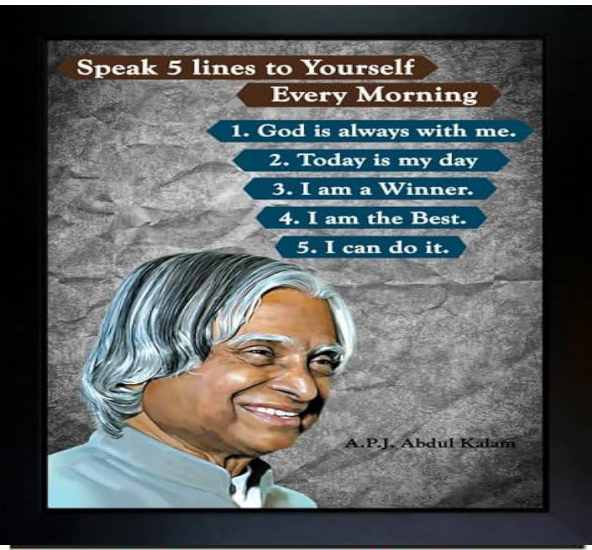




Telangana Launches Indiramma Sewing Machine Scheme for Women

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has launched "Intintiki Indiramma Kuttu Machine Pathakam" with an objective of providing self-employment opportunities to poor women. The scheme is being implemented through the Telangana BC Finance Corporation, under the BC Welfare Department and the age limit to avail the scheme is 18 to 55 years and the documents are Aadhaar card, ration card or income certificate or caste certificate. Also Read - Congress Panel Recommends Action against Konda



Surekha, Chinna Reddy The annual income limit in rural areas should be Rs.1.50 lakh while Rs.2 lakh in urban areas. Eligible applicants have to apply online through the TGOBMS portal: http://tgobmms.cgg.gov.in The last date for submission of applications is September 15. Applicants are advised to contact the District BC Welfare Officer concerned or BC Corporation for further details

NDSA affidavit, CWPRS report put Congress government on tight spot on Kaleshwaram project

Hyderabad: The Congress government is facing uncomfortable questions over its stand on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) following the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) findings and the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) affidavit before the Telangana High Court. The developments have shifted the focus from the damage at Medigadda barrage to a more immediate question: if pumping is a policy and operational decision of the State, why has the government not taken a call.



In its affidavit in the High Court, the NDSA clarified that decisions on pumping water

Congress repeatedly cited safety concerns and the need for expert advice while explaining why the project could not be operated. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had also said restoration would be taken up in accordance with NDSA and technical committee recommendations. The CWPRS findings have added to the government's predicament. Following its recent examsustain its argument that the entire system must remain out of use until every question relating to the project is settled. However, the government remained silent after both

developments. It has not made clear whether it plans to operate components found fit for use, wait for complete rehabilitation of all three barrages, or specify the technical conditions that must be met before pumping resumes. That silence is consequential as it concerns a decision on the utilisationmonths, even as large quantities of water were released downstream during periods of high inflows. Experts have suggested that operating the pumps now, subject to safety conditions, could also help address drinking water requirements.

38 Booked For Alleged Molestation During Ranchi Protest



Patna: A case was filed against 38 people for allegedly molesting a member of the JPSC-JSSC Reforms Manch during the August 21 protest in Ranchi, police said on Tuesday. The case was lodged on Monday after the woman, accompanied by Leader of Opposition Babul Marandi of the BJP, lodged a complaint at the Kotwali police station, they said. "Eight people were named in the FIR along with 30

unnamed persons. They have been booked on charges of molestation, besides other sections of the BNS," Kotwali police station officer-in-charge Sanoj Choudhary told PTI. Also Read - Kriti Sanon Calls Out Moral Policing Over Her Raksha Bandhan Ad Look The incident happened during a procession over recruitment examination irregularities near Albert Ekka Chowk. "We held a peaceful procession

and were attempting to burn effigies of Chief Minister Soren and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Around eight known and over 30 unknown persons assaulted and molested me," the victim said. Marandi said the cowardly attack by "JMM goons" on students, who were democratically raising their voice, is highly condemnable. "BJP stands firmly with the students and will support their struggle at every level," he said.

Hyderabad: Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao on Tuesday concluded his fast vowing to continue the party's struggle for the release of pending dues of students' tuition fee reimbursement by the Congress government. BJP MP K Laxman offered lemon juice to Rao, marking the end of the fast. Hitting out at the Congress government, Laxman said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is making tall claims about improving education in the state without addressing basic issues. Also

Read - Malkajgiri Commissioner Inspects Goutham Nagar, Reviews Sanitation According to him, the retired teachers are agitating to get their retirement benefits. He asserted that the BJP would put up a determined fight for the release of pending dues of the tuition fees reimbursement scheme. He appealed to Ramchander Rao to end his fast and take up struggles with students and youth. Rao, who undertook the fast at the BJP office here on August 24, said the pending dues to the tune of Rs 12,000



crore have put the future of about 20 lakh students at stake. Also Read - CMC Warns against Unauthorised

Constructions, Citing Safety Risks The dues rose to Rs 12,000 crore as Rs 8,000 crore was already pending when the previ-

ous BRS government demitted office in December 2023, he said. The private colleges are withholding the certificates of students in view of the dues, he said. The colleges are not able to pay salaries to their staff members in view of the non-payment of funds under the scheme, he said. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is provoking the country's youth, should come to Hyderabad and answer the people on the pending dues of the fee reimbursement scheme, he had said.

BRS demands judicial probe on 22A issue, seeks Ponguleti's dismissal



Hyderabad: The Bharata Rashtira Samithi (BRS) held Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy responsible for the alleged irregularities in the 22A prohibited lands list and demanded a judicial probe by a sitting judge into the issue besides demanding a white paper on the issue, making the 22A list public, and removing the website restrictions. The BRS deputy floor leader T Harish Rao also sought Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's immediate dismissal as Revenue Minister for failing to protect citizens' property rights. Addressing a meeting of families affected by the 22A classification in Shapur Nagar on Tuesday, Harish Rao rejected the Revenue Minister's claim that

98 per cent of the lands had been removed from the prohibited list. "If that is true, why are hundreds of victims still approaching us with their grievances?" he asked. Calling the 22A controversy a commission racket, Harish Rao termed the Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister as its "A-1 and A-2" and accused them of seeking a 50:50 share in commissions. He demanded an investigation into who ordered the inclusion of the lands in the prohibited list. He said the government had erred by including private, registered and patta lands in the prohibited list. He asked why ordinary people should be made to submit applications and run around government offices to rectify the government's mis-

take. The BRS deputy leader stated that decades-old residential layouts, including Padmarao Nagar Phase-I, Spring Field and areas in Nizampet, had been included in the list. He alleged that middlemen were collecting money from landowners promising to resolve the issue, including claims of a Congress MLA from Mahbubnagar collecting Rs 30,000 each for villas and flats in Spring Field. He pointed out that the issue extended beyond Hyderabad, with nearly one crore acres of land across Telangana being included in the list. He said such classification was affecting farmers' access to Rythu Bandhu, fertilisers and electricity connections. He cited Bhimavaram in Khammam district and Chellur in Yadadri Bhongir district as instances where large portions of villages were allegedly included. Harish Rao also questioned the inclusion of Ameenpur police station and even the Chief Minister's residence in the 22A list. He said while gov-

