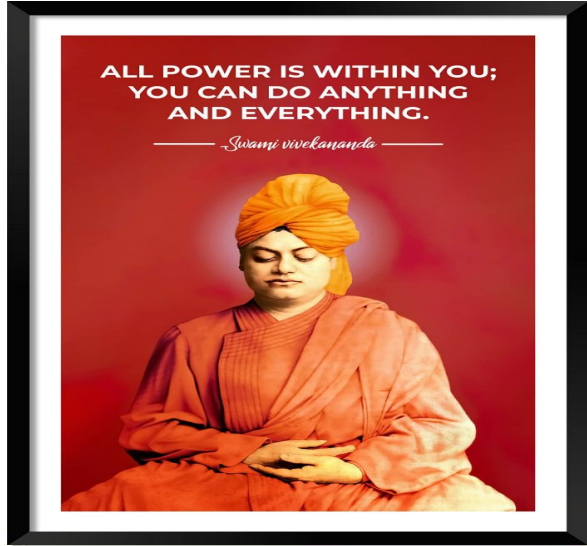
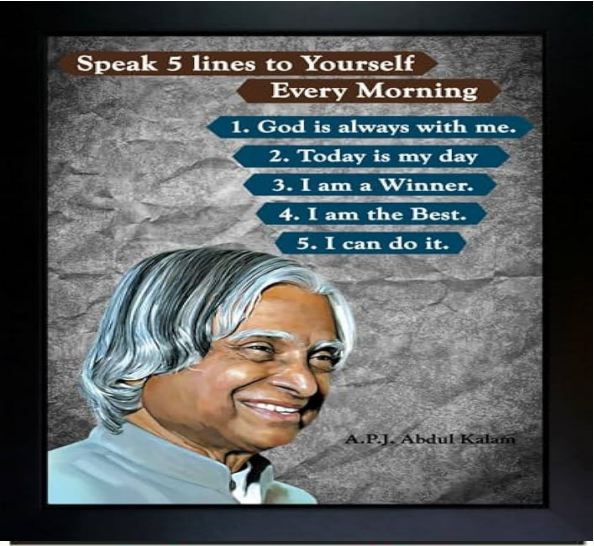
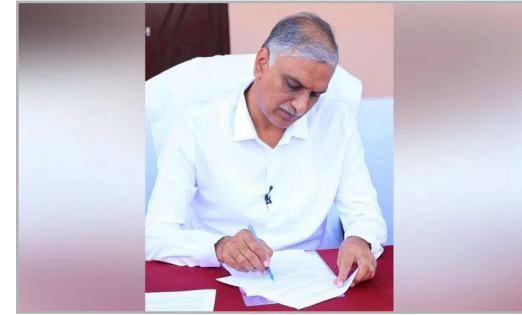




Start immediate pumping of Kaleshwaram water to fill reservoirs



Hyderabad: BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao demanded that the Congress government immediately switch on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme's pumps at Kannepalli and start pumping water to fill reservoirs, to safeguard farmers' interests

during the ongoing Vaanakalam (Kharif) season. In a letter to Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday, Harish Rao said farmers were under stress due to inadequate rainfall attributed to El Nino, coupled with the delay in filling reservoirs. He said this was affecting the progress of crop cultivation. He appealed to the government to set aside politics and utilise the available water for irrigation without further delay. The former Minister said the Mid Manair reservoir, a key component of the Kaleshwaram project, had a full reservoir level capacity of 27 TMCft and currently held around 22 TMCft. With inflows expected from rainfall in the upper reaches, he urged the government to utilise the available water and begin pumping from Mid Manair.

KTR vows to name Narsampet medical college after former MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy



Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao vowed to name the government medical college in Narsampet after former MLA and Telangana activist Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, after the BRS returned to power. He asserted that the party will work to realise his vision for the constituency. Addressing a memorial meeting at Nallabelli on the occasion of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy's 10th-day ceremony, Rama Rao said the former MLA left an enduring imprint on people despite not holding major positions for long. He said the massive turnout for Peddi's final journey, with lakhs of people braving heavy rain and remaining on the streets for nearly 12 hours, had shown the respect he had earned through his commitment to the Telangana movement

and public service. The BRS working president recalled Sudarshan Reddy's role in the Telangana movement and his efforts for the development of Narsampet. He said the former MLA continued to raise public issues even during the last phase of his life, including the demand for Devadula project water and protests in support of students agitating in Delhi.

India Seeks Accountability After Embassy Premises Defaced in Slovenia



New Delhi: India on Monday condemned an incident of defacement of the Indian embassy premises in Slovenian capital Ljubljana allegedly by some anti-India elements. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it has taken up the matter "strongly" with Slovenian authorities, both in New Delhi and in Ljubljana, so that the perpetrators behind such "reprehensible acts" are held accountable. "We condemn the defacement of our Embassy premises in Ljubljana, Slovenia by anti-India elements," it said. Also Read - CPI(M) Delegation Carries Medicines to Cuba Amid US Sanctions "Under the Vienna Convention, diplomatic premises are inviolable and must be protected. We have taken up the matter strongly with Slovenian authorities,

both in New Delhi and in Ljubljana, so that the perpetrators behind such reprehensible acts are held accountable," the MEA said. It also called upon law enforcement authorities "elsewhere" to take note of the "hateful propaganda and disinformation" being spread by such groups. It is learnt that some pro-Khalistani elements are involved in the incident.

Lands Re-survey To Be Completed By 2027

Kaikaluru: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu stated that the lands re-survey process would be completed by 2027 and Pattadar Passbooks bearing the official State emblem would be issued to farmers and landowners. He said that the Revenue records reforms 2026 were introduced with the objective of cleansing and streamlining the land recordpeand added that the coalition government was working with the sole agenda of resolving revenue-related problems. Also Read - Law and



Order Deteriorating in Kurnool, Says Bharath Participating in distribution of 'Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku' Pattadar Passbooks at Kalidindi in

the Kaikaluru Assembly constituency today the Chief Minister issued a Pattadar Passbook bearing the State emblem to a woman farmer Nallajarla Durga Bhavani. Later addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said the double-engine government at the Centre and in the State is driving development at bullet speed and resolved the issue of land allotted to ex-

servicemen who had participated in the Second World War which were placed under Section 22-A and issued them pattas. He said the destruction caused by the previous government between 2019 and 2024 resulted in damage to revenue records. Lands and properties belonging to people who were digitally placed under 22-A, creating disputes. When the coalition government came to power in 2024, large number of complaints relating to land issues started pouring in.

Sridhar Babu to Hold Face-to-Face with People' at Gandhi Bhavan

Hyderabad: IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu Garu will participate in the "Prajala Tho Mukhamukhi" (Face-to-Face with the People) programme to be held at Gandhi Bhavan in Nampally on Wednesday. He will receive petitions and representations from the public from 11 am to 1 pm. The Gandhi Bhavan hosts the weekly "Prajala Tho Mukhamukhi" (Face-to-Face with the People) public grievance program. Held regularly on



Wednesdays from 11 am to 1 pm, the interactive session features designated state ministers listening directly to public petitions and addressing community concerns. Also Read - M e d i c o Priyanka's Post-M o r t e m Conducted at Gandhi Hospital The interaction allows common citizens and party workers to submit

grievances, personal petitions, and local development requests face-to-face with decision-makers. It will also ensure on-the-spot resolution. Minor complaints and urgent issues are acted upon immediately or forwarded directly to department concerned and district Collectors. Applications logged during the session are coordinated with relevant government departments, aiming for status updates or remedial measures within a 10 to 15-day window.

736 KGBVs Approved for Telangana, 26 in Medak district



Hyderabad: The Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday said financial assistance is provided to States and Union Territories (UTs) for various interventions including Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Samagra Shiksha. The Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) is prepared by the States and UTs, including Telangana, based on their requirements and priorities. The AWP&B is then appraised or approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB), in consultation with the States and UTs, as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme and availability of budgetary resources. As many

as 736 KGBVs have been approved for Telangana including 26 KGBVs in Medak district. The 'Education' is in List-III (Concurrent List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and majority of the schools are under the administrative control of the respective State governments and UT governments. The Pradhan Mantri Shakti Nirman (PM POSH AN) Scheme is implemented in partnership with the State and UT governments and administrations. The overall responsibility of providing hot and nutritious meal to all children studying in Balvatika and Classes I to VIII in the government and government aided schools lies with the State gov-

Telangana Govt's Varuna Yagam Seeking Bountiful Rains Begins at Nagarjuna Sagar

Hyderabad: Telangana Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy and his wife N Padmavathi, who is an MLA, on Monday took part in a 'Varuna Yagam' in Nalgonda district, being conducted by the state government seeking bountiful rains during the current monsoon season. The yagam (ritual worship of Lord Varuna) is held at Nagarjuna Sagar on the banks of Krishna river. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will attend the 'purnahuti' (concluding ceremony) of the yagam in the evening. Also Read - Medico Priyanka's Post-M o r t e m Conducted at Gandhi Hospital As many as 108 'Ritwiks' (priests) are performing the yagam for which 11 'Homa Kundams' (sacificial fire pits) have been set up. The ritual is being performed by the priests and Vedic scholars of the famous Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Yadagirigutta seeking abundant rains and that the reservoirs in Krishna and Godavari river basins are filled. A release from the Irrigation Minister's office on



Sunday said, halfway through the southwest monsoon and already into the second week of August, Telangana's two major rivers - Krishna and the Godavari - are still waiting for inflows that will ensure adequate water availability in the reservoirs and irrigation systems. Also Read - Sridhar Babu to Hold Face-to-Face with People' at Gandhi Bhavan Nagarjuna Sagar currently has only 145.65 TMC against its gross storage capacity of 312.0mately 310.25 TMC, 45 TMC. Its water level was around 518 feet, compared with a Full Reservoir Level of 590 feet. On August 9 last year, Nagarjuna Sagar had approximately 310.25 TMC, with the reservoir level at around 589.40 feet - virtually at Full Reservoir Level. On the corre-

sponding day this year, it has less than half that storage, it said. Also Read - Kerala Passenger Dies of Cardiac Arrest at RGIA during Immigration Check An expert committee appointed by the Telangana government on the impact El Nino on July 30 suggested providing subsidy on drip and sprinkler irrigation systems and promoting drought-tolerant crops during the current Kharif season, among others, to minimise adverse impact of El Nino and dmatly 310.25 TMC, eficit rainfall. Responding to the government's decision to perform the yagam, BRS Working President K T Rama Rao has said there is nothing wrong in conducting it, but the government should take concrete steps to provide relief to the farmers.

