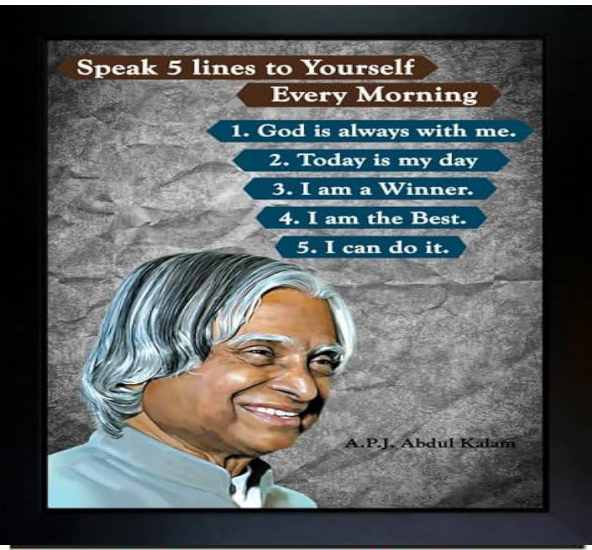




Ponguleti Inspects Indiramma Houses in Nizamabad

Hyderabad: As part of Nizamabad district visit, Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy conducted a morning walk on Saturday and inspected Indiramma houses that are under construction and those already completed. He also interacted with the beneficiaries to understand their experiences. While speaking with the beneficiaries, the joy of their dream of owning a home was visibly sparkling in their eyes. The words they expressed—offering blessings to this government and gratitude to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy—filled the Minister with immense happiness and pride. Witnessing firsthand the transformation that the welfare schemes implemented by the government are bringing into the lives of poor families is a that the goals of a truly remarkable feeling. The joy visible on their faces is proof that the goals of a people's government are being realized.



“What more could a person want than this? Every time I speak with the beneficiaries of Indiramma houses, I consider it my good fortune to have the responsibility of fulfilling the long-standing dreams of the poor. On this occasion, I presented gifts to the beneficiaries and conveyed my best wishes,” he said.

Centre Must Cooperate with Telangana’s Development

Hyderabad: Denying permission to the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy’s foreign tour for the State’s development is evident of Central government’s authoritarianism, alleged BC Welfare Minister Ponnampallabharathi on Saturday. “If Telangana develops, the country will develop. If the Prime Minister’s goal of Viksit Bharat is to be fulfilled, every state must develop,” he said while interacting with media persons in Husnabad. With an intention that Telangana should also be a key partner in Viksit Bharat, the state government is moving forward with the Telangana Rising 2047 goal and the Centre’s support is also necessary in this regard. However, creating obstacles is not right, he said. “Even though the Congress party is in power in Telangana, we are ready to work together with the Centre on the development of the country. Our goal is to bring investments to Telangana, introduce Telangana’s capabilities to the world at various international conferences, and achieve inclusive development by bringing all sections together,” he explained. Team However, it is unfortunate that when the Chief Minister wanted to undertake foreign tours to the US and London in the interest of the State, the Central government denied permission. “Does the Chief Minister not even have the right to go abroad for conferences, and achieve or bring investments for the interests of the state?” he asked. The Centre should cooperate, and achieve to on projects, funds, and infrastructure that are due to Telangana.



Cyberabad SHE Teams Nab 18 Persons in 109 Decoy Operations

Hyderabad: The Cyberabad SHE Teams conducted 109 decoy operations and caught 18 persons red-handed while indulging in indecent acts at public places. These operations were conducted from August 15 to 21. Seventeen petty cases were booked and counselling was conducted to those who were facing the case. The SHE Teams also received 25 complaints from women victims through various modes. Of which, three petty cases were booked and counselled the remaining persons. Cyberabad Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) rescued two victims and apprehended four accused persons in two PITA cases. Also Read - Telangana Adopts Telecommunications Act-2023 and Right of Way Rules-2024 The unit has also rescued two victim boys and apprehended two



accused in a JJ Act case. Efforts were made to reunite 32 families in marital disputes in Family Counselling centres. As part of preventive and awareness measures, AHTU and SHE Teams have conducted awareness programs across various locations in Cyberabad and around 4974 members participated, who were given awareness on human and trafficking, eve teasing, social media harassment, child marriages, child rights, child labour, stalking, cyber bullying, cyber frauds etc.

Revanth Reddy-Led TelanganaRising Delegation Meets Cambridge Academic Team

Hyderabad: The official TelanganaRising delegation led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had a highly fruitful and interesting meeting with an academic team from the Cambridge University. Revanth Reddy, along with IT and Industries minister D. Sridhar Babu, Advisor and Ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary, CMO K. Ramakrishna Rao and Special Chief Secretary to Government MA&UD, Jayesh Ranjan, presented the fascinating opportunities for best global institutions in Hyderabad, and join in the creation of a top global



knowledge hub. Also Read - Telangana Adopts Telecommunications Act-2023 and Right of Way Rules-2024 Prof Jaideep Prabhu, Government of India sponsored chair of Marketing, Cambridge Judge Business School, and Prof Venkata Serish Gandikota, CJBs, and co-chair, Frugal AI, expressed keen enthusiasm in partnering with Telangana. The two sides agreed on setting up a framework for collaboration involving offering education in Hyderabad, research, incubation of entrepreneurship.

Some People Indulging in Unnecessary Misinformation against Data Centres:

Anakapalli: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday said that some people are unnecessarily propagating misinformation against data centre projects, observing that they are unaware of their benefits. Addressing a public meeting at Alamandakoduru village here during the Swarna Andhra-Swach Andhra (golden & clean Andhra) programme, the chief minister noted that data centre construction is yet to begin, but some people are complaining that water levels are depleting. Also

Read - Naidu Hands Over Rs.250 Cr Compensation to Veligonda Project Evacuees "Some people are indulging in unnecessary misinformation against data centres. They do not know about the benefits that will flow from data centres," Naidu said. One data centre project led to five in total, he said, adding that lakhs of AI professionals will emerge if 5 GW capacity worth data centres arrive in the southern state. According to the CM, all data centres put together will require only 3.5 TMC water. He highlighted that



water from Polavaram Project will be supplied up to Anakapalli to fill all the ponds. Also Read - Two Student Groups Clash on Road in Visakhapatnam, 17 Detained In the first week of September, Naidu said Godavari River water will be brought to Anakapalli. Noting that it

was heartening to see children talk about AI and data centres, the TDP supremo said it is a matter of pride that the "first" quantum computer in the country came to the southern state. Naidu said there used to be a feeling that Anakapalli was lagging behind in investments but underscored that now it is attracting larger investments than Visakhapatnam, citing ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel plant project and others. Also Read - Polavaram: Man Charred to Death After Car Collides With Iron Laden

Lorry He stressed that Anakapalli district is transforming into a hub for all companies to emerge as a knowledge economy. Over the past few years, Andhra Pradesh has attracted major data centres projects, which also includes the Rs 1.35 lakh-crore Google data centre project near Visakhapatnam. Lashing out at the previous YSRCP government, Naidu said it had failed to lay roads thinking that it was extending welfare. However, he said that the coalition government has transformed roads.

Madhapur: Seven-Storey Building on 50 Yards Collapses, 3 Feared Trapped



Hyderabad: A seven-storey under-construction building collapsed in Anjaiah Nagar under the Madhapur police station limits on Saturday afternoon. The building was reportedly constructed on just 50 yards of land and was located adjacent to a nala. The collapsed structure fell onto Whitefield Apartment, causing partial damage to the building. A hostel located adjacent to the seven-storey building was also affected, with students panicking following the collapse. Also Read - Telangana Adopts Telecommunications Act-2023 and Right of Way Rules-2024 Police and rescue personnel reached the

spot and launched a search operation to determine whether anyone was trapped under the debris. TelanganaRising Delegation Meets Cambridge Academic Team The identity of the building owner is not yet known. Locals alleged that the building was an illegal construction. They also expressed deep concern over the safety standards and claimed that the authorities should have taken action against the construction earlier. Locals urged officials to conduct a thorough investigation and take appropriate action against those involved. DRF personnel are retrieving a body trapped under the debris. Police sus-

pect that three workers may be trapped beneath the rubble. Also Read - 18 Terror Suspects Held in Pakistan's Punjab Officials from the Gachibowli and Madhapur fire stations are using a Victim Location Camera to monitor the situation and locate people trapped under the debris. Residents of the apartment said they had already raised complaints with the authorities, but alleged that officials failed to pay heed to their concerns. MLA Arekapudi Gandhi, speaking to the media, said that strict action would be taken against those responsible. Further details are awaited.

Telangana Adopts Telecommunications Act-2023 and Right of Way Rules-2024

Hyderabad: The State government has decided to adopt the Telecommunications Act-2023(Central Act No. 44 of 2023) and Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules-2024 in the State. An order to this effect was issued here on Saturday and it would come into force with immediate effect, according to Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju. With this, the G.O. Ms. No. 2, ITE&C Department dated February 19, 2021 shall stand superseded with effect from January 1, 2025, except for permissions already granted thereunder. All public entities shall accord highest priority to BharatNet and other notified special projects, and shall not levy any fee, charge, rent, annuity, bank guarantee or any other financial contribution on their implementing agencies or contractors for establishment, operation or maintenance of telecom infrastructure in public property. Property Tax and Other Levies In accordance with Section 14(3) of the Telecommunications Act-2023, any telecommunication network installed on,



cations shall be processed exclusively through the said portal. Detailed procedure, timelines, fees, deemed approval and related matters shall refer to the Act and RoW rules. Projects BharatNet has been notified as a Special Project under the RoW Rules-2024. All public entities shall accord highest priority to BharatNet and other notified special projects, and shall not levy any fee, charge, rent, annuity, bank guarantee or any other financial contribution on their implementing agencies or contractors for establishment, operation or maintenance of telecom infrastructure in public property. Property Tax and Other Levies In accordance with Section 14(3) of the Telecommunications Act-2023, any telecommunication network installed on,

over or under a property shall not be considered as part of such property for the purpose of any transaction, property tax, levy, cess, fees or duties applicable to such property. All Local Bodies including Grama Panchayats and other authorities shall accordingly ensure that telecommunication networks are not considered for assessment or levy of property tax, levy, cess, fees or duties on the property. Call Before U Dig (CBuD) The Call Before U Dig (CBuD) mobile application notified by the Central government shall be the sole platform for coordination of excavation activities in the State. All public entities and their contractors shall onboard the CBuD application within 30 days from the date of this order and shall mandatorily use it before com-

