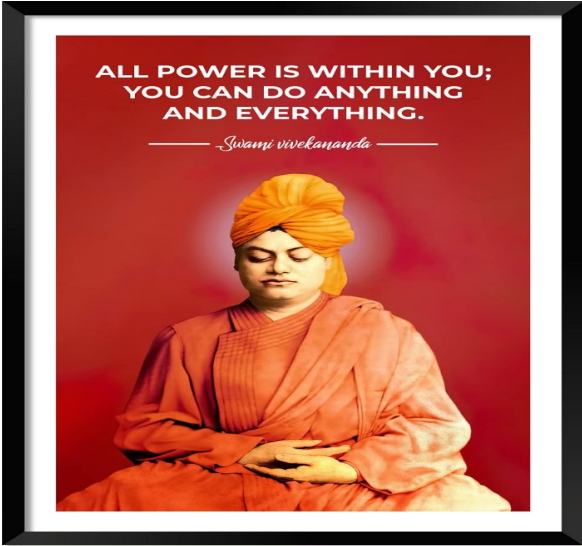
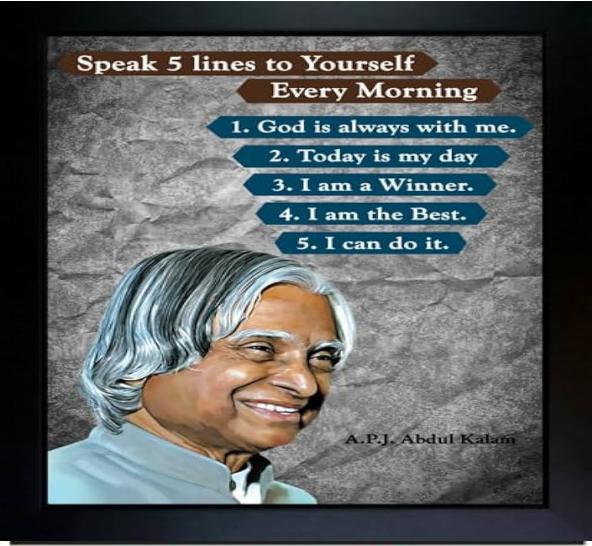




Revanth Reddy Pays Rich Tributes to Rajiv Gandhi



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna awardee Rajiv Gandhi on the occasion of his birth anniversary. The Chief Minister said that the architect of modern India Rajiv

Gandhi's birth anniversary - "Sadbhavana Diwas" is observed with a message of fostering peace, brotherhood, communal harmony, and unity across the nation. Rajiv Gandhi is a great source of inspiration for all people. Let us draw

inspiration from Rajiv Gandhi's ideals—embracing the spirit that 'Unity is our strength and harmony is our progress'—and strive to build a strong India founded on peace, brotherhood, and equality," he asserted.

Amit Shah to Chair Meeting of Southern CMs in Tamil Nadu



Hyderabad: Mahabubabad Superintendent of Police, P Shabarish ordered a comprehensive probe into the highhandedness of the Inspector Rag hupathi Reddy during students protest in front of the College office on Wednesday demanding withdrawal of G.O. 97 shakti scheme merger. An

Additional Superintendent of Police rank officer would probe into the incident. In a short video, Shabarish said that instructions were issued to Reddy to stay away from discharging duty till the completion of the inquiry against him. Necessary action taken against the Inspector after receiving the inquiry report, he

said. The district police faced sharp criticism when the Inspector caught hold of a student's neck for a while and later dragged him during the protest and refused to leave him. A video of the incident went viral on the social media platform. This prompted the police officials to order a probe into the incident.

AP Assembly Pays Tributes To Former Leaders On Day 4



Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly commenced its proceedings on the fourth day on Thursday under the chairmanship of Speaker Chin takayala Ayy anna Patrudu. Soon after the House convened, the Speaker moved condolence resolutions to mourn the demise of several former MLAs and prominent leaders. The AP Legislative Assembly

and Legislative Council monsoon sessions are set to conclude today with both Houses to witness the passing of bills and the presentation of reports. Also Read - Nandyal: Man Dies On The Same Day Of His Wife's Death The Assembly expressed deep condolences on the passing of Palamaner former MLA and freedom fighter P. Chinnarajan, Kalyandurg former

MLA Unnam Hanumanth Rao Chowdary, former Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh, Nandendla Bhaskar Rao, Bhimili former MLA and former minister Raja Sagi Deviprasanna Appalanarasimha Raju, Pathapatnam former MLA Tukka Pagadala Amma, former MLA and former minister from Prakasam and Bapatla districts Gade Venkata Reddy, Kovvur former MLA and prominent leader G.S. Rao, and Prathipadu former MLA and former minister Mudragada Padmanabham. Members observed a moment of silence to honour their contributions to public service before the House adjourned for some time.

Revanth Reddy Embarks on 10-Day Visit to UK, US

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday departed for London from New Delhi, kicking-off a 10-day tour of the UK and US. Congress MP Mallu Ravi and the state government's advisor on protocol affairs Harkara Venugopal saw him off at the New Delhi airport in the early hours of Thursday, party sources said. Reddy was in Delhi to attend the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on August 19. During his UK leg, Reddy will visit Blavatnik School of



Governance, Oxford University on August 21 and attend anhis UK leg, Reddy will representation at Emirates Stadium. Also Read - Tukaramgate Police Recover Rs 3 Lakh Gold Bag, Track & Return It To Deaf Siblings On August 22, he will interact with a Cambridge team and is scheduled to visit

the Senate House, University of London Campus and the London Business School. On August 24, he will tour the campuses of Harvard University and MIT in the US. The CM would visit the North-Eastern campus and meet with a team of Virginia Tech University in Boston on August 25. He will address a 'Meet and Greet' event of Indian Overseas Congress (USA) in New York on August 26. He will leave New York on August 29 and arrive in Hyderabad on August 30.

Naidu Seeks Closer Ties Among South States At Zonal Meet

Mahabalipuram: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday called for greater cooperation among southern states and urged them to emerge as a key economic force in building Viksit Bharat. Speaking at the Southern Zonal Council meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Mahabalipuram, Naidu highlighted the development of Andhra Pradesh and other southern states. Chief Ministers of Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry also attended the meeting. Naidu stressed that stronger coordination between the



Centre and southern states would help in faster development and addressing common challenges. Also Read - Nandyal: Man Dies On The Same Day Of His Wife's Death He proposed a bullet train corridor connecting Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and suggested running the bullet train through Kuppam and called for a

transport network connecting Amaravati, Bengaluru and Chennai. He also suggested setting up a common logistics network and dry ports across southern states and called for linking the southern power grid with the national grid. Speaking further, he suggested a joint consortium of universities and skilling insti-

tutions from southern states and setting up a Mutual Aid Force for inter-state cooperation during disasters. Also Read - AP Govt Issues Orders To Conduct Elections For nomic force in building a 100 Urban Local Bodies Chandrababu Naidu called for a common spiritual tourism circuit connecting Tirupati with Kashi, Ayodhya and Char Dham. He also pitched for a \$10 trillion southern economy by 2047, saying the region must emerge as a key economic force in building a Viksit Bharat. Naidu said southern states currently contribute around 31% to India's GDP and that development of the region

is possible only through coordination. Also Read - AP Assembly Pays Tributes To Former Leaders On Day 4 Highlighting Andhra Pradesh's priorities, the CM said projects like Polavaram, the South Coast Railway Zone and the capital Amaravati are taking shape with the Centre's support. He added that Amaravati has secured its legal status as the capital. Naidu urged the Centre to expedite approvals for the Dugarajapatnam Port and refinery proposals, and to give clearance for Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada Metro Rail projects and the

Oppose Moves Impeding Navigation Freedom



New Delhi: India and Japan on Thursday sealed a pact to bolster their maritime security ties and vowed to synergise military cooperation to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific, an assertion that came amid China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the region. In their talks, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Japanese counterpart Shinjiro Koizumi expressed their strong opposition to any unilateral actions that impede freedom of navigation and overflight, as well as attempts to change the status-quo by force or coercion. Also Read - Glacier

Melt Reveals Bodies Of Two Hikers Missing For Decades In Swiss Alps The remarks are seen as directed against China as both India and Japan are concerned over Beijing's offensive military posturing in South and East China seas. A joint statement on Singh-Koizumi said they affirmed their commitment, to further deepen defence cooperation to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific. "The two ministers concurred on the importance of sharing assessments of the regional and international security environment between the two countries at a time of heightened

global tensions," it said. Also Read - US Religious Freedom Body Calls for RSS Sanctions, Opposes High-Level Talks "They expressed their strong opposition to any unilateral actions that impede freedom of navigation and overflight, as well as to any attempts to change the status-quo by force or coercion," it noted without directly naming any country. The two defence ministers signed the Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA) on maritime security cooperation that provides a framework for further advancing ties in the field of maritime security.

Irregularities in DSC Recruitment Process Clearly Evident

Tadepalli: Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday alleged that irregularities in the District Selection Committee (DSC) recruitment process were clearly evident and accused the state government of refusing to acknowledge the alleged mistakes. Jagan alleged that the government is willing to discuss the issue in the Legislative Assembly but is avoiding a discussion in the Legislative Council, where Opposition members could raise questions over the alleged irregularities. Also Read - Tukaramgate Police Recover Rs 3 Lakh Gold Bag, Track & Return It To Deaf Siblings He claimed that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was apprehensive about the Opposition highlighting the alleged mistakes in the recruitment process. Jagan also questioned Education Minister Nara Lokesh's claim that there was nothing wrong with assigning both the responsibility of preparing the DSC question paper and conducting the



examinations to the same officer. "In the history of AP DSC recruitments, the two responsibilities were never entrusted to the same individual. Assigning both responsibilities to one person laid the foundation for the irregularities," Jagan said. Also Read - Sajjanar Inspects KBR One-Way Traffic like Ordinary Citizen on Bike The allegations come amid a broader campaign over the conduct of the DSC recruitment examination and appointments in the state. YSRCP leaders have questioned how the DSC examination was conducted without a designated convenor and have sought clarity over the appointment of a State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) outsourcing

employee who subsequently secured a district-top rank. Also Read - Probe Ordered into Inspector's Action during Students' Protest in Mahabubabad The Opposition has also pointed to what it described as contradictions in explanations regarding the employee's appointment and has demanded a detailed inquiry into the matter. YSRCP leaders have further sought a comprehensive investigation into appointments made under the sports quota and the issuance of sports certificates. They have also raised allegations that lakhs of rupees were demanded from candidates for jobs, referring to audio recordings that had surfaced in connection with the allegations.

