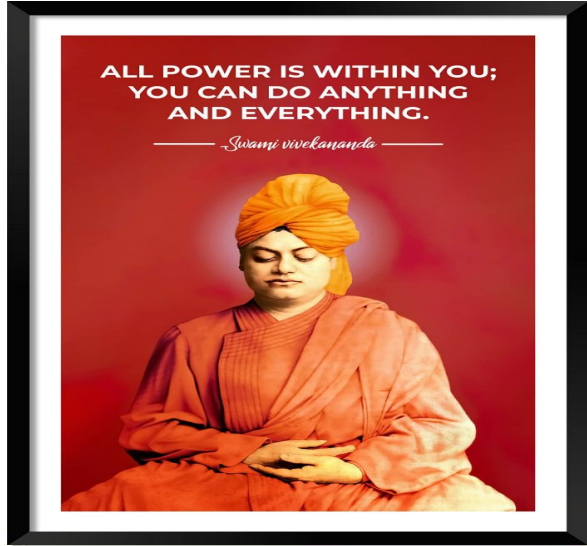
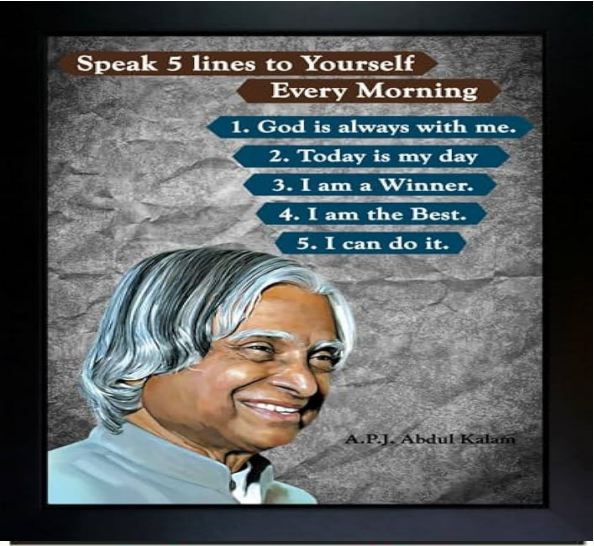




Third Mumbai City Will Attract Outsiders, Says MNS Chief Raj Thackeray



Raigad: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray on Sunday accused the state government of keeping people in the dark about its development plans for the proposed "Third Mumbai" city, which he said would attract outsiders at the expense of local people whose land will

be acquired. Third Mumbai or the Karnala Sai-Chirner (KSC) New Town is a planned smart city spanning roughly 323-334 square kilometres across 124 villages in the coastal Raigad district. It aims to decongest the Mumbai Metrglobal capability centre, and research centres among other facilities. Also Read - Excise Case: Delhi HC To Hear on Monday ED Plea Against Arvind Kejriwal's Bail "Does Maharashtra know what the government intends to do (in the Third Mumbai)? Are our youth ready for this?" Thackeray asked. He said land from Pen, Panvel and Uran talukas in Raigad is being taken from locals. "What is the state government doing for local people? Is the government preparing the youth for this new city? On the other hand, other states know what is happening (here). They are preparing their youth, while those in Maharashtra are not aware of what is happening (in third Mumbai)," he claimed.

Revanth Reddy Seeks Mahankali Ammavaru's Blessings for Every Family



HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended Bonalu festival greetings to the people of the state. Revanth Reddy prayed to Lal Darwaza Sri Simhavahini Mahankali Ammavaru to shower her blessings on every family. He expressed hope that, with the blessings of Ammavaru, every home would be filled with good health, joy,

prosperity and happiness. He also wished that people live in peace and harmony with unity and good fortune. He urged people to celebrate the Bonalu festival with devings to all the people otion and faith, while hoshow-casing the grandeur of Telangana's culture and traditions. Kishan Reddy shared Bonalu wishes on X, and the message reads, "Heartfelt Bonalu festival greetof Hyderabad city! With the blessings of Ammavaru, I sincerely wish that everyone prospers with happiness, good health and longevity, and boundless wealth."

KCR Consoles Peddi Family, Hands Over 2.25-Crore Aid



WARANGAL: BRS president and former chief minister K. Chandrasheker Rao consoles the family of former Narsampet MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy at Nallabelly, paid floral tributes to his portrait and consoled the bereaved family. He handed over cheques totalling ?2.25 crore of the party's com since the Telangana statehood movement, Rao said his close associate had stood by him during difficult periods and made significant contribu-

tions to the movement and the building of the BRS. His services, he said, would always be remembered. Rao said he considered it his personal responsibility to support Peddi's family and assured them that the BRS would stand by them. His visit drew large crowds of BRS workers and supporters in Nallabelly, with main roads packed with people seeking a glimpse of the former chief minister.

Bonalu Celebrated With Fervour In Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy of Coal and Mines and several other leaders on Sunday extended greetings to the people on the occasion of the Bonalu festival. Thousands of devotees thronged the historic Akkanna Madanna Mahankali Temple at Hari Bowli, Sri Simhavahini Mahankali Temple at Lal Darwaza and other temples in Hyderabad's Old City as Bonalu celebrations were held on a grand scale. Also Read - Telangana: 27 Kg Mephedrone Worth ?54

Creore Seized, Four Held "On the occasion of Bonalu festival, which stands as a symbol of Telangana's culture and tradition, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy extended greetings to the people of the state," the Telangana CMO said in a post on 'X'. He prayed that Lal Darwaza Sri Simhavahini Mahankali Ammavaru would bless every family with prosperity and well-being. The CM wished for peace, harmony and prosperity among the people and urged them to celebrate Bonalu with devotion and faith. Also Read -



Hyderabad Police Step Up Fight Against Cyber

Frauds Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Kishan Reddy offered prayers at different temples in the city. Kishan Reddy, in a post on 'X', said: "Prayed for peace, prosperity, happiness, and good health for everyone, and for the continued well-being of all." Telangana Ministers Pon nam Prabhakar, Konda Su rekha and Dansari A na suya (Seethakka), along with Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president B Mahesh Kumar Goud and other

Congress leaders, visited temples and offered prayers to the goddess. T Rama Rao, Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao and actor Vijay Deverakonda were also among those who offered prayers. A large number of women devotees offered 'bonam' - rice cooked with milk and jaggery - to the goddess. As part of the ritual, women prepare the offering in new earthen or brass pots decorated with neem leaves, turmeric and vermilion. They carry the pots on their heads and offer them at temples along with and sarees.

KTR visits city temples amid Bonalu festivities

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao participated in Bonalu festivities at several temples across Hyderabad on Sunday and extended greetings to people on the occasion. Rama Rao visited the Sri Edugulla Pochamma temple in Nampally, Sri Bhagyalakshmi temple near Chauraminar, Bangaru Maisamma, Akkanna Madanna Mahankali, Lal Darwaza Simhavahini Mahankali and Miralam Mandi Mahankali temples. He also visited the Sri



Mahankali temple in Amberpet constituency. Later, he participated in special prayers at the residence of BRS leader Resham Mallesham in Ram Nagar under the Musheerabad constituency. He also offered prayers at Sri Kanakalu Katta Maisamma temple near Lower Tank Bund and Sri Yellamma

temple at Balkampet. At the Lal Darwaza Simhavahini Mahankali temple, Rama Rao extended Bonalu greetings to the people of Telangana and prayed for the blessings of the deity. He wished for abundant rains, the welfare of farmers and prosperity for businesses in Hyderabad. He thanked the organisers for inviting him to the celebrations. BRS deputy leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav and other senior BRS leaders accompanied him.