Telangana HC reserves verdict on pleas against Speaker’s ruling in Danam Nagender case

Hyderabad: Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin of the Telangana High Court on Friday reserved judgment on two writ petitions challenging the Legislative Assembly Speaker’s ruling regarding the disqualification of Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender. The Writ Petitions, filed by BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy and BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, contend that Nagender incurred disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. Nagender, who won the Khairatabad seat on a BRS ticket in the 2023 Assembly elections, subsequently switched loyalties to the ruling Congress. The Speaker had earlier held that the legislator had not defected from the BRS party. The High Court clarified that while arguments regarding similar dis-



qualification pleas against eight other BRS-turned-Congress MLAs—Kale Yadaiah, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Kadiyam Srihari, Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, T. Prakash Goud, A. Gandhi, Tellam Venkat Rao, and Sanjay Kumar will be heard separately, the proceedings concerning Danam Nagender were wrapped up given the distinct nature of the allegations against him. Senior counsels K.Vivek Reddy and Gandra Mohan Rao appearing for the petitioners argued that an elected MLA contesting a Lok Sabha election on

Schedule. They asserted that the Speaker ought to have considered acts such as active campaigning and filing nominations on the Congress of whether a r was submitted stressed that anti-defection laws do the stability of the state government is threatened or if the original party’s numbers inside the Assembly are diminished, but rather on whether the elected member voluntarily severed ties with his parent political outfit. Countering the allegations, Senior Counsels A.Venkatesh and

Gourav Agarwal representing Danam Nagender argued that the petitioners’ case rested almost entirely on media reports and photographs. The allegations stem from a meeting on March 15, 2024, involving the Chief Minister and an AICC General Secretary, during which a Congress scarf was draped around the MLA’s shoulders, leading to assertions that he formally joined the party on March 17, 2024. They submitted that nowhere in the news reports or photograph submissions did Nagender explicitly state he had joined the Congress. They contended that such circumstantial media coverage was insufficient to establish a voluntary surrender of membership, adding that official Legislative Assembly records continue to show Danam Nagender BRS member.

Attapur Police Return 25 Phones to Owners

Hyderabad: The Attapur police on Wednesday handed over 25 recovered mobile phones, valued at approximately Rs.2 lakh to their rightful owners. The phones were successfully traced and recovered using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal. Inspector A. Seethaiah called the complainants owners to the police station and personally handed over the recovered devices after verification. The owners expressed their delight and expressed sincere gratitude to the Attapur police team for their swift efforts in recovering their lost property. Also Read - For 70 Years, Bandlapalem Village In Suryapet Has Banned Alcohol Speaking on the



occasion, Seethaiah stated, "If anyone loses their mobile phone or if it gets stolen, they should immediately block and report it through the

CEIR portal (ceir.sancharsaathi.gov.in) or report it at the nearest police station." "Blocking the IMEI number on the CEIR

portal prevents misuse of the device and significantly assists the police in tracking and recovering the phone promptly," he added.

Constable Mohammad Sharif Dismissed Over Double Murder in Suryapet



Suryapet: Police constable Mohammad Sharif, the main accused in the double murder of a married couple in Mothey Mandal of Suryapet district, has been dismissed from service, Suryapet District SP K Narasimha said. He said orders had been issued dismissing Sharif from service following departmental proceedings. He also said provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act had been invoked in the case. A DSP has been appointed as the investigating officer, while police are tak-

ing steps to transfer the case to a fast-track court for a speedy trial and stringent punishment. Suryapet Murder Case: The couple had allegedly borrowed Rs.3 lakh from Shareef. When he sought repayment, they allegedly threatened to lodge a complaint against him under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the SP said. According to the police, Shareef subsequently planned to kill the couple and sought Surrender's help. On Thursday evening, Surrender took Buba on a moped to an agricultural field near the underbridge on the outskirts of Penpahad on the pretext of digging. The police

said Surrender and Shareef attacked Buba and buried him in a pit that had already been dug. Nagulu was later brought to the same place and killed, following which the bodies were buried in the agricultural field. Police examined CCTV footage from several locations and found Surrender taking Buba towards the underbridge on a moped. Surrender was subsequently arrested and allegedly disclosed Shareef's involvement in the killings.

said Surrender and Shareef attacked Buba and buried him in a pit that had already been dug. Nagulu was later brought to the same place and killed, following which the bodies were buried in the agricultural field. Police examined CCTV footage from several locations and found Surrender taking Buba towards the underbridge on a moped. Surrender was subsequently arrested and allegedly disclosed Shareef's involvement in the killings.

CGST Raids Uncover Rs.160 Cr Tax Evasion in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Officers of the Hyderabad Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) zone busted a clandestine pan masala and tobacco manufacturing unit operating out of a tin-shed facility on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Acting on specific intelligence, a search operation was conducted on the premises leading to the detection of 40 undeclared FFS (Form-Fill-Seal) packing machines used to pack pan masala and tobacco and scented jarda. Also Read - Centre Must Cooperate with Telangana’s Development: Ponnam Around 56 workers were found engaged on the shop floor at the time of the search. The unit was found manufacturing and packing several branded and unbranded products of pan masala and scented jarda. The operation resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of finished stock of pouches weighing around 5,500 kg and ready-to-dispatch consignments valued at Rs.76 lakh, along with raw material comprising approximately 2,015 kg of pan masala mixture and 810 kg of tobacco, besides two vehicles used for transportation of the illicit goods. Also



Read - Speeding Lorry Hits School Bus in Mahabubabad, 50 Students Safe Officers also seized packing material, the 40 FFS machines, and other incriminating documents. Evidence indicates that the unit was being run clandestinely without registration, with finished goods being cleared without payment of applicable GST, HSNS Cess and Central Excise duty. The state-ments recorded, the total duty and cess evasion detected is approximately Rs.160 crore. A capacity-based c1 2026 in the pan masala and tobacco sector. Under the Health Security se National Security (HSNS) Cess Act-2025,

capacity-based monthly cess is applicable on pan masala, computed on the basis of the number, type and capacity of packing machines installed. Also Read - Mohammad Sharif Dismissed Over Double Murder in Suryapet A similar capacity-based central duty. The key person found to be organising and managing the clandestine manufacture and clearance was arrested and produced before the Special Judge for Economic Offences, who remanded him to judicial custody for 14 days. Also Read - Software Employee Killed, Two Injured in Road Accident Near Khajaguda Based on the stock physically verified, the scale of

machinery and manpower deployed, and the statements recorded, the total duty and cess evasion detected is approximately Rs.160 crore. A capacity-based c1 2026 in the pan masala and tobacco sector. Under the Health Security se National Security (HSNS) Cess Act-2025, capacity-based monthly cess is applicable on pan masala, computed on the basis of the number, type and capacity of packing machines installed. Also Read - Mohammad Sharif Dismissed Over Double Murder in Suryapet A similar capacity-based central excise levy is imposed on chewing tobacco, jarda and gutkha under the Central Excise Act, 1944.

3 Senior Citizens among 5 Held in Ganja Case in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Three senior citizens, including a 78-year-old man and a 66-year-old woman, were among the five persons, who were caught by the special crime team of Central Crime Station (CCS) of Hyderabad police in connection with a ganja smuggling case. The Gandhinagar police also assisted the CCS sleuths in arresting the accused identified as Rajaram Swami Kannu Padaiyachi (78), Santosh Baram Prajapathi (65), Vijayalaxmi Kaliyamurti Pellai (66), Silmina

Kujur (36) and Sheela Devi (48), all residing in Mumbai and Thane. Also Read - Ramakrishna Rao Highlights Telangana’s Collaboration Opportunities in London While Rajaram is an employee in homestay, Santosh is a coolie and Silmina and Sheela Devi were working as maids. Vijayalaxmi is their acquaintance. They were acting as transporters of ganja from Araku near Visakhapatnam to Mumbai. As per instructions of their contact person, they procure



large quantities of dry ganja, packed in brown-coloured parcel covers, from Araku. They transport parcels to Hyderabad by bus and, from Hyderabad, board another bus to Mumbai. Also Read - Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh Calls For Timely

Dispute Resolution Upon reaching Mumbai, they deliver parcels at designated locations as instructed by the contact person. These transporters would get commission for each delivery. The accused also have previous criminal history of ganja trans-

Steady Inflows Boost Srisaillam Storage; Godavari Flows Ease

Hyderabad: Six persons, including three from Hyderabad, have been arrested in connection with the alleged illegal hunting of a blackbuck at Chondi-Mamadapur grassland near the Honnikeri Reserved Forest area in Bidar district of Karnataka, the Forest Department said. The incident was reported on August 17 at the grassland, known to be a habitat of blackbuck (Antelope cervicapra). According to officials, three of the suspects were chased and apprehended by alert residents of Chondi Tanda and Mamadapur Tanda and handed over to the police and subsequently to the Forest Department. Three others allegedly fled the spot, prompting the department to constitute a special search team. "A coordinated operation involving the Forest and Police departments of Bidar and neighbouring Kalaburagi district, along with assistance from Telangana Forest



authorities, resulted in the arrest of the remaining three suspects on August 18," said Sumitkumar Subhashrao Patil, Deputy conservator of forests, Bidar. Officials said the six arrested persons included three local residents of Chincholi taluk in Kalaburagi district and three residents of Hyderabad. Two four-wheelers and a rifle allegedly used in the offence were seized. Video Player 00:00:42 The arrested are Shoaib Malik, resident of Karnataka,

Abdul Sayeed, resident of Falaknuma, Hyderabad, Mohd Hameed Uzzaman, resident of Malakpet, Hyderabad, Mohd Naseer, resident of Bahadurpura, Hyderabad, and Areef Khan and Md Haji, both residents of Karnataka. A wildlife offence case has been registered and the arrested persons were produced before a court for further legal proceedings. The investigation is being conducted by Praveenkumar More, Range Forest Officer, Bidar. The Forest Department

said the blackbuck is a Schedule-I protected species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and hunting or killing the animal attracts stringent legal action. Officials also said the preliminary investigation indicated the involvement of persons from Telangana allegedly equipped with sophisticated long-range rifles. Further investigation is under way to establish the full circumstances of the incident and identify any other persons involved, the official added.