DSC 2025 Row: YSRCP Seeks Nara Lokesh's Resignation

Amaravati: YSRCP workers and leaders on Tuesday staged protests across Andhra Pradesh, demanding the resignation of state Education Minister Nara Lokesh and a CBI inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the DSC-2025 teacher recruitment process. The protests, organised by the opposition party's youth and student wings, were held at district and constituency headquarters across the state. According to YSRCP, the recruitment exercise con-

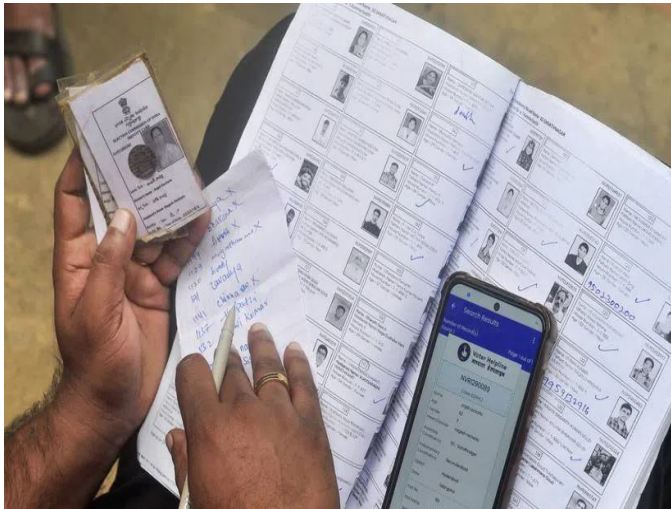
ducted under the banner of "Mega DSC" was marred by irregularities. Also Read Car Rams Parked Lorry in Krishna district; Man dies, Wife Hurt "The Mega DSC recruitment was heavily publicised, but it was marred by irregularities. The Education Minister should accept moral responsibility and resign. The Centre should order a CBI inquiry into the recruitment process." In a press release, the party alleged that student enrolment in government schools has declined by more

than 5.5 lakh over the past two years and dismissed the government's claim that 1.1 lakh students had migrated from private to public schools as "misleading". Also Read - 3 Dead, 10 Injured in Road Accident in Vizianagaram It further claimed that essential textbooks are yet to reach several schools despite the academic year commencing over a month ago and Vidya Kanuka programme has not been implemented this year. The YSRCP also alleged that over 22.6 lakh

beneficiaries have been excluded from the 'Talliki Vandanam', which offers Rs 15,000 per annum per school-going child. They also sought the implementation of full fee reimbursement, restoration of the Vasathi Deevena scheme and payment of the promised Rs 3,000 monthly unemployment allowance to eligible youth. The YSRCP leaders said the protests were aimed at safeguarding public education, government schools and the interests of students while urging

Hyderabad digitisation at 58.60 per-cent, 18.74 lakh ASD voters missing

Hyderabad: A day before closing the submission of enumeration forms under Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls for the year 2026, the Hyderabad district completed 58.58% of the digitisation, according to the status report released by the Chief Electoral Office, Telangana, on Sunday. Though the Election Commission of India revised the SIR schedule thrice, Hyderabad district could not reach the expected target, and its rank in digitisation remained the lowest among other districts in SIR in Telangana. Hyderabad district distributed 47,36,669 enumeration forms to electors and to date, 27,68,347 electors have submitted their enumer-



ation forms. Yadadri Bhongiri district has completed 94.30% of the digitisation and stood top among other districts in Telangana. In Hyderabad district, more than 18.74 lakh electors were found

missing during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, according to Sunday's status report on the SIR. The total number of electors in Hyderabad district was 47,36,669.

Of these, 18,74,641 electors were found as Absent, Shifted or Dead (ASD) voters, accounting for 39.58% of the total electors. The enumeration forms relating to these electors were reported as uncollectible. The window for submission of the SIR enumeration forms will be closed on August 10 at 6 pm.

Top five assembly constituencies – ASD electors (up to 2 pm on 09/08/2026)

Jubilee Hills	1,80,861
Chandrayangutta	1,48,863
Yakutpura	1,42,215
Karwan	1,41,293
Musheerabad	1,40,844

Cyber Crooks Siphon ?102 Crore From Senior Citizens

Hyderabad: Cyber crooks targeting senior citizens fraudulently siphoned off ₹102 crore over the past 19 months, Hyderabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said during an awareness drive on Sunday. He urged elderly citizens to remain vigilant against emerging digital frauds. Sajjanar said prompt police action, awareness drives and timely banking intervention had resulted in a noticeable drop in cases in 2026. Cybercriminals were increasingly targeting senior citizens, taking advantage of their vulnerability, isolation and lack of technical familiarity to siphon off their life savings, he said. Statistics released by the Hyderabad cybercrime police station between January 2025 and July 31, 2026, showed 403 cases involving victims above 60 years of age, with the total siphoned amount reaching ₹102.02 crore. Of these, in 113 cases, elderly citizens lost ₹55.88 crore. Senior citizens were predominantly falling prey to trading frauds, digital



arrest scams, OTP frauds and investment scams. In 69 cases of fake “digital arrest”, victims lost over ₹31.93 crore. Another ₹4.94 crore was lost to OTP frauds, sued victims to reveal the OTP and carried out transactions. Investment frauds cost senior citizens ₹27.79 crore in 22 cases. Sajjanar said extensive awareness campaigns, proactive monitoring and swift police action had led to a decline in cybercrimes targeting senior citizens. Immediate reporting by victims allowed police to freeze fraudulent bank accounts quickly during the “golden hour” and initiate fund recovery, he said. Against 285 cases in 2025 in which ₹71.81 crore were lost, the monthly average was 24 cases. The number has

fallen to 17 cases so far this year. In 118 cases lodged this year, senior citizens have lost ₹30.20 crore. He highlighted the role of alert bankers, noting that timely intervention by bank staff — questioning sudden premature closure of fixed deposits or unusually large o/s revealed that lack of family supervision was a major factor. Children often failed to monitor their elderly parents' digital activities, banking transactions or sudden behavioural changes due to panic, discovering the fraud only after significant sums were lost. Also Read - Medico Priyanka's Post-Mortem Conducted at Gandhi Hospital Elderly woman killed for gold chain, two arrested Tirumalayapalem police on

Saturday arrested two persons in connection with the killing of an elderly woman at Pindiprolu in Khammam district and recovered gold ornaments allegedly stolen from the victim. The arrested were identified as Aithaboina Prashanth, 26, a native of Pindiprolu, and Saraganla Mahesh, 20, of Balinidharmaram in Marripeda mandal of Mahabubabad district. Also Read - Sridhar Babu to Hold Face-to-Face with People at Gandhi Bhavan Addressing a media conference in Khammam, assistant commissioner of police (ACP), Khammam Rural, B. Thirupathi Reddy said elderly woman K. Suguna was found dead at her home on the night of July 17 with severe injuries to her head. During the investigation, police found that Mahesh, who was from the same village and was allegedly addicted to liquor and online betting, had attempted to snatch Suguna's lodged a complaint with Sathupally police stating that her mother was missing.

Forensic Science Backbone of Successful Prosecution: Anand

Hyderabad: Director-General of Police, CV Anand said that forensic science is the backbone of successful prosecution. "No matter how meticulously we investigate a crime, the case can still fail in court without strong scientific evidence and quality forensic reports," he said after distributing appointment orders to 57 newly recruited personnel of the Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) at its headquarters here. Also Read - 3 Bodies Recovered after 4 Youngsters Drown in SRSP Project in Nizamabad "I urged the recruits to upgrade their capabilities in line with the new criminal

laws, which place greater emphasis on scientific and technology driven investigation,” he said. According to Anand, forensic reports form the backbone of charge sheets and play a decisive role during trial unless evidence is properly collected, analyzed and presented in court, offenders may escape punishment despite thorough police work. Also Read - Waqf Board Chairman Calls Rahul Gandhi People's Leader, Hits Back at Bandi Sanjay “I advised them to develop a strong understanding of court procedures, evidence handling and documentation and to uphold the highest standards of accuracy.”

cy and scientific integrity,” he added. The Telangana TGFSL received a significant boost to its scientific manpower with the induction of 57 newly recruited scientific staff. Shikha Goel, Principal secretary Home Department and Director, FSL welcomed the newly recruited personnel and briefed on the functioning, performance, capabilities, and achievements of TGFSL. Also Read - BJP Slams Telangana Govt Over Family Register She informed that TGFSL has been consistently disposing of more than 80 per cent of its workload despite limited scientific manpower.

er, and that the number of cases handled per forensic expert is among the highest in the country. In 2025, 18647 cases were disposed of with a disposal rate of 86 per cent. Priority and time-bound cases are being examined and reports issued within the prescribed timelines, ensuring timely forensic support to investigations. She further informed that TGFSL is equipped with advanced forensic equipment and specialized capabilities in DNA analysis, computer forensics, narcotics, toxicology, and other forensic disciplines. Also Read - Isolated to Scattered Rainfall Likely in Telangan

Upper Krishna floods revive hopes for Telangana



Hyderabad: Heavy rainfall in the upper reaches of the Krishna basin across Maharashtra and Karnataka has revived hopes in Telangana. After weeks of concern over the impact of El Nino, the steadily rising inflows into the Priyadarshini Jurla Project have now ensured there is no immediate drinking water crisis in major parts of the State. As on Tuesday, all the major reservoirs were holding 336.47 TMCft against a total storage capacity of 1,059 TMCft. As floodwaters from the Almatti and Narayanpur reservoirs continued to flow downstream, the Jurla reservoir, with a gross storage capacity of 9.66 TMCft, has been receiving steadily rising inflows. Official figures showed

inflows touching around 27,000-32,000 cusecs, prompting authorities to lift the project gates and release over 30,000 cusecs downstream towards the Srisailem reservoir. Officials expect inflows to increase further if heavy rainfall persists in the upper catchment.

tionalise lift irrigation schemes dependent on Jurala backwaters, including the Jawahar Netteppadu, Rajiv Bhima and Koilsagar projects, providing much-needed irrigation support to the erstwhile Mahabubnagar region, though partially. The Irrigation Department initiated pumping to the Koilsagar reservoir through the Undyala Pump House Stage-I,

lifting about 315 cusecs of water. Simultaneously, the Mahatma Gandhi Lift Irrigation Scheme has begun releasing water into the Singotam, Jonnagaboguda and Gudipalli reservoirs, further strengthening irrigation support in the region. The flood flows may have also marked the beginning of hydropower generation in Telangana for the cur-

The increased flows have enabled the government to opera-

NIMS to offer free heart surgeries for children from August

Hyderabad: Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) will launch a free heart surgeries initiative for children from Thursday, August 13. The specialised heart procedures will be conducted by the hospital's CT surgery department in collaboration with London-based physician and pediatric cardiac surgeon Dr. Ramana Tannashuneni and a team of technical experts.