Telangana BJP Chief Begins 48-Hour Fast Demanding Reimbursement of Tuition Fees



Hyderabad: Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao on Monday began a 48-hour hunger strike demanding that the Congress government release pending dues of students' tuition fee reimbursement scheme. Rao, who began the fast at the party office here, said the pending dues to the tune of Rs 12,000 crore have put the future of about 20 lakh students at stake. The dues rose to Rs 12,000 crore as Rs 8,000 crore was already pending when the previous BRS government demitted office in December 2023, he said. The private colleges are withholding the certificates of students in view of the dues, he said. Also Read - Alair Revenue

Inspector Caught in Rs.14,000 Bribe Case The colleges are not able to pay salaries to their staff members in view of the non-payment of funds under the scheme, he said. Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of BJP, has collected the signatures of five lakh students in colleges, which shows their anger, he said. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is handling the education portfolio, but the department has been thrown to the wind, he alleged. The BJP leader demanded that Revanth Reddy give up the education portfolio in view of his alleged failure to address people's problems. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Slams Centre, A l l e g e s

Discrimination against Telangana Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is provoking the country's youth, should come to Hyderabad and answer the people on the pending dues of the fee reimbursement scheme, he said. Though permission was sought to organise the fast at the Dharma Chowk, a place where protests are usually organised in the city, the government denied the permission, BJP said. CM Revanth Reddy has earlier announced that the state government would deposit Rs 2,400 crore towards fee reimbursement into bank accounts of students in advance from this academic year. He said Rs 250 crore was already made available for payments.

Telangana Governor Launches Sunhari Mitti Abhiyan for Turmeric Farmers

Hyderabad: Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Tuesday called for greater adoption of modern technology, natural farming practices, processing, value addition and stronger market linkages to enhance the incomes of turmeric farmers. Add ressing a farmer interaction programme organised at the National Turmeric Board () head quarters in Nizamabad, the Governor said the welfare of farmers was fundamental to the prosperity of both the State and the nation. Also Read - Malkajgiri Commissioner Inspects Goutham Nagar, Reviews Sanitation He also launched the 'Sunhari Mitti Abhiyan' and a market linkage pro-



gramme in the presence of turmeric farmers and felicitated outstanding farmer organisations with mementos. Shukla said Nizamabad had earned a special place in the country's turmeric sector owing to its fertile soil and the hard work of its farmers. The establishment of the National Turmeric Board headquarters in Nizamabad marked a significant milestone and fulfilled a long-standing aspiration of turmeric farm-

ers in the region, he said. Also Read - CMC Warns against Unauthorised Constructions, Citing Safety Risks The Governor said the establishment of the Board had been made possible thro to make agricult and commodity. It is deeply intertwined with India's culture, traditions, Ayurveda, spirituality and everyday life," the Governor said, describing it as an important symbol of India's rich

Jogi Ramesh's Family Concealed My Husband's

Vijayawada:

Former minister Jogi Ramesh's daughter-in-law Meghana accused her husband's family of concealing facts and cheating them during marriage. Addressing mediapersons at Amaravati, Meghana said that the former minister's remarks against her caused a lot of pain. "I treated my in-laws as my parents but they did not consider me as their daughter. Despite knowing their son's shortcomings and flaws, they performed his marriage. Had they shown true love, I would not have faced this problem. Instead of resolving the problem, they created a controversy. My mother-in-law clearly told me that I would be happy only if I brought additional dowry to their family. Ours is a busi-



ness family and we do not know much about politics. Before marriage, Jogi's family said they were Hindus but after the wedding, I came to know that they had converted to Christianity. No Hindu festivals were celebrated. There is no problem in following Christianity, but hiding it created trouble," she said. Also Read - CM Naidu Reviews Akhanda Godavari Pushkaralu 2027 Preparations My

mother-in-law used to make objectionable remarks about Hindu gods but I never expressed objection to Jogi's family reading bible in the house. There is no puja room in Ramesh's house. I submitted all the evidences to police. I have evidence to every allegation made in the FIR. Only a few videos relating to my harassment had been made public. I would make public all the remaining at the appro-

priate time. Also Read - SC Asks YSRCP to Approach HC against Blocking of its Online Posts "It is true that I approached Mylavaram MLA Vasanata Krishna Prasad seeking justice. He made genuine suggestions and we approached the Commissioner of Police. Then an advocate tried to mediate between us and urged us not to file a case. Then they told us that we will settle the issue in Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy's presence. Sajjala suggested that he would help us reach to a compromise but Jogi Ramesh did not cooperate. We tried to meet YS Jaganmohan Reddy too. Just within two months of my marriage, Rajeev filed a null and void case against me. Why did he seek divorce within two

Telangana DGP Denies BJP MP Arvind's Claim of Being Tailed on CM Reddy's Brother's Orders

Hyderabad: Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) C V Anand on Tuesday denied allegations by BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind that a police officer was monitoring his movements on the instructions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother. In a reply to Arvind's post on X, Anand said, "After your post on X, I have taken time and all pains to verify from all concerned what you have alleged, and let me clarify, MP @Arvindharmapuri, that no officer (s) has been put on duty to tail you and watch you. We don't believe in such things and do not adopt such methods. But if you have any more details, please feel free to give them to me personally, and I'll get it verified fully, I assure you" Also Read - 7 Telangana Police Officers Promoted as IPS on Probation Earlier, Arvind had claimed that



an ACP-rank Telangana Police officer had been tasked with monitoring his movements at the behest of the Chief Minister's brother. Addressing the DGP, Arvind said, DGP CV Anand, I have known you for decades and have always regarded you as a competent officer. Recently, I have been informed that an ACP-rank officer of the Telangana Police has been tasked with monitoring me and my movements at the behest of

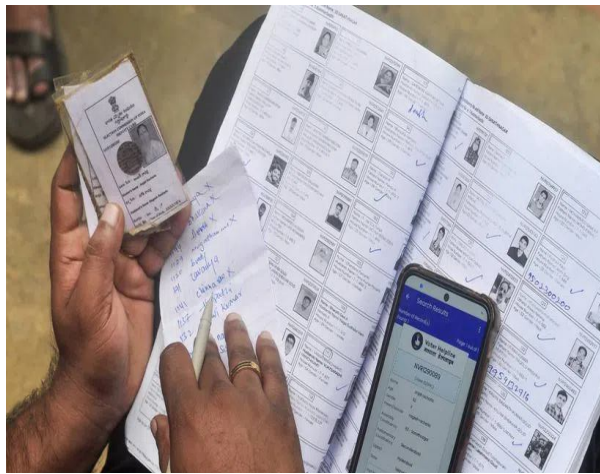
Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother. This raises a serious and fundamental question, does the Telangana Police function under the Constitution officer haGP CV Anand, and the lawful chain GP CV Anand, I have known you for decades of command, or on instructions from members of the Chief Minister's family?" He added, "As far as I am aware, Telangana Prs of the Chief Minister's family?" He added, "As far as I am aware, Telangana Police is accountable to the law and not to any political family.