'Remove Reservation' Protest At Jantar Mantar: Heavy Police Deployment After Agitators Gather Without Permission

New Delhi: A massive rally took place at Jantar Mantar on Friday with people demanding the scrapping of the reservation system, following which the Delhi Police beefed up security and deployed forces of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) as the rally was found to be an unauthorised one.

The movement, started through a social media campaign by the 'Remove Reservation Movement' group, started out peacefully in the morning only to grow in numbers in the evening. The protesters, who included people from all sections of society, including people from OBC, conducted a joint reading of the Hanuman Chalisa. The police said no official sanction was given for this rally at Jantar Mantar.



"Initially, the protesters were made aware by the use of the public address system that the rally is unauthorised, and posters have been put up in Jantar Mantar which state that protests are not allowed in the area," a senior police

officer said.

Though the Jantar Mantar rally did not receive any clearance, it was confirmed that an NOC had been given for a peaceful protest rally at Ramlila Maidan on August 21 till 4 pm, provided the pre-

scribed norms are followed.

The protest rally got momentum online using social networking sites, and the organisers gathered people digitally before taking out the rally in the national capital.

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Bihar Govt Missive To Officers To Follow Protocol And Etiquette Towards Legislators



Patna: Legislators in Bihar are reclaiming their lost ground and respect, including something as basic as government officers receiving or returning their telephone calls. The state general administration department (GAD) has issued a circular to ensure effective implementation of protocol and etiquette by officers towards public representatives. It has been sent to all district magistrates, divisional commissioners, director general of police (DGP), departmental heads, secretaries, principal secretaries, additional chief secretaries, asking them to inform the officers and employees working in their subordinate offices and ensure firm implementation of the instructions. Incidentally, the move comes after several cases of officers being discourteous towards legislators or violating the protocol prescribed for them over the past couple of decades. Bihar Legislative Assembly Speaker Prem Kumar had held a meeting with top officers on July 17 over the issue and expected them to

issue directions in this regard. The circular issued by GAD secretary Mohammad Sohail on Friday evening, a copy of which is with ETV Bharat, enumerates the directions that must be followed by the officers in the light of the expectations of the Assembly speaker, including immediately receiving the phone calls of MLAs as far as possible. "If receiving such calls is not possible at the given time due to unavoidable reasons, they (the officers) should call them (MLAs) back as soon as possible and establish communication," the circular said. The missive further directs the officers to immediately provide information to the concerned MLA about receiving their letters, and apprise him of the action taken or the present circumstances within the stipulated time, as far as possible. "If any honourable member (legislator) arrives to meet any government officer at his workplace, then the required protocol, etiquette and respectful behaviour must be accorded to him as per his position and dignity," the circular

said. The GAD letter points out that the public representatives (MPs and legislators) are the main link between the people and governance under the democratic system. They need to establish personal contact or write letters to various departments and district administration while disposing important work under the Constitution. The missive to the government officers also pointed to seven similar circulars issued by the GAD since 2012.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former MLA Lalan Paswan told ETV Bharat that protocol-related rules have already been framed by Parliament and state legislatures. There are similar administrative guidelines for officers, but they are seldom followed. The bureaucrats and government officers have become unbridled and are posing a threat to democracy.

"The protocol says that even the chief secretary or DGP will get up from his chair to greet an MLA and politely offer him a

India-Finland Cooperation Takes Centre Stage At Circular Economy Forum

New Delhi: India and Finland are looking to deepen business and technology partnerships in the circular economy as companies from both countries explored opportunities for resource-efficient and sustainable growth at a forum here. The concluding day of the two-day India Circular Economy Forum (ICEF) 2026, which focused on Finland, on Friday brought together policymakers, businesses and circular economy experts to discuss opportunities arising from the evolving India-EU economic relationship, according to an official statement. Held from August 20 to 21, the ICEF 2026 was a precursor to the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026, which will be held for the first time in South Asia in Gandhinagar from September 15 to 18. The WCEF defines a circular economy as a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated. It helps tackle climate change and other global challenges, like biodiversity loss, waste and pollution, by decoupling economic activity from the consumption of limited resources. Friday's discus-



sions, held under the theme "Harmonising Value Chains: The new India-EU Trade Era", focused on building competitive and resilient value chains through circularity, traceability, resource efficiency and sustainable business practices. Antti Herlevi, Counsellor for Trade and Investments in the Embassy of Finland in New Delhi, said, "Circular economy is not just an environmental agenda; it is an economic and industrial one." He said more than 100 Finnish companies were already active in India across sectors such as clean energy, waste management, recycling, digital solutions and sustainable design, and that there was scope for greater

cooperation with Indian partners. "As the Indian market continues to grow rapidly, there is a significant opportunity for Finnish businesses to work alongside local partners in India across a range of fields, combining expertise and innovation to support resource-efficient and sustainable growth," Herlevi said. Indian and Finnish companies also participated in a dedicated business-to-business session aimed at developing investment, technology and commercial partnerships in the circular economy. Finnish companies, including Peikko, Nokia, Normet, Mirasys and Lamor, and Indian firms, such as Orbisgreen

Techsource, LoopM Alternatives, Re:Gen Collective and Syaahi Uniforms, took part in the discussions. Shalini Goyal Bhalla, founder and managing director, International Council for Circular Economy, said, "India is at an important point in its circular economy transition." She said circular economy principles needed to move beyond waste management and become part of product design, value chains, resource use, skills development and new business models. The 10th edition of the WCEF in Gandhinagar will be jointly organised in September by Finnish innovation fund Sitra and the Central Pollution

Control Board, with support from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Gujarat government and other global and Indian partners. The forum aims to identify practical strategies to help businesses improve resource efficiency, strengthen environmental and ESG performance and develop new growth opportunities as India expands its role in global value chains. India's bilateral trade with Finland rose about 25 per cent year-on-year to USD 3.70 billion in 2025-26. Overall trade grew around 38.5 per cent over five years, from USD 2.64 billion in 2021-22 to USD 3.65 billion in 2025-26, according to Indian government data.

Friday's discussions assumed significance against the backdrop of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), whose negotiations were concluded on January 27, with the agreement opening preferential market access for more than 99 per cent of Indian merchandise exports to the EU. However, the FTA is currently undergoing legal review and formal ratification procedures, and has not come into force.

Supreme Court Special Lok Adalat Settles Over 400 Cases on 1st Day of 3-Day Exercise

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday settled more than 400 cases on the first day of a three-day Special Lok Adalat being held as part of the "Samadhan Samaroh" initiative aimed at promoting an amicable resolution of disputes.

More than 600 cases were listed before 16 Special Lok Adalat benches, each comprising two Supreme Court judges, along with senior advocates, advocates-on-record and other lawyers.

The Special Lok Adalat, which began on Friday, will continue till August 23. The cases taken up included matrimonial and property disputes, motor-accident claims, land-acquisition and compensation matters, tax disputes



as well as service and labour matters pending before the apex court.

The initiative, being held under the guidance of

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant, involves a pre-settlement process in which litigants and their counsel are engaged to explore the possibility of

resolving disputes amicably. The benches facilitated dialogue between the parties and assisted them in exploring the possibility of a settlement through

consent rather than prolonged litigation.

The Supreme Court said the exercise reflects its continued efforts to promote mediation and other consensual methods of dispute resolution as an important process in which litigants and their counsel are engaged to explore the possibility of resolving disputes amicably. The benches facilitated dialogue between the parties and assisted them in exploring the possibility of a settlement through the justice-delivery system. The Special Lok Adalat provides litigants an opportunity to resolve their disputes through dialogue and settlement, while helping reduce the burden of prolonged litigation.

NIA Raids In South Kashmir's Anantnag In Terror Case

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday carried out raids at two locations in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district as part of its investigation into a terror case. The raids were carried out at Bijbehara and Dooru in the south Kashmir district, officials said. Accompanied by Jammu and Kashmir Police and Central Reserve Police Force, NIA officers searched two residential houses as part of its probe, they added.

The operation was carried out in connection with an ongoing investigation by the NIA, but the nature of the case and the details of the search were not immediately available. According to sources, searches and other legal proceedings were underway at both locations, but it was not yet clear whether any arrests have been made or any objectionable material or other items have been seized during the operation. More details and an official statement are awaited from the NIA regarding the two raids. Saturday's operation by the agency comes a day after J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha highlighted the vital role of community solidarity in eliminating



terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Sinha was speaking after laying the foundation stone of Amritheshwar Sarovar under the 'Jan Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative at Dharpur in Sunderbani area of Rajouri district. During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor paid obeisance at the Shri Amritheshwar Shiv temple. Addressing a public gathering, LG said that community solidarity has a crucial role to play in eliminating terrorism, substance abuse and corruption, besides driving economic development and ushering in a spiritual renaissance in Jammu and Kashmir. "India is going through a great spiritual revival. This cultural wave is felt across Jammu-Kashmir, bringing people closer together and strengthening our community bonds," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged people to remain vigilant against the nefarious designs of anti-national elements, report suspicious activities and completely isolate terror sympathisers. "Security forces alone cannot defeat terrorism. Eradicating this threat demands a whole-of-society approach. United societal effort is required along with police and security agencies to dismantle the illicit financial and logistical webs of narco-terror networks," he said. Sinha aid a concerted security and societal effort involving the Army, security forces, J&K Police, local administration and residents has significantly degraded terrorism and transformed the security landscape of the region.

