

BRS cadres demand arrest of Congress MLA Shankar, stages candle-light protest at Manuguru

Kothagudem: A large number of BRS activists staged a candlelight protest at the Dr BR Ambedkar statue in Manuguru in the district on Tuesday, demanding the arrest of MLA Veerlapally Shankar, who allegedly incited Dalits to attack the residence of party chief K Chandrashekhra Rao in Erravalli.

Speaking to the media, BRS leaders strongly condemned the demeanour of Shankar, who publicly stated that he wished for Chandrashekhra Rao's death while organising a 'thousand-drum rally' at the BRS chief's residence.

Modi-Putin talks: Sukhoi-57 sale to India, S-400 supply among key issues on agenda

New Delhi, Sept 8

Sale of fifth generation stealth jet, the Sukhoi-57, to India will be on the agenda when Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi hold their bilateral meeting on Friday.

Kremlin Spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, while taking questions from Indian journalists at an online media briefing on Tuesday, was asked about the Sukhoi-57 and he responded: "The issue of selling those machines to India is on the agenda."

The Indian side is wanting transfer of technology for production locally and this is a question for additional discussions that are also under way, Peskov said at the briefing which was hosted by Russian state-run news outlet Sputnik

Explaining the issue of technology transfer, Peskov said: "Every country wants to keep the new technology to itself. But given the advanced strategic partnership with India, we will discuss the possibilities, should they be available, of sharing those technologies with our Indian partners."

The Sukhoi-57 is a fifth-generation jet. The US and its NATO allies use the F-35 while China has a fifth-gen jet J35 and is now providing the same to Pakistan.

Also, India and Russia are looking to discuss widening of defence cooperation, including tweaking of jointly produced missiles to provide them an edge globally, said Peskov as he spoke about the bilateral talks to be held on the sidelines of the BRICS leaders' summit in New Delhi on September 12 and 13.

Peskov mentioned how the two countries are jointly producing missiles like the Brahmos and are looking to improve upon them to make them even better.

On India seeking greater number of S-400 air defence missiles, the Kremlin spokesperson said, "Several matters will be discussed."



School bus runs over toddler in Sadsivapet

Sangareddy: In a tragic incident, a two-and-a-half-year-old boy died after being run over by a school bus at Siddapur Colony in Sadasivpet town on Tuesday.

Police said the boy, Efrahim, had come out of his house with his mother to receive his brother, who arrived on a school bus on Tuesday evening. He came under the wheels of the bus when the driver started the vehicle and moved forward.

Speaker Gaddam: I Have Powers to Act Against BRS MLC Tata Madhu but Did Not Exercise Them

HYDERABAD, SEPT 8

Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Tuesday said he had the authority to take action against BRS MLC Tata Madhusudhan over his derogatory remarks against him and his mother, but chose not to, saying he did not believe in the "unilateral" approach adopted during the previous BRS regime.

In an informal chat with mediapersons, Prasad Kumar said he was deeply upset over Monday's developments and had expected BRS legislators to apologise when the House met on Tuesday. Instead, they tried to divert the issue. "I gave the microphone to Harish Rao expecting him to apologise, but they are trying to divert the issue. That is why I am angry with BRS members for the first time," he said.

The Speaker said he had never faced such an incident and was emotionally disturbed by the remarks against him and his mother. He said he was unable to conduct the House and had requested that a panel Speaker take over. Senior MLA Kadiyam Srihari was subsequently allowed to occupy the Chair.

Prasad Kumar said he could have suspended BRS legislators, but refrained from doing so. "The Speaker's jurisdiction extends from Public Gardens to the Assembly premises. But that is not the way. The Congress government does not believe in unilateral action," he said. He recalled that MLAs had been unilaterally suspended and expelled during the BRS regime, and stressed that he wanted the House to function democratically. He also questioned the BRS argument that the Tata Madhu issue was outside the Speaker's purview.

The Speaker said he had spoken to Leader of Opposition K. Chandrashekar Rao before the Monsoon Session and invited him to attend the Assembly but was



KTR, Harish detained enroute KCR's farmhouse as Congress lays siege

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, Sept 8

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao and deputy floor leader T Harish Rao, along with other party MLAs, were detained by Malkajigiri Police at Hakimpet on Tuesday, September 8, while they were proceeding towards former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhra Rao's farmhouse at Erravalli.

The police detained BRS leaders and shifted them to a police station. The leaders had set out to Erravalli straight from the Assembly amid a call by Congress SC leaders to lay siege to the farmhouse.

In an X post, KTR had alleged that the police was aiding 'Congress goons' to reach KCR's farmhouse instead of stopping them.

"Royal police escort being given by @TelanganaCOPs to Congress Goons who are on their way to attack KCR Garu at his residence Well done @TelanganaDGP Dekho Bhai @RahulGandhi tumhara Mohabbat ka Dukaan," the post read.

In view of the proposed protest, police have stepped up security around Rao's residence and imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144.

Several roads leading to the farmhouse have been closed as part of the security arrangements. Police have also erected barricades and are preventing people from entering the vicinity of the farmhouse.



Rahul Gandhi targets Modi government over killing of Manipuri musician in Delhi

NEW DELHI, SEPT 8

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday lashed out at the Modi government over the beating to death of a musician from Manipur here, asking what Home Minister Amit Shah's ministry is doing to stop "growing lawlessness" and demanding a thorough probe into the incident.

C Vikram Singh, a 54-year-old Manipuri musician, was beaten to death by a group of delivery workers and dhaba staff when he objected to their shouting and drinking alcohol outside his Kilokari village apartment early Monday, police said.

Seven men have been arrested in connection with the killing, and one minor detained. "Chongtham Vikram Singh ji, a renowned musician from Manipur, went downstairs to ask some men to lower the noise outside his home. He was beaten to death for it," Gandhi said on X.

A father, killed outside his own home, in his own country's capital, he said. "After many such incidents, every Northeast family in Delhi is asking the same question today – are we safe here? 'What are Shah's MHA and Delhi Police doing to stop this growing lawlessness, especially against people from the Northeast?'" " Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition said, and called for a swift investigation into the matter.

He later spoke with the brother of C Vikram Singh to convey his condolences to the bereaved family, according to Congress's media and publicity head Pawan Kherra. "Shri Rahul Gandhi expressed his solidarity with the family and assured them that their demand for justice will not go unheard," Kherra said.

Singh had been living in Kilokari village for several years. A case in connection with his death was booked at the Sunlight Colony Police Station. A preliminary enquiry revealed that Singh, who belonged to the Meitei community, objected to men creating a nuisance outside his house and was dealt blows and punches for it, the police said.

Singh's son, Yaiphaba, rushed him to Holy Family Hospital, where he succumbed. The North East Students Society Delhi University described him as a "respected



Telangana Assembly adjourned amid uproar over police assault on women MLAs

Hyderabad:, SEpt 8

The Telangana Assembly was adjourned on Tuesday as the Opposition and treasury benches continued to argue over Monday's developments.

The BRS members, sporting black badges, moved into the well demanding an unconditional apology from the Government for the police high-handed behaviour on Monday, while the treasury benches insisted that the Leader of the Opposition K Chandrashekhra Rao come to the House and tender an unconditional apology for BRS MLC comments against the Speaker.

Panchayat Raj Minister D Seethakka charged that BRS leaders had deliberately pushed the two women MLAs before the police and strategically stood behind them. "The two women MLAs should also introspect," she said.

Amidst these charges, Harish Rao reminded that the BRS MLC had withdrawn his comments and regretted his action. The police have already booked cases against him and taken him to the police station, he said.

"We have immense respect for the Chair and personally towards you. But what action has been taken against the police for their overzealous action against women MLAs. The government should apologise," Harish Rao told the Speaker.

As the BRS MLAs were demanding an apology from the government, the Chief Marshal went to each BRS member and took away placards from them. In the middle of this, BJP Floor Leader A Maheswar Reddy demanded a debate on 22 A row. The BJP MLAs holding placards squatted on the floor.Track Congressional Bills

He wanted the Congress government to apologize to the women MLAs and also said BRS should reciprocate for its MLC's comments against the Speaker.

Amidst this, the BRS MLAs led by Harish Rao approached the podium. A heavy marshal force obstructed them and in the middle of this melee, the Speaker announced that the House had been adjourned for 15 minutes.



to the House and apologise to the Chair for the remarks made by a BRS MLC.Read Political News

Soon after the House commenced the proceedings, BRS Deputy Floor Leader T Harish Rao sprang to his feet and demanded an apology from the government for the assault on BRS MLAs Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunitha Laxma Reddy. The BRS members were in full attendance, while the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was not present in the House.

Harish Rao drew the attention of the House to the registration of cases against Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunitha Laxma Reddy, despite them being attacked by the police. "This is not an attack on just two MLAs but on the entire womenfolk in the State. This is not right," Harish Rao argued.

His comments elicited an immediate response from

Supreme Court to take up Satya Niketan building collapse case on September 10

New Delhi, SEpt 8Taking cognisance of the Satya Niketan building collapse in Delhi that has claimed seven lives and left several others injured, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will take up the matter on September 10.

A Bench led by Justice A Amanullah turned down Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's request to allow the issue to be dealt with by the Delhi High Court which was seized of a PIL on the instant case. "We already have something in mind. It has to be on a pan-India basis. We may get it (PIL pending in Delhi HC) transferred here (to SC). We will take it up the day after tomorrow," the Bench said.

Terming the incident as "horrific", Mehta tried to convince the Bench that it needed to be handled independently and that the High Court had taken it up in right earnest. "It is a horrific incident. Our hearts go out to the children and parents. A PIL has been filed in the Delhi High Court. We can file a transfer petition, but I am pointing out the order that was passed," Mehta said and went on to read out the High Court's order.

The High Court had ordered the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to conduct a high-level inquiry to find out if the building had valid construction permissions and to identify officials responsible for any lapses, he said.



Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Maharashtra's anti-conversion law—preventing fraud or curbing freedom?

religious freedom, constitutional rights, and the protection of vulnerable sections of society from becoming victims of fraudulent manipulation. The Freedom of Religion Act, 2026, is significant because Maharashtra is a large and socially diverse State that serves as a microcosm of India. Moreover, the legislation goes considerably beyond simply criminalising conversion by physical force. It seeks to regulate the process of conversion, creates extensive reporting requirements, and gives relatives and the police a role in initiating proceedings. The Act deals with specified forms of unlawful conversion, including conversion through force, fraud, coercion, misrepresentation, undue influence, inducement, deception connected with marriage or other unlawful means. There is no doubt that the State should protect people from being converted against their will. However, it must be extremely careful not to obstruct them from exercising a will that society happens to dislike. The debate around the law has included questions about 'Love Jihad', interfaith relationships, religious freedom, privacy, personal choice and the role of the government in regulating conversions. The manner of implementation of the new law in the coming years and its constitutional scrutiny by the courts will determine whether it becomes a genuine shield against exploitation or a new instrument for policing personal faith and relationships. One of the problematic aspects of the law is that it places the burden on the person who caused or facilitated the conversion to establish that it was lawful.

Remarks Insulting Dalit Self-Respect Will Not Be Tolerated

Thatha Madhu Should Be Immediately Dismissed and Apologise Publicly”Pulikunta Village Congress Leader Ippa Ramesh”Kumrambheem, Asifabad,District.Reporter "Indian Chronicle"September.09. ""REBBENA: Pulikunta village Congress Party leader Ippa Ramesh said that remarks insulting the self-respect and dignity of the Dalit community would not be tolerated. He was speaking on the alleged objectionable remarks made by MLC Thatha Madhu against Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar.Ramesh said the Dalit community had struggled for generations against social discrimination, humiliation and inequality and had moved forward with the rights, equality, freedom and self-respect guaranteed by the Constitution. He said the Constitution provided by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had given Dalits a strong foundation for social and political advancement.He expressed serious concern over the alleged remarks against Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, who belongs to the Dalit community and is holding a high constitutional position. Ramesh said there was a difference between political criticism and making personal remarks that undermine an individual's dignity. ""Political criticism and questions are part of democracy. Government policies and public issues can and should be debated. However, criticism must have limits. Remarks that hurt personal dignity or the sentiments of a social community are not acceptable in a democratic society," he said.Ramesh said the office of the Speaker was not merely a political position held by an individual but a constitutional office representing the dignity of the legislative system. Regardless of who occupies the post, everyone has a responsibility to respect its constitutional status. He urged political leaders to exercise restraint while speaking about those holding constitutional positions.Dalit self-respect was not merely a political issue but the result of generations of struggles and sacrifices, Ramesh said. He recalled the contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other social reformers in securing equality, dignity and constitutional rights for oppressed communities.He said leaders in public life must understand that their words have a significant impact on society. Party workers, supporters and the general public may be influenced by their statements, and therefore political leaders must speak responsibly and avoid creating divisions among people.Ramesh demanded that Thatha Madhu immediately withdraw his alleged remarks and tender a public apology. He also demanded that the BRS leadership take the matter seriously and initiate appropriate disciplinary action. He urged the party leadership to make its stand clear instead of remaining silent on the issue.He said protecting Dalit self-respect was not the responsibility of Dalits alone but the responsibility of every section of society. People should uphold humanity, equality, fraternity and mutual respect beyond caste, religion, region and political differences. "Our political struggle should be against policies, not against the dignity of individuals. In a democracy, political opponents can be defeated politically, but there is no need to insult them. Positions and power are temporary, but human dignity and constitutional values must remain permanent," Ramesh said.He further appealed to political parties to issue clear guidelines to their leaders and public representatives to prevent the recurrence of controversial and objectionable remarks. He said political leaders should set an example for society by promoting harmony and mutual respect. ""Politics may change, parties may change, governments may change and leaders may change, but human dignity must never change. Remarks insulting Dalit self-respect will not be tolerated. The dignity of constitutional offices must be protected. Thatha Madhu should withdraw his remarks and publicly apologise, while the party leadership must take appropriate disciplinary action," Ramesh said.



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Enhanced Security Arrangements in New Delhi Ahead of BRICS Summit

New Delhi"08 Sept 2026"Srikanth Devarakonda""Security arrangements have been intensified across New Delhi District in view of the upcoming BRICS Summit 2026 and the expected movement of international dignitaries and official delegations in the national capital. ""Delhi Police are taking necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of visiting dignitaries and the general public. Security personnel are being deployed at key locations, while arrangements are being strengthened along important routes and other sensitive areas likely to witness the movement of delegations. ""The police have appealed to citizens to remain alert and cooperate with security personnel during the summit period. Residents and commuters have also been advised to follow traffic and security instructions and comply with official advisories issued by the authorities from time to time. ""Citizens are requested to avoid unnecessary inconvenience by planning their journeys in accordance with official traffic and security updates and to immediately report any suspicious activity to the police. ""Delhi Police said that the enhanced arrangements are aimed at ensuring a safe and secure environment during the international summit. ""The advisory was issued as part of the Delhi Police's ongoing preparations for BRICS Summit 2026.

Dalit Self-Respect Must Be Protected, Thatha Madhu Should Apologise: Gurnule Mengaji

"Kumrambheem, Asifabad,District.Reporter "Indian Chronicle"September.09. ""Wankidi Mandal Congress Party President Gurnule Mengaji said that remarks insulting the self-respect of the Dalit community would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He was speaking at a press conference held at the Wankidi Mandal Congress Party office on Tuesday, following the directions of District Congress President Atram Sugunakka. "Mengaji said that the Dalit community has fought for generations against social discrimination, humiliation and inequality and has progressed with the rights, equality, freedom and self-respect guaranteed by the Constitution. He said the Constitution provided by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar has been a strong foundation for the social and political advancement of Dalits. "He expressed anguish over the alleged objectionable remarks made by MLC Thatha Madhu against Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, who emerged from the Dalit community and is holding one of the highest constitutional responsibilities in the state. Mengaji said there was a clear difference between political criticism and remarks that undermine an individual's personal dignity. "He stated that criticism and questioning are natural in politics and that government policies and public issues should certainly be debated. However, he said there should be limits to political criticism and that making statements that hurt personal dignity or the sentiments of any social community was against democratic traditions. "The Speaker's post is not merely a political position associated with an individual but a constitutional office representing the dignity of the legislative system, Mengaji said. Regardless of who occupies the position, everyone has a responsibility to uphold its dignity. He urged political leaders to exercise restraint while commenting on individuals holding constitutional offices. "Mengaji said Dalit self-respect was not merely a political issue but the result of generations of struggles and sacrifices. He said Dalits had progressed socially and politically by making education a weapon and the Constitution their foundation. The elevation of a person from the Dalit community to a high constitutional office was made possible by the struggles and sacrifices of many great leaders, he said. "Public representatives and political leaders must understand that every word they speak can have an impact on society, Mengaji said. Since party workers, supporters and ordinary people may follow the statements of their leaders, those in public life must act with greater responsibility. Political differences may exist, but human dignity must always be respected, he said. "Mengaji demanded that Thatha Madhu immediately withdraw his remarks and tender a public apology. He also urged the party leadership to take the matter seriously and initiate appropriate disciplinary action. He demanded that the BRS party leadership break its silence and make its position clear on the issue. "He said protecting the self-respect of Dalits was not the responsibility of Dalits alone but the responsibility of every section of society. He called upon people to uphold humanity, equality and mutual respect beyond caste, religion, regional and political differences. He urged everyone to follow the constitutional values and spirit championed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. ""Positions, power and political circumstances are not permanent. But human dignity and constitutional values must remain permanent. Our political struggle should be against policies, not against the dignity of individuals. We can defeat our political opponents, but there is no need to insult them," Mengaji said. "He suggested that political parties should issue clear guidelines to their leaders to prevent the recurrence of such controversial remarks in the future. He reiterated his demand that Thatha Madhu withdraw his remarks and publicly apologise, and that the party leadership immediately respond and take appropriate disciplinary action. "Mandal Congress vice-presidents Selvatkar Penttu, Kodape Maruthi and Samala Ramesh, former Mandal president Gurnule Narayana, Wankidi Town President Dhanwalkar Kamalesh Banti, Mandal Working President Dikonda Mahesh, and Congress leaders Vadluri Lingamurthy, Jabure Ganesh, Madapachi Sitaram, Porla Shankar, Sheikh Chand Pasha, Aspak Sheikh, Ajmuddin Sheikh, Upre Dharamaji, Jade Somaji, Mandokar Anil and Chunarkar Shivaji, along with sarpanches, other Congress leaders and party workers, attended the press conference.



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Congress Leaders Burn Effigies of KTR and Harish Rao in Uppal



---Action Sought Against Those Who Made Derogatory Remarks Against Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar""UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):

Congress Govt Must Apologise to BRS Women MLAs: Mahesh Yadav



Hyderabad Correspondent, September 8 (Indian Chronicle): The alleged misbehaviour of police and the government towards BRS women MLAs in front of the Telangana Assembly on Monday came under sharp criticism from senior BRS leader Mahesh Yadav, who demanded that the Congress government apologise to the legislators. Yadav was speaking during a protest organised by BRS leaders from the Khairatabad constituency at Punjagutta crossroads on Tuesday against the Congress government's alleged failure to honour its election promises. Around 100 BRS workers participated in the demonstration, carrying placards and raising slogans against the

Congress leaders staged a protest in Uppal against BRS leaders over their alleged derogatory remarks against Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. As part of the protest, they burnt effigies of BRS MLAs KTR and Harish Rao and expressed strong opposition. "The Congress leaders demanded legal action against BRS MLAs KTR and Harish Rao, whom they held responsible for the remarks made against Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. They also demanded action against those who allegedly provoked BRS MLAs and MLCs. "The Congress leaders further called for stringent action against BRS MLC Tata Madhu, along with the concerned MLAs and MLCs, over the alleged derogatory remarks against the Speaker. "They said the office of the Assembly Speaker holds a crucial position in a democratic system and must be respected. They stressed that making inappropriate remarks against individuals holding constitutional positions is unacceptable. A large number of Congress leaders and party workers participated in the protest and raised slogans against the BRS. "

government. Yadav also submitted a memorandum at the statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, urging the government to implement its electoral commitments and address public grievances. Strongly condemning Monday's incident, Yadav alleged that the manner in which the women legislators were treated was unacceptable and demanded an unconditional apology from the government. He also alleged that the Congress had failed to fulfil several assurances made to voters and questioned Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's criticism of BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao. Yadav said the government should first deliver on its promises and warned that failure to do so would invite further public protests.