BRSV protests proposed merger of polytechnic education with Young India Skill University

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtira Samithi Vidyarthi (BRSV) wing staged a protest at the Masab Tank Polytechnic College on Thursday opposing the State government's proposed merger of polytechnic education with Young India Skill University (YISU). They demanded that the government withdraw the proposed changes and protect the interests of polytechnic students. Police detained the protesters and shifted them to the Asif Nagar police station. Speaking to mediapersons, BRSV State president Gellu Srinivas Yadav alleged that the government was attempting to weaken polytechnic education by introducing GO No. 97 and linking it to the

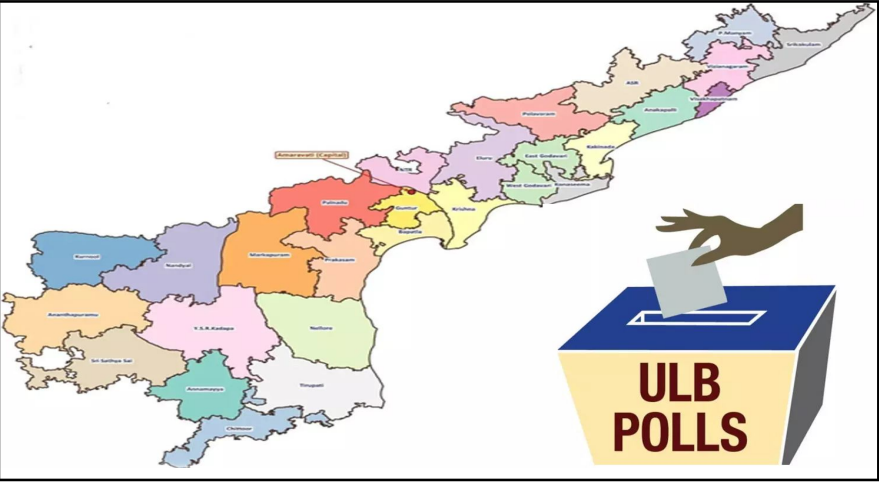


SHAKTI scheme. He said students who complete Class X and pursue polytechnic courses have opportunities to secure employment soon after completing their studies. He said the proposed changes could undermine those opportunities and also deprive students of fee reimbursement. The BRSV State president alleged that the government was seeking to weaken polytechnic education by introducing the Young India Skill University model. He questioned the rationale behind treating

polytechnic students on the lines of ITI students just because they were not interested in pursuing courses at the Skill University. He also condemned the government's attempt to suppress the voices of students using the police.

AP Govt Issues Orders To Conduct Elections For 100 Urban Local Bodies

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government issued formal orders on Wednesday to initiate the preliminary process for elections to 100 urban local bodies in the state. With this, the official groundwork for the municipal election process has begun in the state. Giving priority to the issue of reservations in the municipal polls, the government has decided to implement 33.33 per cent reservation for BCs to ensure greater representation in urban local body elections as well. Also Read - Nandyal: Man Dies On The Same Day Of His Wife's Death The tenure of governing bodies in 87 municipalities and urban local bodies has already ended, while the term of governing bodies in another 13 urban local bodies is set to expire in November. Against this backdrop, the government has directed officials to expedite arrangements



for conducting elections in areas where the terms have expired. The government has made it clear that it will proceed in coordination with the Commission. It has ordered that all governing bodies ending in November, the government's decision to bring all 100 urban local bodies in the state into the election process at one go has gained significance. The State Assembly passed the Municipal Laws (Fourth Amendment) Bill, paving the way for direct elections to mayors and voter list preparation, ward-wise procedures, finalization of ward reservations, and preliminary steps related to election notifications be completed within the stipulated time. Also Read - Naidu Seeks Closer Ties Among South States At Zonal Meet With the terms of 13 more municipal gov-

erning bodies ending in November, the government's decision to bring all 100 urban local bodies in the state into the election process at one go has gained significance. The State Assembly passed the Municipal Laws (Fourth Amendment) Bill, paving the way for direct elections to mayors and municipal chairpersons. The amendment would replace the existing indirect election system.

60,000 Applns Received For Indiramma LIG Housing Scheme In CURE Area

Hyderabad: Over 60,000 families have applied for the Indiramma LIG Housing Scheme in the Core Urban Region of Economy (CURE) area, the government said on Saturday. The draw of lots to select beneficiaries for 7,340 houses will be held on August 20. The last date to apply for another 1,920 homes will end on September 3. The call centre number 040-24603572 can be contacted to address any queries regarding the 'Indiramma Houses'. "Tenders for the construction of houses have already been floated and measures are being taken to commence work in the first week of September," said V.P. Gautam, Telangana Housing Board secretary. Also Read - H-City Project: Rs.1,090 Crore Plan to Ease Traffic Around KBR Park For the Indiramma LIG Housing Scheme, applicants need to pay an application fee of Rs 100 and an earnest money deposit (EMD) of Rs 10,000, which will be adjusted upon allotment or refunded otherwise. Those eligible must have annual family income



below Rs 6 lakh, and not possess a house, flat or plot within Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits. Allotment of flats is through a lottery process. Each 1 BHK flat will have a built-up area of 528 sq ft with beneficiary contribution being Rs 6 lakh and the government will provide a subsidy of Rs 5 lakh. The beneficiary will be the owner of undivided land share of up to 30 square yards. As a pilot project, announced that 3,192 Indiramma 2BHK houses will be allotted to beneficiaries by the end of September. According to Hyderabad district collector Dr Priyanka Ala, 2,22,837 new ration cards were sanctioned in the district, while 1,85,946 members had been added to existing cards. She said proposals were submitted to the government for repairing 590 dilapidated 10-storey Indiramma LIG Housing Towers will initially be built in Hayathnagar, Goshamahall, Musheerabad and Bandlaguda. Also Read - Short Spells of Rain Likely in Several Telangana Districts 3,192 Indiramma Houses to be allotted to beneficiaries by Sept

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad district administration announced that 3,192 Indiramma 2BHK houses will be allotted to beneficiaries by the end of September. According to Hyderabad district collector Dr Priyanka Ala, 2,22,837 new ration cards were sanctioned in the district, while 1,85,946 members had been added to existing cards. She said proposals were submitted to the government for repairing 590 dilapidated houses in six VAMBAY and JNNURM colonies, and reconstruction of houses in 12 colonies.

BRS backs polytechnic students' stir against GO 97

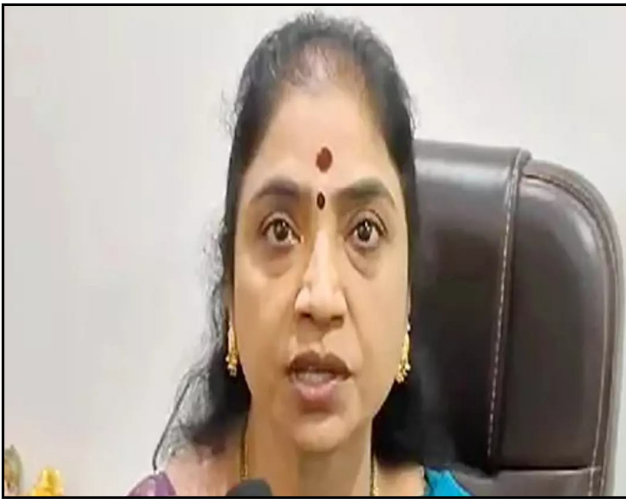
Hyderabad: The BRS extended support to the statewide agitation by polytechnic students against GO 97, assuring them that the party would pressure the Congress government to withdraw the order. A delegation of polytechnic students met BRS general secretary RS Praveen Kumar and former corporation chairman Chirumalla Rakesh Kumar at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, and apprised them of their concerns. The students said the government had failed to respond to their protests and sought the BRS's support. Speaking on the occasion, Praveen Kumar said students who should be in classrooms were being forced onto the streets to protest against GO 97. He alleged that thousands of polytechnic students across Telangana were protesting but the Congress government was not willing to listen to their grievances. He demanded the suspension of Mahabubabad CI Raghupathi Reddy, alleging that he had



attempted to choke a student during a protest in the district. He also wanted Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to immediately withdraw GO 97 after hearing the students' grievances. Questioning the rationale behind the proposed changes, the BRS leader said students completing polytechnic courses could pursue engineering through ECET or obtain jobs. He asked why such opportunities should be curtailed. He suspected that the Young India Skill University was an even bigger conspiracy to boost the real estate value of lands purchased by the Chief Minister's family within the vicinity of the proposed Fourth City project. Rakesh Kumar alleged that the government was attempting to destroy the polytechnic education system and claim valuable land attached to polytechnic colleges. He alleged that GO 97 would reduce polytechnic students to workers instead of enabling them bigger conspiracy to boost the real estate to become engineers. Rakesh Kumar also questioned the proposed PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model for polytechnic education and alleged that the move would benefit private interests, enabling them to become engineers. Rakesh Kumar also questioned the proposed PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model for polytechnic education. He said the students' demand was legitimate and urged the government to withdraw GO 97. The BRS leaders warned that the party would stand by the students and intensify pressure on the government if the order was not revoked.

Ex-Khanapur MLA Rekha Naik Booked Over Missing Paddy Worth 40.96 Crore

Nirmal: Khanapur police of Nirmal district on Wednesday registered a case against former MLA Ajmeera Rekha Naik, who is the owner of a rice mill titled ARS Industries, under sections 316 (2), 316 (5), 318 (4) BNS and section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, following a complaint lodged by Satyanarayana, Nirmal District Manager of Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation. The rice mill is located in Sattenapally village of Khanapur mandal. The case has been booked against ARS Industries for misappropriation of paddy worth ₹40.96 crore supplied by the state government. The



complaint stated that during verification, officials of the Civil Supplies Corporation noticed that government paddy entrusted to the rice mill is not available on its premises. Further, the required customs milled rice has also not been delivered to the government for three seasons. Century Jain Inscription

Discovered in Dundigal Official sources said 68,21,640 metric tonnes of paddy had been allotted to the ARS Industries during Rabi 2022-23, 7,430.840 metric tonnes during Rabi 2023-24, and 2,413.640 metric tonnes during Rabi season 2024-25. However, during asons. Also Read - 11th-Century Jain Inscription Discovered in Dundigal Official physical verification, Civil Supplies' officials noticed a shortage of a total of 9,639.962 metric tons of government paddy, whose value is estimated at ₹40,96,96,847.

Sajjanar Inspects KBR One-Way Traffic like Ordinary Citizen on Bike

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar personally inspected the newly implemented one-way traffic policy around KBR Park. On Thursday morning at 10 a.m., without any fanfare, dressed in civilian clothes like an ordinary citizen, he traveled by bike to directly observe the on-ground traffic. He rode his bike twice from Road Number 45 to Jubilee Check Post, Venkateswari, KBR Park main gate, Mugda Junction, Basavathar akm, Agrasen crossroads, Film Nagar Junction, and back to Road Number 45, inspecting the traffic along the way. Also Read - Tukaramgare Police Recover Rs 3 Lakh Gold Bag, Track & Return It To Deaf Siblings Later in the afternoon, he once again monitored the traffic flow. He spoke with police personnel on duty at junctions such as Agrasen crossroads, Film Nagar, Journalist Colony, Jubilee Check Post, KBR Park main



gate, and others, inquiring about the on-ground situation. Speaking on the occasion, Sajjanar stated that the one-way traffic around KBR PHE explained that clear sign boards have been hly. He explained that clear sign boards have been hly. He mentioned that the one-way policy was implemented starting Wednesday, He explained that clear sign boards have been set up no inconvenience to vehicle drivers, and adequate staff has also been deployed. Sajjanar said they were taking steps to coordinate with GHMC and the construction agency to complete the H-City project work as quickly as possible. He appealed to and although vehicle drivers faced some confusion on the first day regarding the changes, by Thursday, the movement of vehicles was flowing completely smoothly. Also Read - Probe Ordered into Inspector's Action during Students' Protest in Mahabubabad He explained that clear sign boards have been set up at all junctions to ensure no inconvenience to vehicle drivers, and adequate staff has also been deployed. Sajjanar said they were taking steps to coordinate with GHMC and the construction agency to complete the H-City project work as quickly as possible. He appealed to city residents to cooperate until the work is completed and to follow the instructions of the Hyderabad traffic police.