Director, NIMS, Dr. Rahul Devraj on Monday said that on behalf of NIMS, the heart surgeries for children will be led by Prof. Amareshwar, Head, CT Surgery. He said, "Parents and their children can visit NIMS from Monday to Saturday between free of cost for children who need them." Dr. Devraj said, "Parents and their children can visit NIMS



from Monday to Saturday between 8 am and 2 pm at the CT surgery department, first floor, old block NIMS, and his team. "Children will be evaluated through a walk-in process, with priority assigned based on medical necessity. After

required medical examinations, surgeries will be performed free of cost for children who need them," Dr Devraj said.

Parents and their children can visit NIMS from Monday to Saturday between 8 am and 2 pm at the CT sur-

gery department, first floor, old block NIMS, Punjagutta, along with previous medical tests and old medical reports, if available. Parents of eligible children can directly visit NIMS during the specified hours without any prior appointment.

Deadlock Over Anti-Paper Leak Bill In Parliament Ends; To Be Taken Up By Lok Sabha For Discussion Today

New Delhi: Upping the ante against the government over the alleged police "brutalities" against student protesters, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday pushed for Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation and claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image has been "destroyed" and can never be rebuilt. The former Congress president said the youth of India will not allow the prime minister and the home minister, or any official, to escape the consequences of their actions. On July 20, 2026, thousands of youths across India demanded accountability from those they elected to office and sooner or later, they will get that accountability, Gandhi said in an article published in The Hindu. "On July 20, 2026, India's young people came



together to demand a fair education system and accountability for paper leaks. These young women and men came from every caste, class, region and religion," he said. They were brave enough to demand justice, wise enough to know their Constitutional rights, tender enough to laugh at their own turmoil, and earnest enough to believe that they could fight and win, Congress leader said. The nation watched the protesters in awe, as they

sang, danced, laughed, held hands and stood together, he said. "Their resistance gave voice to the pain both of their own generation, and of crores of Indians who are suffering but have been silenced by fear," he said.

Gandhi stressed that the protests carried forward India's proud legacy of peaceful resistance, a tradition which won it independence and is protected by Article 19 of the Constitution.

"Yet, the government tried to crush the youth's voice with a brutal assault. They were attacked with tear gas shells, beaten with nail-studded lathis and shot with pellet guns," he said. Gandhi cited the example of 19-year-old Sahil Lochab, whom he

had earlier met, saying he had hundreds of lead pellets all over his body. "A pellet struck his eye, likely blinding him. Policemen wielding batons brutally assaulted young women, injuring many on their private parts. Minors were beaten with lathis, their bones broken, gashes and bruises on their bodies," he said. In Bihar, student protesters were shot with firearms, including an AK-47, in Siwan, leaving many injured, he said. Who authorised this "illegal and unconstitutional violence", Gandhi asked. "The Narendra Modi government prides itself on its centralised control. Whether it is a mission to Mars or an Olympic medal, it repeatedly trumpets that the credit is due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Nothing moves without their approval," he said. The violence happened in the heart of Delhi, barely 500 metres from Parliament and both the security forces deployed, Delhi Police and the Rapid Action Force (RAF), report directly to the home minister, he pointed out. "There are only two possibilities. First, he (Shah) authorised the attack on the students -- in which case he is culpable. Second, he had no idea that it was taking place -- which means that he is entirely incompetent. Either way, as Home Minister, what happened on that day is his responsibility, and he must resign," Gandhi said in his article. Instead, Shah's inaction proves that he approves of the on students, he said. "He (Shah) has not ordered any inquiry or even issued a statement.

'Will Pure Petrol Come From Your Father's House?': BJP MP Janardan Mishra Amid Criticism Over Ethanol



Rewa: BJP MP from Rewa, Janardan Mishra, who has often made headlines for his controversial remarks, has once again grabbed the eyeballs; this time, for his statements on E20 petrol. Amid the ongoing debate over ethanol-blended petrol in India, Mishra on Sunday defended the Centre's ethanol policy and asked the opponents, "Will pure petrol come from your father's house?" His remarks came days after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal alleged that the Central government has forcibly imposed the E20 policy without upgrading infrastructure or ensuring that existing vehicles are compatible with higher ethanol blends. Addressing an event to inaugurate new flight services from Rewa to Bhopal and Kolkata, Mishra said that India pro-

duces only 20 per cent of crude oil, while 80 per cent is being imported from abroad. In a video, Mishra is heard saying, "Air services from Rewa Airport are continuously expanding. Flight operations to various destinations have already commenced. In the near future, air services connecting Rewa to major metropolitan cities like Chennai and Madras may also begin, and this momentum will continue. Rewa is developing rapidly alongside the rest of the country; this progress is driven by the fact that India currently ranks third globally in the aviation sector." India set to become No 1 in aircraft and passenger numbers. The MP remarked, "Given the way Narendra Modi is leading the government—maintaining peace and stability—the day is not far when India will become the world's

number one nation in terms of the number of aircraft and air passengers. It is not merely a question of aeroplanes; it is about the development of the nation. Today, if there is any country where the highest number of jobs and employment opportunities are being created, it is India. India also boasts the lowest inflation rate globally. The country is moving steadily towards becoming self-reliant." Mishra also said that vehicles in India can run on ethanol blending, but some people are saying don't use it. "If ethanol is not produced, where will petrol come from, where will diesel come from?" He said a movement is being run against ethanol-blended petrol, with people claiming that vehicles should use only pure petrol. "A movement is underway claiming that ethanol won't work, pure petrol will. Will

Congress MP Venugopal Seeks Discussion On Ram Temple Donation Theft In Lok Sabha

New Delhi: Congress MP KC Venugopal on Monday moved a notice of adjournment in the Lok Sabha, seeking a discussion on what he termed as "massive financial fraud, theft, and embezzlement" of public donations at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Demanding suspension of regular business to discuss this matter, the Congress general secretary said the House must discuss this grave sacrilege and direct the Union Government to institute a high-level, independent inquiry, under the supervision of a Supreme Court Judge. "There is an urgent need to discuss the shocking revelations of massive financial fraud, theft, and embezzlement of public donations at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Recent reports indicate a highly organised racket operating within the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, where bundles of cash and valuable jewellery donated by millions of devoted citizens have been systematically siphoned off," the notice read. He termed the ongoing Special Investigating Team (SIT) probe into the alleged theft as a "mere eyewash targeting only



low-level outsourced staff, while potentially shielding powerful individuals who masterminded this multi-crore embezzlement". "The House must discuss this grave sacrilege and direct the Union Government to institute a high-level, independent inquiry, under the supervision of a Supreme Court Judge -- capable of investigating powerful entities - to uncover the whole truth, safeguard the sacred offerings, and ensure strict accountability," the notice added. Congress and the INDIA bloc have tried to

corner the Centre over the issue by holding protests both outside and inside Parliament, seeking a discussion on it. On Sunday, Congress national president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi respond in the House to the alleged theft of assets from the Ram Mandir. "The people of the temple trust itself, who were chosen by PM Modi himself, are the ones involved in the 'donation theft' at Shri Ram Mandir.

The inauguration was also done by the Prime Minister himself. In such a situation, PM Modi should come to the House and answer why and how this 'donation ow-level outsourced staff, while potentially shielding powerful individuals who masterminded this multi-crore embezzlement". "The House must discuss this grave sacrilege and direct the Union Government to institute a high-level, independent inquiry, under the supervision of a Supreme Court Judge -- capable of inves-

tigating powerful entities - to uncover the whole truth, safeguard the sacred offerings, and ensure strict accountability," the notice added. Congress and the INDIA bloc have tried to corner the Centre over the issue by holding protests both outside and inside Parliament, seeking a discussion on it. On Sunday, Congress national president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi respond in the House to the alleged theft of assets from the House must discuss this grave sacrilege and direct the Union Government to institute a high-level, independent inquiry, under the Court Judge -- capable of investigating powerful entities - to uncover the whole truth, safeguard the sacred offerings, and ensure strict accountability," the notice added. Congress and the INDIA bloc have tried to

Uncertainty Over Women's Quota, Delimitation, FCRA Bills As Congress Vows To Resist



New Delhi: With just four days remaining in the Monsoon session this year, the fate of key bills on women's reservation, delimitation and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) remains uncertain amid the continuing logjam in the Parliament. None of these bills figured in the list of business in the Lok Sabha on Monday. While some Opposition parties have softened their stand on the women's quota and delimitation bills following the government's outreach, the Congress and most of its allies have said they will oppose any move to introduce these bills as well as the FCRA Amendment Bill. The Constitution Amendment Bill that proposes 33 per cent reservation for women in 2029 and a redrawing of Lok Sabha constituencies to expand the House was defeated in April due to failure to secure a two-thirds majority. The FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25 this year and is to be taken up

for discussion and passage. "If the central government thinks they can cook up and introduce the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act Amendment Bill within these two or three days, they should keep that wish to themselves," AICC general secretary KC Venugopal said on Sunday. Venugopal alleged that the proposed legislation targeted minorities and NGOs and said the opposition would not allow it to be passed. "Even if Amit Shah comes to pass this anti-people bill, there is no doubt that he will have to face strong protests in Parliament. This bill is unconstitutional and anti-people. We will not allow such an anti-people and unconstitutional bill to be passed," Venugopal told reporters in Alappuzha, Kerala. The FCRA bill seeks to significantly tighten the oversight of foreign-funded organisations, proposing creation of a powerful new authority to seize and manage the assets of non-profits that lose their

licence. It has met with strong opposition from Christian organisations apart from political parties. 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 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. Between Dec 14, 2023 and Dec 21, 2023 an unprecedented number of 146 MPs—100 in the Lok Sabha and 46 in the Rajya Sabha—were suspended," Jairam Ramesh mentioned in a post on X. "Following these record suspensions, during the remainder of the session (with minimal opposition

Dak Kanwar: No Run-Of-The-Mill Job

Haridwar: The holy city of Haridwar is currently in the final phase of the Kanwar Mela. A surge of 'Dak Kanwariyas' (pilgrims undertaking the rapid Dak Kanwar pilgrimage) is being witnessed in the city. Compared to the standard Kanwar Yatra, the Dak Kanwar pilgrimage is considered far more arduous and fast-paced. In this practice, Kanwariyas set out for their destinations with holy Ganga water without making any stops. Often, groups of Kanwariyas complete the journey by taking turns running or using vehicles. Time is of the essence in the Dak Kanwar pilgrimage, driven by the belief that the holy water must reach the designated location in time for the ritual bathing ("Jalabhishek") of Lord Shiva. There is no mention of the Dak Kanwar tradition in ancient scriptures; accounts only exist regarding legends associated with Lord Parashurama and Shraavan