SIR Flags 62,219 ASDD Entries In Adilabad, Boath



ADILABAD: The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has flagged a significant number of absent, shifted, deceased and duplicate (ASDD) entries in the erstwhile Adilabad district, with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) facing difficulties in contacting voters and collecting enumeration forms. In the Adilabad Assembly constituency, 38,668 ASDD entries have been identified among 2,50,393 voters. These include 5,834 deceased voters, 18,557 shifted voters, 4,181 duplicate entries and 9,984 absent voters. Also Read - Telangana: 27 Kg Mephedrone Worth ?54 Crore Seized, Four Held

Digitalisation of enumeration forms in the constituency has reached 83.98 per cent, with ASDD entries accounting for 14.88 per cent of the forms processed so far. In the Boath Assembly constituency, 23,551 ASDD entries have been identified among 2,16,391 voters. These include 7,520 deceased voters, 1,741 permanently shifted voters, 3,376 duplicate entries and 865 absent voters. Digitalisation has reached 89.12 per cent in Boath, with ASDD entries accounting for 10.88 per cent. Also Read - Bonalu Celebrated With Fervour In Hyderabad CM, Kishan Reddy Greet People B. Goverdhan

Owaisi Alleges BLOs Refusing Forms, Seeks ECI Intervention

Hyderabad: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Sunday urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner to urgently look into complaints that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were allegedly refusing to accept enumeration forms on August 9 and 10, citing public holidays. Owaisi raised the matter in a social media post, tagging the official handles of the ECI and GHMC Commissioner. "Four Held "Since yesterday, we have received too many complaints from people at our SIR Guidance Desk that BLOs have clearly told them that they won't be taking Enumeration forms on 9th (Bonalu) and 10th (Rangam public holiday)," Owaisi said on X. He claimed that several people had approached the guidance desk in a state of concern after being allegedly informed that their forms would not be accepted on the two days. Telangana CM, Kishan Reddy Greet People "Many people were seen panicking at the Desk," the



AIMIM chief said. Owaisi further said that, according to the Election Commission, people have time until August 10 to submit their enumeration forms. He urged the authorities to address the issue and ensure that eligible people are not deprived of the opportunity to complete the process within the stipulated deadline. "Kindly look into this, Sir, because as per EC, people do have time till 10th August, on which these BLOs are not willing to work citing holidays," he said. Also Read - Hyderabad Police Step Up Fight Against Cyber Frauds The development comes amid the ongoing electoral exercise in which BLOs are involved in distributing and collecting enumeration forms and assisting voters with the required formalities.

BJP leader N Ramchander Rao on Sunday said party workers were working across Telangana to assist eligible voters during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and urged them to remain vigilant against what he described as attempts to include ineligible names in the voter lists. Also Read - Hyderabad Youths Detained for Wearing Camera Glasses at Templo as the second phase of the SIR process begins in Telangana, I had the opportunity AIMIM, for protection of their vote-bank, are determined to facilitate backdoor entry for illegals in the SIR process," he said.

Somireddy Mocks YSRC DSC Stir, Says ‘Gen-F, Gen-GF’ Led Camps

Nellore: Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy on Sunday took a sarcastic swipe at the YSR Congress over its recent protests demanding a DSC teacher recruitment notification, saying the agitation was dominated by “Gen-F (fathers) and Gen-GF (grandfathers)” rather than Gen-Z youth. Speaking to the media at Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy’s residence at Santapeta, Somireddy said he had witnessed the YSRC’s hunger strikes in Nellore City, Nellore Rural and Sarvepalli on Saturday but could not spot many Gen-Z youngsters. Also Read - Pavithra Samarpana Marks Second Day of Pavithrotsavams at Tirupati “Wherever I looked, I saw fathers and grandfathers,” he said,



Somireddy said the government had already filled 16,400 teacher posts and questioned the rationale behind protests for Gen-Z jobs one-and-a-half years later. He claimed that thousands of vacancies would be filled through another recruitment notification in November or December. “The Kurnool protest is only the beginning. A similar backlash will spread across the State. YSRCP leaders should realise the ground reality and stop misleading people,” he said.

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.

Hyderabad Police Step Up Fight Against Cyber Frauds

Hyderabad: Additional Commissioner of Police (SIT and Crimes) M. Srinivas on Sunday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Cyber Crimes Unit to strengthen the response to emerging cyber threats, including AI-enabled scams, fake dating apps, trading and investment frauds, and digital arrest scams. During the inspection, the Additional CP Srinivas reviewed various functional aspects of the unit, including overall case pendency, digital forensic capabilities, the operational efficiency of the 1930 Cyber Crime Helpline and staff deployment. Also Read - Telangana: 27 Kg Mephedrone Worth 54 Crore Seized, Four Held



cases, to ensure the timely delivery of justice. He also emphasised strengthening digital evidence collection and ensuring meticulous legal documentation to secure high conviction rates. Also Read - Bonalu Celebrated With Fervour In Hyderabad; Telangame teams have started implementing the instructions on robust tracking mechanisms to effectively monitor and systematically dispose of long-pending cases. He further emphasised that the Cyber Crimes Unit must maintain a proactive, swift and victim-centric approach, with a strong focus on fund recovery, technical na CM, Kishan Reddy Greet People We have enhanced inter-agency coordination with banks, payment gateways, and financial institutions for the immediate freezing and recovery of defrauded funds, additional DCP said. Following the instructions of City Police Commissioner

V.C. Sajjanar, cyber-crime teams have started implementing robust tracking mechanisms to effectively monitor and systematically dispose of long-pending cases. He further emphasised that the Cyber Crimes Unit must maintain a proactive, swift and victim-centric approach, with a strong focus on fund recovery, technical accuracy and preventive public outreach to effectively combat cyber-crime.

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 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

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

Medico Priyanka’s Father Demands Immediate Hanging of Accused

East Godavari: Venkatesh, the father of Rajahmundry medico Priyanka, has demanded that those responsible for his daughter’s condition be hanged immediately. Speaking to the media, Venkatesh said, “We have been living with hope all these days, but now her organs have completely failed.” He alleged that neither Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu nor Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan had reviewed the situation and demanded strict action against the accused. Also Read - Pavithra Samarpana Marks Second Day of Pavithrotsavams at Tirupati He alleged that it was not an accident but may have been a deliberate act. He further questioned why the accused, if they were in an inebriated state, did not hit the divider and why they allegedly hit Priyanka’s vehicle, braked, and then

rammed into it again, three times in total. Meanwhile, East Godavari SP Narasimha Kishore, speaking to the media on Sunday, explained the sequence of events leading to the August 3 accident. Also Read - Somireddy Mocks YSRC DSC Stir, Says ‘Gen-F, Gen-GF’ Led Camps According to the SP, Priyanka was returning home with her friend after watching a movie on August 3. At the same time, the accused, who was allegedly in an inebriated condition, entered a mall. Security personnel reportedly stopped him from entering the premises. The accused allegedly attacked the security personnel and attempted to flee. When security personnel tried to catch him, they allegedly drove away recklessly. During the attempt to escape, their car hit Priyanka’s vehicle three times before they fled the scene. Also Read - No Roof, No



Blackboard, No Classroom For 55 Children With 1 Teacher Priyanka was initially shifted to Swatantra Hospital on August 3. Police subsequently recorded the statement of Umesh, who was accompanying her at the time of the accident. Police also examined CCTV footage, which reportedly captured the accused’s vehicle hitting Priyanka’s vehicle three times. The SP said that the accused was already arrested and sent to judicial remand. The SP said several cases were filed against the accused (Suravarapu Dushyanth and Andrew William Joseph) and maintained that the investigation was being conducted transparently. He assured that there would be no irregularities in the probe and said the investigation was being carried out in accordance with the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Telangana: 27 Kg Mephedrone Worth 54 Crore Seized, Four Held

NALGONDA: Bibinagar police and the special operations team (SOT) of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district on Sunday arrested four persons and seized 27 kg of mephedrone, a synthetic stimulant covered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, valued at around 54 crore, along with 40 kg of acetone used in drug manufacturing. The arrested were identified as Chetan Madhukar Meshram, 49, of Nagpur, Maharashtra; Muvjamal Hoque, 25, of Marigaon, Assam; Akash Ashok Gawande, 31, of Nagpur; and Upadrashtara Ramana Murthy, 65, of Channarayana, Hyderabad. Also Read - Bonalu Celebrated With Fervour In Hyderabad; Telangana CM, Kishan Reddy Greet People Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district Superintendent of Police Akshansh Yadav said the arrests followed credible information about the transportation of drugs.



