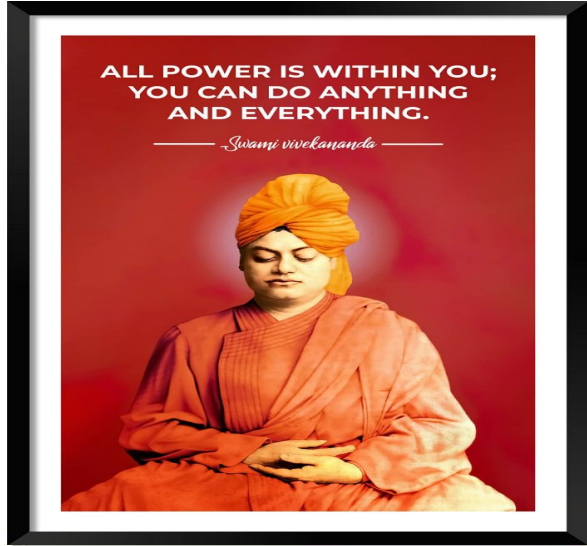
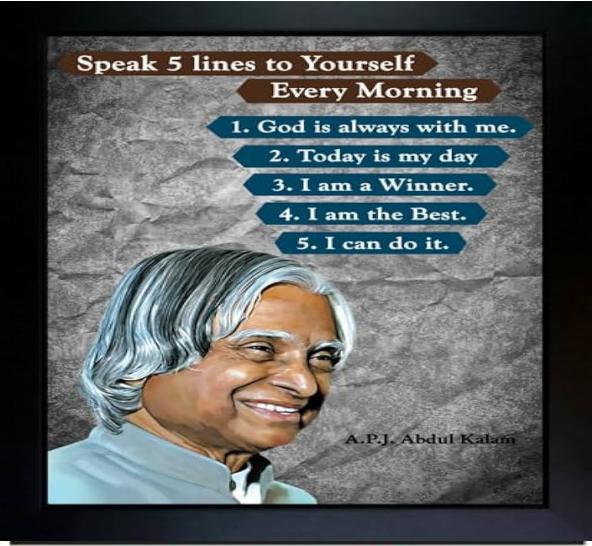




TGHRC Takes Suo-Motu Cognizance of ST Girls Hostel Food Poisoning



Hyderabad: The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC), headed by Chairperson Dr. Justice Shameem Akther has taken suo-motu cognizance of a news report published in a vernacular news daily regarding the alleged food poisoning incident at the ST Girls Hostel at

Wardhannapet in Warangal district. At least 27 girl students reportedly fell ill after consuming contaminated d prima facie involve issues affecting thehas called for a detailed report from the district Collector. Also Read - Hyderabad to Host GANSID, USA Congress 2026 in Oct

The Commission sought the report on the circumstances leading to the incident, the number and present health condition of the affected students, the medical treatment provided, the findings of the enquiry regarding food quality, hygiene and sanitation in the hostel. The action taken against those found responsible, if any, and the preventive and remedial measures taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents should be provide in the report. The matter has been posted to September 7 for submission of the report.

T-Fiber Internet for All Government Offices from Sept 1



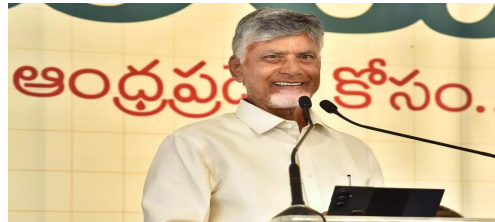
Hyderabad: Industries and IT Minister Sridhar Babu held a key review meeting on T-Fiber at the Secretariat. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & IT Anudeep Durishetty, and T-Fiber MD Venu Prasad. Sridhar Babu directed that, from September 1, all government offices across the state should receive internet services exclu-

sively through T-Fiber. He instructed T-Fiber officials to ensure that internet connectivity is provided to all government offices within the stipulated deadline. Also Read - 20 Heatstroke Deaths, Maharashtra Tops Deaths, Telangana Logs Most Cases The Minister asked officials not to make any internet service payments to private operators for government offices after September 1. He instructed officials to

complete the migration of the T-SWAN (Telangana State Wide Area Network) to T-Fiber within one month. The Minister wanted officials to make comprehensive arrangements to ensure full-fledged T-Fiber internet connectivity for the prestigious Future City project. He also instructed officials to accelerate the implementation of the state's flagship "Internet to Every Home" initiative.

Naidu Asks Officials to Prevent Drinking Water Scarcity across AP

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu asked officials to ensure that there should be no drinking water scarcity in any region of the state. He instructed officials to continuously monitor rainfall conditions and reservoir levels and take timely measures to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply. Reviewing the performance of various departments during a meeting at Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) in the Secretariat, the Chief Minister directed the officials to focus on reservoir water availability and preparedness measures, a press release said. Also Read - Hyderabad to Host



GANSID, USA Congress 2026 in Oct The officials informed the Chief Minister that rainfall in the upper catchment areas is expected to improve water availability in the Krishna and Godavari river basins. They also briefed him on the flood situation in the Godavari River, the release noted. The Chief Minister directed officials to fully utilise inflows into the Krishna basin from upstream rainfall. He also instructed departments to ensure there is no

shortage of fodder and to prepare sufficient reserves to meet livestock needs for the entire year. Also Read - 20 Heatstroke Deaths, Maharashtra Tops Deaths, Telangana Logs Most Cases Referring to transport department initiatives, the officials briefed the Chief Minister on measulogy and the removal of unnecesThey expl ained that these reforms would help reduce corruption and enable the delivery of more efficient and citizen-friendly services.

Kaleshwaram Project Imposed Huge Financial Burden on State:



Deaths, Telangana Logs Most Cases The Minister laid the foundation stone for the new ATC building at Rudrangi in Vemulawada Assembly

constituency on Tuesday and addressed a public meeting on the occasion. He said the nature of employment is rapidly changing due to emerging

technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Electric Vehicles, Robotics and Drones. To prepare youth for the future workforce, the state is setting up 120 Advanced Technology Centres across 119 Assembly constituencies, offering cutting-edge training instead of outdated conventional courses. Also Read - T-Fiber Internet for All Government Offices from Sept 1: Sridhar Babu Recognising the growing role of technology in agriculture, the Minister directed the Director of Employment and Training (DET) Kanti Wesley to

examine the feasibility of introducing an advanced agriculture-based technology course at the Rudrangi ATC. He also suggested holding consultations with ICRISAT for designing the programme. The Minister also criticised the previous government over the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. He said the original Pranahita-Chevella Project, conceptualised during the united Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of the late Kaka Venkataswamy, had an estimated cost of Rs.36,000 crore and nearly Rs.11,000 crore worth of works had already been completed.

Telangana Tightens Vigil on Paddy Procurement, Milling to Protect Farmers



Hyderabad: Telangana government has accorded the highest priority to protecting the interests of farmers and ensuring that every grain procured with public money is fully accounted for. The State government has therefore initiated a comprehensive review of the paddy procurement and custom milling system, along with strict enforcement measures against any misappro-

priation of government every stocks. Also Read - 20 ment,

Heatstroke Deaths, Maharashtra Tops Deaths, Telangana Logs Most Cases A high-level review meeting has been convened under the chairmanship of the Minister for Irrigation, Food and Civil Supplies N Uttam Kumar Reddy to examine every aspect of procure-

ment, storage, milling, delivery of rice, recovery of the government dues and legal action against defaulting rice mills. This review is not directed against the rice milling industry as a whole. Telangana has hundreds of rice millers who have worked honestly with the government over many decades and have contributed significantly to the State's agricultural economy and the Public

Distribution System (PDS). The government values their cooperation. However, it is equally true that a section of millers has, over many years, violated the trust reposed in them by the Government. These violations have resulted in enormous financial losses to the State and have ultimately affected public finances that belong to the people of Telangana.

Raids Expose Use of Titanium Oxide, Acetic Acid in Ginger-garlic Paste



Hyderabad: A series of inspections carried out by Hyderabad Food Adulteration Surveillance Team (H-FAST) of Hyderabad police revealed alarming practices, including the addition of 'Titanium Oxide', a chemical used in paints, and dangerous 'Acetic Acid' to ginger-garlic paste to make it appear white and thick. This was stated by Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar at a press conference here on Tuesday. The paste was being prepared using unpeeled and rotten ginger and garlic across 32 centers, leading to raids where over 27 tonnes weighing 27,024 kg of adulterated paste was seized. Furthermore, officials confiscated over 12 tonnes of rotten chicken and mutton, along with a staggering 60 tonnes of foul-smelling chicken waste stored in unhygienic conditions intended for hotel

supply. Also Read - 20 Heatstroke Deaths, Maharashtra Tops Deaths, Telangana Logs Most Cases The overall hygienic conditions were equally shocking, with food being prepared in unsanitary environments right next to dirty toilets amidst flies and cockroaches. In addition, raids on 16 centers artificially ripening fruits with hazardous chemicals led to the seizure of 25.8 tonnes of fruits, 9.2 tonnes of adulterated pickles, and 3.8 tonnes of adulterated tea powder. The team also uncovered synthetic paneer made without a single drop of milk—using urea, detergents, palm oil, and harmful chemicals—seizing 1.5 tonnes of synthetic paneer, 2.5 tonnes of adulterated curd, and 3.2 tonnes of cream, ghee, and oil. Also Read - T-Fiber Internet for All Government Offices from Sept 1: Sridhar Babu Action was also

taken against sub-standard RO water plants involving 23.7 tonnes, as well as manufacturing units producing ice creams, samosas, and biscuits. After the raids, the H-FAST team in coordination with officials from GHMC's food safety wing has been conducting extensive field inspections across the city. Within just 140 days of its establishment, the department conducted 659 raids, registered 202 FIRs, and seized nearly 246 tonnes of adulterated food. Also Read - Kin of Telangana Nurse Stranded in Saudi following adulteration, and urged citizens to remain vigilant to safeguard public health. Citizens are advised to purchase spices and food products only from reputed and licensed vendors, while consistently checking for proper packaging, labeling, and valid FSSAI license details.