Kumar. Dak Kanwar: No Run-Of-The-Mill Job Dak Kanwar: No Run-Of-The-Mill Job (ETV Bharat) The Dak Kanwar pilgrimage involves a fixed time frame; pilgrims arrive with a specific time target in mind. Kanwariyas travel to Haridwar in groups using vehicles. Upon arrival, they first take a holy dip in the Ganga at Har Ki Pauri. After performing prayers and collecting the holy Ganga water, they set off for their respective villages, cities, or designated Shiva temples. A unique feature of this journey is

that the holy water is never placed on the ground; the Kanwariyas keep moving forward continuously. Members of the group take turns running on foot while carrying the vessel containing the Ganga water. They pass the vessel to one another to ensure the journey continues without delay, guaranteeing the water reaches its destination on schedule. The Dak Kanwar pilgrimage is regarded as a symbol of intense penance and devotion towards Lord Shiva. It is believed that performing the ritual bathing of Lord Shiva

with Ganga water during the month of Sawan fulfills a devotee's wishes. The solemn vow to deliver the water within a strict time limit distinguishes the Dak Kanwar pilgrimage from the standard Kanwar Yatra. Dak Kanwar: No Run-Of-The-Mill Job Dak Kanwar: No Run-Of-The-Mill Job This is why large numbers of Dak Kanwar processions are seen on highways and designated Kanwar routes during the final days of the festival. One Kanwariya runs ahead while another follows; a two-wheeler often accompanies them following behind. After covering a certain distance, the Kanwar (the vessel/load) is handed over to another Kanwariya. In this manner, the journey continues without the Kanwar ever touching the ground. There is no mention of the Dak Kanwar tradition in the scriptures. However, the practice has gained rapid popularity over the last two decades. Shri mahant Ramratan Giri,

secretary of the Niranjani Akhara, explains that while there is no specific information regarding Dak Kanwar in the scriptures, it is considered a pure form of the Kanwar pilgrimage, as the sacred Ganga water is never placed on the ground. To maintain the purity of the Ganga water intended for the ritual bathing ("Jalabhishek") of Lord Shiva, Dak Kanwar pilgrims run continuously without stopping or resting. In contrast, during a standard Kanwar Yatra, pilgrims proceed towards their destination at a slower pace, taking breaks along the way. The Dak Kanwar trend has surged in recent years. Pilgrims reach Haridwar using vehicles; those travelling in groups often bring two-wheelers along. In this arrangement, one pilgrim walks while the others travel on bikes or larger vehicles. Moving in successive groups, they reach their destination within a set time frame without stopping.

RAF Fired Multiple Munitions During July 20 Protests, 2 Rounds Of Non-Lethal Plastic Pellets



New Delhi: An official record of the police action taken during the July 20 'Sansad Chalo' march by protesters on the NEET issue has stated that the RAF fired multiple rounds of non-lethal munitions, including two rounds of plastic pellets, while controlling the mob at one location near Jantar Mantar, officials said on Monday. The incident has been recorded on July 22 at 1:24 PM in the general diary entry of the Parliament Street police station on the information of a Deputy

Commandant of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) stating the blue dungaree donning force was on duty in the Zone 1 of the Jantar Mantar area along with a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) rank officer of the Delhi Police, officials told PTI. On the directions of the DCP, according to the officials quoting the police station record, the RAF fired 55 non-electrical shells, 15 electrical shells, five tear smoke grenades, two rounds from the anti-riot guns and two rounds of plas-

tic pellets on July 20. Officials said one round of the non-lethal plastic pellets contains four pieces and they are different from the metal pellets that pierce the body. The plastic pellets do not cause much harm, the officials said.

The use of force, especially pellets, against the protesters has become another major flashpoint with the Opposition targeting the government and demanding a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament. There have been two to three reports of protesters suffering grievous pellet injuries during this protest march called by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) seeking resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Union Education Minister over the NEET-UG question

paper leak.

Pradhan resigned on Saturday, and the month-long CJP protest was called off. Multiple police, RAF and CRPF personnel were also injured during these protests. The Delhi Police has said on record that the claims of use of pellets against "peaceful protestors" were completely false and misleading. The CRPF and the RAF have not commented on the subject till now. "Now, since agitation has been called off, and assembled people have dispersed, we would make a professional post-event assessment, as we do after every major assignment, and then let you know the view of the Force Hq (headquarters)," CRPF Director General (DG) G P Singh has said.

Nokkuvidya Puppetry Exponent Moozhikkal Pankajakshi Passes Away At 80



Kottayam: Renowned "Nokkuvidya Pavakkali" exponent and Padma Shri awardee Moozhikkal Pankajakshi died at a private hospital in Koothattukulam on Wednesday after battling age-related ailments,

family sources said. She was 80. A native of Monipally in Kottayam district, Pankajakshi was widely credited with taking Nokkuvidya Pavakkali—a centuries-old and unique form of puppetry from Kerala—to

national and international audiences. She was conferred the Padma Shri in 2020 in recognition of her efforts to preserve and popularise the traditional art form. Pankajakshi began performing at the age of 11 after learning the art from her parents. However, advancing age and health issues later forced her to stop performing. The tradition is now being carried forward by her granddaughter, K S Ranjini. The veteran artist had often expressed concern that the rare art form could face extinction as were willing to learn and preserve it. She was also a recipient

of the Kerala Folklore Academy Award and Fellowship, besides several other honours. Her contribution to Nokkuvidya Pavakkali has also been featured on the official website of Kerala Tourism. Pankajakshi showcased the traditional puppetry art in several countries, including France, helping bring international rich cultural heritage. Traditionally performed in the courtyards of ancestral homes during Onam, Nokkuvidya Pavakkali involves balancing puppets on a stick fixed to the upper lip and animating them with strings in sync with songs and storytelling.

Navy Chief Krishna Swaminathan Begins 4-Day Mauritius Visit To Boost Maritime Ties

New Delhi: Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan began a four-day visit to Mauritius on Monday to solidify bilateral maritime engagement with the strategically located Indian Ocean nation. Admiral Krishnan will hold talks with top leadership of the Mauritian government on matters of "mutual interest" such as maritime security, defence cooperation, capacity building and military collaboration, according to the Indian Navy. "The visit is part of India's continued engagement to strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation and deepen defence ties with Mauritius, an extremely valued partner in the Indian Ocean Region," it said. India and Mauritius share an enduring maritime partnership, and the Indian Navy engages regularly with the island nation's National Coast Guard through training exchanges, joint surveillance of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), port visits and hydrographic surveys. Mauritius has been a



regular participant in key initiatives of the Indian Navy such as the MILAN multilateral naval exercise, International Fleet Review, Goa Maritime Conclave, reflecting New Delhi's vision of MAHASAGAR. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the vision of "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions" for India's engagement with the Global South during his visit to Mauritius in

March last year. "The visit of Admiral Krishna Swaminathan to Mauritius after assuming charge as the Chief of the Naval Staff underscores the priority India shares with Mauritius, anchored in mutual respect, trust and a shared commitment to maritime security, regional cooperation and stability in the Indian Ocean Region," the Minister of External Affairs, Narendranath Modi announced the vision of "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions" for India's engagement with the Global South during his visit to Mauritius in

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India Weather Update: More Monsoon Rain In Store For Several States



New Delhi: As the monsoon gathers momentum, large parts of India are likely to receive another spell of rain, with the weather turning across the Himalayan hills, the eastern plains, and the southern coasts. IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy showers, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds, in several pockets over the next few days, which could add to disruption in some areas. Delhi has crossed its normal monthly August rainfall within the first eight days of the month. The IMD has predicted fairly widespread to widespread rainfall over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir today. While Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjab are expected to witness widespread rainfall in the next five days. East Rajasthan is expected to receive heavy rain from August 11-12. Orange alert has been issued in four districts of Uttarakhand, including Dehradun, Bageshwar, Nainital and Champawat. These regions may see lightning strikes along with

intense rainfall.

A man wades through floodwater after the rising level of the Ganga inundated houses along Trilochan Ghat in Varanasi. A man wades through floodwater after the rising level of the Ganga inundated houses along Trilochan Ghat in Varanasi. (PTI) Central India: Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha Under Heavy Rain Watch Rain activity is expected to intensify across central India. West Madhya Pradesh, East Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha are likely to receive heavy rainfall, while fairly widespread to widespread rainfall is expected across Madhya Pradesh over the week. Heavy rainfall has triggered flooding in parts of Madhya Pradesh, including Mandla and Dindori, due to which rivers and streams are overflowing. Several ghats have been submerged while waterlogging has disrupted road connectivity. Citizens are experiencing traffic jams on the Dindori, Jabalpur, Amarkantak highway. East India: Bihar and West Bengal

Face Heavy Rainfall Threat In eastern India, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim are likely to receive very heavy rainfall at isolated places during the week, while Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand are expected to witness widespread rainfall during the next few days. In Odisha, flood conditions have become critical with two people reportedly dying by drowning in the Jajpur and Kendrapara areas. Rescue teams and local authorities are monitoring vulnerable locations. Northeast India: Torrential Rains Disrupt Normal Life The monsoon is likely to remain vigorous over Northeast India, with fairly widespread to widespread rainfall expected across the region. Assam and Meghalaya are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall, while Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are expected to witness heavy rain at isolated places. West India: Konkan, Goa And Gujarat To See Active

Monsoon Conditions

On the western coast, Konkan & Goa, Gujarat Region and Madhya Maharashtra are likely to experience heavy rainfall on August 10 and it is likely to continue, while fairly widespread rainfall is expected over Konkan & Goa throughout the forecast period. South Pninsular India: Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana To Receive Rain In South India, the IMD has forecast heavy rainfall over Kerala & Mahe, while fairly widespread rainfall is expected over Kerala, Coastal Karnataka and Laks hadweep. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds are likely over Interior K a r n a t a k a , Rayalaseema, Telangana and Tamil Nadu, with wind speeds reaching 50-60 kmph in some areas. Weather System Behind The Rain The IMD said a low pressure area over northeast Madhya Pradesh and adjoining Chhattisgarh was lying over north Madhya Pradesh and neighbourhood today. It is associated with cyclonic circulations extending up to aagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are expected to witness heavy rain at isolated places. West India: Konkan, Goa And Gujarat To See Active bout 7.6 km above mean sea level. The monsoon trough is also influencing rainfall activity, while a fresh cyclonic circulation is likely to form over the north Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas over the week.

