

14-year-old girl dies of electric shock while switching on water pump

Warangal: A 14-year-old girl died due to electrocution at Nallabelli mandal headquarters in the district on Friday.The deceased, Pittala Sirivennela, was a 9th-grade student at Zilla Parishad Secondary School at Nallabelli. She suffered an electric shock while attempting to switch on the water pump motor to draw water to take a bath.Her father, Ramesh, stated that the accident occurred because she had not noticed that rats had gnawed through the motor's electrical wiring. Upon receiving information from the family, 108 ambulance emergency medical technician (EMT) Dasru and pilot Kiran arrived at the scene.



Revanth Fast Tracks Kodangal Projects

Hyderabad:., sept 4

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday directed officials to complete Phase-I works of the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal lift irrigation project by December 2027 and Phase-II works by October 2028, while instructing them to take all necessary measures to expedite the prestigious irrigation project.

At a review meeting held in his home constituency Kodangal, the Chief Minister directed the irrigation authorities to immediately invite tenders for the Phase-II works. He also sought comprehensive details on the annual budgetary requirement for the project and instructed officials to prepare plans for ensuring adequate funds to accelerate the execution of works.

Irrigation officials briefed the Chief Minister on the progress of the project and the measures being taken to meet the deadlines. They informed him that efforts were under way to complete Phase-I by December 2027 and Phase-II by October 2028. The Chief Minister directed the officials to closely monitor the progress and ensure that there was no delay in implementation.

Earlier in the day, Revanth Reddy inspected work at the Hakimpet education hub and reviewed the progress of various educational and healthcare institutions coming up there. He enquired about the status of the Young India Integrated Residential School, government medical and nursing colleges, institutes for physiotherapy and paramedical sciences, the 430-bed hospital and other structures being constructed in the hub.

The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure effective coordination among all agencies and departments involved in construction activities at the education hub so that the projects could progress simultaneously. He also ordered continuous monitoring of construction quality and technical aspects and stressed the need to adhere to prescribed standards while executing the works.

Revanth Reddy suggested construction of water-

harvesting wells at the Education Hub to prevent water stagnation during the rainy season. He directed officials to formulate a comprehensive plan for conserving rain-water and utilising the harvested water for landscaping and other suitable purposes, thereby improving water management within the education hub.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the progress of roads and buildings (R&B) works in the Kodangal Assembly constituency. Officials briefed him on road connectivity, construction of government buildings, bridges and other infrastructure projects being taken up in the constituency.

Revanth Reddy directed the officials to expedite all road connectivity and building construction works and ensure that infrastructure projects were completed within the stipulated timelines. He specifically instructed them to develop a comprehensive road network connecting every tribal habitation or thanda in the constituency.

Warning officials against neglecting road connectivity to tribal habitations, the Chief Minister said action would be taken against those who failed to give priority to the development of roads in thandas. He stressed that every tribal habitation should have proper and all-weather road connectivity.

The meeting also reviewed plans for constructing culverts and bridges across streams in villages. The Chief Minister directed officials to formulate robust plans for the construction of culverts and bridges at vulnerable locations to ensure uninterrupted connectivity, particularly during the rainy season. He also reviewed the proposal to design bridges across streams on lines similar to check dams, enabling the structures to facilitate connectivity while helping in water conservation.

The Chief Minister directed officials of all concerned departments to work in coordination and ensure that the irrigation, education, healthcare, road and other infrastructure projects in Kodangal constituency progressed simultaneously without delays.

Telangana SIR: Special campaigns for claims, objections on September 5 and 6

Hyderabad, sept 5

The Telangana Chief Electoral Office will conduct special campaigns on September 5-6 and 12-13 for claims and objections to draft electoral rolls prepared under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the State. The first campaign will be held on September 5 and 6, and the second campaign is on September 12 and 13 at the polling stations.

Hyderabad: The Telangana Chief Electoral Office officials are organising two special campaigns on claims and objections on the draft electoral rolls released as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the State. The first campaign will be held on September 5 and 6, and the second campaign is on September 12 and 13 at the polling stations.

The applicants / electors can visit the said designated locations at polling station level to verify draft roll or deposit their claims and objections through Form-6, 7 and 8. Normal practice of lodging claims and objections in the offices of Electoral Registration Officers will also be accepted.Book Walking Tours

The Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Booth



Level Agents (BLAs) will be available at the designated locations at polling station level on the campaign days.

“The BLO will go through the draft roll with the BLAs and identify the corrections etc., if any and act as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India,” the CEO said. Electors have been urged to utilize the special campaign days for filing their claims and objections on the draft electoral rolls.

HarperCollins to publish Sonia’s memoir in India

NEW DELHI, SEPT 4

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi’s much-awaited memoir ‘Belonging: A Journey of Love’ has found a new publisher in India, with HarperCollins taking over the book barely a week after Penguin Random House India said it would not publish it in the country amid a controversy over reported editorial changes to the manuscript.

The switch has produced an unusual publishing arrangement: HarperCollins will bring ‘Belonging’ to Indian readers on November 10, while its international edition will be released the same day by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

It has also given the Congress an opening to revisit the controversy surrounding Penguin’s decision. “No matter how much a Penguin tries, it can’t fly,” Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Pawan Khera said.



BRS steps up statewide agitation as Congress marks 1,000 days in office

Hyderabad: Massive rallies, Vanta-Vaarpu programmes, road blockades and protests were held as part of the BRS “Samarabheri” statewide agitation for the third consecutive day on Friday, as the ruling Congress completed 1,000 days in office. The party leaders targeted the Congress government over non-implementation of election promises, focusing largely on women, senior citizens and persons with disabilities, with the BRS demanding implementation of promised financial assistance and pension hikes.

The party has been conducting a week-long campaign from September 2 to 8, with each day devoted to specific issues and sections of society.

Sriharikota: ISRO Roars Back into Action



SRIHARIKOTA, SEPT 4

: India early on Friday placed its first-ever Earth observation satellite in a geosynchronous orbit, with the spacecraft speeding away at over 36,000 kmph (10,197 metres per second) to its designated home 36,000 km in the sky. The EOS-05 is designed to provide advanced, near-real-time Earth observation data, significantly strengthening the country’s capabilities in land monitoring, environmental tracking and disaster management. This was the first successful launch for the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) this year.

Earth observation satellites are generally placed in the low Earth orbit, meaning they have a very small area that they can scan at one time. The EOS-05 at 36,000 km above the Earth can continuously monitor the same spot. The achievement drew praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and from across the political spectrum.

In a spectacular pre-dawn display, the rocket, in mission F17, lifted off on the dot at 2.55 am on Friday 05 mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, leaving a trail of orange flames that pierced the darkness, bringing cheer to space scientists fans and the hundreds of spectators who braved a down-pour at the Visitors’ Gallery to witness the launch despite the late hour.

Standing 51.7-metre-tall, the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) weighed 420.5 tonnes at lift-off from the second launch pad. It met and even

surpassed expectations, as announced by Isro Chairman Dr V. Narayanan. The three-stage GSLV was equipped with an indigenous cryogenic upper stage and a four-metre-diameter ‘ogive’ composite payload fairing to accommodate the satellite. This was the heaviest satellite that the GSLV has hoisted into space so far.

It placed the satellite into its targeted sub-geosynchronous transfer orbit (sub-GTO), from where it will make its way to it space home. Dr Narayanan noted that Isro had targeted an orbit with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 170 km and an apogee of 29,000 km (farthest point from Earth), but the GSLV performed better than expected, placing the satellite at a 171-km perigee and a 31,000-km apogee, saving it much fuel which could extend its estimated lifetime of about nine years.

EOS-05, weighing in at about 2,300 kg, is being seen as a replacement for the Giasat-1 mission, which was lost following the failure of the GSLV-F10 launch in August 2021. The high-stakes mission was closely watched, coming after a challenging phase for Isro which had paused launches following anomalies in two successive PSLV missions, including the PSLV-C62 on January 12, to undertake detailed technical reviews.

Visibly elated by the success, ISRO chairman Dr V. Narayanan congratulated Team ISRO and acknowledged the contribution of industrial partners, academia and the organisation’s strong work culture. He said the solar panels of EOS-05 had been deployed and the satellite was in perfect health.

Air Indias Phuket-Delhi flight pilot sacked over positive drug test

NEW DELHI, SEPT 4

Air India on Friday terminated the services of the pilot-in-command of its Phuket-Delhi flight AI2379 with immediate effect after he tested positive for a psychoactive substance, hours after the preliminary investigation into the August 4 accident flagged the test result as a “serious concern” and sought priority action from the aviation regulator.

“Safety remains Air India’s highest priority.... In line with our zero-tolerance approach towards viola-

an overall swing of 664 feet.

The AAIB report said both pilots underwent post-flight breath-analyser tests after landing in Delhi and the results were satisfactory. However, both were also subjected to psychoactive substance detection tests.

The pilot-in-command’s sample was found “non-negative”. Blood samples of both pilots were subsequently sent to a pathological laboratory, where the pilot-in-command’s confirmatory test was again non-negative while the co-pilot tested negative in both tests.



tion of safety, fitness or regulatory requirements, the pilot’s employment has been terminated with immediate effect,” an Air India spokesperson said.

The action came as the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau’s (AAIB) preliminary report revealed another critical aspect of the accident: the Air India A320 carrying 145 people lost pressure in all three hydraulic systems within four seconds while cruising at 36,000 feet, triggering an autopilot disconnect, a stall warning and a violent altitude upset

The accident left 24 persons, including 20 passengers and four cabin crew, injured, four of them seriously. The aircraft first climbed 372 feet and then fell 292 feet from its assigned flight level during the upset,

der the minimum equipment list since July 28, seven days before the accident. Maintenance personnel had carried out a pre-flight inspection and recorded no fresh discrepancies, while the flight crew’s walk-around inspection also found none.

The PTU provides auxiliary hydraulic pressure between the Green and Yellow systems without transferring hydraulic fluid between them. The AAIB has not established at this stage that the deferred PTU defect caused the hydraulic event. Relevant hydraulic components have now been removed for detailed examination.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

The next coronavirus will be AI-designed

In 1346, the Black Death arrived at the port of Caffa in Crimea on Mongol catapults. The weapon was a corpse. The delivery mechanism was medieval. The death toll over the following six years was between 75 million and 200 million people across Eurasia. The most devastating biological event in recorded human history required no laboratory, no advanced knowledge of pathogen structure, and no understanding of viral replication. It required only proximity, movement, and time.

In 2024, a company called Radical Numerics, founded by former Stanford PhD researchers, published the results of an AI model called EVO. The model treats DNA much as a large language model treats text: it reads sequences of genetic letters and learns the rules governing how those sequences produce physical biological function. Just as GPT-4 can generate a paragraph that follows the statistical patterns of human prose, EVO can generate a DNA sequence that follows the statistical patterns of biological life. The researchers trained it on existing natural gene-editing tools and used it to generate novel CRISPR variants, which scientists then synthesised and verified in laboratory tests. They then used it to create the complete DNA genome for a bacteriophage, a bacterial virus, from scratch. The first AI-generated genome is not merely a theoretical possibility. It has already been written.

The most important number in this story is not the model's context window, which grew from a few thousand tokens to one to two million, enabling it to process massive genomic sequences. Nor is it the 30 minutes EVO took to rank causal genes for Alzheimer's disease, matching two years of laboratory work. The most important number is the barrier to entry.

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Excellence Award Presented to OU Vice-Chancellor



“Hyderabad, September 04 (Indian Chronicle) : On the occasion of National Teachers' Day, the Telangana Intellectuals Forum presented the prestigious Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Excellence Award to Osmania University Vice-Chancellor Prof. M.Kumar at a programme held at the OU Vice-Chancellor's residence hall. The award was presented by Telangana Intellectuals Forum State President Dr.Rajanarayana Mudiraj in recognition of Prof. Kumar's contributions to the field of education. Speaking on the occasion, Prof.Kumar said teachers are the foundation of a successful life and play a crucial role in shaping the future of students. OU Registrar Prof.Naresh Reddy, Senior Professor of Commerce Patrick, Prof.Jitender Kumar Naik, Prof.Shekar, Prof.B.Srinagesh, Prof.Mangu, Prof.Bhagyavathi, Dr.Raviteja, Dr.Akhtar Ali, Dr.A.Anitha, Dr.P.Supriya, Major S.K.Shivaprasad, Itta Udayashree Reddy, and coordinators G.Venugopal, Bichchukari Surya and Ram Gopal Reddy, among others, felicitated Prof. Kumar and conveyed their best wishes.

BRS protests in Karimnagar over unfulfilled poll promises.

Karimnagar September 04 (Correspondent): Former Minister and Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakara accused the Congress government of betraying women by failing to fulfil its election promises, and said people would teach it a fitting lesson.He was speaking at a 'Vanta Varpu' protest organised by the BRS city unit in front of the Karimnagar Collectorate on Friday as part of the party's State-wide programme to highlight what it described as the government's failures after completing 1,000 days in office.

Mr. Kamalakara said the previous BRS government had successfully implemented the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme for the marriages of girls. The Congress, however, had promised ₹1 lakh and one tola of gold under the scheme but had failed to honour the assurance, he alleged.He also accused the Congress of failing to implement its promises of providing ₹2,500 a month to women and free scooters to girl students.

The BRS would continue its agitation until the government fulfilled its promises, Mr. Kamalakara said, adding that the party would raise the issues during the forthcoming Assembly session.Former MP Boinpally Vinod Kumar said the Congress government had completed 1,000 days in office and had only 825 days remaining, but had failed to fulfil its promises. He alleged that the Congress Cabinet had lost the confidence of the people.Referring to the reported removal of Minister Konda Surekha, Mr. Vinod Kumar described it as the “first wicket” to fall and said he was not sure whether the Congress government would complete its five-year term.He said the BRS campaign against the government's failures was receiving a good response from the people and that the party would intensify its agitations in the coming days.Former MLC Naradasu Laxman Rao, BRS city president Challa Harishankar, general secretary Gaddam Prashanth Reddy, former library institution chairpersons Ponnani Anil Kumar Goud and Enugu Ravinder Reddy, corporators and other party leaders and workers participated in the protest.



ILMA Biomedical - A Dedicated Digital Platform Had Been Dedicated to Students By Founder Aadhira Suleim On Her Birthday



“Kanyakumari, September 4, 2026: Turning her birthday into a milestone for the biomedical engineering community, 22-year-old Aadhira Suleim A R, a biomedical engineer from Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, has launched ILMA Biomedical, a dedicated digital platform aimed at empowering students and aspiring professionals in the field of biomedical engineering.”“Aadhira, who is currently pursuing her Master of Engineering (M.E.) in Biomedical Engineering, launched the platform on September 4, 2026 — her birthday. The initiative reflects her ambition to create a platform that goes beyond academic learning and helps biomedical engineering students discover career opportunities, develop industry-relevant skills and stay connected with emerging

developments in healthcare technology.”“The newly launched platform, ilmabiomedical.com, is positioned around the vision “The Future of Biomedical Engineering Starts Here.” It seeks to bring together learning resources, career guidance, skill-development roadmaps and examination preparation for students and professionals interested in biomedical engineering.”“From Student to Founder”“Aadhira's journey as a young biomedical engineer inspired her to identify the need for a dedicated platform catering specifically to the biomedical engineering community. Rather than limiting her initiative to conventional academic resources, she envisioned ILMA Biomedical as a digital ecosystem that can help students understand the field, explore career pathways and prepare themselves for the changing healthcare technology landscape.”“In a public announcement ahead of the launch, Aadhira described ILMA as an initiative inspired by the needs of the biomedical engineering community, with the objective of empowering biomedical engineers through career guidance, learning and growth.”“The initiative comes at a time when biomedical engineering is becoming increasingly interconnected with medical devices, artificial intelligence, machine learning, digital health, medical imaging, healthcare data, rehabilitation technology and advanced healthcare systems.

Ex Minister T. Harish Rao Visits Kagaznagar Sirpur and Kautala, Inspects Tribal School Reviews Public and Development Issues



“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, September 4: Former minister and BRS floor leader T. Harish Rao visited various parts of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district on Thursday and reviewed local issues, tribal welfare facilities and development works.”Harish Rao, accompanied by BRS general secretary R.S. Praveen Kumar, former Sirpur MLA Koneru Konappa and other party leaders, received a warm

welcome from BRS leaders and workers at Konappa's Nitya Annadana Satram in Kagaznagar.”During his visit, Harish Rao conducted a surprise inspection of the ST Boys Ashram High School in Kagaznagar and interacted directly with the students. He enquired about their education, food, accommodation and other basic facilities. Students reportedly highlighted several problems at the hostel.”Harish Rao expressed displeasure over the RO water plant remaining non-functional for around seven months and the lack of doors for windows in the rooms, which was reportedly causing mosquito problems. He also alleged that students had not been provided clothes and criticised the government for failing to ensure basic facilities at the tribal residential school. He demanded immediate steps to resolve the students' problems and improve hostel facilities.”Later, Harish Rao and R.S. Praveen Kumar visited Nagamma Cheruvu in Sirpur mandal and inspected the Buddha statue installed under the initiative of former MLA Koneru Konappa as part of efforts to develop the area as a tourist destination. They also enquired about the development works undertaken around the tank.”The BRS leaders subsequently reached Kautala, where they were given a grand welcome by party leaders, workers and local people. A large number of BRS supporters gathered at the meeting venue, where the leaders were scheduled to address issues concerning farmers, the public and the prevailing political situation.

Krishnaswamy's 133 th Birth Anniversary Celebrated in Ramanthapur



RAMANTHAPUR , SEPTEMBER 4 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The 133 th birth anniversary of Krishnaswamy, the first Mayor of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, was celebrated grandly under the aegis of the Ramanthapur Jyotirao Phule Seva Sangham.The programme was organised under the leadership of Sangham

president Burra Mahender Mudiraj. Several prominent personalities participated in the event and paid floral tributes to the portrait of Krishnaswamy.Speaking on the occasion, State BC JAC Chairman D.T. Mallaiah Mudiraj said that Krishnaswamy's services towards the betterment of society were exemplary. He said his contribution to the development of Hyderabad and his efforts towards social equality would remain memorable. His vision for the welfare of weaker sections and the establishment of an egalitarian society continues to inspire the present generation, he added.Jyotirao Phule Seva Sangham president Burra Mahender Mudiraj called upon everyone to work for social equality and the development of BC communities by carrying forward Krishnaswamy's ideals. He urged the younger generation to take inspiration from the values he upheld in public service.Sangham president Mallesh Yadav, K. Laxman, Vinay, Rajagopal, Venkatesh, Sridhar, Alivelu and others participated in the programme. Several speakers recalled Krishnaswamy's services and contributions on the occasion.

Grand Sri Krishna Janmashtami Celebrations at Uppal Saraswathi Shishu Mandir



“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 4 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations were held grandly at Uppal Sri Saraswathi Shishu Mandir Primary School on Friday.As part of the celebrations, children enthusiastically participated in the programme dressed as Lord Sri Krishna and Gopikas, thanks to the special efforts of the school's Matajis. The students, dressed in traditional attire, presented colourful performances depicting the childhood activities and divine pastimes of Lord Krishna.”The melodious music, graceful dances and cultural performances presented by the children impressed everyone. The Krishna and Gopika costumes worn by the young students were a special attraction of the celebrations. Parents also took special care in dressing and decorating their children, adding to the festive atmosphere on the school premises.”Parents and teachers expressed their happiness over the colourful Janmashtami celebrations organised for the children. The school management stated that such programmes are conducted to help students understand the significance of Indian culture, traditions and festivals.”Speaking on the occasion, Uppal Saraswathi Shishu Mandir Treasurer Upjohn

Balavanthachari said that the students participated in the Janmashtami celebrations with great enthusiasm due to the special efforts of the Matajis. He said the programme became even more attractive as parents took special care in preparing their children for the Krishna and Gopika costumes.He further stated that such celebrations play an important role in encouraging the talents of children while creating awareness among them about Indian culture and traditions.”

Panga Mahender Reddy Meets Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and Seeks Blessings on His Birthday

“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 4 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): On the occasion of his birthday, Panga Mahender Reddy, a senior TRS leader from Uppal Division, received greetings from several party leaders and workers. As part of the celebrations, he met Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and sought his blessings.The MLA felicitated Panga Mahender Reddy and conveyed his birthday wishes, expressing his hope that he would enjoy good health, happiness and longevity and continue serving the people with greater dedication in the future.”On the occasion, leaders and party workers presented bouquets to Panga Mahender Reddy and extended their warm birthday greetings.”Kola Ravi Goud, Palle Raj Kumar Goud, Krishnamachari, Gnaneshwar, Panga Yadagiri Reddy, Bhasha, Yuvaraj Goud and others participated in the programme.