Bibinagar police and SOT personnel intercepted a SuV on the outskirts of Kondamadugu and found the mephedrone and acetone in the vehicle. During interrogation, the accused allegedly told police that mephedrone had been manufactured at Vetukuri Labs in Kondamadugu between August 5 and 7, with the help of other associates. The drug was allegedly being transported from

Kondamadugu to Nagpur for further distribution. Against Cyber Frauds subsequently searched the laboratory and seized a reactor, centrifuge and other equipment allegedly used in the manufacture of the drug. Further action would be taken against the laboratory in accordance with law, the SP said. Police identified Chetan Madhukar Meshram as the alleged organiser and financier

of the operation, while Upadrashtara Ramana Murthy, who was in charge of Vetukuri Labs, was allegedly involved in the manufacturing process. The SP said special teams had been formed to trace four other suspects who were absconding. They were identified as Md. Ayub Ali of Assam, Chanda Pradeep Thakur and Gopal Sirpat Patelia of Nagpur, and Yeatucuri of Hyderabad.

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

Korba: With the admission process for medical colleges across the country commencing in the days to come, students at Korba Medical College will stare at an uncertain future because the construction of its building is incomplete. Currently, the medical college is operating out of rented premises on the IT Korba campus at Jhgarha and is paying a monthly rent of Rs 14 lakh to the engineering college for its use. While a boys' hostel is located there, girls' hostels are spread across three separate locations. For medical education, the smooth functioning of advanced laboratories and OPDs — along with standard laboratories and clinical training facilities — is essential. To this end, an 800-bed hospital is proposed as part of the new medical college complex at Bhulsidih. However, hostel construction across the campus remains incomplete, making the provision of accommodation for out-of-town students a major challenge. The college administration currently has no hostel arrangements for new students; there is absolutely no space available to allocate



rooms to any students beyond those already pursuing their medical studies there. Korba Medical College (ETV Bharat) Additional girls' hostels are being operated at a Working Women's Hostel and the Government EVPG College hostel. Bus services have been arranged to transport students to and from these locations, which are situated 7 to 8 kilometres from the college building where classes are held. Once the new building at Bhulsidih is completed, a major benefit will be that all students studying at the Korba

Medical College will have the facility to reside in hostels within the same campus. A total of 495 students across all semesters are currently studying at the Korba Medical College. Counselling has already begun. Following this, 125 new students aspiring to become doctors will enroll here for the first semester. The Dean stated that they have started looking for a location to operate a hostel for these 125 new students. The college has not yet found an alternative for hostel facilities or accommodation for the new entrants, and the

search is ongoing. The medical college is a major achievement for the Korba district. A 124.24-acre plot of land at Bhulsidih has been allocated for the construction of the new medical college building. A sum of Rs 325 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of this state-of-the-art facility. However, the deadline for the building's construction has already passed, and the work remains incomplete. According to the latest information, the building is scheduled to be handed over to the college management by January 2027, whereas classes are

supposed to commence next month, on September 1st. According to NMC guidelines, MBBS classes must begin by September 1st without fail. K K Sahare, Dean of Korba Medical College, stated that there are currently 495 students studying at the college, a figure that has accumulated since 2022. There is a boys' hostel for 240 students and a girls' hostel for 120. "We face a shortage of hostel facilities because this is a new college. A new college building is being constructed at the site allotted to us at Bhulsidih; we expect to take possession of it by February. Since we have a large number of female students, 64 of them are currently staying in the PG College hostel while the Working Women's Hostel accommodates 62," said Sahare. The Dean stated that there are 'B' and 'C' blocks on the IT Korba campus. "We intend to take over the halls there, install toilets, and convert them into dormitory-style accommodation. We are exploring other options as well and looking for additional locations at Korba where hostels could be operated," he said.

'Extend Heartfelt Gratitude To All': West Bengal CM Honours Those Who Opposed 1975 Emergency



Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Sunday slammed the erstwhile Left Front and Trinamool Congress governments for allegedly attempting to erase nationalism, patriotism, and Indian culture along with making people forget Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's contributions. He expressed his gratitude to all people who had endured imprisonment to safeguard democracy. "I extend my heartfelt gratitude and congratulation those who fought with their heads held high despite enduring inhumane oppression in 1975 and those who played a significant role from West Bengal in transforming India into a great democratic nation," Adhikari said at Nabanna while paying a special tribute to those who stood up against the Emergency of 1975. During the pro-

gramme, copper plaques were handed over to these 'Loktantra Senanis' (Champions of Democracy). Also, the state government announced a monthly honorarium of Rs 10,000, a medical allowance, and free travel facilities on government buses for them. "Please accept this honour; that is my humble request to you. It is not much, in today's times of high costs, it amounts to very little. Had these people not built a mass movement during the Emergency, India would have turned into a country like China or North Korea today," he said. Ministers Purnima Chakraborty, Umesh Rai, and Tapas Roy, along with senior officials, attended the event. Members of the 'Loktantra Senani Sangha', including Shambhunath Dhara, Bandyopadhyay, and Debashis Lahiri, were present on the occasion. Adhikari

said the current government was established upon the foundation of the sacrifices made by those people. "I strongly criticise the previous Left and Trinamool governments, for their attempts to erase nationalism, patriotism, and Indian culture during their 34-year and 15-year tenures respectively. There were attempts to make people forget the contributions of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee," he added. "As a humble effort to recognise your past contributions, we took a decision in the Cabinet; subsequently, when our Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta presented the eight-month budget, we included the provision to honour these 'Loktantra Senanis'," he said. Highlighting the nationalist initiatives undertaken by Bengal government, Adhikari said that steps have been initiated to provide land to the BSF for securing the borders and to expel illegal infiltrators. The current government has decided to observe 'Paschim Banga Diwas' (West Bengal Day) on June 20, replacing the date of Poila Baisakh previously announced by

: 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 Shravan Kanwar Yatra is conducted in a grand, safe and orderly manner, while providing a spiritually enriching experience for the devotees.

Operation Sudarshan Shakti-V Tests Security Agencies' Preparedness To Deal With Exigencies At Delhi's IGIA



New Delhi: Security agencies conducted Operation 'Sudarshan Shakti-V' to test the coordination between agencies and their preparedness ahead of Independence Day. The operation was conducted late on Saturday night at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, while the historic Red Fort was transformed into a high-security zone with thousands of personnel and modern technology. 'Sudarshan Shakti-V' was a full-scale counter-hijacking counter exercise and involved personnel of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) responsible for airport security across the country. Security agencies conducted Operation 'Sudarshan Shakti-V' to test the coordination between agencies and their preparedness ahead of Independence Day. Security personnel on The exercise was led by DIG/CASO Babu Ram and supervised by senior officers from the NSG and CISF. The mock drill involved not only the NSG and CISF, but

also the Delhi Police, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), IndiGo Airlines, the Delhi Fire Service, Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS), and medical and ambulance teams. Security agencies conducted Operation 'Sudarshan Shakti-V' to test the coordination between agencies and their preparedness ahead of Independence Day. CISF personnel being briefed on the exercise (ETV Bharat) The joint exercise provided practical experience to all stakeholders and refreshed and strengthened inter-agency coordination and rapid response capabilities in critical situations such as counter-hijacking. Meanwhile, Delhi Police has prepared a comprehensive security plan to ensure smooth and safe conduct of the Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort. According to North District Deputy Commissioner of

Police Raja Banthia, the security arrangements are based on two main pillars—police force and technical deployment. He said, over 15,000 security personnel will be deployed in sensitive areas around the Red Fort. Along with Delhi Police, teams from the NSG, paramilitary forces, and the National Disaster Response Force will also be deployed at strategic points. "Quick response teams, fronts, scaffolding, and several military vehicles have already been deployed in the area to deal with any exigency," Banthia said. 1,000 high-resolution CCTV cameras have been installed to monitor the Red Fort complex and surrounding routes. "Advanced video analytics and facial recognition technology are being used at various locations to identify suspicious activities and faces. Besides, dedicated control rooms and response teams have been activated to continuously monitor live camera feeds," the DCP said. Delhi Police also conducted a separate mock drill to maintain peace, crowd management, and law and order in the national capital during the celebrations. The focus of the exercise was to test quick response time, coordination, and crowd control techniques.