In Kashmir, US Envoy Sergio Gor Declares J&K 'Important Part of India'

Srinagar: United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor called Jammu and Kashmir an "important part of India" during his first official visit to the region on Wednesday. During his trip, he met with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, took a traditional Shikara boat ride on Dal Lake, and suggested that the US might update its travel warnings for the area. US Envoy Sergio Gor speaking to reporters in Srinagar on Wednesday (PTI). Gor's remark triggered a sharp reaction from Pakistan who summoned the US Chargé d'Affaires in Islamabad on the same



day and issued a demarche over what it described as the US envoy's "factually incorrect" statement on the status of Jammu and Kashmir. Islamabad con-characterisation of Jammu and Kashmir as an "important part of India." Soon after arriving in Kashmir, Gor met Abdullah at his Srinagar residence on Gupkar

Road. The envoy was on his maiden trip to the region since he assumed charge as the 27th US ambassador to India in January 2026. Speaking to media, Gor said, "It is a pleasure to be here. This is an important part of India, and some of us are visiting for the first time. It is an incredibly beautiful place. I am thrilled to be here and thrilled to see this place." Speaking on US travel advisory for the region, Gor hinted at reviewing it

but stopped short of making any specific announcement. "The US puts out travel warnings, and every so often we re-evaluate those travel warnings. I cannot make any big announcements today, but it is something we are going to look at. New Delhi, the chief minister and the government here, we believe we have made some incredible steps to keep this area safer and make it safer," he told reporters alongside Abdullah. Since armed militancy erupted in Jammu and Kashmir in 1989, the US has repeated its advisories to its citizens, warning them

against travelling to the Valley. Following Operation Sindoor, which saw a brief war between India and Pakistan, the US flagged Kashmir among tune 2025, advising its citizens against travelling to the region. "We will be looking if the travel warning thated the meeting with Chief Minister as "very good and cordial" and said that it will be followed up in the future. "We just had a very good meeting. We have some follow-ups, so we hope to take that back to Washington, back to Delhi. But a very warm and a very cordial, and we look forward to building

Former Deputy Speaker Of Bengal Assembly, Asish Banerjee, Found Dead At TMC



Rampurhat: Former deputy speaker of the West Bengal Assembly, Asish Banerjee, was found hanging at a TMC party office in Birbhum district on Sunday morning, police sources said. A purported suicide note was also recovered from the party office located near his residence in Rampurhat, they said. According to family sources, Asish had chatted with his family members until midnight before retiring for the night. Upon waking up in the morning, family members and neighbours found the door to the adjacent office room closed. They realised what had happened after looking through a gap in the window. After being informed, police from Rampurhat station arrived at the spot and recovered

the body. The former TMC MLA's body has been sent for post-mortem examination. The exact circumstances leading to his death are yet to be ascertained, police added. Banerjee, a veteran TMC leader, had represented Rampurhat in the state Assembly continuously from 2001 till 2026. He had served as the deputy speaker of the Assembly and held ministerial portfolios, including school education and agriculture, in the Mamata Banerjee government. He contested the 2026 Assembly elections from Rampurhat on a TMC ticket but lost to BJP's Dhruva Saha by more than 24,000 votes. After his electoral defeat, Banerjee was not seen to be particularly active in politics, party sources

said. Banerjee had been a prominent TMC leader in Birbhum during the tenure of party strongman Anubrata Mondal as the district president. The development comes at a time when the political landscape in West Bengal has undergone a major change following the TMC's defeat in this year's assembly polls, ending its 15-year rule. Several former TMC legislators and leaders are facing corruption-related investigations and arrests. Police are investigating whether Banerjee died by suicide and, if so, what prompted him to take the extreme step. The post-mortem report and the contents of the purported note are expected to shed more light on the circumstances surrounding

Jadavpur University Turns Battlefield As ABVP Members, Left Groups Clash During Meeting; Many Students Hospitalised

Kolkata: Tension ran high at the premises of Jadavpur University here on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday after a clash broke out between ABVP members and students affiliated with the Left-wing student organisation FETSU, leaving several students from both sides injured. Sources said some of the injured students were taken to hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, the two sides have given completely conflicting accounts of what exactly led to the clash. Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) claimed that some of its members were surrounded and shoved during the general body meeting. Faculty of Engineering and Technology Students' Union (FETSU), on the other hand, alleged that students associated with the ABVP arrived at the meeting, made provocative remarks and subsequently attempted to attack them. Jadavpur University Turns Battlefield As ABVP Members, Left Groups Clash During Meeting; Many Students Hospitalised



the General Body meeting called by Left-wing student organisations, they decided not to accept any government directives. We argued that such decisions cannot be made without an election. Moreover, our Higher Education Minister has stated that no politics should take place within college campuses." "I pointed out that slogans shouldn't be displayed in the union room since the union elections hasn't been held. Suddenly, I was shoved, and my glasses were knocked off. When seniors came to my rescue, they too were attacked." Arnab further claimed that around 70-80 people initially gathered, however, some 20 students were present when the actual altercation took place. ABVP claimed to have identified some of those involved in the alleged attack. The organisation also questioned the

alleged presence of outsiders at the scene and the lack of CCTV footage. Meanwhile, Vaidik, a FETSU member, alleged that provocative remarks by a group of students led to a violent scuffle. "We were holding an organisational meeting. It was convened to designate the necessary signatories for managing the bank account of a university student organisation. A specific group of students kept making provocative remarks. That is when the situation escalated, and the scuffle broke out," he said. Vaidik, in turn, alleged that some of their students were also beaten up, claiming that attempts were made to attack them with bamboo sticks and tree branches. FETSU also alleged that several individuals were dragged outside the campus and beaten up. A controversy has also emerged over the

legitimacy of the General Body meeting. The ABVP has argued, "There is no provision for a student union at the university; so, how was a General Body meeting convened?" FETSU, in response, said, "Student organisational activities do not cease entirely just because elections are not held. The meeting was called to facilitate such organisational and administrative work." Last night, BJP MLA Sarbari Chakraborty had arrived at the scene and spoke against the Left-wing student organisations. Besides questioning the validity of the General Body meeting, she alleged that "anti-national" slogans are raised and Naxal-Maoist politics is being promoted at Jadavpur University. Chakraborty said, "There is no union. Yet, how was a GB meeting called? Who convened it? I am asking Srijan Bhattacharya, who called the GB meeting?" Alleging that "anti-national" slogans were raised at the university, she added, "Do you intend to fill Jadavpur with Naxals, anti-national forces, and Maoists? What are you thinking? This will not be tolerated, certainly not at Jadavpur." Sarbari also publicly named some of

the accused and demanded that they surrender to the police. She said, "If they do not surrender at the Jadavpur police station within an hour... I will drag them out from wherever they are hiding." Subsequently, local BJP workers and ABVP members from Jadavpur University staged a protest outside the local police station. Rejecting Sarbari's allegations and the ABVP's claims, the Students' Federation of India (SFI) clarified that it had no connection with the incident. Shubhadip Bandyopadhyay of SFI at Jadavpur University said, "No SFI students were present at the GB meeting. The meeting was organised by FETSU, with representatives from AFSU and DSF in attendance." On the allegations of anti-national slogans at the GB meeting, Shubhadip advised the ABVP to approach the university authorities. He said, "If anyone has raised anti-national slogans, I would suggest the ABVP to report the entire matter to the Vice-Chancellor and the university authorities instead of just lodging a complaint. Why should they take action themselves? It is the responsibility of the university authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps."

NGT Forms Panel To Verify Claim Of Illegal Burning Of Medical Waste In UP's Aligarh

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has formed a joint committee to verify allegations of illegal burning of hazardous medical waste and plastic in the Civil Lines area of Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh, saying the issue raises "substantial questions" related to the environment. The green body sought a response from the state's chief secretary, district magistrate, Aligarh Municipal Corporation, and Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB). It formed a joint committee comprising representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), UPPCB, and the Aligarh District Magistrate. The NGT was hearing a letter petition filed by a senior citizen and retired teacher from Aligarh Muslim University. The plea claimed that medical centres and shops at the Muzammil Complex in

Civil Lines generate large amounts of medical waste, which is burnt at night or early morning, and that the

Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member A Senthil Vel said, "The averments made in the application

tion to verify the factual position and to suggest appropriate remedial measures," the tribunal



resulting toxic smoke is causing serious breathing issues for residents. "Our life has become miserable due to these toxic gases," the plea said. In an order dated August 12, a bench of judicial member Justice

prima facie raise substantial questions relating to environment." "In view of the facts and circumstances of the case, we consider it appropriate that a joint committee be constituted with the direc-

said. The NGT directed the panel to "undertake visits to the site, look into the grievances of the applicant, associate the applicant and representative of the concerned project proponent, verify the factual

position and suggest appropriate remedial action and to submit its report within one month to this Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member A Senthil Vel said, "The averments made in the application prima facie raise substantial questions relating to environment." "In view of the facts and circumstances of the case, we consider it appropriate that a said. The NGT directed the panel to "undertake visits to the site, look into the grievances of the applicant, associate the applicant and representative of the concerned project proponent, verify the factual

Jabalpur: Thirteen years after a woman completed her MBBS, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has cleared the way for her to obtain her degree and pursue medical practice, stalled after her admission was cancelled over a domicile issue. Treating the petition as a special case, a division bench of Acting Chief Justice Vivek Rusia and Justice Pradeep Mittal on Wednesday set aside the June 13, 2013 order cancelling Shailja Pandey's admission and directed Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur, to issue her marksheet and degree. Pandey had fairly disclosed all facts about her residence in Madhya Pradesh, the court observed, adding that action could have been taken at the time of her admission rather than after she completed her studies. "On the basis of this degree, the petitioner will be entitled to practice in the medical field, but the fact remains that she completed her studies in

the year 2013, and now more than 13 years have passed," the court said in its order. Pandey could not practice during this period because she did not have her degree or registration with the medical regulator, the HC noted. In her petition, Pandey said the college raised the objection over her domicile midway through the MBBS course, although she had secured admission after furnishing a domicile certificate issued by the competent authority. The court observed that the issuing authority should have examined whether she had studied for at least three years at an educational institution in Madhya Pradesh, but treated this additional requirement as the main condition while issuing the domicile certificate. Pandey could not be blamed for the authority's action, the high court said. The action taken after she had completed her studies could have been taken at the time of admission, the HC said. If required, the commission may direct the medical university to conduct a special examination or test to determine whether she was fit and eligible to practice, the court said, directing the authorities to complete the within three months.

MP HC Clears MBBS Graduate's Path To Secure Degree After 13-Year Wait Over Domicile Row



opined. It said that obtaining the degree would establish her qualification as a doctor, but she would require registration under the applicable regulations to practice medicine. The court directed the National Medical Commission to examine whether Pandey was fit to practice after the long gap since completing her MBBS course. A national institution in Madhya Pradesh, but treated this additional requirement as the main condition while issuing the domicile certificate. Pandey could not be blamed for the authority's action, the high court said. The action taken after she had completed her studies could have been taken at the time of admission, the HC said. If required, the commission may direct the medical university to conduct a special examination or test to determine whether she was fit and eligible to practice, the court said, directing the authorities to complete the within three months.