Young Rajasthan Artist Rajat Ojha Revives 500-Year-Old Kaavad Storytelling Tradition

Jaipur: Rajasthan's folk art and culture live not only in its colours, paintings and crafts, but also in stories passed down from one generation to another over centuries. Among these traditions is the nearly 500-year-old art of Kaavad, made from a series of small, door-like wooden panels painted with different scenes. A Kaavad is much more than an object created for display, for, within its folding structure lie stories, traditions, faith and the folk culture of Rajasthan. Every time one of its painted doors is opened, the narrative moves forward. And working to carry this tradition into the future is artist Rajat Ojha, from the Suthar community, currently studying at the Rajasthan School of Art in Jaipur. Kaavad continues to be handcrafted by artisans of the Suthar community living in Bassi near Chittorgarh. Rajat, who comes from the same region and is pursuing his education in Jaipur, has been working with the art form for several years now. Young Rajasthan Artist Revives 500-Year-Old Kaavad Storytelling Tradition (ETV Bharat) He has so far created around 35 to 40 Kaavads, depicting subjects ranging from the Ramayana and Krishna Leela to contemporary themes. "To call Kaavad merely an art form



would be unfair. It is Rajasthan's traditional method of storytelling," Rajat said. Its survival, he explained, has historically depended on the participation of three groups. The Suthar community constructs and paints the Kaavad, while members of the Bhat community narrate the stories illustrated on its panels. The yajman, or patron, arranges and supports the storytelling performance. Together, they transform a painted wooden structure into a living cultural experience. When Kaavad Told Stories Before Television And Mobile Phones Contrary to the present day when entertainment and information are readily available through Tradition Materials ough mobile phones, television and digital platforms, there was a time when folk traditions were the principal sources of entertainment, knowledge and cultural education in Rajasthan's villages and

small towns. Traditions like Kaavad and Phad connected people with religious narratives, folk heroes, local histories and the culture of their communities. Kaavad performances were not limited to sacred stories. They also conveyed information about social life, customs and local traditions, allowing collective knowledge and memory to pass from one generation to the next. Each wooden door of the Kaavad opened a different scene and a new chapter of the story began. Young Rajasthan Artist Revives 500-Year-Old Kaavad Storytelling Tradition Materials required for Kaavad art How Kaavad Got Its Name The word "Kaavad" is believed to be related to kivaad, the Rajasthani word for a door or shutter. Just as the doors of a house or temple open one after another, the wooden panels of a Kaavad unfold in sequence. Different characters and scenes are painted on e story of the epic progresses from one episode to another. So the audience gets to watch the narrative and not just listen to it.

scenes are painted on each panel. As the doors are opened, the next stage of the narrative is revealed. In a Kaavad based on the Ramayana, Rajat has depicted Lord Rama's journey across a series of painted panels. As the Kaavad unfolds, thof the Kaavad opened a different scene and a new chapter of the story began. Young Rajasthan Artist Revives 500-Year-Old Kaavad Storytelling Tradition Materials required for Kaavad art How Kaavad Got Its Name The word "Kaavad" is believed to be related to kivaad, the Rajasthani word for a door or shutter. Just as the doors of a house or temple open one after another, the wooden panels of a Kaavad unfold in sequence. Different characters and scenes are painted on e story of the epic progresses from one episode to another. So the audience gets to watch the narrative and not just listen to it.

India Donates Five Peacocks to UN Geneva, Reviving Decades-Old Tradition

New Delhi: India has donated five Indian peacocks, including a rare white-feathered one, to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), reviving a decades-old tradition.

At a special ceremony held on Friday, India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, Arindam Bagchi, formally handed over the five peacocks to UNOG Director-General Tatiana Valovaya, highlighting the country's rich natural heritage and commitment to multilateralism. The five young peacocks comprise four blue peafowl and one white-feathered male, reflecting the blue and white colours associated with the United Nations. The donation marks the second time India has presented peacocks to UNOG. In 1981, then prime minister Indira Gandhi sent a breeding pair from the Delhi Zoo. "The Indian Peacock, a symbol of grace, beauty and resilience, represents India's enduring commitment to the conservation of biodiversity and environmental stewardship," the Indian mission said. Valovaya expressed appreciation



to the Indian government for the gesture, according to a statement issued by the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva. "It's really a dream habitat for them," said Tobias Blaha, Director of Geneva Bioparc zoo, which will oversee the birds' care along with UN staff. In a post on X, United Nations Geneva's office expressed gratitude to India for then to the United the "newest members of the flock", saying "a nod to India's national bird then to the United and to a tradition going back to the 19th century." The peacocks will initially remain in an

enclosed habitat for around three months before being allowed to roam freely in Ariana Park, where the UN's European headquarters is located. The 46-hectare Ariana Park is one of the biggest and most prestigious parks in Geneva. The City of Geneva made the park available initially to the League of Nations and then to the United Nations for its offices, for as long as the UN exists. Peacocks have been part of Ariana Park for more than a century, with the tradition predating the establishment of the League of Nations and the United Nations. The tradition dates back

to Swiss archaeologist and art collector Gustave Revilliod, who bequeathed the estate where the UN complex now stands to the city of Geneva in 1890. Most of the birds that visitors can see today were donated to the UNOG in 1997 by a zoo in Japan. India's donation adds to the biodiversity of the UN premises and reflects the country's natural heritage and cultural ethos, the Indian mission said. The gesture also underscores India's longstanding partnership with the UN and reaffirms its commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation, it added.

New US Rule Refers Some Asylum Seekers Directly To Courts

Washington: The US unveiled a new rule referring certain asylum seekers directly to courts without interviews with officials of the immigration services. The new rule, which comes into immediate effect on Tuesday, is aimed at reducing the time required to process the backlog of 1.4 million asylum petitions with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). "America's asylum system exists to protect individuals who genuinely fear persecution and this rule will help ensure that resources are directed to the timely adjudication of those claims instead of to those seeking to use the system as a loophole," USCIS Director Joseph Edlow said in a statement here on Monday. "Currently, both USCIS and Department of Justice (DOJ) Immigration Judges adjudicate applications for asylum: USCIS adjudicates 'affirmative' asylum applications for aliens who are not in removal proceedings, while Immigration



Judges adjudicate "defensive" asylum applications for aliens who are in removal proceedings," the USCIS statement said. The change applies to affirmative asylum claims, which are filed by immigrants who are not in removal proceedings. Defensive asylum claims, in contrast, are raised before an immigration judge after the government has initiated removal proceedings. "Depending on the alien's immigration status, USCIS will usually either adjudicate the application or refer it to an Immigration Judge, who will then conduct a new review of the appli-

cation. This essentially allows an alien to get a second chance at asylum," USCIS said. "The interim final rule allows USCIS to refer asylum applications to Immigration Judges without first interviewing the alien. This rule will shorten the total time that it takes asylum officers and Immigration Judges to adjudicate asylum applications. Among other reasons, USCIS is making this change to reduce the asylum backlog," USCIS said. "For far too long the asylum system has been exploited for purposes of delay and work authorisation, not legitimate claims of pro-

tection," Edlow said. "One of the greatest barriers to effective immigration enforcement is intentional delay by illegal aliens and the open borders attorneys who represent them," Department of Homeland Security General Counsel James Percival said. More than 1,32,000 cases a year could get transferred from USCIS to the immigration courts under the change, according to DHS estimates. Overall, 31 per cent of the cases in the USCIS backlog could be affected, according to the Federal Register notice.

'Regulating Foreign Funds Sovereign Step; US Has Similar Laws': Kwatra Debunks FCRA Bill 'Myths'



New Delhi: India's Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra has said the amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act were aimed at bringing in more transparency and expected organisations to receive money through a laid-down process. Ambassador Vinay Kwatra dispelled "myths" around the FCRA Bill 2026, which was reintroduced in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session. In a series of posts on the social media platform 'X', Kwatra on Sunday said regulating foreign financial flows in public and political spaces is a sovereign step driven by national security concerns and cited similar laws enacted by the US for this purpose. Kwatra's remarks came days after a US lawmaker voiced concern over the FCRA amendments, claiming that it would allow the Indian government to take control of churches and charities. "The US has had FARA (Foreign Agents Registration Act) since 1938 and FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act) since 2010. Australia legislated in 2018, Canada in 2024. The UK's scheme came into force in July 2025. The EU is legislating now," he said. He said when a registration is cancelled or surrendered, foreign contributions and the assets created from them already

vest in a State Government authority under a provision that has been in force since 2010. "What the 2026 Bill adds is a designated authority to safeguard those assets — and a way back. If the organisation restores its registration, all assets and unused funds are returned in full," Kwatra said. "Places of worship carry their own protection. Where a cancelled association has created property connected to a place of worship, that property goes to another FCRA-registered association of the same faith to ensure continuity of worship," he said. The envoy also dismissed apprehensions that the new law aimed at cutting off foreign aid to civil society. "Tens of thousands of associations are registered under FCRA and routinely receive foreign funds for health, education, disaster relief, research and humanitarian work," Kwatra said. He said India has over three million NGOs, and only a bare fraction of these, 14,450, hold FCRA registration. "Thus, the overwhelming majority of civil society organisations are entirely outside the Act," Kwatra said. He said India first enacted FCRA in 1976 and brought in a more modern framework through amendments in 2010. Kwatra said the FCRA was further strengthened by amendments in 2016, 2018 and

2020. "The 2026 Bill and Rules are the next step in the same direction: more transparency, better governance, clearer rules," he said. Kwatra asserted that regulating foreign financial flows in public and political spaces is a sovereign step driven by national security concerns. "It is an accepted feature of modern governance in many democracies around the world," he said. Kwatra also dismissed suggestions that the FCRA amendments targeted a particular community. "Nothing could be farther from it. The Act applies uniformly to all organisations regardless of religion, community or ideology. Faith-based welfare activities, including religious education, maintenance of places of worship, and charitable work by organisations of every faith, continue to be eligible for foreign funding," he said. The FCRA Bill, 2026 seeks to empower the government to create a "Designated Authority" to take over the management of foreign contributions and assets created using foreign contributions when an organisation's FCRA registration is cancelled, surrendered or ceases because it is not renewed. The bill also states that in case of assets that are a place of worship, the Authority must ensure that its religious character is maintained.