Sri Ramanuja Seva Trust Extends Support to Nepal Disaster VictimsRs. 10.55 lakh donation collected



– Presented through UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 4 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Donors responded generously to the relief initiative undertaken by the Sri Ramanuja Seva Trust to support the people of Nepal who are facing a severe disaster caused by natural calamities. The trust representatives stated that a total of Rs. 10,55,116 has been collected so far as donations.”The amount collected will be presented in the form of a cheque through Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy to former DRDO Chairman and Defence Adviser to the Prime Minister G. Sathesh Reddy. The amount will subsequently be handed over to the Nepal Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, the trust representatives said.The representatives of the Sri Ramanuja Seva Trust expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all the donors who came forward and extended their support to the disaster victims during this difficult time.Dr. Dhanunjaya, representatives of the Sri Ramanuja Seva Trust, former corporators Prabhudas and Srinivas Reddy, along with BRS leaders and activists, were present at the programme.

BJP Stands by Dr. Varashith's Family — Dr. K. Laxman, Bharat Goud and Other BJP Leaders Visit Yashoda Hospital



“Tarnaka, September 04(INDIAN CHRONICLE): “The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) strongly condemned the attack on the family of Dr. Varashith, BJP Nalgonda District President. BJP leaders stated that expressing political differences through attacks and threats is against the spirit of democracy.”In this context, BJP MP Dr. K. Laxman, Secunderabad District BJP President Sri Bharat Goud, and other BJP leaders visited Yashoda Hospital and enquired about the health of Dr. Varashith's mother, who is undergoing treatment.”On the occasion, Dr. Laxman consoled Dr. Varashith's mother, extended courage and assured the family that the BJP would stand by them in every possible way. He also wished her a speedy recovery.”Dr. K. Laxman expressed strong anger over the attack on Dr. Varashith's residence and criticised the Congress party's alleged approach. He said that targeting the families of opposition leaders through attacks is unacceptable and that the BJP strongly opposes such incidents.”“Political battles should be fought through democratic means. Resorting to attacks and threats is against democratic values. Legal action must be taken against those responsible for the incident involving Dr. Varashith's family,” Dr. Laxman demanded.”District BJP President Bharat Goud said that the Telangana BJP leadership and party workers would stand firmly with Dr. Varashith's family. He stated that the party would always stand by the families of BJP workers during difficult times.”On the occasion, senior BJP leader Dr. Sriram Venkat also visited Yashoda Hospital and met Dr. Varashith's mother and family members.



Congress marks 1,000 days of ‘Praja Palana’ with bike rally in Karimnagar.



Karimnagar September 04 (Correspondent): The Karimnagar city unit of the Congress on Friday organised a bike rally to mark 1,000 days of the Revanth Reddy government and its ‘Praja Palana’ (people-centric governance). The rally, organised by the Karimnagar Corporation Congress, began at Indira Chowk and passed through Rajiv Chowk, Gandhi Chowk and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chowk before concluding at Ambedkar Chowk.

Addressing the gathering, Corporation Congress president Vaidyula Anjan Kumar said the government's welfare and development programmes had brought relief to people across Telangana. He cited Indiramma housing, farm loan waivers, Rythu Bharosa, free power up to 200 units and the

recruitment of 75,000 government employees as some of the major initiatives of the government. He said the Congress government was implementing welfare schemes transparently and ensuring that benefits reached eligible beneficiaries directly. “This is not farmhouse governance; it is governance at the doorstep of the people,” Mr. Anjan Kumar said.

Schemes such as Mahalakshmi, Gruha Jyothi and Cheyutha had improved the lives of people, while the government was seeking to strengthen the education, healthcare and employment sectors, he said.

Mr. Anjan Kumar thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Ministers Ponnampallabhar, Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Adluri Laxman Kumar, and Congress legislators for their support. Taking a swipe at the Opposition, he alleged that parties opposed to the government were staging “dramas” in the name of a chargesheet to target former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao. The people of Telangana, he claimed, were supporting the Congress government’s “Praja Palana”. He said more development and welfare programmes would be taken up to accelerate the growth of Karimnagar. District Library Institution chairman Sattu Malleshham, former MLA Arepalli Mohan, former SUDA chairman Komatireddy Narendra Reddy and several Congress leaders and workers participated in the rally.

STATE CONGRESS LEADER MOHAMMED RAFIQ Inspects Drinking Water Pipeline Works in Nehru Nagar“

“RAMANTHAPUR , SEPTEMBER 4 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): State Congress leader Mohammed Rafiq on Friday inspected the ongoing drinking water pipeline works being undertaken in Nehru Nagar of Ramantapur Division to improve water supply to local residents. During the visit, Rafiq personally reviewed the progress of the pipeline works and interacted with Water Works staff. He instructed the officials to complete the works quickly while maintaining quality standards. He also directed them to take necessary measures to ensure that local residents do not face inconvenience due to the ongoing works. Mohammed Rafiq said that efforts were being made to ensure a continuous and improved drinking water supply to the people of Nehru Nagar. He stated that he would continue to monitor public issues and work towards providing the necessary basic infrastructure to residents. Water Works staff Cable Ashok, Varalakshmi, Lavanya Reddy, Adinarayana, M.D. Nayeem, M.D. Shakeel, Swamy, Sai and others participated in the programme.



GRAND SRI KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATIONS AT GAYATHRI VIDYANIKETAN



“PEDDAPALLI, Sep 04 (Indian Chronicle): Imbued with deep devotion and cultural fervor, Gayathri Vidyaniketan hosted a grand Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebration on Friday within its school premises. The campus transformed into a vibrant cultural hub as over 200 enthusiastic students dressed up as Lord Krishna and Gopikas, captivating the audience with their charming avatars and spirited

participation.” The festivities commenced on an auspicious note with the Chairman of Gayathri Educational Institutions Allen Sri Srinivas offering a floral tribute to the idol of Lord Krishna. Addressing the gathering, School Correspondent Allen Sri Rajani Devi highlighted the spiritual significance of Janmashtami. She encouraged students to imbibe the timeless virtues taught by Lord Krishna, emphasizing truth, righteousness, and unwavering dedication to duty (Karma). A series of mesmerising cultural performances added to the festive charm. Students of Classes 2, 6, and 7 enthralled the audience with elegant, thematic group dances that became the highlight of the event. D. Sai Sreeman, a talented Class 1 student, won everyone's hearts with his striking and adorable portrayal of Lord Jagannath. “The event resonated with high spiritual energy and joyous enthusiasm from start to finish. Delighted by the vibrant celebration, parents expressed their appreciation, noting that such cultural events play a vital role in grounding children in traditional values, heritage, and ethics. Principal Vijay, Vice Principal Priyanka participated.

“Vanta Varpu” Protest Held in Ramanthapur Against Congress Government’s Failure to Implement Poll Promises“



“RAMANTHAPUR, SEPTEMBER 4 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Alleging that the Congress government has failed to fulfil the promises made to the people during the elections, Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy participated in the “Vanta Varpu” protest organised by the BRS party in Ramanthapur on Friday. “The protest programmes were organised under the leadership of BRS leaders from three divisions of the Uppal constituency — Ramanthapur, Habsiguda and Venkat Reddy Nagar. MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy took part in the programmes and expressed his protest against the functioning of the Congress government. “The MLA alleged that the Congress had come to power promising to provide 72,500 per month to women, implement the KCR Kit scheme, provide one tola of gold under the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes,

and distribute scooters to girl students. However, the government has failed to fulfil these promises and deceived the people, he alleged. “He demanded that the Congress government immediately implement all the promises made to the people and ensure that every eligible beneficiary receives the benefits of welfare schemes.” Lakshma Reddy said the BRS would intensify its protest programmes across the constituency to expose the alleged failures of the Congress government before the people. “Former corporator Gandham Jyotsna Nageswara Rao, state leaders Pasula Prabhakar Reddy, Gandham Nageswara Rao, Babu Yadav, Dr. Chari, Rajitha Reddy, Kaleru Jai Naveen, Virender, Sooram Shankar, Chand Pasha, Koppu Nursing Rao, Lakshmi and Dinesh, along with BRS leaders, activists, women, students and a large number of local residents, participated in the programmes.

Krishna Janmashtami celebrates

“On Friday, Shree Krishna Janmashtami has been celebrated with great joy in almost all parts of Bihar, where a crowd of devotees assembled in front of Krishna Temples and temples of other gods.”

As in Patna ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) Temple several prominent persons of Bihar and offered their prayer. As the Governor Lieutenant General Sayed Ata Hasnain (Retd) reached ISKCON Temple and prayed for the welfare of the people of Bihar. As the Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary also reached ISKCON Temple and offered his prayer before the statue of lord Krishna for the prosperity of the people of Bihar. As the Dy CM Vijay Kumar Chaudhary was also presented there. The Health Minister Nishant Kumar also reached ISKCON Temple and offered his prayer before lord Krishna for the welfare of the people of Bihar. On this occasion he urged the adolescent of the

Grand Birthday Celebrations of Mulakalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj Held at Marrichettu in Chilkanagar



“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 4 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The birthday celebrations of Mulakalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj,

former President of the Chilkanagar Division Congress Party, were held grandly at Marrichettu in Chilkanagar Division. “Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, Uppal Constituency Congress In-charge, and Thotakura Ajay Yadav, former Mayor of Boduppal and son of Medchal–Malkajgiri District Congress Party President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav, attended the celebrations as chief guests. Former Boduppal corporators Bingi Anjaiah Yadav and Rasala Venkatesh Yadav were also present. “On the occasion, Rajesh Mudiraj cut the birthday cake, following which the guests felicitated him with a shawl and extended their birthday greetings. A grand Anna Danam (free food distribution) programme was also organised at Marrichettu. Local elders, family members, leaders from various political parties, youth members and Christian community elders participated in the programme. They felicitated Rajesh Mudiraj and conveyed their warm birthday wishes. Speaking on the occasion, Rajesh Mudiraj expressed his gratitude to the leaders of various political parties, colony elders, brothers and sisters, and youth leaders who attended the celebrations and conveyed their wishes out of affection and goodwill towards him.

CM Revant Reddy Directs Speedy Completion of Government Degree College at Maddur



“04 Sept 2026 “Indian Chronicle” “Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to expedite the construction of the Government Degree College building at Maddur in Narayanpet district and ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated deadline.” “As part of his visit to Vikarabad and Narayanpet districts, the Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction works of the Government Degree College at Maddur along with elected representatives and senior officials.” “During the field inspection, Revanth Reddy reviewed the college building designs



and layout and suggested several modifications. He instructed officials to plan the construction keeping in mind the future requirements of students and the institution.” “The Chief Minister also directed officials to construct a compound wall around the college premises and stressed that there should be no compromise on the quality of construction. He asked the authorities to closely monitor the works and ensure timely completion.” “During his visit, the Chief Minister also interacted with local residents, greeted them warmly and shook hands with people who gathered at the site.

Akshara School Celebrates Krishnashtami with Traditional Fervour and Grandeur.

“P. S. Ashokan “Indian chronicle “Hyderabad. “Manthani, September 4: “Akshara English Medium High School, Manthani, celebrated Krishnashtami with great fervour, enthusiasm and traditional grandeur on the school premises on Friday.” “The school premises wore a festive look as students and teachers participated in the celebrations with immense zeal. Students dressed in colourful and attractive costumes portraying Lord Krishna added a special charm to the occasion.” “Addressing the gathering, Principal Bindu Ashok highlighted the spiritual and cultural significance of Krishnashtami. She emphasised the timeless values embodied by Lord Krishna, including righteousness, compassion, wisdom, courage and devotion, and urged the students to imbibe these virtues in their daily lives.” “As part of the traditional celebrations, students enthusiastically participated in the Dahi Handi activity. The students, dressed in Krishna attire, formed teams and joyfully attempted to break the earthen pot suspended at a height, recreating the traditional spirit associated with the festival.” “Teachers also actively participated in the celebrations and encouraged the students throughout the



programme. The festive atmosphere, coupled with the vibrant participation of the students, made the celebration a memorable and joyous occasion.” “The programme concluded on a cheerful note, with the school community celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna while reaffirming the importance of preserving India's rich cultural heritage and traditional values.

Grand Pre-Sri Krishna Janmashtami Celebrations Held at Jammikunta Kerala School.



“P. S. Ashokan “Hyderabad. “JAMMIKUNTA: Pre-Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations were conducted with immense zeal and grand fervor at Kerala School, Jammikunta. The event brought together students, teachers, and parents in a vibrant cultural showcase within the school premises. “The proceedings commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the School Chairman, Shri K.S. Benny, formally inaugurating the festive event. The school campus was adorned for the occasion, hosting a series of special cultural programs. “Children dressed in traditional attire representing Lord Krishna and Radha captivated the audience, creating a joyous and festive atmosphere throughout the campus. Parents expressed their appreciation for the school management's commitment to imparting quality education alongside fostering cultural awareness, literary engagement, and traditional values among students. “The event concluded on a high note, with active participation from students, parents, faculty, and administrative staff, making the celebrations a resounding success.

‘She fought for those who couldn’t’: Jailed DU student’s family waits for reunion



GNS News Agency, Sept 4

Before Akriti’s 25th birthday, her father, Arun Chaudhary, sat at their home in West Bengal’s Durgapur and wrote her a letter. “My dear daughter Soni, Happy birthday,” he wrote. “But this time, your birthday is very difficult for us. Everyone is at home, but our greatest joy, our Soni, is not with us. Today, I can’t even hug you and say Happy Birthday. There’s probably no greater pain for motu papa,” Chaudhary wrote. July 18 was her birthday. It also marked 99 days in police custody. Her friends read the letter aloud when they visited her in jail that day.

Akriti was arrested in connection with the Noida workers’ protest in April this year. She was named in 11 FIRs and the National Security Act (NSA) was invoked against her a month later. On Wednesday, the Allahabad High Court quashed her detention, describing the invocation of the stringent NSA as “arbitrary and vague”. While Akriti has been granted bail in five FIRs, six bail pleas are yet to be heard in the High Court. Chaudhary said that he trusted the judiciary. “I know how my daughter was shaping out to be. I might have not said this to her, but when I visited her in Delhi in February, she took me to a basti where she used to teach poor children. I felt extremely proud that my daughter has grown into someone very different from the society... but I had told her to be cautious” he said. A history graduate from Delhi University who recently enrolled in law, Akriti, her father said, felt strongly about others. “I used to send her Rs 14,000 a month. How is it possible to survive on this amount in Delhi? But she would say no to even an extra rupee. She used to take tuition classes to earn a little,” Chaudhary said. College senior and friend, Naureen Sabba, 26, said Akriti is an artist who used art to teach difficult subjects. “She used to do theatre and even produce and direct nukkad natak (street plays). On March 23, observed as Shaheed Diwas, she directed a play in Shahbad Dairy,” she told The Indian Express.

Sabba said the locality where she lives has many children of domestic workers who cannot afford CUET classes. “Akriti teaches them,” she said. She said she last met Akriti before leaving for her hometown on March 30. She remembered that day with a laugh. “Akriti had cooked mutton that day, though she is not a good chef. I still remember what she said: ‘Aap jaa rahe ho, aapko rescue karne toh nahi aana padega agar aapke mummy papa na aane de wapas Delhi (You’re going, will we have to come to rescue you in case your parents don’t allow you to come back to Delhi?)’.” Phone notification, some relief On Wednesday, Chaudhary, who had been in Allahabad tracking the case, had to leave for Durgapur due to a death in the family. His wife, and his son who lives in Chennai, were waiting anxiously as a hearing was scheduled. Around noon, his phone buzzed. It was a notification from their lawyer, Manik Gupta: “NSA has been revoked, penalty of Rs 5 lakh ordered.” The order has brought them some relief.

“Akriti’s mother has been very happy since yesterday. She used to say whenever I left for Noida, kisi tarah beti ko wapas leke aao (bring our daughter back somehow),” he said. Chaudhary said Akriti never showed she was stressed during their calls. “Everyone fights for themselves, but she fought for the ones who couldn’t fight for themselves, the poor, the hungry,” he added. The family wanted her to prepare for the Union Public Service Commission Examination in Delhi so she would not have to face financial struggles, “But she chose this life and we accepted it,” Chaudhary said. On Wednesday, her friends reached Kasna Jail, where Akriti is lodged, around 1 pm. They had brought sketchbooks and were waiting to see her face when she was told about the High Court ruling. They had been tracking the developments on their way.

Suraj, 27, who first met Akriti during the DU Students’ Union election campaign in 2023, said, “We first met other friends in jail. We told Aditya about the NSA being quashed. He was happy... then, when Akriti stood behind the mesh, he told her. She was very happy, and asked when Satyam’s hearing was due.” “She has not stopped doing what she used to do outside. Inside, she reads books and discusses them with women inmates who cannot read. She did not ever break down,” Suraj added. Aditya Anand, an NIT Jamshedpur graduate, and Satyam Verma, a former journalist from Lucknow, were also arrested in the case. The NSA was slapped against Satyam as well. Back in Durgapur, Akriti’s family said that once she is out, they will make her stay with them for at least 15 days. “We will take good care of her and hold her tight,” said her father. “No parent should stand outside the court and jail under the sun, waiting for a mere glance of their child through a mesh.”

Anti-corruption panel searches former Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim’s 2 firms



GNS News Agency, Sept 4

West Bengal’s Anti-Institutional Corruption Commission and police searched two private companies owned by former minister and former Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim in New Alipore Officials said the operation was part of an investigation into whether the assets of these companies—Hakim Polymaker Private Limited and Hakim Chemicals—were acquired through corruption and if institutional corruption was involved.

Firhad Hakim, popularly known as Bobby in political circles, is listed as the owner of both entities on their websites. Neither Hakim nor any of his family members were present during the searches at the offices in the Tollygunge Circular Road area. The Anti-Corruption Commission was established by the BJP government under

retired Justice Biswajit Basu to investigate allegations of institutional corruption that took place during Trinamool Congress rule. Although Hakim was re-elected on a Trinamool ticket from the Kolkata Port constituency in the recent Assembly elections, a political shift in the state led to his resignation as Kolkata mayor. He subsequently joined a rebel faction within the Trinamool Congress alongside leaders such as Ritabrata Banerjee.

Pointing to controversies from his tenures as the urban development minister and the Kolkata mayor, Hakim’s political rivals have questioned the “delay” in government action against him at a time many TMC leaders are facing various investigations. “There were a lot of allegations against Hakim as former mayor. Then he joined the ‘so-called Trinamool’. Since then, no action has been taken against him. They have arrested Trinamool members wherever they were located. Why wasn’t Firhad Hakim arrested? When he was the urban development Minister, I showed in the Assembly that Firhad Hakim had signed off on the plan approval for the collapsed house in Taratala. Yet no action was taken against him,” TMC veteran Saugata Roy said. Minister Agnimitra Paul also targeted Hakim over alleged lapses related to fire incidents and illegal constructions during his administrative tenures. “Amidst this mountain of allegations, minister Firhad Hakim, Mayor Firhad Hakim, was sitting at the helm during that time. So why shouldn’t you be held accountable? We have raised this exact question,” she said.

‘Tamil be given its entitled constitutional opportunity’: Vijay revives State’s bid to use it in High Court

Tamil in Madras High Court The resolution seeks procedures allowing petitions, documents and arguments to be submitted in Tamil; a system for judgments, decrees and court orders to be issued officially in Tamil; and training in legal Tamil and translation for judges, advocates and court employees. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay moved a government resolution in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday urging the Union government and the President to clear the use of Tamil as the primary language of the Madras High Court, alongside English. The move revives a demand the House endorsed 20 years ago. The resolution seeks procedures allowing petitions, documents and arguments to be submitted in Tamil; a system for judgments, decrees and court orders to be issued officially in Tamil; and training in legal Tamil and translation for judges, advocates and court employees. “This is not a demand to remove English,” Vijay told the Assembly. “It is a demand that Tamil be given the constitutional opportunity to which it is entitled.” The proposal turned a constitutional question into an argument about lived experience. A person may be physically present in a courtroom yet remain outside the meaning of what is unfolding if the words determining one’s life, land, family, employment, property or rights cannot be understood. “The language of justice being a language that the people can understand is a fundamental objective of democracy,” Vijay said. What the resolution says

Tamil is already the State’s official language under Section 2 of the Tamil Nadu Official Language Act, 1956. Sections 4-A and 4-B, introduced through amendments in 1976, legally permit evidence to be recorded and judgments, decrees and orders to be written in Tamil in civil and criminal courts subordinate to the High Court, as well as in tribunals, rent courts and revenue courts. The constitutional route for extending that use to the High Court is more complicated. Article 348(1) of the Constitution provides for En-

GLISH to be used in proceedings before the Supreme Court and High Courts. But Article 348(2) allows a State governor, with the President’s prior consent, to authorise the State’s official language in High Court proceedings.

Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, similarly allows the governor, again with prior presidential consent, to authorise an official language in addition to English for judgments, decrees and orders. An English translation must accompany a ruling delivered in the State language. Tamil Nadu’s Assembly unanimously passed a similar resolution on December 6, 2006, and forwarded it to the Union government. During the debate, lawmakers stressed that Tamil would supplement, rather than displace, English. The proposal did not advance. According to the present resolution, the Union law minister told the Rajya Sabha on February 22, 2018, that it had been referred to the Chief Justice of India and that the Supreme Court’s full court had declined it in a letter dated October 16, 2012. Vijay argued that rejection at one point could not close the question forever. Legal education, law books, dictionaries and translations of judgments in Tamil have expanded, he said, while digital courts, legal databases and technology-assisted translation have advanced. Artificial intelligence now makes it possible, he said, for speech in Tamil to be heard simultaneously in English. Vijay described Tamil as the world’s oldest language, still spoken vibrantly, with grammatical and literary riches spanning thousands of years and about nine crore speakers worldwide, including eight crore in India. The Union government recognised it as a classical language on October 12, 2004, based on its antiquity, continuous literary tradition, inscriptions and historical evidence. The resolution calls on the Union government to act immediately on a proposal forwarded by the governor under Article 348(2) and Section 7. Vijay asked members of every party to adopt it unanimously.

A brawl, a bandh, and 2 FIRs: Why Karnataka court refused to stop police probe



Karnataka High Court Puttur photocopy shop The incident involved customers at a photocopy shop who were allegedly attacked by the owners for questioning damages to a birth certificate. (Image generated using AI) The Karnataka High Court has refused to halt investigations into police complaints filed over a dispute at a photocopy shop in the Dakshina Kannada district that escalated into a communal incident following the intervention of right-wing groups on August 21.

“Do productive work. What is wrong if harmony prevails? Nothing wrong. Living in harmony is the best way of living. Always. It generates peace,” a single judge bench of the Karnataka High Court observed. The incident involved customers at a photocopy shop who were allegedly attacked by the owners for questioning damages to a birth certificate. The brawl between the customers, a Muslim woman and her two siblings, and the Hindu shop owners escalated into a communal incident with groups like the Hindu Jagaran Vedike entering the fray. After the owners were arrested, the groups called a Puttur bandh on August 25 demanding the customers’ arrest.

The fight at the store The incident at Dream Destination Jana Seva Kendra, a photocopy store and travel agency in Puttur town, occurred on August 21 when homemaker Fathimath Miswan, 32, found that her child’s birth certificate, which she had given for lamination, had been returned damaged by the store staff. A verbal and physical fight ensued between Miswan and her brother, Mubaris, and the store owners, Anjana Pai and her son Sudarshan Pai, with Sudarshan allegedly assaulting Mubaris. The incident resulted in a complaint and a counter-complaint. The police

registered an attempt to murder case against the store owners, and booked the customers for intentional insult and criminal intimidation. Following the registration of the rival complaints, right-wing groups in Puttur demanded more serious action by the police against the customers. On August 23, the Puttur town police registered another FIR linked to the incident against Dinesh Panjiga, an activist of the Hindu Jagaran Vedike, for threatening on social media to stage protests for the arrest of the customers involved in the fight. Two of the cases reached the Karnataka High Court last week even as right-wing groups observed a Puttur bandh on August 25 and held protests on August 26 and August 31. While Anjana and Sudarshan questioned the invoking of the attempt to murder charge in the high court, Panjiga questioned the suo motu police FIR for his social media call for protests. What the two sides argued On September 1, state Special Public Prosecutor B N Jagadeesh argued in the high court that the incident “with regard to a document that was damaged in a Xerox shop... had nothing to do with any religion”. “The entire incident has been given a communal colour, and yesterday there was a protest and a bandh was called earlier. The FIR was registered after a preliminary inquiry was conducted and not prior to that,” he argued. The CCTV footage at the shop shows the incident, Jagadeesh said. “The accused has a prior history of assaults. He is not an innocent person. It has nothing to do with religion,” he added. The senior counsel for the store owners and the social media activist, Aruna Shyam, argued that police had not invoked the attempt to murder section against the customers but only invoked it in the complaint against the owners.

“The investigation is going one-sided,” Shyam argued while seeking the quashing of the attempt to murder charge against the store owners. On September 1, the Karnataka High Court refused to stop investigations in the cases over the store fight. “I deem it appropriate to allow investigations to go on in both cases,” Justice M Nagaprasanna said, disposing of the store owner’s challenge of the FIR. “The Xerox shop thing has created a lot of stir. It is not correct. Let there be an investigation in both cases,” the judge said. “When the matter was sub judice, why was a bandh called?” he observed. The high court, however, granted interim protection against arrest to Panjiga over the August 23 social media call for protests against Muslims over the incident.

Ahmedabad blast death-row prisoner gets 7 days to move Supreme Court

Three convicts in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts case— death-row prisoners Abbas Umar Sameja and Iqbal alias Ikrar Kasambhai Shaikh, and life convict Mohammad Safiq alias Dadabhai alias Thakur alias Rafiq alias Ali Ansari—have moved the Gujarat High Court for parole, with Sameja being granted seven days’ leave to prepare a Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court on Wednesday. Justice Sanjeev J Thaker, in an order passed on September 2, allowed Sameja’s petition partly and directed that he be released for seven days with a police escort at the cost of the State. The court imposed conditions requiring him to furnish a personal bond of Rs 10,000, remain at a specified address in Bhuj— his son’s residence— during the entire period and surrender to the jail authorities immediately on expiry of the parole.



From Faridkot to Vancouver, Canada’s celebrity Sikh cop recounts family’s journey



A Sikh policeman of Canada’s Vancouver Police Department, Sukhwinder Singh Sunger, also known as Suki, has become an internet sensation after participating in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2026 festival in Scotland in late August as a drum major. He tells The Indian Express that he hopes his fame helps immigrants integrate their culture with Canadian values.

Q: Where in Punjab does your family come from?

Sukhwinder Singh Sunger: On my dad’s side, there was immigration to Canada as early as 1914 through 1920. I have a passport-style photo of my grandfather, dated 1930 and taken in Vancouver. My grandmother would speak about Faridkot and Raunta village, so my understanding is that is where she was from. My mother’s family was from New Delhi. My dad was born and grew up in Mission, British Columbia, and later moved to Abbotsford, BC (both are about 45 minutes east of Vancouver). My dad’s family owned a raspberry farm. My mother immigrated in 1976, and my parents relocated to Victoria, British Columbia, after my older sister and I were born.

Q: Tell us about your childhood, education, and what made you join the Vancouver Police Department (VPD).

Sukhwinder Singh Sunger: I grew up in Victoria with my older and younger sister. It was during high school that I knew I wanted to pursue a career in policing. I attended college and studied criminal justice. After graduating, I began applying to various police departments throughout British Columbia and was hired by the Vancouver Police Department. I’ve had mainly operational assignments as a police officer working in patrol and a couple of investigative ones, including the General Investigation Unit and Major Crime Section. In 2012, I applied for and was successful in a transfer to the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan, Africa. I was deployed overseas with the UN from January 2012 to January 2013. I’m currently in the Traffic Enforcement Unit and ride a motorcycle as part of my duties.

Q: What made you join the pipes and drums ensemble in VPD?

Sukhwinder Singh Sunger: I was approached by the VPD Pipe Band leadership during a post-Remembrance

Day service in Vancouver on November 11, 2016. They simply asked if I had any experience with drumming and if I would like to join the VPD Pipe Band. I said that I had played the snare drum in elementary and high school and had taken private lessons on the dhol as a hobby. Further to that, as soon as they asked me, my mind was made up. This wasn’t about me; I was well aware that the band had never had a member who was a visible minority/person of colour and it would be an enormous opportunity for our community. The ability to see someone from their own background participating in a highly visible role.

Q: Did you have any formal training in music earlier?

Sukhwinder Singh Sunger: The band provided me with private tenor drumming lessons for a year, and I made my debut with the Pipe Band in December 2017. In 2025 our drum major retired, and a few of us put our names forward to fill the vacancy. In December 2025 I was elected by my peers in the band to a three-year term as drum major. My research suggests I am the 11th drum major in the VPD Pipe Band since its inception in 1914.

Q: What was the response you got in Edinburgh?

Sukhwinder Singh Sunger: Scottish residents and visitors were very happy and almost overcame to see a sardar in full highland dress. I could not walk anywhere without being asked to take photos or simply be told how much they loved my uniform and appearance. Normally I would find it difficult to stop as often as I had to, but the amount of joy and happiness people expressed when I stopped to chat or take a photo made it easy. I would smile at people and ask, “Do I have a choice?” They would tell me I didn’t. Many would tell me stories of a Sikh neighbour or friend and how generous and kind they were. Some would share stories of their family member serving in the military with Sikhs.

Q: How has the internet fame helped you, VPD, and Canada in diversity efforts?

Sukhwinder Singh Sunger: I’m a very private individual, so I don’t participate in social media. I can’t speak to any efforts in terms of diversity and am an ardent supporter of merit-based decision-making and selection.

Q: Given the rising hate for immigrants, how do you think the Edinburgh fame helps immigrants in Canada?

Sukhwinder Singh Sunger: I don’t know if short-lived internet fame has any bearing or influence on immigrants in Canada. Perhaps it may give immigrants motivation to, of course, bring their culture and beliefs but also make an effort to know the culture and societal norms of Canada and integrate them into their daily lives.

Q: What is the way ahead for you personally?

Sukhwinder Singh Sunger: I will continue my participation with the VPD Pipe Band and my regular duties as a Traffic Enforcement Officer. Like any skill, I will need to continue to practise my drill and study the music we play as a pipe band to ensure we are always performing at the highest level.

Amid opposition, House passes Universities (Amendment) Bill



GNS News Agency, Sept 4

The Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday passed the Himachal Pradesh State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2026, amid strong opposition from BJP legislators, who said that the proposed changes would undermine the autonomy of state universities and bring their functioning under greater government control.Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who moved the Bill for consideration and passage, described it as a “historic” legislation aimed at safeguarding the interests of qualified youth and people of Himachal Pradesh. He assured the House that the government would not interfere in the syllabus, routine academic functioning or student-teacher affairs of universities.The Bill, which will now be sent for the Governor’s assent, will cover Himachal Pradesh University, established in 1970; Sardar Patel University, Mandi, established in 2021; Himachal Pradesh Technical University, established in 2014; Himachal Pradesh Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry University, established in 1986; and Atal Medical and Research University, established in 2017.Sukhu further said, “Appointments to the posts of Assistant Professor and Professor would continue to be made by the universities and asserted that the Bill would not affect their recruitment. Financial requirements of universities would be examined by the Finance Secretary led Finance Committee, including whether a new university was required. The Executive Committee, headed by the Vice-Chancellor, would remain supreme, while the Finance Committee would submit its reports to the Executive Committee.” He said, “Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission will only recruit the class-III and class-IV employees and non-teaching faculty member.”

Leader of Opposition (LoP) Jairam Thakur said, “This amendment Bill will also meet the same fate which was meet to the amended provisions of Himachal Pradesh Universities of Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry Act, 1986, in the Himachal High Court on August 27. He said that the high court had struck down provisions that gave the state government a decisive role in appointing vice-chancellors (V-Cs) of the state’s agricultural universities.BJP MLA Randhir Sharma from Sri Naina Devi opposed the Bill, say-

ing universities were already regulated by the UGC and enjoyed autonomy under its rules and regulations. He said, “The amendment amounted to an “attack” on the independence of universities.” Sharma objected particularly to the proposed role of the government in recruitment and financial affairs, arguing that the existing system provided for university-based selection committees with UGC and government nominees. Sharma also linked the Bill an attempt to fill certain people affiliated to a particular class, political party into the state universities, which were funded by the UGC.He said the proposal was also contrary to the National Education Policy’s emphasis on institutional autonomy. Recalling his student days with Sukhu, Sharma said they had together fought for university autonomy. BJP MLA from Bilaspur Trilok Jamwal accused the government of trying to convert universities into government departments. He questioned the proposed composition of the Finance Committee and said that the amendment was being brought to facilitate government appointments.

Jamwal said, “One of the provisions in the amendments is that Finance Secretary will chair the Finance Committee and Vice-Chancellor will be the member of committee. Vice-Chancellor is the representative of Chancellor-cum-Governor. Does this provision not undermine the protocol? State’s Finance Secretary will chair the committee and Vice-Chancellor will be a member of the committee means a representative of Chancellor-cum-Governor report to the Finance Secretary.”Meanwhile, Technical Education Minister Rajesh Dharmani defended the Bill, saying autonomy was important but could not become a shield for misuse. He cited examples from YS Parmar University and NIT Hamirpur and suggested that teaching posts should be filled through expert committees, while non-teaching posts could be recruited through the Public Service Commission on merit.Opposing the Bill, BJP MLA Vipin Singh Parmar said that the Bill would collapse university autonomy.

Defending the Bill, Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi supported the legislation and criticised the BJP over its past appointments. Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur accused the government of repeatedly bringing Bills and amendments that later faced judicial scrutiny. Sukhu hit back, saying the LoP was “in the habit of speaking lies” and clarified that a court had commented on university rules, not struck down the entire Act. Congress MLAs Suresh Kumar and Harish Janartha also backed the Bill, with Janartha stressing the need for greater monitoring of financial affairs and alleging irregularities in university administration.Two moe bills including Shimla Roads Users and Pedestrians (Public Safety and Convenience) Amendment Bill, 2026, seeking to further amend the Shimla Roads Users and Pedestrians (Public Safety and Convenience) Act, 2007. Sukhu also introduced the Himachal Pradesh Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026, proposing further amendments to the Himachal Pradesh Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, were passed in the Assembly on Wednesday.

Pune man who ignited noise during Ganpati festival debate attacked on camera

GNS News Agency, Sept 4

Vidyanand Bapat, whose campaign against noise pollution during the Ganpati celebration in Pune has sparked a massive debate, was attacked in public on Thursday morning. The incident was caught on camera. Bapat is seen speaking to some mediapersons when a man slaps him.A senior police officer said they are investigating the incident. Krushikesh Rawale, Deputy Commissioner of Police, said, “Half an hour ago, we were informed that a person attacked Bapat while he was giving an interview. One person is visible in the video. Who he is and why he has done it is yet to be investigated. As soon as we know, we will let you know. The CCTV shows only one person, but we are gathering footage from various angles.”

Who is Vidyand BapatThirty-seven-year-old Bapat, who works at a BPO firm and lives in Pune’s Narayan Peth, has come into the spotlight after sparking a debate over noise levels in the city during the Ganpati festival.

At a meeting of the Pune Municipal Corporation on August 24 to discuss regulations for the festival, Bapat demanded that DJ speakers and Dhol Tasha groups be banned from the streets as they cause noise pollution and inconvenience to citizens. Representatives of Ganpati mandals opposed the demand, saying there must be no restrictions. Eventually, police escorted Bapat out of the venue.Born and brought up in Ratnagiri, Bapat moved to Pune nine years ago. “People do not move out of their houses during the Ganpati festival in the Peth area due to the noise. This is unacceptable,” he said. Bapat, who has garnered a social media following for his uncompromising stand, told The Indian Express, “Decibel limits can never be followed if you allow loudspeakers or Dhol Tasha in public spaces. They should be played in an enclosed place, such as an auditorium. Those who want to listen can go inside. That is the only solution to reduce this menace of noise pollution.”In 2025, the Solapur District Collector banned the use of DJ speakers during the Ganesh festival. Bapat says it is one of the reasons he decided to raise the issue in Pune this year. “Normally, if you play loudspeakers or Dhol Tasha it falls under public nuisance: Section 270 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. But a tradition has been created that it is somehow justifiable in the name of a festival. It is not okay on any day of the year, at any time and at any public place,” he said.



Mangire, a leader of the committee and a BJP and RSS member, said, “There is a recent trend to label anyone who opposes something as an anti-national. This is not correct. That is why whenever I am issuing statements against noise pollution, I am mentioning that I am associated with the RSS.”Now, Bapat’s fierce stand on the issue has given a boost to their movement. Bapat also joined a press conference organised by the committee.While public opinion on the issue is divided, not all Ganpati mandals support noise pollution. Deepak Marne, president of Babu Genu Ganpati trust, said his mandal uses only dhol tasha during the visarjan ceremony. “We have never used DJs. I don’t feel dhol tasha should be opposed because it is our tradition. There can be restrictions on the number of instruments. Nowadays some use 100 dhols, we can reduce it to about 40. I agree that there should be limits to the noise,” he told .On September 1, the National Human Rights Commission also took note of a complaint about high noise levels during the Ganesh festival. The commission issued a notice to the Chairman of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, asking him to submit an Action Taken Report within two weeks.Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on August 31 weighed in on the issue, but stopped short of making his stand clear. “I will definitely be asked if DJ should be used in Ganeshotsav or not. But I want to tell Punekaras that only Pune has the ability to celebrate a festival in a completely traditional way. My message to Punekaras is that instead of getting dragged into this issue, they should show Maharashtra how a festival can be celebrated in a completely traditional manner.”

Woman found stabbed to death, lover unconscious

A couple had checked into a hotel in North Delhi’s Lahori Gate hotel on Wednesday night. By Thursday morning, 28-year-old Shivani was dead from multiple stab wounds and her lover Prakash, 28, was found unconscious after allegedly consuming poison, police said.

The two were staying at the Prince Hotel. Police said hotel staff became suspicious when the couple did not respond to calls. They opened the door with a spare key and found Shivani lying in a pool of blood and Prakash unconscious.DCP (North) Niharika Bhatt said, “We received information at Lahori Gate police station that a man and a woman were found unconscious at Hotel Prince. A police team immediately reached the spot... the woman bore multiple stab wounds.”Both were rushed to the hospital, where the woman was declared dead on arrival. Police said Prakash is undergoing treatment.Police said that Shivani was from Bihar’s Samastipur while Prakash is from Rajasthan. Police said that prima facie, Prakash appears to have consumed some kind of liquid poison before he stabbed Shivani multiple times.

Consumer Commission orders attachment of Sushma Chandigarh Grande for recovery of dues



GNS News Agency, Sept 4

The Chandigarh State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed the Deputy Commissioner-cum-Collector, Mohali, to attach the entire Sushma Chandigarh Grande project on the Chandigarh-Ambala Highway in Zirakpur and appoint a receiver to recover the decretal amount from Sushma Buildtech Limited and its directors.The direction was issued by the Commission on August 31, 2026, after noting that no compliance had been made with its earlier order and that none of the judgment debtors’ representatives had appeared despite being served. The Commission consequently proceeded against them ex parte.

The execution application was filed by decree holder Munisha Sharma through her counsel, advocate Arihant Goel, following an order passed by the Commission on September 20, 2024.In that order, the Commission had directed Sushma Buildtech Limited, its Managing Director Binder Pal Mittal and directors Pardeep Kumar and Bharat Mittal to hand over actual physical possession of the residential unit to the complainants.The couple had approached the Commission over their 1,885-square-foot unit in Sushma Chandigarh Grande, Zirakpur. They had stated that they

had paid Rs 90 lakh towards the total sale consideration of Rs 1.01 crore but had not been given possession within the stipulated period.The Commission had directed the opposite parties to “deliver actual physical possession of the unit in question, to the complainants complete in all respects”. It had also ordered payment of interest at 9 per cent per annum on the amount deposited by the complainants from July 1, 2020, to September 20, 2024. For the period thereafter, it directed payment of 9 per cent interest on the Rs 90 lakh deposited by the couple from September 21, 2024, until actual delivery of possession.

The Commission had additionally awarded Rs 1.5 lakh as compensation for mental agony and harassment and Rs 50,000 towards litigation costs.In the latest execution proceedings, the Commission noted that counsel for the decree holder had sought permission to file a fresh calculation sheet and directed that it be submitted on the next date of hearing.Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner-cum-Collector, Mohali, has been directed to attach the entire project situated at Sushma Chandigarh Grande, Chandigarh-Ambala Highway, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar, Punjab, and appoint a receiver for recovery of the decretal amount.The Deputy Commissioner has also been directed to submit a compliance report to the Commission on or before the next hearing.