We Welcome Gadkari's Call to Permit Bike Taxis

Bike Taxi Association(BTA) President Amit Gawde""Hyderabad, September 08 (Indian Chronicle) : The Bike Taxi Association(BTA) welcomed Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari's call to state governments to allow private two-wheelers to operate as bike taxis across the country, BTA President Amit Gawde said in a statement released in the city on Tuesday. He said a uniform, livelihood-friendly policy for bike taxis was essential across the country. Noting that two-wheelers could provide livelihood opportunities to around eight crore people, he urged state governments to take immediate action. The BTA would work with state transport departments to ensure safe, regulated and accessible bike taxi services, he added.

Literacy for All, Progress for All: CM Revanth Reddy's Public Notification

"08 Sept 2026"Hyderabad"Venkata Devarakonda""In a heartfelt message marking the 60th Anniversary of International Literacy Day, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended warm greetings to educators, volunteers, social organisations, and every individual working to advance literacy across the state. He emphasised that literacy is not merely a basic human right but a transformative force capable of reshaping lives, strengthening economies, and uplifting entire communities. ""The Chief Minister highlighted that literacy must reach every home, ensuring that every child receives education without discrimination or barriers. He reiterated the government's commitment to enrolling every child in school and providing all necessary support to guarantee access to quality learning opportunities. ""CM Revanth Reddy noted that literacy goes far beyond reading and writing. It empowers people with awareness of their rights, builds confidence to shape their future, and strengthens families and society at large. "A single letter can change a life, and one educated individual can transform an entire generation," he said. ""Calling for collective action, the Chief Minister urged citizens to take literacy forward as a mass movement, working together to build an educated, enlightened, and equitable Telangana. He stressed that a knowledge-driven society is essential for achieving long-term progress and social harmony. ""As Telangana observes this milestone year of International Literacy Day, CM Revanth Reddy reaffirmed the state's commitment to ensuring that education becomes the foundation of empowerment and equality for every citizen.

BRS Leaders House Arrested in Uppal in the Name of Preventive Measures



---BRS Leaders Allege Police Support for Congress Protests and Road Blockades""UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): BRS state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj strongly condemned the alleged detention of BRS leaders by the police in the name of preventive measures.He alleged that BRS leaders from Uppal, Chilkanagar, Beerappagadda, Ramanthapur and Habsiguda were taken into custody and detained at police stations from 6 a.m. on Tuesday under the pretext of house arrest.Meanwhile, BRS leaders alleged that Congress leaders were staging a road blockade at Uppal Crossroads and burning effigies of BRS leaders, while Uppal police were allegedly providing them with an escort and support.According to the BRS leaders, when they questioned the police about the matter, the police said that the BRS leaders had been arrested as a preventive measure and that cases would also be registered against those who burned the effigies.Speaking on the occasion, BRS leaders alleged that the police were adopting a biased approach. They criticised the Congress government, stating that despite claiming to provide people-centric governance, it was allegedly resorting to political repression and using the police for political purposes. "They said the Congress government had only two years left in office and urged the police to keep this in mind and treat all political parties equally without bias.The BRS leaders said they would fully cooperate with the police if they acted impartially, but warned that they would demonstrate the strength of the BRS if the police continued to act in a biased manner. "BRS state leaders Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Gandham Nageswara Rao, Hanumanthu Reddy, Babu Yadav, Bosani Pawan, Dayakar Reddy, Narsing Rao, Mustaq, TRSV Prashanth Goud and Kariphe Santhosh were among those who participated.

MRPS Chilka nagar Division New Committee Elected Unanimously

Jerripothula Balakishan elected President, Kanukuntla Anil Kumar General Secretary""UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): As part of the organisational restructuring programme of the Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS), a new committee for the Chilkanaagar Division was elected unanimously. The election was conducted as per the directions of MRPS founder and national president Padma Shri Mandakrishna Madiga. "The meeting



was chaired by Korapaka Anji Madiga, Uppal constituency in-charge, while former Medchal-Malkajigiri district president Pranay attended as the chief guest. "Under the guidance of senior MRPS leader Anthagalla Ashok, the new committee was elected unanimously with the coordination of retired teachers Shamirpet Chandraiah, Rayagiri Gnaneshwar, Gandhi Narsing Rao, Palamakula Parashuramulu and Palle Narsing Rao. "Jerripothula Balakishan was elected President, Gandhamalla Naresh as Vice-President, Kanukuntla Anil Kumar as General Secretary, Potta Vinod Kumar as Official Spokesperson, Erra Raju and Putta Raju as Joint Secretaries, and Panuganti Nagaraju as Treasurer. "On the occasion, the leaders congratulated the newly elected committee members and expressed hope that the new committee would work towards strengthening the MRPS and achieving the organisation's objectives. "Dasari Yadagiri, along with constituency leaders, senior MRPS leaders and activists, participated in the programme.

Osmania University Holds 85th Convocation, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla Urges Graduates to Lead with Innovation and Humanity“



“Osmania University, Hyderabad“08 Sept 2026““Osmania University celebrated its 85th Convocation at the historic Tagore Auditorium in Hyderabad, where Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and Chancellor of Osmania University, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, addressed thousands of graduating students and highlighted the crucial role of youth in shaping India's future.““In his keynote address, the Governor called upon graduates to continuously upgrade their skills, embrace emerging technologies, and contribute meaningfully to national development through innovation, research, entrepreneurship, and social responsibility. He noted that while Artificial Intelligence and advanced tech-

nologies are rapidly transforming society, technology must always remain rooted in human values, ethics, compassion, and sensitivity.““Sri Shiv Pratap Shukla encouraged students to move beyond traditional career paths and aspire to become job creators, aligning with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He emphasised that India's progress depends on young minds who are willing to innovate, take risks, and build solutions that uplift communities.““Reflecting on the 109-year legacy of Osmania University, the Governor praised its contributions to higher education and urged the institution to further strengthen its focus on research, AI, machine learning, sustainable development, and inclusive learning opportunities. He stressed that universities must ensure quality education for students from all sections of society, enabling them to compete globally.““The Governor also appealed to the youth to lead disciplined, healthy lives and actively support the “No to Drugs – Yes to Life” campaign, reinforcing the importance of social responsibility alongside academic excellence.““In an inspiring message to the graduating class, he said:““Be successful, but remain humble. Dream big, but stay connected to your roots. Embrace technology, but never give up humanity.““The convocation concluded with the awarding of degrees and medals to meritorious students, marking a proud moment for graduates.

PM Unveils Key Infrastructure Projects in Vadodara, Emphasises Faster Growth



“Vadodara“08 Sept 2026““Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched a series of major infrastructure projects in Vadodara, reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening India's connectivity and economic momentum. Addressing a large gathering, he said the new initiatives will help “move people and goods faster, create new opportunities and power economic growth.““The projects span critical sectors including railways, roads, and urban development, aimed at improving logistics efficiency and reducing travel time for citizens. The Prime Minister



noted that modern, integrated infrastructure is essential for India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.““He highlighted Gujarat's growing role as a national growth hub, with Vadodara emerging as a key centre for both passenger and freight movement. Thousands of citizens attended the event, which was also streamed live on digital platforms.““The newly launched projects are expected to boost regional development, support industries and MSMEs, and enhance overall connectivity across the state and country.

Inspection of Power Issues in Shekhar Basti by DIVISION CONGRESSES WORKING PRESIDENT VALLAPU SRIKANTH YADAY — Assures Early Resolution

“RAMANTHAPUR, SEPTEMBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Congress Party Working President of Ramantapur Division, Vallapu Srikanth Yadav, along with Electricity Department Assistant Engineer Meghanath, visited Shekhar Basti on Tuesday to inspect the electricity-related problems faced by local residents and take steps for their immediate resolution.“Yadav responded promptly after receiving information that residents of Shekhar Basti were facing difficulties due to the three-phase power line and the location of electricity poles. Accompanied by the electricity department official, he inspected the affected areas and personally assessed the condition of the power lines and poles. During the visit, local residents explained their problems to Yadav. He assured them that necessary measures would be taken to resolve the issues. He particularly stated that steps would be taken to remove electricity poles that are causing inconvenience to residents and to install new poles wherever required.“Yadav said he would bring the matter to the attention of Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy and discuss the issue with him to facilitate the installation of new electricity poles in Shekhar Basti. He further stated that he would coordinate with the concerned officials and make every effort to resolve the electricity-related problems at the earliest so that residents do not face further



inconvenience. Residents of the colony expressed their gratitude to Srikanth Yadav for responding immediately to their concerns and visiting the locality along with the electricity department official. Local residents Praveen, Sherwanath, Manohar Yadav, Srikanth, Mahesh, Ambika, Roopa, Vijaya, Jai Vijaya Swaroop, Shantamma, Sridhar, Sachin, Chintu, and others participated in the inspection.

CHELLOJU YELLA CHARI Appointed Convener of Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division“



““UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): CHELLOJU YELLA CHARI has been appointed as the Convener of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi for the Venkat Reddy Nagar Division.“Tindere Hanumanth Rao, founder of the Ramantapur Ganesh Utsav Samithi, Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi Uppal Convener Enugu Rajireddy, and Central Committee member Ramesh appointed Ellachari as the Venkat Reddy Nagar Division Convener and congratulated him on the occasion.“Speaking on the occasion, Ellachari expressed his gratitude to the elders and leaders of the Samithi for entrusting him with the responsibility. He said he would make every effort to organise the Ganesh celebrations in the Venkat Reddy Nagar Division in a grand manner, with devotion and in a spiritual atmosphere.“He further stated that he would involve local residents, devotees and youth in the celebrations and work towards making the Ganesh Navaratri festivities a grand success.“Samithi president Rudra Shekhar, Malakonda Reddy, Soma Srinivas Gupta, Rameshwar Rao, Obul Reddy, Chintakindi Praveen, Varla Balaraju, Rapolu Sainath, Konduru Sravanthi and other Samithi leaders participated in the programme and conveyed their best wishes to Ellachari.“

Action Sought Against Those Who Burnt KCR's Effigy

Police Accused of Favouring Ruling Party; BRS Leaders Question Selective Arrests



“BODUPPAL, SEPTEMBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Boduppal BRS Party President and former ZPTC member Mand Sanjeev Reddy has demanded immediate and stringent action against Congress leaders who allegedly burnt the effigy of former Telangana Chief Minis-

ter and BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao.“Speaking to the media while under house arrest, Sanjeev Reddy alleged that police were acting in favour of the ruling party. He questioned why BRS leaders were being placed under house arrest while Congress leaders involved in burning KCR's effigy and allegedly attacking the BRS party office were not being arrested.“He alleged that while BRS leaders were conducting peaceful protests across the state, police were detaining them under house arrest, whereas Congress leaders were allegedly being provided security despite attacks on the BRS office. Sanjeev Reddy said he had submitted evidence and information regarding the burning of KCR's effigy and the alleged attack on the BRS party office to the Medipally Circle Inspector. He demanded that the police immediately arrest those involved and take stringent action against them. Former general secretary Meesala Krishna, Mayor Samala Buchireddy, senior leaders Ramachandra Reddy, Kotha Chakrapani Goud, Bandaram Sridhar Goud, Krishna Goud and others participated in the programme.

Effigy Burned in Protest Against Inappropriate Remarks on Telangana Assembly Speaker

“BODUPPAL, SEPTEMBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Strongly condemning the alleged inappropriate and arrogant remarks made by BRS MLC Tatha Madhu against Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, the Congress party organized a large-scale protest in Boduppal under the limits of Malkajiri Municipal Corporation.“The protest was held under the leadership of Bommak Kalyan Kumar, Congress Party President of Boduppal Division-11, with the participation of Congress leaders from Chengicherla Division. The protesters burned an effigy of BRS MLC Tatha Madhu near the Ambedkar statue in Boduppal and in front of the BRS party office, raising slogans in protest.“Thotakura Vajresh Yadav, Medchal-Malkajiri District Congress Party President and In-charge, attended the programme as the chief guest. He stated that making inappropriate remarks against the Telangana Assembly Speaker, who holds a high constitutional position, was highly condemnable.“Boduppal former Congress president Pogula Narasimha Reddy, former Boduppal Mayor Thotakura Ajay Yadav, B-Block General Secretary Kotha Kishore Goud, former corporators and contesting corporators from Boduppal and Chengicherla, along with several Congress leaders, participated in the protest.“Medchal-Malkajiri District Youth Congress President Bommak Ajay, Medchal Assembly Youth Congress President Thotakura Rahul Yadav, former Youth Congress presidents, senior Congress leader Asarla Beerappa,



Boduppal Municipal Corporation Youth Congress President Baddula Srikanth, minority and senior Congress leaders, Mahila Congress President Samatha Yadav, women leaders, Youth Congress leaders and party workers participated in large numbers.“The Congress leaders demanded that BRS MLC Tatha Madhu immediately issue a public apology for making remarks that allegedly disrespected the constitutional office of the Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker.

Former Boduppal Mayor Thotakura Ajay Yadav Inspects Box Drain Works in Sairam Nagar Colony

“BODUPPAL, SEPTEMBER 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Former Boduppal Mayor Thotakura Ajay Yadav inspected the ongoing box drain construction works being undertaken at a cost of ₹3.45 crore in Sairam Nagar Colony under Boduppal Circle and Boduppal Division.“During the inspection, he reviewed the progress of the works and interacted with local residents regarding the drainage infrastructure.“Boduppal Congress former president P. Narasimha Reddy, 11th Division Congress president Bommak Kalyan, Congress B-Block general secretary Kotha Kishore, former corporator Suman Bhukya, Congress leaders Thotakura Srisailem Yadav, Gurrula Venkatesh, Chippala Srinu and Asarla Beerappa, minority leader Yakub, Colony president Venugopal Reddy, and other colony members participated in the programme.



Justice Awareness program Starts“

“On Tuesday a 'Justice Awareness ' program has started in West Champaran district of Bihar under the guidance of Dharendra Kumar Pandey - the Secretary of Zila Vidhik Seva Pradhikar under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and State Legal Services Authority. “ As the Secretary Zila Vidhik Seva Pradhikar said that the motto of such program would be to aware the weaker section of society towards their duty and to get free Legal advice. The people should be aware of environment .As Miss Adalin a teacher provided on line free information classes to the students of government and private schools as well as the students of colleges.As in this on line class she delivered a lecture on Legal literacy .Law is not only for lawyers but also for the welfare of the people.Through this Program the people would be aware of their fundamental rights and how the women section and other citizens ,disabled persons would be able to get Legal

help and the effect of such help must be seen among the people of society. The Legal Justice should also reach near the illiterate class of society.To make our society strong economic Justice and security is essential. As the Organiser of Zila Vidhik Seva Pradhikar (West Champaran) Rakesh Dikruj said that Legal literacy would not be acquainted with the sections of law but also be the formation of a good society. After that a society would be formed with Justice and Awareness. Under this scheme several Awareness programs would be organised on district level for the welfare of the people of society.

Others who participated in this program for the success of on-line classes as the teachers-Shiv Kumar (Baidyanath High School Yogapatty, West Champaran),Jyoti Prakash In Charge Librarian the Maharaja Library Bettiah, Adarsh Gautam,Vibhor Kumar ,Vinay Kr etc.“

Bar-at-Law Dr.Mariam Kamil Honoured



“Hyderabad, September 08 (Indian Chronicle) : Dr.Mariam Kamil, a barrister practising in media law cases before courts in London, was felicitated by the Telangana Intellectuals Forum, State Chapter, under the leadership of its president Dr.Raj Narayan Mudiraj. Telangana State Council of Higher Education Chairman and former NALSAR Registrar Prof. V.Balakrishna Reddy urged law students to create legal awareness among underprivileged sections and work towards protecting human rights. Dr.Kamil holds an

LL.B. from Osmania University and a BCL, M.Phil and Ph.D.from Oxford University. She has also served as a Judicial Assistant to the Chief Justice of India. Forum secretary Dr.Akhtar Ali, Prof. Dharam Pal, advocates Dr.Yasar, Wasiyuddin and Dr.Sajid Ali Khan, and coordinator G.Venugopal attended the programme. Students also interacted with Dr. Kamil in a question-and-answer session on the London legal system.

‘No guarantee for life here’: After Delhi hostel collapse, students leave



A day after a private hostel building collapsed in Delhi, Anushri, a Delhi University student from Varanasi, packed up a grey suitcase, leaving her rented place meters away from the collapsed building and decided to leave the city. “My parents told me to come back for a little bit till the situation here is managed,” she said. “I am scared; I am thinking of shifting somewhere else because there is no guarantee for life here. I pay Rs.9500 in rent, but seeing this (the collapse), my parents are calling me back home.”

On Sunday afternoon, Satya Niketan, a five-storey building that housed the private hostel collapsed opposite Sri Venkateswara College in Dhaula Kuan area of Delhi. Seven persons have died, several are feared to be trapped inside and 11 have been pulled out and admitted to AIIMS Trauma Centre. Students move their belongings out of rented accommodation in Delhi’s Satya Niketan, a day after a private hostel building collapsed in the area. Students move their belongings out of rented accommodation in Delhi’s Satya Niketan, a day after a private hostel building collapsed in the area. (Express Photo by Praveen Khanna)

An FIR under Sections 105, 290, and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), relating to culpable homicide, negligence during construction or repair of buildings, and rash and risky act that endangers life respectively, has been registered against Hari Ram, the alleged owner of the hostel— Hostel Daze. Students move their belongings out of rented accommodation in Delhi’s Satya Niketan, a day after a private hostel building collapsed in the area. On Sunday afternoon, Satya Niketan, a five-storey building that

housed the private hostel collapsed opposite Sri Venkateswara College in Dhaula Kuan area of Delhi. (Express Photos by Praveen Khanna) “The condition of every building in Satya is such that whoever received a call felt that their own building must have fallen,” said Nirali, another Delhi University student. She shifted from Surat to pursue her studies and continues to live in a flat near ‘Satya Square’. “This collapse happened right here where we gather to shop, drink tea and eat momos,” she said. She said that many women stay in this area as from any other area college is “inaccessible” but now most have been called back home because their parents don’t want them to stay anywhere else. “It is either don’t study or live in these inhuman, life-threatening conditions.” Students move their belongings out of rented accommodation in Delhi’s Satya Niketan, a day after a private hostel building collapsed in the area. Many women stay in Delhi’s Satya Niketan as the college is “in-accessible” from any other area.

Nirali wants justice, “We want compensation—one crore [rupees] should be given to the families of all those who died. For the workers who died, they should be given a government job. By the way, work was going on in the basement, and 10 workers are still trapped there. So they should be given government jobs and one crore each. The VC should resign, and our CM, Rekha Gupta, should resign. Students move their belongings out of rented accommodation in Delhi’s Satya Niketan, a day after a private hostel building collapsed in the area. Some students have been called back home by their parents after Sunday’s hostel collapse. by Praveen Khanna) Mohit Nehra, a 20-year-old student from Gurgaon who resided in the Satya Niketan building said he had just returned from the nearby metro when he saw children fleeing from the building. He started helping them evacuate. “A friend of mine jumped from the window... He jumped from the third floor and his legs broke, but now he is safe,” he said, however, another friend from the Motilal Nehru college died. “My family called asking if I was safe, thankfully I am. They told me to let my belongings go.” He now lives in a building in the street behind the building, “I don’t want to stay. But it’s an emergency situation. No one will provide me with a place all of a sudden. All these things will have to be handled but there is too much chaos,” he said.

Karnataka Padma Shri winner Harekala Hajabba gets SIR notice over name mismatch

Padma Shri winner Harekala Hajabba, who has won accolades for facilitating affordable education in Karnataka’s coastal Dakshina Kannada district, received a notice on Monday under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. According to sources, during the 2002 voter roll revision, his name was registered as Hajabba. However, his current documents—such as the ration card, Aadhaar, passport, and voter ID—show Harekala Hajabba.

The Election Commission served the notice on Hajabba through a booth-level officer to ascertain whether it is the same voter. Sources added that the notice directed Hajabba to submit verification documents on September 11. Hajabba helped build a primary school in his native village of Harekala in 2000 by saving money earned from selling oranges in Mangaluru city.

Hajabba is among the 43.81 lakh voters who will get notices during the “disposal of claims and objections phase”, between August 24 and October 22, before the publication of final electoral rolls on October 27. According to the state



chief electoral officer, 7.31 lakh notices generated were delivered to electors. Hearings have been completed in 206 cases, with the numbers expected to pick pace in the coming days. The SIR started in Karnataka on June 30. The house-to-house visit phase was extended twice—first from July 29 to August 8 and then till August 17.

