party workers and leaders to make the protest meeting scheduled to be held at Indira Park in Hyderabad on September 6 a success. Division presidents, senior Congress leaders and a large number of party workers participated in the programmes.

Monsoon Snacking May Lead to Dental Problems : Dr.Sonia Datta

****Hyderabad, September 03 (Indian Chronicle) : Popular dental expert Dr.Sonia Datta on Thursday advised people to enjoy monsoon delicacies in moderation while maintaining proper oral hygiene. She cautioned that frequent snacking and consumption of foods high in sugar and refined carbohydrates during the rainy season can increase plaque buildup and the risk of dental cavities. She suggested rinsing the mouth with water after eating snacks, drinking adequate water and brushing teeth twice a day to maintain good oral health. She also said that using IDA-recognised Dabur Red toothpaste containing Ayurvedic ingredients such as clove and dry ginger could be beneficial as part of daily dental care.



Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Consoles BJP Leader Harish

****HABSIGUDA, SEPTEMBER 3 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy on Thursday visited the residence of Habsiguda Division BJP leader Kakkireni Harish, who was injured in an accident, and enquired about his health. The MLA spoke to Harish and his family members and wished him a speedy recovery. He also assured the family that he would extend all necessary assistance. "BRS state leaders Gandham Nageswar Rao, Chandu Pasha, Suram Shankar, Srinu, Advait and others were present on the occasion.



Congress Celebrates 1,000 Days of Public Governance with Grand Victory Rally in Boduppal

****BODUPPAL, SEPTEMBER 3 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Telangana Congress government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, celebrated the successful completion of 1,000 days of public governance with a grand victory rally in Boduppal. As part of the celebrations, a massive bike rally involving around 500 motorcycles was organised from the Ambedkar statue in Boduppal to Boduppal Crossroads. A large number of Congress leaders, workers and supporters participated in the rally, which witnessed an enthusiastic response. "Later, a milk abhishekam was performed to a 50-foot-tall cutout of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy installed at Boduppal Crossroads, marking the completion of 1,000 days of Congress governance. "Medchal-Malkajgiri District Congress Committee President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav attended the programme as the chief guest. "Boduppal former Mayor Thotakura Ajay Yadav, former Boduppal Congress president P. Narasimha Reddy, Boduppal Division Congress President Bommak Kalyan, Chengicherla Division president Pogula Dileep Reddy, Medipally Division president Ravi Thungathurthi, Peerzadiguda Division president Bandi Sriramulu, former corporators, senior Congress leaders,



Youth Congress and Mahila Congress leaders, and representatives of the SC and ST wings, along with a large number of party workers and supporters, participated in the celebrations and made the programme a success.

Congress Victory Bike Rally Held in Grand Style in Medipally

DCC President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav Attends as Chief Guest****



"MEDIPALLY, SEPTEMBER 3 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): A grand victory bike rally was organised by the Congress party in Medipally under the Boduppal Circle of the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation, marking the successful completion of 1,000 days of the Congress government's rule. "The rally, led by Medipally Division Congress President Thungathurthi Ravi, began at the Congress party office in Sai Priya Colony and proceeded via the MRO office to Uppal Depot. Later, at Uppal Depot, the Boduppal Circle Congress unit performed a milk abhishekam to a 50-foot-tall portrait of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. "Medchal-Malkajgiri DCC President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav attended the programme as the chief guest. "Speaking on the occasion, Vajresh Yadav said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Congress government was taking Telangana forward on the path of development during its 1,000 days in office. He said the government was working to bring the state out of the debt burden left by the previous government while giving priority to the welfare of the poor. "He highlighted several welfare initiatives, including Indiramma housing, free bus travel for women, distribution of white ration cards and sanc-

tioning of new pensions. "Vajresh Yadav criticised BRS leaders, stating that they had no moral right to speak about public issues as the principal opposition party. He challenged them to an open debate if they were genuinely committed to the development of the Medchal constituency. He also demanded that the previous government answer the people over alleged corruption and irregularities during its tenure. "Medipally Division Congress President Thungathurthi Ravi alleged that the previous BRS government had become synonymous with corruption and irregularities. He criticised the previous government for not issuing even a single ration card to the poor during its ten-year rule and alleged that it had failed to address public issues. "He said BRS leaders had no moral right to criticise Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. "Former Mayor Ajay Yadav, DCC General Secretary Jalender Reddy, Boduppal Circle Division Presidents Bandi Sriramulu, Bommak Kalyan, Pogula Dileep Reddy and Vangeti Prabhakar Reddy, along with Congress state and district leaders, former public representatives, division-level leaders, Youth Congress, NSUI and Mahila Congress leaders and a large number of party workers participated in the programme.

Congress govt. has no right to claim a 'stellar' record without fulfilling poll promises: Talasani



BRS to take government's 'failures' to people; protests to continue till it is voted out****Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, September 03:**** Former Minister and Sanath Nagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Thursday accused the Congress government of shamelessly projecting its 1,000-day rule as a "stellar performance" despite failing to implement the promises made in its election manifesto. "Addressing a meeting of key BRS leaders from the Sanath Nagar constituency at his camp office in West Marredpally, Mr. Yadav released a "balance sheet" of the Congress government's failures and called upon party cadres to take the issue to the people. "He said BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao had already released a charge sheet against the government and directed party workers to organise programmes across all divisions for a week. The failures of the government in dealing with farmers, women, youth and students should be explained to the people, he said. "Mr. Yadav alleged that the Congress government was taking credit for development projects initiated during the previous BRS regime. "Do people not know who initiated the TIMS project at Sanath Nagar, the



Musarambagh bridge and the Saidabad bridge?" he asked. "Questioning the government's decision to inaugurate projects before their completion, he also recalled the promises of farm loan waivers, ₹6,000 monthly pensions for persons with disabilities and scooters for girl students. He alleged that the government had failed to clear scholarship and fee reimbursement dues, thereby jeopardising the future of students. "Where is governance? What is the government doing in Delhi?" Mr. Yadav criticised the Congress government for allegedly pushing the State administration into disarray while making "grand claims" about its performance. Instead of focusing on governance, the government was preoccupied with internal conflicts and other issues, he alleged. "We will take your failures and broken promises to every section of the people and continue our struggle until this government is voted out," he warned. "Former corporator N. Seshukumari, division presidents Kolan Bal Reddy, Attili Srinivas Goud, Gurram Pavan Kumar Goud, Hanmanth Rao, Venkateshan Raju and Srinivas Goud, along with several BRS leaders and activists, attended the meeting.

Talasani Srinivas Yadav Offers Prayers at Khairatabad Ganesh Sudarshana Yagam

"Hyderabad Correspondent, September 3 (Indian Chronicle): Former minister and BRS deputy floor leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Thursday participated in the Sudarshana Yagam held at the Khairatabad Ganesh pandal, seeking an auspicious and trouble-free 10-day Ganesh festival and abundant rains for the State. The annual ritual is performed around 10 days ahead of the Ganesh Navaratri celebrations as part of the tradition associated with the Khairatabad Ganesh festivities. This year's yagam was conducted at the pandal where the 70-foot Panchamukha Sankata Hara Maha Ganapathi idol is set to be unveiled to devotees. Talasani, who is also the Sanath Nagar MLA, participated in the religious rituals and offered prayers for the well-being and prosperity of the people. He prayed that the festival celebrations pass off peacefully without any disruptions and that the State receive widespread rainfall, bringing relief and happiness to the people. Following the rituals, the organisers felicitated Talasani. The programme was attended by Raj Kumar and Veena Madhuri, son and daughter



ter of late festival committee founder Sudarshan, former corporator Vijaya Reddy, and BRS leaders Mahesh Yadav, boxer Ashok, Ram Reddy, Mahender and Anand, among others.

Hit-and-Run in Narapally Woman Seriously Injured After Being Hit by Car

****MEDIPALLY, SEPTEMBER 3 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): A hit-and-run incident occurred at Narapally under the limits of Medipally Police Station on Wednesday. An unidentified car allegedly hit a woman who was crossing the road and fled the scene without stopping. "The victim, Faheema Begum (46), was crossing the road near Bawarchi Hotel in Narapally at around 3:40 p.m. after parking her scooter by the roadside and carrying her helmet. At that time, an unidentified car reportedly came at high speed and hit her before speeding away. "Faheema Begum sus-

tained serious injuries to her face and suffered a fractured jaw. Her eyes were also badly swollen and injured. Locals immediately shifted her to nearby Vajra Hospital for treatment. "Based on a complaint lodged by Mohammed Abdul Jameel on behalf of the victim, Medipally police registered a case on Wednesday night under Section 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), vide Crime No. 1272/2026. "Police are examining CCTV footage from the accident site and making efforts to identify and trace the absconding car and its driver, Sub-Inspector J. Tirupathi said.

CMRF Cheques Distributed from MLC Teenmar Mallanna’s Office

HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 3 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Cheques sanctioned under the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund (CMRF) were distributed to beneficiaries at the office of MLC Teenmar Mallanna, following his instructions. “The office staff handed over a cheque of Rs. 48,000 to Kandula Mahesh from Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district and a cheque of Rs. 60,000 to Atmakuri Swamy from Jangaon district.” On the occasion, the office representatives said that MLC Teenmar Mallanna has been consistently working to ensure that government welfare schemes reach people in need at the appropriate time. The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to MLC Teenmar Mallanna for the financial assistance provided through the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund. MLC’s personal assistants Bharadwaj and Ravinder, party State Secretary Praveen



Raj, State Office Coordinator Lingam Yadav, State leader Sutharapu Ranganna, and others were present.

Jainoor Riot Victims Still Await Compensation After Two Years

60 Crore Loss, Damaged Mosques, No Justice: Jainoor Muslims Await Relief“

“Indian Chronicle, Jainoor, September 3: Two years have passed since the communal violence that broke out in Jainoor on September 4, 2024. The violence caused financial losses of more than 60 crore to the Muslim community in Jainoor. Four mosques were vandalised, and copies of the Holy Quran were also desecrated. The incident attracted widespread attention not only across Telangana but also in several other states of the country. “Following the violence, business establishments in Jainoor remained closed continuously for nearly 72 days, severely affecting the local economy and livelihoods.” It was one of the most serious incidents of communal violence in Telangana in recent years, involving large-scale financial losses to Muslims as well as damage to mosques and religious institutions and alleged desecration of copies of the Quran. “However, even after two full years, the victims of Jainoor have reportedly received neither adequate compensation from the government nor any visible concrete action against all those accused of involvement in the violence. This has caused considerable resentment among Muslims in Jainoor towards the Congress government.” According to the victims, the violence was carried out in a planned manner by a large mob. CCTV footage related to the incident was handed over to the police, while photographs identifying around 400 to 500 alleged rioters were also reportedly submitted to the authorities. “Despite this, only 39 people were sent to jail, including some Muslims, according to local representatives. This has further angered Muslims in Jainoor and the erstwhile Adilabad district, who have expressed dissatisfaction with the police, administration and state government over what they describe as the lack of a final decision on the matter even after two years.” “Muslim minority political leaders in the state have also been accused of maintaining silence on the issue. Local residents say that this silence has contributed to the delay in securing justice for the victims.” “At the time of the Jainoor violence, the then DSP was transferred to another place following allegations of negligence in maintaining law and order. Questions are now being raised over the reported promotion of the same officer to a higher post.” “A few days after the incident, a Telangana minister visited the erstwhile Adilabad district and stayed there for two days, holding discussions with people associated with the violence, according to local sources. However, the affected Muslims of Jainoor allegedly were not given an opportunity to meet the minister during the visit. This has led to questions among



local residents over whether the state government is adequately addressing the concerns of the Muslim community. “It may be noted that more than 70 per cent of Jainoor’s population is Muslim, according to local claims. Following the violence, Muslims in Jainoor have reportedly faced difficulties in obtaining residential and other government documents.” The state government has introduced the Indiramma Indlu housing scheme for poor and eligible families. However, Jainoor is reportedly the only place in the state where not a single Muslim family has received an Indiramma house under the scheme, according to local residents. They argue that this reflects the alleged failure of the state government to address the development and welfare needs of minority families. “Local residents further pointed out that during the elections, several organisations and political and social leaders from across the state actively campaigned for and extended their support to the Congress government. However, the same leaders are now allegedly remaining silent on the problems faced by the Jainoor riot victims.” They alleged that minority-related issues have remained largely unresolved during the Congress government’s first 1,000 days in office, while the helplessness and silence of Muslim minority leaders have also raised serious questions.” The affected residents have strongly urged the state government to provide immediate relief to the Jainoor riot victims, either through loans and financial assistance under the minority budget or direct compensation.” They warned that if the government fails to provide relief and justice at the earliest, it may have to face the consequences in the next state elections.

KCR Completely Failed as Leader of Opposition:

*Parameshwar Reddy“Make September 6 Protest Meeting at Indira Park a Grand Success

* *Parameshwar Reddy“Bike Rallies and Protest Demonstrations Held Following CM Revanth Reddy’s Call““Nacharam, September 3 (INDIAN CHORNICLE)““Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy alleged that former Chief Minister and BRS leader K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has completely failed in discharging his responsibilities as the Leader of the Opposition.” He alleged that KCR has been staying away from the Legislative Assembly and has failed to raise the issues and problems faced by the people. Instead, he has remained confined to his farmhouse, Parameshwar Reddy said. “He further alleged that despite failing to perform his duties as the Leader of the Opposition, Rs. 1.24 crore is being spent from public funds towards KCR’s salary and allowances, while more than Rs. 21 crore is being spent on his security, bullet-proof vehicles and other facilities.” Demanding KCR’s immediate resignation, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy called for statewide protest programmes from September 1 to 5. Responding to the call, and under the directions of Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, bike rallies and protest demonstrations were organised across all divisions of the Uppal constituency. “On Thursday, bike rallies and protest demonstrations were held in Nacharam, HMT Colony, Mallapur, Mirpate HB Colony and Shakti Sai Nagar divisions. Parameshwar Reddy attended the programmes as the chief guest and addressed



the gathering. “Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy reiterated the demand that KCR should immediately resign from the post of Leader of the Opposition. He also appealed to Congress leaders, workers and the public to participate in large numbers and make the protest meeting to be held at Indira Park, Hyderabad, on September 6 a grand success.” Division presidents, senior Congress leaders and party workers participated in the bike rallies and protest demonstrations.

MSc Nursing Students Study Homeopathic Medicine

“RAMANTHAPUR , SEPTEMBER 3 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): MSc Nursing students from Government Nursing College, Somajiguda, visited JSPSGHMC in Ramanthapur on Thursday as part of their study tour. During the visit, the students studied the homeopathic system of medicine, its significance and various treatment approaches. Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Principal Dr. Srinivasa Reddy said that every system of medicine has its own advantages and limitations. He stressed the need for all systems of medicine to work in coordination with the primary objective of protecting public health. He also explained the importance and role of homeopathic medicine to the students.” Principal Dr. Lingaraju, Hospital Superintendent Dr. Vijaya, Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. Parthasarathi, Medical Officers Nomya, Geetha and Lalitha, and Nursing Officers Srilakshmi, Sunitha, Adilakshmi and Swathi, among others, participated in the programme.