FS Misri Holds Talks With China's Vice FM Hua Chunying In Beijing

New Delhi: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met China's Vice Foreign Minister Hua Chunying here on Monday and discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Misri, who is currently on an official visit to Beijing, also met Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Misri and Hua "reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed means of advancing the vision of the two leaders that India and China are partners and development opportunities for each other, including through mutually benefi-



cial outcomes across trade and economic ties, culture, and people-to-people exchanges," the Indian Embassy in Beijing said in a post on X. "Both sides acknowledged the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas," it added. Earlier, Misri met Sun and "discussed

ways to deepen implementation of the guidance of the leaders for bilateral relations, including addressing issues of priority to both sides and by promoting political, people-to-people, academic and think-tank exchanges," the Embassy said. Misri also met Hong Liang, Deputy Secretary General of the

14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Hong was previously the Director General of the boundary department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry. "They discussed ways to enhance bilateral exchanges at the political and people-to-people levels," the Embassy said. Misri, who was previously India's Ambassador to China, will hold a few meetings with officials on Tuesday, officials said. His visit followed the meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the

Experts Warn Against Nixing 60-Day Grace Period For Foreign Workers In US

Washington: The US proposal to eliminate the 60-day grace period for H-1B workers seeking employment after job loss will cause severe human displacement and loss of highly skilled talent, mostly from India, experts said. Indian nationals are among the largest beneficiaries of H-1B employment visas, comprising 71 per cent of all successful applicants in the 2024 fiscal year. The Department of Homeland Security has proposed eliminating the 60-day grace period that allows H-1B workers and certain other legal nonimmigrants to remain in the US after their employment ends while they find another sponsor, change status, or prepare to leave. "Scrapping the existing 60-day grace period entirely represents a severe regression that directly harms legal immigrants who have contributed significantly to the United States' technological and economic leadership," Ajay

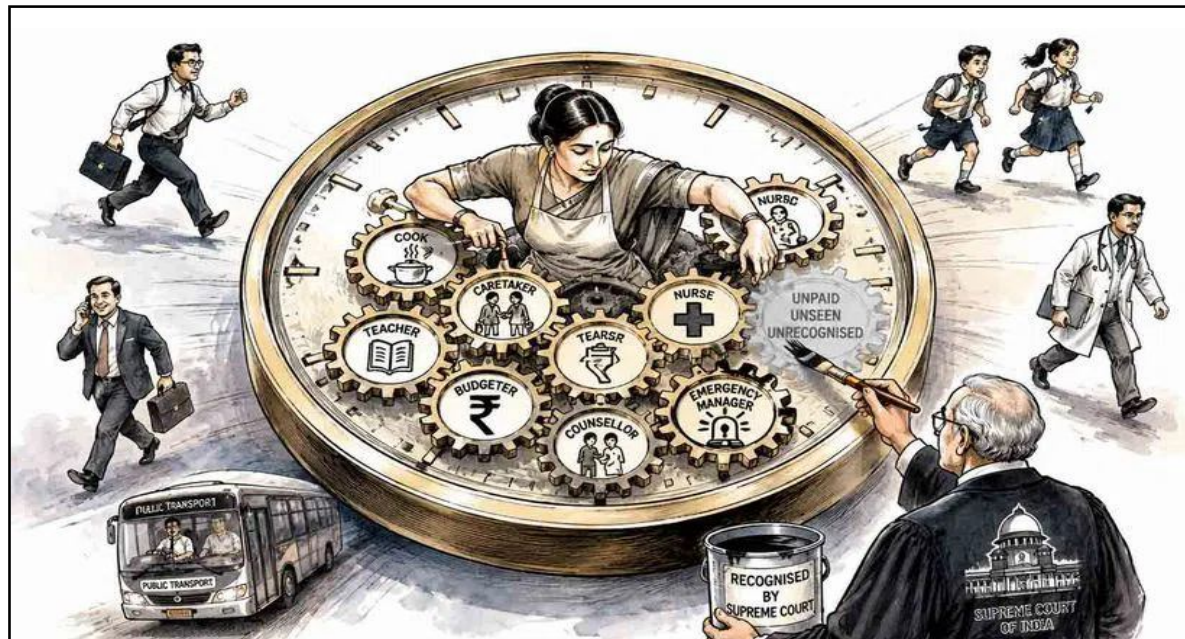


Jain Bhutoria, a former White House advisor, said in a statement. American attorney Adrian Pandev said all start-up founders quit their corporate jobs and utilise the 60-day grace period to file change of status petitions for their new ventures. "Without it, the employee is incentivised to not mention anything to their current employer until the new petition is filed or even approved. That means the current employer could be finding out they are losing a team member on extremely short notice," Pandev said in a post on

X. "This would impact US employers as much as employees," he added. Bhutoria condemned the proposed policy of the Department of Homeland Security. "Eliminating the 60-day grace period is inhumane and unworkable. When a worker faces a sudden termination, 60 days is already dangerously short. Stripping away this protection entirely leaves thousands of law-abiding individuals with zero time to wrap up their lives," he said. He urged South Asian community organisations, business leaders,

and advocacy groups to prepare for public comments once the rule is officially published in the Federal Register to ensure the administration hears the full impact of this proposal. Bhutoria, during his tenure as advisor to then-President Joe Biden, had proposed extending the grace period from 60 days to 180 days, citing the reality of corporate hiring practices, where technical interview rounds and visa transfer paperwork often take months to complete. "This proposal strikes at the heart of the South Asian immigrant community and skilled workforce. I urge DHS and the administration to withdraw this proposal immediately and instead adopt a compassionate, pragmatic 180-day grace period that respects human dignity and protects America's competitive edge," Bhutoria said. According to him, hundreds of thousands of South Asian tech, healthcare, and engi-

Organ donation let life continue



Organ transplantation is one of the remarkable achievements of modern medicine. A patient with irreversible kidney, liver, heart or lung failure, who once had very limited prospects for survival, can today receive a functioning organ and return to a productive life. Yet transplantation has a limitation that medical technology alone cannot overcome: an organ must first be donated before it can be transplanted.

Opinion: Organ donation in India — Life beyond death needs trust Editorial: National drive needed for organ donation India performs a large and increasing number of organ transplants, but the need remains far greater than the availability of organs. Thousands of patients continue to wait for a suitable kidney, liver, heart or lung. Some deteriorate or die while waiting. National Organ Donation Day should remind us that organ donation is a shared responsibility involving individuals, families, hospitals, governments and society. Transplant Law Organ transplantation began developing in India several decades ago. However, the absence of an adequate legal framework in the early years created serious concerns. Commercial kidney transplantation, brokers arranging donors, exploitation of economically disadvantaged people and transplantation based on financial transactions threatened both medical ethics and public confidence. India needed a law that could enable legitimate transplantation while preventing the human body from becoming a commodity. The Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, provided a framework for organ retrieval and transplantation and, importantly, gave legal recognition to death. Amendments in 2011 expanded its scope to tissues, leading to the present Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA) and the rules governing transplantation.

The principle behind the law is fundamental: human organs may be donated for transplantation, but they cannot be traded for financial gain. Commercial dealings in organs, the involvement of brokers, fraudulent documentation and illegal transplantation are

offences. The law provides for imprisonment and substantial financial penalties, apart from professional consequences for medical practitioners found participating in unlawful transplantation. These safeguards are essential because transplantation can retain public confidence only when donation is voluntary, allocation is fair and financial power cannot determine access to an organ.

Living donation has played an enormous role in India, particularly in kidney and liver transplantation. Living donation must, however, remain voluntary and medically safe. Financial hardship should never compel a person to become an organ donor. The second source is deceased organ donation, particularly following brain-stem death. Brain-stem death is the irreversible loss of all brainstem functions and is death as recognised under the transplant law when established according to prescribed medical criteria. Following certification of brain-stem death and the required consent, organs such as the kidneys, liver, heart and lungs may be retrieved for transplantation. Tissues including corneas, skin, bone and heart valves can also benefit patients.

Countries as Spain have consistently demonstrated the potential of a well-organised deceased-donor programme. The United States and several European countries have also developed extensive systems for donor identification, organ retrieval, allocation and transplantation. India has made impressive progress in transplantation, but a substantial proportion of kidney and liver transplants still depend on living donors. The lesson from countries with strong deceased-donation programmes is not merely about legislation. Successful systems identify potential donors in hospitals, have trained transplant coordinators, communicate sensitively with families, maintain transparent waiting lists and allocation systems, and build public confidence over many years. NOTTO and a National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) provides the national framework for

organ and tissue donation and transplantation, supported by Regional Organ (ROTTO) and Tissue Transplant Organisations (SOTTO). A transparent system for registering patients awaiting transplantation, allocating deceased-donor organs and coordinating retrieval and transplantation across hospitals is essential.

Every donated organ is precious. An organ donated in one hospital may need to reach a recipient in another hospital or even another city within hours. Coordination among doctors, transplant coordinators, hospitals, government agencies, police and transport systems can determine whether that organ is successfully transplanted.

The experience of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh demonstrates how state-supported deceased-donor programmes can change the transplantation landscape. Green corridors and rapid transport arrangements have enabled organs to reach recipients within the narrow time available for successful transplantation. The next step should be to extend donor identification beyond major transplant centres. Every hospital with an intensive care unit should understand its responsibility in recognising potential brain-stem-dead donors, completing certification according to law and providing families with an opportunity to consider donation. A potential donor should not be lost simply because the hospital lacks awareness or coordination.

Organ Trafficking The shortage of organs creates another danger: illegal organ trade. When poverty, debt or social vulnerability is exploited to obtain an organ, donation loses its ethical meaning. Brokers, commercial transactions, forged relationships and coercion must be investigated and punished under the law. At the same time, reports of illegal transplantation should not create fear about legitimate organ donation. The answer to organ trafficking is not less transplantation. It is more transparent, regulated and equitable transplantation.

A strong deceased-donation programme can itself reduce dependence

on desperate arrangements and commercial exploitation. Signing a donor pledge is valuable, but discussing the decision with family members is equally important. When death occurs suddenly, relatives are grieving and must make difficult decisions within a limited period. Knowing what their loved one wanted can make that decision clearer. This conversation does not require a hospital. It can begin at home.

Families who are approached for donation must also be treated with dignity. They deserve clear explanations about brain-stem death, the donation process and what will happen afterwards. Consent must be informed and voluntary. There should be no coercion and no commercial consideration. That is the sanctity of organ donation.

Awareness to Action India does not lack compassion. What we need is a system that converts willingness into donation. Potential donors must be identified in hospitals. Brain-stem death certification should become consistent and timely. Transplant coordinators need appropriate training. Waiting lists and organ allocation must remain transparent. National and State registries should provide reliable information about donation, transplantation and outcomes. Above all, the public must trust the system. An organ should never be available to the highest bidder. It should go to an appropriate patient according to transparent medical and allocation criteria.

Organ Donation Day gives every family an opportunity to discuss a question that is usually avoided: What should happen to our organs after death if they can save another person's life? We spend our lives helping our families, colleagues and society in many ways. Death need not necessarily end our ability to help another human being. A donated kidney can free someone from dialysis. A liver can save a child or an adult with terminal liver disease. A heart can give another person years of life. Corneas can restore sight. Organ donation is not about death. It is about what life can still make possible after death. Let us understand

From Film Soleil to Film Noir, Nolan's The Odyssey



It's a Herculean task even to attempt any work related to the classics or epics depicting myths and legends, whether on paper, stage or screen. And it could be excruciating when the attempt is to present an ancient narrative from a modern perspective. That is why Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* is facing criticism, both adverse and appreciative, across the world today.