Five Killed, Many Injured As Bus Ploughs Into Roadside Music Event In Bihar's Bettiah

Bettiah: Five persons were killed on the spot when a passenger bus went out of control and ploughed into an orchestra programme being held on the roadside in the Lauria police station area of Bihar's Bettiah district late on Friday. The accident took place near Parao Tola Bankatwa on the Bettiah-Lauria main road. According to police, a passenger bus collided with a truck while attempting to avoid the speeding vehicle. The bus then went out of control and crashed into an event being held along the roadside. More than half-a-dozen people are reported to have been injured in the accident. Among the deceased was Devendra Dubey, whose child's Chhathiyar ceremony was underway when the tragedy occurred. Vehicles Tried To Avoid Each Other While a passenger bus from Gorakhpur to



Bettiah was passing through the Bagaha-Lauria main road, a speeding truck was coming from the Bettiah side. Near Parao Tola Bankatwa, both vehicles reportedly lost control as they tried to avoid each other. In the process, the bus crashed into the orchestra programme being held along the roadside. The deceased have been identified as Bahadur Mahato, Sanjay Kumar, Bhola Dubey, Devendra Dubey and Chhangur Ram, all residents of Bankatwa under Lauria police station. The tragedy was particularly painful as Devendra Dubey was among those killed

while his child's Chhathiyar ceremony was taking place. "Chhathiyar celebrations were being held at Shatrughan Dubey's house, where an orchestra programme was underway. Suddenly, a speeding bus went out of control and crashed into the gathering, killing several people on the spot and injuring many others," said Jaiprakash Mahato, eyewitness and brother of a deceased victim. Injured At Bettiah GMCH Soon after receiving information about the accident, Lauria police reached the spot. Ambulances immediately took the injured to Bettiah

GMCH, where they are undergoing treatment. The injured include Vinay Kumar Yadav, Shyam Babu, Moti Chandra Mahato and Naresh Ram, among others following the accident, angry locals allegedly began vandalising the bus and truck. Narakatiganj Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Jaiprakash Singh reached the spot and pacified the crowd. SDPO Jaiprakash Singh said police had sent the bodies to Bettiah GMCH for post-mortem examination. "Five persons have died, and several others are injured. Police are currently investigating the matter and determining the cause of the accident," said Jaiprakash Singh, S D P O, Narakatiganj. The accident has plunged the entire village into mourning, with the families of the deceased devastated by the deaths.

Nitin Nabin Holds First Meeting With BJP's New National Team

New Delhi: BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Saturday held the first meeting with the party's newly appointed national office-bearers to discuss poll strategy and grassroots outreach, party sources said. The meeting focused on preparations for upcoming state assembly elections, grassroots mobilisation and communicating government initiatives to the public, the sources said. More meetings are scheduled later in the day, with state presidents, state in-charges and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states expected to attend, they said. The BJP announced a new national team



under Nabin earlier this week. It comprises 65 office-bearers, with 51 new faces. The new team includes 13 national vice presidents, including former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia and former RSS functionary Ram Madhav, while former Union minister Smriti Irani has been appointed as one of

the eight national general secretaries. B L Santhosh has been retained as national general secretary (organisation) and Vinod Tawde and Sunil Bansal as general secretaries. The new team includes 12 women and six leaders from minority communities. Union minister Piyush Goyal has been named national

treasurer, a post he held before becoming a minister in the first Narendra Modi government in May 2014. The BJP removed Amit Malviya as the head of its IT department and appointed Deepak Mhaskey of Chhattisgarh in his place. Hemang Joshi of Gujarat has been named the party's Yuva Morcha president, replacing Lok Sabha MP Tejasvi Surya. The reshuffle, which came more than a decade after the last organisational rejig of this scale in 2015 under then party president Amit Shah, has also fuelled speculation about an imminent Cabinet reshuffle.

Supreme Court Asks Centre To Preserve Ammunition Log Of RAF Used In NEET Protests

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought a comprehensive, school-wise report from the Punjab government over allegations that Independence Day was not properly observed in some government schools, particularly in rural, remote and border areas. The NHRC took cognisance of a complaint alleging that in several government schools in Punjab, particularly those in border, rural, remote and underserved areas, Independence Day was not observed in the manner contemplated under the applicable governmental instructions. The complaint alleged that students in some schools were not meaningfully involved in flag-hoisting, the National Anthem and other activities related to India's freedom struggle, constitutional values, Fundamental Duties and national responsibilities. The Commission, however, noted that the manner in which an individual school observes Independence Day cannot by itself be treated as a human rights violation. It said the issue requires examination if administrative neglect, non-



compliance with government directions or geographical and socio-economic circumstances resulted in children being denied educational and civic opportunities available to others. Focus On Rural And Border School The NHRC has specifically asked the Punjab government to examine whether geographical factors such as remoteness, connectivity and administrative accessibility affected Independence Day activities in schools. It has also sought details on whether there was any district-wise disparity between urban and rural schools, accessible and remote schools, and ordinary and border-area schools. The state has been asked to explain whether any differences were caused by lack of supervision, inadequate resources, geographical

difficulties, absence of teachers or officials, infrastructure limitations or any other reason. The Commission has also asked whether corrective measures have been taken or proposed. NHRC Seeks School-Wise Details The Chief Secretary of Punjab has been directed to get a comprehensive verification conducted through the School Education Department and submit a state-wide, district-wise and school-wise Action Report within four weeks of receiving the notice. The report shall include the total number of government schools in Punjab, the number where Independence Day was observed on August 15, and the number where the National Flag was unfurled, the National Anthem was observed and students participated in the programme. The state has also been asked to provide copies of the instructions and circulars issued for Independence Day 2026, details of the monitoring

mechanism and action taken wherever the instructions were not followed. The commission categorically stated that the report must identify schools where Independence Day activities were not conducted or were substantially curtailed, particularly in rural, remote and border areas. It must also give reasons for non-compliance and details of complaints received before, during or after August 15 and the action taken on them. Centre Also Asked To Submit Report The NHRC has also sought a report from the Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, on the guidelines issued for Independence Day observance in schools in 2026 and steps taken to ensure equal participation of children across the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also been asked to examine the matter and take appropriate action. The Commission has further directed that future programmes relating to national days should not be reduced to merely formal or ceremonial events. Instead, they should, wherever appropriate and age-

'Risks Weakening Worker Safeguards': Congress On SC's Recent Industry Definition Judgement

New Delhi: The Congress on Saturday expressed concern over a Supreme Court ruling that stated that its 1978 worker-friendly interpretation of the term "industry" will not apply to fresh cases under the Industrial Relations Code of 2020, and said any move to narrow or distance the law from the broad definition of "industry" risks weakening worker safeguards. Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, claimed that the Modi government's Industrial Relations Code, 2020, "significantly weakens essential safeguards for our workers". Against this backdrop, a narrow majority of the Supreme Court, in State of Uttar Pradesh versus Jai Bir Singh delivered on August 20, 2026, has "hypothesised" a reformulation of the Triple Test laid down in its earlier landmark February 1978 verdict in the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board versus A Rajappa case, Ramesh said on X. The importance of how "industry" is interpreted lies in the legal reality of who qualifies as a workman and, consequently, who receives the protections of labour



law, he said. "In the 1978 Bangalore Water Supply case, the Supreme Court identified three elements that ordinarily characterise an industry: a systematic activity; cooperation between employer and employee; and production or distribution of goods or services calculated to satisfy human wants and wishes, excluding purely spiritual or religious services," he said. It also held that the absence of profit motive is irrelevant, and activities carried out by charitable institutions or public bodies may still fall within the definition, Ramesh pointed out. The only exemption was core sovereign activities — such as the judiciary, law

and order and defence, he said. "For nearly five decades, this Triple Test provided a broad and settled framework for determining what constitutes an 'industry' under the erstwhile Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as amended from time to time, bringing a wide range of workers within the protection of labour law," he said. The 2026 majority judgment narrows this approach in two important ways by requiring an activity to have a "discernible commercial character" resembling trade or business — an additional requirement not found in the earlier test; and by broadening the scope of the sovereign-function exemp-

tion, potentially placing a wider range of government activities outside the definition of "industry", Ramesh said. The Supreme Court has clarified that this reformulation will not disturb concluded or pending proceedings under the erstwhile Industrial Disputes Act, as amended from time to time, and will not govern interpretation of the new Industrial Relations Code, he said. But leaving this "hypothesis" on the record creates an interpretive vacuum that could open a Pandora's Box of litigation and uncertainty, particularly before labour courts and industrial tribunals, Ramesh said.

Air New Zealand Appoints Outgoing Air India CEO Wilson As Board Member

New Delhi: Air New Zealand has appointed outgoing Air India CEO Campbell Wilson as a Director on its board. Wilson, who has been steering loss-making Air India and its transformation efforts, will be stepping down as CEO and MD of the airline in September. Air India had announced his resignation



on April 7. "Former airline executives Campbell Wilson and Robert McDonald have

been appointed by the Board with effect from, and subject to their re-election by vote at the ASM," Air New Zealand said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday. The airline's Annual Shareholders' Meeting (ASM) is scheduled to be held on September 24. Wilson is a native of New Zealand.

Robert McDonald is a former Chief Financial Officer of Air New Zealand and is currently the Chair of ntly, the Air New Zealand Therese Walsh. One member, Larry De Shon, is set to retire next montof experience in aviation and has held various senior executive roles at Singapore Airlines.