Bihar Man Posing As Fake IAS Officer Held; Property Estimated At Rs 100 Crore

Khagaria: A man posing as a fake IAS officer was arrested by the police in Jamalpur Bazaar, under the Gogri police station area of Khagaria district of Bihar on Saturday night. Following a tip-off, a raid was conducted at the residence of the accused, identified as Manish Kumar Gupta. The operation was carried out by a joint team comprising the district intelligence unit (DIU), Gogri DSP Chandan Thakur, and personnel from the Gogri police station, under the instructions of Khagaria SP Bhanu Pratap Singh. The team found two SUVs with "Government of India" signboards parked outside Gupta's house. During questioning, Gupta claimed to own the vehicles but could not provide a satisfactory explanation for displaying the official boards. Gupta identified himself as an IAS officer and showed an alleged identity card on his mobile



phone. The police seized a printout of the card. Additionally, he claimed to be an undercover agent for National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. Preliminary verification by police revealed this claim to be false. During the raid, 23 credit cards and approximately eight debit cards of

various banks and companies were recovered from the house. The police also seized chequebooks from four banks and the DVR system for the 11 CCTV cameras installed in the house, which are being examined. The item seized from the accused. The items seized from the accused. (ETV Bharat)

Two antlers of a Barasingha (swamp deer) have also been recovered from the house, which could lead to legal action under wildlife protection laws. SP Singh said 31 litres of expensive foreign liquor and five iPhones were also found from the accused's possession. A detailed inventory of the

seized items is being prepared. "Manish Gupta used to swindle people by posing as an IAS officer. An IAS identity card was also recovered from his possession. During interrogation, he claimed to be an undercover agent for Ajit Doval. The police have seized several items, including a Tesla car," he added. Singh said the accused amassed immense wealth, estimated to be Rs 100 crore, by intimidating and defrauding people. A team from the Economic Offences Unit in Patna will be summoned to investigate the entire matter, he added. Gogri police station house officer (SHO) Arvind Kumar said an FIR has been registered naming Manish Kumar Gupta. "The police are examining the recovered documents, cards, vehicles, and CCTV footage to determine the purpose for which the official identity was being used," he added.

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 slo-

gans 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 dona-



tions 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 enment on the two issues of "chhanda chori" and "police excesses" against students. PTI ASK DV DV

Rahul Gandhi Slams Amit Shah Over police Action On Students

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday questioned Home Minister Amit Shah's silence over alleged police brutalities against protesting students and asserted that sooner or later, the BJP leader would have to answer for "this crime". Gandhi said a student told him during his 'Chhatron ki Goonj' event in Prayagraj on Saturday that he has "no options left now". "This is exactly what a student told me in Prayagraj yesterday. Years of preparation, selling the family land, parents burdened with debt and yet, nothing to show for it," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X. This is not his failure, it is the failure of a system that refused to reward his hard work, the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha added. Several days have passed since the students protesting at Delhi's Jantar Mantar over alleged paper leaks have called off their agitation, yet not a single



word has come from Shah on the action taken by the Delhi Police against them, he said. "Instead of apologising, Modi ji is busy dispensing 'forgiveness'," Gandhi said. "Amit Shahji, do not think for a moment that we will stop demanding accountability. Batons and pellets were used against young people on the streets of the capital - and you did not utter a single word. Sooner or later, you will have to answer for this crime," he said. Gandhi asserted that students are the light of the nation, and said he stands with them with all

his might. Both Houses of Parliament remain deadlocked over the opposition's demand that Shah should make a statement in both Houses on the alleged police brutalities during the students' July 20 protest over the paper-leak issue. Most of the legislative business has been on Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge slammed Shah last week for not making a statement in Parliament over the alleged police brutalities on students and said the home minister did not come to the Rajya Sabha despite Chairman

C P Radhakrishnan noting that he should speak in the House. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Lok Sabha on Friday that the opposition cannot dictate which minister will come to the House and respond to their questions, amid the demand from the Congress and other parties that Shah should give answers to queries on the recent police action on protesting students. Earlier in the day, Gandhi greeted Indian Youth Congress members on the organisation's foundation day. "India's greatest strength is its youth, and IYC has a proud legacy of giving young Indians a platform -- amplifying their voices, raising their concerns, and fighting for their rights, dreams and aspirations," he said in a post on X. "Today, when our youth are fighting against a system that is rigged against them, IYC is standing with them every step of the way," he added.

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

New Delhi: Organisers of the Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav 2026 held a groundbreaking ceremony here on Sunday to mark the start of preparations for the four-day trade festival showcasing Indian products, businesses and startups to domestic and international buyers. Set to begin on August 12 at Bharat Mandapam, the event is organised jointly by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO). It is expected to feature more than 700 stalls and trade delegations from over 40 countries. The trade festival aims to showcase India's commercial, industrial, and entrepreneurial capabilities on the global stage. CAIT Secretary General and Chandni Chowk MP Praveen Khandelwal, along with other office bearers and traders, were also present during Sunday's ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Khandelwal said that it was not merely an exhibition but a "grand celebration of the economic strength, self-confidence, innovation, and global ambitions of a new India under the capable leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi". Vocal for Local

Khandelwal termed the festival "historic" and designed to translate PM Modi's vision, encompassing 'Vocal for Local', 'Local to Global', and



'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India), into reality. "The objective is to provide a platform for Indian manufacturers, traders, startups, MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, artisans, and service-sector talent to access markets not only within the country but across the globe," he said. Khandelwal also announced that Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah would inaugurate the festival at Bharat Mandapam on August 12 while Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and CAIT Strategic Advisor Smriti Irani would also be present. Several Union ministers, senior administrators, industry leaders and trade delegations from various countries are also expected to attend the event. Over 40 countries to participate? Khandelwal said

that the Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav is the country's largest-ever 'Made in India' trade event, dedicated entirely to Indian products, services, technologies, and innovations. He said over 700 stalls from various states across the country are participating in this festival, which is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of trade visitors, institutions, and entrepreneurs. "Trade delegations and buyers from more than 40 countries will transform the festival into a truly global business platform," he said. Khandelwal said the festival will unite diverse participants, including manufacturers, exporters, startups, industries, women entrepreneurs, rural artisans, traditional and tech businesses, on one platform. Over four days, activities include buyer-seller meets, networking, investment dialogues,

startup showcases, tech exhibits, and expert panel discussions, he added. 'Ability Expo' for PwDs The festival will also showcase a remarkable blend of India's cultural and economic diversity. GI-tagged products, handicrafts, handlooms, and goods from rural and cottage industries will highlight India's rich heritage. Sectors such as digital commerce, fintech, artificial intelligence, logistics, green technology, and advanced manufacturing will demonstrate the country's modern economic prowess. Key attractions will include a 'Nari Vandan Pavilion' dedicated to women entrepreneurs, and a 'Startup Hub' for innovation-driven enterprises. The event will also serve as a powerful example of inclusive growth, social participation, and the of entrepreneurship.