SC Refuses To Interfere With Chhattigarh HC Order On Election Plea Against Ex-CM

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday declined to interfere with a Chhattisgarh High Court order refusing to dismiss, at the threshold, a petition challenging former Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel's election from the Patan assembly seat in 2023. The top court, however, said that Baghel would be at liberty to raise all his pleas before the high court's election tribunal during the trial.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana disposed of Baghel's plea challenging the high court's interim order dated June 15 by which his application seeking rejection of the election petition for want of cause of action and non-compliance with statutory requirements was dismissed. It said Baghel had an arguable defence and



made it clear that dismissal of his challenge would not prejudice his right to raise all points and contentions before the election tribunal during the course of the proceedings. Appearing for Baghel, senior advocate Kapil Sibal argued that the election petition was not maintainable in law. Referring to the allegations, Sibal, assisted by lawyer Sumeer Sodhi, said that the election

campaign had ended on November 15 and that Baghel was allegedly present at a religious function on November 16, which the petitioner claimed violated Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act. Sibal said that even if the allegations were accepted, a violation of Section 126 constituted only an electoral offence and not a "corrupt practice" under

Section 123(7) of the Act. "The question is whether it amounts to a corrupt practice. Corrupt practice is dealt with under Section 123(7)," he said.

It was alleged that after the commencement of the "silence period", Baghel held a "rally/road show" in clear violation of Section 126 of the RP Act and the Model Code of Conduct.

Ladakh Groups Push MHA For Elected Assembly And Police Powers, Seek Withdrawal Of Cases

Srinagar: The Ladakh groups have listed key demands to the Centre, including a Chief Minister-led UT assembly and constitutional safeguards under Article 371 for the region. The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) submitted the draft of "non-negotiable" demands to the Ministry of Home Affairs-led panel during their meeting in Leh on Wednesday afternoon. This is the second time the MHA panel travelled to the union territory since their last meeting on July 2. "We submitted our important and non-negotiable points to the government, clearly outlining our key demands and constitutional safeguards for Ladakh," said KDA co-convenor Sajjad Kargili. He said they also submitted a resolution demanding the unconditional withdrawal of cases against protestors in the September 2025 violence. Four people were killed, and dozens were injured in the violence in the region that followed the hunger strike by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk.



Kargili said that they sought dignified and adequate compensation for the victims and their families. "We remain firmly committed to safeguarding the democratic, constitutional, and political rights of the people of Ladakh," he added. The draft of demands said that the Union territory must have a Ladakh Legislative Assembly led by a Chief Minister alongside a Council of Ministers and a suitable number of members elected from constituencies demarcated through a constitutionally recognised delimitation mechanism. "Rest of the powers and functions must be based on List II and III of the 7th Schedule (Article 246) of the Indian Constitution and, where needed, the Union

Territories Act 1963. However, the Lt Governor of UT Ladakh should act on the aid and advice of the Assembly to pre-empt conflicts as seen in some UTs," it said. Ladakh was carved out as a Union Territory from the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state on August 5, 2019, when Article 370 was abrogated. Since then, Ladakh groups have been demanding statehood and the Sixth Schedule. On May 22, the Ladakh groups reached an "in principle" understanding with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs over a Union Territory-level elected body after six rounds of talks since 2023. They agreed on a UT elected body with executive, legislative and financial powers and constitution-

al safeguards under Article 371 for the Union Territory. The minutes of the meeting for the same were signed during the last meeting held in Leh on July 3. The Ladakh groups have also outlined financial powers and money bill, demanding that the elected Assembly must have meaningful and constitutionally protected control over taxation, budget, appropriation, expenditure, borrowing and public funds, including a constitutionally protected Consolidated Fund and Contingency Fund. They said the UT-level elected Legislature must be directly elected, constitutionally empowered and provided with separately constituted and properly delimited Assembly constituencies through a constitutionally recognised delimitation mechanism. The composition, territorial representation, powers must be expressly defined in the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 and Article 315, to establish an appropriate constitutional framework for Ladakh's public services, as Ladakh shall have a UT-level legislative," said the draft.

Supreme Court Acquits Two Gujarat Govt Employees In Rs 20 Bribery Case After 30-Year Legal Battle

New Delhi: Three decades after a Rs 20 bribe allegation first set the wheels of justice in motion, the Supreme Court has finally drawn the curtain on a corruption case from Gujarat, acquitting two government employees in a case that had lingered since 1996. On Wednesday, a bench comprising justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Atul S Chandurkar set aside the conviction of a Talati-cum-Mantri (a village-level revenue official) and a peon working under him. "Mere possession of a currency note of Rs 20 with A2 (peon) by itself would not be sufficient to uphold the conviction of A1 (Talati-cum-Mantri) and A2 for the offence punishable under Sections 7, 12 and 13(1)(d) of the Act of 1988. The defence raised by A2 that the festival of Eid was on the next day and, hence, the complainant gave Rs 20 to him after receiving the Income Certificate is



also probable," noted the bench in its judgment. The bench observed that mere recovery of Rs 20 from the peon could not sustain their conviction since the foundational requirement of proving a demand had not been met. "Having found that the charge of demand of bribe amount has not been proved against A1 coupled with the fact that both the Courts have recorded a finding that A2 made no demand, the case of the prosecution must fail," said the bench. The bench noted another relevant aspect that cannot be ignored: the complainant gave Rs 20 to A2 after receiving the Income Certificate from A1. It said this is another relevant factor

that requires consideration, since the income certificate for which it was alleged that the bribe was demanded had already been prepared and handed over to the complainant. "When this circumstance is considered in the totality of the prosecution material on record, it again raises a doubt as this regard can be made to the decision in State of Lokayuktha Police, Davanagere (supra) wherein it was held that ipso facto assumed that such payment was pursuant to a demand made," added the bench. A student approached the Bechri Gram panchayat office in February 1996 for an income certificate which

was required to avail certain educational concessions. The prosecution claimed that Talati-cum-Mantri demanded Rs 120 for issuing the certificate, Rs 100 for himself and Rs 20 for the peon. The student approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau, which laid a trap. The trial court convicted both employees in 1999 under Sections 7 and 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, and in 2015, the Gujarat High Court upheld their conviction. "The judgment of the trial court...dated 30.11.1999, as affirmed by the High Court in its common judgment dated 22.01.2015...is set aside. The appellants are acquitted of the charge of having committed an offence punishable under Sections 7, 12 and 13(1)(d) of the Act of 1988. The appellants are presently enlarged on bail. Their bail bonds shall stand cancelled. The Criminal Appeals are, accordingly, allowed," said the apex court.

CAG Flags E. Coli Bacteria In Drinking Water At Stations, Cites Violation Of Railway Board Norms

New Delhi: In a major and stringent step towards controlling rising pollution levels in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has decided to impose a phased ban on the registration of new light goods vehicles (N1 LGVs) powered by petrol, diesel and CNG across the region.

The decision is part of the commission's efforts to improve air quality in the national capital region and reduce emissions from the transport sector. The commission made the decision during its 29th meeting, chaired by Chairperson Rajesh Verma, where members discussed in detail the factors contributing to air pollution in the region. According to data presented by the commission, light goods vehicles account for only about 1.2 per cent



of the region's total active vehicle fleet. However, their contribution to overall particulate matter (PM) emissions is significantly higher, at around 3.3 per cent. The commission cited these figures as a key reason for restricting the registration of new petrol, diesel and CNG-powered N1 LGVs. Ban To Be Implemented In Phases: The restrictions will be implemented in phases so that the transport sector does not face a sudden, significant

impact. The first phase will take effect in Delhi from January 1, 2027, when registration of new petrol-, diesel-, and CNG-powered light goods vehicles will be prohibited. In the major NCR districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, the restriction will come into force from July 1, 2027. For all remaining districts of the National Capital Region, the ban on registration of new vehicles in this category will take effect from

January 1, 2028. The CAQM has also decided to strengthen measures to control dust generated by stone crusher units operating in the NCR. The Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) 2023 guidelines for controlling dust emissions from stone crusher units will now be made mandatory as part of the conditions for obtaining "Consent to Operate" (CTO). To strengthen monitoring of these units, authorities will use technologies such as video surveillance and PM2.5 sensors. Authorities will also make arrangements such as wheel-washing facilities mandatory to control the spread of dust from these units. The move aims to ensure that industrial activities contributing to particulate pollution are closely monitored and comply with prescribed environmental standards.

Unique Identification Number Proposed For All Registered Medical Practitioners

New Delhi: The National Medical Commission has proposed a centrally generated unique identification number for every registered medical practitioner, which would allow doctors to practise anywhere in the country without obtaining a fresh registration or licence. The proposal is part of the draft Registration of Medical Practitioners and Licence to Practise Medicine (Amendment) Regulations, 2026, notified by the Commission on August 11. Under the proposed framework, once a person or a foreign medical graduate is registered in the state medical register, the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) of the National Medical Commission (NMC) would centrally generate a Unique Identification (UID) number. The UID would grant the practitioner registration in the National Medical Register (NMR) and eligibility to practise medicine anywhere in India. The draft specifically states that the UID would be generated after registration in the state medical register, "thereby granting the practitioner registration in NMR and eligibility to practise medicine anywhere in India". The NMR would be maintained by the EMRB and each medical practitioner registered under a state medical register would be assigned a UID. The NMR number would be valid for medical practice across India. The UID would incorporate the code of the state or Union territory concerned and the registration number assigned by the state medical register, according to the draft. The draft says the EMRB would ensure synchronisation "in such



a manner that any change in one register is automatically reflected in the other register". The NMC has proposed that the NMR serve as a central repository of registration details of registered medical practitioners and disciplinary proceedings, including orders relating to suspension, removal and restoration issued by State Medical Councils, the EMRB or the NMC. It would also include the active or inactive status of a doctor's licence and details of disciplinary action, if any. The proposed regulations would give the EMRB and NMC powers to issue directions, seek information and records and monitor compliance by State Medical Councils to maintain "uniformity, transparency, and effective regulation of medical practitioners throughout India." Under the proposed system, a medical practitioner would apply for registration and licence through the unified registration portal of the EMRB. The State Medical Council concerned would process the application within 30 days after charging the applicable fee. Once the State Medical Council grants registration and licence and the EMRB allots the UID in the NMR, the practitioner would be eligible to practise in any state or Union territory without seeking fresh registra-

tion or licence. The draft states that a doctor would be eligible to practise "in any State or Union Territory of India without requiring fresh registration and licence to practise medicine in any other State or Union Territory". The proposed changes would also create a more integrated system for tracking disciplinary action against doctors. The NMC has proposed that where allegations of professional misconduct, unethical conduct or medical negligence arise, the State Medical Council in whose territorial jurisdiction the cause of action occurred would have jurisdiction to inquire into and decide the matter. The council concerned would be able to implement the decision and reflect it against the doctor's credentials in the online register. If disciplinary action is recommended by a State Medical Council other than the council where the doctor is primarily registered, the action would be reflected in the National Medical Register and automatically updated in the state medical register of the council of primary registration. The licence to practise medicine would continue to be valid for five years. If a doctor does not apply for renewal within three months of expiry, the person's entry in the State Medical Register would be converted to

inactive and the doctor would not be entitled to practise medicine. The inactive status would automatically be reflected in the National Medical Register. The draft also provides for an appeal mechanism. If a State Medical Council rejects an application for registration and licence to practise or renewal, the applicant can appeal before the EMRB within 30 days of receiving the decision. The EMRB would examine the appeal and take a decision within 30 days. If it allows the appeal, its order directing the State Medical Council to grant registration and licence or renew the licence would be binding on the council. The State Medical Council would then have to act within 15 days of receiving the EMRB's order. For doctors already registered in the Indian Medical Register or state medical registers but without a UID under the proposed regulations, the NMC has proposed a one-time exercise to update their details on the EMRB portal and obtain a UID. No fee shall be charged for amendments also make changes relating to foreign medical graduates. An FMG who has obtained a foreign medical qualification and cleared the Commission has also withdrawn its earlier draft amendment to the regulations published in the Gazette on April 7, 2026. The proposed framework, once finalised and notified, would replace the existing fragmented system of state-wise registration with a system centred on a national UID, while retaining the role of state medical councils in granting registration and licensing and dealing with cases arising within their jurisdictions.