A night of searching, morning of loss for families of 4 DU students killed in Delhi building collapse

Priyanshi, 19, sat in the garden outside the AIIMS Trauma Centre in Delhi on Monday, still in the same clothes she had been wearing the night before. Her eyes were swollen from crying. Three people stood around her, holding her closely. Beside her sat her mother, in a black-and-white suit and a black dupatta over her head, her eyes fixed on the lawn. Through Sunday night, Priyanshi looked for her brother Pawan Yadav, going from hospital to hospital — Safdarjung, then Ram Manohar Lohia, then the Army’s RR Hospital — before returning to AIIMS, where she spent the rest of the night on a bench in the waiting area. On Monday morning, the family was told that Pawan, 21, a student at Delhi University’s Motilal Nehru (Evening) College, had succumbed to his injuries.

He and four other DU students were among the seven killed when a five-storey building housing a private hostel collapsed in Satya Niketan on Sunday. Sitting next to Priyanshi, his friend Anjali said, “Yesterday, we were looking for him. The whole night, no information was given to us. This morning, Pawan’s father got a call and was told he is no more.” The family, she said, was now taking his body home to Uttar Pradesh for the last rites. A few metres away, another family shared the same pain. Akshat Singh, 20, a BCom student at PGDAV College, had died of head injuries. “He was brought in last evening. We informed his family in Katni, Madhya Pradesh, and told them he’d been hurt,” said Mohit, his friend and batchmate. “They arrived this morning, some by car, some by taxi.” By 2 pm, 15 of Akshat’s relatives had gathered outside the AIIMS mortuary — some sat on the footpath, others stood in small, quiet clusters. His sisters and aunts had brought apples and fruit for him to eat once he recovered. His uncle carried bags and jholas packed with clothes. “We had planned a long visit, to get our son treated and take him home in good health,” his uncle Sonu said. “I did not know we would be taking him back in a steel coffin.”

Once the coffin was loaded into the ambulance, his sisters and aunts climbed in after it. His father sat right beside it, a brown jhola in his lap holding the hospital’s release papers, his eyes fixed on the refrigerated steel coffin and nothing else. His aunt sat to his left, his younger sister beside her, staring out of the window. Before the ambulance pulled away, Sonu placed packs of water bottles and biscuits inside — enough, he hoped, for the 15-hour journey back to Katni. “I still know he is not dead.” In front of AIIMS Trauma Centre, a mother sobbed as a relative held her tight. Pushpa Jaj’s son, Arpit, 19, was killed in the collapse. He was a second-year B.Com Programme student at Atma Ram Santan Dharma College, a stone’s throw from the hostel. Pushpa said she regretted sending her son to Delhi. “I should not have let him come. Today, he would have been with me here.” Arpit would have turned 19 on October 11. “He was still a child. When he came home, he would stand beside me in the kitchen and talk for hours,” she recalled. Pushpa last saw her son on September 5. “I hugged



him before he boarded a train from Dewas (in Madhya Pradesh). I had asked him to stay back for a day more, but his tickets were booked two months in advance,” she said. “I had packed him aloo parantha for the journey.” Pushpa said he reached his PG around 9 on Sunday and told her he was going to sleep. “Around noon, I video called him after I came back from the temple... he said he missed me... we spoke for a bit before he said he’d go have lunch,” she said. Around 2 pm, Arpit’s friend called the family and said the five-floor PG had collapsed. Four from the family immediately drove to Bhopal, took a flight and reached Delhi at 7 pm. Pushpa said they identified Arpit around 10 am today. “There was no jewellery on his body, no rakhi... His face was bruised. I couldn’t look for even a second.” I saw a mole on the left side of his chest. I have the same,” she said, pointing to the same spot on her own chest. Pushpa said he had wanted to build a career and provide a better life for his family. “The college did not have a hostel facility... so we shifted him to this PG,” she said. “... I still don’t know if that body was of my son. How can they expect us to identify him when he wasn’t wearing any jewellery?” she said. “Vo aata tha aur mujhe pappi de deta tha. Main kaise vishwas kar loon ki vo yahan nahi hai? (He would come home and give me a kiss. How can I believe that he is no longer here?) I know that he is not dead,” she wept. For Yuvraj Soni’s family, the grief of losing their son was compounded by his father taking ill. Yuvraj, from Durg in Chattisgarh, was a second-year student of Motilal Evening College. On Monday, a day after his body was recovered from the debris, his family stood outside the AIIMS Trauma Centre, making calls and trying to work out how to take him back home. His father, who had reached Delhi that morning, had to be admitted to hospital after his blood pressure dropped. “Taking an ambulance from here would take 15 hours. I don’t know how his father will be able to travel for that long. We’re thinking of sending him by flight and Yuvraj’s body by ambulance. We can’t leave him here like this,” his friend said. Friends remembered Yuvraj as a hardworking student who had begun working towards his dream of becoming a CA. A close friend and batchmate, who used to explore Delhi with him, said Yuvraj had cleared the CA Foundation exam in January.

Bengal BJP to mark Modi’s 25 years in office with month-long campaign



The BJP’s West Bengal unit has unveiled a month-long campaign to mark the 25th anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s uninterrupted administrative life. The programmes include science meets and social media promotion of the stories of 25 lakh families who benefited from his welfare schemes. “On October 7, Prime Minister Modi will complete 25 years in administration. This is history created by Modi. Many have become prime minister and chief minister, but no one other than PM Modi has stayed in administration for 25 years,” state BJP president Shamik Bhattacharya said at a press conference in Kolkata on Monday.

Bhattacharya further said, “On September 17, ‘ashirwad pradips’ will be lit all over the country for his long and healthy life. The people of Bengal will also bless the PM. We have fought the elections keeping the PM as our face. People said we did not have a face for elections, but we said we didn’t have a mask either.” The party plans to bring the central government’s various welfare schemes to the doorsteps of the common man as part of the campaign, titled Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, to be held from September 17 to October 17.

There will be a Seva Jyoti Yatra at the district and

Gadkari says ‘got 92% of votes in areas linked to underworld’. Then came a disclaimer

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday reflected on his political journey while addressing the inaugural session of the IIM Nagpur Media Conclave 2026, emphasising that credibility ultimately determines success in public life. “I have done everything in politics. I have done good things and bad things, and I have relationships with people across the spectrum,” Nitin Gadkari said, adding that despite his ideological position, he received substantial support even in areas he described as having an “underworld” or criminal presence in Nagpur. Gadkari said that while he received around 70-75 per cent of the vote in some highly educated areas, his vote share was as high as 92 per cent in areas he described as being associated with the criminal underworld. Then came a disclaimer.

“Do not infer from this that I have very close relations with them. I have built roads there and done social work,” he said. Gadkari said the experience underlined the importance of creating awareness among citizens about democracy, democratic values and fostering their commitment to them. “Education of the masses is the greatest necessity,” he said, adding that “credibility wins” in a democracy. Gadkari said that he was an HSC student in 1975 when it was imposed. “I am a product of Emergency,” he said, adding that his studies suffered because of his involvement in politics. “Ideological differences are not the problem. Ideological emptiness is the problem,” Gadkari said. Recalling his interactions with AB Bardhan during labour protests in Nagpur, Gadkari said he respected the Com-

mandal levels to take Modi’s 25 years of work to all sections of the people. Lamps will be lit at every booth and house at 7 pm on September 17 to congratulate the prime minister. Under the Seva Setu Abhiyan, the BJP will hold three-day camps to ensure that people deprived of the benefits of central and state government schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Annapurna Yojana, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana receive them. Digital assistance for the elderly to get old-age allowance, women safety awareness, water conservation, water tank renovation, waste segregation, and assistance for disabled people will be provided at these camps, to be conducted block by block and up to the booth level. Everyone will be involved in service activities, from keeping places clean to supporting the marginalised, the party said.

The party will also organise a Science Congress in Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Delhi as well as cities in Maharashtra and Gujarat, with 1.25 lakh young scientists expected to participate. The prime minister’s special works will be showcased in Kolkata through West Bengal’s own Gharana Alpana. Fine arts colleges will be involved in this programme to showcase their works, and emphasis will be placed on implementing various fine arts projects under a central government initiative. Then there is a river reform initiative to increase public participation in river reform. A three-day camp will be held to honour Anganwadi and ASHA workers who have stood by the people despite various pressures. The life stories of 25 lakh families who benefited from the social welfare projects led by Modi will be promoted on various social media platforms. Bhattacharya alleged that due to the non-cooperation of the former Trinamool government in West Bengal, many central projects like the PM Suryaghar Mufti Bijli Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, and the PM Vishwakarma Yojana could not be implemented in the state. He added that about 63 railway projects were stopped due to land acquisition issues and non-grant of land to the Border Security Force.



munist leader for his scholarship and honesty, despite their ideological differences. He said the political leaders of that era were committed to their respective ideologies as well as democracy, regardless of their differences.

Gadkari argued that the biggest problem facing democracy was not political parties or leaders but the electorate itself. He said citizens needed to be educated on social, economic and educational issues and should vote beyond caste, religion, sect and language, but added that he also experimented with caste-based politics earlier in his career. As a political party president, Gadkari said he created caste-based cells to secure votes, but, he concluded, the strategy only created a nuisance without delivering the intended political gains.

Baby dies after 2-hour ambulance delay in Agra — because of a pothole

The ambulance that the family called from Community Health Centre got stuck in a pothole, and two hours to pull the vehicle out with the help of a tractor. The ambulance that the family called from Community Health Centre got stuck in a pothole, and two hours to pull the vehicle out with the help of a tractor. (Screengrab from the viral video/ Enhanced with AI) Nidhi Singh, 22, went into labour around 1 am on September 2.

Her family in Agra dialled the emergency number, requesting an ambulance to take her to the Community Health Centre (CHC), around 9 km from their home in Garhwar village. But the ambulance got stuck in a pothole about 2 km from Nidhi’s home. It took Nidhi’s husband Parvendra Bhadouria, 25, and villagers nearly two hours to pull the vehicle out with a tractor. Nidhi was eventually taken to a private hospital and delivered at 5 am — but the baby had died.

The incident came to light on Sunday, after a purported video showing the ambulance being dragged out of the pothole went viral on social media. Parvendra’s cousin, Bhanu Pratap Singh, filed a complaint with the district administration over the pothole, detailing how the delay led to the loss of the unborn child. “It took nearly two hours to pull the ambulance out of the pothole using a tractor, he said. He said a stretch of the link road to Garhwar village in Bah tehsil, built by the Public Works Department, had been washed away during the rains about a month ago. Villagers had alerted the officials, but repair work was never carried out, he claimed in the complaint.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Agra, Vinod Kumar said the



administration has sought an explanation from the PWD regarding when the pothole appeared and why it had not been repaired.

What transpired According to Bhanu Pratap, the ambulance driver had called the number from which the request had originated, explaining that the vehicle was stuck in a pothole. Villagers rushed to the scene and tried pushing the vehicle out, eventually using a tractor. The vehicle then took an alternate route to Nidhi’s home and took her to the CHC. On reaching the Community Health Centre, Pratap said in his complaint, doctors told them an operation would be required but would be done the next day. “So we decided to take Nidhi to a nearby private hospital. The delivery was carried out at 5 am... the baby was dead,” said Singh, alleging that doctors there said the newborn had allegedly stopped breathing due to the delay in medical care.

Governor approves KU’s 24th Convocation in November

Hanamkonda: Kakatiya University Registrar Prof. V. Ramachandram stated that Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has given in-principle approval to hold the university’s 24th Convocation in November. KU Vice-Chancellor Prof. K. Pratap Reddy, along with Prof. V. Ramachandram, paid a courtesy call on Shukla, the university Chancellor, at Lok Bhavan in Hyderabad on Monday. During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor invited the Governor to the university’s upcoming 24th convocation. The Vice-Chancellor briefed the Governor on matters related to organising the event, and the Governor’s approval has paved the way for conducting the 24th convocation, the Registrar noted. KU Controller of Examinations Prof. Rajender Katla was also present.



Man speaks in female voice for 6 months to cheat Pune law student of 1,468 USDT cryptocurrency



A 25-year-old man cheated a Pune-based law student of 1,468 USDT, valued at Rs 1.41 lakh, in a fake cryptocurrency scheme after luring him through social media by speaking in a female voice, the police said. According to the Pune city cyber police, the 23-year-old student received a request on Snapchat from a user named “Princika Joshi” on October 10, 2025. The user, speaking in a female voice, assured the student of huge profits from cryptocurrency trading.

The student thus opened an account on the cryptocurrency trading application Binance and contacted

an “online agent” to buy the USDT cryptocurrency. Princika then asked the student to send USDT to her crypto wallet, saying she would invest it and later transfer the profit to his account, according to the FIR. Later, between January 9, 2026 and March 24, 2026, the student transferred 1,468 USDT to Princika from his crypto wallet and the crypto wallets of a relative and the “online agent”. But he never got any profit. On July 19, 2026, when the student checked Princika’s profile picture through Google Lens, he learnt that it was the photograph of a Chandigarh-based influencer. When he questioned Princika about it, her social media accounts were deleted within minutes. It was then that the law student realised he had been cheated. He then filed a complaint, based on which the police on August 13 registered an FIR against the fraudster on charges of cheating and identity theft. The cyber police investigated the fraudster’s Snapchat ID and found that a man—Kunal Jitendra Admane, a hotel management professional from the Parvati area—was using it. The police arrested Admane on August 31 and are investigating whether he had cheated more people similarly. The police have appealed to people to be cautious while interacting with strangers online and not to blindly trust anyone assuring profits on investments.

‘Investors in your Cabinet?’ Deve Gowda’s jab over Bangalore-Mysore link sites

NICE-BMICIP land issue, NICE BMICIP farmers, Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project, Deve Gowda NICE row, Karnataka government NICE decision, BMICIP land losers, D K Shivakumar NICE, NICE site allotment, Karnataka farmers land compensation, BMICIP site allotment, Supreme Court NICE case, Karnataka Cabinet NICE decision, Indian Express news, Karnataka newsGowda noted that the government planned to allot sites in villages that fell within the road/road infrastructure component of the project.

Days after the Karnataka Cabinet gave Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) two months to allot sites to farmers affected by the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project (BMICIP), former prime minister H D Deve Gowda Monday accused the state government of “subverting the rule of law”. In an open letter to Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Deve Gowda also accused the government of defying Supreme Court rulings and said that a previous proposal to allot sites to those who lost land was rejected. Responding to the letter, Shivakumar said, “Whatever we do, we do it within the confines of law. We took legal opinion. We are reexamining everything. We will do as per law,” he said. If there are violations, legal options are open for everyone to challenge the government decision, the CM said, adding that the government will abide by the agreements NICE signed under previous administrations. Gowda pointed out the state government’s stance in the Karnataka High Court.

“In March 2023, in a batch of writ petitions filed before the High Court, the government placed on record its rejection of the representation made by NICE for allotting sites to land losers on the ground that sites cannot be formed in lands acquired for road and infrastructure under Framework Agreement (FWA). In January of this year, the High Court categorically held that compensation cannot be by way of sites formed at interchanges or on lands handed over for roads in contravention of FWA,” he said. Gowda noted that



the government planned to allot sites in villages that fell within the road/road infrastructure component of the project. “When were the sites which are to be allotted formed? Who granted approval for the formation of these sites?” he asked. Court rulings, he said, have unequivocally held that the project was “a fraud” and “the project has not done any public good or public purpose and has only served the private interests of the project proponents.”

Noting that the court has called for a forensic audit of the company’s accounts, he said there were doubts whether such an exercise would ever be taken up. This was since “the state itself is an accomplice in allowing the project proponents to earn huge profits illegally by inter alia capitalising its assets,” Gowda alleged. Gowda asked whether the real beneficiaries of allotted sites were land losers or NICE and its investors. “Are the investors in your Cabinet, Mr Chief Minister? The state wants to know,” he said in the letter. Earlier this month, the Cabinet decided to allot sites to 1,453 farmers within two months. The government said the decision followed a recent Supreme Court order that allowed the state government to decide on the issue. The government said 574 sites were already available for distribution, and NICE would develop the remaining sites.

‘FIFA-style’ production, registrations on BookMyShow: Vadodara prepares for PM Modi

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Registrations that ‘opened’ on BookMyShow on September 5, broadcast-grade 4K cameras aimed at reaching production standards of cricket and FIFA events, and a long elevated “ramp walk” that will bring Prime Minister Narendra Modi closer to his audience – Vadodara is ready to stage a major live spectacle. The preparations for Modi’s program on Tuesday (September 8) at the Pavilion Ground at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (MSU) are being touted by the BJP as far beyond what a conventional political rally. According to Dr Hemang Joshi, the BJP MP from Vadodara, its format could “set a benchmark nationally”.

The PM’s event at one of the country’s premier public residential universities will follow his address at Delhi University’s Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) on Sunday – part of a concerted outreach at the highest level of government and the BJP to students and GenZ, a critical demographic that has been showing signs of restlessness and disenchantment with the ruling establishment. “This is a first-of-its-kind event and will set a benchmark for the country. It is not merely a political rally. The programme is titled ‘NaMo for Viksit Bharat’ and it will be a national event. . . We opened it for everyone on BookMyShow [on Saturday], and the booking closed within five hours,” Joshi told. Joshi, who was recently appointed as the national president of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), said that while the youth will be part of the audience, PM Modi is expected to interact with several intellectuals at the event.

Senior BJP leaders said professionals such as lawyers, doctors, chartered accountants, and teachers, as well as businessmen, industrialists and members of the Vadodara Chamber of Commerce and Industries (VCCI) have been invited to the event. “It is an event where members of the party’s professional cells, industries, and businessmen have been invited. A small number of youth leaders and students will also be part of the event,” a leader said.

“A curated list of guests has been prepared. Only those who provide the necessary documents will be allowed into the venue,” the leader said. A senior official of the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) said the government had approached BookMyShow to act as a crowd-management tool, with a curated list of invitees registered through the platform to ensure smooth entry and to prevent overcrowding at the university ground. According to the official, around 6,000 invitees, including students older than 15 years of age, have been registered for the program. According to officials, a “ramp walk” for the PM is planned – a long elevated stage extension to connect closely with the guests. The PM is also expected to inaugurate developmental works worth Rs 35,000 crore, including Rs 30,000 crore worth of railway projects. He will inaugurate three freight corridor projects and lay the foundation for a third and fourth railway lines between Vadodara and Ratlam, as also for the doubling of the Vishwamitri-Dabhoi line. The event is being designed around technology intended to appeal particularly to



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younger audiences. VMC Commissioner Arun Mahesh Babu on Friday announced the use of advanced 4K cameras and live production technology, with the programme to be captured, mixed and broadcast on a scale they have compared with FIFA World Cup and international cricket productions.

BJP leaders said the idea is for extensive online outreach beyond the venue. Officials said specialist production teams from India and abroad are expected to be involved in lighting, multimedia, and modern projection technology. The emphasis on technology is part of a wider attempt to connect the program with GenZ and younger voters. Officials and BJP leaders have said the event will focus on the roadmap for a developed India over the next 20 years and seek to encourage greater participation by young people in the country’s economic and social development. According to Joshi, pre-events are being organised to build excitement and public engagement ahead of the PM’s arrival. These include influencer meet-ups, bhajan clubs, cyclathons and other activities intended to generate participation among various sections of the public. The use of the university ground, however, has also triggered controversy. Congress leader and member of the MSU Senate, Kapil Joshi, has protested against allowing the Pavilion Ground for the PM’s program, arguing that it is meant for sporting activities, and that its use for the event could affect students and athletes.

public anger, and the long-delayed river redevelopment projects, Harni Boat Tragedy, Air India crash, bringing out a blend of stories from the investigations as well as human emotions. Special Interest Beat: She tracks incidents

‘Ruinous, dangerous’ condition: 4 buildings near Delhi collapse site get notices



In the wake of the building collapse at Satya Niketan on Sunday that claimed 7 lives, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has issued vacation notices for several properties surrounding the collapse site, citing ‘ruinous/dangerous’ conditions. Buildings 81, 82, 13 and 15 were some of the properties that received the notice, which stated that it is dangerous to any person occupying it or passing by such a building. Building 14 was the building that collapsed on Sunday. The notice was issued under Section 349 of the

Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, which allows the civic body to order people to leave a building if it is considered unsafe. MCD officials said the provision is invoked only after a survey finds a building dangerous. The property is then demolished by the owner itself or by the MCD at the cost of the owner.