Rachna Shah Calls for Stronger BRICS Action on Fugitives, Illicit Assets



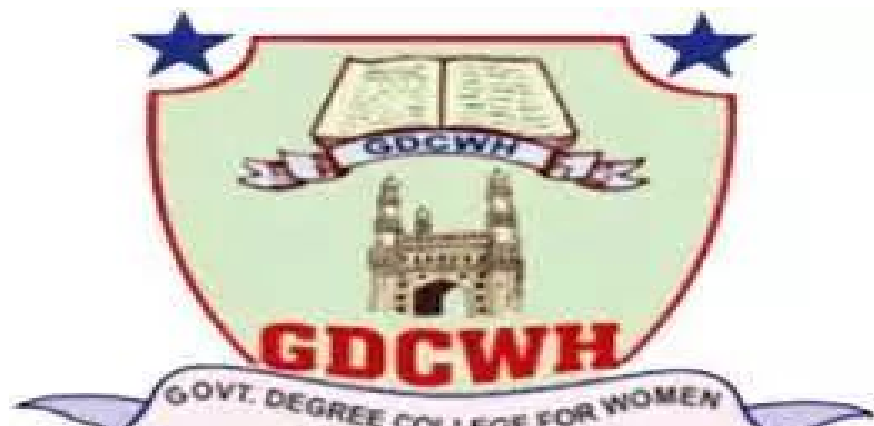
Hyderabad: The two-day 2nd BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) Meeting commenced in Hyderabad today. The meeting, being held on August 4 and 5, 2026, also includes the 2nd Meeting of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery. Rachna Shah, Secretary, Department of Personnel & of India, was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session held at the Hyderabad. Addressing the delegates, Secretary Rachna Shah said that corruption remains a major obstacle to sustainable and inclusive development. She noted that it diverts scarce public resources away from hospitals, schools and critical infrastructure, and undermines public trust. country is immune to the challenge of corruption and that no country can overcome it alone. She called for collective, coordinated

ed and sustained international cooperation to prevent illicit financial flows, safeguard public resources and strengthen the international anti-corruption architecture. Rachna Shah said that the 2nd BRICS ACWG Meeting comes at a time when strengthening integrity, accountability, international cooperation and innovation has become increasingly important. She said that BRICS must translate its shared mandate on tackling cross-border corruption into practical cooperation and tangible outcomes. Also Read - T-Fiber Internet for All Government Offices from Sept 1: Sridhar Babu Highlighting the challenge posed by fugitive economic offenders, the Secretary stressed the need to ensure that no jurisdiction becomes a sanctuary for those who profit from crime. She called for

stronger cooperation to trace fugitive offenders, support extradition, recover stolen assets and close loopholes enabling the cross-border movement of offenders and illicit funds. She welcomed the progress made on the BRICS Repository on Cooperation for Tracing Fugitive Offenders Sought for Corruption and Extradition among BRICS countries, and urged members to work towards concrete outcomes. operationalisation of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery. She noted that the standardised template for informal exchange of information, together with the directory of local points and practitioners, would facilitate quicker, more direct and more effective cooperation among law-enforcement agencies. Emphasising preventive vigilance and technology-driven governance, Rachna Shah said that technology is an essential part of the solution to evolving corruption risks. She said that digital identity, electronic service delivery, digital payments and transparent procurement systems can reduce leakages, curb discretion and strengthen public scrutiny.

Foreign Policy Conference Held at Government Degree College for Women

Hyderabad: India's evolving foreign policy and the challenges posed by changing global geopolitical dynamics came under discussion at a national conference organised by the department of political science, Government Degree College for Women, Hussaini Alam, Hyderabad in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and the Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TGCHHE). Prof. Upendra Choudhary of Aligarh Muslim University spoke on global foreign policy challenges and the importance of civilisational international relations. Prof. Balakista Reddy, chairman, TGCHHE, discussed the relevance of the conference theme and emerg-



ing courses in higher education. Also Read - Government Junior Colleges Register Record Rise in Admissions: Abhilasha Dr Nivedita Ray of ICWA, Prof. Afroz Alam of Maulana Azad National Urdu Univer sity (Manuu), Prof. Krishna Kumar of Osmania University and Dr K.

Bhaskar of Government Degree College, Nayapul, shared their perspectives on international relations and India's foreign policy. Three panel discussions examined recent trends and challenges in India's foreign policy. Dwas attended by research ring the valedictory session, Prof. V. Srilatha of

Osmania University and Dr. Islamuddin Mujahed addressed participants on different aspects of the subject. The conference, chaired by Principal Prof. Appiya Chinnamma, was attended by research scholars, delegates from higher educational institutions across India and students.

Three villages in Narayankhed area taps rainwater to tackle El Nino effect much before Telangana government comes up with plan

Sangareddy: While the Telangana government was still discussing how to tap rainwater amid the threat of the El Nino pattern, three villages in remote Narayankhed area had initiated measures way ahead of the government to tackle the issue. Villagers of Peerltha Thanda, Mukthapur and Pusalpad are now ready to taste the fruits of their efforts now.As the IMD predicted that the El Nino effect would create serious drought conditions in the country during the 2026-27 year, the prediction had left the farmers of Narayankhed area worried since the drought prone area will bear the brunt more than any other part of the State. Most of the Narayankhed area was deprived of irrigation facilities and there were no minor irrigation tanks at all.Narayankhed Community pond in MayWhen IRS officer Dr Sudhakar Nayak



came to these villages during the last summer and educated them on the need of digging the community ponds and soak pits to tap the rainwater to tackle drought, these villages utilised the opportunity effectively. The villagers joined hands, and dug up four community soak pits and two community ponds across a stream between these three villages during May. While the Sangareddy district administration was discussing on the need to tap the rain under "Jala

Siri" programme by digging farm ponds, soak pits and borewell recharging structures on last Monday during a review meeting held by Minister G Vivekananda, the rainwater harvesting structures in these villages received their first water inflow as the area received considerable rain on the same day. During the last three days, the rains have brought considerable amounts of water into these rainwater harvesting structures which would not only benefit

them and also multiple other villages located close-by.Speaking to Telangana Today, Paladugu Gnaneshwar, who hails from the area, said that the rainwater used to go waste every year into local streams which would eventually flow down into Godavari and Bay of Bengal. But, they have stored the water for the first time this year. Since there were no minor irrigation tanks in these parts of the district, he hoped that the rainwater structures would replenish the groundwater table besides quenching the thirst of animals and birds. After tasting their first success within months after their effort, the villagers were preparing to take up digging of multiple such structures in the coming days. Dr Nayak observed that the rest of the district must draw inspiration from these villages to tap the rainwater.

H-FAST Raids Uncover 25 Tonnes of Chemical-laced Spices in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Food A dulturation Sur veillance Team (H-FAST) of Hyderabad police in joint coordination with the GHMC's Food Safety Department conducted a major enforcement drive against certain spice trading and processing establishments across the Hyderabad Commissionerate limits. The special crackdown aimed to curb use of harmful-to-human chemicals as adulterants, eliminate misbranding, ensure strict adherence to food safety standards, and protect public health. Also Read - Foreign Policy Conference Held at Government Degree College for Women Based on credible information from the public, the special enforcement was held. During the operation, enforcement teams inspected 13 business establishments and independent business locations which were actively engaged in the procurement, process-

ing, and wholesale or retail trading of spices and also indulging certain offences affecting human health. A total of 25 tonnes of various spices found to be containing certain dangerous chemicals and hazardous substances were seized during the raids. Consequently, three criminal cases were registered across three police stations, and three individuals responsible for the same have been arrested till now, Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar said at a press conference here on Tuesday. Also Read - Government Junior Colleges Register Record Rise in Admissions: Abhilasha The police registered two cases in Mailardevpally and one in Balapur police station limits and three persons Rahul Bhati of Katedan and Vishal Panwar and Dulichand Kachhawar, both residents of Begum Bazar. According to



Sajjanar, the comprehensive inspections uncovered not only alarming non-compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, along with improper labelling practices and deceptive processing techniques, but also certain dangerous acts involving use of highly hazardous, poisonous substances in the spices for selling at higher cost to earn easy money. Also Read - Heavy Traffic on Fatehnagar Flyover The police identified the widespread use of synthetic harmful chemicals

to human food and also colours, including bush synthetic orange red and green food colours, alongside dangerous poisonous substances such as cloth dyes, industrial-gr(talcum powder), and rice In other units, spices such as cloves and shahjeera were found coated with synthetic to give them a bright and premium visual appearance before sale, while permanent industrial dyes were being used to adulterate shahjeera, ajwain, and several other essential spices, he added.

HC Reserves Verdict on Plea Alleging Norm Violations in Suspended CI's Interrogation

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday reserved its verdict on a petition alleging that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) violated prescribed norms while interrogating suspended circle inspector S.S.V.V. Naga Raju in connection with the alleged custodial death of Gade Sai Krishna. The petition, filed by Naga Raju's wife, Bhavani, alleged that the SIT was questioning her husband in violation of directions issued by the High Court and prison authorities. Naga Raju is an accused in the case relating to the alleged custodial death of Sai Krishna and the subsequent disappearance of the body at Krishnalanka police station. Also Read - Andhra IIT Guwahati Student's



IAS Dream Ends in Brahmaputra Tragedy Opposing the plea, the government pleader submitted that the SIT was conducting the interrogation strictly in accordance with the High

Court's directions and denied any violation of both sides, the High Court concluded the hearing and reserved its verdict, which is scheduled to be delivered on Tuesday. Meanwhile,

Suresh, one of the accused in the case who had been absconding for associate of suspended CI Naga Raju. He will be taken into custody for questioning as part of the investigation.

Government Junior Colleges Register Record Rise in Admissions

Hyderabad: The Government Junior Colleges in Telangana have recorded a historic increase in student admissions for the 2026-27 academic year, reflecting the growing confidence of students and parents in the State's public intermediate education system. The Class XI (Intermediate First Year) admissions have increased to 85,453 students, compared to nearly 75,000 students in the previous academic year, registering an increase of around 14 percent. Also Read - Foreign Policy Conference Held at Government Degree College for Women The total enrolment in Government Junior Colleges across Class XI and Class XII has now reached 1,64,730 students. Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) Secretary Abhilasha Abhinav said that the record increase in admissions to Government Junior Colleges reflects the growing



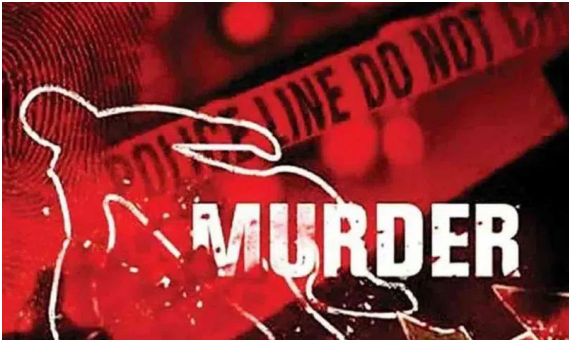
confidence of students and parents in the State's public intermediate education system. She said the Telangana government under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is committed to providing quality, inclusive and future-ready education through academic reforms, modern infrastructure, digital learning, student welfare initiatives and strong industry partnerships. Also Read - Heavy Traffic on Fatehnagar Flyover Abhilasha Abhinav further said that strategic collaborations with leading organisations such as IBM and Hetero Pharmaceuticals

are opening new avenues for skill development, internships, apprenticeships and employment, enabling students to become industry-ready. She added that these initiatives, coupled with continuous investments in educational infrastructure and student welfare, are transforming Government Junior Colleges into institutions of excellence and making them the preferred choice for intermediate education in Telangana. Also Read - Kamareddy: 45 Rescued After Wedding Bus Gets Stuck in Floodwaters Building Public Confidence The

steady rise in admissions demonstrates the increasing confidence of students and parents in Government Junior Colleges. Academic modernisation, digital learning, improved infrastructure, transparent governance, extensive welfare initiatives and direct industry linkages have transformed Government Junior Colleges into vibrant centres of quality intermediate education. Also Read - 2 BC Welfare Hostel Students Drown in Jagtial Pond With record enrolment, enhanced career opportunities and sustained investments in educational excellence, Telangana's Government Junior Colleges are emerging as preferred institutions for students seeking affordable, high-quality and future-ready intermediate education, she added. Significant Investment in Infrastructure The Telangana government has substantially strengthened

Teacher stabbed 34 times in 30 seconds by stalker; accused arrested

Faridabad: A shocking incident unfolded at a private school in Haryana's Faridabad district when a 29-year-old teacher was allegedly stabbed to death by her stalker who had come to the campus asking to meet her with his head, face and shoulders completely covered with a white cloth.In a swift investigation by the police the man named Amit was arrested within a few hours of the horrific murder. The victim, identified as Sandhya, was employed at a private school in Sikrona village, located close to a police outpost. According to school authorities, the accused arrived at the school premises on Wednesday morning and requested to speak with the teacher. After being informed about the visitor, Sandhya reportedly stepped out to meet him. Moments later, the man allegedly launched a brutal knife attack, inflicting multiple injuries on her face, neck



and chest. The assault took place in full view of security cameras installed on the school premises. CCTV footage reportedly captured the accused entering the school and waiting inside the lobby area with his head, face and shoulders completely covered with a white cloth.As soon as Sandhya appeared, he gestured for her to come outside. The footage allegedly shows the attacker grabbing her by the neck and dragging her out before repeatedly stabbing her. Even after she collapsed to the ground, the assault continued.According to

NDTV, school staff members rushed to the spot after hearing screams. The school administrator, who attempted to intervene, said the attacker threatened him as well when he tried to stop the assault.According to the administrator, the assailant briefly turned his attention toward him while brandishing the knife. Before anyone could overpower him, the accused allegedly attacked the victim again and then fled from the scene on a motorcycle that reportedly did not have a registration number plate.The administrator later told the

media that he had been in his office when he heard cries for help from the corridor around 9:30 a.m. When he reached the location, he found the teacher lying injured on the ground while the attacker was still assaulting her.Following the incident, Sandhya was immediately rushed to Al Falah Hospital. However, doctors declared her dead upon arrival. Police launched a swift investigation and arrested the accused, identified as 21-year-old Amit, a resident of Kot village, within two hours of the crime.Officials said the suspect later confessed to his involvement during questioning. Preliminary investigations suggest that Amit had known the victim for nearly two years and had allegedly attempted to contact her on multiple occasions. Police said Sandhya was not interested in communicating with him, but he continued to pursue her despite her objections.