Israel's Deadly Gaza Strikes Cast Doubt on Ceasefire Progress Days After Kushner Visit



Deir Al Balah: Deadly airstrikes in Gaza on Wednesday cast more doubt on whether new U.S. efforts can advance a tenuous ceasefire in the Palestinian territory. Just two days after U.S. negotiators reportedly asked Israel to draw down attacks in the Gaza Strip, at least 10 people were killed Wednesday in two strikes, according to local hospitals and the Palestinian Red Crescent. Israeli troops also crossed the ceasefire line in southern Gaza and detained a Hamas police colonel at dawn Wednesday, two witnesses and a Hamas official said. Israel's military said one of the strikes on Wednesday, in the area of Nuseirat refugee camp, struck a Hamas commander who had participated in the Hamas-led attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, in which 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed and 251 abducted. A second strike in the Tuffah area of Gaza City struck four Hamas militants gathering in a police station, the military said, claiming they were planning to carry out attacks against Israeli troops. Israel's military said a

strike the day before targeted a meeting of four Hamas commanders and additional militants. The killed included Muhammad Hamdi Ahmad Al-Masri, Muhammad Attar and Muhammad Fathi Hussein Nasser, all accused of carrying out terrorist attacks against Israeli troops, and Samed Samir Harb Abu Habal, who infiltrated Israeli territory during the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack, according to a statement from Israel's military. The Hamas-run Interior Ministry said the Wednesday Gaza City strike on the police station killed eight police officers and a 13-year-old girl. Two officers were women, it said. One person was killed in Nuseirat. On Tuesday evening, an Israeli strike on a busy seaside cafe killed seven Palestinians, including a child, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Jared Kushner, a U.S. negotiator and President Donald Trump's son-in-law, held a marathon meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday, in which he asked Israel's leader to draw down attacks on Gaza, a person familiar

with the meeting said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to brief journalists. Also on Wednesday, Israel's military said it had completed reviews of 150 incidents of troop conduct during the war in Gaza and would launch criminal investigations into the 2024 killings of a 5-year-old girl and her family, as well as of 15 Palestinian paramedics in 2025. At least 17 killed in Israeli strikes. The deadly strikes in Gaza on Tuesday and Wednesday exacted more casualties even as a ceasefire that's been in place since October has significantly diminished the fighting in the tiny enclave where more than 2 million Palestinians live. Since the ceasefire, Israeli strikes have killed at least 1,273 people, according to health officials in Gaza. The nearly three-year Israel-Hamas war has killed more than 73,400 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, which was part of the recently dissolved Hamas-run government, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by U.N.

agencies and international organizations. It doesn't distinguish between civilians and militants, but says women and children make up around half of the toll. In the early hours of Wednesday, at least 15 Israeli troops entered the Muwasi coastal area, west of the city of Khan Younis, two residents and a Hamas official said. Accompanied by armed men, the troops stormed the tent of Sabri Abdel-All, a colonel for the Hamas-led Blue Police in Khan Younis. They also detained another resident identified as Nashat Ezzat Zaarab, they said. The two residents and the Hamas official spoke on condition of anonymity for their safety. Latest ceasefire negotiations offer few concrete commitments. On the diplomatic front, the ceasefire also appears stalled. Trump's initial ceasefire plan laid out a broad vision for ending Hamas' rule in Gaza and rebuilding the territory, much of which was reduced to rubble during the war.

But since last fall, major sticking points have emerged on the conditions of Hamas' disarmament.

US Govt To Expand Vetting Of Social Media For Visa Applicants



Washington: The US government reportedly plans to expand vetting of the social media accounts of visa applicants, including foreign journalists, as part of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt reposted an article on Thursday on X by the Daily Signal that said the State Department is expand-

ing its social media vetting to applicants for more types of visas. The Daily Signal said it had obtained an internal memo outlining the require visa applicants to change the settings on their social media accounts to "public" or "open." Asked by AFP about the report, a State Department spokesperson said, "The department is constantly reviewing and evaluating screening and vet-

ting procedures worldwide to ensure that our visa process upholds the highest standards for US national security and public safety." "Online presence vetting is about applicants demonstrating their eligibility to receive a visa under US law and ensuring that no individual poses a risk to the safety and security of the United States," the spokesperson said. The United States already

requires applicants for various categories of visas, including student visas, to make their accounts public. The Daily Signal said it would now apply to foreign media representatives and some nationals from Mexico and Canada. Since taking office last year, Trump has moved to expel millions of undocumented migrants and restricted the entry into the United States of citizens of a number of countries. "A visa is a privilege, not a right," Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said. The Trump administration finalized rules last month that impose stricter limits on how long foreign students and journalists can stay in the United States. Under a change that could be implemented as soon as September, foreigners on student visas would be admitted for the length of their academic program up to a maximum of four years. Foreign journalists would be limited to stays of just 240 days, or around eight months, but

Understanding US-Saudi Nuclear Deal That Rewrote Itself In A Day

On July 22, United States Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement, a 30-year pact known as a 123 Agreement, which is now under a mandatory 90-day review by the US Congress. The Department of Energy hailed it as a historic deal. However, within 24 hours, US President Donald Trump rewrote its terms on social media, declaring there would be no uranium enrichment and that the deal itself was contingent on Saudi Arabia joining the Abraham Accords. The White House press secretary confirmed that this condition was not part of the signed agreement, and that Trump had not spoken to Saudi leadership before announcing it. But by the evening, the administration changed tack, insisting that the condition had always been part of the deal and dismissing reports of internal confusion. A deal that says two opposite things about itself within a single day deserves close examination, because the contradiction reveals

the true intention behind the agreement.

The heart of the dispute is a standard. When the United Arab Emirates signed its nuclear cooperation deal with Washington in 2009, it accepted what is called the gold standard in non-proliferation: no enrichment of uranium, no reprocessing of spent fuel, and the International Atomic Energy Agency's Additional Protocol, which grants inspectors broad powers to verify against diversion to weapons. Saudi Arabia has resisted that standard for years. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman openly declared in 2018 that if Iran acquired a nuclear weapon, the kingdom would follow. Riyadh has insisted on domestic enrichment as a matter of sovereignty and parity with its regional rival. The signed text, as described by US officials, set aside the Additional Protocol and called for a two-year study on the economic



viability of domestic enrichment. This prompted Senator Ed Markey to label it a step toward proliferation and Henry Sokolski of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center questioned what standard it would now set for the UAE, Turkey, and Egypt. Then came the reversal. Trump's post insisted there would be no enrichment, contradicting his own officials, and attached the normalization condition. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu welcomed it within hours. By several accounts, Trump was already displeased that Wright had announced the deal without telling

him, and hardened his position after criticism from conservative commentators who asked why Israeli normalization had been left out. Saudi officials were reportedly blindsided, having treated the signing as a diplomatic win. By ruling out enrichment, Trump removed the provision Riyadh had fought hardest to secure. The nuclear deal is being used as a bargaining instrument, with technology, enrichment rights, and Israeli recognition moved around as interchangeable bargaining chips. This linkage has a history. The Joe Biden administration tied

Trump Vows 'Tremendous' Economic Costs On Iran Partners



Washington: US President Donald Trump said Wednesday he was launching a major new campaign to target Iran's economy, threatening "tremendous" punishment on any country that helps or does business with the Islamic republic. The intensified economic pressure campaign comes as the war nears its sixth month with no immediate diplomatic or military off-ramp in sight and the vital Strait of Hormuz still significantly choked-off. With November elections quickly approaching, Trump is also facing renewed domestic scrutiny over the war's costs on US consumers and toll on the military. "Today, I am announcing the MOST CRUSHING ECONOMIC OPERATION EVER TAKEN AGAINST ANY COUNTRY! This will be Economic Warfare and Isolation on an unprecedented scale," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "ANY country that allows its financial institutions, businesses, airports, or government entities to provide any type of lifeline

to Iran will itself face TREMENDOUS Economic Consequences," he said. He did not specify what punishment countries would face, and none other than Iran were mentioned by name. He listed several activities that he said need to stop immediately: "oil smuggling, swap lines, cash transfers, exchange houses, ship registries, front companies." Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had similarly said last week that the US would soon be ramping up efforts at economically isolating Iran, as part of a two-pronged approach with a US naval blockade. "It will be a combination of economic isolation, like the world has never seen before," Bessent told conservative television network Newsmax. The US Treasury has for months been carrying out an effort, dubbed Operation Economic Fury, aiming to cut off Iran's funding with targeted sanctions. Iranian defiance Iran has struck a defiant tone, having survived months of US

military operations that failed to bring a decisive end to the war and has -- according to US media reports -- severely drawn down US munition stockpiles. The Pentagon has denied these reports. The conflict broke out on February 28 with US-Israeli attacks on the Islamic republic, which retaliated with missile and drone strikes across the region. Tehran's missile and drone threat has severely curtailed shipping traffic through the Strait, as a framework US-Iran deal to reopen it collapsed. However, Trump earlier on Wednesday touted US military efforts to aid ships out of the strait, saying "right now, a lot of boats are coming through." Digital media outlet Axios reported that US forces were facilitating the transit of 15 to 20 ships in and out of the Hormuz each night in recent weeks -- carrying "roughly half the pre-war volume" of daily oil shipments. In recent days, both sides have said messages were being exchanged, however Trump on Tuesday insisted talks were off and posted a message on social media suggesting the strait could be a "NEW U.S. Territory." On Tuesday, the UAE announced that it was suspending all economic dealings with Iran after saying it had been targeted by two ballistic missiles. The neighbors across the Gulf share deep cultural and historical ties, and the UAE -- home to a sizable Iranian community -- had been a major trading partner for US-sanctioned Iran, at least before the war. "We need all of our Allies to stand with the United States of America to isolate, and defeat, the Iran threat," Trump said Wednesday on Truth Social.

Vance Says Trump Administration 'Screwed Up' Communications Around Epstein Files

Washington: Vice President JD Vance says the Trump administration "absolutely" mishandled the communications surrounding the Jeffrey Epstein files. During a lengthy podcast interview with Joe Rogan released, Vance pointed largely to former Attorney General Pam Bondi, who infamously stated that an alleged "client list" of Epstein's was "sitting on my desk right now." Epstein was a convicted sex offender who was known for his



wide web of connections to the world's elite. In addition to those comments, the Justice Department under Bondi had also offered conservative commentators and influencers binders

that were called "The Epstein files: Phase 1" and "Declassified." "I know Pam. I like Pam. I don't think there was anything malicious going on," Vance told Rogan. "I think Pam was

trying to respond to the political moment. I think she overstated what we had and what we didn't have." As a result, Vance said, Bondi was "roasted" publicly for it and led people to "mistrust" the administration's transparency efforts on the Epstein files. "We absolutely screwed up the comms of the Epstein files. Like, we just did," Vance said. "But do I think the reason we screwed up the comms is because we were trying to hide

Whose land is it anyway? Adivasis' land rights under challenge



Hundreds of non-tribals have filed cases in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of Regulation 1 of 1970, which protects Adivasi land rights in the Scheduled Areas of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The development has become a matter of serious concern for tribal communities.