The Commission directed that the decretal amount “be treated as arrear of land revenue and be recovered from the judgment debtors”.The judgment debtors have also been restrained from creating any third-party interest in the property in dispute.The order, however, clarified that if the complainants had taken a housing loan from a bank or financial institution to pay for the property, the lender would have the first charge on the amount recovered, to the extent of the outstanding amount due from the complainants as on the date of the order.

Punjab and Haryana High Court rejects dismissal of DSP Sandhu, removed from service over recording of Lawrence interview

The Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered the reinstatement of DSP Gursher Singh Sandhu after finding that the state had not justified bypassing a regular departmental inquiry.The Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered the reinstatement of DSP Gursher Singh Sandhu after finding that the state had not justified bypassing a regular departmental inquiry.Holding that Punjab government had wrongly bypassed a regular departmental inquiry, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has quashed the dismissal of DSP Gursher Singh Sandhu, who was removed from service over the recording of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi’s interview while he was in police custody.



Justice Namit Kumar, in a judgment released on Wednesday, directed the state to reinstate Sandhu with all consequential benefits. The court, however, said the reinstatement would not affect the state’s right to continue the departmental inquiry already pending against Sandhu and other police officers before former HC judge Justice Rajiv Narain Raina. The court held that the state had failed to establish circumstances that made a regular departmental inquiry “not reasonably practicable”, as required to invoke Article 311(2)(b) of the Constitution, which allows an inquiry to be dispensed with in exceptional cases.

The case relates to Lawrence’s interview recorded on the intervening night of September 3 and 4, 2022, while he was in the custody of CIA Staff, Kharar. A Special Investigation Team constituted on the HC directions had recommended departmental action against police officers for alleged misconduct, negligence and dereliction of duty during his custody.Sandhu, then Mohali DSP (Detective), received show-cause notices in September and October 2024. The second notice alleged he facilitated the interview by being present at CIA Staff, Kharar, and staying in close contact — telephonically and personally — with journalist Jagwinder Patial of a news channel. He was subsequently suspended and chargesheeted on October 25, 2024.Sandhu had denied the allegations, submitting that Lawrence’s inner security at CIA Staff, Kharar, was being supervised by the Anti-Gangster Task Force, while the CIA was responsible only for the outer cordon and transit security.Sandhu’s counsel, senior advocate D S Patwalia, assisted by advocate Bikramjit Singh Patwalia, argued that the power to dispense with an inquiry was exceptional and could not be exercised mechanically.

Referring to Rule 8 of the Punjab Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, 1970 and Rule 16.24 of the Punjab Police Rules, 1934, Sandhu submitted that dismissal was a major penalty and ordinarily required a regular departmental inquiry. He argued that the reasons cited by the state, including alleged evasion of service and non-cooperation, were flimsy.On the allegation that Sandhu had deliberately evaded service of the chargesheet, his counsel submitted that the state was aware of his permanent ad-

dress at Jalandhar, but the chargesheet was sent to his Chandigarh address after he had been transferred from there.The HC found the record did not support the state’s case — presented through Additional Advocate General P I P Singh — of deliberate non-cooperation. It noted that Sandhu had replied to the first showcause notice, filed an interim reply to the second and sought documents needed to respond effectively.“Mere recital in the order that an inquiry is not reasonably practicable would not, by itself, be sufficient. The competent authority must demonstrate a real and proximate nexus between the circumstances prevailing at the relevant time and the inability to hold departmental enquiry,” the HC said. It also noted that there was no material showing that Sandhu had threatened or intimidated witnesses, tampered with evidence or interfered with the functioning of the inquiry officer.

The HC further pointed out that the same departmental inquiry against nine officers was continuing before Justice Raina. “If the inquiry could be conducted against the other officers in respect of the same occurrence, the respondents were required to demonstrate some additional circumstance peculiar to the petitioner which made an inquiry against him impracticable. No such circumstance has been shown,” it added.After his dismissal, Sandhu obtained the chargesheet through his counsel and appeared before Justice Raina virtually on November 1, 2025, besides appearing on later dates in March 2026. The proceedings concerning him were closed only on May 3, 2026 after the inquiry officer noted that he had already been dismissed.“The aforesaid sequence of events demonstrates that there was, in fact, no impediment in conducting the departmental enquiry against the petitioner...,” the HC said.It also rejected the state’s stand on service of the chargesheet, noting that there was no material to show that a genuine attempt was made to serve it at Sandhu’s known permanent address in Jalandhar.The HC further held that once the department had considered it feasible to initiate regular disciplinary proceedings, abandoning it and resorting to Article 311(2)(b) required a subsequent or newly-arisen circumstance making the inquiry not reasonably practicable.

NIMS doctors perform high-risk heart procedure, save Telangana labourer’s life

Hyderabad: A 30-year-old labourer from Telangana, who was suffering from multiple medical heart conditions including irregular heartbeat, enlarged pumping heart chamber and weakened heart muscle, underwent minimally invasive treatment at Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS).



The cardiology team led by Head and Prof. O Sai Satish conducted procedures including EPS (Electrophysiological Study) and RFA (Radiofrequency Ablation) using advanced 3D mapping. Using 3D mapping, the doctors pinpointed the source of irregular beats right next to a main heart valve and a major coronary artery.

Treating weak spots in

the heart was risky as a mistake could damage vital blood vessels or the heart valve. To do it safely, doctors mapped the blood vessels carefully using an angio-

gram and delivered radiofrequency energy to carefully neutralize the tiny spot of heart tissue causing the irregular rhythm.“The patient tolerated the proce-

dure well and had an eventful recovery. Post-procedure monitoring showed total successful suppression of the irregular heartbeats.

Robotaxi service debuts on London’s busy streets as Europe weighs more self-driving vehicles



GNS News Agency, Sept 4

London: Uber and British tech company Wayve are launching London’s first self-driving taxi service on Thursday, giving residents a chance to use technology that’s already available in many US cities and other parts of the world. The two companies said they’re starting with a small rollout of Ford Mustang Mach-E electric vehicles outfitted with Wayve’s autonomous vehicle technology.

Compared with the US and China – countries where robotaxis operate autonomously in several cities, with no human driver – Europe has been taking a more cautious approach on self-driving cabs. In London, there will still be a person behind the wheel overseeing the trip who can grab the wheel or tap the brakes if there’s a problem. Under the UK government’s pilot framework, self-driving taxi operators like Uber and Wayve still need approval to operate without a human safety driver. “That process is still playing out,”

Iran war escalation raises concern over civilian death toll

CAIRO/WASHINGTON.- The sudden recent escalation of the Iran war has cast renewed attention on its civilian toll ?after Iran reported 18 dead in the last U.S. assault, including four killed and dozens wounded at a wedding. Iran’s health minister said 18 people were killed ?and 108 wounded in Tuesday night’s U.S. strikes across Iran. The Iranian Red Crescent said four people were killed and 67 wounded at a wedding ceremony near the coast of the Strait of Hormuz.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. The return of combat operations has alarmed countries throughout the region, as Iran launched missile and drone attacks against what it said were U.S. assets in Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and Iraq. Kuwait’s army reported further missile and drone attacks early Thursday, ?saying they were intercepted by air defense systems. The guns had largely gone silent since the previous exchange in July, although peace talks failed to advance in the interim. ?U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to unleash yet more military force, even though the war is unpopular at home and has driven up ?the cost of gasoline. Top aides to Trump are pushing to keep the war from escalating before November’s midterm elections to staunch Republican electoral losses, and White House officials will consider ramping up ?military action after the vote on November 3, four people familiar with the discussions said.

Iran, for its part, has remained defiant, despite suffering heavy military and economic losses. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio ?Guterres was “deeply alarmed by reports of civilian casualties, including a strike that reportedly hit a wedding ceremony in Iran,” and called for an immediate cessation of military action, his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said. “The Secretary-General condemns all attacks against civilians. He recalls that all parties must respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution,” Dujarric said. The deaths would be in addition to the 3,636 people documented as ?killed in Iran as of April 7, including 1,701 civilians, according to the Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), an independent Iranian rights group. “We are aware of reports, which originated from Iranian state media. The U.S. military never targets civilians, unlike the IRGC,” U.S. Navy Captain Tim Hawkins, a spokesperson for the U.S. military’s ?Central Command, ?said in an email.

China's Xi urges new Middle East security framework during Egypt visit

CAIRO/BEIJING, Chinese President Xi Jinping called on ?Middle Eastern nations to oppose external interference and consider reshaping the region’s security order during a visit to Egypt on ?Wednesday, as Beijing seeks to expand its influence amid the U.S. war against Iran. Xi’s first trip to the Middle East in four years comes as U.S. partners in the region reassess their strategic relationships after months of conflict that have disrupted trade, shaken economies and raised questions about Washington’s long-term role.

Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here. Egypt, itself a major U.S. defence partner that receives around \$1.3 billion ?annually in military aid from Washington, has been steadily increasing economic and military cooperation with China in recent years. Welcomed by President Abdel ?Fattah al-Sisi with a military ceremony in Cairo, Xi said countries in the region should be “masters of their own ?destiny” and explore a new regional “security architecture”, according to China’s state news agency Xinhua. Xi also said China was ready to work with regional countries ?to safeguard shipping routes, an issue that has taken on greater importance after conflict disrupted traffic through the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb.

The leaders ?agreed to deepen security cooperation and counterterrorism coordination, Xinhua said. The two sides also agreed to expand cooperation in data centers, semiconductors and critical metals supply chains and strengthen the use of each other’s currencies in trade and investment, according to a joint statement.

‘STRATEGIC BALANCE’ For Egypt, stronger ties with China fit a broader effort to diversify international partnerships. ?In an article published ahead of the visit, Sisi said Egypt pursued a policy of “strategic balance” at a time of growing global rivalry. Item 1 of 5 Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Chinese President Xi Jinping listen to their countries’ national anthems during Xi’s official visit to Egypt, his first state visit to the country in 10 years, at the Ittihadiya Presidential Palace in Cairo, Egypt, September 2, 2026, in this handout picture courtesy of the Egyptian Presidency. The Egyptian Presidency/Handout v

“Egypt wants ?to widen the circle of its relations with

and it’s not clear how long it will take, said Sarfraz Maredia, Uber’s head of autonomous mobility. Robotaxi companies have been testing their vehicles on London streets as Britain moves to adopt national regulations. Waymo and Chinese tech company Baidu are also gearing up to offer commercial passenger service in London, which poses unique challenges to robotaxis because its narrow and famously convoluted roads are frequently congested with cars, buses, bicycles and electric rental bikes.

Pedestrians also pose a bigger challenge in London because jaywalking is not against the law. Many countries in Europe are still in the testing phase. Uber said last month it launched its first European commercial robotaxi service in Zagreb, Croatia, in partnership with a local operator and China’s Pony.ai, but human safety drivers are still required. Meanwhile in the United States, Waymo, owned by Google parent Alphabet, now operates fully autonomous taxi service in 14 cities, while Amazon’s Zoox and Tesla are catching up. In China, Baidu, WeRide and Pony.AI operate robotaxi services in multiple cities. They’ve also been expanding into the Middle East in partnerships with Uber or local fleet operators in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia. The deployment in London will start with under 20 vehicles and expand from there, Maredia said. Uber customers won’t be able to specifically request a robotaxi, but they could be matched with a Wayve vehicle when they hail a ride on the app, which they can accept or reject. Prices won’t be any different from a regular Uber ride. Passengers won’t be prompted to tip at the end of a robotaxi trip, the company said.



The Iranian Red Crescent Society released video showing debris strewn on the ground next to a building with a large hole in the roof, accompanied by still images showing people, some in Red Crescent vests, at a damaged building and a utility tower lying on the ground. Reuters was able to verify the location using satellite imagery, which showed the fallen tower was 136 metres (149 yards) from the damaged building. The wedding incident recalled the blast at a school in Minab that killed 160 people at a girls’ school on the first day of the war. The Pentagon ?has yet to issue an official finding on ?the Minab strike, which would be ?the U.S. military’s largest civilian casualty incident in decades. It may have been the result of U.S. use of outdated targeting data, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Democratic members of the U.S. Congress have called on the administration to release findings of its investigation of the incident, ?but the report has not been sent to lawmakers. U.S. defenders of the Iran war also point to civilian deaths that resulted from ?Iranian attempts to put ?down street protests that embroiled the country in December and January, before the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on February 28. HRANA has put that death toll at more than 7,000, while Iranian exile groups claim the number is much higher. Trump has cited an incentive for Iranians to overthrow their government as one reason for the war, in addition to seeking to halt Iran’s nuclear program and ?ending its support ?for militant groups abroad such as Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis. Iran has also responded to the U.S. attacks ?by threatening any oil tankers that transit the Strait of Hormuz without Iranian authorization, severely curtailing traffic in a waterway that before the war carried 20% of the world’s oil supply.



major world powers, including China,” former Egyptian diplomat Ayman Zaineldine told Reuters. “So the visions converge.” For China, Egypt’s regional influence and ?strategic location ?make it an important partner as Beijing seeks a broader economic role and tries to chip away at U.S. influence in the region. “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. 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. Enthusiasm 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. Home to the Suez Canal and a population of ?more than 110 million, ?Egypt is an important market for China, importing some \$10 billion of Chinese goods in the first half of this year alone. Chinese investment has risen rapidly since Sisi visited China and signed a strategic partnership agreement in 2014, with Chinese companies pouring billions into container ports, green hydrogen projects and facilities to make iron ?pipes, car ?tyres, and satellites. Egypt’s cabinet says the Suez Canal Economic Zone has attracted about \$4 billion in Chinese investment. ?On Wednesday, Egyptian authorities announced plans to expand a Chinese-developed industrial area in the zone.

Trump aides seek 'quiet' in Iran war but say attacks may intensify after November elections



WASHINGTON, Top aides to President Donald Trump are pushing to keep the Iran war from escalating before November’s midterm elections to staunch Republican electoral losses, four people familiar with the discussions said, a strategy already under strain as the U.S. and Iran exchanged back-and-forth attacks overnight. White ?House officials will consider ramping up military action after the November 3 vote, said the sources, who requested anonymity to describe internal thinking, though any return to full-scale conflict is far from a given. The U.S. military said ?its latest strikes were retaliation for recent attacks on American forces and marine traffic in the region. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here. For now, the sources said, the administration wants to rely on applying more economic pressure on Iran in an effort to extract concessions in any future negotiation that months of military action failed to secure. “We are keeping the pressure on Iran,” one White House official said. “But November is a priority.”

Keeping the war mostly contained until then would help prevent the unpopular conflict from dominating the news as Trump’s Republicans campaign to defend thin majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives, said the sources, three of whom are White House officials.

Only 31% of ?Americans approve of the war, while some 63% disapprove, according to a late August Reuters/Ipsos poll, and voters are particularly unhappy about high gas prices. A tactical pause could also give the U.S. military some breathing room to replenish its heavily depleted munitions stockpiles, the ?sources said. But pulling off the play-it-cool strategy looks more difficult by the day. While the conflict remains much less intense than it was during the spring or during a flare-up in the middle of ?the summer, both sides have exchanged tit-for-tat strikes in recent days. Iran’s leaders, emboldened after months of disrupting traffic through the Strait of Hormuz and facing little internal unrest, will likely keep striking at U.S. and allied Gulf targets, including military bases, vessels and energy infrastructure, at least ?periodically, analysts said. The U.S. will face pressure to retaliate, potentially leading to an escalatory spiral that brings both sides back to a full-scale air war - whether the administration wants it or not. Over the weekend, the U.S. struck rocket launchers on Iran’s Larak Island, prompting Iran to fire missiles ?toward Jordan and the United Arab Emirates. The U.S. hit more Iranian targets around the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday in the biggest outbreak of fighting since July, a fresh outburst of violence that killed military personnel and civilians in Iran. “The regime has every incentive to disrupt the ‘calm’ - which is no real calm, after all, since the administration’s explicit aim is to increase economic pressure massively on Iran,” said Barbara Leaf, who served as the top State Department official for the Middle East under former President Joe Biden.

Another wild card is Trump himself. The president’s

South Asian American lawmakers unite against rising hate in US

Washington: A coalition of South Asian American lawmakers and elected officials has called for stronger action against rising hate, harassment and violence targeting the community, as they gathered for a national roundtable led by Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. The meeting brought together federal, state and local elected officials to discuss discrimination facing South Asian Americans and ways policymakers can strengthen prevention, reporting and responses to hate crimes. US Representatives Pramila Jayapal, Ami Bera, Suhas Subramanyam and Shri Thanedar joined Krishnamoorthi at the roundtable, along with state and local elected officials from across the country.

Representatives of Indian American Impact and Stop AAPI Hate also participated. “Today’s roundtable brought together South Asian leaders from across the country to confront the rise in hate, harassment, and violence our communities are seeing and focus on what we can do about it,” Krishnamoorthi said. “This is about protecting South Asian Americans, but it is also about making clear that no American should be made to feel they do not belong because of where they were born, how they worship, or what their name sounds like,” he said.

“That is why I have been working to strengthen our response to hate crimes, including through the Hate Crimes Commission Act, so we can better understand what is driving this hate and prevent violence before it happens.” Participants discussed what South Asian communities have been experiencing, factors driving hate and measures that could improve prevention, reporting and responses, according to Krishnamoorthi’s office. State and local elected officials taking part came from North Carolina, New Jersey, Virginia, California, Michigan, Texas and Pennsylvania. Indian American Impact Executive Director Chintan Patel and Stop AAPI Hate co-founder Manju Kulkarni also participated.

The gathering comes amid heightened concern among South Asian American organisations and elected representatives over hate and discrimination directed against people because of their ethnicity, religion or national origin. Krishnamoorthi, who represents Illinois’ 8th Congressional District, has sought a broader federal examination of the causes of hate crimes and gaps in reporting them. He reintroduced the Hate Crimes Commission Act in May alongside Democratic Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and House co-leads Grace Meng and Nydia Velázquez. The legislation would establish a bipartisan US Commission on Hate Crimes to study factors contributing to such crimes, including the role of social media and technology, barriers to accurate reporting and approaches to prevention. It would also direct the Government Accountability Office to audit federal hate-crime data collection systems. Federal data cited when the legislation was reintroduced showed that more than 11,000 single-bias hate-crime incidents involving nearly 14,000 victims were reported to the FBI in 2024. Those incidents targeted Ameri-

approval rating has fallen from 40% to 33% since the conflict began, according to Reuters/Ipsos ?polling. Sources said he is not currently interested in escalation, but he is famously prone to changing his mind and could change course in response to events. Trump threatened on Tuesday to escalate the conflict if Iran hits back against the latest U.S. strikes. “If the failed Nation ?of Iran retaliates for this very justified attack, they will be hit again at a much harder and higher level, but it will not be the biggest attack of them all, that is waiting in the wings,” he wrote on his Truth Social platform. Trump on Wednesday said he did not think ?the renewed military campaign ?would last long. He also reiterated his position that the upcoming elections were not factoring into his Iran strategy. “Number one, I’m not running. My party is running, and I’m going to help my party,” he told reporters in the Oval Office. “But I think my party respects the fact that we’re not allowing Iran to have a nuclear weapon.”

CONSTRAINED BY LOGISTICS AND POLITICS As the war enters its seventh month, his White House finds itself increasingly constrained by logistical and political realities, however. “The timetable has changed,” one senior White House official said. Another added that the “calendar is driving Iran.” Reuters reported in August that the military had used “virtually all” of its supply of certain precision missiles. The Washington Post reported on Sunday that the heads of the Army, Navy and Air Force warned Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth in a written assessment that prolonging the war was unsustainable and would diminish ?the military’s readiness in other theaters. The Pentagon has said the military ?had “everything it needs to execute” its mission. “President Trump has destroyed ?Iran’s military capabilities and is crippling what’s left of its abysmal economy with the most powerful naval blockade in world history and crushing sanctions,” White House spokeswoman Olivia Wales said. “The President will continue to advance America’s interests at home and abroad and will never allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon.” America’s Gulf allies - some of whom had pushed for aggressive action against Iran earlier in the war to weaken their main ?regional adversary - roundly urged the White House to de-escalate after a recent round of attacks in late July, regional diplomats said.