Heavy Rain Lashes North Kerala; Many Low-Lying Areas Still Flooded

Thiruvananthapuram:

Heavy rain continued to lash parts of Kerala, with northern districts receiving the highest rainfall during the 21 hours ending at 5.30 am on Tuesday, according to the IMD. As the rains continued, many low-lying and riverside areas of Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Kozhikode continued to be flooded, forcing people to shift to relief camps and leading to loss of valuable documents and children's school books. State Tourism Minister P C Vishnunadh said that special adalats will be held in connection with restoration of the documents lost in the flood and the government will ensure that the kids get the required textbooks and other study materials. He also said that currently the government has sanctioned Rs 25,000 for cleaning work in every ward and several volunteer organisations have come forward with offers of help to clean homes where water had entered. Besides that, the CM has announced that financial assistance will be provided to those who have lost homes and livelihoods, and these will be provided without any delay. The



India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday had issued an orange alert in 12 districts of the state for August 4 and a yellow alert in two districts. Bayar in Kasaragod recorded the highest rainfall in the state at 121.5 mm between 3 am on August 3 and midnight, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Muliya, also in Kasaragod, received 81 mm, while Kannur Airport recorded 74 mm. Urumi in Kozhikode received 65 mm. Among other places

that witnessed significant rainfall, Cheruvanchery in Kannur and RARS Pilicode in Kasaragod recorded 59.5 mm each. Neryamangalam in Ernakulam received 59 mm of rain. The IMD considers rainfall of 60 mm and above in 24 hours as heavy rainfall. According to the latest official update, water levels in the Muvattupuzha river stood at 11.60 metres, above the warning level of 10.92 metres and close to the danger mark

of 11.93 metres. Officials said the water level was falling. The Thodupuzha river recorded a water level of 11.50 metres at 8 am. The warning level for the river is 10.78 metres, while the danger mark is 11.79 metres. Meanwhile, the Kaliyar river was flowing at 12.26 metres, below its warning level of 13.10 metres and danger level of 14.10 metres. The water levels of these rivers were also reported to be receding. Authorities are continuing to monitor the rivers and have advised people living along the banks to remain alert as the monsoon continues to bring rain to several parts of the state. Additionally, the water level Tuesday morning, though the levels were receding.

At 8 am, the level in the Muvattupuzha river stood at 11.60 metres, above the warning level of 10.92 metres and close to the danger mark of 11.93 metres. Officials said the water level was falling. The Thodupuzha river recorded a water level of 11.50 metres at 8 am. The warning level for the river is 10.78 metres, while the danger mark is 11.79 metres. Meanwhile, the Kaliyar river was flowing at 12.26 metres, below its warning level of 13.10 metres and danger level of 14.10 metres. The water levels of these rivers were also reported to be receding. Authorities are continuing to monitor the rivers and have advised people living along the banks to remain alert as the monsoon continues to bring rain to several parts of the state. Additionally, the water level Tuesday morning, though the levels were receding.

: UP Plans Helicopter Flower Showers For Kanwariyas Across 7 Western Districts

Lucknow: Kanwariyas on western Uttar Pradesh's major routes will receive an aerial floral welcome, as the state government plans flower showers from a helicopter across seven districts on August 9 and 10. According to the detailed schedule issued by the government, the helicopter will depart from Lucknow for Baghpat at around 8 am on August 9. Flower petals will be showered on kanwariyas (devotees of Lord Shiva) in the Baghpat region from 10.30 am to 11.15 am. The helicopter will then fly to Saharanpur, where devotees will receive a floral welcome from 11.45 am to 12.45 pm. The programme will continue in Muzaffarnagar from 1.30 pm to 2.15 pm,



followed by Meerut from 3.45 pm to 4.30 pm. The helicopter's total flying time on the first day will

be six hours and 10 minutes. On August 10, the helicopter will take off flower petals on

Kanwariyas in Ghaziabad from approximately 8.30 am to 9.15 am. It will then proceed to Hapur, where

devotees will be given a floral welcome from 9.45 am to 10.30 am, followed by Bulandshahr from 11.15 am to noon. After completing the programme, the helicopter will depart from Bulandshahr for Lucknow at 12.30 pm. The total flying time on the second day will be three hours and 45 minutes, taking the overall duration of the two-day aerial flower shower campaign to nine hours and 55 minutes, the statement said. The arrangements are part of the state government's efforts to ensure that the annual Shrawan Kanwar Yatra is conducted in a grand, safe and orderly manner, while providing a spiritually enriching experience for the devotees.

TDRF Personnel Dies Due To Potholes On Road On Mumbai-Nashik Highway

Thane: Close on the heels of a woman's death due to a pothole on the Thane-Bhiwandi Road, a Thane Disaster Response Force (TDRF) personnel lost his life in an accident this morning on the Bharangi River bridge along the Mumbai-Nashik Highway in Shahapur, officials said. The mishap occurred when his two-wheeler struck a pothole, and the TDRF personnel succumbed to his injuries after being admitted for treatment. The deceased has been identified as 31-year-old Vikas Lahu Gore, a resident of Bamne village on the Shahapur-Sarlamba Road. The accident took place when Gore was commuting to work in Thane on his 'Buller' motorcycle when it hit a pothole. Upon impact with the pothole, Vikas was thrown onto the road and struck the divider, sustaining severe injuries to his groin. Locals rushed him to the Sub-District



Hospital in Shahapur for treatment, but he died while undergoing treatment. Gore's death has left the entire area in a state of shock and grief. Following his death, the issue of potholes on the Mumbai-Nashik Highway has once again come to the fore, with locals demanding immediate road repairs. The Maharashtra

Navnirman Sena (MNS) had previously drawn the administration's attention to these death-trap potholes and submitted a formal representation. Although repair work commenced following the MNS's warning, the tragic loss of a young man's life could have been averted had these potholes been filled in time.

Amol Borade, an MNS office-bearer Hospital in Shahapur for treatment, but he died while undergoing treatment. Gore's death has left the entire area in a state of shock and grief. Following his death, the issue of potholes on the Mumbai-Nashik Highway has once again come to the fore, with locals demanding immediate road repairs. The Maharashtra

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Photo Identification Not Mandatory For Filing Writ Petitions



Lucknow: The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday held that litigants and advocates are not required to personally visit the court for photo identification while filing writ petitions, observing that affidavits duly notarised anywhere in the country are valid for the purpose. A division bench of Justice Alok Mathur and Justice Amitabh Kumar Rai in Lucknow made the observation while dismissing a petition challenging the Photo Affidavit Identification system followed by the high court. The bench said the Stamp Reporting Section accepts all legally valid affidavits, whether filed through the Photo Affidavit Identification procedure or duly notarised before a

notary. The petitioner, Biswajit Chowdhury, had contended that ordinary litigants were required to appear personally before the High Court for photo verification, while officials of the central and state governments were exempted. He argued that the differential treatment was arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution. Rejecting the plea, the court observed that the e-filing system introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic continues to remain operational, enabling litigants to file writ petitions and other applications along with affidavits notarised anywhere in India. The bench also noted that the high court had clarified in a

reply under the Right to Information Act that duly notarised affidavits are accepted at the filing stage. In view of the clarification, the court held that the e-filing system introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic continues to remain operational, enabling litigants to file writ petitions and other applications along with affidavits notarised anywhere in India. The bench also noted that the high court had clarified in a reply under the Right to Information Act that duly notarised affidavits are accepted at the filing stage. In view of the clarification, the court held that the e-filing system introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic continues to remain operational, enabling litigants to file writ petitions and other applications along with affidavits notarised anywhere in India. The bench also noted that the high court had clarified in a

Karni Sena Clashes With Police In Jaipur, Threatens to Gherao CM



Jaipur: Tension ran high in Jaipur on Monday after a protest led by the Shri Rajput Karni Sena turned confrontational during its 'Savarna Nyay Padyatra' against the proposed University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations and other demands concerning the upper-caste community. After a scuffle between protesters and police, Karni Sena national president Mahipal Singh Makrana demanded the immediate suspension of police personnel involved in the confrontation and warned that the organisation would gherao the Chief Minister's residence if action was not taken. Makrana alleged that protesters were mistreated despite carrying out a peaceful march and said the agitation would be intensified across the country if the administration failed to act against those responsible. The 24-day Savarna Nyay Padyatra, which began from Deshnok in Bikaner district, reached Jaipur after covering nearly 600 kilometres on foot. Protesters were marching to the District Collectorate

to submit a memorandum addressed to President Droupadi Murmu. Police had initially stopped the procession near the 200-Foot Bypass and later erected barricades near the Jhotwara Flyover, citing law-and-order concerns. As protesters attempted to move towards the Collectorate, police used water cannons to disperse the crowd. Despite the police action, protesters carrying saffron flags advanced after removing barricades, leading to brief scuffles between police personnel and demonstrators. Following the confrontation, Makrana accused the police of using excessive force against protesters. "We came to Jaipur to peacefully submit a memorandum. If action is not taken against the guilty officials, we will intensify the agitation and lay siege to the Chief Minister's residence," Makrana said. Addressing supporters, Makrana described the proposed UGC regulations as "anti-student" and alleged that they would adversely affect the future of young people from

the upper-caste community. He claimed the proposed provisions could unfairly impact students at an early stage of their academic careers and urged the Centre to withdraw them. According to Makrana, the padyatra was organised to raise these concerns through democratic and peaceful means. He also alleged that the administration attempted to prevent protesters from reaching Jaipur by restricting movement and creating obstacles during the march. He said the organisation intended only to submit a memorandum to the President through the District Collector and accused the administration of creating an atmosphere of confrontation. The Karni Sena chief further alleged that the demands of the upper-caste community had been ignored despite months of peaceful demonstrations. Despite the confrontation, Karni Sena members eventually reached the District Collectorate and submitted a memorandum addressed to President Murmu through the District

Opposition MPs Protest Over Police Action Against Students, Ram Temple Donation Theft

New Delhi: Opposition MPs, including Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, protested in Parliament House complex on Tuesday against the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya and "police excesses" against student protesters. Carrying placards against the government, MPs protested in front of the Makar Dwar of Parliament with slogans such as 'chhanda chor, gaddi chor' and 'Amit Shah jawaab do' raised. The MPs also kept donation boxes at the spot to symbolise the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple and lined up around them to raise slogans against the government. Some MPs also put cash in the box to symbolise the donations made and "theft" that took place later. Besides