ABVP, NSUI Workers Clash Ahead Of Rahul's 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' Event In Pune



Pune: A clash took place between the activists of RSS-affiliated ABVP and Congress party's student wing NSUI, ahead of the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' event to be held in Pune on Saturday, where of Opposition Rahul Gandhi is expected to participate. The clash took place at the College of Engineering Pune (COEP) in Shivajinagar where both groups have levelled allegations of assault on each other. Tensions ran high at the COEP campus for a while even as the police tried to diffuse the situation. According to students, a dispute arose between the ABVP and the NSUI over the filming of a girl student at the COEP Technological

University. The girl student was recording the expected arrival of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. This angered ABVP members, who alleged NSUI members pressured the student, while the NSUI members alleged ABVP members had constrained her. Show of strengthThe dispute turned into a show of strength for the rival organisations. The two groups confronted each other on the COEP campus, leading to a clash between . Following this, Congress leaders staged a sit-in at the site, while the BJP's youth wing Yuva Morcha organised a 'rasta roko' (road blockade). A case has been registered at the Shivajinagar Police

Station in Pune against 50 to 60 persons, including key office-bearers of the Youth Congress, police sources said. Meanwhile, Congress state president Harshvardhan Sapkal accused the ABVP of restraining many girl students by keeping them confined in their hostel because they had posted Rahul Gandhi's pictures and videos as their status on various social media platforms. Sapkal said, "ABVP members have acted like hooligans and assaulted some students. Moreover, they confined a few girl students in their rooms at the COEP hostel, which is an extremely serious breach and is also outrageous." "Who gave the ABVP

goons the right to threaten girl students and infringe on their personal space and freedom simply because they posted Rahul Gandhi's status?" Sapkal asked. He accused the ruling BJP of indulging in violent acts against students through ABVP. He urged the police to conduct an impartial investigation into the entire matter without succumbing to pressure and take strict action against the guilty. Sapkal said, "It is ironic that the programme being held on the safety and rights of the 'daughters of Savitribai' (women) and the BJP has allowed attacks on girl students. It would have been a historic event otherwise."

Liberia Agrees To Take 1,200 Third-Country Deportees From US

Lahore: Over 20,000 Pakistani nationals were deported from Gulf countries, mostly from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, in recent months due to security concerns and multiple reasons, amid the ongoing conflict between Iran and the US, according to official data.

According to the Narcotics Control Ministry data, presented before the National Assembly on Thursday, several Pakistanis were also reportedly detained or deported for filming or uploading videos and material relating to Iranian attacks in their cities. The Pakistani nationals were deported between March 1 and July 13 from the Gulf Cooperation Council, comprising six countries -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, the ministry said. The deportations were executed due to security concerns, overstaying, illegal entry, begging, drug-related offences, refusal of asylum claims and forged or improper documentation. As many as 4,628 absconders were deported, besides 1,294 jailed, 968 blacklisted, 1,155 deportation cases about lost passports, and 689 Pakistanis were deported for visa violations, and 342 were cases of refused entries into the Gulf States, according to the data. Saudi Arabia accounted for the majority of the deportations with 15,500 people, followed by the United Arab Emirates (3,803),



Oman (1,606), Bahrain (521), Qatar (429), and Kuwait (97), according to the figures. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, responding to supplementary questions on Thursday, said the figure covered only those people who were formally detained by the authorities of the respective countries and were deported after Pakistani missions issued them emergency travel documents. Pakistanis who returned voluntarily or on valid passports were not included in the figures, he said. Over 6,000 deportations were placed under the broad "Others" category, without the ministry sharing details on the figure. Several Pakistanis were detained or deported after filming or uploading videos and material relating to the Iranian attack. In March, Bahrain announced the arrest of six persons, including five Pakistanis, for filming, publishing and

reposting videos related to the effects of Iranian strikes in the kingdom, reported the Dawn newspaper. Also, members of the Shia community faced increased scrutiny in some Gulf states during the conflict. The development has raised concerns over the vulnerability of Pakistani migrant workers and expatriates in the Gulf, which hosts millions of Pakistanis and remains a major source of remittances for the country. Oman (1,606), Bahrain (521), Qatar (429), and Kuwait (97), according to the figures. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, responding to supplementary questions on Thursday, said the figure covered only those people who were formally detained by the authorities of the respective countries and were deported after Pakistani missions issued them emergency travel documents. Pakistanis who returned voluntarily or

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India Reiterates Support For Negotiated Two-State Solution In Palestine

Jerusalem: India on Tuesday reiterated its longstanding support for a "negotiated two-state solution" in Palestine and reaffirmed the country's consistent support for the Palestinian people, Sripriya Ranganathan, a secretary at the External Affairs Ministry, said. Ranganathan, Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs), is on an official visit to Egypt, Palestine and Lebanon from August 16-21.

Ranganathan on Tuesday called on Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine and also "conveyed India's concern over the grave humanitarian situation in Gaza." "Amb Sripriya Ranganathan called on Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine. The two sides reviewed the full spectrum of India-Palestine bilateral relations, including their extensive development cooperation initiatives," the Representative Office of India to



Palestine posted on X. "India reiterated its longstanding support for a negotiated two-State solution, and underscored the importance of addressing the humanitarian situation in Gaza through sustained humanitarian assistance and continued dialogue and diplomacy," the post read. India has been backing a vision of a "two-state" solution with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognised borders, consistent with international law. Both leaders dis-

cussed the full range of India-Palestine relations, with particular focus on the current situation in Palestine, developments in Gaza, humanitarian needs and India's longstanding development partnership with the Palestinian people, according to an official statement. Ranganathan reaffirmed port for the Palestinian people and a negotiated said. She reiterated "India's support for efforts towards peace and stability and for a lasting political resolution of the conflict

through dialogue and diplomacy." Ongoing initiatives spanning health, education and capacity-building were also reviewed during the meeting. Recalling her successful visit to India in January this year, the Palestinian Foreign Minister expressed appreciation for India's continuing support through development projects, capacity-building programmes, scholarships, humanitarian assistance and contributions to Palestinian institutions and UN agencies, it said.

Tesla Recalls Nearly 3M Vehicles In China Over Door Handle Safety Risks

Hong Kong: Tesla and other Chinese carmakers are making a major recall of more than 4 million vehicles over safety concerns mostly related to their door handles, according to Chinese authorities on Friday. The U.S. carmaker is recalling about 2.98 million China-made and imported EVs including Model 3, Model Y, Model X and Model S over door handle safety risks, according to China's State Administration for Market Regulation. The recall, the largest this year according to Chinese media, comes a few months after Chinese authorities said in February that starting next year, it would be banning hidden car door handles that are commonly seen on Tesla electric vehicles and many Chinese EV models. China has stepped up scrutiny recently on hidden, or flush, car door handles following EV accidents in the country and elsewhere, in which cars' hidden electronic doors failed and trapped people inside. In a notice on the



Chinese regulator's website, it cited safety risk. In extreme situations, such as a severe collision that causes an electrical system failure, the car handles could hinder car users from quickly opening the doors to escape, or prevent rescuers outside the car from gaining access, the notice said. Some experts in the industry said the automakers should value safety over design. Cui Dongshu, head of the China Passenger Car Association, called the recall "an inevitable step" in the development of the electric vehicle industry and said automakers were "being responsible" by moving

toward a more reliable, "safety-first" approach. "This represents, in part, the growing pains of the industry. At the same time, however, this move signifies a policy-driven safety upgrade," said Cui. Tesla will perform software updates on the vehicles to mitigate risks, the notice added. Tesla did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday. Xiaomi, the Beijing-based Chinese technology giant, is recalling more than 390,000 vehicles. Hangzhou-based Leapmotor is recalling over 370,000 cars. Other Chinese carmakers, including Geely and XPENG are also recall-

ing some vehicles. The reasons given in each case were similar, mostly relating to issues with their car door handles. A report published by the People's Daily, the official newspaper of China's ruling Communist Party, said the large-scale recall "serves as a unified safety upgrade" for existing vehicle models ahead of the 2027 implementation of the ban on hidden car door handles. "For the rapidly evolving NEV (new energy vehicle) industry, competition should be defined not only by the pace of technological innovation but also by the high standards set for safety," the newspaper

Bangladesh Yet To Decide On PM Rahman's Visit To India, Says His Office



Dhaka: Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's office on Friday said that Dhaka was yet to decide on his visit to India, coinciding with the BRICS summit next month, amid uncertainty over his trip to Delhi. "No decision has been made yet on his India visit," the prime minister's Press Secretary AAM Saleh Shibly told PTI. He said Bangladesh was waiting for New Delhi's response to its request to extradite deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and "other fugitive criminals" currently staying in India. Shibly's comments came a day after the state-run BSS news agency quoted the premier's foreign affairs adviser Humayun Kobir as saying that Dhaka is in "no hurry to arrange a top-level visit without clearly defined national interests". "There is no justification for rushing into a top-level visit by going beyond the national interest,"

Kobir said. In recent weeks, Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi held a series of meetings with top political brass of Bangladesh, including PM Rahman, underlining the need to create a conducive environment to further advance the bilateral ties. On Monday, Trivedi said the Bangladesh premier's visit to India should take place much sooner despite "our differences". "Issues can only be sorted out by meeting, and I am very hopeful," Trivedi told a dinner hosted in his honour by the honorary consul general of a European country. Bangladesh's foreign ministry earlier said that Dhaka wants a "favourable and propitious environment" before any top-level trip. It said weeks of diplomatic discussions over the potential bilateral visit were severely disrupted and complicated by Hasina's virtual press conference on August 5, 2026.

Hasina, 78, was ousted from power in August 2024 following violent student-led protests. She has been living in India since fleeing Dhaka on August 5 that year.

The subsequent interim regime led by Muhammad Yunus tried Hasina in a special tribunal in absentia and handed down the death penalty for ordering a deadly crackdown to tame the protesters. On Friday, Leader of the Opposition and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami chief Shafiqur Rahman said that the prime minister may visit any country, including India, but such visits should be based on "equality, mutual respect and friendship." "The people of this country will no longer accept anyone's hegemony. They want relations with India based on friendship, mutual respect and equality," he told a conference of party leaders in northwestern Rajshahi.