The civic body has suspended five officials, including the South Zone Deputy Commissioner. MCD Mayor Pravesh Wahi said, “... A major decision has been taken by us so that no negligence is tolerated anywhere in Delhi. Although a magisterial inquiry has been ordered, they [the 5 officials] have been suspended in the meantime. Our Chief Minister and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi are fully committed to ensuring that we do not let any loss of life or property occur. In the future, if any building of more than four storeys is constructed and negligence is found, that building will be sealed immediately. Along with that, strict action, in addition to suspension, will be taken against the officer responsible.” The five-storey building, which housed a private hostel, was reportedly weak, and the owner was allegedly carrying out construction work in the basement, which may have led to the collapse.

Karnataka students lived in a cowshed for 5 years, shifted after videos went viral

A couple of days after videos went viral showing students of a state-run residential school in Karnataka living in a cowshed, the students were shifted to two different hostels on Monday. The institute in question, Dr BR Ambedkar Residential School in Shantigramma, Hassan district, is run by the Social Welfare Department of the state government for students hailing from scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and other disadvantaged communities. It has also emerged that the residential school, which houses 92 boys and 80 girls studying in Classes 6 to 10, was being run from the cowshed for nearly five years at a monthly rent of Rs 1.08 lakh.

According to locals, the students were sleeping, eating, and studying in the same cowshed. “Multiple beds were laid on the floor. The students used to sleep on them, and early in the morning they used to keep them aside to turn it into a classroom. There were only five toilets for 172 students,” a local said. Karnataka Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said he has sought a report into the incident. “This is unacceptable, and we will take action. A new building has been sanctioned, and temporary arrangements were made. But making children live and study in a cowshed cannot be accepted,” he added.

Meanwhile, Hassan District In-Charge Minister KM Shivalingegowda rebuked Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Dood Peer for the lapse during the Praja



Seva program on Sunday. “Are students sheep to be herded? Can’t you provide a better place for students if the building was being constructed? Will you send your children to the same residential school? The students must be shifted immediately and let the construction be completed,” he said. Karnataka Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka slammed the Congress government over the school’s condition. “The Congress government boasts that it helps those from poor and marginalised backgrounds, but it has not only denied basic facilities but was paying a monthly rent of Rs 1.08 lakh. They need to tell where the money was actually going.”

‘Very, very pathetic’: Delhi High Court raps civic body, DU over hostel collapse

The Delhi High Court Monday said responsibility for the Satya Niketan building collapse that killed seven people could extend beyond the PG owner to Delhi University and civic authorities, while flagging the “absolutely inadequate” number of hostels available to students. The court was dealing with a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking an independent probe into the incident. Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya orally remarked that the shortage of university and government hostels was forcing students into potentially unsafe PGs and hostels, and questioned whether authorities had done enough to regulate such accommodation.

“Please impress upon the government for providing the facility of a hostel to the students. PGs are not only very dangerous, they are causing threat to life and security to the students. This is because of the absolutely inadequate number of hostels available to students.... Fifty young students who are at the threshold of entering their lives, seven of them reportedly have died, few have been rescued, rest are lying under the debris perhaps. There can’t be anything more sad than this. This is your responsibility, you cannot escape from this responsibility,” he said, orally, to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing on behalf of MCD. The division bench, also comprising Justice Tejas Karia, sought separate responses from the Delhi government, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, DU as well as Delhi Police in 10 days. The court has specifically directed MCD to clearly indicate in its reply as to whether there are any statutory regulations regulating PG/hostels.

It has also instructed DU to indicate as to how many outstation students are there in colleges affiliated to it and how many hostels are being run either by DU or the government. “The reported incident is not only unfortunate but it evokes deep concerns about inadequate housing facilities in the form of hostels run by DU/government, safety and security of students, and not-so-adequate measures deployed by MCD and other authorities to regulate PG/hostels....” the bench recorded in its order. “... The responsibility, prima facie, in our opinion, for such mishaps do not lie solely on the owner of the PG/hotel, rather responsibility goes to the university authorities as well as municipal corporation of Delhi, which is responsible to ensure that every single development in Delhi, such as construction of building or repair, is carried out in accordance with law. “It is not difficult to think that such mishaps are the result of inadequate measures deployed by MCD and other authorities. Had the authority been alive to their responsibilities and duties cast on them statutorily, perhaps such incidents could have been avoided,” the order said.

The PIL, filed by Delhi University law student Aniket Kumar Gupta, sought an immediate safety audit of private paying guest and hostel accommodations in Satya Niketan, arguing that the incident points to wider safety concerns in buildings housing thousands of students. The bench directed the MCD to take up the issue “at the highest executive level” and conduct an inquiry “as to whether the buildings which collapsed were constructed with valid permissions or not”.

If it is found it was without valid permission, the MCD shall fix the responsibility of the officer/employees concerned for such lapse. The response to be filed by MCD shall also indicate as to what action has been proposed against the erring officials/officers, if any,” the court directed MCD. It also directed the MCD to inspect all buildings housing PG and hostels and prepare a report in a week on whether requisite permission/building byelaws were followed during construction. The court will consider the matter next on September 25. Addressing Mehta, CJ Upadhyaya orally remarked, “... You need to double down on your efforts to provide for hostels... the government doesn’t run any hos-



tels, DU hardly runs 2-3 hostels, no other hostels by university. If you invest in such measures, you’re investing in the children, they are the future of the country... “Pointing out the “very very pathetic situation” of hostel availability, CJ Upadhyaya said orally, “... There has to be some regulation, some statutory mechanism has to be in place to regulate these PGs. These PG owners recklessly indulge in constructions. If permission is for 2-storey, they will construct 6 storey... this collapse is perhaps a result of such construction...”

JJB allows police to take three minors for evidence collection in Kerala murder case

Alappuzha (Keralam): A Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) on Monday permitted the police to take three minor boys, suspected of carrying out the murder of an elderly man at Karuvatta here last month, for evidence collection in the case. The JJB passed the order on a plea moved by the prosecution, senior additional public prosecutor (APP) Manu Kallampally said. The APP said that there was no provision in the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act to hand over minors in conflict with the law to the police for evidence collection.

However, in the instant case, the JJB passed the order on the basis of provisions in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) as the special act — JJ Act — was silent on how evidence collection can be carried out in the case of minors. The APP said that all the four suspects, including a 13-year-old girl who allegedly played a key role in the murder of the elderly man who was her relative, in the case were minors and therefore, without questioning them or taking them for evidence collection, it would be difficult to complete the investigation.

Therefore, the Board decided to follow the procedure provided under the BNSS, the prosecutor said. He said that the Board permitted “escorted movement” of the minor boys, aged around 16 and 17 years, for evidence collection. The APP also said that a lea is pending before the JJB seeking permission to question the minor girl. The girl, an eighth-standard student, was a close relative of the victim, Sivankutty (67), who was killed at his home in Karuvatta. Investigators suspect the teenagers had planned to steal gold and money from the house, with the proceeds intended for purchases, including a high-end mobile phone and a motorbike. According to the police, Sivankutty was found dead inside his house on August 17 morning. His wife and daughter were away at a hospital at the time of the incident, leaving him alone at home, police had said.

Rescue teams search for nearly 5,000 missing people



Kathmandu: The death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal surged to 1,355 on Monday as more bodies were recovered from the affected areas, authorities said. Rescue teams continued to search for 4,996 people, including at least 589 foreign nationals, who remain missing, while 13,396 people have been rescued so far, Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said.

The flash floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal. The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, carried the floodwaters downstream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects. The disaster also killed at least 43 people on the Chinese side, while more than 500 people remain missing in Tibet, according to Chinese media reports. In Nepal, 363 bodies have been recovered in Chitwan district, 222 in Nawalparasi East, 221 in Nawalparasi West, 197 in Nuwakot, 169 in Rasuwa, 75 in Gorkha, 70 in Dhading and 38 in Tanahu, according to the NDRRMA.

Identification of bodies has emerged as a massive challenge. Only 98 bodies had been identified as of Monday and handed over to their families, according to the NDRRMA. Most bodies recovered after being swept downstream were severely damaged or decomposed, while some were recovered only in parts. Police have said that bodies carried far from the disaster sites and those that remained in water and mud have made identification particularly

difficult. Nepal Police has been collecting DNA samples from relatives of missing people to help identify unclaimed bodies and human remains recovered after the floods. More than 1,000 unidentified bodies have been buried after DNA samples were collected to facilitate their identification in the future, officials said.

Hospitals struggled to cope with the growing number of unidentified bodies. Large crowds continued to gather at medical facilities, carrying photographs of missing relatives and scrutinising images of the dead displayed on the walls. Nepal on Monday observed a national day of mourning on the 13th day after the disaster, as the government declared September 7 a national day of mourning to honour the victims of the catastrophic floods. The mourning was observed in keeping with the traditional Hindu practice of marking the 13th day following a death.

"Our thoughts are with the bereaved families and all those affected. India stands with Nepal in this difficult time and will continue to support Nepal's efforts towards search, rescue and relief," the Indian Embassy in Nepal said in a post on X. Major rescue operations are underway at hydropower projects in flood-affected districts, where hundreds of men are believed to be trapped in tunnels. Teams of experts from India and China are assisting their Nepali counterparts in these operations. Australian tunnel expert Arnold Dix, who helped rescue 41 workers from India's Silkyara tunnel in 2023, is also assisting in the search for people believed to be trapped inside the Chilime hydropower project tunnel. Meanwhile, Nepal has stepped up efforts to reassure international tourists that the country remains open for travel, as it seeks to prevent the recent flash floods from derailing its crucial autumn tourism season and undoing a fragile recovery in the sector. Tourism Minister Khadak Raj Poudel has launched a social media campaign under the hashtag "Nepal Calling", telling foreign tourists that the country remains open and its Himalayan trekking routes are ready to receive visitors. "Nepal is still open... Our Himalayan trekking routes are still waiting for you," he said in a video message posted on social media. Tourism contributes about 6.7 per cent to Nepal's GDP directly and indirectly and provides more than one million jobs. A fall in the number of foreign tourist arrivals could have a wider economic impact, affecting hotels, trekking agencies, guides, porters, airlines, restaurants and transport operators.

South Korea weighs military role in Strait of Hormuz amid Iran warning

Seoul: South Korea is closely communicating with relevant countries and the international community to help ensure the free passage of all vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, the foreign ministry said Monday. The statement came after Iranian academic Mohammad Marandi warned that Tehran could regard Seoul as an enemy and target South Korean assets in the region if Seoul joins a US-led effort to secure navigation through the strait, according to the London-based Middle East news website Middle East Eye.

"We are closely communicating with the international community, including relevant countries, to help restore peace and stability in the Middle East as soon as possible and to ensure the free passage of all vessels, including those of our country, through the Strait of Hormuz," the ministry said in a release, Yonhap news agency reported. Diplomatic sources said the South Korean government has maintained open diplomatic channels with Iran and continued communication on matters related to the ongoing Middle East conflict, with the aim of promoting regional stability.

Later Monday, Esmail Baqaei, spokesperson for Iran's foreign ministry, posted a message in Korean on X, saying relations between Seoul and Tehran have developed on the basis of mutual respect and that Iran highly values its ties with South Korea. "Any other country's military presence or participation in operations in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz can only be regarded as direct support for the party responsible for the aggression and will have serious consequences," the Korean-language post said.

The spokesperson highlighted that Iran and South Korea have maintained diplomatic relations for 64 years and that Tehran attaches great importance to its friendly ties with Seoul. The post additionally included an image bearing a Korean-language message that read, "Dangerous choices come with consequences." The South Korean foreign ministry's response was not immediately available. US President Donald Trump has ratcheted up pressure on Seoul to make a military contribution to efforts to secure navigation through the strait amid renewed tensions in the



Middle East. South Korea has been reviewing various options for its contribution, including possible cooperation with Britain, France and other countries.

A senior official at Seoul's presidential office said Friday that no final decision had been made on sending military forces or assets to the strait and that a comprehensive review of various options was still under way. The official also noted that Seoul's contribution could include noncombat and search-and-rescue forces, stressing that the government would consider options in a way that does not compromise the country's defence readiness on the Korean Peninsula. The military is reportedly reviewing a range of assets for possible deployment, including maritime patrol aircraft, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams and unmanned systems for detecting and clearing naval mines. "We are reviewing various options based on operational needs," a government official said. "We are discussing ways to contribute safely without directly participating in combat." Some lawmakers from the ruling Democratic Party have publicly voiced opposition to any troop deployment to the Strait of Hormuz, while other progressive parties, as well as some civic groups, have taken a stronger stance against the possible deployment. Under South Korean law, any overseas deployment of military forces requires parliamentary approval.

US gas prices soar to USD 4.14 a gallon ahead of Labor Day

Washington: It's never been more expensive in the US to fill up the tank and take one last summer trip over the Labor Day weekend. The average price of regular gas was USD 4.14 a gallon heading into the holiday, nearly a dollar higher than last year and well above the Labor Day weekend record of USD 3.82 from 2012, according to AAA. Nicole Collins planned to travel from Philadelphia to South Carolina to visit friends, but she said her family has spent most of the summer close to home and has not taken their typical weekend trips because driving has gotten so expensive.

"Gas is pretty high right now. It doesn't help that we also have a baby, so we also have to pay for that," Collins said outside a gas station in Claymont, Delaware, where regular gas was USD 4.199 a gallon. Prices shot up after the US and Israel attacked Iran in February and have not settled down since. Crude oil traffic through the key Strait of Hormuz has plunged, and Iran has refused to reopen the waterway.

"Everything points to the Iran War and the Strait of Hormuz," said Tom Seng, a professor of energy finance at Texas Christian University. Energy Secretary Chris Wright offered few specifics on when the nation's drivers might see relief at the gas pump, acknowledging that prices are higher now than they were on Labor Day 2025. "Yes, they're higher today, but we're doing everything we can to push them down," Wright said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." The national average for regular gas prices is still well below the record of USD 5.02 a gallon set in June 2022. But diesel is a different story: It hit a national average of USD 5.85 a gallon Friday, a record. Trucks and other freight delivery systems use a lot of diesel, and that increased transportation cost is being passed on to consumers, whether at the grocery store or through package delivery services. "It



doesn't really seem like there's an end to it," Collins said. Gas prices typically drop as the summer driving season ends and refineries turn to making a cheaper winter blend. But Seng said there are other factors this year, even beyond the volatile situation in the Middle East, that make future prices unpredictable. US refineries are working at 98 per cent capacity, many in the unusually harsh Texas heat. If there are problems there or a hurricane knocks some systems offline, prices will struggle to drop. And it's not just a Middle East problem. Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian refineries are squeezing diesel supplies. Chinese refineries are seeing declining output as well, said Matthew Metzgar, a clinical professor of economics at UNC Charlotte. "There's just less gasoline coming out of those refineries," Metzgar said. Wright, the energy secretary, said the Trump administration was taking steps to increase production and that the markets forecast lower prices in the coming months. "If you look at the futures prices, if you wanted to buy today in bulk gasoline for two months out in November, it's about USD 0.35 cheaper than it is today."

Nepal observes national mourning on 13th day of flash flood tragedy



Kathmandu: Nepal on Monday observed a national day of mourning on the 13th day of the Rasuwa flash flood disaster, honouring more than 1,340 people who lost their lives in one of the country's deadliest natural disasters in recent history. Nearly 5,000 people remain missing, including 589 foreign nationals, after the flash floods struck Rasuwa, bordering China, and adjoining districts on August 26 following an ice-rock avalanche in the high Himalayas, causing widespread loss of life and extensive damage to infrastructure in northern and central Nepal.

The government declared September 7 a national day of mourning to honour the victims of the catastrophic floods that swept through Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading and other areas along the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river systems. The mourning is being observed on the 13th day after the disaster, in keeping with the traditional Hindu practice of marking the thirteenth day following a death. The day is regarded in many Hindu communities as an important period in the mourning period, when rituals are performed to honour the deceased and mark the conclusion of the formal period of mourning. "The national flag will be flown at half-mast at government offices across the country and at Nepali diplomatic missions abroad," the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a

statement issued on Sunday.

The devastating floods caused massive loss of life and extensive destruction of homes, roads, bridges, hydropower projects, government offices and other critical infrastructure. Search and rescue operations are continuing in the worst-affected areas, including hydropower project tunnels, with security personnel and specialised international rescue teams engaged in efforts to locate missing people and recover bodies. The disaster has displaced at least 32,000 families, completely destroyed around 7,500 houses and severely disrupted livelihoods and essential infrastructure across central Nepal. The government has mobilised the Nepali Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and other agencies for search, rescue, relief and recovery operations. Specialist teams from neighbouring countries, including India, have also joined efforts to rescue people believed to be trapped in hydropower tunnels.

Meanwhile, the government has declared Tuesday (September 8) a public holiday to mark Gen Z Martyrs' Day. On the same day last year, Gen Z-led protests erupted in Kathmandu against a government decision to ban social media platforms, alleged corruption and what protesters described as the ostentatious lifestyles of the children of influential politicians and officials. The agitation turned violent after security personnel opened fire near the Parliament building, killing 72 people, including children, and eventually forcing then-prime minister K P Sharma Oli to resign. The developments led to the dissolution of Parliament and the collapse of the government led by the CPN-UML and Nepali Congress. A caretaker government was subsequently formed and fresh parliamentary elections were held on March 5 this year. The polls brought the Gen Z-backed Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), led by Rabi Lamichhane, to power with an almost two-thirds majority, with former Kathmandu mayor Balendra Shah becoming prime minister.

North Korea commissions nuclear-capable naval destroyer Kang Kon

Seoul: North Korea has commissioned its new naval destroyer Kang Kon, state media said Monday, as the country pushes to modernise its naval assets and sharpen its combat readiness at sea with nuclear-capable vessels. Leader Kim Jong-un attended the commissioning ceremony held a day earlier at the eastern port city of Wonsan, where he called the new 5,000-ton destroyer "essentially an offensive destroyer" and part of "the state nuclear counteraction system," reports Yonhap, quoting the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). "The new-generation destroyer should deal a deadly retaliatory blow at the enemies as it is a force involved in the state nuclear counteraction system," the KCNA reported Kim as saying.

Kim stressed the need to develop the country's navy into "a nuclear-armed force" in order to carry out maritime defence and war deterrence activities "more clearly." In addition, the North Korean leader vowed to continue developing its naval forces and deploying increasingly powerful strategic assets. "We are in the process of implementing an important plan to bolster our navy forces, and I will prove it to the world eight months from now," he said, without elaborating further. The plan may be related to North Korea's development of nuclear-powered submarines, publicly unveiled during a key party congress in January 2021. Pyongyang's state media released photos in December 2025 of Kim inspecting the hull of an 8,700-ton-class nuclear-propelled submarine under development, with Kim calling South Korea's plan to build one a security threat that "must be countered." The destroyer Kang Kon will be commissioned into the North Korean Navy's East Sea Fleet "to fulfil the responsible mission of defending the maritime sovereignty of the DPRK as the nuclear war deterrent," the KCNA said, using North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Photos carried by the KCNA showed Kim accompanied by his wife, Ri Sol-ju, and daughter Ju-ae. The Kang Kon was commissioned less than three months after the North commissioned its sister ship, its first 5,000-ton destroyer Choe Hyon, which it said would carry out the "honourable mission" of defending the West Sea and deterring war.



The Kang Kon's production process was not without a hitch. It capsized during a botched initial launch attempt in May last year and was successfully launched about a month later. This July, North Korea test-fired strategic cruise missiles and other weapons from the destroyer into the East Sea, with Kim overseeing the drills. Kim, at that time, ordered the warship to be commissioned into the Navy within two months. North Korea has been accelerating its push to deploy naval assets with nuclear capabilities on both coasts, with the Choe Hyon in the West Sea and the Kang Kon in the East Sea. Early this year, Pyongyang unveiled plans to build two large warships of over 5,000 tons over the next five years, including 10,000-ton-class warships. The ceremony announcement came as South Korea, the United States and Japan on Monday kicked off their five-day multidomain Freedom Edge military exercise in international waters east and south of South Korea's southern island of Jeju. North Korea has denounced such military drills as war rehearsals. The drills will involve major maritime and air assets from the armed forces of the three countries, "aimed at enhancing deterrence and response capabilities against North Korean nuclear and missile threats, while safeguarding regional peace and stability," according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. Sunday's ceremony also came ahead of the 78th anniversary of North Korea's founding on Sept. 9.