of the Chief Minister's brother. Addressing the DGP, Arvind said, DGP CV Anand, I have known you for decades and have always regarded you as a competent officer. Recently, I have been informed that an ACP-rank officer of the Telangana Police has been tasked with monitoring me and my movements at the behest of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother. This raises a serious and fundamental question, does the Telangana Police function under the Constitution and the lawful chain of command, or on instructions from members of the Chief Minister's family?" He added, "As far as I am aware, Telangana Prs of the Chief Minister's family?" He added, "As far as I am aware, Telangana Police is accountable to the law and not to any political family.

SIR notices: Who can skip personal hearing in Telangana?

Hyderabad: Not all who are served notices as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral roll will have to attend an in-person hearing in Telangana. Telangana Chief Electoral Office (CEO) sources have disclosed that celebrities, VIPs, industry personalities and elderly individuals who are flagged for anomalies or unmapped in the SIR 2002 list have a provision to authorise someone within the family to represent them during the in-person hearing. Such individuals must furnish original documents before the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) or Assistant EROs via the authorised person during the hearing process. The same provision has also been extended to people who are currently not residing in the State and individuals suffering

from chronic health issues. "Those seeking exemption must give an authorization letter to the ERO, who has the discretion to give exemption from personal hearing. If the ERO is not satisfied with the response and documents submitted, he/she might call for a personal hearing again," said a senior Telangana CEO official. The Telangana CEO identified anomalies, including mismatch of names and incorrect age between the present and last SIR, in forms submitted by 60,50,918 voters, while 32,36,659 electors could not be mapped with the SIR 2002 list. So far, more than 1.50 lakh voters have been served notices, while 75 lakh notices have already been downloaded by the EROs and AEROs. These notices will be printed and distributed



to the voters via the BLOs, who will take acknowledgment, along with a photo of serving notice. Electors may submit supporting documents through the voters' portal, the BLO app, or appear for an in-person hearing at EROs or AEROs for anomalies in their enumeration form. In the case of SIR 2002 unmapped voters, the

electors need to present themselves at the ERO or AEROs office with supporting original documents. "In addition to in-person hearings, we will be holding Grama Sabhas from August 27, where voters can rectify anomalies by submitting supporting original documents," the senior official added.

NDSA affidavit, CWPRS report expose Congress propaganda on Kaleshwaram

Hyderabad: BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T Harish Rao said the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) affidavit and Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) reports have exposed the Congress government's propaganda against the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme. He demanded that the Anaram and Sundilla pumps be operated immediately to lift Godavari River water and fill reservoirs. Reacting to the NDSA affidavit in the Telangana High Court, Harish Rao said the Central Authority made it clear in its affidavit that water could be lifted from Kaleshwaram project depending on requirements. Meanwhile, the CWPRS found no structural problems in any block of the Anaram and Sundilla barges and reported that the concrete quality was satisfactory, he said.



government is deliberately keeping Kaleshwaram aside due to political vendetta and allowing Godavari River water to flow downstream instead of using it for Telangana's farmers," he said. The BRS leader said the government switched on Devadula (project) and Nandi pumps only after repeated demands from his party, by which time much of the floodwater had flowed downstream, and later shut them down. "Water was released to Andhra Pradesh while Telangana

farmers were left with tears," he remarked. Harish Rao stated that reservoir storage in Telangana stood at only 35.6 per cent, against the national average of 64.16 per cent, indicating an impending water crisis. He accused the government of failing in water management despite repeated warnings about El Nino and possible drought conditions. The State, which had overcome water shortages during the K Chandrashekhara Rao regime, was being pushed back into water

distress, he alleged. The former Irrigation Minister questioned why the government was more interested in appointing commissions and conducting inquiries than conserving and utilising Godavari and Krishna River waters for farmers. "This is not the time for politics," he said, urging the government to focus on project management, Telangana's water rights and farmers' interests instead of internal political disputes.

"The Revanth Reddy

Gachibowli Police Detects Kidnap Case in 4 Hours; Rescues 2 Children

Hyderabad: The Gachibowli police detected a kidnapping case within four hours of receiving the complaint and safely rescued two minor children aged below four years. The police received a complaint around 2 am on Tuesday from Devid Murmu, a labourer and resident of Labour Camp in Kondapur. He said that his daughter, and another labourer's daughter, was playing in the labour camp on Monday around 4 pm. Also Read - Malkajgiri Commissioner Inspects Goutham Nagar, Reviews Sanitation The complainant noticed that one Chaku Soren, who was residing in the same labour camp, allegedly took both the children from the camp and fled. Based on the complaint, a case was registered at Gachibowli police station and immediate efforts were initiated to trace and rescue the children. As suspicion arose regarding the involvement of Chaku Soren, special teams were

immediately formed and



station. The Gachibowli information regarding the accused and the missing children was circulated to various police stations and railway authorities. Also Read - CMC Warns against Unauthorised Constructions, Citing Safety Risks One police team was deployed to check railway stations and other possible transit points. Alerts were sent to railway and law and order police stations going towards Kolkata particularly, also sent to Ghatkesar, Jangaon to Khazipet stations. During early hours, technical investigation and search efforts led the police team to trace the location of the accused near Ghatkesar railway

police immediately alerted the railway authorities and Ghatkesar police and, through coordinated efforts, successfully apprehended Soren, who is a native of West Bengal and rescued the kidnapped children. Also Read - Ramchander Rao Ends Fast for Releasing Fees Reimbursement Scheme Dues Both children are safely rescued and brought to Gachibowli police station for further necessary action and are subsequently handed over to their parents or guardians as per procedure. On being questioned, the accused disclosed that he had been involved in two criminal

cases registered at Karandighi police station in West Bengal, one relating to an attempt to murder and the other pertained to rape. He further disclosed that he had undergone five years of imprisonment at Islampur Jail, West Bengal. Also Read - Telangana Governor Launches Sunhari Mitti Abhiyan for Turmeric Farmers The accused also disclosed his involvement in kidnapping persons and selling them to needy individuals for monetary gain, with the victims allegedly being used for begging. His disclosures are being verified, and he is being thoroughly interrogated regarding his involvement in the offences and any other criminal activities. His antecedents are also being verified to ascertain his involvement in any previous criminal cases. Further details, if any, will be incorporated after completion of the verification.