The problem of fixing electric poles.

“To fix the electric poles on private land to leave the government land in the area of ward No -14 of Narkatiaganj town under West Champaran district in Bihar has made the situation worried among the dwellers of the locality. The Anchal Office regarding with the land department has already completed the measurement of the the government land in the month of June 2026 in the presence of the Assistant Engineer and other staff of BCRDCL and after that the construction of the drainages will be completed after 6 feet south area of the road and electric pes will be fixed adjacent to road but on the name of the widening and expansion of the road the electric poles are beong fixed adjacent to the walls of some houses which made the situation panic to see the danger of future regards electric supplying. Both the local people and the construction company of the road are in deep trouble.” To fix the electric poles adjacent to the walls of the houses would be like to invite fugue danger in the area. As a local dweller Ranjeet Paswan said that the old electric poles were on right places but the fixing of new poles near the building or houses would bring danger in future.” As a Social Worker cum senior Journalist of Narkatiaganj Awdhesh Kr Sharma said that the people of the locality knocked the door of the concerned department in this regard to shot out their problem but concerned authority turned a deaf ear in this regard. So for the welfare of the local dwellers the electric poles should be fixed on the government land beside the road in stead of the adjacent locality of private houses.”“NEXT““On the occasion of the 650th” Birth Anniversary “ of Guru Saint

Ravidas a Shivr (Camp) was organised named as “St Ravidas Vikas Shivr” in Senuariya Punchayat of Majholiya block area of West Champaran District in Bihar in which the District Magistrate West Champaran participated and cut the ribbon and inaugurated the function.” As the District Magistrate Taranjot Singh said that for sanitation and pure atmosphere the function of processing unit should be developed on scientific ground and the area of the punchayat would be free from pollution. After processing the garbage would be used for other work. The sanitation should be maintained. It not only the responsibility of the administration but also the responsibility of the local people to maintain sanitation. The processing unit should be functional for the welfare of the people.” As it is noted that when Mahatma Gandhi came to Champaran in Bihar in 1917 on the call of a peasant Raj Kumar Shukla to see the plight of the peasants of Champaran regarding indigo farming and Teenkathiya system of the British rules, Mahatma Gandhi visited Bhitiharwa a tribal area of Champaran under Gaunaha block and saw the plight of the peasants and he began to stay there. He advised the people of tribal community to maintain sanitation and avoid alcohol as well as encourage their children towards education. He also started a school there .” As a Social Worker cum JD (U) leader of Gaunaha locality Mobin Ahmad said that the message of Bapu regards sanitation would be fulfilled in this era and every citizen of the nation should maintain sanitation to fulfill the dream of Bapu.”“Ajay Kr Mishra “ Bettiah, Dist - West Champaran “Bihar ,3/9/2026

Ganesh Navaratri celebrations should be conducted peacefully: UPPAL CI Y.RAMALINGA REDDY“

““UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 3 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): A coordination meeting with Ganesh festival organisers was held at the Uppal Police Station on Thursday to ensure that the Ganesh Navaratri celebrations are conducted peacefully and in a harmonious atmosphere. The meeting discussed various issues, including police security arrangements, traffic management and measures to ensure that devotees face no inconvenience during the celebrations. Police officials issued several instructions to the organisers of Ganesh pandals and urged them to extend their full co-operation to the police. The organisers were advised to take precautionary measures to prevent any untoward incidents and to ensure proper safety arrangements at the pandals. They were also asked to maintain discipline and make appropriate arrangements when large numbers of devotees gather.” The organisers were further instructed to follow police guidelines during the immersion procession so that traffic is not disrupted and to provide the police department with all necessary information in advance. Police appealed to everyone to act responsibly and refrain from any activity that could disturb public peace and law and order.” During the meeting, the organisers brought various issues to the attention of the police, including their requirements regarding police security and traffic management during the festivities. Police assured them that their concerns would be examined and necessary measures would be taken for the smooth conduct of the celebrations.” Speaking on the occasion, Uppal CI Ramalinga Reddy urged everyone to celebrate Ganesh Navaratri with devotion and in a peaceful atmosphere. He assured that the police department would extend full support and cooperation for the successful conduct of the festivities. He appealed to Ganesh pandal organisers to coordinate closely with the police and ensure that the celebrations are conducted successfully. He stated that the police department gives the highest priority to public safety and the maintenance of law and order.” Administrative SI M. Madhu, SI Venkatarami Reddy, Uppal police personnel and a large number of Ganesh pandal organisers attended the meeting.



‘If You Remain Silent Today, You Could Face the Same Fate Tomorrow’:

Konda Surekha““Hyderabad Correspondent, September 3 (Indian Chronicle): Konda Surekha on Thursday questioned the Congress leadership over her removal from the Telangana Cabinet, alleging that she was punished without prior notice and warning that the manner in which she was treated could have wider repercussions within the party. Speaking to the media at her residence in Jubilee Hills, Surekha said not a word had been communicated to her before the decision was taken. Drawing a comparison with the procedure followed even before an execution, she said a person facing the death penalty is informed and given an opportunity to have a final word. She alleged that a section of the leadership, including Tirupati Reddy, had worked against her and claimed that the controversy surrounding her daughter was used as a pretext to target her. She also alleged that former OSD Sumanth had been deliberately dragged into controversies and that the case against him was being pursued through the CCS after being transferred there.” Surekha questioned why leaders who had earlier criticised the Congress or made strong remarks against its leadership were allowed to continue in positions, while action was taken against her. Referring to the government’s claims on BC reservations, she asked how a BC woman minister could be removed while the issue was being projected as a major priority. She appealed to ministers and



legislators who were unhappy with the functioning of the government to speak out instead of remaining silent. “What happened to me today can happen to you tomorrow,” she said. “Surekha also accused the government of failing to deliver several poll promises and said this had contributed to growing dissatisfaction among people. She suggested that the Congress conduct a survey to assess the public mood towards the government. She further criticised what she described as a “monopoly” in political decision-making and questioned the practice of announcing future political candidates prematurely. Surekha released a letter at the meeting, saying it contained the issues she had raised and her objections to the action taken against her.

SC upholds invalidation of Tokre Koli ST claim, protects retired employee’s pension benefits



GNS News Agency, Sept 3New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld an order which invalidated the claim of a man of belonging to the ‘Tokre Koli’ Scheduled Tribe, but ordered that he would be entitled to retiral and pensionary benefits. The man, who was issued a caste certificate in 1984 certifying him as belonging to the ‘Tokre Koli’ Scheduled Tribe, had secured appointment as a junior engineer (civil) with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai in October 1994 on the basis of the certificate. He retired from service in June 2025.

Exercising its plenary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi said that service rendered by him from October 1994 till June 2025 would be protected for the limited purpose of computation and release of his retiral and pensionary benefits in accordance with applicable service rules.

“It is clarified that the protection granted hereinabove shall not amount to validation or recognition of the claim of the appellant of belonging to the ‘Tokre Koli’ Scheduled Tribe,” the bench said. It said neither the appellant nor any member of his family would be entitled to claim any future benefit on the basis of the invalidated caste certificate. The top court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by the man challenging a September 2020 order passed by the Bombay High Court.

The high court had affirmed a July 2020 order passed by the Scheduled Tribe Certificate Scrutiny Committee invalidating the caste claim of the appellant as belonging to the ‘Tokre Koli’ Scheduled Tribe. In its verdict, the top court noted that since the appellant has retired, his counsel has alternatively prayed for protection of retiral and pensionary benefits. “We find no error in the conclusion reached by the scrutiny committee and affirmed by the high court in the impugned judgment,” the bench said. It noted that during the pendency of the appeal, the appellant continued in service pursuant to the apex court’s November 2021 interim order and ultimately retired on attaining the age of superannuation.

“However, having considered the facts and circumstances of the case and noting that the appellant entered service with respondent no. 3 (corporation) in the year 1994 and continued in service until the date of his retirement on June 30, 2025, which is for more than three decades, we consider it appropriate to ensure that the appellant is not deprived of his retiral and pensionary benefits.” it said.

Man stabbed outside Gujarat court as murder suspects turn on one another



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

A man was stabbed in the stomach on a court’s pre-mises in Gujarat’s Kutch district after he and four murder accused people got into an altercation on Wednesday morning, the police said. “It was fortunate that we were on scene and managed to apprehend the attacker when we did so. Otherwise we would have had a murder on the court pre-mises,” said M J Christian, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Bhuj. It took three police officers and two or three other men to apprehend the attacker on the sessions court pre-mises in Kutch.

Christian told that the accused were out on bail in a 2024 murder case and that the victim was a friend of one of them. “We moved him to GK General Hospital for treat-

ment. We are waiting for him to recover enough to give a statement, following which an FIR will be filed in this case,” he added. Christian said he arrived at the court between 11 and 11.30 am to give a statement in a case. As soon as he stepped out of his vehicle, he noticed an altercation in the lane leading to the back of the courthouse towards the parking area. Christian found a man brandishing a large knife, which he had just used to stab the victim. The police managed to subdue the attacker in the nick of time and made him drop the knife. Videos that have gone viral show the police and others hitting the attacker in an attempt to make him let go of the weapon. Another video, taken from extremely close quarters, shows the men fighting before others intervened. Earlier in the day, Christian said in a press conference, “The police have prima facie found that four men who were on bail in a grievous offence—Rahul Karsan Marwada, Arun Ramji Marwada, Kiran Khimji Bhayan and Sachin Mulji Meriya—had gone to court to record their attendance to fulfil a bail condition. They came out of the court building and began fighting over who was to blame for some others getting blamed in the case.” The police said a fifth co-accused, Kishan Mulji Meriya, is still in jail in the murder case and that the stabbing victim, Mayur Gosai, is a friend of Arun Ramji Marwada. His condition is said to be relatively stable. Inspector M R Nakum told The Indian Express that it was Rahul Karsan Marwada who stabbed Mayur Gosai. He added the police would register an attempt-to-murder case against Marwada.

A minor went missing in Gujarat. The trail has led police to flood-hit Nepal

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

A missing teenager, a worried family, and a police trail leading to Nepal: A Gujarat court on Monday heard how a Rajkot father’s search for his missing daughter had acquired an unexpected cross-border dimension, leading investigators to the flood-hit country, where conditions have added urgency to the search.

The man, who drives a rickshaw, approached the Gujarat High Court alleging that his minor daughter was kidnapped by a man from another faith about a month ago. The minor—just about two weeks shy of 18, as per the age in the complaint—left her home on August 6 and did not return, following which her father lodged an FIR on August 7. The father subsequently filed a habeas corpus petition through advocate Nabil Baloch, seeking that she be traced and produced before court. He alleged that the man named in the complaint had been “harassing (his) daughter for about a year”. He also claimed that the man had earlier lived near the family’s residence and had allegedly “threatened to take the girl away following a dispute between the two families”. When the matter came up before a division bench of Justices A Y Kogje and N M Thakore on Monday, Baloch urged that the minor be traced.

The state told the court that the police immediately began searching for her after the FIR was registered and following an application from the petitioner on August 18. The electronic evidence gathered during the investigation, the state submitted, indicated that the minor and the man had crossed over to Nepal, prompting the police to pursue the search in that direction but that the situation in Nepal was “extreme” at the moment. During the hearing, the court orally inquired when investigators had first traced the Nepal



connection and questioned the state about the whereabouts of the minor and the respondent, particularly in the context of the devastation in Nepal following the floods. The state informed the court that the technical information linking the minor to Nepal had only emerged about two to three days ago. It said the police had identified one or two IP addresses originating from Nepal and had sought assistance there.

As per the FIR, the minor “left from home by evading the eyes of her sister”, while her mother was away to attend to a beauty parlour assignment. The family approached the police immediately and lodged a kidnapping complaint. Recording the State’s submission that the investigation was proceeding on the Nepal trail, the high court issued notice, returnable on September 28. The court order recorded, “Pursuant to the FIR registered as well as the communication dated 18.08.2026, the police has immediately embarked upon the search, and the electronic evidence gathered would indicate the connected mobile connection, which has its root in Nepal, and for that purpose, the search is going on in that direction.”

Top Pune private hospital faces closure over Rs 71-crore LIC loan default

intravenous immunoglobulin, Gullain Barre Syndrome, pune Gullain Barre Syndrome, Gullain Barre Syndrome cases, Pune news, Pune, Maharashtra news, Indian express news Niramaya Hospital in Pimpri-Chinchwad is facing possible closure after LIC Housing Finance sought possession of its mortgaged property over a disputed loan repayment Niramaya Hospital, one of the most sought-after private healthcare facilities in Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune, is facing closure after allegedly defaulting on a mortgage loan repayment. LIC Housing Finance Ltd, which extended a Rs 71-crore loan to the hospital, has published public notices calling on the management to stop admitting new patients immediately.



In newspaper notices published last week, LIC HFL appealed to the management of Niramaya Hospital to comply with court directions, transfer existing patients elsewhere, and hand over vacant possession of the mortgaged property.

The lender clarified that it does not operate the facility and disclaimed all liability for any consequences or losses arising from patient treatment, transfers, or non-compliance with court orders, stating that full responsibility rests solely with the hospital’s management. The enforcement push follows a June ruling by the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) in favour of LIC HFL, which directed the hospital to transfer patients and vacate the premises. Following an August 29 notice by LIC HFL declaring its intent to take physical possession, the hospital management moved the Bombay High Court for a stay. Hospital sources noted that the High Court has temporarily permitted them to admit emergency patients pending further hearing.

Management disputes claimed dues Dr Kisan Munde, director of Niramaya Hospital, said that the Rs 71-crore mortgage loan was secured in 2015 to construct a new hospital building, and EMIs exceeding Rs 1 crore per month were paid regularly without default until late 2022. “Till December 2022 and the beginning of 2023, we had paid Rs 65 crore,” Dr Munde said. “After that, we could not pay the amount. LIC HFL is now saying that we owe them Rs 137 crore. We don’t agree with its contention and have therefore approached the high court seeking justice.” Construction on the new hospital building, located adjacent to the current facility, stands 60 per cent complete but has halted due to a lack of funds.

Located on the Pune-Mumbai highway, the hospital employs over 400 staff members. Along with Dr D Y Patil Hospital and Lokmanya Hospital, Niramaya is widely regarded as a major affordable healthcare institution in the region. Currently, 30 patients remain admitted at the facility, all in the intensive care unit (ICU). “We are admitting only serious patients,” Dr Munde said. Local activist Avinash Chilekar expressed concern over the institution’s potential shutdown. “The hospital has had top-quality doctors and is known for reducing the bills of needy patients,” Chilekar said. “LIC is a government organisation. It can allow the hospital time to pay the EMI. If the hospital is closed, the poor and

needy patients will suffer, as Pimpri-Chinchwad lacks hospitals like Niramaya.”