Can Telangana's Denotified Tribes hope for better future? The petitioners contend that the Regulation infringes upon their constitutional rights to own, enjoy and dispose of property, and have sought its nullity. The Supreme Court has issued notices to the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in these cases.

The principal argument of the non-tribal petitioners is that the restrictions imposed by Regulation 1 of 1970 on the purchase, sale, mortgage and transfer of immovable property in the Scheduled Areas violate the rights guaranteed to them under Articles 14, 19, 21 and 300-A of the Constitution. The fundamental questions, however, are whether these claims have any legal and constitutional merit and who would ultimately benefit if the Regulation were struck down. Not a New Question

Regulation 1 of 1970, which prohibits land transfers even between non-tribals in the Scheduled Areas, was enacted under the constitutional framework of the Fifth Schedule read with Article 244, with the assent of the President of India. It amended Regulation 1 of 1959, which had prohibited the transfer of land from tribals to non-tribals. The constitutional validity of Regulation 1 of 1970 is not a new question. As early as 1988, the Supreme Court upheld its constitutional validity in the P Rami Reddy case. Yet, once again, non-tribals have approached the Supreme Court questioning the constitutional validity of this protective legislation.

In fact, Regulation 1 of 1970 does not interfere with lands lawfully acquired by non-tribals or with valid transactions between non-tribals that took place before 1970. The Supreme Court clarified this position in the S Venkataramanayya case in 1996. Nor does the Regulation prevent non-tribals from continuing to possess and enjoy lands lawfully inherited from their ancestors. A non-tribal wishing to

sell land in a Scheduled Area can sell it to any tribal resident of the State. If no tribal is willing to purchase the land, the Regulation provides for its transfer to the government on payment of compensation. Further, Regulation 1 of 1971 enables non-tribals to mortgage their lands to nationalised banks and government-recognised financial institutions to obtain credit.

Therefore, the argument that Regulation 1 of 1970 completely prevents non-tribals from selling their lands or pursuing economic development is untenable. Who's Inconvenienced? The record of litigation under the Regulation also tells a different story. Non-tribals have reportedly succeeded in a substantial proportion of cases (nearly 60 per cent) filed under Regulation 1 of 1970 in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Where they have established lawful title, they have secured favourable orders and continued to enjoy their lands without interference. Who, then, is truly inconvenienced by Regulation 1 of 1970? The Regulation poses an obstacle to large landowners seeking to purchase land from small and marginal non-tribal farmers for large-scale commercial or corporate agriculture. It is an impediment to those seeking to regularise unlawful occupation of land. It is also a barrier to corporations seeking to exploit the vast natural resources of the Scheduled Areas through massive investments. Political and economic interests seeking to transfer the natural resources of the Scheduled Areas to private interests may find the Regulation inconvenient. In reality, the Regulation protects not only Adivasis but also small and marginal non-tribal farmers by preventing the large-scale alienation and concentration of land. The purpose of Regulation 1 of 1970 goes beyond preventing the alienation of tribal lands and restoring illegally transferred lands to Adivasis. It also seeks to prevent uncontrolled migration and settlement of non-tribals in the Scheduled Areas. Demographic Dimension This demographic dimension is crucial. If the non-tribal population in the Scheduled Areas continues to increase and Adivasis become a minority in their own ancestral territories, there is a danger that the very character of these

areas could eventually be altered. Such a development would have consequences far beyond land rights. The special constitutional and statutory protections available to tribal communities, including those under the Fifth Schedule and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, or PESA, are intrinsically linked to the special status of the Scheduled Areas.

Despite constitutional protections and legislation such as Regulation 1 of 1970, studies indicate that more than half of the land in some Scheduled Areas is already under non-tribal control and that the non-tribal population constitutes a significant proportion of the population in these regions.

Government reports have indicated that substantial proportions of land in the erstwhile districts of Khammam, Warangal and Adilabad were under the control of non-tribals. An ITDA (Integrated Tribal Development Agency) report from 1981 observed that if the lands within the Eturunagaram ITDA area of Warangal district had remained under tribal control, every tribal family could have possessed approximately six-and-a-half acres of land.

This historical experience demonstrates why protective land legislation remains indispensable. The Scheduled Areas are rich in forests, minerals, water and other natural resources worth enormous sums of money. Yet, the Adivasis who have inhabited and protected these regions for generations continue to experience severe economic and social deprivation compared with populations in the plains. Adivasi and non-tribals are not situated equally in terms of land ownership, education, employment, income, political power or access to development opportunities. How, then, can special constitutional protection for a historically disadvantaged community be characterised as a violation of the right to equality? Protected under Law

Regulation 1 of 1970 prohibits land transfers between non-tribals in Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule read with Article 244

It amended Regulation 1 of 1959, which had prohibited transfer of land from tribals to non-tribals. In 1988, the Supreme Court upheld its constitutional validity in the P Rami Reddy case

does not interfere with lands lawfully acquired by non-tribals or with valid transactions before 1970. Supreme Court clarified this position in the S Venkataramanayya case in 1996. The Regulation does not prevent non-tribals from possessing and enjoying lands lawfully inherited from their ancestors. If struck down, Scheduled Areas forest lands, water sources and resources could face increased private and corporate acquisition.

Constitutional equality does not require identical treatment of communities placed in profoundly unequal historical and socio-economic circumstances. The protective framework of the Fifth Schedule and Regulation 1 of 1970 must be understood in the context of the historical exploitation, dispossession and displacement experienced by tribal communities.

If Regulation 1 of 1970 is struck down, forests, lands, water sources and other natural resources in the Scheduled Areas could become increasingly vulnerable to acquisition by private and corporate interests. Mining operations and large-scale commercial exploitation of natural resources could accelerate the alienation of tribal communities from their ancestral territories. For Adivasis, land is not merely an economic commodity. Their relationship with land, forests and natural resources is inseparably connected with their livelihoods, social institutions, culture, language, traditions and collective identity. Once tribal communities are separated from their natural resources, the consequences extend far beyond economic deprivation. Their cultural and social existence itself comes under threat. Adivasis have already suffered large-scale displacement in the name of development projects. In many instances, displacement has resulted not in development but in greater economic insecurity, loss of livelihoods and social disintegration. If the legal barriers protecting the natural resources of the Scheduled Areas are removed, tribal communities could, within a relatively short period, face further displacement from their lands and ancestral territories.

Equality and Social Justice The Supreme Court has recognised the significance of the Fifth Schedule and protective legislation such as Regulation 1 of 1970 in safeguarding the rights and development of tribal communities. The constitutional framework governing the Scheduled Areas must, therefore, be understood not as an exception to equality, but as an essential instrument for achieving substantive equality and social justice. Adivasi communities have distinct geographical, social, historical, cultural and traditional ways of life. Protecting their rights over land and natural resources is essential not only for their economic survival but also for preserving their identity, dignity and constitutional rights.

Is Mother Nature metaphor normalising a culture of extraction?



Among these metaphors, none has enjoyed greater cultural legitimacy than that of 'Mother Nature'. From Bhoomi Mata in India to Mother Earth in the Americas, the Earth has been imagined as feminine — nurturing, fertile, forgiving and infinitely generous. The symbolism appears reverential. Yet an uncomfortable question deserves attention — has the feminisation of nature inadvertently normalised an expectation of endless sacrifice, making ecological exploitation appear permissible? Moral Template This is not an argument against feminine symbolism itself. Many Indigenous cultures that personify rivers, forests and mountains as female have simultaneously evolved sophisticated traditions of ecological restraint. The issue is not that nature is imagined as feminine; it is the particular social expectations historically attached to femininity.

In patriarchal societies, motherhood has often been celebrated for its selflessness. A "good" mother is expected to give without calculation, endure without complaint and forgive without limit. When this moral template is projected onto nature, environmental exploitation risks being interpreted not as violence but as dependence upon an endlessly giving parent. The distinction is significant because language influences political behaviour. Cognitive linguists George Lakoff and Mark Johnson argued that metaphors are not merely literary devices but conceptual frameworks through which societies organise thought and action. Metaphor determine what appears natural, legitimate and inevitable. If nature is framed primarily as a mother, it becomes easier to imagine her as an inexhaustible source of care rather than as a living system with ecological limits and intrinsic rights. The metaphor may unconsciously privilege gratitude over reciprocity and entitlement over restraint. Reverence and Reality Empirical evidence reveals the contradiction between reverence and reality. According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform

on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), nearly 75% of Earth's terrestrial environment and about 66% of the marine environment have been significantly altered by human activity, while around one million species now face the risk of extinction. The UN Environment Programme's Global Resources Outlook estimates that global material extraction has risen from roughly 27 billion tonnes in 1970 to more than 100 billion tonnes by 2019, a nearly four-fold increase driven by expanding consumption and industrialisation.

Simultaneously, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that approximately 420 million hectares of forest have been lost globally since 1990. These figures expose a profound paradox: societies continue to invoke 'Mother Earth' in public discourse even as they intensify the extraction of the ecosystems upon which life depends. The contradiction extends to the language of development itself. Rivers are increasingly described as 'water resources', forests as 'timber stock' and mountains as repositories of minerals awaiting economic utilisation. Environmental valuation frequently reduces ecosystems to the services they provide for human welfare. Yet when ecological disasters strike, political rhetoric swiftly returns to appeals for protecting 'Mother Nature'.

The metaphor survives because it generates emotional resonance, while economic policy often proceeds according to an entirely different logic — that of extraction, efficiency and growth. The coexistence of sentimental language and instrumental practice suggests that reverence alone offers little protection against exploitation. Ecofeminist scholarship has long recognised these parallels. Carolyn Merchant, in *The Death of Nature* (1980), argued that the Scientific Revolution transformed nature from a living organism into a machine designed for human control. Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva later suggested that the historical subordination of women

and the domination of nature emerged from similar systems of hierarchy, commodification and control.

However, ecofeminism has also been subject to important criticism. Scholars such as Val Plumwood cautioned against assuming any essential or natural connection between women and the environment. To romanticise women as inherently closer to nature risks reproducing the very stereotypes feminism seeks to dismantle. The analytical value of ecofeminism, therefore, lies not in biological claims but in exposing how structures of domination operate through similar cultural logics. Genuine ecological justice requires moving beyond reverence towards responsibility, beyond gratitude towards reciprocity, and beyond metaphors that celebrate sacrifice towards institutions that respect limits.

India presents a particularly revealing case. Few societies have embedded ecological symbolism more deeply within religious and cultural traditions. Rivers such as the Ganga are worshipped as mothers, forests have historically been regarded as sacred spaces, and the Earth itself is invoked through rituals of gratitude. Yet India also ranks among the world's largest consumers of natural resources, while its cities continue to confront severe air pollution, groundwater depletion and biodiversity loss. The contradiction is not evidence that cultural reverence is meaningless; rather, it demonstrates that symbolic respect without institutional accountability cannot restrain ecological degradation. Rituals alone cannot substitute for environmental regulation, sustainable production or democratic accountability. It would nevertheless be simplistic to argue that calling nature 'Mother' causes environmental destruction. Such determinism ignores the decisive roles of capitalism, industrialisation, colonial extraction and state policy. The metaphor did not produce the climate, metaphors shape the moral vocabulary within which these systems operate. They influence what societies perceive and gratitude towards reciprocity, and beyond metaphors that celebrate sacrifice towards institutions that respect limits.

as acceptable relationships between humans and the non-human world. When the Earth is imagined as an endlessly patient mother, ecological limits are more easily ignored because motherhood itself has historically been associated with unconditional giving. The metaphor thus becomes compatible with extraction precisely because it normalises sacrifice. The Challenge Perhaps the challenge, therefore, is not to abandon personification altogether but to rethink it. Instead of imagining the Earth primarily through relationships that presuppose obligation and sacrifice, environmental ethics might emphasise reciprocity, partnership and mutual dependence. Contemporary ecological thought increasingly recognises that humans are not masters of nature but participants within complex living systems whose resilience depends upon restraint rather than domination.