Hour-Long Rain Inundates Gurugram; School Students Stranded In Bus, 5-Km Jam On Expressway Triggers Chaos

Gurugram: Torrential rain has once again exposed the state of the city's infrastructure in Gurugram, throwing life out of gear in the Haryana city on Monday. After just an hour of rainfall, roads in several areas were submerged. Waterlogging caused significant commuting difficulties; vehicle movement stalled in many places, and traffic flow was severely disrupted, according to officials. School children stranded for hours. School buses remained stranded for several hours at some locations, including near Rail Vihar in Sector 47 and Subash Chowk, prompting residents to raise concerns on social media. On X, one resident said their child had been stuck in a bus for over four hours, while another criticised the authorities and called for an overhaul of the system. A third user said residents had highlighted the city's waterlog-

ging problem for years, but "nothing has changed". Knee-deep water in Patel Nagar The situation worsened particularly in Gurugram's Patel Nagar following the rain, where water levels on the roads rose to knee height. Pedestrians and motorists alike had to wade through the water. School students also faced hardships due to the waterlogging. Many two-wheelers stalled after getting stuck in the water, while cars were seen moving at a snail's pace. 5-km-long traffic jam on Delhi-Jaipur Expressway The impact of the rain was also evident on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway. A traffic jam stretching over five kilometres formed between Signature Tower and Hero Honda Chowk. Thousands of vehicles remained stuck for hours. Motorists



travelling from Delhi towards Jaipur faced the maximum trouble. A route that usually takes about 15 minutes to cover took 40 to 50 minutes for people to traverse after the rain. The prolonged traffic jam forced motorists to spend a significant amount of time on the road. Locals face increased trouble. A resident said, "Every time it rains, Gurugram faces waterlogging and traffic jams. When will there finally be a permanent

solution to this problem?" The situation following the rain has once again raised questions regarding the city's drainage and traffic management systems. 'Work from Home' advisory issued The Gurugram Disaster Management Authority stated in a social media post, "In view of the heavy rainfall in Gurugram on August 24, 2026, there is a likelihood of waterlogging and traffic congestion in several parts of the dis-

Amit Shah Pushes For AI-Driven Intelligence Analysis, Stronger Anti-Infiltration Measures To Ensure National Security

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday directed the heads of law-enforcement agencies and Directors General of Police (DGPs) of all states and Union Territories to use artificial intelligence for analysing information available on the Multi Agency Centre (MAC) platform and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to tackle emerging national security challenges. Inaugurating the ninth two-day National Security Strategies Conference (NSSC)-2026 in New Delhi, Shah also asked security agencies to adopt strict measures to curb infiltration and strengthen coordinated action against threats to the country's internal security. The Home Minister stressed the need for a technology-driven and integrated approach to intelligence gathering and analysis, with the AI-based assessment of information shared through the MAC platform expected to help agencies identify patterns, anticipate threats and formulate more effective responses. Shah also outlined a series of measures to strengthen the fight against terrorism



and radicalisation. He emphasised training agencies to implement the Ministry of Home Affairs' PRAHAAR scheme, expediting trials by bringing back fugitives and making use of provisions relating to trial in absentia. Calling for a comprehensive and integrated approach to investigating cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Shah underlined the need for closer coordination among investigative and security agencies to ensure stronger prosecution of terrorism

related cases. The conference, being held in a hybrid format, is being attended by more than 850 participants from across the country. Ministers of State for Home Affairs, the Union Home Secretary, Deputy National Security Advisers, and heads of Central Armed Police Forces and Central Police Organisations attended the conference in Delhi. Directors General of Police of states and Union Territories, young police officers working at the cutting-edge level and

domain experts from specialised fields joined the deliberations virtually. Before inaugurating the conference, Shah paid homage to Intelligence Bureau personnel who laid down their lives in Security Advisers, and heads of Central Armed Column in remembrance of those who made the supreme sacrifice while safeguarding the country's national security and integrity. The first day of the conference focused on major

internal security concerns, including counter-terrorism challenges, the fusion, analysis and operationalisation of intelligence through the MAC, the Vision Document on Narcotics Control, detection and deportation of illegal migrants, a policy framework to combat cybercrime and proxy warfare by Pakistan. The second day will focus on the threat posed by sub-aerial systems and the formulation of countermeasures, securing the blue economy, information warfare. The first day of the conference focused on major internal security concerns, including counter-terrorism challenges, the fusion, and its implications for national security, and the need for a bio-security framework. The NSSC has been held annually in a hybrid format since 2021, following the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The conference aims to identify practical solutions to major national security challenges by combining the experience of officers working at the grassroots and cutting-edge levels with the expertise of specialists from various fields.

'Shree Narendra Modi Wholesale Fish Market': Surat Fish Market Named After PM Without Civic Body Nod



Surat: A controversy has erupted over a newly built fish market in Gujarat's Surat being named after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with a section of traders objecting to the move, while the local civic body clarified that the official naming process of the complex was yet to be completed. A large board reading 'Shree Narendra Modi Wholesale Fish Market', with PM's photo in a corner of the hoarding, was installed at the entrance of the market, built by the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC),

at Lakkadkot in the Nanpura area of the Gujarat city, triggering opposition from a section of traders. Surendra Lashkari, a fish trader, objected to the name, saying the Prime Minister was a vegetarian and therefore his name should not be associated with a fish market. "Narendra Modi has never consumed seafood in his life and is a pure vegetarian. Because Modi is a vegetarian, this board should not be put up," Lashkari insisted. However, Kalpesh Navsariwala, president of The Surat Fish Merchant Association (SFMA),

defended the move, claiming the association had independently passed a resolution to name the market after Modi. The board also carries the name of the fish merchant association. He noted the Centre had provided Rs 3 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for construction of the market and also referred to government initiatives for the welfare of fishermen. "Under the Yojana, which was launched by PM Modi, the SMC received Rs 3 crore to build this market. Others never did anything for us. Now that the market has been built and providing employment to lakhs of people, it is causing heartburn to some people," Navsariwala said. SMC Executive Engineer of the

NSG Launches First-Ever 'Mahila Commando Conversion Course' to Train Women in Elite Counter-Terror Ops



New Delhi: In a significant step towards strengthening the role of women in India's counter-terrorism architecture, the National Security Guard (NSG) Training Academy in Manesar has launched its first-ever Mahila Commando Conversion Course (MCCC) for women personnel from State Police Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

by male commandos. However, the programme is aimed at going beyond greater representation by equipping women with the operational capability and professional skills required for high-risk and complex missions.

According to the plan, the NSG will share its specialised counter-terrorism expertise with women personnel drawn from different State Police Forces and CAPFs, creating a wider pool of trained professionals across the country. The programme is also expected to promote common professional standards among security forces and improve interoperability between central and state agencies during complex operations.

"Counter-terrorism operations often require a coordinated response involving multiple agencies. By training women personnel from different forces under a common specialised programme, the initiative seeks to develop a more integrated and distributed operational capability across India's security architecture," an official aware of the programme told ETV Bharat here.