Fake currency racket busted, notes worth Rs 2.91 lakh seized

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad Commissioner’s Task Force (Shamshabad Zone), along with Balapur police, busted a fake Indian Currency Note (FICN) circulation racket and arrested three persons who allegedly printed and circulated counterfeit currency notes in Hyderabad. The police seized fake notes with a face value of Rs 2.91 lakh, besides a colour printer, scanner, laminator and other material used in preparing the notes, from them.

The arrested suspects were identified as Ramavath Ramu alias Mohammed (36), a Zomato delivery worker; his relative Ramavath Mothilal (35), a Rapido driver; and Ramavath Gandhi (19), an auto driver. All three are residents of Chintal Thanda, Vaddipatla, Telangana. Their alleged associate, Sudheer John Chela alias Vamshi of Nagole-Bandlaguda, is absconding.

According to the police, Ramu and Mothilal allegedly learnt about the preparation of counterfeit currency by watching videos on YouTube and Instagram.

“Mothilal reportedly had come across a YouTube notification about making counterfeit currency notes and contacted a person through a phone number displayed in the video. He was allegedly told to procure a colour printer, scanner, bond paper and other material required for printing the notes. Subsequently, they purchased the equipment and allegedly began printing fake Rs 500, Rs 200 and Rs 100 notes. Police said they also attempted to replicate security features, including the watermark, to make the counterfeit notes resemble genuine currency,” said the police.

The gang allegedly circulated the fake notes in small quantities at wine shops and vegetable markets, particularly during night hours. Gandhi, the nephew of Ramu, was allegedly used to circulate the counterfeit notes in the market.

AI jobs in India see 23 pc salary growth between 2024 and 2026: foundit report



New Delhi: Salaries of artificial intelligence (AI)-related jobs in India have compounded 23 per cent between 2024 and 2026 while pay in some legacy technology roles has fallen, widening a compensation divide in the job market, a report said on Wednesday. The report from jobs platform foundit said AI recorded 12 per cent year-on-year salary growth last year, the highest among tracked categories, followed by Computer & Network Security and Semiconductors at 9 per cent each. The report noted that sectors such as computer hardware and e-commerce saw pay declines and IT services stagnated over the last two years. Entry-level AI professionals with 0–3 years of experience earn Rs 8.87–15.41 LPA, rising to Rs 70.99–89.24 LPA for those with more than 15 years’ experience.

AI compensation varies sharply by location, reflecting where specialised employers and mature technology ecosystems are clustered. Bengaluru remains India’s highest-paying market, supported by its density of product compa-

nies, AI-first startups and global capability centres. Senior AI professionals in Bengaluru earn Rs 61.70–91.25 LPA — roughly 10–15 per cent more than in NCR or Mumbai, and up to 40 per cent more than in Chennai at the senior end. Hyderabad is emerging as the closest challenger, backed by expanding GCC and product engineering investments. Cybersecurity records an even higher salary ceiling of Rs 97.81 LPA, the highest across the categories tracked, the report added.

By contrast, entry pay in Information Technology and IT Services starts at Rs 2.68–5.08 LPA and reaches Rs 57.55–72.13 LPA at over 15 years, with both categories recording a 1 per cent pay decline in the last year. “Companies are getting selective about what they pay a premium for. Experience on its own no longer commands the strongest raises — what matters is whether a skill fills a capability gap the business needs; whether that is building AI systems, securing infrastructure, automating factories or delivering specialised healthcare,” said Tarun Sinha, CEO, foundit. Sinha said professionals should understand that salary growth will increasingly follow those who keep deepening and renewing their skills as business needs shift. Salary growth outside technology is concentrated in areas building new capabilities. Over two years, semiconductors have compounded 17 per cent (7 per cent, then 9 per cent) and industrial automation 13 per cent (5 per cent, then 8 per cent)—both accelerating in the last two years. Senior salaries reach Rs 58.90 LPA in industrial automation and Rs 48.49 LPA in semiconductors. Automotive recorded 6 per cent growth in the last year. Medical Practice saw 8 per cent salary growth and senior compensation of Rs 56.70 LPA, followed by Medical Devices at 6 per cent and Pharmaceuticals at 4 per cent.

Why Indian Gen Z professionals struggle to build career networks

Mumbai: Fear of being judged holds back a majority of Gen Z professionals from connecting or networking with people who could help them advance their careers, a report said on Wednesday. India’s Gen Z professionals have grown up constantly connected online, but 83 per cent hesitate to interact or network with people who could help them in their careers, according to a report by LinkedIn.

Fear of being judged (44 per cent), concerns about bothering others (39 per cent), and worries about sounding inauthentic (37 per cent) are preventing Gen Z professionals from seeking valuable advice, making connections and accessing new opportunities, the report added. The LinkedIn report is based on a survey conducted by Censuswide among 18,050 full-time and part-time workers aged 18 to 80 between July 20 and August 11, 2026, across countries including India, the UK, the US, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Singapore, Australia, Brazil, the UAE and KSA (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).

The report revealed that even as 79 per cent of Indian Gen Z professionals understand that professional relationships are important, more than half (52 per cent) are unsure how to get started, while 53 per cent struggle to turn contacts into meaningful connections and worry about the cost. LinkedIn data showed that Indian job applicants with an inside connection were nearly 8.5 times more likely to get hired than those without one. However, almost three in five Gen Z professionals (59 per cent) said no one had clearly shown them how to build professional relationships. Many had received limited guidance or had to figure it out them-



selves, making it harder to know whom to approach, when to reach out and what to say, the report stated. While many worry about getting in touch, a majority of Millennials (92 per cent) and Gen X professionals (95 per cent) said they would help someone at the start of their career, even if they did not know them. “As jobs evolve and career paths become less linear, the ability to build meaningful relationships is becoming just as important as building skills.” The good news is that networking doesn’t have to mean cold outreach or awkward introductions. Over time, small interactions build trust, expand your circle and can lead to opportunities, insights and support when you need it most,” LinkedIn Career Expert and India Senior Managing Editor Nirajita Banerjee said.

Former Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra appointed Ram Mandir Trust CEO

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

The Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra has named Jeetendra Mishra, a retired Air Marshal, as the first CEO of the Trust. The move follows the row over alleged theft of offerings, leading to increased scrutiny of the Trust’s financial management. Eight accused have been arrested in the case, while three officials, including former Trust general secretary Champat Rai, have stepped down from their posts. The other two in the running for the CEO post were Major General Sanjay Pratap Singh Vishwas Rao and Shruti Bhardwaj.



“Jeetendra Mishra played a significant role during Operation Sindoor. He brought in discipline and management, which is required at this time. Most importantly, he will restore the trust of Ram bhakts. He has managed big operations and is best suited for the role.” Suresh Haware, member of the selection committee, told The Indian Express. Haware is a retired nuclear scientist who spent 27 years with the Department of Atomic Energy, and has headed the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust in Shirdi. The other two members of three-member selection panel are retired Supreme Court judge Justice Pramod Kohli and retired Lieutenant General Vishnukant Chaturvedi. The temple trust has also inducted three new trustees on Wednesday. Sources said the names are Mahesh Bhagchandka, chairman of M2K Foundation and a trustee of the Ashok Singhal Foundation; advocate Madan Mohan Pandey, who was associated with the Ram Janmbhoomi case in the local courts; and Dr Nirmala Yadav, a retired teacher. The vacancies arose after the resignations of General Secretary Champat Rai and member Anil Mishra following recent allegations of theft of donations at the Ram Temple. The third vacancy arose following the death of Vimlendra Pratap Mishra, scion of Ayodhya’s erstwhile royal family, last year. Sources said Bhagchandka is also a trustee of the Ashok Singhal Foundation and has authored a book on the late RSS leader. He has been involved in social work at Karyasewak Puram every year, including the annual distribution of bicycles to people with disabilities and support for health camps.

Pandey, sources said, is an advocate and is associated with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. He had played a significant role in contesting the Ram Janmbhoomi case in the local courts before it went to the Supreme Court. The third person is Dr Nirmala Yadav, a retired teacher. Sources said that of the finalised names, caste representation would also appear to have been a consideration, with the three-member addition including a Brahmin associated with the Ram Janmbhoomi case and a Yadav from the OBC community. “Transparent process for selecting trust CEO of Ram Temple Trust completed”

In a post on X, Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra said, “The comprehensive, transparent, and technology-enabled process for selecting the Chief Executive Officer of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra has been completed. ... After reviewing 5,585 applications, the selection committee held detailed discussions with 16 candidates.

Today, the committee submitted the final panel of three highly qualified candidates to the Trust, which will make the final decision and official announcement.”

The search committee secretary Sameer Panda said: “Based on its comprehensive evaluation, the Search Committee has recommended a panel of three highly qualified professionals to the Ram Janmbhoom Trust. These candidates represent the highest calibre of institutional leadership, management expertise, integrity and vision required to serve as Chief Executive Officer of an institution of national and international significance.” The committee said the selection process was conducted through a multi-tiered evaluation combining AI-enabled technology with manual assessment. According to a statement from the panel, teams worked simultaneously across Delhi-NCR, Pune and Sambalpur to screen and shortlist candidates in a “rigorous” and “transparent” process. After the initial screening, the names were narrowed down to 16. They participated in online interactive sessions between August 3 and 6, followed by face-to-face interactions in Ayodhya on August 11 and 12.

The committee said the final three candidates were recommended after a “comprehensive evaluation”, taking into account institutional leadership, management expertise, integrity and vision required to head an institution of “national and international significance”.

Hope there will be no theft of ‘Ram Dhan’: Akhilesh Yadav. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday expressed hope that there would be no theft of “Ram Dhan” as the Ram Janmbhoomi Trust meeting begins in Ayodhya to decide the first CEO. Speaking to reporters, Yadav alleged that poor people were being defrauded of their land in Ayodhya. “When new things happen, do we forget what happened in the past? We have no complaints from anyone, but the way the theft of donations happened, you sent ordinary employees to jail but spared the big names. We hope there will be no theft of ‘Ram Dhan,’” Yadav said. “Ayodhya should have been developed as a world-class city. There was so much greed in their (BJP) minds that the poor are being defrauded of their land,” he said.

2 Chandigarh flats fetch Rs 3.81 crore, 12 properties unsold in auction



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

A Chandigarh Housing Board (CHB) flat in Sector 63 fetched Rs 1.92 crore — nearly Rs 63 lakh above its reserve price of Rs 1.29 crore in an auction held on Tuesday. The bid, however, failed to translate into a wider response, with only two of the 14 freehold residential properties offered by the board finding buyers. Two freehold residential properties of the Chandigarh Housing Board (CHB) in Sector 63 have brought a combined Rs 3.81 crore in the latest e-auction, with each selling for at least Rs 60 lakh above its reserve price. However, despite the premium bids, the auc-

tion has received a lukewarm response, with buyers picking up only two of the 14 properties put on the block.

While one unit, 2173-C in Sector 63, was sold for a final bid of Rs 1.92 crore, 2170-B fetched Rs 1.89 crore. Both 1106 square-foot properties had a reserve price of Rs 1.29,43,827. The strong bids for the two Sector-63 properties, however, contrast with the overall response to the auction. The properties put up for auction were spread across Indira Colony, Manimajra, Modern Housing Complex, Sector 63 and Sector 46-C, with reserve prices ranging from Rs 41.46 lakh to Rs 7.33 crore. As many as nine residential units in Indira Colony, Manimajra, were offered with reserve prices between Rs 41.46 lakh and Rs 50.99 lakh. Two flats in Modern Housing Complex were also part of the auction. A Category IV flat had a reserve price of ₹1.05 crore, while a Category I flat carried a reserve price of Rs 2.64 crore.

The highest-priced property in the auction was an independent HIG house in Sector 46-C, with a reserve price of Rs 7.33 crore. The CHB had invited prospective buyers to bid for the properties on a freehold basis, with allotment to the highest eligible bidder quoting above the reserve price. The board had recently also invited bids for 79 commercial properties on a leasehold basis, but the exercise failed to gain traction.

‘Why did you sell the land?’ Sons beat up parents in Pune village

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

A 65-year-old farmer and his ailing wife in Pune district were allegedly beaten with wooden sticks on a public road by their two sons, who confronted them over the sale of land belonging to their mother, the police said on Wednesday. According to the police, the incident took place around 6 pm on August 30 when Tukaram Kisan Raut and his wife Anjana Raut were out for a walk in their village. The couple's sons, Sanjay Raut and Rajendra Raut, allegedly followed them in a car, abused them and threatened to kill them if they did not cancel the land sale, the police said.

"They started asking Tukaram, 'Why did you sell the land?' They then assaulted Tukaram and Anjana with wooden sticks. Tukaram sustained injuries to his back, face, thighs and left shoulder, while Anjana was allegedly struck on her right wrist and waist," said a First Information Report (FIR) filed at the Indapur police station based on the complaint of the farmer. During the assault, the brothers allegedly demanded that their parents retake possession of the land. According to the complaint, one of the sons threatened, "Take back the land you have sold, otherwise we will show you what we are capable of," the FIR stated. The passersby gathered at the spot and alerted the police. After the



police arrived, Tukaram and Anjana were taken to Indapur sub-district hospital. A video of the incident taken by some local people was shared on social media. Tukaram told the police that his two sons live separately with their families in Malwadi No 2, Indapur. The police have booked the brothers for voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, and criminal intimidation.

Amazed how authorities allowed constructions to continue on Kaimbwala land: High Court



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has expressed dismay over constructions in Chandigarh's Kaimbwala village — an ecologically fragile zone — despite a ban imposed by the court's Division Bench. "We are amazed as to how the authorities have allowed such constructions to go on when there is a ban imposed by the Division Bench of this court," the court observed. The high court made the observation after a report by the Local Commissioner and a video played before it showed "large number of constructions" and new boundary walls on the khasra numbers (land records) in question. The Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor, in its August 31 order, took on record the report along with a pen-drive submitted by advocate Nitin Kaushal, who had been appointed as the Local Commissioner on the previous date. The matter concerns an interim application in a suo-motu taken by the high court against the Chandigarh Administration and others. The application, represented by Senior Advocate Akshay Bhan and Advocate Shaurya Khanna, Advocate and Akhilesh Barak, is related to the alleged ongoing construction at Kaimbwala.

In the application seeking urgent preponement and interim directions, the applicants stated that the immediate trigger arose on August 10 and 11, when private persons allegedly mobilised heavy commercial machinery and 8-10 construction labourers onto an unpartitioned joint agricultural holding at Kaimbwala in Khasra No. 23/12. They alleged that deep trenches were dug and construction of a permanent reinforced cement concrete (RCC) structure was commenced, with steel reinforcement pillars reaching nearly 10 feet in height.