Priyanka Gandhi, SP's Dimple Yadav and Dharmendra Yadav, TMC's Sagarika Ghose, RJD's Sanjay Yadav and Manoj Jha, RSP's NK Premchandran, among others, participated in the protest. The protesting MPs lined up behind a big banner that read 'Why

Amit Shah absent from Parliament', and raised slogans against the Home Minister. The INDIA bloc has vowed to corner the government on issues of alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple and the use of "brutal force" against students during their protests last

week. Earlier in the day, INDIA bloc parties' floor leaders met in Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge's chamber in the Parliament complex, and ernment on the two issues of "chhanda chori" and "police excesses" against students. PTI ASK DV DV

SC Quashes 2021 Office Memorandum Allowing Centre To Grant Retrospective

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday quashed the 2021 office memorandum granting the Centre and others the power to grant retrospective environmental clearances to projects. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi is pronouncing the verdict on as many as 49 petitions as the hearing is underway. The apex court said that its verdict will apply prospectively, and projects that were granted a green nod earlier will remain valid. Senior lawyers, Gopal Sankaranarayanan and Sanjay Parikh, appearing for different parties, opposed the grant of retrospective clearances to projects violating green norms, saying that government officials and bodies cannot be



allowed to violate norms with impunity and hope that everything will be allowed later on payment of penalties. The top court heard a batch of pleas challenging its Vanashakti verdict of May 16, 2025. The case has seen many twists and turns in the top court. On May 16, 2025, a bench of Justice (since retired) A S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

had barred the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the authorities concerned from granting retrospective clearances to violating projects. However, on November 18, 2025, a three-judge bench headed by the then CJI B R Gavai, by a 2:1 majority verdict, paved the way for retrospective environmental clearances by the Centre

and other authorities to ment of heavy penalties, observing that otherwise rupees would go waste". The top court had held that numerous vital projects constructed with nearly Rs 20,000 crore from the public exchequer would be demolished if the May 16, 2025 verdict was not recalled. It had ordered a fresh hearing on the pleas.

Indian-Origin Man Among 25 Persons Facing Revocation Of US Citizenship

Washington: An Indian-origin man is among 25 persons whose US citizenship is being revoked for alleged crimes ranging from falsifying identity to attempted murder and child sexual abuse, authorities said. The US Department of Justice has filed a case against 65-year-old Narinder Singh in the District of Delaware for allegedly using a fraudulent identity to seek admission to the US. According to the Justice Department, Singh used two identities to gain admission to the US beginning in 1996 and naturalised as a US citizen on May 1, 2008. The complaint alleges seven counts for his numerous misrepresentations and unlawful acts that adversely reflect his moral character. Among the 25 persons against whom denaturalisation proceedings have been initiated are two persons of Pakistani descent — Zia Murad Bhatti and Mohd Wasif—for allegedly falsifying identity. "US citizenship is one of our nation's highest priv-



ileges, and it must be obtained lawfully and honestly," Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said in a statement on Monday. "The complaints announced today allege that these individuals secured naturalisation through fraud, concealment, or other unlawful conduct -- including by concealing violent crimes, sexual offences against children, fraudulent identities, and other disqualifying facts," said The complaints against the 25 individuals, filed between July 20 and August 3, involve naturalised US citizens who are natives of 17 countries: Pakistan, Moldova, India, Mexico, Colombia, Nigeria, Liberia,

Ghana, Jamaica, Taiwan, Honduras, Cameroon, Jordan, Cuba, El Salvador, Haiti and Sweden. "Today's filings represent the largest coordinated denaturalisation effort in Department history, but they are only the beginning. The Justice Department will continue to use every tool available to protect the integrity of the naturalisation process and the safety of the American people," Blanche added. The Justice Department's ed. The cases bring the department's total denaturalisation filings to 123 since January 20, 2025, as the Trump administration ramps up efforts to strip citizenship from individuals it says

obtained it unlawfully. The cases span a wide range of alleged conduct that the Justice Department says should have disqualified the individuals from obtaining or keeping US citizenship. The complaints involve allegations including attempted murder, child sexual abuse, domestic violence, tect the integrity of the naturalisation process, marriage fraud, identity fraud, passport fraud, bank and credit card fraud, and practising medicine without a license. "Today marks the largest denaturalisation surge in recorded history," said the Justice Department's Civil Division Assistant Attorney General Brett Shumate.

Tamil Nadu Police Detain Udhayanidhi After His 'Double-Meaning Remark' At Cauvery Protest

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Police on Tuesday picked up DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin from his Neelankarai residence in connection with a complaint over his alleged offensive remarks directed at a famous film actor from the south. The contentious remark was made by the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly during a demonstration he led near the Panagal Building in Thanjavur on Monday, condemning the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam government. The DMK accused the Vijay-led government of being callous towards realising the Cauvery Water awarded to the state by Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

A posse of police force was deployed at his residence since early morning here, anticipating congregation of party workers in support of Udhayanidhi. A video shot from the doorstep showed a senior police officer convincing Kiruthiga Udhayanidhi to let her husband join the police probe. The senior police official tried to reason with Kiruthiga saying that the police was there to do their job and "dilly-dallying" was not appreciated. The official was heard telling them that they want to cooperate and ensure that there would not be any law and order breakdown.



In a clip released by party workers, she was heard telling the officials that Udhayanidhi was using the toilet and he needs time. The same was reiterated by former DMK Minister Ma Subramanian. Subramanian was heard telling the police that the turnout of party workers would continue to be the same irrespective of the time they "choose to act against his leader". Kiruthiga sought another ten minutes, saying that her husband was getting ready to join the probe. A few moments later, Udhayanidhi was taken to the police van amid sloganeering by the party workers condemning the police detention. They also accused the police of acting as a handmaiden of the TVK government. While being taken away, Udhayanidhi maintained that he had not wronged in any manner and said the court should decide. "Did I say anything wrong? Let the court decide," he said.

The TVK workers have earlier lodged complaints with the local police and a separate complaint has been filed with the National Commission for Women (NCW) as well. As per the police complaint lodged at the Thanjavur East Police Station, the LoP made an obscene and double-meaning remark when the crowd chanted "Trisha, Trisha". S Bairavi, the TVK's Central District Women's Wing Organiser for Thanjavur, who happens to be the complainant, accused Udhayanidhi of insulting women. The command other DMK IT wing workers of intentionally degrading women. The complaint said it caused mental agony to the actor and women in general, and the accused deliberately circulated a 159-second video clip on the social media platform X, causing public unrest. TVK King women. The com's national spokesperson, Pazha

Selvakumar, lodged a formal complaint with the NCW in New Delhi, in this regard, following which the Commission sought an explanation and an unconditional public apology from Udhayanidhi. After the controversial remarks, TVK Ministers N Anand, Aadhav Arjuna and MLAs have strongly condemned the DMK on X. They termed their conduct "absolutely disgusting" and stated that such acts expose the "mindset, political culture, and declining standards of the Arivalayam clan". The BJP has also targeted the DMK leader over the issue. Tamil Nadu BJP chief spokesperson Narayanan Thirupathy demanded Udhayanidhi's arrest, describing the remarks as "disgusting, obscene, vulgar and shameful". MDMK principal secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Durai Vaiko criticised Udhayanidhi for his remarks, saying the focus of the event should have remained on the Cauvery issue and the concerns of Tamil Nadu's farmers and not to settle personal scores. He termed the entire episode as "unfortunate". "It is highly condemnable that Opposition leader Udhayanidhi Stalin has uttered such derogatory comments. It goes against women. It was not a stage to settle personal scores," he added.

India Proud To Have 70% Of World's Tiger Population:



Athens: A record-breaking hot and dry summer tightened its grip on Europe on Monday, as water-dropping planes swooped over a major wildfire in Greece, firefighters in France sought to stabilize a blaze in Provence, and much of the United Kingdom recorded its driest July in nearly two centuries. Wildfires west of Athens jumped containment lines a day after a midair collision between two helicopters killed two crew members. A Greek and a Danish national died and two others were hospitalized following the collision on Sunday. All four were private operators chartered by the Greek firefighting . In France, firefighters in the region around Bordeaux guarded against potential flare-

ups inside a still-burning scar four times the size. A prolonged heat wave and lack of rainfall led to the driest July in England and Wales in nearly 200 years of recordkeeping, according to provisional statistics, the U.K.'s weather services said Monday. All of Wales and more than half of England are officially in drought, the Met Office said. The dry spell was accompanied by sweltering temperatures across much of the U.K., following heat waves in May and June. Wales tied its record for its warmest mean temperature for July while England and the U.K. recorded their second-warmest July. The Athens region remains at high risk with hundreds evacuated. Strong winds returned to

southern Greece late on Monday, pushing flames into mountain home clusters, destroying farms and property, and closing a highway. Areas surrounding the Greek capital remain at high risk through the week with temperatures set to rise further. More than 1,000 people have been evacuated from around the seaside resort of Porto Gerneno and other areas west of the capital — including more than 250 rescued by boats from beaches in the area. "This is a difficult fire that has troubled us," Fire Service spokesman Yiannis Artopoulos said, adding that 12 water-dropping planes and 11 helicopters were operating in the area Monday. The blaze was blamed on a faulty power line

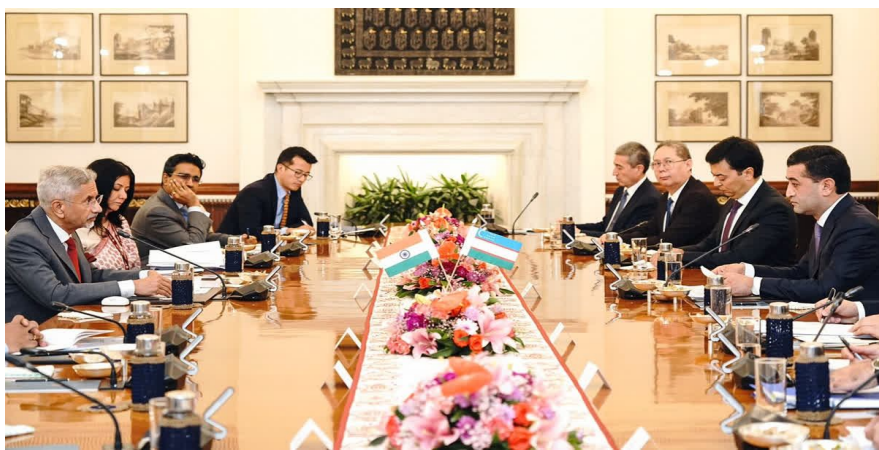
from a wind farm and led to the arrests of two contractors on charges of negligent arson. Despite improved detection methods and expanded cooperation among European Union members, Greece and other countries along Europe's Mediterranean coast suffer devastating wildfires every summer as spells of heat wave temperatures grow. Europe is Earth's fastest-warming continent, heating at more than twice the global average since the 1980s, according to the European Union's Copernicus climate service. Rising temperatures and prolonged drought leave vegetation drier and more combustible, allowing fires to spread faster and burn more intensely.

Focus On Boosting Cooperation In Mining, Energy, Defence And Other Sectors

New Delhi: India and Uzbekistan discussed ways to deepen cooperation in areas including energy, infrastructure, defence, trade, mining, education and culture, and also reviewed their strategic partnership during Uzbek Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov's visit to New Delhi on Monday.

Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said he held detailed talks with Saidov and discussed regional challenges as well as ways to expand cooperation at multilateral forums. "Great to meet my friend FM Saidov of Uzbekistan. Undertook a detailed review of our Strategic Partnership, with particular focus on energy, infrastructure, trade, defence, education & culture," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

During the meeting, Jaishankar said India and Uzbekistan are looking to expand their cooperation into the mining sector, particularly critical and rare earth minerals. "Our bilateral relations over the years have expanded. And today, they really span a very diverse range of



domains from construction and digital to energy, health, education. We want to take it into mining," he said. If reports are anything to go by, trade between India and Uzbekistan currently stands at around USD 1 billion. Jaishankar said there is significant scope to increase the figure. "We definitely think that that number should go up," he said. EAM Jaishankar also expressed India's support for Uzbekistan's chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for 2027-29. He appreciated Uzbekistan's firm position against terrorism and its support for India as New Delhi hosts the BRICS

Summit. Earlier on Monday, Saidov called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, during which discussions were held on strengthening bilateral ties, including cooperation in trade, critical minerals, education and other sectors. Murmu said there is immense potential for cooperation between India and Uzbekistan in the mining sector, particularly in rare earth minerals, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and information technology. An India-Uzbekistan Business Forum was also organised during Saidov's visit to promote greater commercial cooperation between the

two countries. Sources said, more than 3000 Uzbek officials, professionals and students have benefited from India's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training courses and scholarship programmes, while over 16,000 Indian students are currently pursuing higher studies in Uzbekistan. Both sides expressed confidence that the discussions during the visit would further strengthen friendship, trust and cooperation between India and Uzbekistan and deepen their strategic engagement in Central Asia.

EAM Jaishankar, US State Secy Rubio Hold Talks In Manila On Trade, Energy

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday held talks with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Manila and discussed key areas of the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership as the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) reconvened on the sidelines of the ASEAN-related meetings.

Jaishankar and Rubio are also understood to have exchanged views on the West Asia crisis and its broader impact on global energy supplies and market stability. Sharing details of the meeting, Jaishankar said in a post on X, "Pleased to meet Sec Rubio of the USA here in Manila. Our meeting focused on areas which are priority for the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, including trade & tariffs, energy, defence & security, critical minerals & artificial intelligence." The two leaders also exchanged views on regional, global and multilateral issues of mutual interest,



Jaishankar added. "Also exchanged quick perspectives on regional, global and multilateral issues of mutual interest," the External Affairs Minister said.

The meeting took place as the Quad grouping of India, the United States, Australia and Japan held discussions in Manila on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the Quad meeting reaffirmed the group's commitment to supporting ASEAN centrality and promoting a free and open Indo-

Pacific. "Was pleased to reconvene the Quad at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting to emphasise our message: strong cooperation is vital to supporting ASEAN's own priority and centrality in the region," Rubio posted on X. "The United States, India, Australia, and Japan share a vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific that is grounded in the rule of law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The Quad remains a priority, and we will meet again later this year," he added.

Jaishankar is in Manila for a two-day visit to participate in several Foreign Minister-level meetings under the ASEAN framework, including the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting, East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meetings. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the visit reflects India's continued engagement with ASEAN under the Act East Policy and its commitment to strengthening the ASEAN-India Comprehensive

New Talks Are 'Last Chance' For Iran To Forge Deal And Avoid Escalation Of US Strikes



Washington: President Donald Trump has played this hand before during the 5-month-old Iran war — but this time, he insists it's different. The president on Monday said that new talks between Washington and Tehran are the "last chance" for Iran to forge a deal and avoid an escalation of U.S. strikes on the country. Trump, speaking at the Oval Office, said he expects negotiations will focus on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and create a pathway for Iran to address the United States' concerns about its nuclear program. He told reporters they would likely learn about the status of the negotiations "today or tomorrow." "The first phase is the opening of the straits. The second phase will be the denuclearization," the Republican president said. "And that will take a little while." While Trump has revealed in the U.S. military decimating layers of Tehran's leadership and devastating its air force and navy, Iran is betting it can outlast Trump as he faces diminished stockpiles of munitions and the difficulty of executing a war that's unpopular with the American electorate ahead of November's midterm election. Trump said he decided to hold off on ordering American forces to carry out new massive strikes against Iran at the urging of Gulf allies Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He said a plan was in place for U.S. forces to carry out "the biggest attack since World War II" on Sunday. But he decided to scrap the plan and give diplomacy

more time to play out after hearing from key Gulf leaders — including Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman — as well as at the request of unnamed Iranian officials. But Trump reiterated that he's running out of patience with Iran. "This the last chance for them to sign a good document," Trump said. Earlier Monday, Trump had criticized Iran on social media as being "unbelievably duplicitous." His ire was raised by Iran claiming that its meetings with Oman on Monday were focused solely on establishing a temporary route for safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway for the global oil trade. "They ask for a meeting, some would say 'beg,' talks begin, with more scheduled in the immediate future, and they say, openly and proudly, that they're not having any discussions, that nothing is being talked about, and they're only dealing with Oman," Trump grumbled. Trump said whether "Iran wants to admit it or not, we are, in fact, talking" about preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Trump has threatened to escalate attacks on Iran only to edge away from his threats several times since the start of U.S. and Israel strikes on Feb. 28, sked by a reporter how Americans view him repeatedly making grim threats on Tehran before backing away, Trump responded that he's showing patience out of a consideration for Iranian life. "I want to give them every last chance before decapitation," Trump said. He added,

"Hopefully, they'll come to their senses." Critics see Trump reaching for a reset button as a pattern. Trup may still come to the conclusion that a massive escalation in the conflict with Iran is necessary. But critics say his hesitation also might reflect an unspoken understanding inside the administration that U.S. military might alone may not be enough to compel Iran to back down and bring an end to a now monthslong war that Trump had earlier downplayed as a weekslong excursion. "I think what we're seeing here is a president who has an approach that's just rather erratic," said Sen. Mark Kelly, an Arizona Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, on CBS News' "Face the Nation." "At this point, he's trying to get us back to February. And I think if he could — if he had a big reset button he could hit — he would certainly take that option." There have been several moments over the course of the conflict when Trump has demonstrated his proclivity for the bellicose only to back off at the last minute, while declaring his threats spurred progress: — In early April, the United States and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire in an announcement that came less than two hours before a deadline Trump had set for Tehran to capitulate or face attacks on bridges and power plants — strikes he said would mean "a whole civilization will die." — After days of dire threats against Iran, Trump announced on May 18 he was holding off on a major planned military strike because "serious negotiations" were underway, crediting Gulf allies for persuading him to show restraint. — Then in June, Trump threatened on social media to hit Iran "VERY HARD" and seize Iran's energy base on Kharg Island to "assume total control of their Oil and Gas Markets," only to call off the strikes in another post after claiming that peace negotiations had progressed with high-level Iranian leaders. Call with Saudi crown prince affected Trump's decision. With this latest episode, Trump suggested that the Saudi crown prince played a particularly important role in him turning away from escalating the fight. The U.S. president spoke by phone with the de facto leader of

Indian Co-Owner Of LPL Franchise Arrested In Sri Lanka In Player Bribery Case

Colombo: A former Indian under-19 cricketer, who is a co-owner of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) franchise Jaffna Kings, was arrested by Sri Lanka's sports anti-corruption investigators on Friday over allegations of attempting to bribe a player. The arrest took place hours before the sixth edition of the tournament kicked off. The suspect, Manjot Kalra, remembered for his match-winning century in the final of the 2018 Under-19 Cricket World Cup, was arrested by the Police Special



Investigation Unit for the Prevention of Offences Relating to Sports and later produced before a magistrate. Kalra, 27, who transitioned into sports entrepreneurship, invested in the Jaffna Kings franchise earlier this

year. According to the Sri Lankan police, Kalra is accused of attempting to induce a player with money in connection with the tournament. Investigators said the player had alerted the authorities after being approached around 10 days earlier, leading to the arrest on Friday. The complaint was lodged by Sri Lanka players Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Avishka Fernando and Dunith Wellalage, the police said. All three of them

play for the Jaffna Kings franchise. The arrest came on the opening day of the LPL 2026 with Jaffna Kings taking on Galle Gallants at the SSC Grounds in Colombo. The five-team tournament features 24 matches and is scheduled to conclude on August 8. The LPL has faced scrutiny over allegations of match fixing, bribery and corruption for a while. Earlier this year, a Sri Lankan court handed a four-year suspended prison sentence to the owner of another LPL

Death Toll From Venezuela Quakes Rises Past 6,000



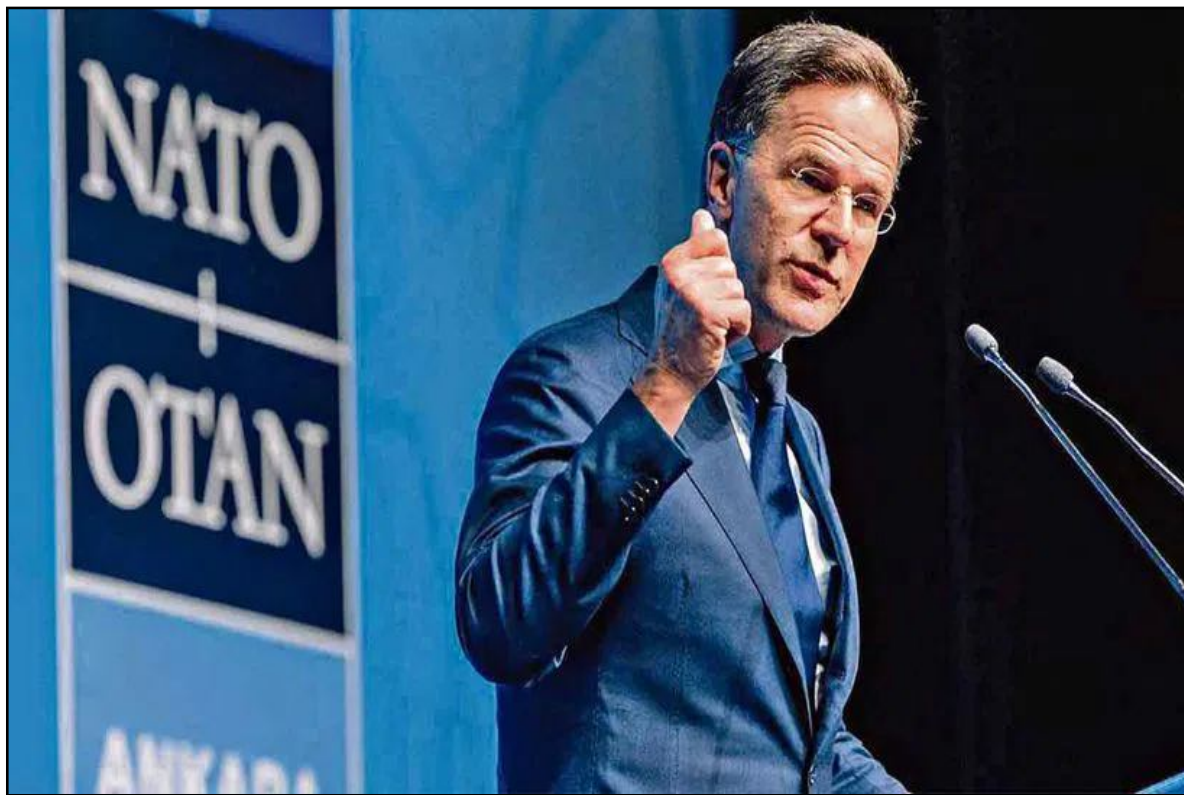
Caracas: The twin quakes that shattered Venezuela in June killed 6,125 people, National Assembly Chief Jorge Rodríguez said Monday. The updated figure comes weeks after the 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude quakes struck on June 24, causing nearly 200 buildings to collapse, mostly in the worst-hit coastal state of La Guaira. The previous death toll had stood at 5,546. Rescue teams and family members continue to sift through the rubble in search of vic-

tims and loved ones, with nearly 17,000 people injured in the tremors. Local media have quoted La Guaira Governor Jose Alejandro Teran as saying around 1,400 people remain missing after the disaster. The government has not otherwise disclosed how many people are missing, but expert projections have put the figure at up to 10,000. In addition to the 190 buildings that were completely destroyed, authorities have classified over 16,200 struc-

tures as unsafe, prompting many to leave. Almost 24,000 people in La Guaira and Caracas are living in makeshift shelters following the earthquakes, Venezuelan lawmakers on Friday unanimously approved a law that makes it easier to rent properties. The measure, which aims to help displaced quake victims, repeals anti-rental legislation passed by former leftist Chavista administrations. "We are estimating around 400,000 homes that could benefit from

this law," interim leader Delcy Rodríguez said earlier Monday, describing a "win-win" situation for tenants and property owners. Rodríguez previously pledged to provide 4,000 homes to quake victims by the end of the year, with the government aiming for that number to exceed 10,000 in 2027. The interim leader is governing under Washington's close watch after US forces ousted her predecessor Nicolas Maduro in January.