Congress Recalls 2023 Mass Suspension Of MPs, Says 'History Should Not Repeat Itsel



New Delhi: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday recalled how an unprecedented number of 146 MPs were suspended during the 2023 Winter Session of Parliament and multiple significant laws were passed in the presence of minimal opposition, as he asserted that "history should not repeat itself". The remarks assume significance as they come just before the final week of the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament during which key laws, including the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, are likely to be taken up. "On December 13, 2023, when the Winter Session of Parliament was going on, two men jumped into the Lok Sabha from the Visitors Gallery, shouting slogans and releasing yellow smoke from canisters," Ramesh said

in a post on X. "Simultaneously two others set off coloured smoke canisters outside. It was a shocking and severe breach of security," he recalled. "The entire Opposition repeatedly demanded a statement from the Union Home Minister. None was forthcoming. He remained silent as he is doing now on the brutalities inflicted by the Delhi Police on protesting youth last month," Ramesh said. Between December 14, 2023, and December 21, 2023, an unprecedented number of 146 MPs -- 100 in the Lok Sabha and 46 in the Rajya Sabha -- were suspended, he pointed out. Following these record suspensions, with minimal opposition presence during the remainder of the session, Parliament passed multiple significant pieces of legislation, the Congress leader

said. Citing examples, he said three criminal law reform bills were passed in the Lok Sabha on December 20 and in the Rajya Sabha on December 21. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973; and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. Ramesh pointed out. He also recalled that the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill was passed. "History should not repeat itself," the former The Congress on Friday issued a whip to its MPs in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, asking

them to be present in their respective Houses on August 10, 11 and 12 as "very important" issues will be taken up for discussion. The opposition party has also conveyed to all its INDIA bloc allies to ensure that their MPs remain present on all the three days, sources said. The issuance of the whip came amid reports that the contentious FCRA Bill will be taken up for discussion and passage in Parliament next week. There is also talk of a Constitution amendment bill involving delimitation being considered by the government. In his three-line whip, Ramesh, who is the chief whip of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha, said, "Very important issues will be taken up for discussion in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday i.e. 10th, 11th and 12th August, 2026." "All Members of Congress Party in the Rajya Sabha are requested to kindly remain present in the House from 11:00 AM onwards till the adjournment of the House on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday i.e. 10th, 11th and 12th August, 2026, without fail and support the party stand. This may be treated as most important," Ramesh said. An identical whip was issued in the Lok Sabha by the Congress's chief whip, K Suresh, to the party members. The FCRA Bill requires a simple majority but the Constitution amendment bill requires a two-thirds majority.

Mounting Debt Servicing And Welfare Schemes Raise Fiscal Concerns For Haryana

Chandigarh: Mounting debt remains a cause for concern for Haryana, which ranks 11th on NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index. The distribution of 'freebies', despite the heavy debt burden, appears to be taking a toll on the state's economic health. A look at debt figures since 2014 reveals that the total debt has surged from approximately Rs 70,000 crore to nearly Rs 4 lakh crore -- an increase of about Rs 3.30 lakh crore over the last 12 years. In terms of per capita figures, the debt burden on each resident of Haryana stands at approximately Rs . Debt Servicing And Welfare Schemes Raise Fiscal Concerns For Mounting Debt Servicing And Welfare Schemes Raise Fiscal Concerns For Haryana (ETV Bharat Graphics) Although the state has managed to keep its debt within prescribed limits during this period, the figure continues to rise. The state's debt, which was Rs 2,39,000 crore in 2021-22, climbed to Rs



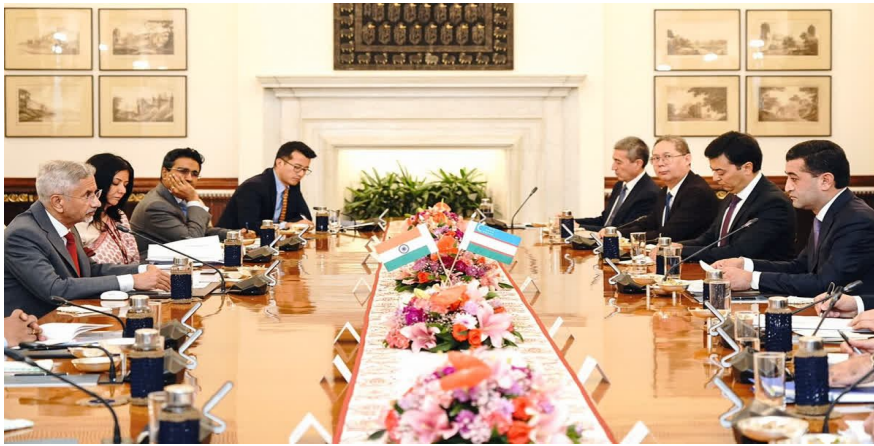
2.56 lakh crore by 2022-23, representing nearly 24.2 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Budget estimates for 2023-24 placed the total debt at Rs 2,85,885 crore, rising to Rs 3,17,982 crore in 2024-25. Projections indicate the debt will reach Rs 3.52 lakh crore by 2025-26 and could rise to Rs 3.91 lakh crore by 2026-27. Why is the debt rising? The primary reasons for the increase in Haryana's debt are debt servicing (repayment of existing loans), welfare schemes (including subsidies), and fiscal deficit. In the 2026-27 budget, the state's total debt was estimated at approximately Rs 3,91,000 . Mounting Debt Servicing

And Welfare Schemes Raise Fiscal Concerns For Haryana Haryana's rising debt YoY (ETV Bharat) A significant portion of new loans raised goes towards repaying installments and interest on existing debt. According to the Haryana budget for 2026-27, nearly 30 per cent is spent solely on debt servicing. Substantial funds are also allocated to schemes such as social security pensions for the elderly, and the recently launched 'Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana', under which eligible women receive Rs 2,100 per Mounting Debt Servicing And Welfare Schemes Raise Fiscal Concerns For Haryana Budget allocation by

department for 2026 (ETV Bharat Graphics) There is a significant gap between the state's own earnings and expenditure. For the year 2026-27, the state's total budget stands at Rs 2,23,658 crore, while the fiscal deficit is projected at Rs 40,293 crore (2.65 per cent of GSDP). What o the debt parameters indicate? According to the government's financial management data, all fiscal parameters -- with the exception of the revenue deficit -- fall within the limits prescribed by the 15th and 16th Finance Commissions under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act. cent for 2025-26 and is projected at 2.65 per cent for 2026-27. This remains within the 3.0 per cent limit set by the FRBM Act. With Gurugram, Manesar, Faridabad, and Sonapat serving as India's leading automobile hubs, the auto-component sector also makes a significant contribution, driving Foreign

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.

Indian-Origin Writer Sunder Katwala Appointed To UK Community Funding Body

London: An Indian-origin writer has been appointed to the board of the UK's National Lottery Community Fund, one of the country's key funding bodies that facilitate community projects through lucrative grants.

Sunder Katwala, founder of the think tank British Future, began his new role this week, which involves the effective delivery of the strategy and performance of the community fund. The 52-year-old author of 'How to Be a Patriot' will work with chair Dame Julia Cleverdon and other board members over a four-year term. "Sunder Katwala is the Director of British Future, an independent, non-partisan think tank and charity," said the UK government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), announcing the new appointment. "The organisation engages with questions of identity, immigration and integration, seeking to build confidence and common



ground in a changing Britain. "Since May 2026, Sunder has been a Commissioner of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and is a member of the Commission on Community and Cohesion," it stated. A prominent commentator on immigration issues, Katwala has been associated with the Fabian Society and Foreign Policy Centre. "British Future works to understand public atti-

tudes and inform debates on issues that can often seem noisy and polarised," said Katwala. "We listen to people's views, finding common ground and offering constructive solutions – building consensus for reforms to immigration and integration policy that can work for all of us," he said. The National Lottery Community Fund awards money raised by National Lottery players to communities across the UK, working with

local groups and charities. It is an executive non-departmental public body overseen by the Secretary of State at DCMS, a portfolio currently held by British Indian minister Lisa Nandy. According to the fund's latest report for 2025-26, it distributed 939.7 million pounds through over 14,063 grants across the country to support activities that are expected to benefit local communities in the long term and help them thrive.