UK Announces £250-Mn Package To Protect Jewish Community

London: Britain's government on Monday announced more than £250 million to boost police protection of the Jewish community, which in recent months has been targeted by a series of attacks. The fresh package will help fund the deployment of more than 500 police officers in districts where a lot of British Jews live, including 300 officers in London. It will also fund more police patrols outside synagogues and Jewish schools, and more plain-clothed officers. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said: "The rise in antisemitism we have seen in recent years is a test



of our values as a country and tackling it has been central to my leadership from day one." This latest package is intended to be spent over a three-year period. Part of it will finance education measures in the fight against antisemitism. "Jewish communities are facing an exceptional threat with

rising hate crime alongside terrorism and interference from hostile states," said Matt Jukes, Deputy Commissioner of London Metropolitan Police. In late April, two Jewish men were stabbed in London's predominantly Jewish Golders Green district, which the police said was a terrorist attack. It

was one of a series of incidents in spring that included arson and attempted arson attacks on Jewish targets, including London synagogues. An October 2025 attack on a synagogue in Manchester, northwest England, killed two people. The government statement said £59 million would go to Britain's anti-terrorist police to tighten security and response to state threats. After April's Golders Green attack, Starmer pledged extra funding, at the same time accusing Iran of wanting "to harm British Jews". In May, London's Metropolitan Police announced the

Counting the uncounted—why India's migration survey matters



The first dedicated comprehensive migration survey in India in nearly two decades is a chance to gain insight into a segment of the workforce that is key to the economy but has largely been ignored in policy-making. The migrant workforce became visible when India went under lockdown during the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020. Pictures of labourers walking hundreds of kilometres to reach their villages had a profound impact on policymakers. The crisis not only exposed their vulnerability; it also showed a clear opportunity to build our knowledge of those who make modern India tick. The issue is not just about migrants being uncounted. The assumption that people live, work, access welfare, and build their lives in one place continues to shape public policy today. However, more and more Indians are moving between districts, States and cities to find work, pursue education and seek opportunities. While mobility is emerging as a key part of India's development narrative, policies based on permanence are lagging behind. Therefore, the government's decision to carry out a nationwide Migration Survey from July 2026 to June 2027 by the National Statistics Office (NSO) is important. It will provide the most comprehensive migration survey in almost 18 years, after the National Sample Survey's special migration round in 2007-08. Rapidly evolving labour markets, urbanisation trends and economic aspirations make this an important time to understand one of the most critical but under-researched aspects of modern-day India.

The Economic Survey 2017 also estimated that almost nine million people

move between States annually, making labour mobility one of the most significant demographic changes in India. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2020-21 showed that almost 28.9 per cent of Indians were migrants. The migration rates were 47.9 per cent among women and 10.7 per cent among men. The survey's success will depend not on the data collected, but on whether institutions and welfare systems become portable, inclusive and responsive to the workers who keep India's economy moving. The main motivation for women migrants is marriage and for men, it is work, but these answers do not necessarily tell the whole story. Women who migrate after marriage are often involved in the labour force, informal labour and care work, but their economic role is rarely included in the official discourse. Although people often think of migration as movement across State borders, the vast majority of migration takes place within States. Over 80% of migrants are estimated to move within their States, highlighting the significance of intra-State movement between villages, towns and emerging urban centres. Migration and labour force patterns are undergoing seasonal, circular and temporary shifts, which are poorly represented in existing data sources.

The Survey Should

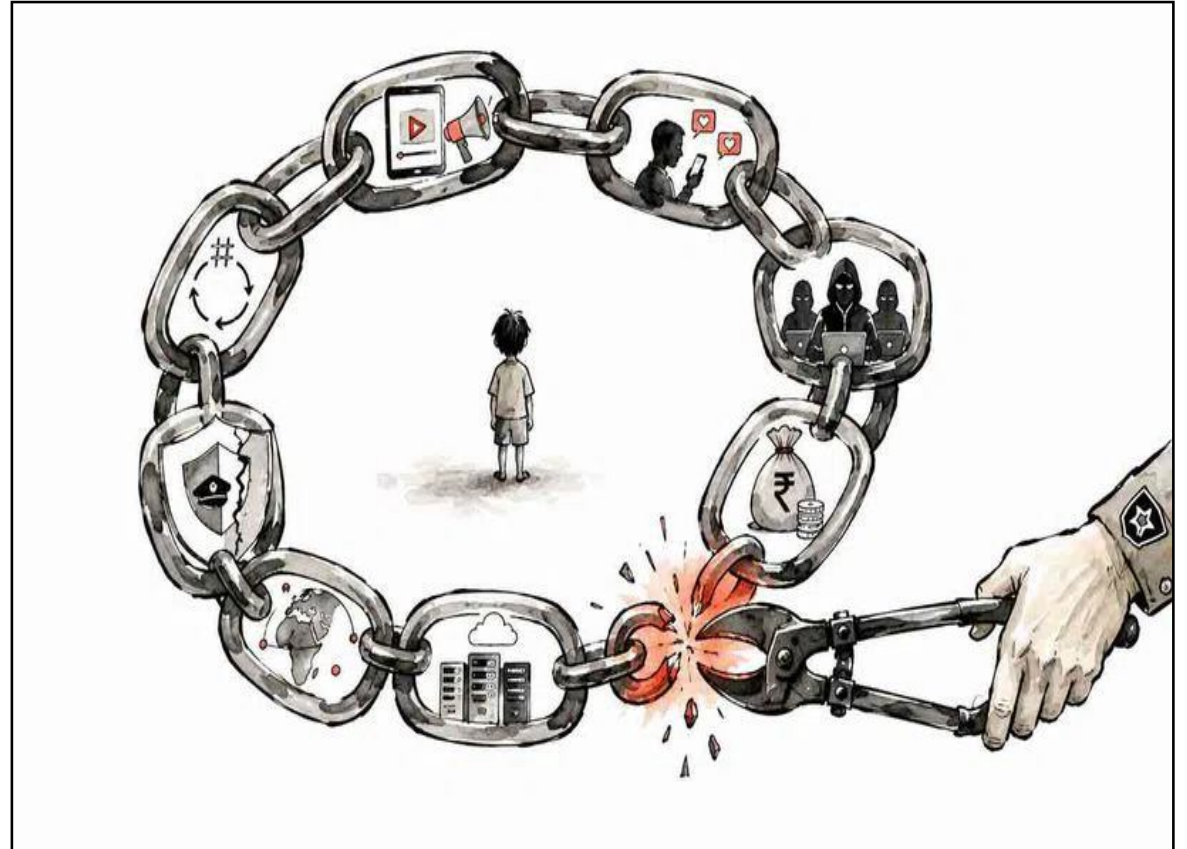
Measure

The survey has implications that go beyond demographic accounting. It is designed to record seasonal and short-term migration, return migration, employment characteristics, housing situation, income fluctuations and intentions to migrate. This information may contribute to understanding migration's impact on labour markets and local economies. Some key indicators include the duration and frequency of migration, reasons, job type and wages, social security enrolment (e-Shram, EPFO, ESIC), health insurance coverage, portability of ration card, housing tenure and safety, exposure to climate shocks (drought, flood, heat waves). Household sampling frame includes specific modules for short-term, seasonal and return migrants. It will classify migrants by place-of-birth, place-of-enumeration, and length of stay and also will measure industry, occupation and earnings to differentiate economic migration from social migration. State-level results are anticipated 6-9 months after the completion of fieldwork, and microdata and dashboards will be made public. But it is not just about counting movements; it is about understanding vulnerabilities. Do migrants have higher wages than they did previously? Are they able to secure healthcare, insurance and social security? Do migrants have access to secure work and to a decent life? How many people are still outside of urban services, but play an important role in the city economy? Data collection without investigating the outcomes will only give a partial picture. Climate, Politics, Labour Markets

However, solid esti-

mates of climate-induced migration are still absent in India, and policymakers are not well equipped to meet the future challenges of changing population patterns. The survey can bridge this important knowledge gap. The federal aspect is also significant. To fill labour shortages in construction, manufacturing, logistics and services, States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are relying increasingly on migrant workers. Thousands of migrant workers in construction, hospitality, transportation and domestic services, as well as in the platform economy, have contributed to Bengaluru's growth. At the same time, regions such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha remain significant sources of labour out-migration. Improved migration statistics can assist both origin and destination States in developing policies relating to skills, labour rights and welfare portability. India's migration survey should be more than an exercise in counting workers; it must become a foundation for policy reform. The Covid-19 crisis exposed how migrant workers were excluded from welfare systems because benefits, services and administrative records were tied to fixed locations. Survey findings should, therefore, drive portable social security, healthcare and pension entitlements, effective implementation of One Nation-One Ration Card, affordable housing near workplaces, stronger labour and occupational protections, and cooperation between source and destination States. A joint mechanism involving the Labour Ministry, NSO, States and Urban Local Bodies, supported by public dashboards, can ensure accountability. Ultimately, the survey's success will depend not on the data collected, but on whether institutions and welfare systems become portable, inclusive and responsive to the workers who sustain India's economy.

Break the chain of online child sexual exploitation



India has the largest Instagram user base in the world, with more than 413 million people scrolling through an endless stream of content every day. A significant proportion of these users are young adults, constantly engaging with reels and posts that often present a curated and distorted version of reality. In India, Meta's Zuckerberg apologises to India over child abuse, deepfake content. Industry estimates suggest that nearly 81 per cent of Instagram users discover new products through reels. But products are not the only things being promoted and consumed. CSEAM Ecosystems

Hidden within this vast ecosystem is content that normalises, promotes, and even facilitates the consumption of child sexual exploitative and abusive material (CSEAM). Such content does not merely enable the circulation of these horrific crimes. It also creates demand by drawing in users, including those who may start out of curiosity but soon become consumers and even criminals. This trajectory makes social media platforms not just channels of communication, but also ecosystems that sustain and expand the CSEAM market.

The Supreme Court of India, in the landmark case of Just Rights for Children Alliance & Anr. v. S. Harish & Ors in 2024, categorically held that downloading, viewing, or possessing CSEAM, even in the privacy of one's home, constitutes a criminal offence. The Court further clarified that intermediaries such as Meta cannot claim "safe harbour" protection if they fail to discharge their legal obligations relating to child sexual abuse material. It was a judgment that clearly and urgently addressed the fast-growing menace of CSEAM. Yet, the problem persists.

Advertisement Lure

An international media organisation recently reported that paid advertisements promoting CSEAM were being displayed on Instagram. The organisation reported one such advertisement to the platform.

Twenty-four hours later, Instagram responded that the advertisement did not violate its Community Guidelines. The government of India promptly acted on this and ordered META to remove such advertisements from its platform. India has once again made clear its intolerance towards CSEAM and rightly so. Advertising remains the backbone of Meta's business model, accounting for almost all of the company's annual revenue. Meta has consistently maintained that every advertisement undergoes a review process before publication, relying largely on automated systems to identify policy violations. The incident raises difficult questions about whether existing moderation systems are sufficiently equipped to detect and prevent content that facilitates the sexual exploitation of children.