A new burden-sharing compact for NATO



The latest NATO summit underscored a strategic reality that the Alliance can no longer afford to ignore: European security cannot continue to rest disproportionately on American military power. For decades, successive US administrations have argued that many European allies benefited from Washington's security umbrella while devoting relatively greater resources to domestic welfare than to defence. mp's Arctic obsession President Donald Trump's longstanding insistence that Europe shoulder a larger share of collective defence has accelerated a debate that Russia's invasion of Ukraine had already made unavoidable. The commitments adopted at the 2025 Hague Summit, including raising core defence spending to 3.5 per cent of GDP along with an additional 1.5 per cent for defence and security-related investments, marked a watershed in NATO's long-running burden-sharing debate. Together, they signal the Alliance's gradual shift towards a more balanced distribution of responsibilities, even though translating these commitments into military capability will remain politically and economically demanding.

Defence Expenditure

The decision to raise defence expenditure reflects far more than American pressure. Russia's war in Ukraine has fundamentally altered threat perceptions across Europe, exposing critical deficiencies in ammunition stocks, missile defence, logistics, industrial capacity and military readiness. European governments increasingly recognise that credible deterrence cannot be sustained without long-term investment in modern military capabilities, including drones, long-range missiles, cyber defence, intelligence assets and integrated air defence systems. Equally important is the political objective of reassuring Washington that Europe is prepared to assume greater responsibility for its own security, thereby preserving transatlantic cohesion at a time of heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

The evolving debate within NATO reinforces an enduring strategic lesson: lasting security ultimately rests on sustained national investment rather than permanent reliance on external partners. Yet strategic consensus does not automatically translate into political consensus. The greatest obstacle to higher defence spending is likely to be domestic politics rather than strategic necessity. Increasing military expenditure inevitably revives the classic dilemma of "guns versus butter". Higher defence budgets require difficult fiscal choices, such as increased taxation, additional public borrowing, or reductions in spending on healthcare, pensions, and welfare programmes.

Social Priorities

Public demonstrations in countries such as Italy illustrate the political sensitivity of shifting resources from social priorities to defence. Major economies, including Britain and France, continue to face fiscal constraints, while Spain and Portugal remain cautious about substantially increasing military expenditure. The challenge for European governments will therefore be to convince their electorates that long-term security is itself a prerequisite for sustained prosperity and social stability. Without credible defence, both economic resilience and welfare become increasingly vulnerable. Threat perceptions, however, remain far from uniform across Europe. Geography continues to shape strategic priorities. Frontline states such as Poland, Finland and the Baltic republics view Russian military power not as a distant geopolitical concern but as an immediate national security challenge. Consequently, they have demonstrated greater willingness to increase taxes, rationalise public expenditure and accelerate military modernisation. Lithuania has introduced additional security-related taxation, while several northern European countries are expanding investments in air defence, ammunition production and force readiness. In these countries, public opinion broadly accepts that

higher defence spending is the price of national survival. By contrast, countries farther from Russia's borders generally perceive lower levels of immediate risk, making it politically more difficult to prioritise defence over welfare. The divergence illustrates that NATO's burden-sharing debate is shaped as much by differing threat perceptions as by economic constraints.

US Role

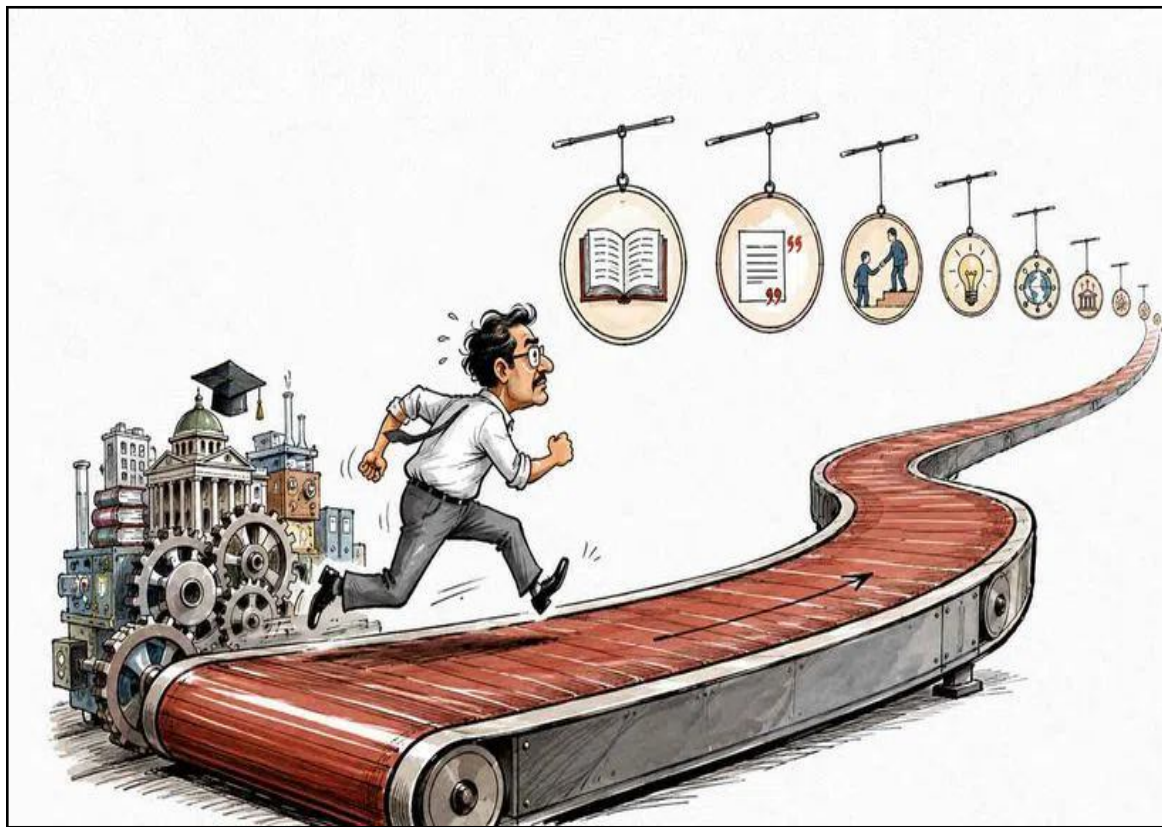
The evolving role of NATO's leadership has also been significant. Secretary General Mark Rutte's public engagement with President Trump has attracted criticism in some quarters for appearing unusually accommodating. Yet it can equally be viewed as pragmatic diplomacy aimed at preserving American commitment while Europe rebuilds its military capabilities. At a time when uncertainty surrounds Washington's long-term security guarantees, maintaining Alliance cohesion has become a strategic imperative rather than a matter of diplomatic convenience. Equally important has been Ukraine's continued resistance against Russian forces. By absorbing the principal military pressure from Russia, Ukraine has effectively bought valuable time for European countries to replenish ammunition stocks, expand defence production, procure advanced weapon systems and strengthen military readiness. Kyiv's battlefield resilience has therefore become an important enabling factor in Europe's broader rearmament effort, allowing European governments to undertake structural reforms in defence planning that would have been considerably more difficult under conditions of direct military pressure. Taken together, these developments suggest that NATO is entering a new phase in which European members are expected to assume substantially greater responsibility for their own defence, while the United States increasingly functions as a strategic enabler rather than the Alliance's unquestioned security provider. Washington will remain indispensable in areas such as intel-

ligence, strategic lift and nuclear deterrence.

Nevertheless, Europe's growing investments seek to reduce long-term dependence on American military capabilities and foster a more balanced transatlantic partnership. Whether this transition succeeds will depend less on summit declarations than on sustained political commitment, industrial capacity and financial investment over the coming decade.

For India, the significance of these developments extends well beyond Europe. The evolving debate within NATO reinforces an enduring strategic lesson: lasting security ultimately rests on sustained national investment rather than permanent reliance on external partners. As geopolitical competition intensifies across the Indo-Pacific, India must continue strengthening indigenous defence production, modernising its armed forces and investing in emerging technologies while preserving strategic autonomy in its external partnerships. Diversified defence capabilities, resilient supply chains and sustained military preparedness are not merely instruments of deterrence; they are essential pillars of national resilience. Europe's experience also offers a timely reminder that credible defence would have been considerably more difficult under conditions of direct military pressure. Taken together, these developments suggest that NATO is entering a new phase in which European members are expected to assume substantially greater responsibility for their own defence, while the United States increasingly functions as a strategic enabler rather than the Alliance's unquestioned security provider. Washington will remain indispensable in areas such as intel-

Academic confidence in changing times



In the academic world, success is supposed to make you feel better. People earn degrees, write papers, teach classes, and join groups, all of which demonstrate their competence and calibre. But even people who meet these standards still have a nagging doubt. A sense of not quite belonging, of not doing enough, of falling short in ways that are difficult to name. They grapple with thoughts of under-performance day and night. Rewind: Marketing Aca-nion: Academic burnout, new standard of success This experience, often described as "imposter syndrome," is usually framed as an individual psychological condition. The suggested solution is well-known: have faith in yourself, trust your skills, and grow into the role. But this explanation, while comforting, is incomplete. What appears to be self-doubt may, in part, result from the institutional conditions under which academic work is produced and evaluated. In this way, self-doubt is not just an individual experience; it is also shaped by the environments in which academic life takes place. Changing Institutions, Expanding Expectations To understand these changes, one needs to know what has been going on in higher education lately. The National Education Policy, 2020, is a major step in this discourse. It emphasises interdisciplinary learning, research, innovation, and global engagement, which create new opportunities for both institutions and faculty. But these changes also make people expect more. Faculty members are now expected to take on additional roles, including teachers, researchers, trainers, mentors, and contributors to the institution's growth. These are important and welcome developments. Yet, as the scope of academic work grows, so too do the frameworks through which it is understood and assessed. As higher education reforms expand the scope of academic roles, they also reshape how faculty understand their place within the institution. The growing use of national academic platforms such as the VID-WAN database and the