On completion of the

course, the trained personnel will return to their respective parent forces with enhanced operational skills and specialised knowledge. This, the official said, will allow their capabilities to be integrated into a wider range of counter-terrorism and security responsibilities within their own organisations.

The move could also strengthen the institutional preparedness of state and central forces by reducing dependence on a limited pool of specialised personnel and expanding the availability of trained women commandos for demanding operational assignments.

The course assumes greater significance as security challenges become increasingly complex and diverse, requiring specialised capabilities in areas such as hostage rescue, tactical intervention and close-quarter operations.

The first Mahila Commando Conversion Course represents more than a step towards increasing women's participation in India's security forces. It reflects a shift towards empowerment through operational capability, the official added.

Indigo Delhi-Mangaluru Flight Delayed By 3 Hours Due To Technical Snag

Mumbai: A Mangaluru-bound IndiGo flight from the Delhi airport was delayed by almost three hours on Thursday after the pilot detected a technical snag in the Airbus A320 aircraft during the taxiing phase and decided to take the plane to the bay, a passenger on board said. Flight 6E-6456, which was scheduled to depart at 5.30 pm from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, left at 8.28 pm for its destination with a new aircraft, as per the live flight tracking website flightradar24.com. The flight was already delayed by some 20 minutes, and when it departed, within 8-10 minutes of slow taxiing, it stopped and then



returned to the bay, the source said. "We are flying from Delhi to Mangalore. It was a 5.30 (pm) flight,

and they said it was delayed by 20 minutes. Then they moved the aircraft after 5.50 pm, but it

stopped after 8-10 minutes of slow taxiing," the passenger said. After 5 minutes, the pilot announced that the aircraft was returning to the bay because of a technical issue, he said. "At the bay, they opened the door, some engineers came, and checked the aircraft for 5-10 minutes. The crew then told us to get off the aircraft and said that we are arranging an alternative aircraft for you," the source said. An IndiGo spokesperson said in a statement, "A technical snag was detected during taxiing on the aircraft operating

IndiGo flight 6E6456 from Delhi to Mangaluru on 20 August 2026. Following standard operating procedure and in the interest of safety, the pilots returned the aircraft to the bay and the relevant authorities were informed." "The aircraft will undergo necessary checks and maintenance before resuming operations, the airline said and added that "in the meantime, an alternative aircraft has been arranged for the customers to complete the journey". Last week, a Kolkata-Chennai flight reportedly had to make an emergency landing at Chennai airport after the aircraft suffered an engine failure.

Students Protest Against Move To Merge Polytechnic With Skills University, State Labour Min Allays Fears

Hyderabad: Polytechnic students held protests here and in other places in Telangana on Thursday against the state government's move to merge polytechnics with its Young India Skills University. The students were supported by BRSV, the students' wing of BRS. Demanding the withdrawal of a Government Order (GO) over the merger, the protesting students expressed fears that they would not get lateral entry into the second year of engineering after completing polytechnic (diploma in engineering). Holding placards that read 'stop merger of polytechnic colleges in SHAKTI department', they raised slogans like 'say no to SHAKTI'. "Polytechnic students have been joining B Tech second year through lateral entry for a long time. But now, we don't have entry into BTech with this GO. We have to study Plus Two and then appear for B Tech entrance. We are



going to lose several years," a protesting student told media persons. State Labour Minister G Vivek Venkatswamy clarified that polytechnic students would continue to have lateral entry into engineering second year. He appealed to the students not to have any apprehension on the matter. The GO issued earlier by the state government renamed the existing Labour, Employment, Training and Factories

Department as the Department of Skill Human Capital and Knowledge Training Initiatives (SHAKTI). According to the GO, the subject matter of the Young India Skills University (YISU) is transferred under the Industries Department to the newly renamed Department of SHAKTI. It said all Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) in the

state would be integrated under the direct institutional umbrella of the Young India Skills University (YISU). The GO further said all Polytechnic Colleges shall be brought under the Young India Skills University framework and ecosystem. The GO issued earlier by the state government renamed the existing Labour, Employment, Training and Factories Department as the Department of Skill

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The pioneering 12-week specialised programme, which begins on Monday, August 24, aims to transform selected women personnel into physically robust, technically proficient and operationally ready commandos capable of undertaking demanding roles in counter-terrorism and internal security operations.

The intensive course will expose the trainees to rigorous physical conditioning, advanced weapons handling and marksmanship, tactical intervention, hostage rescue and other specialised facets of counter-terrorism operations.

The initiative marks a significant expansion of women's participation in specialised security roles, particularly in an area traditionally dominated



NEET-UG Paper Leak: Delhi Court Allows Accused to Inspect Unrelied CBI Documents

New Delhi: A fast-track court in Delhi on Monday granted the lawyers of the accused in the NEET-UG paper leak case access to some documents which the CBI had not referred to while framing its charge sheet. The court directed the lawyers for the accused to visit the CBI office on August 24, 25, 29, and 31 to coordinate with the investigating officer and examine the documents between 10 am and 5 pm. During the hearing, lawyers representing the accused cited the Supreme Court's ruling in the Manish Sisodia case, which had ordered the inspection of documents not relied upon in the charge sheet.

Opposing this argument, the counsel for the CBI stated that the matter is currently at the stage of taking cognisance of the charge sheet, and the court is required to take cognisance based only on the documents relied upon by the agency. On August 22, the court had dismissed an application filed by accused Dhananjay Lokhande seeking a copy of his arrest memo. On August 14, the court had granted permission to the CBI to conduct further investigation into the case. On August 12, the court had taken cognisance of the charge sheet filed by the CBI against 13 accused persons. The individuals named as



accused by the CBI include Yash Yadav, Mangilal Biwal, Dinesh Biwal, Vikas Biwal, Shubham Khairnar, Dhananjay Lokhande, Prahlad Kulkarni, Tejas Harshad Kumar, Manoj Shirure, Shivraj R a g h u n a t h Moteagaonkar, Manisha Waghmare, Manisha Mandhare, and Manisha

Sanjay Havaladar. All these accused are currently in judicial custody. The CBI registered an FIR against the accused under Sections 315(5), 318(4), 61(2), 238, and 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Sections 13(2) and 13(1)(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act; and

Rape Convict Ram Rahim Granted 21-Day Parole Again; Set For 17th Jail Release Since Conviction

Sirsa: Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, who is serving a 20-year sentence for raping two women disciples, has been granted a 21-day parole. This is the 17th time he has been granted parole since his conviction in 2017.