Currently, two White House officials said, Vice President JD Vance and Secretary ?of State Marco Rubio are among the high-ranking Trump aides who are on board with the idea of trying to keep the Iran conflict relatively “quiet” until November. In recent weeks, administration officials have instead intensified an economic isolation campaign, during which the U.S. has threatened to slap countries that trade with Iran with massive sanctions, while maintaining its own blockade on the Strait of Hormuz. The trade-focused strategy, however, has its own limits, analysts and officials said. Iran has spent decades under layers of U.S. and international sanctions that have battered its economy but have not deterred its leadership. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Sunday that the pressure campaign may cause Iran ?to lash out militarily, raising the prospect that the economic campaign could itself stoke military escalation. Additionally, some major world powers, like China, have not joined Washington’s bid to isolate Iran, prompting questions ?about the campaign’s effectiveness. “The purpose of the new sanctions package is meant to add economic pressure on top of that being caused by the blockade to force Iran back to the table, after the administration determined it was a better option than returning to kinetic action,” said Alex Plitsas, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council. “Iran is concerned ?about it, but China has already indicated that it’s not willing to play ball, which calls into question how effective it will be.”



cans on grounds including race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability.

“Any time we want”: Trump warns of fresh military action on Iran

Washington: The US military is prepared to launch more strikes on Iran “any time we want,” President Donald Trump has said. “It was a very heavy attack last night, and we’re prepared to do another one any time we want,” Trump told reporters at the White House on Wednesday (local time). The US military “took out all of the new equipment that they tried to build along the Strait of Hormuz,” said Trump. Iranian officials said Wednesday that the US strike on Tuesday night hit a wedding party in southern Iran, killing at least four people and wounding dozens of others. The US Central Command said Wednesday it was looking into the reports and the US military “never targets civilians.”

When asked on Wednesday afternoon whether he really intended to rename the Strait of Hormuz after himself, Trump said: “No, no ... it was just thrown out there.” Trump floated the idea of renaming the strategic waterway earlier Wednesday, less than one week after he signed an executive order renaming Lake Ontario “Lake America” amid escalating tensions with Canada over tariff disputes. “Now that we have it under USA control, should we change the name Hormuz Strait to TRUMP STRAIT???” Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social. Trump told a rally in Long Island last month that he would declare the strait a US territory, US media reported. “After we finish defeating Iran — which is being very badly defeated — pretty soon I’ll be declaring the Hormuz Strait a territory of the United States,” Trump said. Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is gravely concerned by the renewed exchanges of fire overnight between the United States and Iran, his spokesperson said.

What’s the biggest challenge in DNA analysis? | Explained



The story so far: At least 270 people, most of them passengers, were killed on June 12 when Air India flight 171, a London-bound Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, crashed less than a minute after taking off from Ahmedabad airport. Following the accident, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) analysis is being used to identify the remains of those killed. In the past week, DNA samples from victims' family members have been collected and matched, and most remains have already been identified.

How do DNA samples help?

DNA fingerprinting identifies individuals by analysing unique regions of their DNA. While human DNA is 99.9% identical, the remaining 0.1% includes unique sequences called short tandem repeats (STRs), which are crucial for forensic investigations. DNA profiling focuses on specific regions called genetic markers, with STRs being the preferred markers due to their variability among individuals, except monozygotic twins (identical twins). "Currently, STRs are the most widely used genetic markers for human identity determination and paternity testing. Their use makes it possible to clarify most legal and forensic cases with a generally very high degree of certainty. Identification of human remains is generally performed by comparing the genetic profile of the remains with that of first-degree relatives, usually the parents," explained Dr. Rakesh Mishra, director, Tata Institute for Genetics and Society.

DNA is the molecule that carries the genetic instructions of all living organisms. It's essentially the blueprint that determines an organism's characteristics and how it functions and is passed from parents to offspring. DNA profiling can be used in the identification of skeletonised or highly decomposed human remains. Identification is usually carried out by comparing the genetic profile from the remains with the genotypes of reference samples from relatives, most commonly the parents of the victim, according to an article titled, 'Identification of the Remains of an Adult Using DNA from Their Deciduous Teeth as a Reference Sample'.

What is the process followed to collect, store and match samples during a disaster?

In the case of accident victims, DNA samples may be degraded and contaminated which is the biggest challenge that forensic experts face even though DNA samples can be preserved for a long time. Samples are ideally frozen at minus 20°C, or, in the case of soft tissues (skin, muscles,

etc.), they may be stored in 95% ethanol. "In an accident of this magnitude samples of tissue, nails, bone, body fluid and blood etc. can be used to identify and establish family relation. Technology available today is powerful and sensitive which aids in easy identification," said Dr. Mishra. He added that only trained forensic experts are made to collect samples to ensure that there is no contamination. These samples are then stored in temperature regulated, sterile conditions and matched swiftly. "In this case, establishing family pattern is enough. The STR process is used in this case to establish family relationship. Through this family pattern is established and based on this identity is ascertained," he said.

Experts noted that after sample collection, using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) the extracted DNA is amplified with specific primers targeting the STR regions of interest. The amplified DNA fragments are separated based on size using gel electrophoresis. The size and number of repeats in each band are analysed to generate the distinctive DNA profile with advanced computerised systems. The generated profile is then compared to other DNA profiles in a database to find any matches.

What are the difficulties in the process?

An article titled, 'Challenges and solutions in DNA fingerprinting: Sample quality, data analysis, and interpretation', noted that DNA fingerprinting, which is a pivotal tool in forensic science, paternity testing, and genetic research, faces significant challenges in sample quality, data analysis, and interpretation. It states that the sample quality is the bedrock of DNA fingerprinting. "The integrity of the DNA sample dictates the accuracy of the result. Challenges arise from various sources, such as environmental degradation, contamination, and the complexity of handling mixed or limited DNA samples. These issues can lead to ambiguous or erroneous results, posing significant obstacles in forensic investigations," it states. It adds that continued training and education of those in the field is vital.

Contamination, interpretation challenges, including ethical concerns, privacy issues, and the potential for misinterpretation of results is acknowledged in this paper. It recommends the use of advanced techniques for DNA collection and recovery, developments in software for more precise data analysis, and the implementation of standardised protocols for interpretation. It also highlights the role of automation in enhancing accuracy and the importance of professional training.

When has DNA fingerprinting been crucial?

Several mass fatality events, including natural disasters and terrorist attacks, have forced authorities to use DNA analysis to establish identity. Most recent include the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2009 Victorian Bushfires (Australia) where severely burned or fragmented bodies had to be identified, and the 2014 MH17 crash (Ukraine) which resulted in the loss of all 298 people on board. DNA fingerprinting was also used to identify victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Beside this, it is also a standard tool for identifying individuals in various criminal cases.



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 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

Burning at both ends: how smoking hits health, raises term insurance premium

American actress and singer Liza Minnelli once quipped, "Smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics." As witty as it sounds, the grim truth is hard to ignore, tobacco use remains one of the top causes of preventable death globally. According to the World Health Organization, it is responsible for more than eight million deaths worldwide each year, including approximately 1.35 million deaths annually in India. The health consequences of smoking are well documented. From lung cancer and cardiovascular disease to stroke and chronic respiratory issues, tobacco use leads to severe, often irreversible, damage. But what's less discussed is the financial burden it can bring, particularly when it comes to term life insurance. Why smokers pay more

When you apply for a term insurance plan, one of the first things insurers assess is your smoking status. And the difference in premium can be staggering. For instance, a 35-year-old male living in Delhi could pay as much as 80-100% more for the same term plan if he is a smoker compared with a non-smoker. For instance, a 35-year-old non-smoker will pay a monthly premium of ₹1,453 for a ₹1 crore term policy, while a smoker will pay about ₹2,905. That's because smoking significantly reduces life expectancy, increasing the risk for insurers. Life-threatening issues Smokers are more prone to a host of life-threatening conditions, including various cancers, heart disease, and chronic respiratory ailments. This elevated risk translates into higher premiums, as insurers factor in the likelihood of early claims. Smoking habits outweigh job risk in premium assessment. While your profession also plays a role in determining your insurance premium, smoking is often a more critical factor. For example, a smoker working a low-risk job like a software engineer may still end up paying a higher premium than a non-smoker in a high-risk occupation, such as a construction worker or merchant navy officer. Insurers typically categorise applicants into two groups, smokers and non-smokers, regardless of other lifestyle or occupational risks.

There's a common misconception that smokers are ineligible for term insurance. That's simply not true. Smokers are eligible and, in fact, have even more reason to secure financial protection for their families. Given the elevated health risks, buying term insurance ensures that your loved ones are financially safeguarded in your absence. Disclose smoking habits upfront. It's crucial to be transparent about your smoking habits while purchasing a term plan. Non-disclosure or misrepresentation can lead to serious consequences. If an insurer discovers withheld information, often through mandatory medical exams or tests that detect nicotine, the same may lead to claim rejection, cancellation of the policy, or even allegations of insurance fraud. Frequent evaluation

Insurers don't just ask whether you smoke, they also evaluate how frequently and in what form you consume tobacco, whether it's cigarettes, cigars, or chewing tobacco. Definitions of "smoker" also vary across insurance providers. Some classify anyone who has smoked within the last 12 months as a smoker, while others may extend that window to three years. Also, consider quitting for better rates and better health. If you're considering buying term insurance, quitting smoking can help reduce your premium costs significantly. Some insurers even offer revised premiums if you quit smoking after purchasing the policy, sub-

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.

"We have completed our very successful attack on the three Nuclear sites in Iran, including Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan," Trump said in a post on social media. "All planes are now outside of Iran air space. A full payload of BOMBS was dropped on the primary site, Fordow. All planes are safely on their way home." Trump added in a later post: "

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.



ject to evidence and re-evaluation over time. It's an opportune moment to reflect on how quitting smoking can improve not just your health, but also your financial well-being. A single decision, like giving up tobacco, can ripple into long-term benefits for both you and your family.

Kittu Park: for a stroll by the pond at Chennai's West Mambalam

One might think a waterbody at Mambalam in Chennai would be a rare sight, especially considering the area's perennial water shortage issues. Yet, located in this busy neighbourhood is Kittu Park, a greenspace built around a pond. The park, frequented by Mambalam residents, is located on Elliamman Koil Street.

Kittu Park was once the temple tank of Kothandaramar Temple nearby. In the last few years, it has been renovated into a public park. The area around the park was historically a site for poojas associated with the Ayodhya Mandapam and Elliamman temple bhajans. Today, however, it has a play area for children at the entrance, beyond which there is a pond with ducks, surrounded by a walkway. Interestingly, while jogging is prohibited in the park (violators may be handed over to the police, according to the signage), feeding the ducks is allowed. R. Ramesh, a regular walker, shares, "In Mambalam, there isn't much space to walk around since the area is always crowded. Parks like this are one of the few options available for a peaceful walk." He also notes that many visitors feed the ducks various snacks, particularly bread and biscuits, and believes this practice should be better regulated.

Parents with young children appreciate the park's play equipment, but some say it may need maintenance in the coming months to keep it in good condition. They say that proper upkeep is important for the park's continued enjoyment. While Kittu Park may not be as expansive as other greenspaces around West Mambalam and T. Nagar, it still serves its purpose well with its wide, circular walkway and benches for rest. One downside, however, is parking. The area around Elliamman Koil Street tends to be congested, as walkers often park their bikes on the street. "After 6.30 p.m. it is tough to get a spot to park two-wheelers, so we leave them in the neighbouring bylanes.

Organ transplants hit by fund constraints and infrastructural deficiencies: report

A report released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has revealed that the organ transplantation programme in the country has been crippled by multiple issues, especially insufficient funding, shortage of specialised doctors, and procedural delays. The report dated June 19, 2025, which followed a high-level meeting of senior health officials to review the status of organ transplantation activities in government hospitals and identify the key challenges, pointed to infrastructural deficiencies, especially shortage of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds and lack of financial support to patients who required lifelong medication that was expensive.

Explaining the bottlenecks and other issues faced by State-owned institutions, the report said only 13,476 kidney transplants were performed, both in government and private hospitals, against the recommended 1 lakh cases last year. The capacity of government hospitals was not adequate to meet the target of organ transplants and creation of new centres were "definitely" required. The report elaborated on the lack of facilities in government healthcare institutions, saying a significant number of government hospitals had reported the absence of dedicated infrastructure for organ retrieval and transplantation, including specialised transplant operation theatres (OTs) and dedicated Transplant Intensive Care Units (TICUs). Existing OTs and ICUs were frequently overburdened with general patient loads. A critical and frequently cited issue was the shortage of ICU beds, which were essential for maintaining potential brain-stem dead (BSD) donors and for post-operative care of recipients. In many trauma centres, beds were unavailable for potential donors due to high patient volume.

Many institutions, including several All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), lacked in-house Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) cross-matching laboratory facilities. The dependency on external laboratories was causing significant delays and logistical challenges in the transplantation process. Several government hospitals had stated that their current facilities required substantial logistical and infrastructural upgrades to meet the standards necessary for performing complex transplant procedures. The report compiled by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, which convened the meeting, said the shortage of specialised faculty coupled with frequent transfer of trained personnel, was disrupting the continuity and establishment of transplant programmes. A major bottleneck was the scarcity of dedicated and trained transplant surgeons, nephrologists, urologists, anaesthetists, neurosurgeons/neurologists and intensivists within the government hospitals. Experts representing various government institutions in different States flagged issues relating to delays in obtaining formal approval and constitution of the BSD Committees, which was essential to initiate deceased organ donation programme. The handling of medico-legal cases, particularly involving trauma patients who represented the largest pool of potential donors, was often cumbersome and lacked a streamlined process, thereby discouraging organ donation. On the paucity of funds, the report said some hospitals had reported inadequate funds to initiate or restart specialised transplant programs, such as lung transplantation, which necessitated expensive equipment and preservatives. A significant concern was the high cost of immunosuppressant drugs, which patients must take for life. The financial support available under current schemes was often limited to the first year, imposing a substantial burden on patients thereafter. It was highlighted that there were no formal incentives for transplant and organ donation teams (surgeons, nurses, coordinators etc) on a case-by-case basis. Such incentives could motivate them to increase the number of transplants. The non-inclusion of liver and heart



transplantation and the associated lifelong follow-up costs in major Central health schemes like Ayushman Bharat were identified as significant barriers for underprivileged patients. The report "strongly recommended that liver and heart transplantation, including the lifelong cost of immunosuppressants for post-transplant recipients, be comprehensively included under the central Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana [AB-PMJAY] scheme".

India slams OIC for ‘incorrect’ remarks that reflect ‘Pakistan’s influence’

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation called for strict adherence to bilateral pacts between India and Pakistan, including the Indus Waters Treaty, and stressed the need for a broad-based dialogue for the peaceful settlement of all outstanding disputes. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation called for strict adherence to bilateral pacts between India and Pakistan, including the Indus Waters Treaty, and stressed the need for a broad-based dialogue for the peaceful settlement of all outstanding disputes. File | Photo Credit: Wikipedia India slammed the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Monday (June 23, 2025) for "unwarranted" and "factually incorrect" remarks that were made under the influence of Pakistan, a state that has turned terrorism into "statecraft." India's reactions came after a two-day foreign ministerial conclave of the OIC in Türkiye criticised New Delhi on a range of issues, including "social marginalisation" of Indian Muslims. The OIC also called for strict adherence to bilateral pacts between India and Pakistan, including the Indus Waters Treaty, and stressed the need for a broad-based dialogue for peaceful settlement of all outstanding disputes. "India categorically rejects the unwarranted and factually incorrect references at the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. "These statements, driven by Pakistan, which has turned terrorism into statecraft, reflect the continued misuse of the OIC platform for narrow political ends," it said. The MEA said the OIC's repeated "failure" to acknowledge the real and documented threat of terrorism emanating from Pakistan, most recently evidenced in the heinous Pahalgam attack, reflects a "wilful disregard" for facts. It said, "The OIC has no locus standi to comment on India's internal affairs, including Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral and sovereign part of India — a fact enshrined in the Indian Constitution and irreversibly settled." "The OIC should reflect deeply on the perils of allowing Pakistan's propaganda to hijack and politicise its agenda. Any other course can only undermine the OIC's credibility and relevance," the MEA said.

The challenge facing MSME pharma researchers in India



As India works to move beyond its identity as the 'pharmacy of the world' and position itself as a global hub for pharmaceutical innovation, one regulatory issue deserves urgent attention. The current framework for new drug approvals creates a structural imbalance that places a disproportionate burden on the first applicant, while allowing later entrants to benefit from the same scientific effort at a much lower cost.In practice, the first applicant must take on the full challenge of introducing a new drug in India. This means conducting local clinical trials, generating safety and efficacy data, following a complex regulatory process, and investing substantial time and money over several years. Yet once that approval is granted, subsequent applicants may often seek approval for the same drug by relying on chemical, pharmaceutical, and bioequivalence data alone, without repeating the same clinical research.This creates an uneven system. The first applicant carries the full scientific, financial, and regulatory risk. The second applicant enters the market more easily and at far lower cost. The innovator, despite making the original investment, receives little regulatory advantage in return. For research-driven MSMEs, this acts as a strong disincentive and makes new drug development in India unattractive.

This imbalance is especially problematic for small and medium-sized pharma innovators. Unlike large multinational companies, MSMEs typically operate with tighter budgets and fewer resources. When they see that years of clinical research can be quickly replicated by others without similar effort, many become cautious about taking on the risk of innovation at all.The result is not just a challenge for individual companies: it is a broader loss for India's innovation ecosystem. If the system does not reward the first mover fairly, domestic companies may gradually shift away from high-risk research and rely instead on discoveries made elsewhere. That would run against India's long-term ambi-

tion to become a true leader in pharmaceutical innovation. One practical way forward is to introduce a defined period of clinical data exclusivity for the first applicant that generates the clinical evidence. Under such a system, the data submitted by the innovator would be protected for a specific duration and could not be relied upon by later applicants during that period.This would not block competition. Instead, it would create a fair window for the innovator to recover part of the investment made in research and development before others can use the same data. Even a limited period of three to five years could make a meaningful difference by restoring balance and encouraging more private investment in clinical research.

Why are patents not enough? Patents are often seen as the main safeguard for innovation, but in pharmaceuticals the reality is more complex. Many important advances do not always enjoy strong patent protection. These may include repurposed drugs, new delivery systems, improved formulations, or new therapeutic uses for existing molecules.In such cases, the absence of meaningful patent coverage leaves innovators exposed. They may invest heavily in clinical research only to see their work replicated rapidly by others. For MSMEs, that risk is particularly difficult to absorb.India has already taken encouraging steps to promote research and innovation through initiatives such as PRIP (Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech sector), Atmanirbhar Bharat, and other R&D support programmes. These efforts show a clear intent to strengthen domestic innovation and build a more self-reliant pharmaceutical ecosystem.But without regulatory protection for clinical trial data, the full impact of these initiatives may remain limited. Policy support for innovation must be matched by a framework that protects the value of the evidence innovators generate.If this structural gap continues, it may unintentionally discourage Indian companies from investing in original research. That would weaken the country's scientific base and slow its transition from a manufacturing powerhouse to an innovation-led pharmaceutical leader.A balanced clinical data exclusivity framework would reward risk-taking, encourage more clinical research, and strengthen the domestic innovation pipeline.For India's pharmaceutical future, the question is not whether competition should continue. The real question is whether innovation will be given a fair chance to grow. A system that protects the first mover's clinical effort for a reasonable period would not only support MSMEs, but also advance India's larger goal of becoming a global centre for pharmaceutical discovery.

Climate change reshaping disease patterns, straining health systems, finds report

Climate change is emerging as a major public health threat in India, reshaping disease patterns, straining healthcare systems, and placing nearly 40% of districts at high risk from extreme weather events, according to a new report. The report, Under the Weather: India's Climate-Health Intersections and Pathways to Resilience, by Dasra, a philanthropy fund organisation, highlights how rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, floods, and cyclones are no longer isolated events but part of a continuous cycle of disruption affecting health, livelihoods, and access to care across the country.

Extreme weather events in India are increasing in frequency and intensity, bringing both immediate and long-term risks, the report notes. Floods trigger outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as cholera and hepatitis, while heatwaves lead to dehydration, heatstroke, and increased cardiovascular stress.The report says climate change is altering how diseases spread. Warmer temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns are expanding the range of vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria into new regions. Areas that were previously unaffected, including Shimla, parts of Jammu & Kashmir, and the Himalayan foothills, are now reporting cases. The report also identifies Pune as a major dengue hotspot, with cases expected to rise further.Non-communicable diseases are also linked to climate stress. Heat exposure has been associated with higher cardiovascular mortality, while worsening air pollution contributes to respiratory illnesses and chronic conditions. Climate change, the report says, is acting as a "health-risk multiplier", increasing both disease burden and pressure on healthcare systems. The impact is not evenly distributed. Vulnerable communities — including rural populations, informal workers, women, and children — face the greatest risks. These groups are often the least equipped to cope with climate shocks, deepening existing inequalities.Extreme heat, for instance, reduces labour productivity and increases health risks for outdoor workers. The report notes that India lost an estimated 160 billion labour hours due to heat exposure in 2021.Women and children face heightened risks from climate-related health impacts. The report notes that exposure to extreme heat is linked to a 16% increase in the odds of preterm birth during heatwaves, with risks rising further for every 1°C increase in temperature.Air pollution, particularly fine particulate matter (PM2.5), has been associated with hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, including pre-eclampsia, as well as increased gestational blood pressure.As infants and young children have limited ability to regulate body temperature, it makes them more prone to heat stress, dehydration, and respiratory illnesses. Exposure to air pollution is also linked to low birth weight, asthma, and reduced lung function, the report says.