The main controversy revolves around Nolan's portrayal of Helen as a dark-skinned woman, or a person of African descent, and for distorting the original source material by glorifying Odysseus as heroic and noble, whereas Homer intended him to be arrogant and conceited. This article attempts to show that Nolan has only tried to complement Homer's work by taking us back to Film Noir from the more recent Film *Soleil*.

Dark As Dak Film Noir, as every film buff knows, depicts crime or anything evil in dark shadows, much like in the black-and-white crime movies of the 50s and featuring bad boys in trench coats, hats covering half of the faces and so on. And essentially, the villain or the perpetrator gets punished in the end, to establish poetic justice. However, the screen narrative has evolved with modern needs. Crime is no longer portrayed through dark shadows and gloom, but in bright light. This is called Film *Soleil*. The French word *soleil* means 'sun' or 'sunlight'. This new genre also makes viewers empathise with the protagonist, who defies the law or established social norms, and even gets rewarded in the end.

Nolan, however, uses Film Noir to depict dark as dark and evil as evil without sugar-coating. He has no qualms in showing the Greek warriors as pigs, though he uses the witch Circe to convey the bitter truth, just like Shakespeare uses the clown to convey uncomfortable truths. Criticism that Nolan distorts the original source stems from our tendency to ignore the dark side, even of the gods, who are often shown as prone to lust and evil deeds. The Greek warriors and heroes, long glorified and even deified in

many movies, are exposed as beasts by the gluttonous way they chew and swallow in Nolan's narrative. Circe's spell, which makes them behave in this way, is only to make viewers swallow the bitter truth about the bestiality of those who commit deadly sins in the name of military campaigns.

Her objections to carrying weapons are not found in the original text. Nolan takes the liberty to express his loathing for war. This is a healthy breakaway from the classics, and young netizens today have begun questioning why so many soldiers' lives should be sacrificed in large-scale wars, and why things cannot instead be decided through a duel between the disputing kings, or, in today's world, politicians.

The very opening scene of the film, in which the giant wooden horse is dragged by the Trojans, shows their dark greed that makes them fail to see the trick. The 40-foot-tall horse seems to block the sunlight, and in fact the Trojans' discretion. Augmented by Ludwig Goransson's gothic musical score, the scene helps viewers feel how the Trojans drag their own destruction and death into their citadel. Here, Nolan's choice of both sight and sound perfectly communicates the eeriness of the episode.

The Dark Side The intention of Homer and all classical writers might only be to warn humans to be cautious of sinful desires. Yet evil is evil, whether committed by gods or mortals. To show this dark fact behind Helen's birth, Nolan chooses the dark complexion for her. Dark skin, or the colour black, does have its merits, like strength and beauty.

Without night and a starlit sky, the glaring sun would only have a blinding effect. Lord Krishna and Lord Rama are both praised as 'neela megha', possessing the beautiful hue of dark rain clouds. Helen's depiction as an African woman also shows her strength in bearing all the blame for the ten-year long war and its devastation. It is also a much-needed departure from the archaic association

tion of white skin with beauty and fairness.

Like Homer, Nolan also portrays Odysseus as arrogant and conceited. When the Cyclops is blinded, drunk and helpless, and Odysseus and his followers are safe, there is absolutely no need to shoot him with a vengeful arrow. Even his own men despise his defence of this act as a revenge for the killing of their companions. With his cruelty and arrogance thus established, there is no need for an anthropomorphic Poseidon to curse him with destructive storms and years of wandering at sea. All this happens as the physical fury of the ocean rather than as divine punishment.

After returning to Ithaca, instead of revealing himself to Penelope immediately, Odysseus remains hidden beneath a beggar's cloak, only to satisfy his innate desire to show off his strength and humiliate the suitors during the archery contest. It is we who tend to see the character through Matt Damon's persona, while Nolan tries to portray Odysseus just as Homer intended: vile, conceited and arrogant. Thus Christopher Nolan's odyssey from Film *Soleil* to Film Noir succeeds in complementing, rather than distorting, Homer's classic.

The criticism about Nolan distorting the original source material has its roots in the way we have always preferred to ignore the dark side, even of the gods, who are often shown as prone to lust and evil deeds. In Ramayana, Lord Indra, the king of gods, arrives disguised as Brahmarshi Gautama to seduce his wife Ahalya. Similarly, Zeus arrives in the form of a swan to seduce Queen Leda, the wife of King Tyndareus, resulting in Helen's birth.

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Sarfraz Khan Marks Test Return With Instagram Post And Training Kit Jersey



Sarfraz Khan marked his return to the Indian Test team after a gap of two years by donning India's training kit and also posting a photograph with his father, Naushad Khan. He has been named as a replacement for Sai Sudharsan, as the latter sustained a toe injury. He has been selected for the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, which will commence on August 15. With Devdutt Padikkal scoring a century in the practice match, Sarfraz might find it difficult to get a spot in the playing XI. Sarfraz was last included in the squad during the 2024/25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia, where India suffered a defeat by 4-1. The 28-year-old has a first-class average of 64.73 in 62 matches but has managed to make only six Test appearances for India.

India vs Sri Lanka Sarfraz Khan Instagram post Sarfraz Khan social

media post (Sarfraz Khan Instagram handle) Sarfraz's inclusion was revealed by the BCCI on Sunday through an official release. "Sai Sudharsan has been ruled out of the Test series against Sri Lanka. The left-handed batter, who has been at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru, has made significant progress in his recovery from the right toe stress reaction and is recovering well. The BCCI Medical Team is closely monitoring his progress," the statement read. "The Men's Selection Committee has named Sarfraz Khan as a replacement for Sai Sudharsan for the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka. The left-handed batter, who has been at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru, has made significant progress in his recovery from the right toe stress reaction and is recovering well.

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team travels to Galle for the first Test match, starting August 15, 2026," it added.

Indian team has been under criticism after they suffered a defeat against South Africa in the Test series (November 2025), the ODI series against New Zealand (January 2026) and the T20I series against England recently. The poor string of results has put the management under question, with chief selector Khan (November 2025), the ODI series against New Zealand (January 2026) and the T20I series against England recently. The poor string of results has put the management under question, with chief selector Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir facing a lot of flak. Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir facing a lot of flak.

The BCCI Medical Team is closely monitoring his progress," the statement read.

"The Men's Selection Committee has named Sarfraz Khan as a replacement for Sai Sudharsan for the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka. He will link up with the Indian squad in Colombo before the team travels to Galle for the first Test match, starting August 15, 2026," it added. Indian team has been under criticism after they suffered a defeat against South Africa in the Test series (November 2025), the ODI series against New Zealand (January 2026) and the T20I series against England recently. The poor string of results has put the management under question, with chief selector Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir facing a lot of flak. Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir facing a lot of flak.

India's FCNR (B) Inflows Projected To Touch USD 80-85 Billion;

New Delhi: India may now receive Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits in the range of USD 65-70 billion by the end of the scheme and overall USD 80-USD 85 billion, according to an SBI Research report. The total amount mobilised so far in 45 days has easily crossed the total amount mobilised in 2013 over a three-month period.

"Given the current trend, we believe that the total amount mobilised so far in 45 days has easily crossed the total amount mobilised in 2013 in 3 months! Overall, we believe India may now receive FCNR (B) deposits in the range of USD 65-70 billion by the end of the scheme and overall USD 80-USD 85 bn," the SBI Research report stated.

The report noted that public sector banks served as the primary drivers of this mobilisation. Citing data from the Reserve Bank of India, the report noted that FCNR(B) deposits worth USD 17.41 billion were mobilised till July 17, 2026. The total deposit inflows reached USD 20.72 billion till July 17, which included USD 1.97 billion from Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) and USD 1.34 billion from External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs).

The report mentioned that total FCNR deposits were expected to reach USD 26-28 billion by July 23 alone. SBI Research revised its total FCNR forecast at the end of the scheme



upward to USD 65-70 billion from an earlier estimate of USD 40-45 billion.

"We also believe that a significant majority of existing FCNR deposits which are going to mature in Aug/ Sep'26 will be renewed under the new scheme (gravitated by higher interest rates) and will boost the FCNR (B) inflows," the report added.

"Our preliminary estimate indicates that an amount worth USD 10 billion on a conservative basis, in addition to baseline estimates are going to be mobilised mostly through those economies where tax concessions are available," the report said.

Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) increased by USD 7.6 billion from June 8 till July 17. Meanwhile, deposit mobilisation recorded USD 17.4 billion for FCNR(B) flows, possibly reflecting that the exchange process at the

RBI by the banks was happening gradually, accounting for roughly 44 per cent of the total amount.

"The next reporting for FCA for July is for the week ended July 24 and the week ended July 31, and we expect for the next 15-day period (17 Jul-31 Jul) FCA inflows could touch USD 10-12 billion based on current trends," the report said.

"This should make most of the overall FCA accruals/growth (till July end) of USD 17-20 billion post the RBI measure. The report mentioned that total FCNR deposits were expected to reach USD 26-28 billion by July 23 alone. SBI Research revised its total FCNR forecast at the end of the scheme upward to USD 65-70 billion from an earlier estimate of USD 40-45 billion.

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Stock Markets Extend Losses To 4th Day On Surging Crude Oil Prices



Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Thursday, extending losses for the fourth straight session, as a sharp jump in crude oil prices due to escalating tensions in West Asia weighed on investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 363.66 points, or 0.47 per cent, to settle at 76,391.39. During the day, it tanked 603.07 points, or 0.78 per cent, to 76,151.98. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 126.65 points, or 0.53 per cent, to end at 23,869.60. From the Sensex pack, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, InterGlobe Aviation,

Axis Bank, State Bank of India and Tata Steel were among the major laggards. Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Eternal and Bajaj Finserv were among the winners from the pack. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 4.52 per cent to USD 98.32 per barrel. "Indian equity markets extended their decline as escalating tensions between the US and Iran, a sharp rise in crude oil prices and renewed concerns over global AI spending weighed on investor sentiment," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 819.20 crore on Wednesday after a day's breather, according to exchange data.

"With crude oil prices approaching the USD 100 per barrel amid concerns over further disruptions to global energy supplies, investor sentiment remained subdued as markets reassessed inflation risks and corporate margins," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Nair, Head of Research, Limited, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI jumped 4.40 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index

and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index also ended higher. Markets in Europe were trading lower. US markets ended in the negative territory on Wednesday. On Wednesday, the Sensex tanked 715.06 points, or 0.92 per cent, to settle at 76,755.05. Tcorporate margins," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Nair, Head of Research, Limited, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI jumped 4.40 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index Nifty declined 191.45 points, or 0.79 per cent, to end at 23,996.25.

VVS Laxman Defends BCCI COE Amidst Growing Injury Crisis



Former India cricketer VVS Laxman has come out in defence of the BCCI Centre of Excellence amidst the growing crisis. He has said that the role of the institution goes beyond just the rehabilitation of injured players.