According to officials, Ram Rahim is permitted to leave prison and travel to the Dera Sacha Sauda headquarters in Sirsa, where he is expected to reach shortly after his release from prison. Meanwhile, a sense of excitement is evident among the followers of Dera Sacha Sauda as Sirsa Dera has historically held significant importance for Ram Rahim, serving as the primary venue where he interacts with his followers. The Dera Sacha Sauda chief has a huge following across Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and several other states. In Haryana, the organisation enjoys considerable influence in districts such as Sirsa, Fatehabad, Kurukshetra, Kaithal and Hisar. The self-styled godman was convicted and sentenced in cases involving rape and murder; however, his repeated paroles have raised questions over the judicial system, sparking anger among the public. His latest release comes after he was last granted a 30-day parole in May and a 40-day parole in January 2026. Prior to this, he was granted 40-



day parole in August 2025, a 21-day furlough in April 2025 and a 30-day parole in January 2025 ahead of the February 5 Delhi assembly polls. He was also granted a 20-day parole on October 1, 2024, days before the October 5 Haryana assembly polls. This apart, he was released on a 21-day furlough in August 2024, and a three-week furlough in February 2022, before the Punjab assembly polls. On each occasion, the timing of his release has been linked or perceived to be linked to upcoming elections or other major public events. However, the specific grounds for granting parole on this particular occasion have not been explicitly disclosed. Ram Rahim's Previous

Paroles And Furloughs Since October 2020, Ram Rahim has been granted temporary release from jail several times: October 2020: One-day parole for medical check-up. May 2021: 12-hour parole to visit his ailing mother. February 2022: 21-day furlough to meet his family in Gurugram, ahead of Punjab Assembly elections. June 2022: 30-day parole, ahead of Haryana municipal elections. October 2022: 40-day parole, ahead of Haryana panchayat elections and Adampur by-election. January 2023: 40-day parole. July 2023: 30-day parole, before Haryana panchayat elections.

November 2023: 29-day parole, before Rajasthan Assembly elections. January 2024: 30-day release from jail several times. April 2024: 21-day furlough. August 2024: 21-day furlough, following Punjab and Haryana High Court's decision. January 2025: 30-day parole, before Delhi Assembly elections. April 2025: 21-day furlough, during Dera Sacha Sauda's founding month. August 2025: 40-day parole to visit Sirsa Dera. January 2026: 40-day parole to stay at Sirsa Dera. May 2026: 30-day parole to stay at Sirsa Dera. August 2026: 21-day parole to stay at Sirsa Dera.

'One Nation, One Election' Cannot Happen In 2029 Even If Parliament Passes Bill: Congress MP Chidambaram

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member P Chidambaram on Tuesday said simultaneous elections cannot not be held in 2029, even if Parliament passes the 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE) Bill. Chidambaram said the legislation itself does not allow simultaneous polls in 2029 and argued that the proposed electoral reform is contrary to the Constitution's basic features. In a post on X, Chidambaram said he has appeared before the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the One Nation, One Election proposal. "I am grateful for the opportunity to present my views to the JPC on O.N.O.E. I am not at liberty to disclose my evidence to the JPC, but the basic thrust of my deposition was that the Bill violated the basic features of the Constitution, especially the tenets of parliamentary democracy in a federal country," he said. The Congress



leader also questioned a reported statement by the JPC chairman that simultaneous elections could be held in 2029. "I have read the reported statement of the Chairman, JPC, that simultaneous elections are possible in 2029. I am afraid my view is wrong and goes against the text of the Bill," he said. "Simultaneous Polls Not Possible In 2029" Chidambaram said that even if the Bill clears Parliament, which he considers unlikely, its provisions would not permit simultaneous

elections in 2029. "Even if the Bill is passed (which is very unlikely), the 'appointed date' under the Bill can only be a date 'after a general election'," he said. "The next general election will take place in 2029. Hence, simultaneous elections are not possible in 2029, which is a blessing," Chidambaram added. He added that the Congress and other Opposition parties would launch a nationwide campaign against the proposed legislation. "The Congress and other

Opposition parties will mount a nationwide campaign against the Bill, which is a Constitutional monstrosity in parliamentary democracy in a federal country," he said. JPC Receives Suggestions On Deferring Polls Meanwhile, the parliamentary committee examining the ONOE Bill received several suggestions during its Monday deliberations. According to sources, two public policy institutions suggested replacing subjective discretion

Canada Vows Retaliatory Tariffs As Trump Intensifies Trade War With 50% Tariffs From 2027

Toronto: Canada will announce retaliatory tariffs against the United States on Tuesday after relations deteriorated sharply Monday, with President Donald Trump telling Canadian leaders to "fall in line" or face consequences "far WORSE" than existing tariffs and Prime Minister Mark Carney accusing Washington of trying to subordinate Canada. Trump also threatened new 50% tariffs on Canadian vehicles, auto parts and steel, while Carney said U.S. trade demands showed Washington wanted to "destroy our major industries," including autos, steel and aluminum. Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne and three other Cabinet ministers are scheduled to unveil Canada's response Tuesday morning. Carney said earlier Monday that Canada may need to move away from matching U.S. tariffs dollar for dollar and instead use more targeted retaliation aimed at protecting Canadian



workers and businesses. "An attitude at the negotiation table that Canada is a subsidiary of the United States" is "not something we're going to accept," Carney said. Carney was even more blunt in French. "We learned during the negotiations that the Americans want to destroy our major industries, including autos, steel and aluminum," Carney said. "That was one of the main reasons we said no. It was a bad deal." The fiery words from both sides show how U.S.-Canada relations have deteriorated since Carney walked away from trade negotiations with the Trump administration late Friday, triggering the president's threatened

50% tariffs the next day on about \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods. Canada and the United States share one of the world's largest trading relationships, with deeply integrated supply chains across autos, energy, agriculture and manufacturing, making a prolonged trade fight potentially costly for businesses and workers on both sides of the border. Carney cast doubt on the U.S.'s dependability, saying Canada was finding reliable partners "everywhere in the world, except in the United States. Except in the United States. And Russia." Trump unleashes personal attacks on Canadian leaders. On Monday, Trump

came back with further tariffs, warning that he would impose them on Canada's auto industry beginning next year. "Canada has been ripping off the United States of America for years," Trump wrote on social media, criticizing what he called the country's "ridiculously high tariffs" on American farmers. Carney said Washington's auto-sector proposals would gradually have the effect of dismantling Canadian production. "This is the most successful automotive partnership in history," Carney said, referring to the deeply integrated Canada-U.S. industry. Meanwhile, Ontario Premier Doug Ford unleashed his own tirade. In an interview with The Associated Press, he said Trump had underestimated Canadians' willingness to endure economic pain rather than give in to U.S. pressure. "We're all in," Ford said. "Up here, we're at a fever pitch; everyone's in for an economic war. They know they're

FBI Sets \$25,000 Minimum Reward For Dozens Of Unsolved Indian Country Cases



Sioux Falls: The Federal Bureau of Investigation has established a minimum reward of \$25,000 in cases where people went missing or were killed in Indian Country, part of a broader effort to address high rates of violence affecting Native American communities. The new minimum applies to more than 50 unsolved homicides and missing-person cases in tribal communities. Most of the cases are less than 10 years old, though a dozen have been unsolved for more than two decades, an AP analysis found. Victims' families and experts are unsure the higher amounts will be enough to get tipsters to come forward, citing people's fears and distrust of the federal government. "Everybody's scared in Oglala," said Lisa Carlow, whose father Patrick Carlow Sr. was found dead in his Pine Ridge Reservation home in 2023. "So to me it's like, okay, what do you guys know that you're not saying?"