Climate disasters also disrupt access to healthcare. Floods and cyclones can damage hospitals, cut off roads, and interrupt the supply of medicines and vaccines. In remote areas, even a small disruption can leave communities without access to basic services. Beyond direct health impacts, climate change is also affecting livelihoods and economic stability. Rising healthcare costs, loss of income, and reduced productivity are creating a cycle of vulnerability, particularly for those already at risk.

Despite these challenges, the report highlights growing efforts to address the climate-health link. Over the past decade, India has begun to move from broad climate policies to more targeted approaches that recognise the connection between climate and health. Initiatives such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health and state-level action plans are helping shape local responses. Heat Action Plans, which include early warnings and preparedness measures, are now being implemented in several cities and districts.The report says that many non-governmental organisations are also introducing innovative solutions such as solar-powered health facilities, Al-



based disease tracking, and decentralised healthcare delivery. These efforts are helping communities adapt to both immediate shocks and long-term climate risks.However, the report identifies several challenges, including a lack of local, disaggregated data linking climate events to health outcomes, limiting targeted interventions. Funding for adaptation remains constrained and skewed towards mitigation, while weak public awareness and fragmented data systems further hinder effective response. Grassroots organisations also face barriers in accessing funds, particularly in highly vulnerable but underfunded regions, the report notes. The report calls for stronger collaboration between government, civil society, and the private sector, along with greater investment in local data systems and climate-resilient healthcare infrastructure. It also calls for placing health at the centre of climate policy, rather than treating it as a secondary concern.

Unusual summer temperature spike in Rayalaseema

Summer arrived early in the southern Andhra Pradesh, where temperatures spiked dramatically during the first week of April. Chittoor, Annamayya, and Sri Sathya Sai districts all felt the heat.According to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and local observations, several places are already recording maximum temperatures between 39C and 41.5C. In Chittoor district, Nindra, Puttur, and Palamaner have been experiencing temperatures of around 39C–41C.

Madanapalle in Annamayya district, known for its relatively mild climate, is also feeling the heat this year, with temperatures already crossing 35C, and expected to cross 37–38C in the coming days, a few degrees above what is normal for this time of the year in the region.The situation is more difficult in the Sri Sathya Sai district. Penukonda and Puttaparthi are already seeing highs of around 40C–41C. Dharmavaram, which was relatively cooler earlier in the week, has seen a steady spike and is likely to reach similar levels in the coming days. Hindupur and Kadiri divisions are also inching towards the 40C mark.Generally, early April temperatures in these districts range between 35C-37C. The current situation is unusually hot, pointing to an early onset of peak summer conditions. Medical and Health department officials have been put on alert as the mercury is expected to cross 42C in parts of Rayalaseema.Normal life in many parts of the Rayalaseema is affected, especially for those who work outdoors. Construction and road workers, and daily wage labourers in Chittoor, Nagari, Piler, and Hindupur, are reported to have modified ther working hours, checking in early and out by noon, and resuming in the evening hours.In rural pockets, farm workers in mango orchards near Bangarupalem and Chittoor and those working in groundnut fields across Sri Sathya Sai district, report reducing working hours and taking frequent breaks. "After 11 a.m., it becomes too difficult to continue," says a 36-year-old mango garden worker Maniganda, working near Gangadhara Nellore in Chittoor district.

As vertigo cases rise, specialists raise concerns over diagnostic gaps



Vertigo and balance disorders are increasingly emerging as a significant yet under-recognised health concern in India, with specialists pointing to widespread gaps in diagnosis and management, particularly at the first point of care.At a clinical workshop that brought together neurologists, ENT specialists and general physicians on Saturday, experts noted that a substantial proportion of patients presenting with dizziness are either misdiagnosed or treated symptomatically without identifying the underlying cause.An estimated 15% to over 20% of adults experience vertigo or dizziness each year, with prevalence peaking in the 55-64 years age group. Vertigo is a sensation that the environment around the person is spinning in circles.

Specialists highlighted that one of the key challenges lies in differentiating between various types of vertigo- peripheral, central and functional- which often present with overlapping symptoms but require distinct treatment pathways.Specialists highlighted that one of the key challenges lies in differentiating between various types of vertigo- peripheral, central and functional- which often present with overlapping symptoms but require distinct treatment pathways. Despite its frequency, vertigo is often dismissed

as a minor or transient condition, leading to delay in diagnosis and prolonged discomfort. In some cases, clinicians cautioned, this may result in missing serious underlying neurological or vestibular disorders.Suryanarayana Sharma P.M., senior consultant neurologist and stroke specialist, said, "In India, more than 70 million people are suffering from vertigo. Though about 74% of cases are benign, recognising red flags and identifying serious neurological or ENT conditions is crucial. This requires a multidisciplinary approach." He underlined the need for dedicated vertigo clinics. Key challengeSpecialists highlighted that one of the key challenges lies in differentiating between various types of vertigo- peripheral, central and functional- which often present with overlapping symptoms but require distinct treatment pathways. They stressed the importance of structured clinical evaluation, including detailed patient history and bedside examination of vestibular and ocular motor systems, rather than relying solely on symptomatic treatment.Sunil Narayan Dutt, senior consultant in ENT, emphasised the need for more practical, experience-based training for clinicians. He noted that hands-on sessions and case-based discussions can help physicians build confidence in assessing patients, particularly in busy clinical settings where time and resources are limited.Adding an international perspective, Michael Strupp, neurologist and vestibular expert, said that advances in vestibular medicine have made many vertigo conditions highly treatable. "The challenge is no longer the lack of treatment, but ensuring that the right diagnosis is made early through structured clinical evaluation," he said.Experts also observed that vertigo is increasingly being seen in association with broader neurological and post-viral conditions, adding to the complexity of diagnosis and care.They underlined that improving diagnostic accuracy at the primary care level is critical to reducing unnecessary investigations and ensuring better patient outcomes, especially in the context of an ageing population and rising lifestyle-related risks.

How sensory sensitivity can affect everyday functioning and why it needs to be talked about

For a long time, high sensitivity to sound, light, touch, or texture was framed primarily as a disorder. Today, however, clinicians are recognising a broader perspective: sensory sensitivity need not be reduced to a diagnostic label, but can instead be understood as a neurological trait: one that reflects natural variation in how individuals experience and respond to the world.Understanding sensory sensitivity

Adults with high sensory sensitivity often do not present with this label. They report feeling overwhelmed in crowded places, fatigued after social interactions, or irritable in bright or noisy environments. Subtle triggers such as constant background chatter, phone notifications, or even certain fabrics, can lead to mental exhaustion.Chakkeria Priyanka, neurologist at Kauvery Hospital, notes that individuals living with these symptoms may display deep processing, heightened awareness of their surroundings, and strong pattern recognition. At the same time, they may experience sensory overload, resulting in fatigue, headaches, sleep disturbances, or burnout-like states.Yet, these experiences are frequently misread. "Many are labelled as anxious, moody, or difficult, when the underlying issue is sensory overload," she says.Mithun Prasad, psychiatrist, SIMS Hospital, adds that sensory symptoms alone do not define psychiatric conditions, but often overlap with anxiety or obsessive traits , complicating diagnosis.Gaps in India's clinical and public discourse

Despite its prevalence, sensory sensitivity remains under-recognised in India's healthcare and research frameworks. Much of the existing work is embedded within conditions such as autism spectrum disorder, which have clearer diagnostic criteria and institutional backing.As Greenivas U.M., consultant neurologist, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, explains, "There is a large group of people who function well but still struggle with sensory environments. Since they don't fit into a diagnosis, their experiences are often brushed off."This gap has consequences. In many cases, everyday overwhelm is normalised as stress or personality. Without recognising sensory triggers, individuals may receive support for anxiety or mood symptoms, while the root cause remains unaddressed.The absence of formal classification, limited screening tools, and low awareness contribute to misdiagnosis and inadequate coping strategies. Clinicians point out that distress in India is often legitimised only when it becomes severe or disabling, leaving a wide spectrum of sensory experiences unnamed.Misunderstood signs

In children, sensory sensitivity is often more visible and more frequently misinterpreted. Some children are over-responsive: they cover their ears at ordinary sounds, refuse certain clothes, or avoid bright, crowded environments. Some may have signs such as: being under-responsive, appearing disengaged or unreactive to pain and temperature. And others actively seek sensory input, constantly moving, touching, or making noise. "These behaviours are often labelled as stubbornness, hyperactivity, or poor



behaviour," says Dr. Priyanka. In reality, they may reflect differences in sensory processing.Estimates suggest that sensory processing differences may affect 5–16% of children in the general population, and a significantly higher proportion, up to 80–90% among those with neurodevelopmental conditions. Studies indicate that 10–55% of children may show sensory sensitivity traits, with stronger links in those with developmental challenges.Dr. Prasad points out that distinguishing sensory discomfort from conditions such as obsessive-compulsive disorder or autism is crucial. "If a child avoids something because it feels uncomfortable, it is likely sensory. If there is a repetitive internal drive or ritual, we must evaluate further," he says. Yet, in classrooms and homes, misinterpretation remains the norm rather than the exception.

Experts emphasise that the way forward lies in adapting environments. At home, this could mean predictable routines, quiet spaces, and flexibility around food, clothing, or touch. In schools, sensory-friendly classrooms, with reduced noise, better lighting, and structured teaching methods can make a significant difference. Simple measures such as movement breaks, visual schedules, or allowing headphones can improve a child's ability to function.Workplaces, too, require rethinking. Open offices, constant meetings, and sensory-heavy environments may not suit everyone. Flexible work options, quieter spaces, and alternative communication methods can enhance productivity for sensory-sensitive individuals.Healthcare settings are no exception. Shorter wait times, low-stimulation environments, and clear, step-by-step communication can reduce distress.Dr. Priyanka explains this with a clinical example, a 32-year-old professional treated for anxiety saw improvement only after identifying sensory triggers in his workplace -- noise, lighting, and constant activity. Simple adjustments, including a quieter workspace, significantly reduced his symptoms and improved performance.Experts highlight that people experience the same environment very differently. Once that is recognised, managing it becomes much easier. They stress that lin a country where awareness remains limited and stigma persists, recognising sensory sensitivity may be the first step towards addressing a silent everyday overload.

The fine line between duty and responsibility



When I told my mother that it was our duty to take care of our parents, she gently responded, perhaps with a touch of pain, "Is it only a duty... nothing more?"Her question stayed with me. I had never thought there was anything wrong with the word "duty". Later, when I discussed this with my brother-in-law, he immediately suggested, "You could have said responsibility." That one word made a difference. It sounded warmer. My mother, too, seemed satisfied with it.That made me reflect deeply on the difference

between duty and responsibility.In an official atmosphere, we perform our work sincerely as part of our duty. Even if we do not fully agree with our superior's ideas, we carry out tasks for the smooth functioning of the organisation. A duty demands completion, often within a deadline, whether or not our heart is fully involved. At times, we may even act out of compulsion from higher authorities. Yet we execute it professionally, without allowing emotions to interfere.Responsibility, however, feels different. It is carried out with willingness and inner acceptance. It considers the influence a person or an institution has had on our lives. Responsibility arises from reciprocation — and reciproca-tion, ideally, should be born out of love. It includes emotional involvement and physical support, not merely obligation. When we speak of duty, we often associate it with official roles and, at times, with monetary compensation. Responsibility, on the other hand, is rooted in affection, gratitude, and moral commitment. That is why we may retire or resign from our official duties, but we can never resign from our responsibilities at home. At work, we may consciously separate emotion from execution. At home, emotions are the very foundation of our actions.Yet I still wonder,

Charity Commissioner clears Tata Sons share transfer to Naval Tata



Disposing off a complaint which sought an inquiry into the share transfer, the Charity Commissioner held that given the facts and circumstances of the particular case, no further inquiry under the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act, 1950, is warranted. The complaint was filed by Vijay Singh, Trustee, NRTT vide email June 10, 2026. The complaint contended that the 833 shares had, in substance, been diverted from the ownership of a public charitable trust and transferred to Naval Tata, a private individual, adequate consideration or proper authority, and possibly in the absence of the requisite transfer instruments and documentation.

“The Tata Trusts stand vindicated in their assertion that the allegations relating to the transfer of shares were baseless, unsubstantiated and mala fide,” Tata Trusts said in a statement. “These were undertaken as part of a wilful, malicious and orchestrated campaign which had, as its sole aim, the objective of discrediting the Tata Trusts- an institution which has, for more than 130 years, served the country and consistently held itself to the highest standards of public trust, accountability and ethical conduct,” the Trusts stated. Basis detailed findings contained in his order dated September 2, 2026, the Charity Commissioner has closed the complaint received from Vijay Singh. Meanwhile, another case is pending before the Charity Commissioner, whose order in May has effectively prevented the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) from conducting its board proceedings while an inquiry into the composition of its board is pending.

The Charity Commissioner observed that Vijay Singh not making his email available to the Trust, as pointed out by NRTT in their response, indicates an intention “on his part to suppress this from the other Trustees and the Trust as a whole, Tata Trusts said. “This action on his part has resulted in damaging the reputation and goodwill of the Trust. In that sense, conduct of Vijay Singh was unbecoming of a Trustee of NRTT,” it said. “The Charity Commissioner also expressed surprise that in the Board meeting dated June 8, 2026, Vijay Singh was a party to the resolution that was passed to represent NRTT’s case before the Charity Commissioner and immediately thereafter, on June 10, he proceeded to file a complaint with the Charity Commissioner demanding an independent inquiry,” Tata Trusts said.

The Charity Commissioner undertook a detailed examination of the issues raised in the complaint, and the response submitted by NRTT thereto, supported by relevant documents, it said. The Charity Commissioner concluded that the sale was necessitated on account of statutory compulsions and the transfer of shares was effected by proper documentation, it said. On the basis of valuation agreed upon by the Commissioner of wealth tax, appropriate consideration was paid to the Trust, which also earned a profit on the transaction. This profit was duly reflected in the Balance Sheet of the Trust as on March 1989. The shares were transferred with the condition that they won’t be sold to any third party but would always remain in the family of the recipient, and the transfer was made in full compliance with the provisions of the law then in force, Tata Trusts said. Tata Sons’ AGM on August 18 was adjourned due to a lack of quorum, as the regulatory freeze imposed on the Sir Ratan Tata Trusts left the Tata holding company unable to secure the shareholder representation required to convene the meeting. Tata Sons AGM will happen only when Sir Ratan Tata Trust, which holds a 23.56 per cent stake in Tata Sons, is able to come out of the restraining order issued by the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner. Some of the trustees of the SRTT have individually approached the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner afresh, seeking partial relief from the ban on board meetings so that the trust can take up urgent business, including matters related to the selection of the next Tata Sons chairman.

Private players seek ‘green energy’ status for N-power to raise funds

Private players are seeking green energy status for nuclear power to enable access to green bonds, green loans and blended financing for nuclear projects. During a stakeholder consultation by NITI Aayog, they also sought review of existing green finance frameworks, including the Ministry of Finance’s Sovereign Green Bond Framework, the RBI’s framework for acceptance of green deposits and SEBI’s framework for green debt securities. “Currently for example Ministry of Finance sovereign green bond framework does not include the nuclear energy and there was a suggestion from many of the industry participants to review these frameworks.....whether it is the Ministry of Finance sovereign green energy bond framework or RBI’s framework for acceptance of green deposits or even SEBI’s green debt securities framework. So I think there is a need for review of these frameworks to allow access to green bonds and green loans and blended financing schemes,” Abhay Karandikar, member NITI Aayog said during the inaugural session of POWERGEN India’s Nuclear X event. “The world over I think even including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are reviewing these restrictions on the nuclear investments and similar things perhaps I think may be needed,” he added. Private players also suggested that nuclear power projects be accorded infrastructure status, he said, while adding that in NITI Aayog’s view nuclear power is already covered under the infrastructure framework, as the Harmonised Master List of Infrastructure Sub-sectors maintained by the Department of Economic Affairs includes electricity generation.

“Perhaps a clarification in this regard may be needed,” he added. Around 150 participants from 60 organisations took part in the NITI Aayog’s consultation. India opened the tightly regulated civil nuclear sector last year for private participation and targets 100 gigawatt-electric (GWe) nuclear power by 2047. Speaking at the event, Nivruti Rai, MD and CEO of Invest India, said India will require at least 228 billion dollars to achieve the target 100 GWe nuclear energy capacity.

Final SHANTI rules to be ready in 2-3 months Speaking at the event, Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), said the final rules under



the SHANTI Act are likely to be ready in the next two to three months, with stakeholder consultations on the draft rules currently underway. He also stressed the need to reduce the gestation period of nuclear power projects in India. Prasad said site selection would be another major challenge as India scales up its nuclear capacity.

“A lot of efforts are supposed to be made in identification of sites. We are all working with the states. Teams are there, site selection committees are there,” he said. On nuclear fuel, Prasad stressed the need to develop thorium-based technologies to strengthen India’s long-term energy security. “I always suggest that we try to develop those technologies which are in and around thorium-based so that at least we don’t face nuclear security as a question mark going ahead in the future,” he said, adding that some small modular reactors (SMRs) are also being developed using thorium-based technology. Prasad also called for greater standardisation of nuclear reactor technologies to speed up deployment and reduce regulatory challenges. He said India’s nuclear expansion would involve fleet-mode deployment of reactors, including 700 megawatt-electric (MWe) units, and similar standardisation should be pursued for other technologies to speed up deployment and reduce regulatory challenges. However, he flagged a shortage of skilled manpower as a key challenge for the sector, noting that the industry continues to rely on retired personnel from Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T).

Crude oil futures rise for sixth straight session to Rs 8,592 per barrel

New Delhi: Crude oil futures extended gains for the sixth consecutive session, rising nearly 1 per cent to Rs 8,592 per barrel on Wednesday amid renewed US-Iran hostilities, which stoked fears of disruptions to global energy supplies.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude oil futures for September delivery rose by Rs 56, or 0.66 per cent, to Rs 8,592 per barrel. The October contract also gained Rs 56, or 0.67 per cent, to Rs 8,391 per barrel.

“Crude oil’s rally accelerated on Wednesday after Washington and Tehran resumed direct hostilities following a period of relative calm,” said Kaynat Chainwala, AVP – Commodity Research at Kotak Securities. The flare-up came after the US Central Command said it had completed a fresh wave of strikes against Iranian military targets, while the White House indicated that further military action remained possible if Tehran continued its retaliatory attacks.

Meanwhile, Iran expanded its response by striking Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait, all of which host US military infrastructure, raising concerns that the conflict could draw in other Gulf states and threaten tanker traffic and regional oil production, she added. In global markets, Brent crude futures for November delivery rose for the third straight session, jumping by USD 2.36, or 2.5 per cent, to USD 97.01 per barrel on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE).

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for the October contract also rose for the third straight session, trading 0.57 per cent higher at USD 90.73 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX). “Brent crude surged towards USD 97 and WTI approached USD 92 per barrel in global markets after a second consecutive day of US strikes on Iranian targets,” Chainwala said.

She noted that, with no signs of de-escalation, crude retains an upward bias, although stretched positioning

Actor Rashmika Mandanna modifies plank workout: Why this builds your core strength



Actor Rashmika Mandanna has shown how a simple plank can be made more challenging with controlled movement. In a workout video shared on her birthday, she performed a plank with her elbows resting on a workout ball, slowly moving back and forth while maintaining her balance. The unstable surface adds an extra challenge, requiring greater control and stability through the core rather than relying on speed or momentum. When it comes to core workouts, you don’t always need complicated exercises or long routines. The humble plank can do a lot of the work. Add controlled movements to it, and you have a simple but effective way to challenge your core.

Planks involve lying face-down, then lifting your body onto your forearms and toes, keeping your body in a straight line. “Controlled plank variations are plank exercises in which you add a movement — such as lifting an arm, raising a leg, tapping the opposite shoulder or bringing a knee forward — while keeping the rest of your body as steady as possible. The focus isn’t on speed. It’s on stability, precision and control,” says fitness expert Dr Mickey Mehta.