The applicants further alleged that despite real-time alerts, formal complaints and site reports being sent through email and WhatsApp to the Deputy Commissioner, Tehsildar Enforcement and SDM (Central) on August 11, the official respondents had shown "complete administrative inertia" and a "total abdication of their statutory enforcement powers". They alleged that, taking advantage of the alleged lack of field intervention, construction of the permanent 10-foot RCC wall was continuing on a daily basis. According to the application, the alleged construction was taking place within the designated Sukhna Lake Catchment Area and protected Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ), situated barely 500 metres from Sukhna Lake. The applicants claimed that raising a permanent 10-foot RCC structure would artificially alter the natural drainage contours and hydrology of the basin, and referred to interim protection orders passed by the high court on March 14, 2011 and December 18, 2020, which, according to the application, explicitly ban fresh building activities and landscape modifications in the catchment area.

The applicants also alleged that administrative records from June to August 2026 showed a continuous pattern of unchecked activity on the joint estate. They stated that in June and July alone, over 25 to 100 truckloads of external soil and industrial malba were dumped across Khasra Nos. 23/9, 23/11, 23/12, 23/20 and 35/1, allegedly raising the terrain by four to six feet. They further alleged that 15-20-foot-high shade curtains were erected to conceal late-night earthmoving operations and that JCBs were used to bury debris inside 12-15-foot-deep trenches.

The application stated that if the matter remained listed for September 10, the ongoing RCC wall construction would be fully completed and sealed on the ground, allegedly altering the topography, destroying agricultural topsoil and obstructing natural water pathways feeding Sukhna Lake. The applicants sought an urgent hearing and interim directions to halt construction activities. In its August 31 order, the high court said, "We expect that the authorities would ensure that the status as it exists pursuant to order of the writ court is maintained and no unauthorised construction is allowed in the area." "It shall be open for any of the parties aggrieved by the report of the Local Commissioner to file its objections," the bench added. The high court directed the revenue authorities to apprise the court through an affidavit "as to who are the persons, who have actually raised construction of boundary walls, in the teeth of the judgment of the Division Bench."

Commercial Taxes Department raids 25 premises over illegal pan masala trade

Hyderabad: The Telangana Commercial Taxes Department has intensified its crackdown on the illegal manufacture, storage and trade of pan masala and other tobacco products, inspecting 25 premises across Hyderabad on Tuesday. Acting on specific inputs, department officials conducted inspections and uncovered an unauthorised manufacturing unit operating from a residential premises at Errakunta, near Barkas. Substantial quantities of raw materials, chemicals and other manufacturing material were found at the premises.

Officials also found counterfeit packaging material carrying the names and branding of several popular pan

masala brands, including RMD, Goa 100, Badshah, Zaffrani Gold and Vimal Pan Masala. Machinery, finished goods, and packing material found at the unit were seized during the raid by the officials. The department also carried out inspections at several premises in Begum Bazaar, Feelkhana, Tolichowki, Golconda, Bada Bazaar, Langar Houz and Babanagar. During the searches, officials detected and seized unaccounted stocks of pan masala and other tobacco products.

Further investigation is underway to establish the source, movement and distribution network of the goods and determine the extent of tax evasion.

Punjab's Malwa Canal project stalled as High Court halts land acquisition



The Punjab government's much-hyped Malwa Canal project, involving the construction of a 149-km canal, has hit a roadblock with the Punjab and Haryana High Court halting all land acquisition proceedings until the environment impact assessment (EIA) report is finalised. In its August 25 order, a division bench of Justices Jasgurpreet Singh Puri and Pravindra Singh Chauhan said that neither the petitioners nor similarly placed landowners could be dispossessed of their land, and no award could be passed in relation to the Malwa Canal until the EIA report is complete.

The case involves 273 landowners from Muktsar, Faridkot, and Ferozepur districts who challenged the land acquisition proceedings initiated for the Malwa Canal construction. The matter first came up for hearing on August 17 after farmer Jasdev Singh Sidhu filed a petition. The case was subsequently taken up on August 25 and decided along with three other writ petitions challenging the same land acquisition proceedings.

During the proceedings, the bench asked the state about the purity of the water to be released in the canal. "The State of Punjab had filed a short affidavit in court, but failed to clarify whether the water to be released in the Malwa Canal would be fit for human consumption or not?" the bench said. "The State of Punjab or the officials present in Court could not reply to the said question and merely said that the Environment Impact Assessment report was not finalised yet." "The landowners' case was represented by senior ad-

vocates Inder Pal Singh Doabia, Sanjay Roy and G S Doabia.

What is the Malwa Canal project?

The Malwa Canal is a proposed major irrigation project of the Punjab government aimed at bringing canal water to parts of south-western Punjab facing irrigation shortages and heavy dependence on groundwater. The proposed canal is expected to pass through Ferozepur, Faridkot and Sri Muktsar Sahib districts. Earlier project details described the canal as being approximately 149 km long, originating near the Harike Headworks/Sutlej system and carrying water towards the Muktsar region. Its stated objective is to provide irrigation water to tail-end agricultural areas, reduce dependence on tube wells and help address Punjab's rapidly depleting groundwater. The project has been estimated to cost around Rs 2,300 crore.

Why are villagers against the project?

Villagers from 33 panchayats across the three districts opposed the land acquisition, pointing out that no environment impact assessment had been carried out. Harinder Singh Thandewala of Thandewala village in Muktsar, who has been spearheading the agitation under the banner of the Punjab Bachao Morcha, said, "Already, the irrigation department of Punjab is providing polluted water in the existing canal network in Malwa Punjab. What is the guarantee of clean water in the newly proposed Malwa Canal?" He also raised concerns over the proposed source of water for the canal. "Water for the canal was to be taken from Harike Barrage, which is at the confluence point of the Sutlej and Beas rivers in Ferozepur. This point already has polluted water, as water from the Sutlej passes through Ludhiana, where a drain called Buddha Nallah is highly polluted. This Buddha Nallah water falls into the Sutlej river in Ludhiana, and the river further flows towards Harike Barrage," he explained. Farmers have also questioned the proposed depth of the Malwa Canal and whether it could supply water to the larger Malwa region as claimed by the government. Singh hailed the court's decision. "The court disposed of the petition by halting the land acquisition, which is a great relief for farmers like me," he said.

He was a Maoist leader. His ‘experience’ has landed him a university role

Mallojula Venugopal (70), alias Bhupathi and Sonu, a former Maoist leader and Politburo member of the CPI (Maoist), has joined Gondwana University in Gadchiroli as a temporary coordinator at its Village Council Capacity Building and Training Centre. On his hiring, Gondwana University Vice-Chancellor Prashant Bokare has said that Venugopal was found eligible and his "knowledge and experience" were considered suitable for the post by the selection committee. Venugopal was appointed as a CPI (Maoist) spokesperson in 2010. He came from a poor family, and his father and grandfather were freedom fighters, security officials said. He joined the People's War Group in the 1980s.

According to intelligence sources, Venugopal was the ideological head of the party and a communication specialist who served as a link between the Maoist organisation and the outside world. In August, Venugopal, who applied along with several local youths, was selected after interviews. As coordinators, they will visit villages across Gadchiroli and supervise the functioning of Gram Sabhas. They will also create awareness among tribal communities about their rights and powers under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), which extends the system of local self-governance to Scheduled Areas, as well as forest-related laws. Mallojula Venugopal Ex-Maoist Politburo member Mallojula joins Gondwana University (Express photo)

Venugopal surrendered to the police on October 14 last year along with more than 60 associates. He said he intended to continue working for tribal communities after spending more than four decades among them. "As before,



I will go among the people. The Constitution gives us rights, and we will work accordingly," he told The Indian Express in February. Speaking about his new role, Venugopal said the opportunity would allow him to contribute to implementing constitutional provisions in tribal areas. "Although PESA was enacted in 1996, we made the mistake of opposing it until 2014–15. In some areas, we continued to oppose it until 2020, thereby preventing people from accessing the legal benefits provided by the Act," he said. Speaking to The Indian Express, Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police M Ramesh said, "After his surrender, Sonu was looking for a teaching or research opportunity. Through some research, we found that a university in Gadchiroli itself had a Tribal Study Centre. I made a recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor, and a panel later interviewed him for the position. The aim was to provide him with an opportunity where he could work."

On Mumbai roads, judge threatened, abused for using ‘Nyayadhish’ sticker on car



The Matunga Police has registered an FIR against two unknown people for allegedly abusing and threatening a Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) judge near Dadar. The matter came to light on September 1, Tuesday, when 54-year-old Sashikant Bangar approached the Matunga Police, alleging that two unidentified men stopped

his car on July 13, abused him and his wife, and threatened to kill him. According to the complaint, the incident took place around 10.15 pm on July 13, when the judge was returning from Dhule with his wife, Vidya Shashikant Bangar, and daughter Sakshi, when the two men allegedly obstructed their way near the Irani restaurant area at Dadar TT. The complainant said the men questioned him about a board bearing the word "Nyayadhish" (judge), displayed on the dashboard of his car.

"The judge said that two unknown people had raised questions about the identity of the judge. We are investigating the matter," the police said. The judge told the police that he identified himself as a district judge and a member of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal. He also explained that the vehicle was being used for official travel between his residence and the court. The two men, however, allegedly became aggressive and started abusing him. One of them, as per the judge's complaint, pushed him when his wife and another elderly person present at the spot intervened and tried to calm the situation.

Hyderabad man missing in Nepal after flash floods during Kailash Manasarovar Yatra

Hyderabad: The family members of 38-year-old Rallagudem Dhanpal Reddy, also referred to as Dhanwal Reddy, of Manikonda are waiting anxiously for updates on his whereabouts after he went missing in Nepal following devastating flash floods in the region on August 26. Dhanpal Reddy had travelled to Nepal for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra as part of a 66-member tour group organised through a travel agency. He left Pune on August 23 and lost contact with his family after the flash floods struck the region three days later. His mobile phone has remained switched off since the night of the incident. Dhanpal had last communicated with his family from the Nepal Immigration Centre. There has been no communication since then, leaving his wife Supriya and mother Anasuya deeply worried. According to his family, Dhanpal was fond of travelling and regularly visited different places every year. This was his first inter-

national trip. The family said he was reportedly the only person from Telangana in the tour group. The family has approached the Cyberabad police seeking assistance in tracing him and has appealed to the State and Central governments to intensify efforts and coordinate with the Nepal authorities for search and rescue operations. Dhanpal, a devotee of Lord Shiva, has prominent tattoos depicting Lord Shiva on his shoulders, arms and back, which the family said could help in his identification. Adding to the family's distress, Dhanpal had started a saree business on Alkapur Township Road on August 19, just a week before he went missing. The family is hoping for his safe return and has appealed to the authorities to make all possible efforts to trace him. Rajendranagar MLA Prakash Goud spoke to the family over the phone on Tuesday and assured them that he would make efforts to extend all possible assistance from the government.

Pakistan’s Punjab Assembly seeks social media ban for children under 16



Lahore: Pakistan’s Punjab Assembly has passed a resolution seeking an effective legal ban on social media accounts for children under the age of 16, amid growing concerns over cyberbullying, online exploitation and the harmful effects of excessive screen time on minors.The resolution was tabled on Tuesday by lawmaker Sarah Ahmad, who is also the chairperson of the Child Protection Bureau.

According to the Punjab Assembly spokesperson, the House unanimously adopted the resolution, with the oppo-

sition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also supporting it. The provincial assembly recommended that the federal government introduce appropriate legislation to restrict social media access for children below the age of 16.The resolution called for comprehensive legislation and a coordinated mechanism involving federal and provincial institutions to protect children from the growing dangers of the digital world.“Unrestricted access to social media is exposing minors to a range of threats, including cyberbullying, online sexual exploitation, inappropriate content and mental stress,” the resolution said.It referred to measures adopted by Australia, France, China and several US states to regulate children’s access to social media and urged the government to introduce similar legal safeguards in Pakistan.The move comes as governments around the world grapple with growing concerns over children’s online safety, with several studies increasingly examining links between excessive social media use, mental health problems, cyber abuse and exposure to harmful content.Australia and several European countries have recently moved towards tougher age-based restrictions on social media platforms, while other governments are considering stricter age-verification mechanisms and stronger laws to protect children online.

Violence in eastern DR Congo drives fresh displacements, complicates Ebola response: UN

GNS News Agency, Sept 3United Nations: Violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is driving fresh mass displacements, complicating the response to the Ebola outbreak, UN humanitarian said.The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on Tuesday (local time) said the hostilities are forcing people to flee their homes, and the insecurity and movement of people hamper disease surveillance and response efforts.

As of Sunday, national health authorities had reported more than 6,100 confirmed Ebola cases and nearly 2,950 daths. OCHA said that in Ituri province, local civil society sources reported that at least 37 civilians were killed and more than 35 people abducted during armed attacks in the territory of Mambasa on Saturday.At least 86 civilians were killed in attacks across the territory last month, reports Xinhua news agency. In neighbouring South Kivu province, the office said its partners reported that clashes in Walungu territory have displaced at least 15,000 people since August 23.

Most of the displaced are sheltering with host families and need food, shelter and health care. Fighting is also forcing displacements in parts of North Kivu province. “Despite these challenges, the UN and its humanitarian partners continue to support the authorities’ response,” OCHA said.The International Organization for Migration said it has conducted nearly 23 million health screenings in the DRC and neighbouring countries, helping to monitor people’s movements, detect potential cases and reduce the risk of cross-border transmission.

The United Nations repeated its call on all parties to



protect civilians and facilitate safe, sustained and unhindered humanitarian access, noting that maintaining access to communities affected by the outbreak remains critical for delivering life-saving assistance and supporting efforts to bring the Ebola outbreak under control.UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher said, “We cannot respond incrementally to an epidemic which is now growing exponentially.” Fletcher, speaking at a virtual briefing hosted by the World Health Organization, called for a sustained, large-scale operation to get ahead of the Ebola virus, adding that people need functioning health services, clean water, sanitation, food, protection and livelihoods.Above all, he said, they need trust. “Time is not on our side. We have the experience, the tools, extraordinary people risking their lives to stop this epidemic. What we need now is political will, access, and resources. We have beaten Ebola before. And we can do it again,” said the relief chief.

Global warming will exceed limit, UN says in a report that maps path to get back below danger zone

Washington: In a strategic retreat in the fight against climate change, the United Nations has acknowledged that Earth has lost its chance to prevent some of the worst of global warming’s harms. So now the world must figure out how to get temperatures below the danger zone and back to safety, officials say.Earth is soon going to exceed the safe temperature threshold agreed upon by the world in the 2015 Paris climate accord because of warming from the burning of coal, oil and gas, according to a bleak first-of-its-kind report issued by the United Nations Environment Programme Wednesday.Instead of giving up, scientists and UN officials recommend trying to limit excessive warming and then bring the temperature back down to the agreed-upon threshold. But it still will mean decades of increased weather-related disasters, rising seas, extinctions and melting ice and glaciers.