The environmental crisis is ultimately not only about carbon emissions, disappearing forests or declining biodiversity. It is also about the stories societies tell themselves regarding who exists to serve whom. As long as nature remains imagined as an endlessly giving mother, humanity may continue to mistake exploitation for affection. Genuine ecological justice requires moving beyond reverence towards responsibility, beyond sacrifice, rather, it demonstrates that symbolic respect without institutional accountability cannot restrain ecological degradation. Rituals alone cannot substitute for environmental regulation, sustainable production or democratic accountability. It would nevertheless be simplistic to argue that calling nature 'Mother' causes environmental destruction. Such determinism ignores the decisive roles of capitalism, industrialisation, colonial extraction and state policy. The metaphor did not produce the climate, metaphors shape the moral vocabulary within which these systems operate. They influence what societies perceive and gratitude towards reciprocity, and beyond metaphors that celebrate sacrifice towards institutions that respect limits.

Suthar's 10-Wicket Match Haul Leads India's 165-Run Demolition Of Sri Lanka In 1st Test

Galle: The exceptionally gifted Manav Suthar gave India temporary deliverance from their red-ball turmoil, leading the 165-run dismantling of Sri Lanka in the first Test with a match haul of 10 wickets on the fifth and final day here on Wednesday. The visitors now lead the two-match series 1-0, and it became all the more special as it was India's 600th Test match. Once Suthar got his 10th scalp of Test, Shubman Gill must have heaved a sigh of relief as there was a heavy downpour within five minutes after the end of the game. This victory at a traditionally spin-ruled venue like Galle will give India oodles of confidence after they struggle against New Zealand and South Africa at home on rather similar pitches. Starting the final day from 84 for four needing a further 288 to cross an improbable line, Sri Lanka delayed the inevitable for a session and a bit but eventually folded for 206, succumbing to the guile of the young Indian left-arm spinner.

Suthar (6/55) ran



through the Lankan late order in a destructive spell, and it was his second successive fifer after achieving the feat in his maiden Test against Afghanistan recently. This was after a four-wicket haul in the first innings. The home side started the post-lunch session at 175 for six, and managed to reach 199 without further loss. But Suthar's reintroduction changed the course of the game as the left-arm spinner jettisoned Sonal Dinusha (84), Prabath Jayasuriya and Lahiru Kumara in the space of six balls in the 76th over, reducing SL to 199 for nine. Suthar, who generated ample turn and bounce, fittingly applied the coup de grace on the proceedings, dismissing Keshara

Nuwantha. However, India had to wait a tad longer than expected to reach the destination victory. It was primarily because of a stonewalling alliance between Dinusha and skipper Dhananjaya de Silva (59 off 151 balls), the two overnight batters, added 95 runs off 202 balls to deny the Indians success for well over an hour into the opening session of the day. Just like the Indian batters, sweep too was the Lankan pair's preferred way to tackle the spinners. Jadeja looked the best Indian spinner easily on the day, putting his body behind the ball and getting a good amount of purchase from the surface. Manav Suthar did not bowl too

many overs but looked sharp, but left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav was quite flat, failing to get much out of an abrasive deck, and he will surely want to improve upon this effort! It was quite astounding to watch him go through the motions rather than trying to buy some assistance from the track. Operating from around the wicket also snuffed out the leg-before option for him.

But amid the mighty push from other Indian bowlers, De Silva reached his fifty in 125 balls, and a little later Dinusha, who made a 100 in the first innings, too joined his captain. However, he brought up the landmark with more flourish, a slog-swept six off Kuldeep.

But Jadeja found a way past the defence of De Silva. The veteran left-arm spinner managed to eke out a bit more bounce and De Silva's top-edged sweep ended in the hands of Suthar at short fine leg.

Nioshan Dickwella, who played a sensible innings in Sri Lanka's first dig,



: The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has entered into a strategic partnership with Augmont Enterprises Limited to strengthen the Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) ecosystem in India, as per a statement by NSE. The partnership seeks to bolster the exchange-regulated spot gold market by enhancing EGR creation, redemption, liquidity, delivery and price discovery. "Through this partnership, the two organisations will work towards increasing market participation, improving liq-

uidity and facilitating the adoption of EGRs among investors, jewellers and other market participants," the release added. Speaking at the bell-ringing ceremony on Wednesday, NSE Managing Director and CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan said the exchange's Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR) platform offers a SEBI-regulated marketplace where physical gold can be converted into a dematerialised security and held in the same demat account.

"This framework is open to all eligible partici-

pants, and we welcome every refiner, vault manager, jeweller, and intermediary who meets the standards to come forward," he noted. India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) National President Prithviraj Kothari said India holds an estimated 30,000-35,000 tonnes of gold, making it one of the largest private gold reserves globally, but much of this wealth remains economically inactive. He further said that India is setting up the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) for the offshore

market, while SEBI has already notified the framework for Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) for the domestic market.

"EGR (Electronic Gold Receipt) has the potential to unlock enormous value for India. If even a small fraction of the gold lying idle in our homes enters a transparent and regulated ecosystem, it can improve liquidity, strengthen formalisation, support financing, and reduce our dependence on fresh gold imports," it said.

Ketan Kothari, Director and Founder of Augmont Goldtech Private Limited, said Electronic Gold Receipts could transform India's gold financing ecosystem by enabling consumers to convert idle gold, bars and coins into EGRs and lend them to manufacturers through the Securities Lending and Borrowing (SLB) platform. By doing this, "Customer will earn an interest, manufacturer will pay an interest," he said. Further noting that the largest tokenised gold platform has an AUM of USD 3 billion, Kothari estimates EGRs will have a 100x AUM

NSE Partners With Augmont To Strengthen India's Electronic Gold Receipt Ecosystem

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen capped his mas

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen capped his masterful undefeated campaign by retaining his title after defeating Belarusian chess grandmaster Denis Lazavik in a lop-sided final of the chess competition at the ESports World Cup here on Saturday. Team Liquid's Carlsen came with a clear goal and pursued it with unrelenting determination, not losing a single match en route to successfully defending his title. The 35-year-old Norwegian secured a 2-0 (3-1, 3-1) win over Lazavik of AGAL in the grand final. "I followed Denis' games and talked to the coaches. I do feel, especially with Hikaru's approach, it was not



right. Funny thing is, I said that he is not great at defending endgames, so I thought I should keep it together better than Hikaru," the five-time world champion said after the win. "I have played Denis many times online, where I played riskily

and got punished for it, so I didn't give him obvious positional advantages." Asked if there was any moment when he felt he might lose, Carlsen said: "There were several moments, a couple against Alireza, against Nihal as well. There were certainly

some moments, but I am thrilled to go undefeated."I was not trying to do anything out of the ordinary. I tried to take my chances, with a little bit of randomness, and I am happy."Asked what it would take to beat him, Carlsen said: "I don't know. In this format, it is not easy at the moment, I think. I think Alireza had a very good chance. It is not easy..."United States' Hikaru Nakamura finished at the third position after beating Alireza Firouzja 4-1. The championship games each, if required, a third set will consist of two games to determine the champion.

Govt Rolls Out Foreign Asset Disclosure Scheme For Small Taxpayers



New Delhi: The Income Tax Department on Saturday notified a new voluntary disclosure scheme allowing small taxpayers to declare certain undisclosed foreign assets and income by paying an effective 60 per cent tax, as the government seeks to bring overseas holdings into the tax net without exposing eligible taxpayers to further penalties or prosecution. The Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme (FAST-DS), announced in the 2026-27 Budget, will take effect from August 16, with online declarations open until December 31, 2026, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said. The scheme is aimed at taxpayers such as students, young professionals, technology employees and relocated non-resident Indians who may have failed to disclose eligible foreign assets or income. Under the rules, taxpayers will pay 30 per cent tax on the value

of the declared undisclosed foreign asset or income, plus an additional amount equal to the tax, effectively taking the levy to 60 per cent. The fair market value of assets will be determined as of March 31, 2026, the CBDT said. There are two categories of declarations under FAST-DS. For an undisclosed foreign asset or foreign income that was not previously offered to tax, the aggregate value must not exceed Rs 1 crore. A second category covers foreign assets that were already offered to tax or acquired when the taxpayer was a non-resident but were not reported in the relevant tax-return schedule. The threshold for such declarations is Rs 5 crore, with a Rs 1 lakh fee payable. The CBDT said the scheme is intended to enable eligible taxpayers to disclose "certain undisclosed foreign assets or income". The total tax payable would be Rs 48 lakh, according to an example in the CBDT's

frequently asked questions. Taxpayers making valid declarations will receive immunity from any further tax or penalty and from prosecution under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, in respect of the assets or income disclosed. The declared income or the amount invested in the disclosed asset will also not be included in the taxpayer's total income under the Income-tax Act, 1961 or the Black Money Act, the CBDT said. Notifying the rules for the scheme, the CBDT said the scheme "enables eligible taxpayers to declare certain undisclosed foreign assets, undisclosed foreign income, or undeclared foreign assets" on payment of the specified tax or fee. For example, where an undisclosed foreign bank account is valued at Rs 60 lakh and undisclosed foreign income amounts to Rs

20 lakh, the total tax payable would be Rs 48 lakh, according to an example in the CBDT's frequently asked questions.

Taxpayers making valid declarations will receive immunity from any further tax or penalty and from prosecution under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, in respect of the assets or income disclosed. The declared income or the amount invested in the disclosed asset will also not be included in the taxpayer's total income under the Income-tax Act, 1961 or the Black Money Act, the CBDT said. Notifying the rules for the scheme, the CBDT said the scheme "enables eligible taxpayers to declare certain undisclosed foreign assets, undisclosed foreign income, or undeclared foreign assets, on payment of a specified tax or fee".

India Beat Pakistan 5-3 In Men's Hockey World Cup



Amstelveen: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh and striker Abhishek scored a brace each as India extended their decade-long unbeaten run over arch-rivals Pakistan with a 5-3 win in a high-voltage FIH World Cup Pool D match here on Thursday to advance to the second round. The defeat ended Pakistan's campaign in the tournament, laying their first World Cup in eight years, Pakistan fought back after conceding

three goals but India held their nerve to seal a memorable win in front of a packed 10,000-capacity Wagoner Stadium. Captain Harmanpreet (5th, 21st) scored twice from penalty corners, while Abhishek (11th, 24th) struck two fine field goals and Hardik Singh (34th) converted a penalty stroke for India.

Hannan Shahid (22nd, 46th) scored twice for Pakistan, with Sufyan

Khan (24th) adding the other from a penalty corner. The result saw India and England qualify for the second round from Pool D. India, however, will carry no points into the next stage after losing to England in the opening round. he fiercely contested match also marked the first World Cup meeting between the two sides in 16 years. India had beaten Pakistan 4-1 in the 2010 edition in New Delhi.