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 reveled 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 is 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 weeklong 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

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

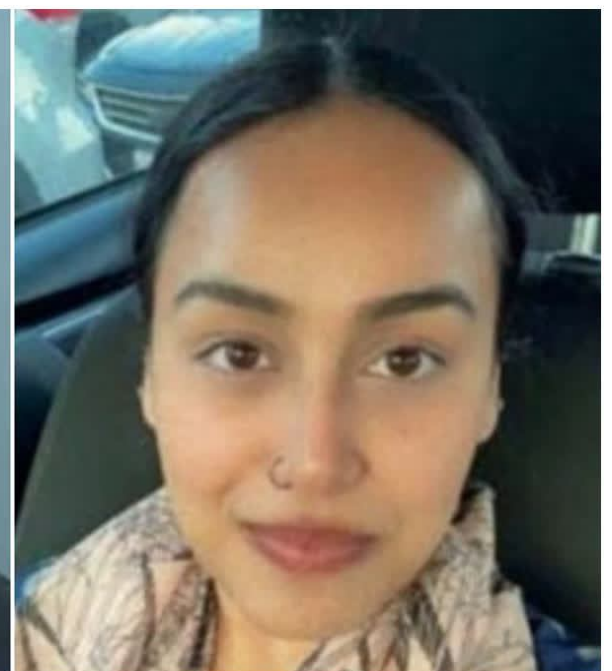
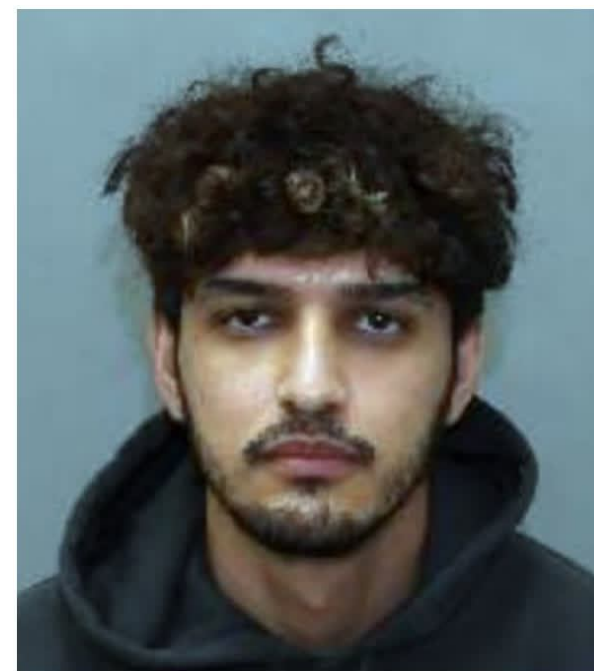


Investigation Unit for the Prevention of Offences Relating to Sports and later produced before a magistrate. Kalra, 27, who transitioned into sports entrepreneurship, invested in the Jaffna Kings franchise earlier this

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

Man Arrested 7 Months After Indian Woman's Murder In Canada



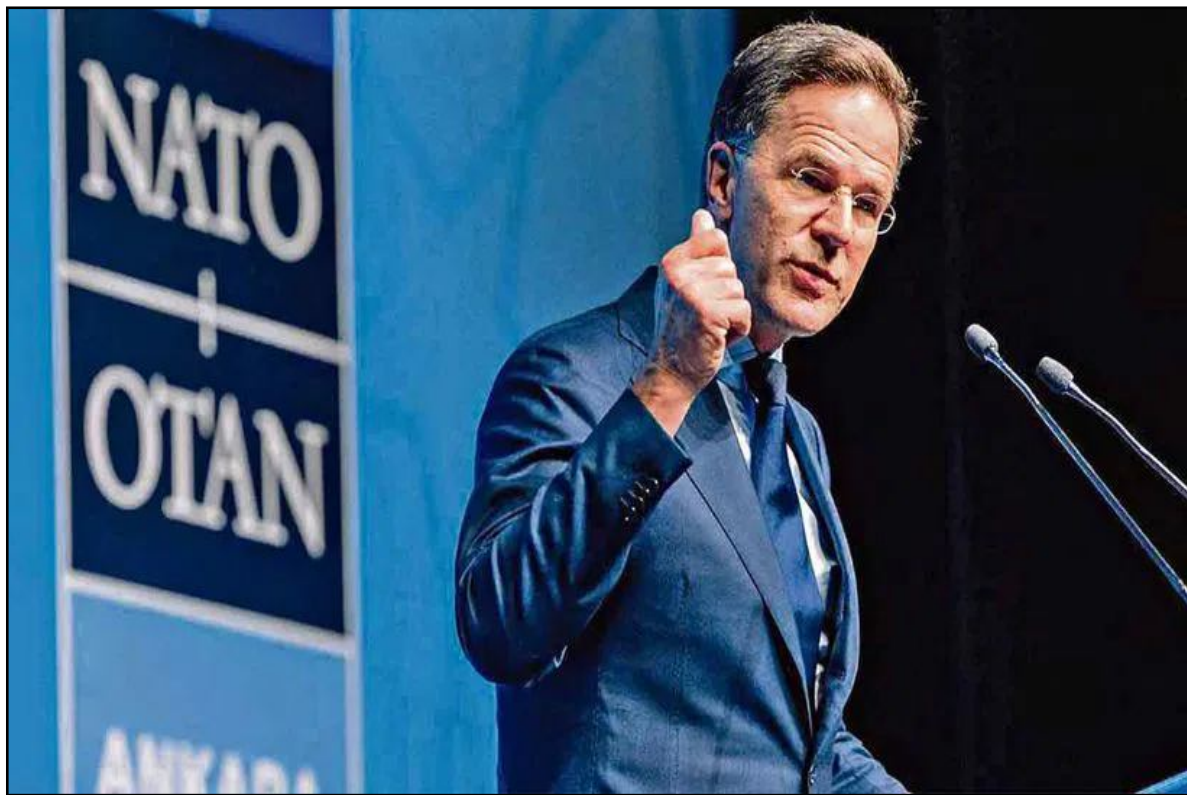
Toronto: A 32-year-old man has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death of an Indian national in Canada last December, local media reported. Abdul Ghafoori was arrested at a Toronto airport on Friday after returning to Canada following more than seven months on the run, CBC News reported. The case relates to the death of

30-year-old Himanshi Khurana, who was found dead inside a Toronto residence in December last year. Police had earlier determined that her death was a homicide and said she was in an intimate partnership with Ghafoori. Officers with the force's Fugitive Squad and Homicide and Missing Persons Unit worked with national and international

law enforcement agencies to facilitate Ghafoori's return without specifying the country from which he was brought back, the report said. After the murder was reported, Canadian law enforcement had issued a countrywide warrant for Ghafoori's arrest last year. Ghafoori was charged with first-degree murder. He was scheduled to appear before the Toronto

Regional Bail Centre on Saturday, the Toronto Sun reported. The Consulate General of India in Toronto had earlier expressed shock and grief over Khurana's death. In a post on X on December 24, the Consulate said Khurana was a "young Indian national" and that it was extending all possible assistance to her family in coordination with local authorities.