Iran to announce 'restricted zone' outside Hormuz Strait: Top security official



Tehran: Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei has said that his country would announce a restricted zone outside the Strait of Hormuz in the coming days and place any ship attempting to transit the area on Tehran's sanctions list. In an interview with state-run IRIB TV, which was broadcast Sunday night (local time), Rezaei said that the zone would extend from "the line where the US naval blockade begins to the Strait of Hormuz region and inside the Persian Gulf on the other side (of the strait)." Ships that enter the zone without coordination with Iran, he added, would face sanctions affecting their insurance coverage and future passage through the waterway. Rezaei framed the move as part of a broader strategic shift in Iran's approach to war and diplomacy, aiming at increasing pressure on Washington, reports Xinhua news agency. The security official stressed that the Strait of Hormuz is completely closed, dismissing the US claim that ships and oil tankers are crossing the waterway as a "lie."

While acknowledging that some vessels attempt to cross the strait via a route near Oman, often switching off their navigation systems to evade detection, Rezaei said most of those ships "receive blows." Yet he added that Iran does not intend to sink them for now due to environmental concerns. Rezaei further revealed that Iran had test-fired for the first time a domestically developed anti-destroyer missile above a US aircraft carrier 48 hours ago, describing it

as a warning that the US naval blockade is vulnerable. "The special missile created a hell for the Americans, and they fled," he said. Rezaei said the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed unless the United States takes practical steps to fulfil its obligations under a peace memorandum of understanding signed between Tehran and Washington in June. In the coming days, he added, a new international corridor designated by Iran and Oman for passage through the strait would be announced, emphasising that the corridor would be under Iran's management. Following US-Israeli strikes on Iran on Feb. 28, Tehran restricted passage through the Strait of Hormuz, while US forces imposed a naval blockade targeting vessels travelling to or from Iranian ports and coastal areas.

Sensex, Nifty fall 0.5pc as crude prices, US-Iran tensions weigh

Mumbai: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Monday as elevated crude oil prices, escalating US-Iran hostilities and concerns over a possible US interest rate hike weighed on investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 382.62 points, or 0.50 per cent, to settle at 76,132.81. During the day, it fell 544.91 points, or 0.71 per cent, to 75,970.52. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 118.55 points, or 0.50 per cent, to end at 23,779.15. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement and Tata Consultancy Services were the major laggards. Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, Maruti and Power Grid were among the gainers. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, climbed 0.61 per cent to USD 96.87 per barrel. "Indian equity markets ended lower as elevated crude oil prices and persistent geopolitical uncertainty continued to weigh on investor sentiment. Markets remained under pressure throughout the session amid sustained risk-off positioning," Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

The four from Ballia: Joining dots between accused in killing of Suvendu Adhikari aide in Bengal



A business installing water pipelines for agricultural fields brought together four men from Ballia. Two years later, they would find themselves at the centre of a high-profile criminal investigation. The four are among seven people arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with the killing of Chandranath Rath, a close associate of West Bengal BJP leader and now CM?Suvendu Adhikari, in the state's Madhyamgram city on May 6, shortly after BJP's thumping win in the Assembly polls. The men, whose villages are scattered across a radius of roughly 50 kilometres, first became acquainted about two years ago through their work and remained in occasional contact there after. For their families, what remains unanswered is how they came to be linked to an investigation that has captured national attention.

Besides the four from Ballia, the CBI has also arrested Mayank Raj Mishra and Vicky Maurya from Bihar's Buxar district and Vinay Rai alias Pumpum from Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur district. The four from Ballia: Joining dots between accused in killing of Suvendu Adhikari aide chandrakant-rath in Bengal Chandranath Rath was shot dead on his way homeA visit to their residences revealed all four are from relatively well-off farming households, where their families live in sizeable homes and depend primarily on agriculture for their livelihoods. Some had also ventured into small businesses, forging the professional relationships that eventually connected them. The families claim they are not aware if the men had been to West Bengal even once. Sources in the CBI said the arrests are taking them closer to the prime accused, who is believed to have masterminded the killing. "We are trying to connect the dots and are questioning the accused to find out the exact chain – who hired whom and the exact motive behind the murder," a source said. With the exception of one accused, all four from Ballia have had a prior brush with the law, though only one has a substantial criminal record. The most prominent among them is Sheetal Davani village resident Gyanendra Singh alias Mannu, 48, a listed history-sheeter with 12 cases registered against him across Jharkhand, Bihar, Varanasi and Ballia. The cases range from murder and attempted murder to offences under the Arms Act. The other two accused, Naveen Singh, 34, of Thamanpura village, and Raj Kumar Singh, 21, of Ratopur village, have been named in cases involving physical assault, their families say. The fourth accused, Golu Singh of Basudevpur village, has no known criminal record, as per local police.

Naveen, a graduate and the most educated of the four, runs a business installing and maintaining irrigation pipelines for farmers across Ballia district. Sitting on a bed inside his two-storey home, his father, Anil Singh, a government employee posted in Ballia, said the others arrested in the case came to know Naveen through this work. "Otherwise there was no particular reason for them to be in regular contact with him," he said. Over time, Naveen became the common link connecting the others, according to their families. "Two of the arrested men visited our home on a handful of occasions, but only in connection with work," Anil Singh said. "Raj Kumar worked alongside Naveen in the irrigation pipeline business for a few days, while Gyanendra came to our house two or three times after Naveen carried out work on his farm. They were acquaintances through business, not close friends." Raj Kumar, who worked along-

side Naveen while learning the irrigation pipeline business, lives about 30 kilometres from his village. Gyanendra's home is located nearly 25 kilometres away. Gyanendra, the eldest of the four accused, had been preparing to enter local politics and contest the upcoming village head election in his native village of Sheetal Davani. Across the village, hoardings and campaign posters carrying his photograph still stand as reminders of ambitions that, until his arrest, appeared to be moving steadily forward.

His wife, Mahima Singh, dismissed claims that he husband is a habitual offender. Speaking outside their home, Mahima, a graduate, said that the vast majority of cases previously filed against him had resulted in acquittals or rulings in his favour. "Of the 12 cases registered against him, he has been acquitted in 11," she claimed. "The only case still pending is an attempted murder case that stemmed from a land dispute, after our opponents allegedly tried to take over our property." She claimed her husband's decision to enter politics made him a target. "Ever since Gyanendra announced that he would contest the pradhan election, several people in the area began opposing and targeting him," she claimed. The youngest of three brothers, Gyanendra studied up to the intermediate level and married Mahima in 2015. Gyanendra's brothers live separately. The eldest, Daya Shankar Singh, spent nearly three decades working as a helper with a private company in West Bengal before returning to Ballia about a year ago. He now resides in a house directly opposite Gyanendra's home in their native village. "I have no idea how Gyanendra came to be linked to this case," said Daya Shankar, 57. "I am trying to get in touch with people I know in West Bengal to understand the facts of the case and whether the CBI have identified any role played by him."

Residents of the village described Gyanendra as someone who divided his time between farming and property-related work. More recently, he had secured the distributorship of a food products company and employed Golu Singh, one of the accused, to help supply goods to local shops. Mahima admitted Golu had visited their home on several occasions, but only in connection with the business. His village, Basudevpur, lies about 15 kilometres away. At 28, Golu is the youngest of the four men arrested. Having studied up to the intermediate level, he chose to enter business after marrying last year. His 65-year-old mother, Vidyarthi Devi, said this was a sign that he was beginning to stand on his own feet. "My family hid the news from me because of my heart condition. I only learnt about Golu's arrest from people who came to the house," she said. Golu's uncle, Sunil Singh, said that while Golu's father, Ramji Singh, served in the Army until his retirement in 2008, much of the responsibility for raising the children fell to their mother, Vidyarthi Devi.

The fourth accused, Raj Kumar, was the first to be arrested by the agency. After spending some time working with Naveen Singh last year, Raj Kumar travelled to Mumbai in search of better employment opportunities. There, he worked for a private company before returning to his hometown a few days prior to his arrest. The CBI claims he was arrested from Muzaffarnagar while he was allegedly trying to flee to Uttarakhanda. Raj Kumar's father, Tribhuvan Narain Singh, an electrician, recalled that two of the men arrested in the case, Naveen and Gyanendra, had previously visited the family's home and even attended Raj Kumar's birthday celebration last year. After Raj Kumar completed his Intermediate studies and spent much of his time idling in the district, the family encouraged him to seek work elsewhere. "He worked with Naveen for some time to learn the trade," he said. "People visit each other's homes and stay together while learning a profession." Tribhuvan described their relationship as increasingly distant in recent years, saying Raj Kumar rarely spoke about his life or activities outside the village. "Our family has decided to wait for the chargesheet to be filed before drawing any conclusions," he said.

Diagnosed with brain tumour at 38, he returned to cricket, work and normal life



At 46, Amit Mehra is doing what he loves most — playing cricket, travelling with his family and maintaining a busy professional life as a chartered accountant. Looking at him today, it is difficult to imagine that eight years ago he was diagnosed with a tumour in one of the most critical regions of his brain. "At 38, my whole world had come crashing down. Now I look forward to my weekend cricket match and know when to log out of work," he says. Mehra is one of the young Indians reporting brain and Central Nervous System (CNS) tumours in India which have an estimated incidence of 30 cases per 100,000 population. Roughly 30% to 35% of these tumours are malignant (cancerous), while the majority are benign (non-cancerous). Mehra began noticing brief episodes of weakness and numbness in his left hand while playing cricket. Sometimes he would struggle to hold on to objects. The episodes lasted only a few seconds before disappearing. He attributed them to physical strain, poor posture or fatigue. "It felt like numbness from sleeping awkwardly or overexertion," he recalls. "The symptoms were so generic that I never imagined they could be related to brain tumour." Mehra was worried because he kept to a good fitness discipline, ate clean, had no diabetes or hypertension and wasn't a smoker or alcohol drinker.

That's the reason he paid attention to his symptoms, which though fleeting in nature, were replicative. An MRI scan revealed a tumour located in the brain's eloquent cortex — a region responsible for critical functions such as movement and sensation. What appeared to be transient weakness was actually focal motor seizures triggered by the tumour. A surgery and eight years later, there has been no recurrence. His medications have been significantly reduced and he remains active. "I just got a promotion at my firm for high productivity," he says. His story reflects a larger shift in brain tumour care. Increasingly, a diagnosis that once carried an almost universally grim prognosis is becoming a condition that can often be treated successfully, with many patients returning to work, family life and even sports.

More cases or better detection? Brain tumours are being diagnosed more frequently in India than ever before. While the incidence remains relatively low compared to other diseases, neurologists say awareness and access to advanced imaging have transformed diagnosis. "Brain tumours are not necessarily increasing dramatically because of new environmental exposure," says Dr Kapil Singhal, director, Neurology, Medanta, formerly of AIIMS, Delhi. "What has changed significantly is our ability to detect them. MRI scans are more accessible and people are getting evaluated earlier." He acknowledges seeing more young and middle-aged adults with brain tumours. Unlike diabetes or heart disease, most brain tumours do not have clearly identifiable lifestyle-related causes. The uncertainty surrounding why they occur often makes the diagnosis unsettling for younger patients who otherwise consider themselves healthy. Understanding brain tumours

A brain tumour occurs when cells within the brain begin dividing uncontrollably. "It develops when cells in the brain or surrounding tissues acquire genetic mutations that disrupt their normal growth controls. These mutations alter the instructions encoded in DNA, causing cells to multiply and survive longer than they should. As these abnormal cells accumulate, they can form a mass or tumour," says Dr Singhal. In most cases, the exact reason behind these genetic changes remains unknown. While some mutations arise spontaneously during a person's lifetime, others may be inherited from a parent, increasing the risk of developing certain types of brain tumours. "And we need to bust the myth that routine mobile phone usage causes brain tumours. There is no scientific evidence. Also, most brain tumours are not hereditary. They can happen due to random cellular mutations," explains Dr Singhal. Contrary to popular belief,

not all brain tumours are cancerous. "Many are benign or low-grade lesions that grow slowly and can be completely removed. Modern surgical methods have made longevity and quality of life possible. Low-grade tumours (Grade 1 and Grade 2), which tend to grow slowly have lower recurrence rates. High-grade or malignant tumours (Grade 3 and Grade 4) are more aggressive, have high recurrence chances and require surgery, radiation and chemotherapy," adds Dr Singhal. Mehra's tumour was classified as a Grade 2 lesion — a category associated with relatively favourable outcomes when detected early and removed effectively. "The words 'brain tumour' immediately make people think of death or severe disability. But that is simply not true for a significant proportion of patients. Many tumours are treatable, and some can be cured completely," says Dr Singhal. Apart from primary brain tumours, there are metastatic tumours, too, which spread to the brain from cancers elsewhere in the body.

A revolution in the OR Perhaps the biggest change over the past decade has been technological. Modern neurosurgery is being driven by sophisticated imaging, computer-assisted planning and real-time monitoring. Before surgery, doctors perform brain mapping using advanced MRI techniques and tractography, which identifies critical nerve pathways responsible for movement, speech and sensation.

"We perform the surgery virtually before doing it real-time," explains Dr Manish Vaish, director of neurosurgery, Medanta. The imaging data is fed into specialised navigation systems that allow surgeons to plan the safest possible route to the tumour. "The tumour's location in Mehra's case made surgery particularly challenging. It was situated in the eloquent cortex, the part of the brain that governs movement and sensation. Even a few millimetres of error could potentially result in permanent neurological impairment," says Dr Vaish. Inside the operating theatre, multiple technologies work together. Special dyes can be administered that are absorbed preferentially by tumour tissue, causing the tumour to fluoresce under specialised microscopes. Four-dimensional ultrasound helps distinguish tumour tissue from normal brain tissue in real time. Electrophysiological monitoring continuously assesses the function of critical brain regions during surgery. In selected patients like Mehra, surgeons may even perform an awake craniotomy, allowing communication with the patient during the procedure. "We engaged Mehra by talking about cricket and its statistics. Anything incoherent is a red flag," recalls Dr Vaish.

He also describes how advanced ultrasonic aspirators have made a delicate surgery procedure easier over the last decade or so. "In simple terms, this surgical tool has a tip that vibrates at very high frequencies (ultrasound), which breaks soft tumour tissue into tiny fragments. At the same time, the device gently suctions away the broken pieces. This is especially useful in brain surgery because tumours are often located close to critical structures that control movement, speech, vision, or memory," says Dr Vaish. Depending on the complexity of the case, surgeries may last anywhere from three hours to more than 12 hours.

Changing outcomes One of the most significant advances in neuro-oncology has come not from the operating room but from the laboratory. In the past, doctors relied on what tumours looked like under a microscope. Today, molecular profiling and immunohistochemical (IHC) analysis provide a far deeper understanding of tumour behaviour. Following surgery, tumour samples are analysed for specific molecular markers and genetic alterations that help doctors predict aggressiveness, recurrence risk and likely response to treatment. "These molecular signatures have become extremely important," says Dr Vaish. "They help us personalise treatment and provide a much more accurate understanding of prognosis."

Modern outcomes are no longer dependent on surgery alone. Today's patients benefit from integrated teams of specialised anaesthetists, critical care specialists, radiation oncologists, rehabilitation experts, nutritionists, psychiatrists and nursing teams. Back to the mainstream Recovery timelines vary according to tumour location and complexity. Many patients begin walking within days. Those with low-grade tumours may return to work within weeks. "I went home in three days, worked out of home as I was immunocompromised, walked indoors, reduced screen time to avoid stressing my brain. In three months, I was back at the office and in six months, I was driving again," says Mehra. Even patients requiring radiation therapy for malignancy resume normal activity during treatment.

Walking 15,000 steps for weight loss: Orthopedic doctor explains risks and benefits

Can walking 15K steps daily help you drop weight? That's what we asked Dr Sarang Deshpande, consultant, orthopaedics and joint replacement, KIMS Hospitals, Thane, who said that "Walking 15,000 steps a day can definitely help with weight loss, especially for people who start from a sedentary lifestyle. Walking is a simple and low-impact exercise that helps burn calories, improves metabolism, and supports overall fitness." However, weight loss is not just about the number of steps. "Diet, sleep, stress levels, age, hormonal factors, and consistency are all important. Someone who walks 15,000 steps daily but eats too many calories might still have trouble losing weight," added Dr Deshpande.

The biggest benefit of walking is that it is easier to keep up over the long term compared to intense workout routines that many people eventually abandon. Is 15,000 steps too much for the average person?

It depends on the person's fitness level, age, weight, and joint health. "For someone healthy who builds



endurance gradually, 15,000 steps can be safe and helpful. But jumping from a sedentary lifestyle to very high daily step counts may lead to knee pain, ankle strain, heel pain, or lower back discomfort," said Dr Deshpande. This is particularly important for overweight individuals or those with early arthritis, weak muscles, or previous injuries. The body needs time to adjust. fitness Strength training is also essential (Photo: Getty Images/Thinkstock) A gradual increase is usually safer than aggressively pursuing numbers on a fitness tracker.

From an orthopedic

perspective, is walking better than high-impact workouts for weight loss? For many people, yes, affirmed Dr Deshpande. "Walking puts less stress on the joints compared to activities like running, jumping, or intense HIIT workouts. It is often a safe way to start getting fit, especially for middle-aged adults, seniors, or people with extra body weight." Regular walking also strengthens the muscles around the joints, improves balance, and helps maintain mobility. "That said, walking alone may not be enough for optimal fitness. Strength training and flexibility exercises are also important be-

cause stronger muscles provide better joint support and lower the risk of injury."

What is the healthiest way to approach a daily walking goal? The focus should be on consistency instead of fixating on a specific number. "Even 7,000 to 10,000 steps daily can offer major health benefits if done regularly." People should wear supportive shoes, stay hydrated, and avoid overtraining, especially in hot weather. "If knee pain, swelling, or breathlessness occurs, it is important to slow down and get medical advice rather than pushing through the discomfort," said Dr Deshpande.

Is everything on the internet now written by AI? The science of AI detection tools, how efficient they are

Within days of the magazine naming this year's winners of the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, allegations surfaced that some of the winning entries showed signs of AI-generated text. The turn of events has not just highlighted the increasing usage of AI in creative and other forms of writing but also put the role of tools that claim to detect AI-generated text under scrutiny. We explain. Since 2012, Granta has been publishing the winners of the Prize — awarded in partnership with the Commonwealth Foundation — for five geographies: Africa, Asia, Canada and Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. The overall winner is to be announced on June 30.

Days after the magazine announced the winners, many social media users began calling out Trinidadian writer Jamir Nazir's short story "The Serpent in the Grove" (winner for the Caribbean), with one citing the AI detector tool Pangram to call it "100% AI generated" and a "Turing Test of sorts". The Turing Test, proposed by British mathematician Alan Turing in the 1950s, is a test of a machine's ability to exhibit intelligent behaviour that a human evaluator cannot distinguish from that of a human. To date, it is considered a benchmark for AI. Similar allegations were directed at two other winners, Indian writer Sharon Aruparayil (Asia) and Malta's John Edward DeMicoli (Canada and Europe), again using Pangram. The remaining two — Lisa-Anne Julien (South Africa, Africa) and Holly Ann Miller (New Zealand, Pacific) — were, however, assessed to be "fully human-written". In a written response, Aruparayil earlier told The Indian Express that "no AI tools were used at any stage in the writing, editing, or development process" of her story. To understand how these tools claiming to detect AI-generated text work, one must first know the science of machine learning (ML). In simple terms, ML refers to the use of data and statistics to build an AI system: this is done by feeding large datasets into a computer so that it can think and reason like a human — or even at superhuman levels. "So you would take lots of examples of AI-written content and human-written content and feed it to a big model to do the classification for you. The model, through data, learns signals like, 'Oh, AI models tend to use em dashes', or use the word 'imperative' or 'delve'. These are statistical patterns that large ML models can learn when they're fed lots of examples of both human writing and AI writing," Danish Pruthi, assistant professor at the Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru, told When allegations of AI started flying in after the prize announcement, a lot of them pointed to the "tells": signs that a piece of text is AI-generated. (The term comes from the card game poker, where it refers to an involuntary

change in a player's body language that gives clues about their next move.)