The last time the two teams met at Wagoner Stadium was in the 1973 World Cup, when India edged past Pakistan 1-0 in the semifinal before losing the final to hosts the Netherlands in penalty shootout. With Pakistan needing a win to stay alive after losing to England and drawing against Wales, India started aggressively and dominated the opening quarter.

India earned four penalty corners in the first 15 minutes and Harmanpreet converted the second in the fifth minute with a powerful grounded flick to put his side ahead. Abhishek doubled the advantage in the 11th minute, showing superb control to collect Harmanpreet's aerial pass before his shot took a deflection off a Pakistani stick and found the net.

Harmanpreet had anoth-

Avengers Doomsday New Promo: Doctor Doom's Origins And Battle With Thor Revealed



Marvel Studios has unveiled a new promo of the upcoming sci-fi action movie Avengers: Doomsday. It gives fans a closer look at Robert Downey Jr's Victor von Doom and the massive threat facing the Marvel heroes. The promo was shown during the studio's showcase at D23: The Ultimate Disney Fan Event on August 15, 2026. The new promo introduces Doom's past and hints at what made him the powerful villain he is today. Sue Storm (Vanessa Kirby) describes Victor as someone who "lost

everything" and says, "I didn't realise that he was broken." The promo then shows Victor wearing his iconic mask and looking at a painting.

The promo soon shifts to a destroyed world, showing the scale of the danger in Avengers: Doomsday. Pedro Pascal's Reed Richards asks Victor if he is responsible for all the destruction. Victor, however, has a much bigger view of the situation. He says that all the super-heroes have "lived stolen lives." The promo also features a tense confrontation

between Victor and Thor (Chris Hemsworth). Thor arrives from the sky and warns him, "You will beg for hell long before I grant it." He then attacks Victor with his hammer. However, Doom easily blocks the attack, throws Thor's hammer away and pushes him back. Victor then delivers one of the most striking lines from the promo: "Hell answers to me. For I am Doom." The film brings together heroes from different parts of the Marvel universe, including the Avengers, Fantastic Four and X-Men.

Along with Downey Jr, the cast includes Chris Evans, Hayley Atwell, Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Chris Hemsworth, Anthony Mackie, Florence Pugh, Paul Rudd, Tom Hiddleston, Ian McKellen, Patrick Stewart, the Avengers, Fantastic Four and X-Men. art, James Marsden and several others. Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo, Avengers: Doomsday is produced by Kevin Feige, Louis D'Esposito and Jonathan Schwartz. The film is scheduled to release in theatres on December 18, 2026.

'Gaurav Khanna Bullied Me A Lot': Shagun Sharma Shares Her Experience



Khatron Ke Khiladi is returning with its 15th season after a two-year break. Hosted by Rohit Shetty, the stunt-based reality show has already completed filming in Cape Town, South Africa. This season will feature a mix of returning contestants and new faces, with tougher stunts and unexpected twists. Ahead of the show's premiere, actor Shagun Sharma spoke about her experience on the reality show. During an interview with a news wire, she claimed that fellow contestant Gaurav Khanna bullied her during the shoot. When asked if there was anyone from the show she would not like to

meet again, Shagun said, "I think Gaurav Khanna is one person I would not want to meet." She went on to explain why she felt that way. According to Shagun, Gaurav often targeted her whenever contestants failed to complete a stunt. Sharing her experience, she said, "He was someone jinhone mujhe bahut bully kiya hai (He was someone who bullied me a lot). If five people performed a task and four of them aborted it, he would pick on me the most. He would say, 'Yeh to chod deti hai,' 'She is weak,' and 'Don't do this.'"

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However, Shagun also clarified that she does not want to judge Gaurav based only on his behaviour during the reality show. She said that people often behave differently in such situations and said she was not sure if he is the same person in real life. The confirmed contestants of Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 include Gaurav Khanna, Avinash Mishra, Farhana Bhatt, Shagun Sharma, Avika Gor, Orhan Awatramani (Orri), Harsh Gujral, Jasmin Bhasin, Rubina Dilaik, Karan Wahi, Rithvik Dhanjani, Vishal Aditya Singh and Ruhani Dhanwan. The upcoming season

carries the theme "Darr Ka Naya Daur" and promises more challenging stunts than previous editions. Like every season, Rohit Shetty will return as the host and guide contestants through dangerous tasks set against the backdrop of Cape Town. The contestants have already returned to India after completing the shoot in South Africa, where they frequently shared photos and videos of their time together on social media. Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 premieres on August 1. The show will air every Saturday and Sunday at 9 pm on Colors TV and will also be available for streaming on JioHotstar.

ED Questions Actor Nidhhi Agerwal In Betting App Case



Actor Nidhhi Agerwal on Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate in Telangana capital Hyderabad for questioning in connection with a betting app promotion case. Visuals showed Nidhhi arriving at the ED office wearing a mask and being escorted by the security inside the premises. The actor had received notices from

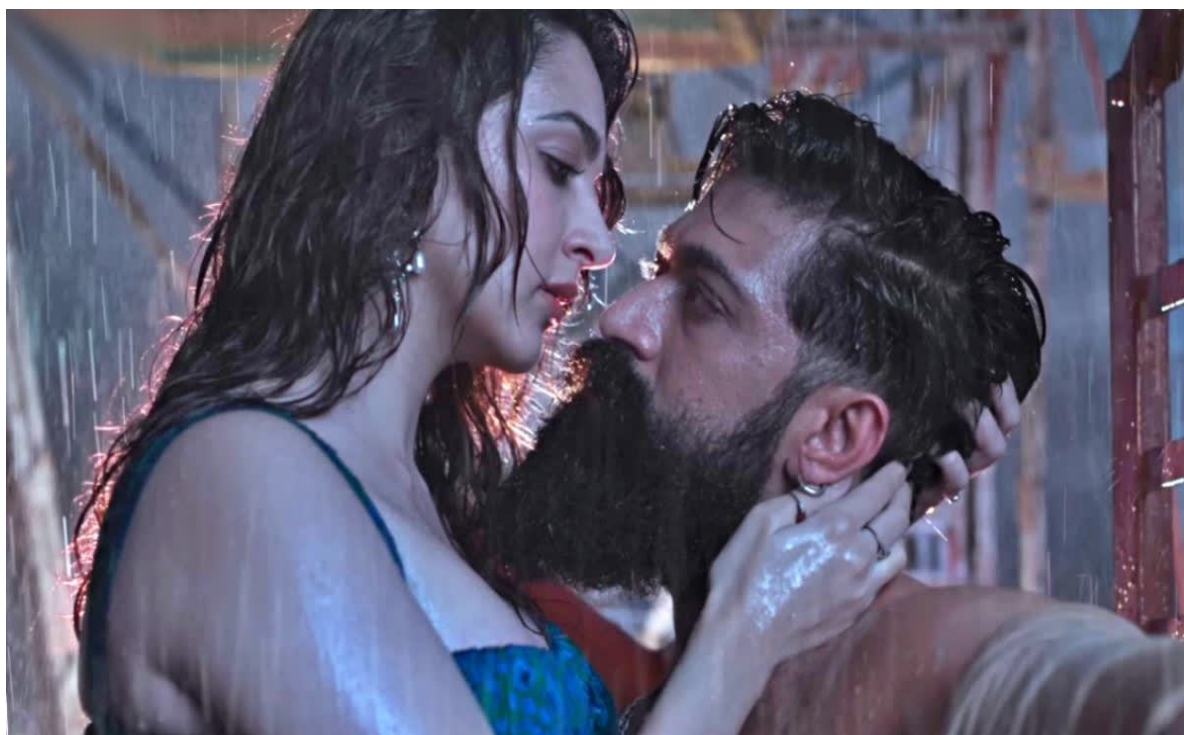
the ED earlier, but she had sought some time to appear for the inquiry due to her shooting schedules. She is facing charges of earning huge funds through hawala channels by promoting betting apps. Sources said that Nidhhi was questioned by the ED officials for more than two hours in connection with the case. Besides Nidhhi, the ED

has questioned many celebrities including Vijay Deverakonda, Rana Daggubati, Manchu Lakshmi, Prakash Raj and others in the case. The central probe agency has registered cases against 21 celebrities as part of the investigation. Sources said that Nidhhi was questioned by the ED officials for more than two hours in connection with the case. The Telangana police had last year filed a First Information Report (FIR) against several

celebrities and influencers for allegedly promoting illegal betting and gambling apps through their social media platforms. The FIR was filed at the Miyapur Police Station in Hyderabad over a petition by 32-year-old businessman PM Phanindra Sarma. In his complaint lodged on March 19, 2025, Sarma alleged a disturbing trend of celebrities and influencers promoting illegal gambling apps that violate the Public Gambling Act of 1867. Sarma claimed that during a conversation with youth in his community, he discovered individuals influenced to invest their money in these gambling apps heavily advertised by social media personalities. He has questioned many celebrities including Vijay Deverakonda, Rana Daggubati, Manchu Lakshmi, Prakash Raj and others in the case. The central probe agency has registered cases against 21 celebrities as part of the investigation. Sources said that Nidhhi was questioned by the ED officials for more than two hours in connection with the case. Besides Nidhhi, the ED in the case. The Telangana police had last year filed a First Information Report (FIR) against several

The authorities have taken the matter seriously after complaints said that lakhs of youth were losing large amounts of money and dying by suicide after believing in the promotions of betting apps by celebrities.

0 Lesser-Known Facts About Yash's Film, From His Clean-Shaven Look To The Number 8 Connection



Yash is all set to return to the big screen after more than four years with Toxic: A Fairy Tale For Grown-Ups. The actor last appeared in KGF: Chapter 2, which released in April 2022. Since then, fans have been waiting for his next film. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic is scheduled to release worldwide on August 26, 2026. While the film has already created huge buzz, there are several lesser-known facts about the project that make it even more interesting. Yash Returns After Over Four Years Yash's last release was KGF: Chapter 2 on April 14, 2022. The film became a major success and took his popularity to another level. Since then, the actor has not appeared in another film. It took more than four years for his next project to reach theatres. Yash has also taken on several responsibilities in Toxic. Apart from playing the lead role, he has produced the film and has also been involved in its writing.

The film is therefore an important project for him both as an actor and as a producer. Yash To Play Dual Role For The First Time One of the biggest highlights of Toxic is that Yash will be seen in two roles. He will play Raya and Rumi. This is the first time in his career that he is appearing in a dual role. Yash Plays Dual Role Yash Plays Dual Role (Photo: Screenshot from the film's trailer) The film is said to move between different time periods and will also explore a father-son relationship. Yash will therefore be seen in different looks and avatars in the film. Yash Goes Clean-Shaven After Nine Years Yash has also undergone a major look change for Toxic. The actor shaved his beard for his role as Rumi. This marks his first clean-shaven appearance on screen in nearly nine years. The makers have already shared a making video showing glimpses of Yash's transformation. The Film Was Postponed Three

Times Toxic has had a long journey to the big screen. The makers initially planned to release the film on April 10, 2025. However, legal issues and delays in shooting led to a change in plans. The release was later announced for March 19, 2026, and then June 4, 2026. The film was postponed again because of the situation in the Middle East. It is now finally scheduled to release on August 26, 2026. What Is The Connection Between Toxic And Number 8? The number 8 has a special connection with Yash and the film. The actor was born on January 8, 1985. Interestingly, several important events related to Toxic also happened on dates featuring the number 8. The film was officially announced on December 8, 2023. Shooting began on August 8, 2024. Its first glimpse was released on January 8, 2025, while another teaser, Introducing Raya, arrived on January 8, 2026.