"CoE is not merely a rehab centre. There are bigger roles to play for it in helping cricketers achieve excellence," Laxman said while addressing a press conference in Bengaluru. The COE has come under criticism in recent days as the Indian players have suffered injuries and questions

have been raised over the time taken by the rehabilitation for the players. Laxman further added that injuries are part and parcel of the game, but blame is not the right term to use while analysing the situation. "Injuries are part and parcel of injured players at any player's career. That's why a monitoring system is very critical. And we don't use the term blame, then we will be trying to find scapegoats," Laxman said. COE's injury management programme has been under discussion as Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana

and Nitish Kumar Reddy are some of the players undergoing rehabilitation at the facility. India are all set to play a two-match Test series against Sri Lanka on August 15. Bumrah's presence in the team becomes most crucial for the team considering they have been going through a dip in form recently.

Injured players at present Recently, news emerged that left-handed batsman Sai Sudharshan has also been ruled out of the series due to injury. With this, Sudarshan joined the list of players along with Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Bengaluru since then. Fat bowler Jasprit Bumrah has not yet recovered from the left knee injury he sustained during the second ODI against England in Cardiff last month. As a result, 29-year-old Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler Aaqib Nabi has been included in the Indian Test squad for the Sri Lanka tour.

Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Washington Sundar who are not available for the Test series against Sri Lanka due to injuries.

Sudarshan suffered a toe injury during the India A team's tour of Sri Lanka last month. He scored two centuries in both A Test matches. He has been undergoing rehabilitation at the Centre of Excellence in crucial for the team considering they have been going through a dip in form recently.

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Mahesh Babu Varanasi First Look



: Mahesh Babu turned 51 on Sunday, August 9, but the celebrations came with more than just birthday wishes. Filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli unveiled two new stills of the actor as Rudhra from their much-awaited film Varanasi, giving fans their first proper glimpse of his character. Interestingly, the reveal has taken a more natural route than the heavily edited first-look posters audiences often see for big-budget films. The two images show Mahesh Babu in the middle of the African wilderness, where a major portion of Varanasi has been filmed. In one, the actor is seen relaxing on a bamboo raft, dressed in an olive-toned shirt and dark cargo trousers. He sports long, curly hair and a full beard. The

second still shows him standing against the African landscape, with giraffes and zebras visible in the distance. The images were reportedly shot around Kilimanjaro and the Maasai Mara during the film's Africa schedule. Instead of revealing a heavily stylised poster, the makers have used the actual locations to introduce Rudhra. The filmmaker also offered some insight into the character, describing Rudhra as someone carrying a purpose much larger than himself. According to Rajamouli, the character is witty, vulnerable and fierce, and it was Mahesh Babu's performance that brought those different shades together. Priyanka Chopra joins Mahesh Babu's birthday celebrations. The first look also came with a

special birthday wish from Priyanka Chopra, who plays Mandakini in Varanasi. Priyanka shared a behind-the-scenes photograph with Mahesh Babu, apparently from the film's Africa schedule. Sitting beside her co-star, she wished him on his birthday and wrote, "Happy Birthday Bob. Here's to going on the ultimate adventure with #Varanasi!" Mahesh Babu plays Rudhra, while Priyanka portrays Mandakini, described as a fierce historian and skilled marksman. Prithviraj Sukumaran plays the antagonist Kumbha, a tech genius who is expected to pursue the protagonists through their globetrotting mission. The story reportedly moves across several continents, including Africa, Antarctica and Europe,

while also travelling through different periods of time. The film's narrative revolves around an ancient cosmic artefact and an asteroid threat to Varanasi. Netizens have mixed reactions to the 'first look' while the reveal generated plenty of attention, not everyone was convinced that the stills looked like a conventional first look. Some social media users appreciated the natural quality of the images and compared them favourably with the heavily Photoshopped posters usually released for major films. Others, however, felt there was nothing particularly new about Mahesh Babu's appearance. The mixed response is interesting because Varanasi is one of the most anticipated Indian films in production, and expectations

AR Rahman's Son Ameen Meets With Car Accident In Chennai



Chennai: A.R. Ameen, son of celebrated music composer A.R. Rahman, was involved in a car accident near the Kathipara flyover in Guindy, Chennai. Ameen and the others travelling in the vehicles escaped with minor injuries. Ameen was travelling with his friend in a car from Koyambedu when they collided with a vehicle coming from the opposite direction. The accident took place near the busy Kathipara flyover, a key junction in the city. Ameen and his friend were reportedly injured in the accident, but their injuries were said to be minor. The driver of the other vehicle also escaped with minor injuries. No major injuries have been

reported so far. The incident has attracted attention in the Tamil film industry. Further details about the accident are awaited. Police officials are looking into the circumstances surrounding the collision. Ameen has been associated with music from a young age. He made his playback singing debut with the 2015 Tamil film O Kadhal Kanmani, directed by Mani Ratnam. He lent his voice to the song Maula Salli Wasallim and later continued to work as a singer in films and independent music. Over the years, Ameen has also performed in his father's stage shows and contributed to various musical projects. He has sung in multiple languages and worked with several

music composers.

More recently, Ameen worked on the Tamil version of Chikiri Chikiri from Ram Charan's film Peddi. He also featured in the independent single Bheegi Bheegi with singer Jasleen Royal, which features actors Dulquer Salmaan and Mrunal Thakur. Meanwhile, A.R. Rahman continues to have several projects lined up. The composer has been associated with a number of major films and is expected to have a busy period ahead with projects including Ramayana: Part 1 and 2, Batwara 1947, Moon Walk and an upcoming untitled project with actor Dhanush. The incident has attracted

attention in the Tamil film industry. Further details about the accident are awaited. Police officials are looking into the circumstances surrounding the collision. Ameen has been associated with music from a young age. He made his playback singing debut with the 2015 Tamil film O Kadhal Kanmani, directed by Mani Ratnam. He lent his voice to the song Maula Salli Wasallim and later continued to work as a singer in films and independent music. Over the years, Ameen has also performed in his father's stage shows and contributed to various musical projects. He has sung in multiple languages and worked with several music composers. d director Mari Selvaraj.

Anurag Kashyap Reviews Karthik Subbaraj's 'Boldest and Best Work' Dorothy; Latter Reacts

Anurag Kashyap has given Karthik Subbaraj's upcoming film Dorothy a five-star review, calling it the filmmaker's "boldest and best work so far." Subbaraj has now responded to the praise, thanking Kashyap for his support and for his glowing first review of the film. Kashyap shared his reaction to Dorothy on his Letterboxd profile after watching the film ahead of its theatrical release. He gave it five stars and wrote, "Karthik Subbaraj's boldest and best work so far. So surprising and pleasantly shocking that you can not see it coming." The review has added more interest around Dorothy, which is already one of the much-awaited Tamil films of the year. Responding to Kashyap's words, Subbaraj wrote on Instagram, "Thank you Anurag Sir for your Support and giving Dorothy its first Glowing review. Glad you thoroughly enjoyed the film." The exchange between the two filmmakers has given audiences an early glimpse into the kind of response Dorothy is receiving before its release. The film stars Keerthy Suresh in the lead role. Sananth and Rishikanth are also part of the cast. Dorothy is described as a deeply emotional story set in rural India in the early 1990s. The film



deals with friendship, caste, violence and prejudice. At its centre is an enduring friendship that is tested by a harsh social environment. Subbaraj has said that Dorothy is a story that has been close to his heart for many years. He has described the film as one that explores identity, caste, masculinity and compassion through human characters rather than relying only on spectacle. The director has also said that the story is rooted in tension building beneath the surface. Music is another major part of Dorothy.

Legendary composer Ilaiyaraaja has created the original score for the film. The project marks his milestone 1,540th film, making his association with Dorothy a d in the culture and landscape of Tamil Nadu, but the emotions in it are universal. Friendship, hope and compassion form an important part of the film's story. The tension m as its characters deal with a world shaped by division and violence. The newly released teaser has already offered a first look at the film's mood and visual style. It presents a quiet but intense

world, with the emotional tension building beneath the surface. Music is another major part of Dorothy. Legendary composer Ilaiyaraaja has created the original score for the film. The project marks his milestone 1,540th film, making his association with Dorothy a notable part of its journey. Dorothy will also get an international start. The film has been selected for a world premiere at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival. It will then reach theatres worldwide on September 25, 2026.

Batwara 1947, Toxic, Ohh My Dog, Awarapan 2 & More Movies To Hit Screens Next Month



August 2026 has a lot of exciting movies coming to theatres. From action thrillers and family dramas to horror comedies, historical stories, and biographical films, audiences will have plenty of options to choose from. Here's a look at the major theatrical releases hitting cinemas in August 2026, including Batwara 1947, Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups, Awarapan 2, I'm Game, and more. Cast: Pankaj Tripathi, Pawan Malhotra, Rajesh Kumar, Geeta Agrawal Sharma, Maahi Rai, Vijay Mishra, Sulakhyana Baruah. Ohh My Dog is a Hindi family thriller movie that tells a story about a young boy (played by Maahi Rai) who forms a deep, unexpected bond with a stray dog. The plot takes an adventurous and suspenseful turn when dogs in the neighbourhood start mysteriously disappearing. This prompts the young boy to go on a brave mis-

sion to uncover a larger dog-trafficking ring and rescue his missing pet. The movie ?Korean Kanakaraju is a Telugu-language horror-comedy about a hot-headed, alcoholic young man named Kanakaraju (played by Varun Tej) from the Rayalaseema region of India. His ordinary life takes a wild turn when he comes across a mystical dragon vase from Korea. A supernatural Korean spirit inside the vessel possesses him, granting him immense superpowers and turning him into an unstoppable force whenever someone says the word "Korea". This cross-cultural possession leads to massive supernatural chaos, dragging him and his friends into a dangerous conflict involving the Korean mafia across both India and South Korea. Inspired by Asghar Wajahat's play Jis Lahore Nai Vekhya, O Janya E Nai, Batwara 1947 is set against

the backdrop of the 1947 Partition of India. The story follows a Muslim family, led by a patriarch, Sikander Mirza, played by Sunny Deol, who migrates from Lucknow to Lahore and is allotted a large house. However, they discover that the elderly Hindu owner, Mai, played by Shabana Azmi, still lives there and firmly refuses to leave her ancestral home. While the family's patriarch tries to deal with this unexpected situation with courage and compassion, a local antagonist named Yaqoob Pehalwan (played by Abhimanyu Singh) seeks to stoke communal hatred to forcefully evict the old woman. Amidst the surrounding violence, fear, and chaos of 1947, the narrative focuses on the unlikely emotional bond and shared humanity that grows between the Muslim family and the elderly Hindu woman as they choose coexistence over