Pruthi said that besides em dashes or certain words, other tells include text that is organised in bullet points — often with a heading of what the bullet is about. Also, even though AI-generated text tends to conclude things neatly, Pruthi said that "human conclusions sometimes introduce new content, but model conclusions rarely do". He also cited the instance of "negative parallelism": a rhetorical writing style marked by the formulaic "Not X, but Y" structure. "For instance, 'These headphones are not just hearing devices, but sound-cancelling devices.' Models are very commonly doing that now," he said. As to where these tells come from, Pruthi said research was ongoing but there were no clear answers yet.

"One common hypothesis is that after you pre-train a model, you post-train it to make it safe and useful and able to follow instructions. That's typically done by contracting annotators and data vendors who create examples to answer questions of different types," he said. "A lot of those datasets, which are private and constructed by large frontier labs, have these cues. People who are writing those answers write in this way, and therefore models replicate that behaviour," he added. Can ChatGPT/Claude be a good detector?

Pruthi said using ML to tell apart whether something is written by a human or AI is just one approach: one that even Pangram — the AI detector at the heart of the matter — also uses. He added that people now want to move beyond this "binary framing" of what is AI versus human. "They (as in the entire research community) are figuring out what the extent of collaboration is. Is it lightly assisted by an AI, moderately assisted by an AI, [or] heavily assisted by an AI?" In a statement following the allegations, Granta's publisher Sigrid Rausing had said that the magazine had used the AI chatbot Claude to evaluate Nazir's story as to "whether it was AI-generated". The response was long, concluding that it was 'almost certainly not produced unaided by a human', the statement said. According to Pruthi, asking Claude, ChatGPT, or Gemini whether something is AI-written is a "very bad idea". "The model is not specifically trained for this. So it might take an educated guess, but that isn't going to be very accurate... This happens to be a task where you care about accuracy a great deal because of it being high stakes," he said. Olga Tokarczuk Recently, Nobel Prize-winning Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk's comments about using AI for research while writing her last novel had invited criticism. (Wikimedia Commons)

Pfizer’s new weight-loss shot: Can one injection a month change obesity treatment as we know it?



Pfizer’s experimental obesity drug berobanatide has shown promising mid-stage trial results, with patients losing up to 12.3% of their body weight. (File Photo)Pfizer’s experimental obesity drug berobanatide has shown promising mid-stage trial results, with patients losing up to 12.3% of their body weight. (File Photo)Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer has unveiled encouraging mid-stage trial results for berobanatide, an experimental anti-obesity and diabetes drug designed to be taken just once a month. If approved, it could become the first GLP-1 weight-loss therapy (which mimics the gut hormone GLP-1 to regulate blood sugar, slow stomach emptying and reduce appetite) to be administered as a once a month injection instead of weekly jabs. This is a potential game-changer in a market currently dominated by Novo Nordisk’s Wegovy and Eli Lilly’s Zepbound.“This is encouraging because it is more convenient to use. Patients may, therefore, comply with dosage much more easily. But we need to see the complete drug development, its final results and more importantly see how berobanatide works on the Indian body type,” says Dr V Mohan, Chairman, Dr Mohan’s Diabetes Specialities Centre Chennai.

Why is everyone talking about it?

The excitement is not just about weight loss. It is about convenience. Current blockbuster obesity drugs typically require weekly injections. Pfizer’s candidate aims to reduce that burden dramatically. Patients would initially receive weekly doses before transitioning to a single injection every month.For people managing obesity as a chronic condition, that means 12 injections a year instead of 52. In a mid-stage clinical study known as VESPER-3, Pfizer reported that patients without diabetes lost up to 12.3% of their body weight. Importantly, those who switched to monthly dosing continued to lose weight rather than hitting a plateau.Wegovy (semaglutide) produced about 15% average weight loss in its pivotal late-stage STEP 1 trial over 68 weeks. Zepbound (tirzepatide, which has GIP hormone along with GLP-1) has shown even greater weight loss, averaging around 20% or more in some late-stage studies.

Cancer drug shortage: ‘I spent a day hopping stores,’ says patient scrambling for life-saving chemo drugs

Both cisplatin and carboplatin are platinum-based chemotherapy drugs that can be used in the treatment of several solid tumour cancers such as testicular, ovarian, cervical, bladder, head and neck, lung among others.Both cisplatin and carboplatin are platinum-based chemotherapy drugs that can be used in the treatment of several solid tumour cancers such as testicular, ovarian, cervical, bladder, head and neck, lung among others.

By the time 55-year-old testicular cancer patient Ravi* walked into the out-patient clinic of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Thursday afternoon, Dr Shyam Agarwal already knew that a crisis was brewing. For the last couple of days, his patients had been running from store to store in search of two very commonly used and affordable chemotherapy drugs — cisplatin and carboplatin.“These are life-saving drugs, especially for a patient like him. Testicular cancer, even in the fourth stage like his, is extremely curable. Nearly 80% of the patients get cured with appropriate treatment. But now no pharmacy has it,” says Dr Agarwal, chairman of the Department of Medical Oncology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi. Almost 70 per cent of his patients need one or both of the drugs as part of their treatment protocol. This shortage has the potential to disrupt the treatment of cancer patients across the country, affecting their outcomes.

Ravi has been hopping stores and even looking for distributors and wholesalers, who are selling direct to some patients. “I have spent an entire day checking out at least 15 stores, contacting wholesalers and distributors, asking them if there is any other source I can get the drugs from, even agreeing to pay a bit extra. It’s not about missing a cycle, it’s about ensuring that I can keep to the whole course. I want to get better,” he says.

Chemotherapy regimens for testicular cancer are carefully designed with specific doses and timing to maximize cancer cell kill while preventing the tumour from regrowing between cycles. If a dose is missed or a cycle is delayed, chemotherapy becomes less effective and cancer cells may have more time to recover and multiply between treatments. Multiple or prolonged delays are generally more concerning than a single short delay. “In patients with advanced disease, maintaining the planned schedule is especially important because cure rates depend on delivering the full treatment regimen whenever possible,” says Dr Agarwal.Even one of the biggest drug retailers in Delhi — who almost never sends patients back without medicines — had to turn them away. “We usually never say no. Even when we run low, we order it for our patients on priority basis. But what can I do when suppliers across India either do not have the medicine or refuse to sell it to retailers? Two of my staff and I were on the phone for the better part of the day trying to source the medicine without luck,” the retailer said. The two key drugs had been in short supply over the last two months but the situation became dire over the last few days.

What are these medicines?

Both cisplatin and carboplatin are platinum-based chemotherapy drugs that can be used in the treatment of several solid tumour cancers such as testicular, ovarian, cervical, bladder, head and neck, lung among others.Once inside a cancer cell, the drugs become activated and bind to DNA strands. They form cross-links between DNA bases, effectively tying parts of the DNA together. This prevents the cancer cell from replicating, thereby triggering programmed cell death — the immune mechanism to destroy and remove any infected or damaged cells. Both are IV drugs that can be used alone or in combination with other chemotherapy and immunotherapy drugs.

Why is there a shortage of medicines?

There are several reasons that have led to the current shortage. First is the increasing price of platinum, which is one of the key ingredients required for manufacturing the

The science behind the monthly shotAt first glance, a monthly injection may sound surprising. After all, the natural GLP-1 hormone survives in the body for only a few minutes before it is broken down. Drug developers overcome this limitation through sophisticated molecular engineering, ensuring the modern GLP-1 medicines are modified so that they remain in circulation for much longer. Scientists alter parts of the molecule to make it resistant to breakdown, attach fatty acid chains that allow it to bind to blood proteins, or fuse it with larger proteins that slow its clearance from the body. The result is a drug that stays active for weeks rather than minutes.Pfizer says berobanatide has an ultra-long half-life, allowing it to maintain a steady effect throughout the month.

One of the biggest challenges in obesity treatment is long-term adherence. Many patients discontinue treatment because regular injections can be inconvenient, expensive or psychologically burdensome. A monthly schedule could make therapy easier to sustain over years.Experts believe that reducing the frequency of injections may improve patient compliance, which is crucial because obesity is increasingly viewed as a chronic disease requiring long-term management rather than a short-term weight-loss intervention.

What about side effects?

Like other GLP-1 drugs, berobanatide can cause gastrointestinal side effects such as nausea and vomiting. Pfizer’s latest data suggest that the overall side-effect profile is broadly comparable to existing treatments. In the VESPER-3 study, the average nausea rate was about 38 per cent, while vomiting occurred in roughly 23 per cent of participants.That places the drug in a range similar to currently approved therapies. In Novo Nordisk’s Wegovy trials, around 44 per cent of participants reported nausea and roughly one-quarter experienced vomiting.Pfizer executives say most side effects were mild and tended to occur shortly after dosing rather than persisting throughout the month. Researchers did observe a temporary increase in adverse events when patients transitioned from weekly to monthly injections, prompting the company to adopt a more gradual dose escalation strategy in future studies.

What happens next?

The latest results come from a mid-stage trial, meaning the drug still faces larger and longer late-stage studies before it can seek regulatory approval. Those trials will focus on three crucial questions: how much weight patients ultimately lose, how durable that weight loss remains over time, and whether side effects stay manageable in broader populations.If the results hold up, Pfizer could offer something its rivals currently do not — a monthly GLP-1 injection that delivers weight loss comparable to weekly therapies while requiring far fewer injections



two drugs. Platinum is in short supply globally owing to a production deficit in South Africa that continues to be the world’s largest supplier. The demand for platinum has also gone up, with it increasingly being used in the automotive sector and production of green hydrogen. The second reason is supply disruption due to the West Asia crisis. For India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the largest supplier of platinum, accounting for nearly half of the country’s imports. The supply from the Gulf country has been disrupted and the prices of the raw material have increased.Third, price control by the government. Both the drugs come under the Drug Pricing Control Order (DPCO), which regulates the prices of essential medicines in India. Companies manufacturing any drugs under DPCO cannot raise prices to react to changes in the cost of the raw materials — the order allows companies to increase the cost of essential medicines only once a year in tandem with the average wholesale price increase.

Why is this a cause for concern for patients?

Both drugs are widely used for the treatment of cancer patients. With a severe shortage, patients have been running from one retailer or distributor to the other. “Now, they are buying the drugs at much higher prices, sometimes several fold of what it costs,” said the owner of the retail store mentioned above. “With people desperate to get their hands on the medicine, there are retailers who are selling ones that may not be of good quality or vials for which the cold chain might not have been maintained. So, people may end up paying more for poor quality drugs.”For Ravi, consistency in drug supply is critical because chemotherapy effectiveness depends on maintaining planned doses and treatment intervals. Equally important is the consistency of the drug product itself: improperly stored or substandard cisplatin may not deliver the intended therapeutic effect and could expose patients to unnecessary toxicity. With reports of disrupted supply chains and concerns about compromised cold-chain maintenance, Ravi’s challenge is not only obtaining the medicine but ensuring that each vial meets the quality standards required for his treatment.

Man booked for cheating and blackmailing woman

Hyderabad: The Filmnagar police booked a man for allegedly cheating and blackmailing a 32-year-old woman after promising to marry her.

The suspect Ramu (40) had developed a relationship with the woman and allegedly gained her trust by assuring marriage. During their association, he reportedly took private photographs of her.

“When the woman recently raised the issue of marriage, the accused allegedly refused and threatened to share the photographs on social media,” police said.

Police said he further demanded money from the victim, claiming he would delete the photos if she paid him.

AI in top colleges: Is it helping students or adding to stress? A professor explains



The launch of ChatGPT in November 2022 accelerated the adoption of Generative AI (GenAI) across domains. It is now widely used in education, research, and industry to improve productivity and work quality, and is increasingly treated as an assistive technology. While concerns remain about its impact on jobs, GenAI has quickly become embedded in everyday academic and professional workflows.In academia, adoption has been particularly rapid in India’s premier technical institutions (TIs), such as Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani, and National Institutes of Technology (NITs).GenAI tools provide on-demand access to explanations, problem-solving support, and coding assistance, effectively functioning as 24x7 tutors at students’ fingertips. While this improves access to guidance and reduces dependence on institutional resources, it raises a key question: Is GenAI reducing academic stress or intensifying it? The question is especially relevant given the high number of student suicides reported in these colleges, owing to a variety of factors.The recent proliferation of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) has penetrated academia’s teaching and learning (T&L) more rapidly than the earlier cycles of AI development. While AI has evolved since the late 1950s, its direct integration into daily life accelerated with the rise of conversational systems such as the Google Assistant in the mid-2010s.A decisive shift followed the public release of ChatGPT in November 2022, marking the widespread adoption of large language models (LLMs). These systems generate text, code, images, and other content from large datasets, fundamentally altering how information is accessed and processed, and are called GenAI.Within academia, GenAI tools are now embedded in routine workflows. From coding assistance and problem-solving to report drafting and assignment preparation, students increasingly rely on tools such as Google Gemini, DeepSeek, and GitHub Copilot. These tools function as assistive technologies, enhancing productivity and reducing time spent on routine tasks. At the same time, they are shifting learning from deep engagement with problems to effective querying, placing greater emphasis on prompt formulation than on independent reasoning.LLMs are probabilistic systems and can produce errors, inconsistencies, or misleading outputs. Over-reliance without verification may affect conceptual understanding and academic rigour. This evolving ecosystem brings both efficiency gains and new challenges in education.What is missing in GenAI Ecosys-

Eat plant proteins the right way: Here’s how to hit your daily target with regular meals

Protein has become the celebrity nutrient of modern nutrition. Supermarket shelves are crowded with protein powders, bars, cookies and beverages, creating the impression that meeting daily protein requirements requires specialised products. Yet for most healthy adults, the reality is far less complicated. A well-planned diet built around everyday foods can provide all the protein the body needs, often without a single scoop of supplement.Protein is essential for growth, tissue repair, muscle maintenance, immune function and hormone production. It also promotes satiety, helping regulate appetite and support healthy body weight. While awareness about protein has increased, many people continue to consume too little, particularly at breakfast, while others swing to the opposite extreme and rely heavily on supplements.

Current recommendations suggest that most adults require approximately 0.8 to 1.2 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight each day. For a 70-kg adult, this translates to roughly 56-84 grams daily. Older adults, athletes and those recovering from illness may require somewhat higher amounts.Equally important, however, is how protein is distributed throughout the day. Research increasingly shows that spreading protein intake across meals supports muscle protein synthesis more effectively than consuming most of it in a single sitting. Why plant protein combinations matter

For vegetarians and those following predominantly plant-based diets, the challenge is often not the total amount of protein but its quality. Many plant proteins contain lower amounts of one or more essential amino acids. This is where traditional food combinations prove remarkably effective.Pairing cereals with pulses improves the overall amino acid profile and creates a more complete protein source. In fact, several staples of the Indian diet already follow this principle. Dal with roti, rajma with rice, khichdi, hummus with whole-wheat pita, soy chunks with millet, and peanut chutney with dosa all provide complementary amino acids that improve protein quality.

A practical example is one cup of cooked dal paired with three rotis, which provides approximately 18-20 grams of protein. One cup of rajma with one cup of rice delivers around 15-18 grams. Adding a cup of curd or a glass of milk contributes another 6-8 grams, helping the meal approach the 25-gram protein target increasingly recommended for muscle health.Building a protein-rich breakfast

Breakfast is often the weakest meal when it comes to protein. Many common choices such as toast, poha, upma or plain parathas are rich in carbohydrates but relatively low in protein.A better approach is to build breakfast around a substantial protein source. Two large moong dal chillas prepared from approximately 80 grams of dry moong dal and stuffed with 100 grams of paneer can provide close to 25 grams of protein. A bowl of Greek yogurt made with 200 grams of curd and topped with almonds and seeds provides around 20-22 grams. For those who eat eggs, three eggs with two slices of whole-wheat toast can deliver approximately 22 grams of protein.Starting the day with 20-25 grams of protein not only supports muscle health but also helps improve satiety and reduce mid-morning hunger.Lunch provides the ideal opportunity to build a balanced plate that combines protein, fibre and complex carbohydrates. A meal consisting of one cup of rajma or chole, two medium rotis and a bowl of curd can provide roughly

tem?

Traditionally, teaching and learning in premier TIs focused on analysis, design, and application of knowledge rather than rote memorisation. Given concepts and mathematical formulations, students were expected to apply them to solve engineering problems. Many examinations were open-book, allowing the use of reference material while assessing analytical and problem-solving ability. Preparation involved selecting relevant material, organising notes, and developing approaches—processes that ensured deep engagement.With the advent of LLMs, this mode of learning is changing. The effort invested in reading, organising material, and working independently through problems has declined. Students increasingly rely on querying AI systems for solutions and explanations. As a result, emphasis shifts from internalising concepts to retrieving answers on demand. While they could be efficient, this reduces sustained thinking, weakens problem-solving depth, and limits the development of independent analytical skills.

How can GenAI reshape academic stress?

The widespread adoption of GenAI is introducing a set of specific though interlinked stress intensifiers in academic environments:Dependence and reduced confidence: Frequent reliance on AI-generated solutions shifts competence from self to system, weakening confidence in unaided problem-solving. Over time, this reduces persistence in tackling complex problems independently and shifts learning from deep engagement to effective querying.AI-driven benchmarking: Student performance is increasingly measured—directly or indirectly—against AI-generated outputs that are faster, more structured, and often appear near-ideal. It raises evaluation standards, leaves little room for iterative thinking or minor errors, and fosters constant comparison with peers and machine outputs, intensifying performance pressure.Competitive pressure driven by Fear of Missing Out (FOMO): With all-time access to GenAI, students feel compelled to use these tools to avoid falling behind. It creates continuous pressure to match AI-augmented productivity, often prioritising speed and output over deep understanding. This approach may not sustain for long-term knowledge acquisition and skill development.Learning–evaluation mismatch: While GenAI is widely used for coursework and preparation, it is typically restricted in examinations and interviews. It creates a dual environment, forcing abrupt shifts to unaided performance, leading to anxiety, self-doubt, and a sense of unpreparedness during high-stakes assessments.Ethics undefined: The absence of clear norms on acceptable AI use creates uncertainty and internal conflict. Students must constantly decide how much reliance is appropriate, increasing stress while raising concerns about academic integrity.Addressing the rise in suicides requires a shift to integrate mental health support, academic reform, and a policy on the use of GenAI in teaching, learning, and evaluation (TLE).Despite widespread use of GenAI, none of the TIs has a policy framework to address its impact on academic use. Policy efforts should aim to detect stress early through continuous assessment. Counselling systems must be strengthened with early-warning mechanisms and greater faculty sensitisation.Preventing further loss of life must be treated as a national priority, requiring coordinated action by institutions, regulators, and policymakers to ensure that technological ad



25-30 grams of protein. Similarly, one cup of cooked dal paired with two rotis and 100 grams of paneer comfortably reaches the same range.For non-vegetarians, 120 grams of grilled chicken or fish served with vegetables and whole grains can provide more than 30 grams of high-quality protein while keeping the meal nutritionally balanced.

Dinner: Don’t let protein take a back seatAfter a long day, dinner often becomes the most carbohydrate-heavy meal. However, maintaining protein intake in the evening is important for overnight muscle repair and recovery.A generous serving of mixed dal khichdi prepared with one-third cup each of moong dal and masoor dal, accompanied by a bowl of curd, can provide 20-25 grams of protein. A tofu curry prepared with 150 grams of tofu and served with whole-wheat roti offers a similar amount. Paneer bhurji with vegetables or egg curry paired with salad and roti are equally effective options.

Science uncovers how brain interprets artistic beauty

Cambridge: Stand in front of Turner’s Sun Rising Over Water (1825-30) and something odd tends to happen. The painting holds you, even though observers might struggle to say why. Maybe it is the colour, the balance, the composition, or the strange stillness the artwork seems to carry.Whatever it is, you feel it long before you can explain why. And the stranger next to you, looking at the same canvas with the same awe in their eyes, very likely feels it too.We often say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Yet show almost anyone a misty Chinese Song-dynasty mountain landscape, or the softly brushed figure of the Mona Lisa, and nearly everyone agrees that something striking is unfolding before them.Beauty feels intensely private, and, at the same time, we keep discovering that we collectively share it. That contradiction is one of the longstanding puzzles in “neuroaesthetics” – the science of how the brain responds to art and beauty. How does our sense of beauty actually take shape in the brain?In our latest study, published in Nature Communications, we tried to map that shared experience. We found that instead of representing it as a single entity, the brain instead splits aesthetic experience into two major strands. One strand handles what an image shows, whether a landscape, an object or a figure.