The FBI investigates federal crimes on nearly 200 Native American reservations, along with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. At the end of 2025, the FBI's Crime Information Center recorded just under 1,500 active cases involving missing Native Americans, though not all become federal cases. The FBI cited several cases in its recent announcement, including that of 8-year-old Maleeka Boone, who it said was likely struck by a vehicle on the Navajo Nation, and San Carlos Apache teenager Emily Pike, whose body was found after she disappeared from an Arizona group home. Higher rewards could stir new Mary Kathryn Nagle, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and an attorney who advocates for families of missing Native Americans, said federal investigators often "parachute in" to investigate crimes in tight-knit communities where

being taken seriously. "We have people in Indian Country who know what happened to our relatives," she said. Luana Ross, who is Bitterroot Salish and a co-director of the Native Voices program at the University of Washington, said cash rewards could boost interest but often aren't paid out. "It is my opinion that in reservation communities, people would be extremely reluctant to turn a friend or relative into a criminal justice system that hasn't served them well," she said. Lisa Foster's longtime friend Mona Renee Vallo was found dead after a suspected hit-and-run along historic Route 66 in Laguna Pueblo, New Mexico, in 2022. Foster hopes the higher reward money will renew interest in the investigation. Foster described Vallo as a positive, bubbly friend who could have fun no matter what. She was a member of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama

Nation. "Someone knows something there," Foster said. "They have to. I mean, it's weird that she went to work and then all of a sudden this happened to her."

Frustration mounts as families seek answers

The reward in Carlow's case was increased to \$25,000 in July, up from \$10,000. Carlow's family says the 73-year-old rancher was respected in the Oglala community. He mowed the grass for others and spent time with his grandchildren. The family said more calls started coming in after the reward was increased, but the wait for answers continues.

Meanwhile, the FBI declined to provide The Associated Press an update on the case. "It's so hard to get your hopes up like that and think, 'This is it, we finally got dad's killer.' And then nothing comes of it," Lisa Carlow said.

She said fear keeps community members who may have information from contacting authorities. "I think that's like deep-rooted within our people," said her sister, JoDee Carlow. "It's not just on Pine Ridge. It's on every reservation."

Relatives don't want cases to be forgotten

The FBI initially offered \$5,000 for information in the deaths of two brothers from Ohio, Matthew and Philip Reagan. The reward was later doubled and now

FBI Places Indian National Kamal On 'Most Wanted List' Over Alleged Lawrence Bishnoi Gang Links

Washington: The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on Thursday placed Indian national Kamal on its Most Wanted list over his alleged involvement in a transnational criminal organisation known as the Lawrence Bishnoi Organised Crime Group, the agency said.

According to the FBI, the group allegedly engaged in a conspiracy to interfere with commerce by extortion and operated in the Central District of California and elsewhere. The FBI said on its official website that Kamal is wanted for his alleged involvement in the criminal organisation.

"No Name Given Kamal is wanted for his alleged involvement in a transnational criminal organization engaged in conspiracy to interfere with commerce by extortion. This organization, The Lawrence Bishnoi Organized Crime Group, originated in the Punjab state of India and operated in the Central District of California and elsewhere," the notification



read.

A federal arrest warrant was issued for Kamal on July 1, 2026, in the United States District Court for the Central District of California in Los Angeles after he was charged with conspiracy to interfere with commerce by extortion.

No Name Given Kamal is #wanted by the #FBI for his alleged involvement in a transnational criminal organization known as The Lawrence Bishnoi Organized Crime Group. The group allegedly engaged in conspiracy to interfere with commerce by extortion, and operated in the Central...

pic.twitter.com/fC58IUeufq

— FBI Most Wanted (@FBIMostWanted) August 20, 2026

The latest action comes amid an intensified US crackdown on India-linked transnational organised crime groups under Operation Hard Ball. Earlier, the FBI had placed Indian nationals Major Singh and Nitish Kaushal on its Most Wanted list over their alleged links to the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria Organised Crime Group.

According to the FBI, the Bhagwanpuria group originated in Punjab, India, and operated in

the Central District of California and elsewhere. The agency has alleged that the group was involved in murder, kidnapping, drug trafficking, extortion, weapons trafficking, money laundering and human smuggling. On July 30, the FBI also placed Indian national Amritpal Singh on its Most Wanted list over his alleged involvement in the Ravinder Dhandha Organised Crime Group, a transnational network based in Vancouver, Canada.

The FBI alleged that the Dhandha group trafficked substantial quantities of cocaine and methamphetamine for drug traf-

NSA Ajit Doval Calls On Chinese Vice President Han Zhang Ahead Of Border Talks

New Delhi: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Tuesday called on Chinese Vice President Han Zhang and discussed ways to strengthen peace and tranquillity in the border areas, besides further improving bilateral ties. Doval arrived in Beijing on Monday on a two-day visit to take part in the Special Representatives (SR) talks on the India-China boundary question with his Chinese counterpart and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The talks between Doval and Chinese Vice President Han Zhang focussed on ways to strengthen peace and tranquillity in the border areas and further improve bilateral relations across economic, political and multilateral fora, in accordance with the consensus reached between the leaders of the two countries, the Indian Embassy said in a post on X.

The SR talks between Doval and Foreign Minister Wang Yi are scheduled later in the day. The talks assume significance as they are being held ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's much-anticipated visit to New Delhi to attend the BRICS



summit on September 12-13. They also come at a time when differences over the border and Arunachal Pradesh continue to figure prominently in India-China bilateral ties. The ties between New Delhi and Beijing came under severe strain after the 2020 Galwan Valley clash and the prolonged military stand-off in eastern Ladakh. But both sides have since taken steps to stabilise relations.

Both Doval and Wang are the designated SRs for the boundary talks mechanism, which was established in 2003 to

comprehensively address the dispute of the India-China border spanning 3,488 km. While success eluded it in resolving the boundary dispute, officials on both sides regard the structured mechanism as a useful tool in addressing the recurring tensions between the two countries on various fronts. Announcing the SR talks at a media briefing here on Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian, however, skirted a direct response to a question about Xi's visit to India. Xi's visit would provide

an opportunity for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the summit to discuss initiatives to take forward bilateral ties.

Modi and Xi last met in August 2025 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin. On the SRs' talks, Lin said Doval and Wang will have an in-depth discussion on the boundary question as well as other bilateral, regional and international relations.