So, what exactly is a controlled plank variation?

A traditional plank involves holding your body in a strong, stable position. A controlled variation takes that position a step further by introducing movement. “For instance, during a plank shoulder tap, you lift one hand and touch the opposite shoulder before switching sides. Your arms are moving, but your torso should remain as stable as possible,” adds Dr Mehta. Other examples include plank leg raises, shoulder taps, low knee-to-elbow movements, alternating arm reaches, side plank with leg lifts and slow plank walks. What makes these exercises “controlled” is the way they are performed. The movement is slow and deliberate rather than fast or jerky.

How do they work the core?

Living with Type 1 diabetes since age 7, he overcame limits to become a cyclist

During a recent visit to India, Dacal met Dr V Mohan, founder-chairman of Dr Mohan’s Diabetes Specialities Centre, and spoke about the realities of living with the condition. During a recent visit to India, Dacal met Dr V Mohan, founder-chairman of Dr Mohan’s Diabetes Specialities Centre, and spoke about the realities of living with the condition. When Brais Dacal was seven, he was told that his life would have to be different. Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at that age, the Spanish cyclist remembers being advised to lead an easy life and avoid pushing himself too hard. For a child with dreams of sport, it could easily have become a sentence of limitation.

Instead, Dacal chose to test those limits. Years later, he would go on to become a professional cyclist, spending five seasons with Team Novo Nordisk, a team whose riders all live with diabetes. Although he no longer races professionally, Dacal remains one of the team’s prominent ambassadors, travelling to speak about his experiences of competing at the highest level while managing Type 1 diabetes. “I have always believed that I should own my diabetes, rather than let it own me,” Dacal says. “Living with Type 1 diabetes has added an extra layer of discipline, anticipation and courage to my cycling career and to life in general.” During a recent visit to India, Dacal met Dr V Mohan, founder-chairman of Dr Mohan’s Diabetes Specialities Centre, and spoke about the realities of living with the condition. For him, the message to children with Type 1 diabetes is straightforward: a diagnosis should not mean giving up on their ambitions. He encouraged them to continue pursuing their dreams — and, in his words, to strive to become champions.

For Dr Mohan, that message is particularly powerful because children often need to see possibilities rather than simply hear about them. “We have several children who are living with Type 1 diabetes and have excelled in their fields,” he says. “Hence, those living with the condition are often able to relate more closely to others who have undergone similar symptoms, challenges and emotions.” That is where peer support becomes important, he says. Sharing experiences with others who understand the daily demands of the condition can provide reassurance and a sense of belonging, while reminding people with diabetes that they are not alone. For Dacal, however, managing diabetes has never been about simply overcoming a medical condition. It has been about learning to live with it — and planning for it — without allowing it to take over. Professional cycling is demanding even for a healthy athlete. For someone living with Type 1 diabetes, a long, steady ride does not place the same demands on the body as a short, intense effort. Insulin requirements, food intake and blood glucose levels have to be considered before the cyclist even gets on the bike. “For example, long and steady rides will require different insulin and food intake than short and intense rides,” Dacal says.

His approach is methodical. He follows his doctor’s advice, trains, records his blood sugar levels and keeps track of what he has done. Then he studies the results and adjusts. “I keep learning through trial and error,” he says. Preparation extends to what he carries on the bike. Extra food is essential to maintain carbohydrate intake during exercise and to deal with possible hypoglycaemia or low blood sugar levels. Insulin has to be available in case of hyperglycaemia or high blood sugar level. “The most important thing is to be prepared for anything that can happen,” he says. The same philosophy applies when he travels. Different countries mean different foods, schedules and temperatures — variables that can complicate diabetes management. “Again, it is about planning ahead and prevention,” Dacal says. “You need to learn about the foods you will find, plan your trips and always have a Plan B.” His version of a Plan B is deliberately generous. “I carry enough supplies to cover a couple of end-of-the-world situations,” he says. Dacal’s years as a professional cyclist also taught him that elite sport cannot be separated from health. “An unhealthy athlete will never be a good athlete,” he says. While managing Type 1 diabetes is only one part of the equation, eating well, recovering properly, avoiding illness and monitoring the body are equally important. The difference at the professional level is that pushing the body to its limits

Your core has an important job beyond simply helping you perform abdominal exercises. It helps stabilise your trunk and keeps your body balanced when you move. Controlled plank variations put that function to work. “When you lift one arm or leg, your body naturally wants to shift, rotate or lose balance. Your core muscles have to engage to keep your torso steady. In other words, your limbs move while your core works to keep the body under control,” says Dr Mehta. This makes plank variations useful for developing core stability and body control. They train the core to resist movement. One of the key benefits of plank variations is that they teach the core to resist unnecessary movement. For example, when you perform a shoulder tap, your hips may want to swing from side to side. Keeping them steady requires your abdominal and surrounding muscles to work harder. Similarly, lifting one leg challenges your body to maintain a stable pelvis instead of allowing it to rotate. They involve more than just the abs. Although you may feel the exercise primarily in your abdominal area, a well-performed plank involves several muscle groups working together. “The shoulders, arms, back, hips and legs all contribute to maintaining the position. That’s why controlled plank exercises can feel surprisingly demanding even though they don’t involve large movements,” says Dr Mehta.

Why slow and controlled is better The temptation with many exercises is to move quickly and count repetitions. With plank variations, rushing can make it easier to lose proper form. “A slower pace gives you more time to maintain your posture and control each movement. Instead of thinking about how many repetitions you can complete, focus on body control and stability,” explains the expert. He advises a simple discipline. Keep your abdomen gently braced, maintain a stable torso and avoid allowing your lower back to sag. When moving an arm or leg, try to prevent the rest of your body from following the movement unnecessarily. And remember to breathe. If a particular variation causes you to lose control, switch to an easier version. You can always progress as your strength and stability improve.

You don’t need a complicated routine Controlled plank variations can easily fit into a short workout. “You could choose two or three variations and perform them for a manageable number of repetitions or brief holds. Rest between exercises and focus on maintaining good technique. Beginners can make the exercises easier by supporting the knees or using an elevated surface. More experienced exercisers can gradually increase the challenge by using longer holds or more demanding variations,” says Dr Mehta. When performed with control and good form, even a simple plank variation can make your core work hard.



is deliberate. Training loads, weight loss and harder efforts are not left to chance. They are planned with coaches and medical professionals. “If we need to lose weight, we plan it along with the medical staff and the coaches. If we need to go harder, again, we plan it well. We don’t do random,” he says.

Knowing when to stop For all the emphasis on pushing boundaries, Dacal is equally clear about the importance of knowing when to rest. “Working more does not translate into results if you are not effective and efficient, or if you do not take enough rest,” he says. For an athlete managing Type 1 diabetes, listening to the body becomes even more critical. Today, Dacal’s career has moved beyond racing. As the general manager of a large sports organisation, he spends much of his time travelling, managing people and juggling different responsibilities. His days are no longer structured entirely around training but the principles remain familiar: plan ahead, stay flexible and pay attention to what the body is saying. Dacal’s visit to India also gave him an opportunity to reflect on the future of cycling in the country. He sees enormous potential in India’s growing interest in professional cycling and hopes the sport will become increasingly visible on the international stage. “Without health, there is nothing you can do to perform, no matter what the discipline,” he says.

Travel Vlogger Says India’s Five-Star Hotels Outshine Pakistan’s Luxury Stays

India’s luxury hotels: India’s premium hotel scene has impressed British travel creator Harry Jaggard, who has drawn a sharp comparison between his experiences at luxury properties in Mumbai and Karachi. Jaggard discussed the two stays while appearing on a podcast, recalling his visit to the Taj Palace in Mumbai before travelling to Pakistan, where he stayed at the Pearl Continental in Karachi. The difference was not simply about the reputation attached to the properties but what guests actually experienced during their stay. “I stayed at the Taj Palace in Mumbai, which was where they had their terrorist attack a long time ago. It’s famous for multiple reasons but it was an unbelievable property,” said Harry. The travel vlogger shares that his subsequent stay in Karachi failed to offer the same level of luxury. He described the Pearl Continental as a well-known hotel in the city but felt it fell considerably short of the standard he had encountered in India. “I recently went to Pakistan and stayed at the Pearl Continental which is supposed to be their best hotel in Karachi and the hotel there was nowhere near the standard that I’ve stayed in Indian hotels,” said Harry. Jaggard went on to say that India’s luxury properties have given him an experience comparable with some of the world’s established hospitality markets. “When you stay in an Indian five-star hotel it’s actually a five-star hotel like Dubai, same as the UK, while the one in Karachi felt more of a four or even a three star hotel” Harry added.

Naqvi on critics of PAK team: Those who have never achieved anything in lives...



Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi slammed the critics of the Pakistan team after their losses to England in the first 2 Tests, saying that the naysayers who are criticizing the team 'have never achieved anything in their lives'. "You used to be ranked eighth in ODIs, which has now gone up to fifth. You have had six ODI series, out of which you have won four, but still, our cricket is finished? Our success rate has gone up from 24 per cent to 73 per cent, and I'm not talking about just one or the other specific match, but still, our cricket is finished?" he said to media in London as per PTI. "Those players who have never achieved anything in their lives, when they talk along these lines, that's unreasonable. Sometimes there are mistakes made in se-

lection as well. I am answerable for that, and we need to work on it," he said, adding that sometimes it was necessary to remove players if they do not perform.

Since Pakistan's loss in the second Test vs England, the team has been plunged into chaos with 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. Recently, speaking to Geo News, Aaqib Javed, the PCB's director of high performance and a member of the selection committee, had 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 Ghori ahead of Rizwan. "No batter in our top seven bowls," he said. "One fast bowler changes the composition of your attack."

Why does Wasim Jaffer think Rinku Singh is 'unfortunate'?

One of the notable misses for India in the series against Afghanistan was Rinku Singh. The southpaw has been a regular in recent T20I squads and has justified his selection whenever given the opportunity. Former Indian cricketer Wasim Jaffer said it is 'unfortunate' that Rinku has not been able to make the list. "He has played very well in the IPL, and even recently, whether you talk about the Uttar Pradesh Premier League or the Duleep Trophy. Even though the latter is red-ball cricket. So, I feel Rinku Singh is unfortunate that he hasn't been able to make his place in the team. But among all these players, I would say that, for Rinku Singh, it feels a little like he has been left out of the team for no real reason," Jaffer said on his YouTube channel.

Jaffer also said that when all the players who are regulars return, someone has to make way, and it is Rinku in this case. "I mean, it's understandable because when all your players return, unfortunately, you have to make room for them. I feel a little bad for Rinku Singh because it doesn't seem like he has done much wrong. To be honest, whenever he has got an opportunity, he has always done well, and he plays in very critical positions. But whenever he plays, his performances have been good." In addition to



Rinku, Jaffer also spoke about Kuldeep Yadav, who is not part of the side. "As for Kuldeep, again, I've said this so many times that it has become repetitive. But I feel he has gone out of favour for no reason, so I feel bad for him." India team: Shreyas Iyer [C], Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Sanju Samson [WK], Ishan Kishan [WK], Tilak Varma [VC], Shivam Dube, Nitish Kumar Reddy*, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar*, Varun Chakaravathy, Ravi Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah*, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana*

Amazing how someone managed to destroy the entire system': Usama Mir

Chaos is a familiar foe for Pakistan, and amidst the side's tour, their performances have been quite poor, losing the first two Tests of the series with one more game remaining. Pakistan's hierarchy pulled the plug by removing the coaching staff and dropping seven players for the final Test. And the radical decision was not well-received by former players and pundits; however, the latest critic was young spinner Usama Mir through his social media post. "Amazing how someone managed to destroy the entire system, and nobody even noticed," Mir wrote in a post on X. "Ab pachhtaye kya, jab chidiya chug gayin khet (No use crying over spilt milk now, the birds have already eaten the crops)," he wrote.

Former batting legend Mohammad Yousuf too slammed the decision. "The recent decision by the authorities to recall players and coaching staff from the ongoing tour does not appear to be only performance related," Yousuf wrote on social media. "After all, we are not sending legends like Zaheer Abbas, Javed Miandad, Inzamam-ul-Haq, or Saeed Anwar as replacements. Instead, this move reflects the familiar cycle of internal chaos, differences of opinion, and controversies that have long haunted Pakistan cricket," he added. 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 Ghori ahead of Rizwan. "No batter in our top seven bowls," he said. "One fast bowler changes the composition of your attack."

Srikanth in Super 750 quarters for first time since June '23; beats Victor Lai 21-18, 21-19

Badminton masterclasses are happily scattered around Youtube because Kidambi Srikanth rarely gets top billing or broadcaster's attention, while he goes about casually playing his classy game on some Court 3. He is 33 years-old, and his ranking languishes close to his age, at World No 34. Canadian Victor Lai, at No 9 fresh from his second World Championships bronze, would not have expected the veteran to push him the way he did at Super 750 China Masters. The 21-18, 21-19 win for the eternal Indian, was particularly impressive because he trailed 11-15, 9-14 in each set respectively. But what was noticeable given Lai has hurt Indian progress inflicting defeats on top names was that none of the Top 10er's frenzied game with ability to push pace fazed Srikanth. He has the original speed-rush and the 21-year-old was gobsmacked and exhausted at the disruption of his own rhythm, even if the match was wrapped up in 44 minutes. Batches of Boys Singles World's medalists from 2018, 2021 and 23 beware of the incoming 15-point system in 2027. With stamina fading out of the frame, Srikanth has the game to resurrect himself. For the moment, he bolsters India's hopes for the Asian Games team gold that was lost last edition. It's not that Srikanth hit the top gears; just that his existing skillset with a sharp net charge, will suffice to pick at MS3s – the third singles (fifth tubber) in every tie, so you can never write India off. It doesn't hurt that he can be alternated with the other wily fox, HS Prannoy on the rearguard, something that brought India two Thomas Cup medals.

On Thursday at Shenzhen, the busybody Victor was flummoxed. It's uncharacteristic for him to rush towards his towel and water bottle every third point, but that's exactly what he was driven to after Srikanth took the fight to him, with his net rushes. Both traded the down the line smashes – which bullet through the air, and stay hit. But it was Srikanth's iconic follow-up stomp to the net that put Victor in a quandary. The 21-year-old is an ace retriever.

He is a montage of nightmares for Lakshya Sen after the All England because India's No 1 loses patience quickly, though his losses ought to be taken with a pinch of salt on black coffee – the Asiad is what Sen is building towards. But how Srikanth handled Victor, was instructive. For all his retrieving prowess and kill shot, Victor is still a tall character prone to being hassled when he's made to twist and turn chasing shuttles on alternate flanks. Srikanth can manipulate not just placement but pace and the sheer axis of a rally and he is formidable because he attacks the net with ferocity while maintaining a monk's face. What he did best though was take the pace off every acceleration Victor unleashed in frustration from the backcourt. So by the time Srikanth fetched up at the net, Victor's was completely deoxygenated, starved off speed that frustrates Sen. A fresher Srikanth, when fit, and showing up scantily on the circuit is very dangerous. When he's not desperate and looking to kill going for the lines as last resort, he has plenty of time to scramble opponents' brains. So he calmly shrugged off Victor's lead, denying him the rhythm of urgency he so badly needs to out-hustle opponents. While the first set was pocketed 21-18 with crisp shot quality, the Canadian might've fancied pushing a decider. But the new-Srikanth since the Malaysia Masters last season, constructs creatively, defends with anticipation and kills with class. He pushed Victor back with a smash, and then turned the knife with deep aggressive kills from the net, sowing the doubt seeds with deft dribbles controlled with a magnetic wand to make quarters. More than anything, Srikanth plays in the present. His win on Thursday had no indication of its arrival from his last match, though he single-handedly sold a beautiful typeface of badminton to USA playing there with his calligraphic game. Beating World No 9 is no guarantee that he could out-run Lee Cheuk-Yiu in quarters either. But the sorcerer has the game that can counter Lee's speed, Kodai's ennui-inducing intrepidity or Christo Popov's steadiness.

What will be different about jerseys of debut players for UCL 2026/27 season



A new initiative has been introduced for the upcoming UEFA Champions League: players will wear "debut patches." Players appearing for the first time in the competition will have a patch with the word "debut" on their sleeve, placed inside the Champions League starball logo. The decision followed an agreement between Fanatics—a global digital sports platform selling licensed merchandise, trading cards, collectables, and sports betting—and UEFA, European football's governing body. After the match, the debut player's patch will be sent to Topps, a trading card company owned by Fanatics, to be made into a special, signed trading card. The patches will be certified before entering packs.

Players who appear directly or as a substitute will re-

'Humiliated and smeared me': Former Arsenal forward unhappy with national side

Former Arsenal forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has expressed his unhappiness with Gabon's national team. He said he felt humiliated by the team after the AFCON cup held in Morocco in 2025, when he was first left out and then later reinstated. "They humiliated and smeared me even though I played at the AFCON while injured," the 37-year-old said in a television interview. "This is the last straw, and I'd rather stop here." "I think the team's problems run much deeper than the little person that I am," said Aubameyang. "It's a part of our national identity that has been weakened." Gabonese President Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema said at the time. At the time, Gabon's Minister of Sports announced on television the suspension of the national team after they finished last in their group and were eliminated from the tournament in Morocco. "Given the Panthers' disgraceful performance at the Africa Cup of Nations, the government has decided to dissolve the coaching staff, suspend the national team until further notice, and exclude players Bruno Ecuele Manga and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang," he said. Earlier in the summer, the striker moved on from French club Marseille to sign for Spanish side Deportivo La Coruna, who just earned promotion back to La Liga after years away, at the start of the season. His form has been pretty good for



the Spanish side at the start of the season as he scored for the third straight game. The Gabon forward struck again on Sunday to give the promoted side from northwest Spain a 2-0 lead over Valencia. Aubameyang scored on a counter-attack, holding off two defenders, going around one, and then chipping the ball over the goalkeeper. The match finished 3-1, marking Deportivo's first win since its return. The 37-year-old Aubameyang previously scored in 1-1 draws with Elche and Malaga in La Liga.

Ex-India batter takes dig at Gambhir, questions T20I selections

Former India batter S Badrinath took a sly dig at head coach Gautam Gambhir after the national selection committee recently announced the T20I squad for the forthcoming three-match series against Afghanistan, starting September 13 in Delhi. The 15-member squad marked a host of changes, with several first-choice players slated for a return from injury. This includes pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, all-rounders Washington Sundar, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Harshit Rana, all of whom are yet to receive their fitness clearance from the BCCI's Centre of Excellence. Citing coach Gambhir's preferences, Badrinath questioned the selections of Sundar and Reddy, who are yet to establish themselves in the format. "At first look, the coach's favourites are back. Washington Sundar is getting tremendous backing in Indian cricket. He needs to really make use of it. And somehow I don't rate Nitish Kumar Reddy so high. That's because of his bowling. I still feel he's a batter and not someone I rate with the ball," Badrinath said on his YouTube channel.

Badrinath, however, said that Bumrah's potential return is a big boost for the side ahead of the Asian Games gold medal defence starting later this month in Japan. Bumrah last featured in the ODI series in England in July, before a left knee injury ruled him out of the subsequent Sri Lanka tour. "Bumrah's return is a huge positive. It could also



have been that Bumrah told the management that he wanted to play these three matches. Then they have to select him. We don't know that. Bumrah might have spoken to Gambhir or the selection committee and said he wants to play because he hasn't played cricket for long. So it could have been Bumrah's option," said Badrinath. India's squad for Afghanistan T20Is: Shreyas Iyer [C], Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Sanju Samson [WK], Ishan Kishan [WK], Tilak Varma [VC], Shivam Dube, Nitish Kumar Reddy*, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar*, Varun Chakaravathy, Ravi Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah*, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana*

'Told me that he won't play as an Impact Player': Former CSK player reveals chat with Dhoni



One of the pressing issues for Chennai Super Kings in the 2026 Indian Premier League season was MS Dhoni's role. Will he play or not? If he plays, will he be an impact sub or a regular player, especially following another season where CSK failed to reach the playoffs? A former cricketer of the franchise confirmed that Dhoni did not want to play as an impact player. "He has personally told me that he won't play as an Impact Player. He sees himself as a full-time keeper, and that means he has to be on the field for the full 20 overs. So he won't play as an Impact Player, but I feel if he does, it'll tactically benefit CSK. His body cannot withstand long durations, which even Fleming has said. He is only going to bat after the 16th over and keep wickets. When his participation is so less, he would be ideal as an Impact Player," Badrinath said on his YouTube channel.