“Humanity is speeding past the limit to avoid climate catastrophe,” United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said.After a period of over-the-limit warming, the new strategy envisions getting back below the limit by ending fossil fuel use and developing some kind of way to suck industries’ carbon dioxide out of the air.“It’s a reality check. We have to live with this warmer world,” said report co-author Richard Betts, a climate scientist at the University of Exeter. “But there’s still a lot we can do to limit warming.”

After the Paris climate accord, the United Nations ordered its climate science arm to study different warming limits. A goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above mid-19th century temperatures became generally accepted after the scientists found dramatic impacts that affect people and the planet at 2 degrees Celsius (3.8 degrees Fahrenheit) but not at 1.5 degrees.The world is now at 1.4 degrees Celsius (2.5 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, some scientists have calculated. The measure is based on a 20-year average, rather than a single year’s temperatures.Despite experts saying there’s no way to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, U.N. officials long maintained the 1.5 window was still open. Wednesday’s report finally admitted that the world will cross the 1.5 threshold “in the next few years.”The report said the most optimistic scenario has warming peaking at 1.8 degrees (3.2 degrees Fahrenheit) around mid-century if countries pursue ambitious climate goals, but that governments’ current policies should push temperatures to 2.6 degrees (4.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels by 2100.So instead of preventing warming of 1.5 degrees, now the UN said it wants policymakers to “prepare for and navigate a future” in which the globe crosses that limit and then corrects course and cools temperatures. The report envisions that global temperatures will pass 1.5 “within the next few years,” follow a hump-shaped path of more warming, peak, then gradually cool to below the 1.5 mark, ideally by the end of the century. The report and experts call it “overshoot.”

“Let’s be very clear, 1.5 target is still the goal. But now

US DHS chief Markwayne Mullin says ICE arrested 2,197 immigrants in New York operation



New York: US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Markwayne Mullin announced that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested 2,197 immigrants across the state of New York from late July to late August in an operation.At a press conference in New York City on Tuesday (local time), Mullin said that “Operation Rotten Apple” did what “sanctuary politicians” in New York City and the state of New York refuse to do: made the Empire State safer, noting that the operation received no help from Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Governor Kathy Hochul.

“Over the course of this operation, we arrested murderers, rapists, pedophiles, drug traffickers, and violent as-

sailants,” Mullin said.White House Border Czar Tom Homan said that Democratic politicians in New York and elsewhere say that they care about public safety, but will not let immigration law enforcement officers into their jails to take criminals into custody; instead, they release them to the streets. “It makes no sense.”

Hochul, meanwhile, challenged the remarks from DHS officials, saying at a separate press conference on the same day that “we’re not a sanctuary state for criminals” and accusing the administration of lying to the public, reports Xinhua news agency.“Here’s my message to the president: Don’t undermine our public safety efforts. Don’t defund the police who thwart terror attacks. Don’t play political games with people’s lives,” Hochul said.“Release the 87 million dollars you owe us, because if you don’t release the counterterrorism funding, you’re betraying every family that lost someone on 9/11,” Hochul said, noting that the DHS, the agency created in response to 9/11, is withholding 40 per cent of New York State’s counterterrorism funding.Mamdani said that if anyone were to commit serious crimes, “we would be in contact with the federal administration about it.”“What we are seeing, however, from ICE is an attempt to criminalise the very fact of being an immigrant, and we are seeing a terrorising of immigrants across our city and, frankly, across our nation, that has left so many, regardless of their status, in deep fear about even leaving their home,” said Mamdani.

Egypt welcomes Xi as Beijing expands influence in Middle East

CAIRO, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi welcomed China’s Xi Jinping to ?Cairo on Wednesday, opening a visit that highlights Cairo’s deepening ties with Beijing as regional turmoil ?prompts U.S. allies to reassess longstanding security relationships.Xi, making his first visit to Egypt in a decade, was received at a military ceremony at Cairo’s Ittihadiya presidential palace, Egyptian state television showed.Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here.

The trip comes after months of upheaval in the Middle East amid the U.S. war ?against Iran, which has shaken regional economies and raised questions among some U.S. partners about their security arrangements.Egypt, a major ?U.S. defence partner that receives around \$1.3 billion annually in military aid from Washington, has simultaneously ?deepened economic and military cooperation with China. Ties between Cairo and Beijing have expanded steadily since 2014, when Sisi ?visited China and signed a strategic partnership agreement.Egypt’s push to broaden alliances has converged with China’s efforts to expand ?its influence beyond Asia, former Egyptian diplomat Ayman Zaineldine said.“Egypt wants to widen the circle of its relations with major world powers, including China,” he told Reuters. “So the visions converge.”

MILITARY TIES AND INVESTMENTEnthusiasm for the Chinese president’s visit has been evident for days in Egypt’s ?capital, where streets have been decked out in Chinese flags and images of iconic sites including Egypt’s Sphinx and ?China’s Great Wall.Egyptian state media has highlighted opinion polls showing favourable views of Egypt held by Chinese and has run segments examining ?modern Chinese ?weapons systems.Growing military ties were on display last month during Egypt’s “Eagles of Civilization” exercises with China, which included a rare air combat drill involving Chinese-made J-16 jets and French-made Rafale aircraft.Egypt’s regional influence and strategic lo-



cation make it an important partner for Beijing as China seeks a larger diplomatic and economic role in the Middle East.Home to the Suez ?Canal and a population of ?more than 110 million, ?Egypt is also an important market for Chinese goods and investment. Egyptian government data shows imports from China exceeded \$10 billion in the first half of the year, up more ?than 14% from the same period a year earlier.

“Egypt represents something quite valuable to ?Beijing – a large ?domestic market for investment opportunities, and a lot of diplomatic weight in the region, including the Palestine question, as well as connectivity to Africa,” said H. A. Hellyer, a scholar at the Royal United Services Institute think tank.Chinese companies have invested ?billions in ?Egypt in recent years, ranging from developing container ports and green hydrogen projects to ?making iron pipes, car tyres, and satellites.China State Construction Engineering Corporation has also played a leading role in developing the business district of Sisi’s flagship new administrative ?capital, east of Cairo.Reporting by Alexander Dziadosz and Mohamed Ezz in Cairo; Writing by Alexander Dziadosz; Editing by Ros Russell

US pounds Iran, Tehran strikes back at bases in biggest exchange since July

WASHINGTON/CAIRO/DUBAI, Sept 2 (Reuters) - Iranians and their Arab neighbours were plunged back into war on Wednesday by the biggest exchange of fire ?between Tehran and Washington since July, with U.S. forces striking Iran’s southern coast and Iran firing at American bases across the region.The United States threatened more devastating strikes. Iran accused Washington of hitting a wedding ?party, killing five people and wounding dozens.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.Asian and European stocks tumbled after the renewed U.S. airstrikes, which pushed oil prices back up to levels unseen since July, compounding the economic impact of a global sell-off in bonds as disrupted energy supplies fuel inflation worldwide.

The U.S. military said it struck Revolutionary Guard air defences, radar systems, maritime assets, mine-laying capabilities and communications sites on Tuesday. Iran reported hits on multiple targets near the Strait of Hormuz — the narrow waterway where Tehran has threatened tankers attempting to pass without its permission.“Last night was like the end of the world,” Mahmoud, 38, a municipal worker ?in Sirik County along the strait, told Reuters by telephone, describing the attacks on the area which includes the city where the wedding was reported to have been hit.Iran responded by striking what it said were U.S. assets in ?Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and Iraq, and said its aim was now to drive U.S. forces from the vast network of military bases they have occupied for decades across the Middle East.

“American evil ?in the region will be met with heavier, more widespread, and devastating responses, and any country that cooperates with the aggressive American army must accept its dangerous consequences,” Iran’s military command said.Jordan’s military said it dealt with 13 missiles, 10 of which were ?intercepted and three which fell in remote areas. Iran said it killed U.S. forces in Jordan, but U.S. officials told Reuters there had not been any casualties, according to initial assessments.

In Kuwait, Iran said it had carried out a missile and drone attack on ?the vast U.S. Ali Al Salem Air Base and targeted the accommodation of a U.S. commander. Kuwait’s fire service said crews put out a blaze at a residential complex early on Wednesday that was struck by an Iranian drone causing damage but no casualties.Qatar, home of the largest U.S. airbase in the Gulf, said it “holds the Islamic Republic of Iran fully legally responsible for these attacks and their repercussions and consequences.” Bahrain, which houses the regional headquarters of the U.S. Navy, said Iranian drones were intercepted and destroyed.Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said they also carried out missile and drone attacks on ?U.S. bases in Erbil in northern Iraq, claiming to have killed several U.S. personnel there. Neither Iraq nor the U.S. confirmed the attack.Iran also said two tankers

had been struck by mines while being steered through the Strait of Hormuz by U.S. personnel through ?a channel Tehran says it has closed. Saudi Arabia’s national shipping company reported on Wednesday that two Filipino crew had been killed aboard an oil tanker in the strait two days earlier.Iranians who endured U.S. strikes for much of the past six months were fearful ?that the war ?could restart at full throttle.“It’s very difficult to live like this. We don’t know when America will strike. My family and I are constantly worried about where will it strike,” Mahpari, 28, a woman in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas, told Reuters by phone.Iran reported at least 12 deaths from the night of U.S. strikes, with five people including a four-year-old said to have been killed while celebrating a wedding at a home in Sirik.Iranian media said as many as 68 people were wounded there, and released images of several injured children in hospital. Iranian officials compared the incident to a strike on a girls’ school that killed 160 people on the war’s first night.Reuters was unable to independently verify the incident and U.S. officials did not comment on it. Video filmed by ?Iran’s West Asia News Agency at the purported site showed ?rubble strewn across rooms and a courtyard of a home. ?A pair of strappy women’s dress sandals lay abandoned on a blood-soaked carpet.“I am just glad the casualties weren’t even worse,” said Ali Molahi, identified as the father of the bride.CONFLICT DRAINING BOTH SIDESThe exchange of fire was the worst since July, when U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly halted two weeks of intense bombing of Iran after warnings from his military brass that they were using ?up munitions and running out of meaningful targets.Trump, who has yet to achieve the aims he set when launching “Operation Epic Fury” in February — to end Iran’s nuclear programme, deprive it ?of the ability to strike its neighbours ?and create conditions for Iranians to topple their rulers — repeated his declarations that victory was at hand.“I like our position now much better, with almost total control of the Hormuz Strait, and their economy totally collapsing,” he said on Tuesday. “They are just playing out the inevitable. When are the Iranian people going to rise up and fight?”Sources have told Reuters Trump aides were trying to keep the war quiet for now to avert a rout in congressional elections in November. A Reuters/Ipsos poll in late August showed Americans oppose the war by more than a ?two-to-one margin.Iran, for ?its part, is determined to emerge from the war stronger than before, with sanctions lifted, billions in blocked funds released, and a newfound grip over the ?strait letting it collect fees from ships that normally carry a fifth of global oil.Trump agreed to many of Tehran’s demands in a June deal, but the ceasefire collapsed within weeks over control of the strait, and no talks between the foes have been held since.Reporting by Kanishka Singh in Washington and Ahmed Tolba in Cairo; Additional reporting by Parisa Hafezi and Jana Choukeir in Dubai, Idrees Ali and Daphne Psaledakis

No increase in radiation off sites that US hit: IAEA

What is behind the U.S.-Israel ‘special relationship’: Explained



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Tel Aviv: The International Atomic Energy Agency said on Sunday that there has been “no increase in off-site radiation levels” after US airstrikes on Iranian nuclear sites. The UN nuclear watchdog sent the message via the social platform X on Sunday. “The IAEA can confirm that no increase in off-site radiation levels has been reported as of this time,” it said. The “IAEA will provide further assessments on situation in Iran as more information becomes available.” The United States struck three sites in Iran early on Sunday, inserting itself into Israel’s war aimed at destroying the country’s nuclear program in a risky gambit to weaken a longtime foe despite fears of a wider regional conflict.

Addressing the nation from the White House, President Donald Trump asserted that Iran’s key nuclear were “completely and fully obliterated.” There was no independent damage assessment. It was not clear whether the US would continue attacking Iran alongside its ally Israel, which has been engaged in a nine-day war with Iran. Trump acted without congressional authorization, and he warned that there would be additional strikes if Tehran retaliated against US forces. “There will either be peace or there will be tragedy for Iran,” he said.

Iran’s top diplomat, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, warned in a post on X that the US attacks “will have everlasting consequences” and that Tehran “reserves all options” to retaliate. Iran’s ambassador to the United Nations called for an emergency Security Council meeting to discuss what he described as the US’s “heinous attacks and illegal use of force” against Iran. Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani said that the UN’s most powerful body must “take all necessary measures” to hold the US accountable under international law and the UN charter. Early Sunday morning, Israel alerted the public of an Iranian missile launch and urged people to take shelter. Sirens sounded in Jerusalem a short while later and a series of booms were heard. Iranian has been firing missile barrages at Israel since the war began but they have decreased in size as Israel targets Tehran’s missile launchers. The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran confirmed that attacks took place on its Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz sites, but it insisted that its work will not be stopped. Iran said there were no signs of radioactive contamination at the three locations and no danger to nearby residents. Iran has maintained that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes

Closing Hormuz Strait could backfire on Iran

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Dubai: The war between Israel and Iran has raised concerns that Iran could retaliate by trying to close the Strait of Hormuz, the world’s most important oil chokepoint due to the large volumes of crude that pass through it every day. The US military’s strike on three sites in Iran over the weekend has raised questions about how its military might respond. The Strait of Hormuz is between Oman and Iran, which boasts a fleet of fast-attack boats and thousands of naval mines as well as missiles that it could use to make the strait impassable, at least for a time.

Iran’s main naval base at Bandar Abbas is on the north coast of the strait. It could also fire missiles from its long Persian Gulf shore, as its allies, Yemen’s Houthi rebels, have done in the Red Sea. About 20 million barrels of oil per day, or around 20% of the world’s oil consumption, passed through the strait in 2024. Most of that oil goes to Asia. The strait connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It’s only 33 km wide at its narrowest point, but deep enough and wide enough to handle the world’s largest crude oil tankers. Oil that passes through the strait comes from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, and Bahrain, while major supplies of liquefied natural gas come from Qatar.