Greater Danger

But the problem is not just that these advertisements are slipping through the cracks. Platform failures are only one part of the story. The greater danger lies in how recommendation systems amplify demand while weak enforcement allows organised criminal networks to continue operating with relative impunity. The danger also lies in how ill-equipped the entire law enforcement machinery is to combat these crimes.

Unless governments, law enforcement agencies, technology companies and international institutions work together to identify and dismantle every link in that ecosystem, children will continue to pay the price. First, once a user interacts with exploitative content, whether deliberately or even out of curiosity, platforms are designed to serve increasingly similar content to maximise engagement. In the context of CSEAM, this creates an extremely dangerous feedback loop, and this self-perpetuating loop will sustain itself until disrupted by an external intervention. This brings us to the second important challenge: building an agile and well-resourced enforcement system that not

only disrupts the inertia but also plugs the systemic gaps present at every juncture of this organised crime. Currently, even as the law has evolved to recognise the seriousness of online child sexual exploitation, the institutions responsible for enforcing it have not always evolved at the same pace. Investigating digital crimes involving CSEAM requires specialised forensic capabilities, advanced cyber investigation skills, and the ability to track offenders who operate anonymously across multiple jurisdictions. Many investigating agencies continue to face significant capacity gaps in dealing with technology-enabled organised crime. Chain of Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is no longer a localised offence. The production of abuse material may take place in one country, be stored on servers in another, distributed through platforms operating globally, and consumed by offenders spread across continents. This makes international cooperation, real-time intelligence sharing, and coordinated investigations indispensable. No single police force or country can dismantle these networks in isolation. More importantly, enforcement cannot remain limited to identifying individual offenders who consume or circulate CSEAM. Every image or video represents an organised chain of exploitation involving recruiters, traffickers, producers, distributors, technology platforms, financial intermediaries and consumers. Breaking this chain requires investigators to move beyond isolated incidents and trace the entire criminal network

from demand to supply. Child sexual exploitation survives because an ecosystem enables it. Unless governments, law enforcement agencies, technology companies and international institutions work together to identify and dismantle every link in that ecosystem, children will continue to pay the price. Institutions responsible for enforcing it have not always evolved at the same pace. Investigating digital crimes involving CSEAM requires specialised forensic capabilities, advanced cyber investigation skills, and the ability to track offenders who operate anonymously across multiple jurisdictions. Many investigating agencies continue to face significant capacity gaps in dealing with technology-enabled organised crime. Chain of Exploitation

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FIH Hockey World Cup: Indian Women Lose To Netherlands In Tough Match

Indian defence led by veteran goalkeeper Savita put up a valiant performance yet again, but the Paris Olympics gold medalists and three-time defending world champions, the Netherlands, won 2-0 in the first match of the second round of the FIH World Cup here on Friday. The Indian goalkeepers and defenders, who had saved 12 penalty corners in the previous match against England, prevented the world No. 1 team from playing freely at the packed Wagner Stadium, and the co-hosts could not score a single field goal. For the Dutch team, which had scored 15 goals in three matches in the first round, Yibbi Jansen scored in the second minute and Frederique Malta in the 38th minute, both from penalty corners.

The Netherlands also earned a penalty corner in the final seconds, which was blocked by Savita, along with a couple of attacks in the last quarter. India now face Australia on Sunday and must win this match to keep their semifinal hopes alive. The Netherlands did not lose a single match at the Paris Olympics or the last World Cup. Furthermore, they lost only two matches in the last season of the FIH Pro League. Dutch supporters came to the Wagner Stadium wearing orange jerseys, the same colour as India's jersey today, while the co-hosts played in blue. The Netherlands defeated Japan 9-0, Australia 4-2, and Chile 2-0 in the first round, while the Indian team also



remained unbeaten to reach the second round. India held China to a 2-2 draw and England to a 0-0 draw, while defeating South Africa 6-1. The Netherlands, as expected, made a very aggressive start, earning a penalty corner in the second minute, from which the dangerous drag-flicker Janssen, who has scored the most goals in the tournament, slotted home her seventh goal. After conceding the first goal early, the Indian defence performed well and contained the Dutch strikers. In the fifth minute, the Dutch were awarded a penalty corner after being obstructed in the circle, and Bichoo skillfully blocked Jansen's powerful shot with her left foot. Bichoo, who had saved a goal in the final 30 seconds of the last pool match against England, maintained her form and made another brilliant save a minute later. In the eighth minute, an Indian player entered the Dutch half for the first time after a foul, giving the Netherlands a free hit. In the 12th minute, the Netherlands' Pieter

Sanders missed the target. In the following minute, Salima Tete carried the ball forward on a counterattack, but her shot from the circle went wide. Jansen's counter-attack in the same minute ended with her shot going wide and hitting the post. In the second quarter, Savita's experience in goal came to the fore as the Dutch team failed to score despite numerous attacks. India earned a penalty corner in the 19th minute through Lalremisiami, which resulted in a second consecutive penalty corner after the ball hit the first rusher. However, Deepika's shot hit the first rusher's stick and went wide. India secured a long corner but lost possession. Navneet intercepted an aerial pass in the 22nd minute, but her shot missed the target. In the 28th minute, the Dutch attacked from the left and passed the ball into the centre of the circle. They attempted a shot in front of goal but were unable to beat Savita. In the next minute, Savita ran forward and blocked Pien Dicke's

shot. The ball was still in the circle, and Salima thwarted the rebound. In the final minute of the second quarter, Beauty Ddungdung received a green card, reducing India to 10 players on the field for two minutes. At halftime, the Netherlands held a one-goal lead. Having been unable to score for over half an hour, they earned three penalty corners in the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the Indians made a few attempts but were unable to finish. Losing possession proved costly for the team. Five minutes before the hooter, the Dutch strikers launched repeated Navneet intercepted an aerial pass in the 22nd minute, but her shot missed the target. In the 28th minute, the Dutch attacked from the left and passed the ball into the centre of the circle. They attempted a shot in front of goal but were unable to beat Savita.

In the next minute, Savita ran forward and blocked Pial, but Savita remained alert and blocked the initial attempt as well as the rebound.

Sri Lanka Include Two New Faces In Squad Ahead Of Second Test



After a 165-run defeat against India in the series opener, Sri Lanka have made changes to their squad ahead of the second Test in Colombo. Barter Kamil Mishara and all-rounder Sahan Arachchige have been included in the squad for the do-or-die clash against the Men in Blue in the match starting on August 23. The call-ups have come after impressive outings from both the uncapped players recently. Arachchige was the team's leading run-scorer in the series against India A. Mishara reaped rewards for his excellent performances in the domestic circuit.

Mishara has played six ODIs for the national team, scoring 148 runs with an average of 24.66. In 24 T20Is, he has racked up 566 runs with an average of 26.95. Sri Lanka are currently facing an injury crisis. The head coach, Gary Kirsten, earlier confirmed that the hosts will be without Kusal Mendis, Dinesh Chandimal and Pathum Nissanka for the second Test, leaving some gaps in the batting order. Mendis is currently sidelined as he is facing a severe hamstring issue. On the other hand, Nissanka is still recovering from wrist surgery.

Chandimal suffered a concussion on the fourth day of the opening Test, which resulted in a seven-day stand-down period. As three of the first-choice batters are unavailable, Mishara and Arachchige can feature in the playing XI for the second Test. Sri Lanka are currently at the sixth position in the World Test Championship (WTC) points percentage of 33.33% while India are at the fifth in the standings with a points percentage of 53.33%.

India started the series with a 165-run victory in the Galle Test as they dished out a collective

effort . Devdutt Padikkal played an impressive knock of 167 runs with 15 boundaries. Manu Suthar picked 10 wickets across two innings and played a key role in India's win.Sri Lanka squad for second Test

Dhananjaya de Silva (captain), Lahiru Udara, Kamil Mishara, Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Kamindu Mendis, Sahan Arachchige, Sonal Dinusha, Niroshan Dickwell, Keshara Nuwantha, Prabath Jayasuriya, Milan Ratnayake, Lahiru Kumara, Asitha Fernando, Vishwa Fernando.

Income Tax Dept Cracks Down On Suspicious Entities Sending Funds Abroad From Border Areas



New Delhi: The Income Tax Department on Tuesday conducted a nationwide field verification exercise, including in some border districts, against a group of entities and fictitious charitable trusts alleged to have sent "large" amounts of funds outside India. Officials told PTI that the alleged illegal transactions are worth a few crores of rupees and were being sent to about a dozen foreign jurisdictions. "On 18.08.2026, the department launched a nationwide detailed exercise to verify these foreign remittances, focussing on shell entities, the persons behind them, and the professionals who issued Form 15CB certificates. "Entities located in districts along the country's

land borders and remitting significant amounts of money abroad have also been covered in the exercise," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement. The ongoing exercise covered approximately 394 entities, including 117 located in land-border states, and 36 professionals, the CBDT said. CBDT is the policy-making body for the Income Tax Department. Officials said the broad contours of these "suspicious" foreign remittances were also discussed during a high-level border security meeting held in West Bengal in July and the taxmen were asked to probe the "entire backward and forward linkages" of these transactions. This action followed a country-wide

search operation undertaken sometime back that uncovered a network of entities remitting funds abroad. The searches targeted a group of “fictitious” charitable trusts involved in providing a accommodation (hawala) entries against bogus donations/contributions, according to the CBDT. “Preliminary ground verification revealed that the entities making these remittances were either non-filers or were filing income tax returns showing very small turnovers,” it said. The turnovers showed “no apparent correlation” with the large amounts of money being remitted abroad. They also did not appear to match the stated purpose of the remittances, such as payment

for freight, import of software, or import of consulting services, the tax department found. The department developed further intelligence and found that these entities were not actually operating from their declared addresses. "Further analysis of the data also revealed that a large number of Form 15CB certificates were issued by a relatively small group of professionals," the statement said. It added that the remitted funds "were also received by a 'clustered' group of entities. Form 15CB requires the accountant certifying a foreign remittance to verify its taxability with reference to the books of account and other relevant documents. "However, the findings raise concerns about whether adequate due diligence was carried out by the accountants before issuing these certificates," the CBDT said. The statement "emphasised" that accountants issuing certificates are to match the stated purpose of the remittance in Form 15CB/Form 146 exercise due care, diligence and professional judgment. "They should properly examine the underlying transactions and relevant facts before certifying the remittances, as these certifications play an important role in maintaining trust in the system," it said.