(IRINS) is another sign of this changing landscape. These initiatives mark an important step towards enhancing the visibility of academic work, encouraging collaboration, and strengthening research ecosystems across institutions. By bringing together information on publications, affiliations, and scholarly contributions, they contribute to a more connected and transparent academic environment. Under NEP 2020, faculty roles now extend beyond teaching to support institutional growth, broadening academic responsibilities and reshaping how contributions are understood and evaluated. At the same time, they point to a wider shift in how academic work is seen and understood. As these platforms make academic work more visible, they also make it more readily recognised and evaluated. For many people, the feeling of "not doing enough" may not come from a lack of effort, but from the growing number of ways that contributions are recorded and evaluated. What appears as self-doubt at the individual level may, in part, reflect these broader changes in how academic work is organised and evaluated. Supportive Cultures Recognising these changes does not mean viewing them as problems. Instead, it makes us think more carefully about how institutions can keep both ambition and support. As institutions continue to adapt to NEP 2020, it is crucial to consider not only the outcomes but also the experiences of these changes. Academic self-perception does not evolve in isolation; it is shaped within cultures of mentorship, collegial exchange, and recognition. At the same time, academic paths are seldom uncomplicated. They may diverge. Some people get help more easily and have access to resources that others don't. Some develop through experience and mentorship. Not everyone starts out knowing the same things about academic norms, and that is perfectly normal. such settings, moments of uncertainty are not unusual; they are simply part of growing into one's role. A few reflections follow from this. First, what is often

called self-doubt may not be a personal flaw but rather a common experience in academic settings. Secondforms such as the VIDWAN database and the (IRINS) is another sign of this changing landscape. These initiatives mark an important step towards enhancing the visibility of academic work, encouraging collaboration, and strengthening research ecosystems across institutions. By bringing together information on publications, affiliations, and scholarly contributions, they contribute to a more connected and transparent academic environment. Under NEP 2020, faculty roles now extend beyond teaching to support institutional growth, broadening academic responsibilities and reshaping how contributions are understood and evaluated. At the same time, they point to a wider shift in how academic work is seen and understood. As these platforms make academic work more visible, they also make it more readily recognised and evaluated. For many people, the feeling of "not doing enough" may not come from a lack of effort, but from the growing number of ways that contributions are recorded and evaluated. What appears as self-doubt at the individual level may, in part, reflect these broader changes in how academic work is organised and evaluated. Supportive Cul- turesRecognising these changes does not mean viewing them as problems. Instead, to consider not only the outcomes but also the experiences of these changes. Academic self-perception does not evolve in isolation; it is shaped within cultures of mentorship, collegial exchange, and recognition. At the same time, academic paths are seldom uncomplicated. They may diverge. Some people get help more easily and have access to resources that others don't. Some develop through experience and mentorship. Not everyone starts out knowing the same things about academic norms, and that is perfectly normal. such settings, moments of uncertainty are not unusual; they are simply part of growing into one's role. A few reflections follow from this. First, what is often

First, what is often it makes us think more carefully about how institutions can keep both ambition and support. As institutions continue to adapt to NEP 2020, it is crucial to consider not only the outcomes but also the experiences of these changes. Academic self-perception does not evolve in isolation; it is shaped within cultures of mentorship, collegial exchange, and recognition. At the same time, academic paths are seldom uncomplicated. They may diverge. Some people get help more easily and have access to resources that others don't. Some develop through experience and mentorship. Not everyone starts out knowing the same things about academic norms, and that is perfectly normal. such settings, moments of uncertainty are not unusual; they are simply , while broadening evaluation and visibility frameworks is useful, it may also alter perceptions and experiences of contributions. Third, improving academic settings may require a balanced focus on mentorship, dialogue, and collegiality alongside quantifiable results. Recognising this can provide a fresh perspective on confidence in academia. Rather than viewing it as an inherent characteristic, it may be more beneficial to perceive it as a quality that develops in nurturing environments. When institutions make room for conversation and meaningful dialogue, promote working together rather than comparing, and value different ways of contributing, they help academics feel more connected to their work. Confidence in academia is not solely an individual characteristic; it is cultivated in settings that encourage dialogue, respect diverse academic trajectories, and acknowledge various forms of contributions. Consequently, the advancement of academic cultures is inherently linked to improvements in academic outcomes. The calibre of teaching, research, and institutional engagement is closely related to individuals' perceptions of their roles within the system. Focusing on these less apparent aspects can sig-

Auqib Nabi Gets Maiden Call For Test Series Against Sri Lanka, Replaces Injured Bumrah



Auqib Nabi, the speedster from the Baramulla area of Jammu and Kashmir, received the maiden call for a two-match Test series beginning on August 15 against Sri Lanka after being named the replacement for Jasprit Bumrah, who was ruled out of the series due to a knee injury. "The Men's Selection Committee has named Auqib Nabi as Bumrah's replacement. The Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler earns his maiden call-up to the senior national team," the BCCI said in a statement. The 29-year-old Nabi is the third player from J&K after Parvez Rasool and Umran Malik to get a senior national team call-up. Rasool and Malik played for India in

the limited-overs format. With 60 wickets in the last Ranji Trophy season, Nabi had been knocking on the door of the selection committee for the last two years. Nabi had claimed 104 wickets across the last two Ranji Trophy seasons. He is also a handy customer with the bat. His wicket haul in the elite domestic tournament had earned Jammu and Kashmir its maiden Ranji title. This was seen as the biggest ever achievement for the team, which was seen as minnows of the game till a few years ago. Following his spectacular performance in the Ranji Trophy, Nabi was bought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 8.40 crore during Indian Premier League (IPL) auctions.

He played alongside Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Starc and others. Even though his performance wasn't that good, he impressed his fellow teammates with brilliant control on the ball and consistency. During his recent Sri Lanka tour with the India A team, Nabi had impressed the selectors with his performance. He has become the first-ever cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir to get a Test match call. Nabi is considered the best red-ball bowler at present in the country alongside Bumrah and Siraj. Bumrah has been ruled out after the swelling in his knee turned out to be more serious than it initially looked. The Sports Science team in

Bengaluru's Centre of Excellence was in no mood to rush the seasoned pacer to the grind of international cricket, keeping in mind a packed calendar ahead. The 32-year-old had missed out on the third ODI against England at Lord's last month after sustaining an impact injury. The updated squad for the Test series against Sri Lanka: Shubman Gill (Captain), KL Rahul (Vice-Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sai Sudharsan (subject to fitness clearance), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Devdutt Padikkal, Saransh Jain, Aqib Nabi.

SEBI Issues Unpaid Securities Guidelines, Introduces Auto-Pledge Mechanism



Sebi on Friday came out with a regulatory framework for trading members (TMs) to handle clients' unpaid securities, introducing an autopledge mechanism while laying down safeguards for investors.

Under the framework, if trades executed outside the Margin Trading Facility (MTF) remain unpaid, the securities will be credited directly to the client's demat account. Instead of withholding the securities, an auto-pledge will be created in favour of a dedicated account of the trading member – the Client Unpaid Securities Pledgee Account (CUSPA) – without requiring any instruction or approval from the client. The pledge will be specifically marked as “unpaid”, as per Sebi guidelines. After the pledge is created, the TM will be required to inform the client through email or SMS about the payment obligation and the TM's right to liquidate the securities if the dues are not cleared, Sebi said in a circular.

The regulator has also directed TMs to formulate and maintain a policy for handling unpaid securities, either as a standalone policy or as

part of their risk management framework, in line with the circular and operational guidelines issued by stock exchanges. The policy must be communicated to clients before implementation. Moreover, the policy should clearly specify the reasons, manner and timeline for invocation or release of pledge and liquidation of unpaid securities. It must also prescribe the maximum period within which clients must meet their payment obligations, which cannot exceed five trading days from the pay-out date.

While securities pledged in the TM's CUSPA can be considered for reporting client margin collection to the Clearing Corporation, trading

members will not be allowed to provide additional trading exposure against such securities, Sebi said. As long as the client's payment obligation remains outstanding, the TM will have to determine the maximum value of securities that may remain pledged daily, based on the client's ledger balance and overall margin obligations. If the value of pledged securities exceeds the permissible limit, the TM must release the pledge on the excess quantity by the next trading day, in accordance with exchange guidelines. If the client fails to make payment within the prescribed timeline, the TM will invoke the pledge and liquidate the unpaid

securities according to its policy, after giving reasonable notice to the client.¹¹ In invocation, the securities will be blocked for early pay-in in the client's demat account, while maintaining an audit trail in the TM's CUSPA account.

Sebi said that depositories will verify the block details against the client's obligations, following which the securities will be sold in the market using the respective client's Unique Client Code (UCC). Any surplus remaining after settlement of the client's dues will be credited to the client's ledger.

If the pledge is neither invoked nor released within five trading days after pay-out, depositories will automatically

Meet CWG Gold Medalist Sharmila Dhankhar From Haryana



Sharmila was born in Chhitrauli village of Mahendragarh district of Haryana. She is 39-years old. She got married in Rewari. At present she lives with her family in Suncity area of ??Rewari city. Her legs were damaged due to polio in his childhood. But she didn't let it become her weakness. She started para athletics at the age of 34 and won several medals at national level in shot put as well as discus throw. There were many ups and downs in hermaled with hard work. Her first marriage broke up at the age of 26. After this she got married a second time. Sharmila is the mother of two daughters. Her elder daughter Anuj is 17 years old and younger daughter Lakshmi is 13 years old. Both are state

level players whom she is constantly motivating and training to advance in the sport.

Durin the 2018 Haryana Roadways employee strike, she got a job as the first woman conductor in the state, but she lost the job after the strike ended. Despite this, she did not give up and focused completely on the game.

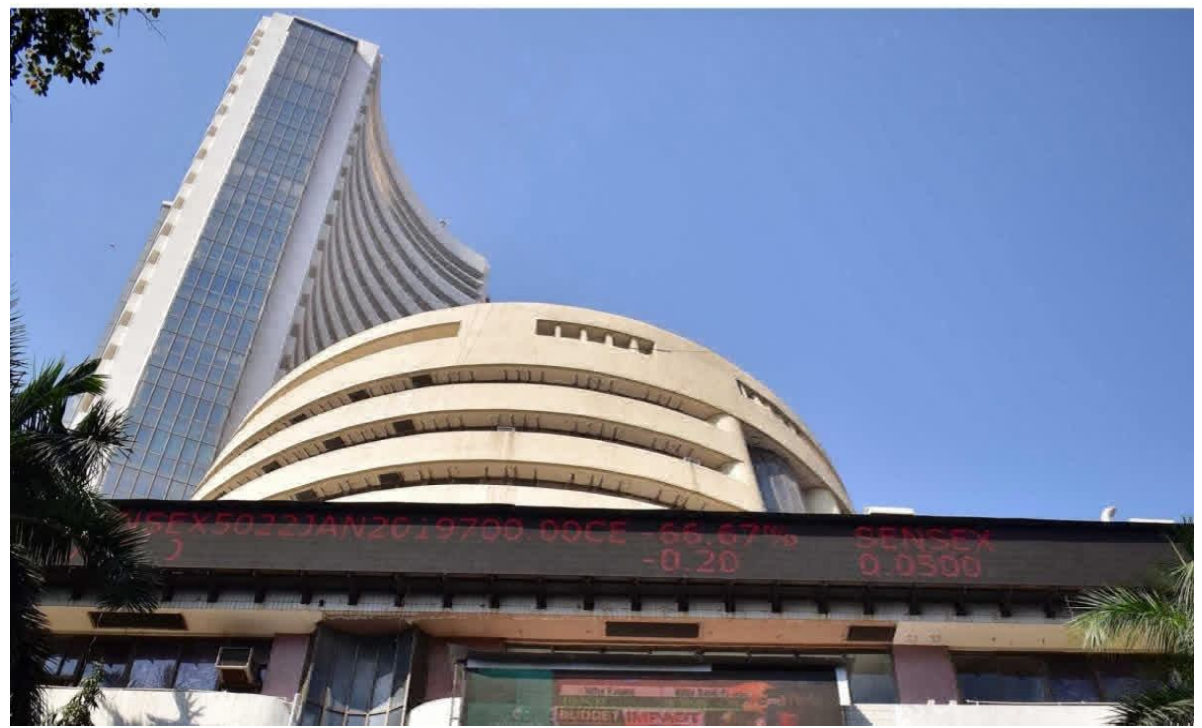
Sharmila got emotional after the win. After bagging the gold medal, she said, "I am very happy-ormance has brightened the name of the country and Haryanameal with hard work. . Her success will be a source of inspiration for the sportspersons of the state.""The state government is committed to provide all possible support to the sportspersons," she added.