At its narrowest point, the sea lanes for tankers lie in Omani waters, and before and after that cross into Iranian territory. While some global oil chokepoints can be circumvented by taking longer routes that simply add costs, that’s not an option for most of the oil moving through the strait. That’s because the pipelines that could be used to carry the oil on land, such as Saudi Arabia’s East-West pipeline, they don’t have nearly enough capacity. “Most volumes that transit the strait have no alternative means of exiting the region,” according to the US Energy Information Administration. Closing the Strait of Hormuz would send oil prices massively higher — at least at first if Iran blocked the strait, oil prices could shoot as high as \$120-\$130 per barrel, at least temporarily, said Homayoun Falakshahi, head of crude oil analyst at Kpler. That would deal an inflationary shock to the global economy — if it lasted. Analysts think it wouldn’t. Asia would be directly impacted because 84% of the oil moving through the strait is headed for Asia; top destinations are China, India, Japan and South Korea. China gets 47% of its seaborne oil from the Gulf. China, however, has an oil inventory of 1.1 billion barrels, or 2 1/2 months of supply. US oil customers would feel the impact of the higher prices but would not lose much supply. The US imported only about 7% of its oil from Persian Gulf countries through the strait in 2024, according to the USEIA. That was the lowest level in nearly 40 years. Iran has good reasons not to block the strait. Closing the strait would cut off Iran’s own oil exports. While Iran does have a new terminal under construction at Jask, just outside the strait, the new facility has loaded oil only once and isn’t in a position to replace the strait, according to Kpler analysts. Closure would hit China, Iran’s largest trading partner and only remaining oil customer, and harm its oil-exporting Arab neighbours, who are at least officially supporting it in its war with Israel. And it would mean blocking Oman’s territorial waters, offending a country that has served as a mediator between the US and Iran. The US would likely intervene to reopen the strait. Any price spike would probably not last. One big reason: Analysts expect that the US Navy would intervene to keep the strait open. In the 1980s, US warships escorted Kuwaiti oil tankers through the strait to protect them against Iranian attacks during the

only, and US intelligence agencies have assessed that Tehran is not actively pursuing a bomb. However, Trump and Israeli leaders have claimed that Iran could quickly assemble a nuclear weapon, making it an imminent threat.

The decision to directly involve the US in the war comes after more than a week of strikes by Israel on Iran that aimed to systematically eradicate the country’s air defenses and offensive missile capabilities, while damaging its nuclear enrichment facilities. But US and Israeli officials have said American stealth bombers and the 30,000-pound (13,500-kilogram) bunker-buster bomb they alone can carry offered the best chance of destroying heavily fortified sites connected to the Iranian nuclear program buried deep underground. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Trump’s decision to attack in a video message directed at the American president. “Your bold decision to target Iran’s nuclear facilities, with the awesome and righteous might of the United States, will change history,” he said. Netanyahu said the US “has done what no other country on earth could do.” Israel announced on Sunday that it would close the country’s airspace to both inbound and outbound flights in the wake of the US attacks. The war has disrupted air travel throughout the Middle East. The White House and Pentagon did not immediately elaborate on the operation. US military leaders are scheduled to provide a briefing at 8 am Eastern. The attack used bunker-buster bombs on Iran’s Fordo nuclear fuel enrichment plant that is built deep into a mountain, a US official said. The weapons are designed to penetrate the ground before exploding. In addition, US submarines launched about 30 Tomahawk missiles, according to another US official who also spoke on condition of anonymity. The strikes are a perilous decision, as Iran has pledged to retaliate if the US joined the Israeli assault, and for Trump personally. He won the White House on the promise of keeping America out of costly foreign conflicts and scoffed at the value of American interventionism. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was “gravely alarmed” by the “dangerous escalation” of American strikes. “There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control — with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region, and the world,” he said in a statement. Trump told reporters Friday that he was not interested in sending ground forces into Iran, saying it’s “the last thing you want to do.” He had previously indicated that he would make a final choice over the course of two weeks. The military showdown with Iran comes seven years after Trump withdrew the US from the Obama-administration brokered agreement in 2018, calling it the “worst deal ever.” The 2015 deal, signed by Iran, US and other world powers, created a long-term, comprehensive nuclear agreement that limited Tehran’s enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Trump decried the Obama-era deal for giving Iran too much in return for too little, because the agreement did not cover Iran’s non-nuclear malign behaviour. Trump has bristled at criticism from some of his MAGA faithful who have suggested that further US involvement would be a betrayal to supporters who were drawn to his promise to end US involvement in expensive and endless wars.



Iran-Iraq war. A price spike “wouldn’t last very long” and the strait would likely be reopened “very fast,” said Kpler’s Falakshahi. US use of force to reopen the strait would likely be supported by Europe and “even unofficially by China,” he said. “Iran’s navy would probably get destroyed in a matter of hours or days.”

With Sci-Hub gone, will the ‘One Nation, One Subscription’ scheme step up?

When the Delhi High Court ordered internet service providers to block access to Sci-Hub and its mirrors, it closed a chapter in one of the more fraught debates in contemporary research: who gets to read research papers, and who must pay. The verdict followed years of litigation by Elsevier, Wiley, and the American Chemical Society against Sci-Hub founder Alexandra Elbakyan. The court held that Ms. Elbakyan had violated an undertaking not to upload publishers’ articles, and that Sci-Net, a mirror service, was being used to circumvent judicial orders, leaving her prima facie in contempt. This seemingly straightforward case of copyright violation — private corporations defending intellectual property against piracy — is transformed by its context. The publishers’ legal win must be weighed against the case for public access to knowledge, the economics of scholarly publishing, and the arrival of ‘One Nation, One Subscription’ (ONOS), which together suggest that depending on courtroom battles might be misplaced. An endeavour apart

Scientific publishing is unlike other enterprises where piracy drains income from creators. Scientists who produce and review research are not paid by journals: their work is largely funded by public money in India. Yet publishers charge institutions exorbitant subscription fees, sometimes lakhs of rupees per journal. Publishers have defended these figures on grounds of quality control and peer review. But with profit margins of 30% or more and a voluntary review system, the system has often resembled rent-seeking.

On the other hand, Sci-Hub was always vulnerable to the charge of copyright infringement. Courts in the U.S. and Europe have consistently ruled against it, and now the Delhi High Court has joined that chorus. While this is uncontroversial from a strictly legal standpoint, the larger implication is troubling. The judgment risks reinforcing the



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Israel started bombing Iran on June 13, three days ahead of a scheduled meeting between American and Iranian negotiators. They had already had five rounds of talks and U.S. President Donald Trump had said he wanted a deal with Iran over the country’s nuclear programme. The Israeli attack practically derailed Mr. Trump’s diplomatic push. Yet, he welcomed the Israeli strike, and demanded “unconditional surrender” from Iran. Within a week, when Israel was struggling to intercept ballistic missiles from Iran, Mr. Trump, who built his political base railing against America’s wars in the past, took the U.S. to war in Iran. American B2 bombers and missiles struck three Iranian nuclear facilities — Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan — despite opposition from Mr. Trump’s political base. This is not surprising given the history of the U.S.-Israel relations. Throughout Israel’s war in Gaza, which was triggered by Hamas’s October 7, 2023 attack, the U.S., under both Biden and Trump administrations, stood solidly behind the Jewish nation. And this has been a consistent policy of the U.S. administrations, at least since 1967. What explains this relationship?

The U.S. had supported the idea of a Jewish homeland even before the state of Israel was declared within historical Palestine in 1948. On March 3, 1919, two years after the Balfour Declaration, in which the British government declared its support for the creation of a “Jewish homeland in Palestine”, President Woodrow Wilson said, “The allied nations with the fullest concurrence of our government and people are agreed that in Palestine shall be laid the foundations of a Jewish Commonwealth.” In 1922 and 1944, the U.S. Congress passed resolutions endorsing the Balfour Declaration. The U.S. was the first country that recognised Israel in 1948. The recognition came in 11 minutes after the proclamation. Though the U.S. offered the state of Israel support right from the latter’s birth, the initial two decades of their relationship had not been very smooth. The Eisenhower administration was unhappy when Israel, along with France and Britain, launched the Suez war in 1956. Washington threatened to cut aid to Israel if it did not withdraw from the territories it had captured. The Soviet Union also threatened to fire missiles unless Israel withdrew, and finally Israel had to pull back from the areas it seized. Similarly, in the 1960s, the Kennedy administration had voiced concerns about Israel’s secret nuclear programme.

However the 1967 war, in which Israel defeated Jordan, Syria and Egypt, all in six days, and captured swathes of territories, brought in a paradigm shift in the way Washington looked at the Jewish state. The U.S. at that time was bogged down in Vietnam. Israel defeated the Arab countries without any major help from the U.S., and the war was wrapped up quickly. Also, two of the Arab countries Israel defeated — Egypt and Syria — were Soviet allies. From then on, the U.S. started seeing Israel as a stable ally who can check the expansion of Soviet influence in West Asia. Today, Israel is an exceptional ally of Washington. The U.S. offers practically unconditional financial, military and political support for Israel. Israel is an undeclared nuclear power but has never faced any global scrutiny or pushback, thanks to the protection offered by the U.S. Israel is also the largest recipient of America’s aid — it has received \$158 billion in aid from the U.S. since the end of the Second World War. Currently, Israel gets \$3.8 billion in military aid every year from the U.S., which accounts for about 16% of Israel’s total military budget.

The U.S. is also Israel’s largest trading partner, with annual two-way trade hovering around \$50 billion. Both Israel and the U.S. also have a deep defence partnership, which involves joint research and development and weapons production. For example, the Iron Dome, Israel’s missile defence shield, uses parts built in the U.S. and the system is financed in part by the U.S. With U.S. help, Israel has built a highly advanced defence manufacturing base, which has made the country the world’s 10th largest military exporter. Since 1972, the U.S. has used its veto power over 50 times to strike down resolutions critical of Israel in the

UN Security Council. From the 1973 Yom Kippur war onwards, the U.S. has also offered solid military support to Israel in its conflicts. In 1973, after Israel was taken aback by a surprise attack by Egypt and Syria, U.S. supplies proved vital for Israel to push back the enemy troops from the occupied Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula. In 1982, the U.S. sent Multinational Forces to Lebanon after Israel’s invasion of the country. After the first intifada, the U.S. supported the Oslo process and the two-state solution, but without compromising its relationship with Israel. Now, the running theme in Washington (and other Western capitals) is that it supports “Israel’s right to defend”. The previous Trump administration recognised Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and moved America’s embassy to the disputed city. The Trump administration also recognised Israel’s annexation of Golan Heights, a Syrian territory it captured in 1967 and held under its occupation ever since. The U.S. continued to supply weapons to Israel after October 7 even as Israel faced allegations of genocide. The US rushed to Israel’s defence in 2024 when Iran launched drones and ballistic missiles in response to Israel’s attack. And now, the U.S. has directly joined the war Israel began against Iran. Special relationship

While there were personality clashes between American Presidents and Israeli Prime Ministers, such clashes never led to a breakdown in what President John F. Kennedy called “the special relationship”. In the 1970s, President Jimmy Carter heaped pressure on Israel to make peace with Egypt and give concessions to the Palestinians. Israel would finally agree to sign the Framework for Peace Agreement as part of the Camp David Accords, which would set the stage for the Oslo process.

During the second intifada, President George W. Bush pressed Israel to show restraint in the occupied West Bank. In 2002, Mr. Bush asked Israel to pull back from the West Bank and end a military operation “without delay”, but the Israelis never obliged. Sharon had Bush “wrapped around his little finger”, Brent Scowcroft, the former National Security Adviser, said in October 2004. President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had clashed over the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Mr. Netanyahu had visited the Republican-controlled U.S. Congress and attacked Mr. Obama over his Iran policy. But the same Mr. Obama vetoed all resolutions at the UN Security Council critical of Israel except one during his eight-year term. Mr. Obama, during his last months in office, also cleared a \$38 billion aid package for Israel. The Biden administration had earlier criticised the Netanyahu government’s plan to overhaul the country’s judiciary. But after the October 7 attack by Hamas, the U.S. has thrown its full weight behind the Netanyahu government’s war on Gaza. Mr. Trump seems to have thrown his full weight behind Israel. Why does the U.S. always back Israel? One explanation is that Israel’s strategic value in a volatile yet critical region makes it appealing for Washington.

During the Cold War, the U.S. saw Israel as a powerful bulwark against possible Soviet expansion in the Arab world. After the Cold War, when the U.S. started becoming more and more involved in West Asia, it continued to see Israel as a force of stability, along with Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Strategic value explains a close partnership or alliance, like America’s relationships with Japan, South Korea or Germany. A host of other factors, including America’s public opinion, electoral politics and the powerful Israel lobby in the U.S., play a role in shaping the country’s Israel policy. Historically, Israel has enjoyed near unanimous support in the U.S. Congress, and a vast majority of Americans have favourable views about Israel. American Jews and evangelical Christians are two powerful, politically active groups in the U.S. They are important constituencies for both parties and they are both pro-Israel. Then there’s a powerful Israel lobby in the U.S., which according to John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, heavily influences U.S. policy towards Israel.

The lobby helps amplify pro-Israel voices, backs pro-Israel politicians and works toward playing down or neutralising voices critical of Israel, they argue in their 2006 essay “The Israel lobby”, in London Review of Books. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a powerful pro-Israel lobbying group, hosts top leaders from both countries, including Presidents, Senators and Prime Ministers, for its annual gatherings. Pro-Israel groups also support both parties in the U.S. financially. Besides, there are strong ties between the military industrial complexes of both countries. Therefore, all these factors together — Israel’s strategic value, America’s domestic politics, the presence of the pro-Israel lobby and military-industrial interplay, make sure that there’s an institutional consensus in the U.S. about its relationship with Israel, irrespective of which party or President is in power in Washington D.C.



same time, the subscription model that ONOS pays for still encompasses several thousand journals, including those that many researchers wish to be published in. Blaming ONOS on this count rather than a long-awaited culture change, especially not one the state could have forced, wouldn’t make sense. Ms. Elbakyan’s attempts to (further) incentivise scholars to contribute to Sci-Hub’s collection of papers using the Sci-Net portal and its cryptocurrency-based rewards system also don’t seem to be succeeding. Whatever moral force Ms. Elbakyan’s project once had has since been squandered by technical unreliability and increasing redundancy. The High Court’s injunction may thus be decisive less because of its punitive sting than because of the fact that the Indian community is already moving on. Pathology of publishing At the time the publishers sued Ms. Elbakyan in 2020, there was no realistic prospect of universal access. For countless researchers outside elite institutions, Sci-Hub was (and remains) often the only path to knowledge. Both legal experts and researchers have thus contended that on principle alone, courts could have acknowledged the unique nature of scientific publishing — that the absence of author royalties.

Is Tilak Varma building a strong case for Test reckoning?



Tilak Varma had already played one captain's innings in the first innings of the Duleep Trophy semifinal against North Zone. On Wednesday, he played another, very different one. After his unbeaten 116 had rescued South Zone in the first innings, Tilak made 51 not out from 79 balls in the second innings to guide his side through a chase of 181 and into the final at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 2 in Bengaluru. South reached 182/3, winning by seven wickets, with R Smaran unbeaten on 32.