Badrinath also questioned the role of the impact player, which prevented Shivam Dube from bowling as much during the season. "Shivam Dube bowling for India but not for CSK is not because of the Impact Player rule. It has to do with the CSK management and their lack of usage of Dube with the ball. Why are they using him as an Impact Player?

The rule cannot be blamed," said Badrinath. Additionally, Badrinath urged that CSK should start Akeal Hosein in the playing XI instead of using him as an impact sub. "Akeal Hosein should be a certainty in the playing 11. But CSK keeps him as an Impact Player, and then when they bat poorly, they end up using an extra batter as an Impact Player. Because of this, Akeal Hosein ends up not playing. That's just foolishness. You can't blame the rule for your own foolishness."

Deepak Hooda makes Baroda comeback after five years

New Delhi: Batting all-rounder Deepak Hooda is set to play again for his home state, Baroda, in the ongoing domestic season, five years after leaving the team following a feud with skipper Krunal Pandya, a left-arm spin-bowling all-rounder. Hooda, 31, had left Baroda and moved to Rajasthan after being suspended by the Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) for indiscipline, following a storm-out from the team hotel and bio-bubble on the eve of Baroda's first game in the 2021 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, during which he alleged verbal abuse and bullying by Pandya in a practice session. BCA Chief Executive Officer Snehal Parikh confirmed on Thursday that all past grievances between Hooda, Pandya and the association. "Yes, Deepak is going to play for Baroda again in domestic cricket. He got everything from Baroda and is now back to play for us once again. I would say there were no issues. But if there were issues, I believe they have been sorted now," he said to IANS. Hooda, who also bowls handy off-spin, has represented India in 10 ODIs and 21 T20Is, bringing significant experience back to the Baroda side.

Taapsee Pannu film is neither impactful nor believable



Gandhari movie review: The moment you see a happy family in a train compartment, with a little girl and her big doll, you know something wicked this way comes. The girl vanishes, and her increasingly distraught parents, Bani (Taapsee Pannu) and Gokul (Ishwak Singh) find no help from the local police in Joypurra (fictional, of course), somewhere in Bengal. This is the kind of small town we see in streaming shows, as constructed as their plots, sequence after sequence filled with loud background music trying to stand in for tension because nothing on screen cuts it, either because we've been inundated with similar stuff, or we simply can't buy any of it. Or both. Taking a pointer or two from an array of series inflated by local myths and colourful processions, 'Gandhari' is about a child sex trafficking ring (strike one

for unoriginality), run by devilish characters (strike two for ditto), upended by, who else but the ultimate saviour, the mother. No strikes needed here, because mums are the best, right?

Directed by Devashish Makhija whose previous 'Cheetpatakadumpa' made solid use of its leads' feminist energy, and written by Kanika Dhillon whose last outing with regular leading lady Taapsee Pannu was the well-done manohar kahani Phir Aayi Haseen Dilruba, Gandhari feels as if it has slipped between the cracks: it is neither impactful nor believable. The supporting cast — even the husband, played by Ishwak Singh, is clearly only one amongst the ensemble — is reduced to doing their bit, following Bani's frantic search for her lost daughter, as she becomes a veritable Gandhari, suffering from a temporary reduction of vision. 'Maa se bada yoddhaa koi na hoye', is the helpful accompanying dialogue.

Mita Vasisht (here because she was in the last edition of Delhi Crime, also on child trafficking?) shows our intrepid Bani the way, which is blocked by a bunch of people, each of whom are made to do eye-roll things: a social worker-type (Chhaya Kadam) is too helpful, a dank-looking orphanage head (Swastika Bannerjee) skulks about, as does a van driver (Chandan Roy) lugging suspicious sacks. Wait, there's more. Jatin Sama is a cop cracking orders. Prashant Naryanan shows up to up the menace quotient. A devil named Chaumukhi, and a demon named Magrasur join the party; and just to make everything deeply metaphorical, a group of behrupiyas, faces masked and painted, swarm everywhere, but like everything else, leave little impact. Gandhari movie cast: Taapsee Pannu, Ishwak Singh, Jatin Sama, Mita Vasisht, Swastika Bannerjee, Chandan Roy, Prashant Narayanan

Hanuman Ansh director says Bollywood didn't help Neem Karoli Baba film; shows reduced to 25



GNS News Agency, Sept 4

Hanuman Ansh has emerged as a sleeper hit at the box office. Released on August 7, the film initially had over 350 shows across India. However, by the end of its first week, its show count had dropped to just 25. The situation left director and co-producer Vishal Chaturvedi worried that his passion project had tanked at the box office. He then decided to take matters into his own hands. Today, the film is on its way to crossing the Rs 100 crore mark and is also gearing up for an international release. Speaking on the Raunac Podcast, Vishal recalled the obstacles he faced while trying to turn the film around. He said, "People drove this film. Theatres with big films scheduled to release chopped our screen count. From 250, our show count came down to 25. Multiplexes like PVR and Cinopolis in prime locations were skeptical about running our shows." He added, "Amid all this uncertainty, I came across a post on Instagram, which I usually ignore. These are the posts that people write on their own and present as messages from Maharaj Ji. Deep down, I had a feeling that my film had tanked. However, at a time like this, the post read, 'Do your work, I will take care of the rest.' That weirdly motivated me at the end of the first week."

When a post changed the fate of Hanuman Ansh On the Friday before Independence Day, Vishal decided to travel to Surat along with his lead actor Shobinav Satyaa and music composer Rishi Pathak. It was there that the destiny of the film began to change. "We left for Surat, where they had put just one show. We reached at a time when the show was running. When they saw the public's reaction to seeing us—hugging us and crying—the owner was left speechless. That guy started calling other theatres, and the number of shows increased. Then we moved to Vadodara and Aligarh, among other places and the shows increased massively," he recalled. According to the filmmaker, in Aligarh, the first show was added this week and was sold out within 15 minutes. From there, Vishal and his team visited multiple locations, theatres and temples to promote the film and connect directly with audiences.

Hanuman Ansh released alongside Awarapan 2 and Batwara. However, Vishal said that people from Bollywood did not come forward to help when he reached out to them. He shared, "After the film started to do well, several people called me to congratulate me. I don't want to name them. One of

those who congratulated me was Madhur Bhandarkar, whom I had not asked for any support. However, I am not mentioning the others because I had sought help from those people and they didn't help me. Hence, I don't want to name them for now just because they are congratulating me."

Speaking about the ignorance in Bollywood, Vishal said, "People mostly don't know what is going to work, but yet they pass on their gyaan to others. The industry is filled with confused people. There are two sets of people—one who genuinely want to make films, and others who don't have any passion and think filmmaking is something they should try."

How Hanuman Ansh shadowed Toxic Almost three weeks after Hanuman Ansh released, Yash's Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-ups hit theatres. By then, Hanuman Ansh had just started witnessing a significant jump in collections, making Toxic a potential threat to its run. While Toxic opened to a massive response, it has now fallen behind Hanuman Ansh in terms of daily collections. Speaking about Toxic's performance at the box office, Vishal said, "If a film can be made within Rs 2 crore, then you can make it and it can even become successful. There are other sorts of films which do need scale. Yash is a very accomplished actor. When it comes to big films, which are made on a massive budget, it hurts people when they don't work because they carry losses for many. However, I strongly believe that both kinds of films should be given space. We should make both small- and big-budget films." He added that for the success of any film, the emotional connection is very important. "The connection between the scenes is important to keep the audience engaged. It is the maker's responsibility to do so without hurting anybody's sentiments. You can separate unnecessary violence from films unless it is absolutely needed."

Hanuman Ansh director praises Dhurandhar Speaking about violence in films, Vishal cited Dhurandhar as an example and praised the film. He said, "In Dhurandhar Part 1, violence was absolutely needed. It was riding with emotion. The film opened with a brother taking revenge for his sister. In my film, if you see, there is not even a single slap. I received a U certificate because of that. So, the thing is, you cannot make a spy film without violence." While he cited examples, he refused to compare his film with Toxic. "If I had to compare my film to others, I shouldn't, because every filmmaker approaches a film in their own style." Vishal also advised young directors to perfect their films on paper before taking them into production. He urged filmmakers not to write stories that require a huge star or massive amounts of money unless they have the resources to execute them, as that can become a never-ending cycle.

Box office collection: Hanuman Ansh vs Toxic Hanuman Ansh, which revolves around the life of Neem Karoli Baba, saw a massive jump in its fourth week and is now nearing the Rs 75 crore mark. The film, according to Vishal, is made on a budget of Rs 2 crore. Meanwhile, Toxic, made on a reported budget of over Rs 500 crore, has earned around Rs 280 crore, with the film collecting Rs 5 crore on its second Wednesday, compared with Rs 7.7 crore earned by Hanuman Ansh.

Prabhudeva's Moonwalk set for Deepavali release

Chennai: The makers of director Manoj NS's 'Moonwalk', featuring actor Prabhudeva in the lead, on Wednesday announced that the film would hit screens for Deepavali this year. The film has triggered huge expectations among fans and film buffs as the film will also mark the acting debut of Oscar award winning music composer A R Rahman.

Sources say that the ace music director will make a fun cameo appearance in the film. Behindwoods Productions, while announcing the film's release for Deepavali, said the film would deliver to audiences a spectacular festive celebration filled with laughter and unforgettable family moments. Apart from acting in it, A R Rahman has also scored the music for the film. Apart from Prabhudeva, the film will also feature actors Yogi Babu, Aju Varghese, Arjun Ashokan, Satz, Nishma, Sushmitha, Redin Kingsley, Mottai Rajendran, Lollu Sabha Swaminathan, Dr. Santhosh Jacob, Deepa Shankar, and Ramkumar Natarajan among others.

Another highlight of the movie, sources say, will be Yogi Babu appearing in 16 different roles. Sources claim that 'Moonwalk' will seek to seamlessly blend comedy,

music and dance into a vibrant cinematic celebration. Director Manoj NS, who is also the CEO of Behindwoods, said, "Deepavali is a festival that brings families together, and we want Moonwalk to do the same. This film has been created as a celebration of happiness, laughter, music, and dance. This Diwali, our Moonwalk team happily invites family audiences to come together and experience a film that will leave them smiling." Three tracks from the film — 'Yethu', 'Tinga' and 'Macarena' — have been released from the film so far and have received a good response from audiences worldwide. 'Mayile', the fourth song, featuring AR Rahman and Prabhudeva in it, is to be released soon. The film features cinematography by Anoop V. Shylaja, choreography by Sekhar VJ and Piyush Shazia, production design by Shanoo, and costume design by Divya George and Swetha Raju. MOONWALK, produced by Manoj NS, Divya Manoj and Praveen Elak under the banner of Behindwoods Productions, will release simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi languages. Romeo Pictures has acquired the worldwide distribution rights, while Lahari has acquired the film's music rights.

Mahesh Babu wishes success to Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Romanchakam



Hyderabad: Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu has now backed director Venu Gopal Reddy's romantic drama 'Romanchakam', which has been produced by ace director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, saying, the film looked "entertaining and promising." Taking to his X timelines to express his thoughts about the film, Mahesh Babu wrote, "#Romanchakam looks entertaining and promising... Wishing Sandeep, Pranay and the entire team the very best... You can truly see the love, passion and hard work that has gone into this project and I sincerely hope it comes back to you all in abundance."

The unexpected support from Mahesh Babu left the

entire team of Romanchakam delighted with Sandeep Reddy Vanga's production house Bhadrakali Pictures expressing its gratitude. Responding to Mahesh Babu's post on X, Bhadrakali Pictures wrote, "WHAT A MOMENT!!! A beautiful moment in our #Romanchakam journey... And one we are going to cherish for a very long time! Thank you SUPERSTAR @urstrulyMahesh garu for this beautiful gesture and for making the entire team smile so wide today." For the unaware, the film, which has triggered huge expectations, is slated to hit screens worldwide on Thursday.

Excitement about the film shot up after the makers chose to release a glimpse video of the film a couple of weeks ago. The glimpse video begins with Sumanth Prabhass and Ananthika Sanilkumar's characters in the film being madly in love with each other. Just when you begin to think that the couple is made for each other, the second half of the glimpse shows both characters beginning to hate each other. Adding to the excitement and intrigue is the character played by actor Upendra Limaye in the film. The glimpse gives the impression that the actor plays a cop in the film. Apart from Sumanth Prabhass, Ananthika Sanilkumar and Upendra Limaye, the film will also feature actors Venkatesh Kakumanu, Narendra Ravi, Mani Aegurla and Sai Sohan among others. Produced by Pranay Reddy Vanga, the film has cinematography by Pavan Pappula and music by Vasuki Vaibhav. Gobind Kotap has choreographed the dances in the film, which has costumes by Akunur Keerthana.

I'm Game movie review: Dulquer Salmaan's fantasy actioner is a gamble that nearly pays off



I'm Game movie review: One of the things that worked greatly in favour of director Nahas Hidayath's directorial debut, RDX: Robert Dony Xavier (2023), was the all-roundness of the first act. In these scenes, he and the screenwriters not only introduce some of the central characters and provide an overview of the world the story is set in but also deliver an inciting incident so effective that it draws viewers in instantly, making them root for the moment(s) when the payoff finally happens. However, in his sophomore venture, I'm Game, Nahas has completely discarded that structure. In fact, it's built more or less as a character(s)-driven story, where the entire narrative unfolds around Dan John's (Dulquer Salmaan) actions and reactions. While Nahas and screenwriters Sajeev Baba, Bilal Moidu, and Ismail Aboobacker could still have pulled viewers in just as effectively, the screenplay often lacks resonance, largely because of its weak drama. Cinema Anatomy | Toxic: Yash, Geetu Mohandas' crime thriller becomes the very monster it set out to destroy

Dan John is a textbook spoiled brat whose sole aim in life is to make a bucketload of money to prove to his father (Shyamaprasad) that he isn't a "loser." He turns to gambling for this. But the movie soon reveals that he is, in fact, a "loser" in every way. Despite blowing his family's money, Dan shows no remorse at first and is barely interested in running the company his father opened for him. However, at one point, things go out of hand, and Dan must raise a massive sum, or an usurer will make his life a living hell. Still overconfident and avaricious, he turns to cricket betting. But things don't go as planned this time either, and he ends up in an even bigger mess. Although he tries another quick fix, it blows up big time, leaving him in a life-or-death situation. Yet, this event changes his life forever, as fate deals him a "good hand."

After a brief, highly dramatic scene involving an "accident" and the death of a young man whose identity is kept a secret from us (but it was very obvious, though), I'm Game quickly shifts its focus to Dan and his ultra-rich lifestyle. Here, Nahas goes all out to showcase the different facets of his entitled, privileged world. From grand casinos and hotels to pubs and lavish parties, Nahas includes all the stereotypical visuals typically used in big-ticket movies to establish a character like Dan. The only difference from other movies is that Jimshi Khalid shot this, and as usual, he absolutely ate. Since I'm Game revolves around gambling and cricket betting, it's understandable that the makers set the story in an opulent world. However, the overt focus on Dan's lavish lifestyle in the initial acts, which doesn't contribute significantly to the eventual narrative or his character, makes little sense. I'm Game features Dulquer Salmaan in the lead role. I'm Game is a fantasy action thriller. (Credit: Instagram/@imgamemovie) Yes, it's understood that the story is about a spoiled, insensitive rich brat who grows empathy for a man who was wronged. But since the full-blown grandeur surrounding Dan early on doesn't genuinely contribute to the movie's narrative arc, this portrayal makes the film feel like a Potemkin village.

"The hand expresses what the heart already knows," goes a quote famously attributed to American architect Samuel Mockbee. This can also be described as the essence of I'm Game and the element that turns the film into a fantasy actioner. Following an accident, Dan undergoes a hand transplant. Eventually, he realises that his new hand is still under the control of the original owner, almost as if it's possessed, and it can act on its own free will. Also, the hand's real owner is plotting vengeance against the one who killed him, which, by default, will make it a crime committed by Dan. While the plot device itself sounds intriguing, it doesn't feel organically woven into the narrative at first. This is mainly because I'm Game takes a sharp and abrupt shift in narrative tone once the plot device is introduced, effectively dividing the movie into two distinct, aesthetically unrelated parts. It also takes significant time for the viewer to become comfortable with it, during which the makers bombard us with far too many scenes showing the tussle between Dan and the hand, mostly crafted as humorous moments that come off as plain silly, as if created by an amateur who has just started their creative journey.

Must Read | Dear filmmakers, stop turning Mohanlal, other superstars into a joke with forced cameos However,

once the movie shifts into a serious tone, Nahas regains control of I'm Game, and it begins to sail more smoothly. Given that Dan's battle with the hand, which people around him assume is Alien Hand Syndrome, and the hand's mission make up the core plot of the film, the initial scenes and portrayals, in hindsight, feel totally forced and fail to contribute even to strong character development.

Antony Varghese Pepe anchors a shaky movie in all honesty, it is the scenes featuring up-and-coming cricketer Vignesh Das alias Vicky's (Antony Varghese Pepe) story that actually anchor the movie after floating aimlessly for a long time, and make it resonate. Nahas and the writing team extract enough drama and build impactful conflicts here, paving the way for a more immersive experience towards the end. However, one of the major issues with I'm Game is Nahas Hidayath's lack of conviction. Whether in the posh opening scenes or the fantastical ones later on, it often feels as if the director isn't entirely confident in the narrative, leading to a sense that he is holding himself back. Despite having three people write the script and two extra dialogue writers, I'm Game still feels like a collection of scenes and moments, and the lack of a cohesive script is obvious. As Dulquer Salmaan said during the promotions, Antony Varghese Pepe is the true hero of I'm Game. Once the movie shifts into a serious tone, Nahas Hidayath regains control of I'm Game. (Credit: Instagram/@imgamemovie) It is after the dramatic Vicky scenes that I'm Game actually hooks the audience. From there, Nahas delivers a well-paced, enthralling experience that ends with a strong punch. While the makers deserve commendation for keeping the fantastical element under wraps during promotions and offering viewers a delightful surprise in theatres, a judicious trim could have made the movie even better. Dulquer Salmaan's highs and lows Dulquer Salmaan delivers an uneven performance. Sometimes, he knocks it out of the stadium, while at other times, it feels as if he doesn't even know how to hold the bat correctly. While he impresses in the intense moments — particularly where he fights with his hand, including the gripping scene leading to the interval — his performance feels off in lighter moments, especially the so-called comedic ones.

When he has to deliver long lines in Malayalam, his diction still sounds too anglicised. While one could argue that's just how Dan is, by now we know it's a Dulquer problem, which he must address someday to deliver better performances. However, he truly excels in the action sequences, which are brilliantly choreographed by Anbariv. The car chase scenes are also phenomenal. Kayadu Lohar plays Isha, Dan's physiotherapist turned lover, who has little role in the events unfolding around her. Much like in Pallichattambi (2026), the pacing of Kayadu's dialogue delivery, the pauses she takes between words, and her lip movements are totally artificial, making it evident that she struggles with Malayalam. Given that Isha's contribution to the overall narrative is very limited, it's obvious she was brought in merely for pan-Indian appeal. As Dulquer mentioned during the promotions, Antony Varghese Pepe is the true hero of I'm Game, and Vicky, in my opinion, is his first commendable performance since Chaaaver (2023). Samyuktha Viswanathan is also solid in the movie. Myskin plays David Abraham, the main antagonist. While the role is fairly straightforward, he unnecessarily adds a layer of eccentricity and caricature, ultimately undermining the character. Vinay Forrt and Kathir, meanwhile, are wasted in heavily underwritten roles. Jakes Bejoy does a tremendous job with his electrifying music, especially when the movie doesn't have much else to offer. Ajayan Chaliserry's production design, Chaman Chakko's editing, and Mashar Hamsa's costumes also deserve praise.

Priyanka Chopra recalls giving Nick her number in 2017

Mumbai: Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas took a trip down memory lane as husband Nick Jonas and his brothers Joe and Kevin released their latest song "Listen When Sad". She shared a nostalgic compilation of their relationship and recalled the summer when she gave Nick her number, in the summer of 2017. Priyanka shared a video featuring a series of pictures capturing happy moments from her journey with Nick, including their early days together, travels and family memories. The actress captioned the post as, "Oh yes! I do remember, the summer, I gave you, my number... circa: summer 2017 Sound on New Song Out Now | #ListenWhenSad @jonasbrothers." For the uninitiated, the post comes as the Jonas Brothers' new single "Listen When Sad" was released on August 28. The song nostalgically revolves around memories of young love, including the line about a summer when a girl gave someone her number. Priyanka's compilation also included a picture from a family holiday in Goa, featuring her cousin and actress Parineeti Chopra, brother Siddharth Chopra and other family members posing together.