On the fifth day of the Commonwealth

Games, India bagged a total of six medals. Among them, Sharmila's gold medal was the biggest achievement. Apart from this, Dyaneshwari Yadav, Sarvesh Kushare and Valluree Ajay Babu won the silver medal, to win a medal for my country. I feel very proud and I will continue to make my country proud. It was my dream and also my mother's. I have won this gold medal with hard work. My mother will be very happy. I have won this medal for her. Now it is the turn of Asian Games and Olympics. This is my first medal. I medal with hard work. will win many more medals in the future.” Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini congratulated Sharmila on her historic achievement. The Chief

Minister said, "Sharmila Dhankhad's brilliant performance has brightened the name of the country and Haryana. Her success will be a source of inspiration for the sportspersons of the state." "The state government is committed to provide all possible support to the sportspersons," she added. On the fifth day of the Commonwealth Games, India bagged a total of six medals. Among them, Sharmila's gold medal was the biggest achievement. Apart from this, Dyaneshwari Yadav, Sarvesh Kushare and Valluree Ajay Babu won the silver medal, while Bindyarani Devi and Shilpa K. Shayla won the bronze medal. With this, India's total number of medals increased to 10.

Stock Markets Slide In Early Trade Tracking Weak Global Peers, Foreign Fund Outflows



Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty drifted lower in early deals on Thursday, tracking weak trends in global markets amid continuing uncertainty in West Asia and relentless foreign fund outflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 229.69 points to 74,139.32 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 66.30 points to 23,339. From the 30-Sensex firms, Trent, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Tata Steel were among the biggest laggards. Eternal, Titan, Adani Ports and Tech Mahindra were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 5,616.56 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. "In the near-term, headwinds are stronger for the market than tail-

winds. The continuing uncertainty in West Asia and the big and sustained FPI selling are the strong headwinds which are weighing on the market," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. The bullish undertone of the booming markets in the US, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan suggests more FPI selling in India, he added. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.97 per cent lower at USD 96.86 per barrel. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index traded lower. US markets ended lower on Wednesday. "While the renewal of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon has provided some relief to

regional risk sentiment, broader concerns remain unresolved. Continued hostilities between the United States and Iran, including reports of retaliatory Iranian actions following recent US strikes, have kept uncertainty elevated and limited any meaningful improvement in global risk appetite," Ponnudhi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said. The absence of tangible progress towards a diplomatic resolution continues to leave markets highly sensitive to geopolitical headlines, particularly given the implications for energy prices and global trade flows, he added. On Wednesday, the Sensewinds. The continuing uncertainty in West Asia and the big and sustained FPI selling are the strong headwinds which are weighing on the mar-

ket," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. The bullish undertone of the booming markets in the US, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan suggests more FPI selling in India, he added. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.97 per cent lower at USD 96.86 per barrel. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index traded lower. US markets ended lower on Wednesday. "While the renewal of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon has provided some relief to x dropped 303.67 points, or 0.41 per cent, to settle at 74,346.17. The Nifty declined 77.95 points, or 0.33 per cent to end at 23,405.60.



Bhumi Pednekar Faces Backlash For Asking Protesters To Avoid Abusive Language, Netizens Ask 'What About



: Actor Bhumi Pednekar has faced criticism on social media after speaking about the language used by some protesters during the ongoing NEET-UG 2026 protests. The actor recently shared a video on Instagram in which she asked young protesters to express their anger without using abusive or insulting language. She said that such behaviour does not represent the values and culture of the country. However, her comments quickly divided social media users.

Many people questioned why she chose to speak about the language used by protesters but did not address the alleged police action against students during the protests. Bhumi said she had been watching several videos from the demonstrations and was concerned about the way some young people were speaking, particularly the abusive language directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She pointed out that Modi holds the highest constitutional office in the

country and asked whether people would speak in the same way to elders in their own families. "Would we ever speak like this to the elders in our own homes?" she asked, while making her appeal for more respectful public discussion. The actor also spoke about India's culture and said that people should be able to express disagreement without resorting to abusive language. According to her, moving away from these values could make meaningful conversa-

tions and progress more difficult. Bhumi ended her message by calling for unity. She also referred to issues such as gender-based violence and education, saying that these matters need to be addressed in a productive and effective manner. Her message, however, did not receive the response she may have expected. Several social media users criticised the actor for what they described as a selective response to the protests. They argued that while abusive language can be questioned, the alleged use of force against students should also be discussed. One user questioned whether people should be more concerned about a protester using a swear word or the alleged use of serious force against demonstrators. Another user said that respect cannot simply be demanded and has to be earned. Some others asked Bhumi to also speak when politicians use offensive or abusive language. A few comments accused her of judging the protesters without addressing the reasons that brought students onto the streets. The criticism comes against the backdrop of the NEET-UG 2026 protests, which have attracted attention over concerns surrounding education, student welfare and demands for reforms. The demonstrations in Delhi became particularly tense on July 20, when protesters attempted to march towards Parliament. Videos circulating online showed clashes between protesters and police.

After Animal, Can Ranbir Kapoor Be Accepted As Lord Ram?



Filmmaker Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana has been grabbing headlines ever since the trailer was released. Now, Ramanand Sagar's grandson, Shiv Sagar, has shared his honest opinion on the film, especially about Ranbir Kapoor being cast as Lord Ram. In a recent interview, which is currently circulating on the internet, Shiv Sagar said he was impressed with the trailer compared to the teaser. He praised the film's visuals and felt the trailer gave audiences a much better look at the characters. "I saw the trailer, and of course, the trailer was much better than the promo because the teaser that they had put out before had very little information. In the trailer, we could see more of the characters and more of

the VFX, and also they revealed Ravana, which is played by Yash," he said. While Shiv appreciated the film's visual effects, he was most impressed with Yash and Sai Pallavi's casting as Ravana and Sita. According to him, actors from South India have a deeper connection with Indian mythology. Ranbir Kapoor As Lord Ram In Ramayana (Photo: Team Ramayana) He said, "Overall, I really like the casting of Yash as Ravana and Sai Pallavi as Sita because they are from the South, and these actors from the South really understand our mythology, and these are stories told to them from a very young age by their grandparents. So they really know the mannerisms,

and they know these characters very well, and I think that is why Yash and Sai Pallavi were really able to incorporate these characters into their acting, but I did not care much for the other actors." However, Shiv Sagar was not fully convinced about Ranbir Kapoor playing Lord Ram. He said that such roles are usually given to fresh faces so that audiences can connect with the character without thinking about the actor's previous roles. Ranbir Kapoor As Lord Ram In Ramayana (Photo: Team Ramayana) "Because typically, what we do is, we cast a fresh face for a character like Ram because Ranbir has a lot of baggage with him, especially after Animal.

I really don't know if he will be accepted as Ram, but the VFX was very good. Nitesh Tiwari ji has conceptualised the thing very beautifully," he said. Despite his criticism of Ranbir's casting, Shiv praised Nitesh Tiwari's vision for the film. He also liked the way Ravana's Pushpak Vimana and Surpanakha's lion chariot were shown in the trailer. Shiv added that he hopes the film becomes a huge success, as it could inspire younger generations to learn more about Indian mythology. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Namit Malhotra, Ramayana stars Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Yash, Sunny Deol, Ravi Dubey and Ing Diwali 2026, while the second part is to hit theatres in 2027.

Vidyt Jammwal, Disha Patani, Ali Fazal And With Global Projects Ahead



Indian actors have been making their presence felt in Hollywood for years. But in recent times, the journey has become even more interesting. From established global stars taking on new roles to actors making their official Hollywood debuts, several Indian names are now part of international projects. The upcoming slate has a mix of action, thriller, science fiction and drama. Some actors are joining big studio productions, while others are choosing international independent films. Here is a look at some Indian actors who have interesting Hollywood projects lined up.

Vidyt Jammwal - Street Fighter Vidyt Jammwal is set to take a major step in his career with Street Fighter. The Bollywood martial arts star will make his official Hollywood debut in the live-action adaptation backed by Legendary Entertainment. Vidyt will play Dhalsim, the iconic peaceful yogi fighter known for his ability to stretch his body and use fire-based attacks. The role seems like a natural fit for the actor, who is known for his martial arts skills and action performances. The film has a big international cast, including Jason Momoa, Roman Reigns and Noah

Centineo. Principal photography has already been completed, and the movie is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on October 16, 2026. Priyanka Chopra Jonas - Reset and more Priyanka Chopra Jonas is already one of the recognised Indian names in the international entertainment industry. She continues to add new projects to her Hollywood lineup. One of her upcoming films is Reset, a survival thriller in which she will star alongside Orlando Bloom. Directed by Matt Smukler, the project was officially announced earlier this year. Production is

expected to begin in August 2026. Priyanka is also part of an upcoming Amazon MGM Studios comedy featuring Will Ferrell and Zac Efron. The film was Priyanka is earlier known as Judgment Day and is directed by Nicholas Stoller. The movie has already completed filming and is currently in post-production. The story reportedly follows a young man who takes a television courtroom hostage after blaming a judge for ruining his life. Priyanka is part of a large cast that also includes Regina Hall, Michael Pena and Billy Eichner.

Shilpa Shetty Denies Viral Reservation Post: 'Do Not Fall For This Fake News'



: Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty has strongly denied a viral social media post on caste-based reservation that was falsely attributed to her. The actor took to X (formerly Twitter) to clarify that she never made the statement and urged people not to believe or circulate the fake post. The controversy began after a screenshot, allegedly from Shilpa's Instagram account, started circulating widely on social media. The post contained comments on the reservation system, including the line, "You can't get skill through reservation." As the screenshot gained traction online, many users believed it to be genuine and began sharing it across platforms. Shilpa Shetty clears the air on viral reservation post

Shilpa Shetty clears the air on viral reservation post (Photo: Instagram) Putting an end to the speculation, Shilpa issued a clear statement on X. "I am shocked to see fake statements on reservation falsely attached to my name. This is completely fabricated, malicious garbage. Do not fall for this fake news!" she wrote. Her clarification quickly grabbed attention, with fans appreciating the actor for responding promptly and setting the record straight. Several social media users also appealed to others to verify information before sharing screenshots that could spread misinformation. The fake post had surfaced at a time when discussions around the reservation system were once again gaining momentum online.

As debates intensified, the fabricated screenshot was widely circulated, leading many to mistakenly believe that the actor had commented on the issue. However, Shilpa has made it clear that the statement has no connection with her. On the professional front, Shilpa was last seen in the Kannada action thriller KD: The Devil, directed by Prem. The film also featured Dhruva Sarja, Sanjay Dutt, V. Ravichandran, Ramesh Aravind, Jisshu Sengupta, Nora Fatehi and Reeshma Nanaiah. She is currently seen as the host of the cooking reality show Maa Hai Na, where celebrity contestants team up with a parent or an adult child to take part in cooking challenges and light-hearted entertainment segments.