For Tilak, the two performances made a strong red-ball statement. He has established himself in India's T20 setup, but his two knocks in Bengaluru showed another side to his batting. The first required him to rebuild after South had been reduced to 80/5. In the second, he had to play the anchor and ensure the chase did not become difficult. It was a reminder of where Tilak stood as a red-ball batsman. His white-ball progress has come quicker, but this was a chance to show that he had another gear in his batting. Across two different innings, he adapted to the situation without moving away from his strengths. For a player hoping to push his case for higher red-ball honours, that was as important as the runs. There were moments, however, when the chase could have become tricky. Ricky Bhui and N Jagadeesan had given South a solid start, putting on 64 for the first wicket. Bhui was the more aggressive of the two, particularly against left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq, and made 42 from 53 balls before North's short-ball plan worked. Gurnoor Brar, bowling from around the wicket, kept digging the ball in. Bhui eventually fell to the ploy and gave himself room to cut another short delivery but found Anshul Kamboj at deep third man. An over later, Mushtaq beat Shaik Rasheed's forward defence and bowled him for one. From 64/0, South were 65/2, and Tilak walked in with his side needing some stability. He began with an on-drive for four off Mushtaq, but did not try to force the pace after that. Brar continued test-

ing him with the short ball, while Mushtaq remained North's biggest threat. Tilak took 28 balls to reach double figures. North needed wickets to stay in the game; Tilak ensured he held his end firmly. With Jagadeesan, he took South past 100 before Mushtaq provided another opening. He drew the right-hander forward, got the ball to turn past him, and wicketkeeper Kanhaiya Wadhawan completed the stumping. South were 102/3, still 79 runs away.

The on-drive was his most productive shot, bringing him 15 runs, including three boundaries. One of his best came when Anshul Kamboj returned to the attack, and Tilak drove him beautifully for four. Early on, there was little need to take risks. He was happy to wait for the bowlers to bowl to his strengths. Once settled, though, he began showing more of his range. In the 35th over, Tilak went after Mushtaq. He first reverse-swept him past short third man for four and then played a paddle sweep for another boundary. Mushtaq had taken two wickets and remained North's best hope of staying in the game. Tilak was now starting to take control. Smaran, meanwhile, made sure the burden did not remain entirely on his captain. The highest run-scorer of the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy season began carefully before growing in confidence. He drove well through the covers, attacked Nishant Sindhu down the ground and later struck Mushtaq for six over mid-wicket. The pair complemented each other well. Tilak stayed in control while Smaran gradually increased the tempo. North's fielding also became sloppy as the target came closer, with one Smaran drive going through the cover fielder's legs. Mushtaq continued to find some turn, but the pitch did not offer the kind of help Harsh Dubey had enjoyed on Ground 1 during East Zone's chase against Central Zone a day earlier. By the time Sindhu began getting more turn late in the chase, South were already close to victory.

Tilak finished the match himself, punching Qamran Iqbal for four. His unbeaten 51 contained eight boundaries, while Smaran finished unbeaten on 32 from 42 balls. Their unbroken 80-run fourth-wicket stand took South home. For Tilak, it capped a fine semifinal. His unbeaten 116 had helped South recover and take a first-innings lead. His second innings was less dramatic, but just as important. India already know what Tilak can offer in T20 cricket. Over four days in Bengaluru, he showed that his game can stretch well beyond it. Brief Scores: North Zone 195 and 297 all out in 72.4 overs (Sanat Sangwan 76, Anshul Kamboj 36; MD Nidheesh 5/56) lost to South Zone 312 and 182/3 in 43.1 overs (Tilak Varma 51 not out, N Jagadeesan 43, Ricky Bhui 42, R Smaran 32 not out; Abid Mushtaq 2/55) by seven wickets.

Ben Stokes likely to open for Adelaide Strikers on Big Bash League return

Having landed a big coup in the form of Ben Stokes, Big Bash League (BBL) franchise Adelaide Strikers are keen to make full use of their prized asset, with the former England captain being considered as an option to open the innings. Strikers head coach and former Australia Test captain Tim Paine believes that Stokes's naturally aggressive approach to the game and the nature of wickets in Australia make him an obvious fit at the top of the order.

"I think he (Stokes) is made to open the batting in the Big Bash," Paine was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au. "The pacey, bouncy wickets in Australia really suit him. I've been on the end of a couple of his devastating innings in Test cricket where you feel like you can't defend the field. He can play 360 degrees. He's got power (and) some real class, so I think he can do a terrific job opening the batting." Paine was the Australian skipper when Stokes played arguably the one of the greatest Test innings at Headingley in the 2019 Ashes, singlehandedly taking his team to victory. He also played a match-winning knock in the 2022 T20 World Cup final against Pakistan in Melbourne, but has played very little short-form international cricket since then, and no T20 game in two years. That didn't prevent multiple BBL franchise to covet his signature and according to 7News, Strikers struck a one-season deal worth \$500,000 (more than Rs 3.38 crore) to ward off the efforts



of Sydney Sixers and Melbourne Renegades, for whom he played four games more than a decade ago. Ever since Stokes announced his retirement from international cricket, franchises from around the world were lining up outside his door. "It was in the works for a while. I think most clubs were sort of sniffing around once news of Ben's Test retirement came out. The thought was that he may be available and looking to start a bit of a franchise career. He's still an incredible player. He can impact games with the bat. He can impact in the field (and) he can impact with the ball. There's not that many players that tick all of those boxes," Paine felt.

'I said, You are my favourite cricketer': Boycott reveals conversation with Jadeja



Ravindra Jadeja is one of cricket's premier all-rounders. He has been in good form for India, playing an important role with the ball when the pitch turns and adding valuable runs at number six in the red-ball format. Former England cricketer Geoffrey Boycott heaped praise on Jadeja. "Jadeja, he bowls beautifully; his fielding is electric, and he can bat, gets his head down and bats properly. And he is a handsome so-and-so. I met him for the first time recently," Boycott said on the Stick to Cricket podcast.

Last year I went to India, and I met him. I said, 'You are my favourite cricketer.' He said, 'No way,' and I said, 'Definitely.' Very handsome and a nice lad. Just a good cricketer, isn't he? All-round cricketer," he added. It is not the only isolated incident. Boycott lauded the Indian all-rounder. Last year around this time when the Indian side was on England shores, Boycott said: "I like Jadeja. I've always liked him; he's always in the game. Bowls left-arm spin, and his fielding is fantastic. I've always thought if you can do a really great job in the team, fine, become a great player, get your runs. But another quality isn't spoken about much," Boycott said. "That is, through your performance, can you lift the others? And he fields so brilliantly with such energy. And he bats. Has a smile on his face but is tough inside. He's a top player and does everything I like about a cricketer — energy, smiles, tough underneath, and competitive," the former English international said on the Overlap Cricket YouTube channel. Stuart Broad's co-host of the For the Love of Cricket podcast alongside veteran England wicketkeeper Jos Buttler reserved high praise for Jadeja too earlier in one of the shows.

"He is a nightmare to face, especially in India. With him, I think about moments, and he's a proper gutsy player.

'It's done now': India's Test team should move on from Jadeja, says former batter



Former India wicket-keeper Deep Dasgupta has urged the Indian team management to move on from veteran Ravindra Jadeja in Test cricket, with the 37-year-old no longer being the first-choice spinner in the side. Dasgupta added that the performances in the two-match tour to Sri Lanka last month indicated Jadeja's waning presence with the ball. While Jadeja picked up four wickets, Dasgupta lamented that the senior left-arm spinner could not make a substantial contribution on the fifth day of the second Test in Colombo. India entered the play with a deficit of only 16 runs and four wickets, but failed to dislodge the stubborn Sri Lankan lower-order led by left-hander Sonal Dinusha's century. Though Jadeja claimed three for 94, Sri Lanka extended their lead to 216 after being asked to follow-on by the visitors.

Jadeja picked up eight wickets across four innings. However, according to Dasgupta, the Indian spin unit, except young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar, lacked attack-

Dismissed batter recalled from off the field, sparks big row in CPL

Batsmen given out incorrectly has been going on since the game of cricket has been played. Most batters take it on the chin, some show disappointment, others are more vocal and more expressive. But everyone has to leave the field even if they think they have been hard done by. But in a Caribbean Premier League (CPL) game at Basseterre, a batter was recalled after he had gone off the field, and he went on to win the game for his side.

Johnson Charles, playing for St Kitts and Nevis Patriots against Barbados Tridents, was given out caught in the outfield off a high full toss from Ramon Simmonds, but since a no-ball was not called on the field, Charles had no option but to trudge off the field. It was only when the home crowd and the team management made their displeasure known that the matter was referred to the television umpire, and Carl Tuckett overturned the original decision of on-field officials Chris Wright and Zahid Bassarath, signalling a no-ball. Charles had, by this time, left the field and couldn't be recalled according to the Laws of Cricket. Rules state that if the umpire believes they have incorrectly dismissed a batsman, they may recall them to the crease if they have not already left the field of play.

But Charles was nevertheless brought back, a decision that didn't please Tridents captain Chris Green and the original 'catcher' Sherfane Rutherford, and they let their feelings known to the umpires. But the decision couldn't be changed a second time. What rubbed salt into Tridents' wounds was that the resultant no-ball was hit for a six and



Charles, who was on 26 off 15 deliveries when he was given out in the fourth over, proceeded to smash 78 from 45 balls and played a big role in Patriots chasing down 217 with five balls to spare for a much-needed six-wicket victory. Green was understandably furious, but even his opposite number Jason Holder agreed that the officiating left a lot to be desired. "It's probably a wake-up call for the umpires to be a bit firmer and more decisive," the West Indies all-rounder said, adding that "it's just very messy. It doesn't look good seeing a player go off the field and then have to be called back on." Green's assessment was "The umpires tonight, I thought they managed the game poorly. With that decision in the way that a player goes off the field and then comes back on, I think that needs to be looked at, and it's not a good look for this tournament."

'He'll have to face an inquiry': Aaqib Javed defends Pakistan's mid-series purge



Pakistan's tour of England has collapsed into the kind of chaos that even by the PCB's own turbulent standards stands out. Two Tests lost, an innings-and-103-run defeat at Headingley and a 194-run defeat at Lord's, were followed by seven players and two coaches being sent home midway through the series, a senior selector resigning in protest, and Pakistan's own director of high performance going on television to defend the decision his own committee had made.

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How the players found out According to an exclusive account in The Telegraph the players learned they were being sent home not from team management, but from friends and family messaging them to ask if they'd seen the news. Several were wandering around London on a day off, or sitting in the team hotel, when the PCB's statement began circulating on social media. One player, who believed he had performed satisfactorily across the series, read the press release twice before accepting it wasn't fake. Nobody had told the seven, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Rizwan, Ali Usman, Khurram Shahzad, Salman Ali Agha, Aamer Jamal and Awaiz Zafar, in advance.

The Telegraph's reporting also sheds light on why two of the more senior names were singled out. Rizwan's removal, per its sources inside the camp, wasn't only about form: the PCB is understood to be unhappy with his influence in the dressing room, seeing him as an increasingly disruptive presence, with his shot selection through the series reportedly frustrating senior figures in both team management and the board. Imam, meanwhile, remains at the centre of the storm over his calf injury; he did not bat in either innings at Lord's, and the PCB has demanded a full

account of when he first reported the problem, what medical evaluation was carried out during the Test, and why he was ultimately unable to bat. The coaching axings have their own backstory too, per the same report. Sarfaraz Ahmed, 39, had coached only at Under-19 level and in a two-Test series in the Caribbean before being handed the senior Test job, a surprise appointment to many at the time. Bowling coach Umar Gul's position reportedly became untenable after he pointed to cold weather as a factor in Pakistan's poor showing at Headingley, an explanation that did not sit well with officials who felt it lacked accountability.

The resignation Misbah-ul-Haq has since resigned from Pakistan's four-member selection committee, a day after the axings were announced, and stepped down as batting consultant at the National Cricket Academy too. He was reportedly not consulted before the seven players and two coaches were sent home. Cricinfo has separately reported that the PCB reserved the committee, which also includes Aaqib Javed, Sarfaraz and Asad Shafiq, a formal notice the same day, seeking a written explanation, within 24 hours, for the original selections of Rizwan and Imam on the tours of the West Indies and England. Aaqib Javed's defence Speaking to Geo News, Aaqib Javed, the PCB's director of high performance and a member of the selection committee, mounted a direct defence of the overhaul, arguing the team's inability to compete, not the original squad selection, had forced the board's hand. "When we select a team, we sit with the coach and captain and build a squad. We are absolutely prepared to take responsibility for that squad," he said. "But when you go on tour, you have to make the kind of combination you need from match to match." He said he had personally told captain Babar Azam and the coaching staff before the Lord's Test to play fast bowler Ubaid Shah, since Pakistan's other three seamers were all similarly paced, and argued the team should also have picked wicketkeeper Ghazi Ghorri ahead of Rizwan. "No batter in our top seven bowls," he said. "One fast bowler changes the composition of your attack."

On Imam, Aaqib was pointed. "The Imam injury is a big question mark, and a deep disappointment," he said. "Players in the past used to get injuries, but they used to put on casts and still tried [to play]. We'll take action against this. How is it possible that a pulled muscle ruled you out of batting in both innings? He should have tried and fought. He'll have to face an inquiry; I can't say he faked it, but a muscle pull like that cannot stop you from batting altogether." Aaqib was careful to draw a line between the selectors' responsibility for the original squad and what he called the team management's failure to deploy it properly. "No one doubted these players' performances when selected," he said. "But when players are completely out of form and you're not competing at all, then we needed to make a decision." He said he had no intention of resigning himself, unlike Misbah, and defended the decision to hand the Test side to Mike Hesson, the white-ball coach, for the Edgbaston match. "One man doesn't run a team," he said. "It's difficult to see us getting a result in one match, but people should see we still have talent."