Gold, Silver Scale Over 3-month Highs As Weak US Dollar Fuels Safe-Haven Rush



New Delhi: Gold and silver prices surged to more than three-month high levels in the national capital on Friday, extending their gains for a second straight session as a weak US dollar and firm global trends drove investors towards precious metals.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,63,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), up from the previous close of Rs 1,62,300 per 10 grams, according to local traders. The precious metal was last quoted around these levels on May 19, when it had stood at Rs 1,63,600 per 10 grams.

Silver also mirrored the bullish trend, jumping Rs 5,000 to Rs 2,50,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), its highest level in 15 weeks. The white metal had settled at Rs 2,45,000 per kg on Thursday and gained Rs 15,000 over the last two

sessions. It was last seen near these levels on May 4, when the price was quoted at Rs 2,49,500 per kilogram. "Gold extended its rally on Friday's session and is heading for its third consecutive weekly gain, while silver also remained strong, supported by a weaker US dollar and falling longer-term Treasury bond yields," Gaurav Garg, Head of Research at Lemonn Markets Desk, said. In the international markets, spot gold extended its rally on Friday, gaining USD 81.58, or 2 per cent, to USD 4,600.91 per ounce, and silver jumped nearly 3 per cent to USD 69.87 per ounce. "Spot gold surged to around USD 4,600 an ounce, its highest level since May 18, 2026, and remained on track for a third consecutive weekly gain," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC

Securities, said. Strong investment demand and heightened volatility across currency and bond markets continued to support the precious metal, he added.

Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said gold has gained more than 4 per cent this week after the US Treasury Department expanded its bond-buying programme to double its long-term debt buybacks aimed at containing borrowing costs. The move triggered a sharp fall in the US dollar and bond yields, providing fresh momentum to bullion. Although US yields have since stabilised as investors questioned the durability of the Treasury's measures, gold has managed to retain most of its gains. Bullion also drew support from a slight retreat in oil prices in the overseas markets, Singh said.

Geopolitical tensions added another layer of uncertainty, with the Trump administration set to announce what it described as the harshest economic sanctions on Iran.

However, Tehran has dismissed the move as a continuation of failed tactics, arguing that Washington itself is grappling with soaring debt and record interest payments amid elevated bond yields. Market participants are awaiting key macroeconomic data, including US S&P PMIs, for fresh cues on the American have since stabilised as investors questioned the durability of the Treasury's measures, gold has managed to retain most of its gains. Bullion also drew support from a slight retreat in oil prices in the overseas markets, Singh said. The central bank's monetary policy outlook, Singh



Salman Khan To Perform Key Stunts Himself After Body Double Suffers Heart Attack On SVC63 Set



Salman Khan and Nayanthara's upcoming film, tentatively titled SVC63, has reportedly faced an unexpected setback during its shoot. Salman's body double, who was helping with the film's action sequences, reportedly suffered a heart attack while shooting. Following the incident, Salman has decided to perform some of the action scenes himself so that the film's shooting schedule is not affected. According to a report by a newswire, the stunt performer became unwell during the shoot and suffered a heart attack. The performer is currently unable to

return to action scenes as he recovers from the health scare. The incident has also led the makers to remain careful while planning the film's upcoming stunt sequences. Despite the setback, Salman reportedly does not want the production to lose momentum. He has therefore stepped in to shoot some of the difficult action portions that were earlier planned with the help of his body double. A source quoted in a report said that Salman is currently "completely hands-on" and does not want the schedule to be delayed. The action schedule is also being carefully

planned by the producers following the incident. Meanwhile, Salman and Nayanthara's film has reportedly been titled Monster. According to a newswire, the makers have finalised the title for the Vamshi Paidipally directorial. However, the production team has not officially announced the title yet. Monster marks Salman's first collaboration with producer Dil Raju. The film is being made as a pan-India action project and is currently expected to release during Eid 2027. The first schedule was reportedly completed in Mumbai, while the second schedule is cur-

rently underway. Apart from Monster, Salman has Maatrubhum producer Dil Raju. The film is being made as a pan-India action project and is currently expected to release during Eid 2027. The first schedule was reportedly completed in Mumbai, while the second schedule is curi in his upcoming projects. He will also return as the host of Bigg Boss 20, which is scheduled to premiere on September 7 on Colors TV and JioHotstar. Salman is also set to star alongside Sanjay Dutt in 7 Dogs, which is scheduled to release in theatres on August 21.

Yash Starrer Crosses Rs 13 Cr, Karnataka Leads Pre-Sales



Yash's much-awaited crime action film Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups has started its advance booking on a strong note. With five days still left for its theatrical release, the film has already sold over 1.65 lakh tickets across India for Day 1. Karnataka is leading the advance sales, while the Hindi version has also recorded good demand. Toic sells over 1.65 lakh tickets. According to industry tracker Sacnilk, Toxic has sold 1,65,654 tickets across India so far for its opening day. The bookings have generated a gross collection of Rs 7.2 crore from 6,857 shows. These figures do not include blocked seats. When the blocked seats are added, the film's advance booking gross rises to Rs 13.19 crore. Since the film is still five days away from its release, its pre-sales are expected to increase further in the coming days. Karnataka leads advance

booking. Yash's home state Karnataka has emerged as the biggest contributor to the film's advance bookings. Toxic has earned Rs 8.08 crore in advance bookings in the state, including blocked seats. The film has recorded a real occupancy of 34% across 994 shows. As per Sacnilk, 310 shows are already almost full, while another 159 shows are filling fast. Bengaluru is also showing strong demand for the film. The city has contributed Rs 6.07 crore from 648 shows. Around 168 shows are nearly sold out, while 119 more shows are seeing strong bookings. Hindi version crosses Rs 2 crore. The Hindi version of Toxic has also opened its advance booking on a positive note. It has sold 54,503 tickets so far, earning Rs 2.08 crore from 5,880 shows. The Kannada version remains the biggest contributor to the film's overall advance sales. It has sold 1,11,151 tickets

and earned Rs 5.12 crore from 977 shows. With bookings still to pick up in several major markets, the film is expected to add more to its pre-release numbers over the weekend. Toxic ticket prices touch Rs 2,250. Toxic has also made headlines for its high ticket prices in some cities. Select premium shows in Mumbai and Bengaluru have tickets priced at more than Rs 2,000. At Mumbai's Jio World Drive, a premium screenings are reportedly priced at Rs 2,250. In Bengaluru, a premium show at Forum Rex Walk has tickets priced at around Rs 2,181. The average ticket price for the Kannada version is currently Rs 404, while the Hindi version has an average ticket price of Rs 364. Toxic gets strong pre-release buzz. The advance booking numbers come amid strong buzz around Toxic. The film has Toxic gets 'A' certificate from CBFC without cuts Ahead of its release, Toxic received an 'A' certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The film has reportedly been cleared without any cuts, with the board asking for only two minor modifications. The film has a reported runtime of 3 hours and 12 minutes.

already crossed one million interests on BookMyShow. It is reportedly only the second Yash film after KGF: Chapter 2 to achieve the milestone. The film is also getting a good response in the U.S. Its advance bookings have crossed \$163,150, with 7,545 tickets sold across 260 locations and 709 shows. has an average ticket price of Rs 364. Toxic gets strong pre-release buzz. The advance booking numbers come amid strong buzz around Toxic. The film has Toxic gets 'A' certificate from CBFC without cuts Ahead of its release, Toxic received an 'A' certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The film has reportedly been cleared without any cuts, with the board asking for only two minor modifications. The film has a reported runtime of 3 hours and 12 minutes.



Aditi Sharma Files Domestic Violence Complaint Against Husband Abhineet Kaushik, In-Laws

: Television actor Aditi Sharma period mentioned in her com-



has filed a complaint against her husband, actor Abhineet Vidyanand Kaushik, and her in-laws, alleging physical and mental harassment, domestic violence and misuse of her bridal jewellery. Based on her complaint, Goregaon Police registered an FIR against Abhineet, his mother Urmila Kaushik and sister Kirti Kaushik. The case is now under investigation. According to the complaint, Aditi has alleged that she faced harassment at the couple's Goregaon residence. The

plaint stretches from November 12, 2024, to March 9, 2025. Aditi and Abhineet reportedly first met during an online acting class in 2021. Their friendship later developed into a relationship. According to her complaint, the two began living together in Goregaon West in September 2024 and got married on November 12 that year, with the consent of both families. However, Aditi has alleged that things changed soon after the marriage. According to her state-

ment, arguments began over several issues, including her clothing. She has also alleged that her husband did not contribute adequately towards household expenses and would regularly take money from her. One incident mentioned in the complaint allegedly took place on January 1, 2025. Aditi has claimed that an argument over coffee escalated and was followed by further problems in the relationship. She has also alleged that her husband became suspicious about her character and accused her of having an affair. According to the complaint, he would check her mobile phone and eventually started sleeping in a separate room. Aditi has further alleged that she was prevented from speaking to her parents. The actress has also accused her mother-in-law of retaining her bridal jewellery, which she has described as part of her stridhan. The jewellery allegedly includes gold chains, rings, a diamond ring, a mangalsutra and bangles. Aditi's complaint, she repeatedly asked for the jewellery to be returned but did not receive it. The police have registered the case and started an investigation into the allegations. No response from Abhineet Kaushik or his family has been made public so far. For the unversed, the actor has appeared in several Hindi television shows and is known for performances in Kaleerein, Yehh Jadu Hai Jinn Ka! and Rabb Se Hai Dua. Aditi has also worked across films and digital projects. She began her career with modelling assignments and music videos before making her mark on television. She appeared in the Hindi film Ladies vs Ricky Bahl and later featured in the Punjabi film Angrej.