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

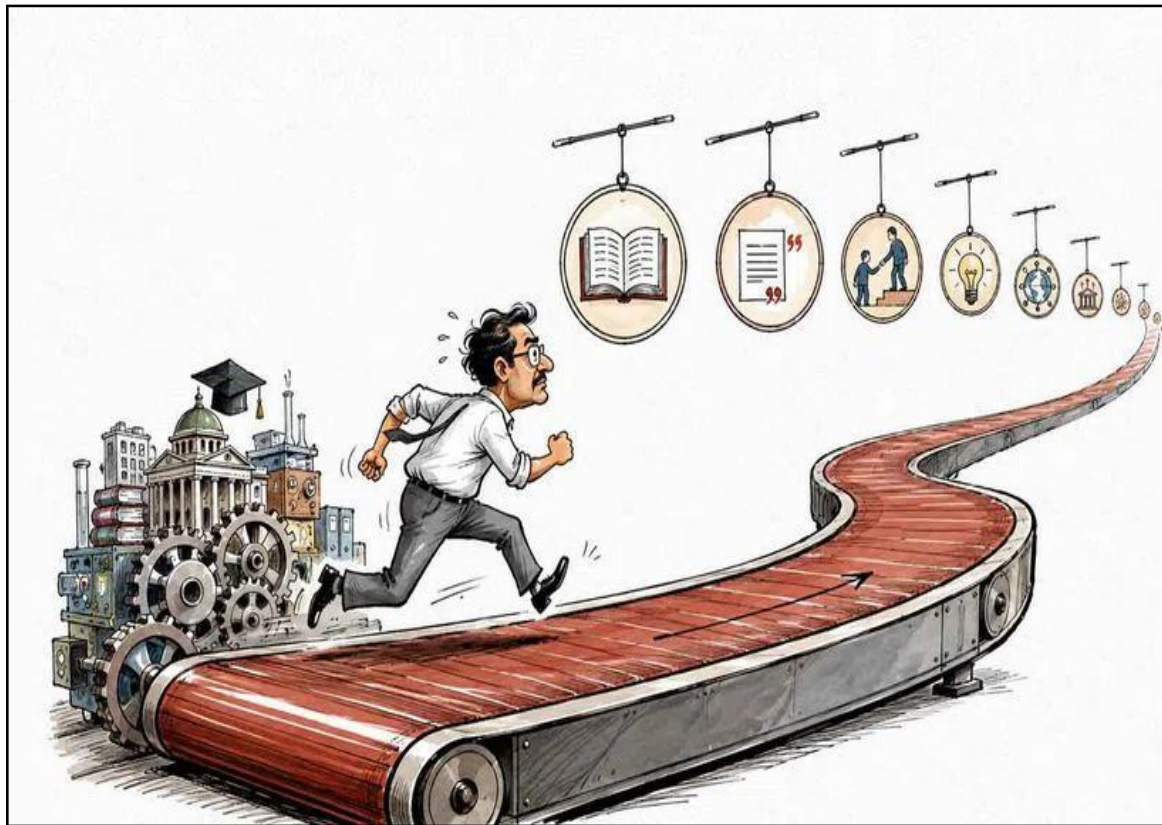
higher defence spending is the price of national survival. By contrast, countries farther from Russia's borders generally perceive lower levels of immediate risk, making it politically more difficult to prioritise defence over welfare. The divergence illustrates that NATO's burden-sharing debate is shaped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

On the clock, off the grid—the hidden health crisis of India's gig workers



On July 3, the Karnataka High Court declined to stay a law that promises the State's app-based workers something no employer ever has: a welfare fund. Yet, in the same order, the court directed platforms like Zomato, Swiggy, Blinkit and Zepto to deposit the disputed welfare fee because, months after the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act came into force, not a single scheme funded by that fee has been rolled out. While platforms and States argue over the paise per ride that needs to be collected, the workers whom the law is supposed to protect continue riding through city traffic across the country. Millions of workers leave their homes every day to work as platform workers without proper, nutritious meals because of how the work is organised. Some skip meals to save time, while others fill up on the same ultra-processed food they spend all day delivering to customers. Skipping lunch to complete one more order is a nutritional deficiency in the making. Workers and MalnutritionThe same worker can be underweight and micronutrient-deficient one year, and overweight with early signs of hypertension the next. This makes malnutrition a double-edged sword as it inflicts contradictory health consequences. According to the World Health Organisation, malnutrition is broadly defined as deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in energy and nutrient intake, encompassing overweight and obesity as well as hunger. The link between gig workers and malnutrition lies in how these platforms pay and organise labour. Delivery and ride-hailing apps largely pay workers per completed trip or order, not by the hour, while offering incentive slabs that reward finishing a set number of tasks within a shift. This structure turns every non-earning minute, including the few it takes to eat a proper meal, into a cost the worker absorbs personally. There are no canteens, no mandated lunch breaks, and no HR

policy nudging anyone to stay hydrated; there is only the next order ping-pong on the screen.

Under that pressure, workers reach for whatever food is the quickest and cheapest—a packet of biscuits, a sugary drink, a plate from a roadside stall—rather than what their bodies need for hours of physical exertion in the heat. The same economics that keep fares low and deliveries fast also keep a rider's stomach empty or filled with unhealthy food. No Marginal ProblemThis is not a marginal problem, because the workforce living through it is no longer small. According to NITI Aayog, there were 7.7 million gig workers in 2020-21. This number is projected to increase to 23.5 million by 2029-30, and 6.16 crore by 2047 (VV Giri National Labour Institute). Still, India's labour statistics (the latest being PLFS 2025-26) fail to capture these workers as a distinct category, leaving a growing segment of the workforce statistically invisible even as it becomes economically indispensable. A workforce that will soon number in the tens of millions cannot be left to meet its nutritional needs on the margins of a punishing work schedule—feeding the people who feed the rest of us should not be this difficult. Since gig and platform workers remain statistically invisible, the clearest evidence of what piece-rate pressure does to the body comes from smaller field studies rather than official surveys. A 2024 survey of gig workers by the non-profit Janpahal found that a large majority worked more than eight hours a day, often stretching across meal-times with no fixed break. This clearly shows that gig work is no longer merely a 'gig' for these workers. Research has also documented high levels of anxiety, depression and burnout among food delivery workers due to long working hours.

A separate survey of over 5,000 gig workers found that 99% of the respondents cited health or mental health con-

cerns linked to the job. A proper meal is the first casualty when pay depends on beating an app's countdown clock. Water comes next, as bathroom breaks cost valuable minutes that the algorithm rarely forgives. Extreme weather, particularly heat and rain, makes it even worse. A 2024 survey by the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union and Heat Watch found that 52% of workers had experienced heat exhaustion and 30% had shown symptoms of heatstroke during a single summer, with women reporting worsening menstrual health and infections linked to dehydration and the lack of clean toilets along their routes. The very industry that has normalised instant, on-demand, calorie-dense food for India's urban middle class runs on workers who themselves eat poorly, and often not at all, to deliver it. Public health researchers have already begun flagging the broader link between the explosive growth of food-delivery apps and rising obesity, diabetes, hypertension and other health concerns among customers. The workers who make that convenience possible face the same risks, compounded by irregular incomes, exhausting hours and no employer to notice, let alone intervene. These risks cannot be offset by the nature of the job itself. Workers often do not earn enough to meet their household needs, have no minimum wage or meal breaks, are controlled by algorithms, are driven by incentive structures, and work overtime without any grievance redressal. Policy on Paper Policy has begun to catch up, but it has yet to address the root of the problem. Although the Code on Social Security, 2025, came into force in November 2025, it has not yet become operational because no central scheme has been notified for them. States such as Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Telangana have moved faster but are not receiving support from platform companies, as seen in the case of Karnataka.