Dr Nene reveals reason Anushka Sharma-Virat Kohli moved to London



Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli have made London their home, choosing a quieter life away from the intense public attention they experienced in India. In 2025, Madhuri Dixit's husband, Dr Shriram Nene, recalled a conversation with Anushka about why the couple wanted to raise their children away from the constant spotlight. During a conversation with YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia, Dr Shriram Nene spoke about his respect for Virat Kohli and recalled meeting the cricketer and Anushka Sharma. Shriram said, "I have a lot of respect (for him). We've met him multiple times; he's just a decent human being." He then recalled a conversation with Anushka: "We had a conversation with Anushka one day, and it was very interesting. They were thinking about moving to London because they can't enjoy their success (here). And we appreciate what they go through, because anything they do attracts attention. We almost become isolated." Dr Shriram Nene explained that the constant attention surrounding a celebrity couple can make everyday moments difficult. "I get along with everyone; I'm

bindaas. But even then, it becomes challenging. There's always a selfie moment. Not in a bad way, but there comes a time when it becomes intrusive, when you're at dinner or lunch, and you have to be polite about it. For my wife, it becomes an issue. But (Anushka and Virat) are lovely people, and they just want to raise their kids normally." Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli have shifted their base to London with their children, Vamika and Akaay. The couple have been photographed several times in the city with their children. In an earlier interview, Dr Shriram Nene spoke about his own experience of moving from the US to India. During the conversation with Ranveer Allahbadia, Shriram was asked whether he was happier in India than in America. He replied, "I can't say happier. It is different. There you got anonymity and independence and a lot of it was self-driven. In India, I have a culture and we have a lot of ties, so it is different." Discussing the impact of being married to one of Hindi cinema's biggest stars, he said, "Well, that was the case in America also. Also, I don't know her like that. She is my wife and partner." Shriram went on to describe his marriage to Madhuri Dixit as something that neither of them had expected. "We look after each other. I never knew her past history and she didn't know mine. We came from different worlds, but at the same time, we came from the same region, Maharashtra, with the same background. Neither of us thought it would happen. It was kismet, and it has been the most amazing thing in my life." Shriram also said anonymity had been one of the biggest things he missed after returning to India. "The main challenge was anonymity. To be able to behave like normal people, and the lucky thing is we both enjoy that, less so in India to a great degree, but we are very grateful for everything and the people. She is so down-to-earth and the way she treats her fans and other people. Same with me. We just try to be good people." Madhuri Dixit married Dr Shriram Nene in 1999. The couple moved to Denver, USA, where they lived for several years before returning to India in 2011. They have two sons, Arin and Raayan. Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli married in an intimate ceremony in Italy in December 2017. They welcomed daughter Vamika in 2021 and son Akaay in 2024. They have since shifted to London with their children. Anushka, meanwhile, has stayed away from films since Zero, which released in 2018. She completed work on Chakda Xpress, but the film has not been released. She also stepped away from her production company, Clean Slate Filmz, in 2022.

Kareena Kapoor regrets leaving studies after Class 11: 'Want my sons to finish education'

Kareena Kapoor Khan may have built one of the most successful careers in Hindi cinema, but there is one decision from her younger years that she says she still regrets — not completing her education. The actor recently opened up about leaving her studies after Class 11 to pursue films, explaining why the experience has shaped the way she raises her sons. In a conversation with Hanuman Dass, Kareena said she never completed her education, something that continued to stay with her even after she found success as an actor. "I never finished my education, and that was something that kind of stayed with me. Even though I had the opportunity, I got into movies and didn't study any further after Class 11," she said.

Kareena acknowledged that people may have opinions about her decision to leave her education behind, but said she was determined to prove herself through her work. "I know a lot of people can make fun of that or say whatever they want, but I wanted to prove myself as an actor. That was something I wanted to do — to follow my heart," she said. At the same time, she admitted that not completing her education remains something she looks back on with regret. "Education is something I do regret not completing," she said. Why she pushes Taimur and Jeh to complete their education

Kareena said her own experience has influenced the advice she gives her sons. While she wants Taimur and Jeh to eventually follow their passions, she would first like them to complete their education. "That's why I have pushed my boys to finish their education first and then follow their hearts," she said.

The actor also said that this personal connection is one of the reasons she feels strongly about supporting education for young girls in India through UNICEF. "When UNICEF approached me about supporting young girls' education in India, I felt deeply about it because I had always carried that regret that I hadn't completed my own education," she said. Kareena has been associated with UNICEF India since 2014 and has advocated for girls' education, gender equality and children's access to quality education.

Kareena also spoke about her approach to charity, saying she believes people should support causes that genuinely resonate with them rather than feel compelled to publicly discuss every contribution they make. "I think charity is something that should come from what you believe in and what you genuinely want to do," she said. She admitted that she sometimes feels uncomfortable speaking about charitable work because public conversations around philanthropy can be misunderstood. "That's why sometimes I feel awkward talking about it. Some of the things we do, we don't necessarily like to talk about. Whether it is Saif and me together, I feel it is more from the heart than from words," she said.

Kareena also recalled participating in a cricket-related charitable initiative during the summer, describing it as an opportunity to bring together sport and philanthropy. "Actions speak louder than words. In our own way, we try to do things that lead us to doing some good in our lives," she said. Saif recently took part in a charitable match between Luton Town and the Indians Cricket Club in England, with Kareena and their sons, Taimur and Jeh, present to cheer him on.

Kareena also spoke warmly about raising two sons and said becoming a mother to boys has been a completely new experience for her. "I'm officially a football mom and I'm officially a cricket mom," she said with a laugh. Having grown up with her sister Karisma Kapoor, Kareena said raising Taimur and Jeh has introduced her to experiences she had never encountered while growing up.

"Me and Karisma were two sisters, so having two boys is completely different. It's almost like an out-of-body experience because I never grew up with a brother or a boy sibling. So for me to see Tim and Jay is amazing. And I'm learning each day." Kareena said compassion and kindness are among the most important values she hopes Taimur and Jeh carry with them. "The only things I always want to

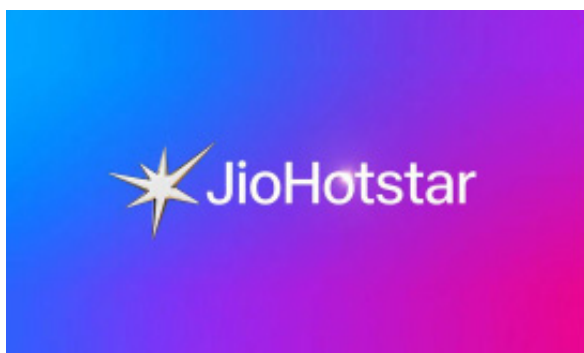
see in my boys are compassion and kindness. Those are two things that can take you the longest way," she said. Taimur wants to play cricket or football 'on a global stage. Kareena also spoke about her older son Taimur's growing interest in sports. According to the actor, he currently dreams of becoming either a cricketer or a footballer. "When Tim says he wants to be a football player or a cricketer, of course, because he is so into sport right now, that's what he wants. And I say, 'Yeah, of course, why not? If that's what you want to do,'" she said. "He says, 'I want to play cricket or football on a global stage.' And I'm like, 'yeah, then you have to make it happen,'" she added. The actor made it clear that she does not believe her children should be expected to follow their parents into films simply because they come from a family of actors.

"We have to encourage him and push him in the right direction. Who knows, maybe he changes his mind later, and that's fine too. It's not like because we come from a film family or because we're actors, he has to become an actor," she said. Kareena Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan, who began dating after working together on Tashan, tied the knot on October 16, 2012. The couple welcomed their first son, Taimur Ali Khan, on December 20, 2016, and their younger son, Jeh Ali Khan, on February 21, 2021.

Chiranjeevi pens heartfelt birthday message for brother Pawan Kalyan

Hyderabad: Megastar Chiranjeevi on Wednesday penned a heartfelt birthday greeting to his younger brother and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, saying the latter showered those who trusted him with the same love that he showered on his family. Taking to social media timelines to pen a lengthy birthday greeting, Chiranjeevi, in Telugu said that Pawan Kalyan had been someone who was full of love and loyalty. He was someone who had both resolve and responsibility and always had the intent to do good for the people at every point in time. The Megastar pointed out that he had noticed all these qualities in Pawan Kalyan from the time he was a child. Chiranjeevi said that Pawan Kalyan immersed himself completely in every task he undertook, placing each step with a burning passion to bring well-being to several people. "The love he shows toward our family, he extends the same love and affection towards the people who trust him," said Chiranjeevi, who also went on to add that after assuming the responsibilities of a Deputy Chief Minister, he had been working with dedication for the development of villages, upliftment of tribal areas,

JioHotstar launches in UK, Canada and Singapore with global expansion



New Delhi: JioHotstar, the OTT platform owned by JioStar, on Wednesday announced its international launch in the UK, Canada and Singapore, marking its foray into the global entertainment market with over 1,60,000 hours of content across more than 12 languages. The streaming platform, which has over 500 million active users, said the launch will offer audiences a new way to discover and engage with entertainment through personalised recommendations, interactive features and flexible subscription op-

tions, in addition to its extensive content catalogue. The platform will target the South Asian diaspora while also appealing to a broader global audience. It will add over 30,000 hours of fresh content annually across these markets, the company said in a statement.

The platform will offer new originals, iconic franchises and an extensive library of television content. Amit Malhotra, Head – International Business, JioStar, said, "Streaming has spent the last decade competing on the size of its catalogue. We believe the bigger opportunity now is to reimagine how audiences experience entertainment—not just what they watch, but how they discover, engage with and shape the experience in real time." South Asian audiences have a deep connection with Indian entertainment across languages, generations and households. "At the same time, audiences globally are increasingly seeking stories and cultures beyond their own. We see an opportunity to build for this broader, underserved global audience—not simply export an Indian streaming service to new markets," he added. JioHotstar is operated by JioStar, a joint venture created following the merger of Reliance's media business and the India operations of global media giant Walt Disney.

Bigg Boss Punjabi, Bhojpuri confirmed ahead of 6 versions of show launching simultaneously



On Sunday, India's biggest captive reality show, Bigg Boss, releases all versions simultaneously. In addition to Bigg Boss Hindi, Bigg Boss Tamil, Bigg Boss Telugu, Bigg Boss Kannada, and Bigg Boss Malayalam will also go live on September 6. The founder and Group CEO of Banijay Asia, Deepak Dhar, talks to SCREEN about what goes into bringing Bigg Boss to the world and how they have Bigg Boss Punjabi and Bigg Boss Bhojpuri coming up in 2027. He also spoke about the success of Alliance, Salman Khan's appearance, and the show's comparisons with Lock Upp. Talking about bringing all seasons of Bigg Boss together this year, Deepak Dhar said, "This time, it will be Bigg Boss wali Diwali. Bigg Boss has now become like a tentpole franchise. And this is the 20th year. We wanted to do something memorable to celebrate it. So, we said, let's do this as an exercise across all markets. Six versions are going live simultaneously. And we're very excited for it. You know, the entire festival period is going to be captured by Big Boss in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Bangla, and Hindi. You'll see how we are amplifying the experience around what the audiences are going to watch. We have Salman Khan, Kiccha Sudeep, Nagarjuna, Vijay Sethupathi, Mohanlal, and Sourav Ganguly. So we are only elevating the franchise."

While Bigg Boss Marathi Season 3 concluded in April this year, its new season will air next year. Sharing details about it, Deepak said, "Currently, the show has just gotten over with Ritesh Deshmukh. So when we come to the next

season, we will think." He further explained how the process for Bigg Boss worked and said, "It's a two-pronged process. Our creative producers and creative development teams have been working non-stop on casting. What is the theme? What should be the house? A lot of all that happens round the clock. We are also blessed with the learnings of Big Brother that runs in 40 markets internationally. So we pick and choose things, thoughts, elements, narratives that are worked in different markets and obviously adapted for India."

On the success of Alliance and Salman Khan's visit on the show While Banijay Asia also produces other captive reality shows like The 50 and Rise and Fall, its latest show Alliance found success. Talking about the show, Deepak Dhar said, "Prime Video wanted to build something which is new and unique in the reality unscripted space. We were clear that we did not want to build something toxic, instead we wanted a fun, entertaining, and engaging property. We focussed on what kind of tasks would bring the contestants' mental and physical abilities to the forefront. Which is why we built a huge arena where these tasks were set up and scaled. We filmed it with almost 50 cameras." The show also had Sohail Khan as a contestant, and Salman Khan's appearance on the show became a talking point. Talking about Salman's visit, Deepak said, "The story of two brothers is very emotional, right? And, you know, it is all credit to Salman Khan; he wanted to do it. He wanted to support his brother and stand with him. We were also caught unaware that he actually came; it was pretty much unannounced." Deepak also spoke about the comparisons between Alliance and Ekta Kapoor's Lock Upp Sach Ya Sazaa. He said, "I don't see the need to entertain audiences with more and more toxicity. I don't believe that is always the right way forward. It might work once; it never works for a sustained duration of time. I can only speak for Alliance. We wanted to make a very different and new vocabulary of reality. Even if we were talking about relationships, we were talking about how Sohail and Seema are friends, showcasing the positive side of things."

We really didn't want to focus on anything negative in the house or in the headquarters. And even the friendships, emotions, and the drama that was unfolding were extremely warm and personal." Bigg Boss Punjabi and Bhojpuri to launch next year Deepak also spoke about their upcoming slate and said that they further plan to expand the Bigg Boss universe. "We have just we've been very busy on the reality side. We've been very busy on the scripted side. We had Raakh that released a little over a month ago and was a massive success. Campus Beats is out now. There will be an Indian adaptation, or the Hindi adaptation of House MD, that will come out very soon. Next year, we will have Bhojpuri and Punjabi franchises for Bigg Boss up and running," Deepak said.

Hanuman Ansh sequel confirmed, Kangana Ranaut calls Neem karoli Baba film 'therapy'

A little over three weeks after it opened to a muted response, Vishal Chaturvedi's Hanuman Ansh has pulled off one of the year's most surprising box-office turnarounds. The low-budget spiritual drama, made without a major star or a large promotional campaign, has now crossed the Rs 50 crore nett in India, riding on strong word of mouth. With the film continuing to draw audiences to theatres, Chaturvedi has confirmed that work on the film's sequel has already begun.

Vishal Chaturvedi confirms Hanuman Ansh sequel Hanuman Ansh ends with a slate suggesting that the story of Neem Karoli Baba is not yet complete, clearly pointing towards another chapter. Speaking to audiences during a recent interaction at a multiplex in Agra, Vishal Chaturvedi confirmed that the makers are already working on the second part.

The filmmaker said the next instalment will explore more significant chapters from Neem Karoli Baba's life and spiritual journey. The story is expected to begin with Firozabad, his birthplace, before moving through Agra, Mathura and other places associated with him. A sequel was always part of the makers' larger plan. When Hanuman Ansh was officially announced on February 20, 2026, the project was introduced as a trilogy. The spiritual saga is inspired by Chaturvedi's book Divine Detour, with Shobhinav Satyaa playing Neem Karoli Baba, also known as Maharajji. Kangana Ranaut says Hanuman Ansh is 'not a movie; it's a satsang.' Meanwhile, actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut praised Hanuman Ansh on Instagram. Sharing a picture of Neem Karoli Baba, whose life inspired the film, Kangana wrote, "hanumananish is not a movie; it's a satsang, beautifully woven short stories of people who had first-hand experience of #neemkaroribaba. Skip your therapy and go watch it." Filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar had also earlier praised both the film and its unexpected success at the box office.



"Witnessed pure cinematic magic watching #HanumanAnsh in the theatre the audience was completely glued to the screen! ?? @filmervishal direction is wonderfully honest & tender, while actor Shobhinav Satya's portrayal of Neem Karoli Baba is purely natural and flawless," he wrote. Bhandarkar further described the film as an important example for the industry, writing,

"This small budget film with a non-star cast is a crucial case study for the entire Indian film industry. It proves that true conviction and powerful storytelling always triumph over massive budget films at the box office. My heartfelt congratulations to the entire team the producers, actors, and technicians for their brilliant dedication, and a big thank you to the audience for making this incredible film a roaring blockbuster!"