Should you have soluble or insoluble?

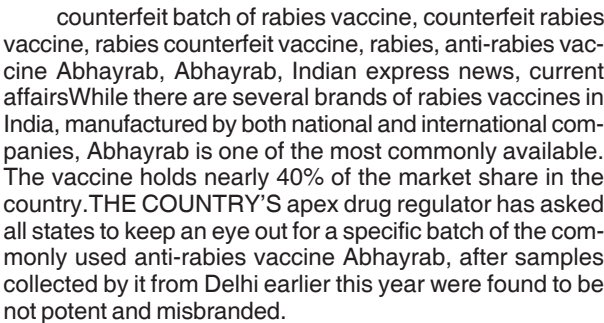


The danger of going from zero to “high fibre” One of the biggest mistakes people make is increasing fibre too quickly. Someone who has been eating very little fibre may

A new brand identity is in place, group airlines have been consolidated into two from four, synergies in their networks and operations has gone up considerably, massive aircraft orders are in place to ensure a steady stream of new jets, a large number of its legacy jets have been given modern cabins and more are being retrofitted, heavy investments have been made in technology and other key areas, and hiring for key operational roles is being done on a continuous basis. Air India has also expanded collaboration with its shareholder Singapore Airlines, and has entered into or deepened partnerships with various other global airlines. Wilson noted that while significant progress had been made, the task is not yet complete. "The transformation will continue, and Air India's best days are still ahead. I want to assure you I will remain Air India's biggest cheerleader from the sidelines...Tewolde is a proven airline leader with deep industry experience, and I know he will take Air India forward with great success," Wilson told employees.

“The most important thing Air India should aspire to have is trust in the minds of people...Air India must be known for caring about safety above everything else. Our safety record should not just match the best airlines in the world, it

Watch out for 'counterfeit' batch of rabies vaccine: Drug regulator to states



There were several errors in the vaccine's packaging text, such as the use of an apostrophe instead of a comma or 'L Pasteur' being spelled as 'L Posteur', changes in the

“At around 04:02:52 UTC (09:32:52 India time), the Blue hydraulic system was recovered, and a few seconds later, the Yellow hydraulic and the Green hydraulic systems were also recovered. Consequently, this led to the recovery of the Flight control (F/CTL) surfaces. Subsequently, the aircraft operation returned to its normal operating condition,” the report stated. The AAIB noted that since seatbelt signs were off at the time of the incident, some passengers and cabin crew members sustained injuries. “The flight crew assessed the cabin situation and took the decision of continuing the flight to its planned destination i.e. Delhi airport and did not divert to the nearest enroute airport. Later, the flight crew contacted ATC Delhi and sought medical priority. ATC responded accordingly and provided requisite assistance. At 05:30 UTC aircraft landed safely on runway 11 L at IGI airport, Delhi,” the report stated. Following the release of the preliminary report, Air India said it continues to extend full cooperation to the investigation, including providing access to all relevant operational, maintenance and technical records. Friday morning, an Air India spokesperson said, “

She blamed hair ferritin on differ doctors joined dots

Then came the blood test: her ferritin was low. She started taking iron. But instead of feeling as though she was finally fixing another piece of the puzzle, she felt her digestive symptoms getting worse. The gas seemed more troublesome, adding another layer of discomfort to an already frustrating routine. Nobody seemed to be connecting the dots. "This kind of symptom cluster is indicative of small intestinal bacterial overgrowth, or SIBO. Patients often show up with mixed symptoms like gas, abdominal bloating, feeling heavy after eating, and unexplained nutritional deficiencies," says Dr Harsh Kapoor, Chairman, Gastroenterology, Metro Hospital, Noida.

What is SIBO?

SIBO means there is an abnormal increase of bacteria in the small intestine, where bacterial numbers are normally much lower than in the colon. "When bacteria grow abnormally, they can ferment too early and break down carbohydrates and other nutrients that produce gas, i.e. hydrogen and methane," explains Dr Harsh Kapoor, Chairman, Gastroenterology, Metro Hospital, Noida. This early fermentation can result in bloating, abdominal pain, excessive flatulence, belching and a feeling of fullness or heaviness after meals. For patients, the experience can become a frustrating cycle: eating leads to discomfort, discomfort leads to food restriction and persistent symptoms lead to repeated attempts at self-treatment.

According to Dr Kapoor, the presence of bacteria is only part of the story. The more important question is what allowed them to accumulate in the small intestine. Normal intestinal function helps prevent excessive bacterial growth. Problems that slow down the movement of food through the intestine, changes in the structure of the digestive tract, previous gastrointestinal surgery and other digestive con-

More fibre is not always better! It is also important not to look at fibre in isolation. Someone may consume plenty of fibre but still have a diet high in ultra-processed foods, added sugar, unhealthy fats or excessive calories. Fibre is one component of a healthy dietary pattern; it cannot compensate for an otherwise poor diet. For most adults, roughly 25–30 grams of fibre a day is a reasonable general target, although individual requirements can vary.

What matters more than obsessively counting grams is making fibre a regular part of everyday meals. More is not necessarily better. Very large amounts of fibre, particularly when introduced suddenly, can cause significant bloating, gas and digestive discomfort. The goal should be an adequate and varied intake rather than an unnecessarily high one. People with certain digestive problems may also need to modify the amount or type of fibre they consume, particularly when symptoms are active. Anyone experiencing persistent bloating, abdominal pain, unexplained changes in bowel habits or other digestive symptoms should not simply keep increasing fibre without understanding the underlying cause. Small, consistent dietary changes are far more sustainable—and usually more beneficial—than suddenly making extreme changes in an attempt to eat more fibre.

font and text spacing, difference in the company's logo, suggesting that it wasn't a genuine product manufactured by Indian Immunologicals." Through a communication dated 27 August 2026, the DCGI (Drugs Controller General of India) requested all State Drugs Controllers to alert their inspectorate staff and maintain strict vigilance over the movement, distribution and availability of the above-mentioned batch of the drug. The State Drug Control authorities were also requested to take appropriate regulatory action," said a public notice by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

The drug regulator also confirmed that the batch in question was never exported out of India. Last year, the same vaccine came under scrutiny by several international drug regulators, including those from the UK, US, and Australia, over concerns of such counterfeit batches. With rabies being an almost 100% fatal infection, some of the countries also asked people who had received Abhayrab to get another shot as a precaution. This was also similarly recognised during market surveillance. "In connection with the case, a total of four persons have been arrested by the Delhi Police. Further investigation and appropriate legal action are being undertaken by the competent authorities," said the CDSCO. While there are several brands of rabies vaccines in India, manufactured by both national and international companies, Abhayrab is one of the most commonly available. The vaccine holds nearly 40% of the market share in the country.

She blamed hair loss, gas and low ferritin on different things. Then doctors joined dots, found gut bacteria

ditions can increase the risk of SIBO. "Diseases causing weakening of the intestinal function, anatomically impaired intestines, past surgical operations and gastrointestinal diseases may contribute to SIBO occurrence," he says. This is important because SIBO can recur if the underlying problem remains untreated.

What about low ferritin?

SIBO may affect how nutrients are processed and absorbed. Excess bacteria can utilize nutrients before the body absorbs them, and bacterial overgrowth may contribute to malabsorption in some patients. But low iron or ferritin should never automatically be blamed on SIBO. Iron deficiency has many possible causes, including inadequate dietary intake, menstrual blood loss and gastrointestinal conditions that interfere with absorption. Gastrointestinal blood loss also needs to be considered in appropriate patients. "Not every low iron or ferritin level should be connected with SIBO," Dr Kapoor cautions. There is another complication: oral iron itself can cause gastrointestinal side effects. "So, if gas or abdominal discomfort increases after starting iron, that does not prove that bacteria are consuming the iron or that SIBO is responsible," he explains. Hair shedding can occur in the presence of nutritional deficiencies, including iron deficiency in some patients. But hair loss should not automatically be attributed to SIBO. "The commonly repeated claim that women need ferritin levels of 40–70 ng/mL to stop hair loss is not a universally accepted medical rule. There is no single ferritin level that guarantees shedding will stop. A low ferritin may warrant investigation, but the patient's overall clinical picture matters more than chasing one number," says Dr Kapoor.

How is SIBO diagnosed? One commonly used non-invasive approach is a hydrogen and methane breath test. The patient consumes a specified carbohydrate substrate and then provides breath samples at set intervals to measure hydrogen and methane production. Dr Kapoor stresses that the test results must be considered together with the patient's clinical presentation, history and symptoms.

What about treatment?

Depending on the individual case, treatment may include antibiotics to reduce bacterial overgrowth and appropriate nutritional management. But treating the bacteria is only part of the process. "The underlying condition also needs attention. Otherwise, the symptoms may return. Thus, it does not mean that the recurrent condition should be treated with the help of antacids only," says Dr Kapoor.

Pakistan captain Fatima Sana punished by ICC for send-off to Shafali Verma during Women's Asia Cup match



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

Pakistan captain Fatima Sana has been fined 10 per cent of her match fee and handed a demerit point by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for being found guilty of breaching Level 1 of its Code of Conduct during their Women's Asia Cup match against India. The ICC said that Fatima was found to have breached article 2.5 of the code of conduct which deals with incidents that happen after a bowler dismisses a batter. Fatima had given India's Shafali Verma a sendoff after dismissing her in the second over of the Indian innings. It was one of two wickets she had taken in that over and three in the powerplay, with India looking to finish a facile chase of 56 runs quickly. Fatima ended up with figures of 3/17 in three overs as India eventually won

by seven wickets in the ninth over of their chase.

"Fatima was found to have breached article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon dismissal.""In addition, one demerit point has been added to her disciplinary record, for whom it was the second offence in a 24-month period, taking her tally of demerit points in this period to two," said the ICC in its statement. The ICC said that Fatima admitted to her offence and accepted the sanctions proposed by Supriya Das of The Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees and, as such, there was no need for a formal hearing. "Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points," it said. Shree Charani and Prema Rawat dismantled Pakistan as India blew them away for just 55 runs. Both Charani and Rawat took three wickets each as Pakistan were dismissed for their lowest ever women's T20I total. Charani returned excellent figures of 3 for 7, while Rawat took three wickets for just nine runs. Shafali Varma started the rout by dismissing opener Muneeba Ali in the fifth over. The 27-run opening stand was pretty much the only partnership of note for Pakistan. Pakistan's previous lowest T20I total was 63, scored in 19.1 overs against India in Guangzhou during the group stage of the 2012 Women's Twenty20 Asia Cup.

Fatima Sana gets 10 per cent fine, demerit point after India clash



Dubai: Pakistan captain Fatima Sana has been fined 10 per cent of her match fee and handed a demerit point for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during her side's Women's Asia Cup Group A clash against India, which they lost by seven wickets at the Dubai International Stadium on Saturday. In a statement, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Monday that Fatima was found guilty of breaching Article 2.5 of its Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage, or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter

upon his/her dismissal during an International Match."The incident occurred on the last ball of the second over of India's chase of 56, when Fatima gestured towards the pavilion after dismissing opener Shafali Verma through a caught-and-bowled dismissal.

This marks Fatima's second offence within a 24-month window, bringing her total tally of demerit points to two. Her previous demerit point was handed down during the opening T20 International against Ireland in Dublin on August 6, 2025. "Fatima admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Supriya Rani Das of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing," the ICC further said. The charges against the Pakistan skipper were levelled by on-field umpires Nimali Perera and Shathira Jakir Jesy, alongside third umpire Rokeya Sultana and fourth umpire Rabab Ahsan. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points. Despite the off-field sanction, Fatima will remain available to lead Pakistan in their clash against Hong Kong China on Tuesday. A victory for Pakistan would take them into the semi-finals, with seven-time winners India and defending champions Sri Lanka already having sealed their spots there.

Padikkal opens up about his conversations with Dravid on batting in Tests

Devdutt Padikkal of India celebrates after scoring a hundred during Day 1 of the 2nd Test match between Sri Lanka and India at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground, Colombo, Sri Lanka, on August 23, 2026. Devdutt Padikkal of India celebrates after scoring a hundred during Day 1 of the 2nd Test match between Sri Lanka and India at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground, Colombo, Sri Lanka, on August 23, 2026. Devdutt Padikkal who had a sensational Sri Lanka series where he scored two centuries in the two Tests, opened up about his conversations with former India batter Rahul Dravid about what it takes to bat in the longest format. Padikkal is the latest India batter trying to make the No.3 Test spot his own, aiming to follow in the footsteps of Dravid and Cheteshwar Pujara.

"Obviously, I've had a lot of conversations with him over the years in terms of batting and what it takes to really spend long hours out there. Again, it comes back to preparation and understanding what you want to do. As long as you have that clarity in your head about what your plans are and what you want to go out there and do, regardless of the position you're batting at, it helps a lot. I think those are the conversations I've had with him," he said in an interview with Star Sports. "At the end of the day, it's about going out there and batting. It doesn't matter what position I'm batting at, I'm trying to contribute to the side. Yes, obviously, there have been great players who have played at



number three for India over the years, and I'm sure there'll be a lot more scrutiny on me and a lot more comparisons made. But at the end of the day, I'm going out there and just playing my cricket, and as long as I'm enjoying that, I think everything will fall into place," he added. Padikkal was India's best batter on the tour of the Island nation last month with 328 runs across two Tests with two centuries. He had scored 117 in 193 balls in the second Test, his second century of the two-Test series, and was dismissed about eight overs before the end of the first day's play. In the first Test at Galle, he had slammed 167 in the first innings and helped his team win by 165 runs.

A min of silence to be observed ahead of UEFA Champions League matches this week



GNS News Agency, Sept 8

UEFA on Monday announced that a moment of silence will be held while a banner will be displayed ahead of every Champions League match this week as a sign of solidarity and support for the families of the victims of Nepal flash floods which devastated the northern and central parts of the country last month. The banner will carry the message "You are not alone Nepal". "The entire European football family will stand together before this week's matches to express our deepest condolences and our support to the people of Nepal. We wish them strength and resilience as they continue to recover from this tragedy and its aftermath," Aleksander Ceferin, UEFA's president said in a statement. On Monday, the death toll from the flash floods

in Nepal surged to 1,355 as more bodies were recovered from the affected areas, authorities said as per PTI. Rescue teams continued to search for 4,996 people, including at least 589 foreign nationals, who remain missing, while 13,396 people have been rescued so far, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said.

According to NDRRMA, 363 bodies have been recovered from Chitwan district, 221 from Nawalparasi West, 222 from Nawalparasi East and 197 from Nuwakot. Similarly, 169 bodies were recovered from Rasuwa, 75 from Gorkha, 70 from Dhading and 38 from Tanahu, it said. The joint command of security forces is actively conducting search and rescue operations. Major rescue operations are underway at hydropower projects in flood-affected districts, where hundreds of men are believed to be trapped in tunnels. Teams of experts from India and China are assisting their Nepali counterparts in these operations. The flash floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal. The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, carried the floodwaters downstream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects. The disaster also killed at least 21 people on the Chinese side, while more than 500 people remain missing in Tibet, according to Chinese media reports.

‘Look at yourself first’: Azhar Ali tears into Aaqib Javed over Pakistan slump

Former Pakistan captain Azhar Ali has slammed High Performance Director Aaqib Javed for the current struggles, saying that the team has been making "bad decisions" for three years and the former pacer always put the blame elsewhere instead of looking at his own faults. The former right-hander said that Javed should step aside if he is unable to make a difference to the team's fortunes. "We have had bad decisions like these for three years now. He should take responsibility for performances. His judgment should be questioned. I listened to his interview this week, and he was trying to put the blame on Sarfaraz and Babar. He appointed them just a few months earlier!"

"That was enough for me to judge someone. Every decision he makes backfires, and he then says: 'It's not me.' Look at yourself first. And if you cannot control this team, if you cannot make a difference to Pakistan cricket, then step away," he told The Guardian. Ali also sympathised with Babar Azam, admitting that this was perhaps the worst time to be Pakistan's captain, but added that he was not as mentally tough as the likes of Misbah-ul-Haq.

"It is probably the worst time to captain Pakistan right now. He has to consider his options too, I believe. Every player goes through periods of low scores, but as a nation we just kept expecting him to deliver, and criticism followed. It has played on his mind, and he has doubted himself, while lacking any internal support." "I don't think he is as mentally strong as Misbah or, say, Younis Khan. Misbah was not as talented as Babar, but he was far tougher. Younis faced criticism but never lost his targets. Everyone is different, though. We have to realise that and create an environment where he can flourish, not be pulled back," he said.

He further felt that Pakistan's mercurial nature had also disappeared in recent times and they needed a clear



roadmap to get back to the top, with an emphasis on producing fast bowlers. "People used to say you could expect anything from Pakistan – that any team could turn up on any given day and either be 46 all out or win from nowhere. But we don't even do that inconsistency any more. We've become totally consistent – in the most negative way." "We have to ask why the fast bowlers are not coming through. Look at Bangladesh. They were not content with just spin at home; they wanted to grow as a cricketing nation and produced a group of fast bowlers who have just won a Test match in Australia. You can't just hope it happens, which is what the attitude feels like in Pakistan these days. We need a settled structure and one where people are hired and backed for three-to-four years. Right now the under-19s, for example, are leaderless. But that role is arguably more important than the head coach of the senior side," Ali said. Pakistan are 2-0 down in the ongoing three-match series against England, with the third and final Test match starting in Edgbaston on Wednesday. Ali, though, did not sound optimistic about the team's chances. "I would be very surprised if the final Test is a contest".

Kevin Pietersen appointed England white-ball mentor, returns after 12 years

GNS News Agency, Sept 8 Kevin Pietersen will begin his new role later this month during England's white-ball series against Sri Lanka, which comprises three T20Is and three ODIs. Pietersen will begin his new role later this month during England's white-ball series against Sri Lanka, which comprises three T20Is and three ODIs. Former England captain Kevin Pietersen is set to return to the national team set-up after more than a decade, joining Brendon McCullum's coaching staff as a Specialist Mentor for the white-ball sides in the build-up to next year's ODI World Cup. Pietersen will begin his new role later this month during England's white-ball series against Sri Lanka, which comprises three T20Is and three ODIs. The appointment marks his first substantial involvement with the England set-up since his international career ended in 2014. The 46-year-old has some previous mentoring experience, having worked with Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League. He also had a brief stint working with England's batsmen during their ODI series in South Africa in 2023. Pietersen said returning to the England dressing room was particularly significant for him, with the 50-over World Cup in South Africa the primary target. "I am immensely proud to have been asked to help this team on their journey to win a World Cup in South Africa," Pietersen was quoted in an ECB statement. Putting on the England uniform again for the first time since 2014 is a profound honour and a deeply special moment.

"We have an incredibly talented white-ball squad, and I am excited to get in the trenches and work relentlessly hard with these players to maximise their potential. To be a part of Brendon's thinktank over the next 12 months is a fantastic opportunity, and I cannot wait to get started," he added. McCullum welcomed Pietersen's appointment and said his experience at international level could prove particularly useful to England's batting group. "I've got immense



respect for KP and what he's achieved in the game. He's had an amazing impact on English cricket, so for someone with his experience, knowledge and stature to want to play a role with this team is a fantastic result," McCullum said. "I'm particularly excited for our batters to get the opportunity to work with him. KP has a unique understanding of what it takes to perform at the highest level, which will be hugely valuable to our players. We've always respected each other and had a strong appreciation for what the other brings to the game, so I'm really looking forward to working together." Since retiring from professional cricket in 2018, Pietersen has largely been involved in broadcasting. His relationship with the current England regime has not always been without disagreement. During England's tour of India in early 2025, Pietersen publicly criticised aspects of the team environment, prompting McCullum to describe some of his observations as "factually incorrect". Pietersen played 104 Tests, 136 ODIs and 37 T20Is for England during an international career that began in 2004. His England career came to a contentious end in 2014, but 12 years later, he will return to the dressing room in a new capacity as the team prepares for another shot at the 50-over World Cup.