The e-Shram portal and extension of Ayushman Bharat for gig workers are welcome initiatives. But none of them addresses the root causes, such as workers' employment status, algorithmic scheduling, and per-task pay, an incentive-driven structure that makes a rushed, unhealthy meal the rational choice. The welfare boards under this legislation largely remain on paper. Deliberate attempts are therefore needed to close this gap rather than leaving it to broader labour reforms. Aggregator platforms should be required to build genuine, paid meal breaks into algorithmic scheduling, rather than treating every idle minute as lost efficiency. The welfare boards being rolled out under State gig-worker Acts should incorporate basic nutritional counselling and subsidised, healthy meals. Further, welfare funding should not be directed solely towards social security measures such as pensions and accident insurance. A portion should also support workers' daily needs, such as shaded rest points with clean drinking water and toilets at delivery hubs, subsidised meal counters offering an actual balanced plate, and periodic health check-ups that detect anaemia, dehydration and metabolic diseases before they turn into emergencies. National surveys must also recognise gig and platform work as a distinct category so that policies are backed by evidence, not merely projections. Otherwise, we will continue to fix a crisis which has yet to be measured. India's gig economy has been sold to workers and consumers alike as a story of flexibility and opportunity. Less visibly, however, it is also a story of workers paying the price of that flexibility through skipped meals and poor nutrition. A workforce that will soon number in the tens of millions cannot be left to solve its nutritional needs on the margins of a punishing schedule. Feeding the people who feed the rest of us should not be this hard.

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 Umrans 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, Auqib Nabi.

India vs Sri Lanka XI Warm-Up Match: Devdutt Padikkal's Unbeaten 142 Propels India To 347 For 6; Trail By 6 Runs

India are up against Sri Lanka XI in a warm-up game ahead of the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka starting from August 15. The team will be aiming to acclimatise to the spin-friendly conditions on Lankan soil.Sri Lanka XI declared on their overnight score of 363/8, which they had posted after stumps were drawn on Day 1. The Indian spinner took most of the wickets. Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Manav Suthar picked two wickets each.At the end of the second day, India were poised at 347 for 6, courtesy an unbeaten 142 by left-handed batter Devdutt Padikkal. The Karnataka batter was the cynosure of all eyes at the Nondescript Cricket Club ground in Colombo.India are coming on the back of a three-match T20I series against Zimbabwe, where they clean-swept the opposition. However, in the five-match series against England before that, the team suffered a defeat by 4-0.5:26 PM, 8 Aug 2026 (IST)

India vs Sri Lanka XI Warm-Up Match Day 2 Live Score: Padikkal Scores Hundred, Jadeja Scores Fifty Devdutt Padikkal and



Ravindra Jadeja were impressive with the bat for the Indian team on the second day of the warm-up game between India and Sri Lanka. Padikkal scored a century while Jadeja also amassed a fifty to take the team to a decent total by the end of the proceedings. India vs Sri Lanka XI Warm-Up Match Day 2 Live Score: India lose two quick wickets after Padikkal's century Padikkal was retired hurt after scoring 103 runs, but the Indian team suffered two quick blows afterwards, with Rishabh Pant (2) and Dhruv Jurel (1) being dismissed in quick succession. Ravindra Jadeja is heading towards his half-century and the

Indian team will aim to go as near as the first innings total by the Sri Lanka XI.India vs Sri Lanka XI Warm-Up Match Day 2 Live Score: Rahul dismissed, Padikkal heading towards century KL Rahul forged a 96-run partnership for the second wicket while joining hands with Devdutt Padikkal. Rahul was dismissed for 40 runs, but Devdutt is heading towards his century. Also, the Indian team is experimenting with the batting order as this is a practice match, and Ravindra Jadeja has come to bat at No.4.The India skipper missed Day 1 of the fixture after sustaining an injury to his right ring finger during a practice session. BCCI medical team is keeping a watch on him. India are set to bat on Day 2 of the match, and so Gill's return is under discussion. The update will be known in a while when India will take to bat.

Global Tax Reform Talks At UN: India Pushes For Stronger Taxing Rights

United Nations member states have begun a crucial round of talks in New York to create a fairer global tax system that works for all countries, especially developing nations. The negotiations focus on a proposed UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and two related protocols covering cross-border services and tax disputes. The Fifth session, which is underway till August 13, is the first time countries are discussing concrete draft texts for all three agreements. The decisions could affect how countries collect taxes, settle tax disputes and also share taxing rights, with major implications for development funding. This process is supported by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Financing for Sustainable Development Office. This process is led by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with a dedicated workstream advancing each of the three instruments (on the Framework and the two protocols). Working within a tight timeline of nine sessions across



three years, the INC aims to deliver final texts to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) by 2027. Since the fourth session concluded in New York on 13 February 2026, the negotiators have been preparing the zero drafts that will anchor the next round of talks.As the member states are for the first time expected to engage with a concrete draft text across all three workstreams, ETV Bharat spoke to experts to know its impact on India. Indian tax experts see the proposed UN global tax convention as a major opportunity to strengthen India's taxing rights over multinational companies and curb profit shifting. They opined that international tax rules must evolve with modern business models. They also stressed the need for greater information sharing and stronger checks against tax avoidance and evasion. The ongoing UN talks could reshape how countries tax cross-border business and settle disputes, particularly in developing economies. Tax expert and Chartered accountant Gauri Chadha stated that the UN global tax convention could bring a significant change in how multinational companies are taxed globally. "The existing international tax system was designed when businesses had a more physical presence. Today, compa-

nies can have customers, employees and profits spread across countries without having a traditional physical presence, she said.The focus, she added, should increasingly be on where the actual business activity, customers and economic value are. Chadha further said, "For India, this could strengthen our ability to tax MNCs earning significant income from the Indian market and make artificial profit shifting and use of tax havens more difficult. However, it is equally important to avoid double taxation and excessive disputes." "The biggest challenge will be balancing the interests of developed and developing countries. For India, a suc-

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 tailwinds. 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 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 conversations

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.

Vidyut 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.

Vidyut Jammwal - Street Fighter Vidyut 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. Vidyut 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.



DC Box Office Collection Day 2: Lokesh Kanagaraj Starrer Earns Over Rs 10 Cr Gross In India



Lokesh Kanagaraj's acting debut, DC, is showing growth at the box office on its second day. After ending its opening day with a decent collection, the film has recorded a similar amount on Saturday so far. The positive response from audiences appears to be helping the action drama maintain its momentum. **DC Box Office Collection Day 2** According to the latest live figures, DC collected Rs 4.44 crore in India on Day 2 so far, as of Saturday evening. The film had earned Rs 4.40 crore on its opening day. With this, the film's total India net collection has reached Rs 8.84 crore so far. Its India gross collection stands at Rs 10.28 crore. The Day 2 figures are not final yet, as collections from the remaining evening and night shows are still to be added. The film could therefore see a further rise in its Day 2 total. **DC Box Office Breakdown**

Day	Collection (India Net)
Day 1 (1st Friday)	Rs 4.40
CrDay 2 (1st Saturday)	Rs 4.44
CrTotal	Rs 8.84

Data Source: Sacnilk
 DC Shows And Occupancy
 DC is currently running across 3,105 shows on its second day. The Tamil version continues to lead the film's business, followed by the Telugu and Hindi versions. The Tamil version has collected Rs 2.94 crore so far and recorded 50% occupancy. The Telugu version has earned Rs 1.24 crore, with an occupancy of 32%. Meanwhile, the Hindi version has collected Rs 0.26 crore so far, recording 10% occupancy. The strong occupancy in Tamil shows that the film continues to find a good audience in its main market. With Saturday collections still being updated, the film is expected to add more to its overall total before the end of Day 2. **What Is DC About?**

Directed by Arun Matheswaran, DC features Lokesh Kanagaraj in the lead role as Devadas, also known as Das. Wamiqa Gabbi plays Chandra in the film. The story follows Devadas, a man with a violent past who finds himself on the run after a police officer is killed. At the same time, he gets involved in a case linked to stolen weapons. As the two cases come together, Devadas is forced to face several dangerous situations. His path also crosses with Chandra, and the two form a complicated bond while trying to survive the violence and danger around them. DC also stars Sanjana Krishnamoorthy, Thalaivasal Vijay, Avinash Raghudevan, Kasthuri Raja and Aadukalam Naren in important roles. Anirudh Ravichander has composed the music, while the film is produced by Kalanithi Maran's Sun Pictures.