Pakistan cricket chaos deepens: Disciplinary inquiry launched after recall of 7 players

GNS News Agency, Sept 8

After the bizarre and unprecedented recall of seven Pakistan players from the England tour, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced an "internal disciplinary inquiry" into the team. While PCB has not made it clear what the inquiry will be looking at, it did mention that it was regarding "media reports concerning discipline and conduct". With one Test left to play against England, Pakistan are already 2-0 down, having lost the first Test at Headingley by an innings and 103 runs and then the second Test to England at Lord's by 194 runs. Besides sending home seven players in the middle of the tour, PCB had also dismissed head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and his assistant Umar Gul with Pakistan white-ball coach Mike Hesson and former Australia seamer Ashley Noffke taking charge for the final Test.

Now, PCB media director Amir Mir announced on Monday that the board had initiated an "internal disciplinary inquiry following media reports concerning discipline and conduct, which are currently being reviewed internally." He did not specify what the inquiry was about, but some former Pakistan players had told their TV channels earlier that some incident had happened in the dressing room which led to Pakistan taking the unprecedented measure to send home seven players in the middle of a tour. "The PCB handles such matters in accordance with its standard procedures. The process is being conducted under PCB regulations, ensuring that all concerned individuals are given due consideration," Mir said in a statement on X.

Pakistan's Salman Agha, second right, is congratulated by teammates for taking a brilliant catch to dismiss England's Jordan Cox during the second cricket test match between England and Pakistan in London, Thursday, Aug.



27, 2026. (AP Photo/Dave Shopland) Pakistan's Salman Agha, second right, is congratulated by teammates for taking a brilliant catch to dismiss England's Jordan Cox during the second cricket test match between England and Pakistan in London, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026. At this stage, any speculative reports or unverified claims circulating on certain platforms, particularly those originating from hostile external sources, should not be regarded as credible. The PCB will not comment further at this time. The Board advises stakeholders and the public to rely on official PCB communications. "Muhammad Rizwan, Imam-ul-Haq, Salman Ali Agha, Ali Usman, Khuram Shahzad, Aamir Jamal and Muhammad Awais Jafar were sent home to Pakistan with one final Test still left in the tour. Of these seven, the latter two did not play in any game but were still penalised. In their place, Saim Ayub and Abdullah Fazal, who have played for Pakistan before, and Arafat Minhas, Mohammed Imran Jr, Said Baig, Mohammad Imran and Razaullah were called up.

Sahithi Varshini's final GM norm quest backed by father's sacrifices

Hyderabad: For long, it has been a parallel struggle for athletes and their parents. Most sporting journeys are dotted with acute hardship. Not all athletes have gone on to become champions just because of the system, but many have done so because of the sacrifices their parents made.

The likes of Mithali Raj, Sania Mirza, PV Sindhu, Koneru Humpy, Saina Nehwal, Jwala Gutta, JJ Shobha, Sathi Geetha, Soundarya and Nikhat Zareen, to name just a few from a long list of achievers, especially girls, are classic examples of parents going beyond their limits to support their children's sporting journeys. So, with emerging chess star Sahithi Varshini now in search of her third and final GM norm to earn the WGM title, the concern of her mentor-cum-coach and father, Lokesh, is quite understandable. Someone who himself led HPCL and played

alongside some strong GMs, Lokesh is well aware of what it takes to become a special player in the highly competitive world of chess. The pandemic forced Lokesh to sacrifice his job and move to Budapest for more than a year. He has no regrets when he looks back now, as his daughter Sahithi is making the right 'moves' on the 64 squares. She has earned the WIM title and also represented India at the prestigious Chess Olympiad during that critical phase. "We sold our 2 BHK apartment in Vizag and currently have a gold loan of ₹18 lakhs. Earlier, HPCL sponsored ₹10 lakhs, Help Chess Foundation supported us with ₹3 lakhs, and the AP State Government sanctioned ₹11.75 lakhs. At present, Pravaha Foundation is sponsoring ₹10 lakhs," he revealed. "I am grateful to the Pravaha Foundation, who also helped me when I underwent heart surgery,".

‘What Trisha did was rare’: Malvika Mohanan recalls actor’s message while working with Vijay



Actress Malvika Mohanan, who has spoken about Trisha’s warmth and generosity toward her during the Petta shoot in Varanasi, actress Malvika Mohanan, who has spoken about Trisha’s warmth and generosity toward her during the Petta shoot in Varanasi. Actress Malvika Mohanan has shared a story about co-star Trisha Krishnan that she says has stayed with her since the shooting of Petta, calling the senior actress’s behaviour toward her during the film “very rare” in an industry where most people “keep to themselves.”

Malavika, who made her Tamil debut with Karthik Subbaraj’s Petta starring Rajinikanth, recalled that she was an absolute newcomer when she arrived on set for her portions, which were filmed on the outskirts of Varanasi. She had a few days of shooting and some combination scenes with Trisha. “When I was working on Petta, I had shot for a few days and had some combinations with Trisha. At that point, I was an absolute newcomer. It was my first Tamil

film. I had done a few films like Beyond the Clouds but I hadn’t done any big films or commercial films,” Malavika said in an interview with SS Music.

What she did not expect was the senior actress going out of her way to include her. Trisha, who by 2019 had been one of Tamil and Telugu cinema’s biggest names for nearly two decades, could have easily kept to herself between shots. Instead, she did the opposite. “Trisha was so sweet to me. She made me feel extremely comfortable. She would make a lot of plans, have conversations and involve me in everything,” Malavika said. “We were shooting on the outskirts of Varanasi and staying at the same hotel. She would make plans, hang out and make sure I was involved. She was so genuine in everything she did.” Malavika said the behaviour stood out precisely because it is uncommon in the film industry, where seniority and hierarchy often determine who talks to whom on set. “What she did was very rare. Most people would just keep to themselves and think, ‘Why do I have to be nice to everyone?’ But she was genuinely warm and welcoming,” she said.

The story did not end with the Petta shoot. Months later, when Malavika signed Lokesh Kanagaraj’s Master opposite Vijay, Trisha reached out personally to congratulate her. “After a few months, when I signed Master, she messaged me, ‘Hey Babe, I’m so happy for you. This is huge. Congratulations!’” Malavika recalled. “It takes a big heart to do that.” The comment carries particular weight given the context. Master, which released in January 2021, became a Rs 200 crore blockbuster and transformed Malavika’s career. Before it, she was known primarily for Majid Majidi’s Beyond the Clouds and a small role in Petta. Malavika made her acting debut with the Malayalam film Pattam Pole opposite Dulquer Salmaan, a role she landed after Mammootty noticed her on a shoot her father, cinematographer K.U. Mohanan, was working on. Her career has since spanned Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada and Telugu cinema, with recent credits including Hridaya Poorvam with Mohanlal, The Raja Saab with Prabhas and Sardar 2 with Karthi. Trisha, who debuted in 1999 and has appeared in over 60 films across Tamil and Telugu cinema, has been consistently praised by younger actresses for her approachability on set. Her recent filmography includes Ponniyin Selvan: I and II, Leo with Vijay, and Suriya’s Karuppu.

Inside Krystle D’Souza’s Mumbai home: New York bedroom with Rs 35,000 Sabyasachi wallpaper

Filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan and her cook Dilip recently visited Traitors 2 winner Krystle D’Souza’s house, in Lokhandwala. The actress, who also starred in Dhurandhar’s popular song ‘Shararat’ lives in a plush house in Andheri West, Mumbai. In Farah’s vlog, she gave a tour of her luxury abode — which has a walk-in closet, glam room, and more. Krystle also recalled Ekta Kapoor firing her as a 17-year-old from her debut serial with Balaji Telefilms — Kahe Na Kahe (2007).

As soon as Krystle D’Souza invited Farah Khan inside the house, the filmmaker asked her about building her own house in Mumbai. “Yeh tera asli ghar hai? No rent, nothing?” she asked. “Khoon paseena ek karke banaaya hai (I have worked really hard for this). This is my house, my own house, not rented. I used to live in Sion before. That house was 2BHK, and very small, maybe 700 sqft,” the actor replied. “We also had a small 500 sq ft. house. We all used to stay there — my grandmother, brother, me, mom. Sajid used to sleep on the floor and I used to take the sofa,” Farah shared. Classic living room Krystle’s Lokhandwala home has a warm and elegant living room, which blends contemporary design with a cosy charm. It has a muted palette — with cream, beige and brown. The dining space features a huge wooden table with chairs, complementing the paintings and frames on the wall. The living room also has a large wooden coffee table in the center with cream coloured couches. A patterned rug, plants, books, and show pieces give the space a more homely vibe. The entire house has floor-to-ceiling glass doors, especially the living room, which opens into a balcony. The attached balcony had cosy seating spaces to enjoy the high-rise view.

The high-rise apartment’s bedroom features a large glass window with a view of the city skyline, usually how the rooms are designed in New York. “Oh my, Krystle. We are in a bedroom in New York. You can see the Empire State building from here,” Farah joked, after entering the actor’s bedroom. The beige bed was neatly made with a white comforter. The Sabyasachi floral wallpaper, that has an average price between ₹35,000 per roll, was one of the highlights of the cosy room. Then, Krystle D’Souza gave a tour of her special walk-in closet and glam room. The well-organised closet had designer clothes and handbags. “So neat and clean, Krystle,” said Farah. “I used it for everyday, just to go downstairs sometimes,” Krystle mentioned. The



filmmaker replied, “Designer bags are being used for everyday guys. I also should have done 2-3 item songs.” The Ek Hazaron Mein Meri Behna Hai actress prefers to get ready in another room in her house, called the ‘Glam room’. With a huge orange sofa, the neon text on the stone wall read, ‘Everything You Can Imagine Is Real’. During the vlog, when Farah Khan asked her about making her debut on the small screen, Krystle recalled being ‘thrown out’ of her debut show Kahe Na Kahe (2007), by producer Ekta Kapoor. “I did my first TV serial, and I was so bad, so horrible, that I was thrown out of the show. I was bad but Ekta couldn’t tell me because I was very young. We had a conversation where she made me eat pizza first. ‘You know, we will do something else’s,” she shared, adding, “I had already told her that I am not very good at Hindi. She found me outside my college, I had never auditioned, I was just 17, and didn’t know what to do with my life.”



unites him with Dhanush, who had a cameo appearance in Mammootty’s Kammath and Kammath. Rounding out the cast are Sai Pallavi, Sreeleela, and Naseeruddin Shah, with the film doubling as Naseeruddin Shah’s entry into Tamil cinema.

How Mammootty stole the screen from Rajinikanth with subtlety, quiet authority in Thalapathi



It is almost impossible for anyone to match Rajinikanth’s charisma on screen, especially since the 1990s, when he became the sole nucleus of his movies. In Thalapathi (1991), director Mani Ratnam also brings out the exceptional actor in him. So, it’s a double whammy for his co-actors. Yet, Mammootty holds his own against Rajinikanth at every turn, delivering a phenomenal portrayal. Devaraj might not rank among Mammootty’s greatest performances of all time, simply because he has delivered even better ones. However, it’s impossible to ignore the fact that, despite having ‘Aura’ kanth (a popular internet portmanteau of aura and Rajinikanth) in his element right next to him, Mammootty sets the screen ablaze with his precise, understated, and subtle performance, further elevated by a raspy voice modulation, slightly reminiscent of Marlon Brando’s in The Godfather (1972) and Amitabh Bachchan’s in Agneepath (1990).

The way Mammootty channels his character’s emotions, cleverly choosing his moments to go from explicit to minimalist, underscores his mastery of the craft. In his initial scenes in Thalapathi, Devaraj (Mammootty) wears an eerily guarded demeanour. He’s inscrutable, if not for the content of the words he speaks. His low-register delivery only adds to his sinisterness, giving the feeling that everything and everything around him falls silent the moment he starts talking. The first time we see him truly smile is when he’s in front of his wife, Selvi (Geetha), introducing her to his new best friend, Surya (Rajinikanth). From that moment on, whenever Devaraj is with Surya or talking for his best friend — like the scene where they go to Subbulakshmi’s (Shobana) house to meet her father (Charuhasan) and request that he marry her off to Surya — he becomes expressive. Whenever he is with Surya, Devaraj shows his happiness, sadness, anger, regret, and remorse in an unfiltered manner. It’s as if he isn’t scared to be expressive in front of his best friend, like he is in front of his wife. It’s as if Surya brings out the human in Devaraj.

Thalapathi is directed by Mani Ratnam. Thalapathi is a retelling of Karna’s story from the Mahabharata, with a special focus on his camaraderie with Duryodhana. (Credit: IMDb) But there is one more scene when that eerily guarded demeanour fills Devaraj’s face yet again. Towards the end, when Surya tells him not to make harsh decisions and to roll back his order to kill Collector Arjun (Arvind Swamy), we see Devaraj’s sinisterness once again. That moment makes one feel that when the police emotionally and physically thrashed him in the preceding scenes, they unknowingly unleashed the monster chained within Devaraj.

When Surya resists his demand to murder Arjun, Devaraj talks to him with the same inscrutable face — which the former had seen only once before, during their first meeting, when they were still foes — and accuses him of being lenient towards the collector, which he assumes is because Arjun is married to Subbulakshmi. As Surya shouts at him for questioning the honesty of his friendship, Devaraj looks at him with dead eyes.

Here, Rajinikanth gets the explosive lines and the space to go loud with his performance. But Mammootty matches it with just his commanding and riveting glance, along with a few terse dialogues. A quiet assertion of authority: The ‘Mudiyaath’ moment. On paper, Devaraj is formidable, authoritative, and punchy, but he doesn’t have as much aura or swagger as Surya. But it’s there on screen. That’s, to a great extent, Mammootty’s contribution. The actor’s brilliance is that he doesn’t reduce the character to monotony. He explores its length and breadth well, which is why Thalapathi is remembered for his portrayal as well. The best way to understand the depth and sharpness of his depiction is an analysis of the way he sends chills down everyone’s spine and asserts his authority with a simple “Mudiyaath (No)” to Collector Arjun during a meeting, which the latter convened to direct Devaraj and Surya to stop their gangster activities.

‘I dance at weddings for Rs 2 lakh’: Rahul Roy on struggling financially after brain stroke

Actor Rahul Roy known for his roles in films like Aashiqui, Junoon, Phir Teri Kahaani Yaad Aye, etc recently opened up about his financial struggles. Last year, Rahul made headlines after he was seen dancing at a wedding and performing on his songs with another content creator. Following the reels, it was speculated that financial constraints forced Rahul to take up small, shoddy projects. Now, talking to the Times Of India, Rahul Roy opened up about his financial challenges and how he has been rebuilding his career after suffering a brain stroke in 2020.

Talking about his struggles, Rahul spoke about a legal case he and his brother have been fighting for years. He said it’s a Rs 30 lakh case that he wants to settle, and he and his brother are working on it. Sharing how, after he transferred his assets to his wife during their divorce, Rahul said he is building everything from scratch. “I am 60 and trying to set up my empire,” Rahul Roy said.

Rahul also spoke about his struggles and said, “The last five years have almost been like a break because I was recuperating. There was no work. If that hadn’t happened, I would have done much more. But now, I am getting some work and want to do a lot more. I was happy to be back on the set and face the camera. I am really thankful to the people who are trusting me. In my 37-year journey in films, I believe I have done some good work, and now I am looking forward to doing more.” Rahul, who suffered a brain stroke in 2020, says getting work after that has been difficult. “I have expenses, and I need the money. Getting work after my brain stroke in 2020 was difficult. It’s been five years since then, and I was doing whatever I could to keep things going. Sometimes, I earn Rs 2 lakh or 4 lakh by dancing at weddings. People who troll me don’t know

A retelling of Karna’s story from the Hindu epic Mahabharata, with a special focus on his camaraderie with Duryodhana, Thalapathi argues that villainy is subjective and depends on the perspective from which one views a person, a situation or an action. From Surya’s (Karna) point of view, his mother Kalyani (Kunti), played by Srividya, is in the wrong for abandoning him as a newborn; however, from her perspective, she had no other option as she was a minor. Surya and Devaraj (Duryodhana) believe they are serving the people, even if that means taking the law into their own hands. In contrast, Arjun (Arjuna) sees them as criminals. Surya and Devaraj argue that this is because Arjun, born with a silver spoon in his mouth, does not understand the helplessness of unprivileged people and how the system ignores their suffering. However, as a righteous bureaucrat, Arjun believes that anyone who commits a crime is a criminal.

Despite being in love with Surya, Subbulakshmi (Draupadi) eventually marries Arjun. Surya believes this is because of his social status and the fact that he is an orphan and an outlaw, but she is powerless against her father’s wishes. Given the movie’s emphasis on relativism, the performances needed to be layered and multifaceted. Mammootty’s depiction of Devaraj/Duryodhana — portrayed here almost like a misunderstood king — is arguably the most attuned to the intricacies of Thalapathi’s narrative.

The beauty of the unsaid The movie features several moments when Mammootty subtly yet magnificently adds weight and detail to the character through his gestures. For instance, there’s a scene where Devaraj introduces Surya to the newborn daughter of Ramana, a man Surya killed recently. Realising who she is, Surya stands there numb, staring at the little one’s mother, Padma (Bhanupriya), with guilt. Meanwhile, Devaraj tells the child she can ask Surya anything and that he will always be there for her. As the child starts crying, Devaraj takes her back from Surya’s hands and heads towards Padma, before subtly looking at Surya to read his face. This glance not only establishes Devaraj’s compassion towards Surya and his plan for the child’s future, but also reiterates that he’s the absolute kingmaker, deciding everyone’s fate.

Thalapathi features several moments when Mammootty subtly yet magnificently adds weight and detail to his character. Mammootty and Rajinikanth in director Mani Ratnam’s Thalapathi. (Express archive photo) But it’s not just such nuanced portrayals that Mammootty excels at; he also delivers the expressive moments brilliantly well. Be it the scene when Devaraj comes to meet Surya at his home — after learning that Surya refused to jump ship to the rival side despite a lucrative offer — and tears up like an abandoned little boy who has just felt the warmth of a loving hug for the first time, or the scene when he angrily pleads with Charuhasan’s character to marry Subbulakshmi to Surya, or the one towards the end when he realises that Surya still chose to stand by his side despite learning that Arjun is his brother, Mammootty masterfully adds significant depth to Devaraj.

The Mammootty-Rajinikanth chemistry The impeccable on-screen chemistry Mammootty shares with Rajinikanth, most evident in the meeting scene at the Collector’s residence, where they communicate through silences and between the lines — as though they are one body and one soul — also contributes to Thalapathi’s brilliance. And who can forget them dancing together like two cute little boys in the iconic “Kaattukuyilu” song, composed by the maestro Ilaiyaraaja? While Mani Ratnam has managed to flesh out most characters in Thalapathi well — something missing in many of his earlier scripts — the way Devaraj’s character arc is crafted, even with Surya himself having a proper one, deserves extra commendation.

ICYMI | I’m Game movie review: Dulquer Salmaan’s fantasy actioner is a gamble that nearly pays off The first time we see Devaraj, he is ruthless and will do anything to ensure that people fear him. But towards the end, he becomes the human he dreamt of after becoming friends with Surya. When Surya admits that Arjun is his brother and Kalyani is their mother, Devaraj tears up and pleads with Surya to share his family with him, underscoring how lonely he had been till then. At 75, Mammootty still amazes us with his phenomenal performances, with the most recent one being his National Award-winning one in Bramayugam (2024), but there’s no denying it didn’t start today or recently. Like the 35-year-old Thalapathi, he has owned the screen and our hearts many times. Cinema cannot exist in a vacuum; it’s all about the discussions that follow. In the Cinema Anatomy column, we delve into the diverse layers and dimensions of films, aiming to uncover deeper meanings and foster continuous discourses.



that this is hard work. I have to earn my bread and butter too.” Rahul also added that many in the industry have supported him. He named Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor, Raveena Tandon, Farah Khan, Archana Puran Singh, and Pooja Bhatt as supporters. Salman Khan had supported his medical expenses after the brain stroke. Rahul also added, “I am in touch with my Aashiqui co-stars Anu Aggarwal, Deepak Tijori, and Avatar Gill, and even Mahesh Bhatt. Deepak is doing well, and hopefully, we will reunite for work.” Last week, Rahul also opened up about the lifestyle changes he made after the brain stroke. He told Free Press Journal, “After my brain stroke, I didn’t even know if I would be able to walk or talk again. I used to be a heavy smoker and a non-vegetarian, but I’ve turned vegan, and I’m off onion, garlic, and milk and I’m basically having Jain food. Every day after breakfast, I have 8 medicines.