The talks between SRs are the "main channel"

As Trump Tightens Visa Rules, Indians Face Fresh Uncertainty Over The American Dream



New Delhi: Nilotpal Sanyal, a professor at a US university, hasn't travelled back to India this year to visit family as he waits for an extension of his H1-B visa.

"My current H1-B expires at the end of this month. I made my extension application in March, and there was enough time, but when I last checked the processing time, I saw a processing time of 10.5 months for an extension," he said. He said it had caused him some anxiety. "It's stressful in the sense that there is uncertainty; I couldn't come to India in summer. I'm not sure that I can come in December. There are currently no H1-B visa interview appointments available for 2026 in India," he said.

"If I leave the country and cannot get a visa stamp, I can't come back. His uncertainty captures the dilemma for those seeking H1-B extensions or even applying for a fresh visa due to the Trump administration's continuous tweaks to US visa and immigration policies. The cumulative impact US President Donald Trump came to power, promising to Make America Great Again and create jobs for Americans, including by curbing illegal and legal migration. His support base believes immigrants have taken away American jobs, a sentiment that has long prevailed in the US. As Trump Tightens Visa Rules, Indians Face Fresh Uncertainty Over The American Dream.

As per Ministry of External Affairs, F-1 visas issued to Indian students for the period June-July 2025 has seen a 69% decline over the previous year. (ETV Bharat

Graphics) Under Trump, this has translated, along with mass deportations, into tweaks to H-1B and other visa categories and tighter Green Card requirements through executive action. All this has significantly squeezed the legal route through which foreigners study, work and immigrate to the US, creating an atmosphere of uncertainty. "The real damage is cumulative. Every new headline chips away at confidence. Foreign nationals, Indian professionals very much included, are now pausing before they book a flight to the US, and some are pausing before they book a flight within the US, even when they're already here legally," said Rosanna Berardi, Attorney at Law, Berardi Immigration Law, in the US. "That's the practical effect: less about any single rule and more about a climate of unpredictability that makes people afraid to move." She noted that visa policy changes "are just the newest chapter in a consistent message from the Trump administration: America is closed for business."

Highly skilled Indians are most affected, as they received around 71 per cent of all H-1B visas issued by the United States. What is happening in the administration plans to make H-1B and L-1 visa extensions and visas more expensive to price foreign workers out of the employment market. The US on Monday proposed a USD 103,265 fee for all H1-B visas, the Department of Homeland Security said. This comes after a presidential proclamation introduced last year,

requiring a \$100,000 payment on top of the standard fee for certain new H-1 B applications, faced a legal challenge in the courts. Another proposed change seeks to remove the 60-day job-search buffer for laid-off foreign professionals. Called the "Eliminating the Discretionary 60-Day Grace Period", this would mean that if an H1-B visa holder loses their job, they would not have any grace period and would have to leave the US immediately.

All these changes have one aim: to make hiring a foreign worker more expensive than hiring a local worker.

Future immigrants Concerns over the US' changing visa policies are not limited to professionals alone. Students and their parents are weighing the option of taking out large education loans and then being iced out of the US job market.

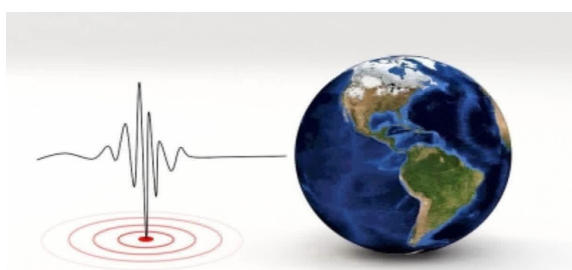
Visas now come with strict expiration dates, with the Optional Practical Training (OPT) timeline to submit paperwork to US Citizenship and Immigration Services reduced from 60-day "grace period" to 30 days. OPT allows international students on an F-1 visa to work.

The US government is also scrutinising social media accounts of visa applicants.

While the American dream is far from over, students are pivoting to European destinations like Germany due to tightening visa rules, long waits for visa appointments, tighter immigration enforcement, higher living costs

A Magnitude 6.7 Earthquake Shakes Peru's Southern Andes, Injuring At Least 2 And Damaging Homes

Lima: A magnitude 6.7 earthquake shook Peru's southern Andes Mountains on Thursday, injuring at least two people and damaging homes, health centres and schools, authorities said. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the quake occurred at 1 p.m. local time (18:00 GMT) and was centred 38 kilometres (24 miles) northwest of the city of Upahuacho, in the Parinacochas province of the Ayacucho region. It had a depth of 66 kilometres (41 miles). The earthquake was felt in



several regions of southern Peru, including Ica, Arequipa, Huancavelica, Apurímac and Cusco, as well as in the capital, Lima. Luis Vásquez, head of Civil Defence, told reporters that two people were injured

while evacuating their homes during the earthquake in Coracora, the capital of Parinacochas province. Authorities also reported damage to 22 homes, six health centres and a school across several districts in

Ayacucho and Cusco, including the towns of Puquio, Pullo, Coracora, Upahuacho, San Pedro and Pichari. Vásquez said rockfalls were reported on hillsides near Coracora. The Peruvian Navy ruled out a tsunami threat.

Earthquakes are frequent in Peru, which is part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an area of frequent seismic activity. In 2007, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake in a province of the Ica region left nearly 600 people dead.

Indian National Declared Bankrupt In Singapore Over Unpaid Wages To Migrant Workers



Singapore: An Indian national, who was a director of several companies owing wages to more than 400 migrant workers, has been declared bankrupt in Singapore, according to a media report. A bankruptcy order was made against Ramu Palani Velu on August 13. The Straits Times reported on Thursday. He is a Singapore permanent resident.

Ramu is a director of seven local companies providing air-conditioning, plumbing and building services, including KPA Engineering, SK Industries and VVR Plant Engineering. A

total of 407 workers, including Indian nationals, have lodged claims for unpaid wages, with some allegedly not receiving their salaries for more than two months.

contact the company's Signs of trouble emerged in 2025 when five workers from KPA Engineering separat contact the company's ately approached the Tripartite Alliance for Dispute Management over unpaid wages. The cases were resolved within a week, with the workers receiving payment from their employ-

er. However, in May and June, four other KPA Engineering workers filed claims for unpaid salaries.

The cases were still being processed when more than 100 workers turned up at the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) office in Bendemeer on June 22 seeking help. By then, MOM was already aware of unpaid wage claims after speaking to KPA Engineering employees affected by a dormitory eviction notice issued on June 8.

Authorities had been trying to contact the company's directors even before the workers

approached MOM en masse on June 22. As the unpaid wages case made headlines, it emerged that Ramu had been out of the country. He returned on June 26 and has been assisting MOM with its investigations.

contact the company's According to records from the Ministry of Law's Insolvency Office, Ramu applied for bankruptcy on July 9. Employers who fail to pay salaries may face fines of between USD 3,000 and USD 15,000 per charge, as well as imprisonment of up to six months, the report said.

A new burden-sharing compact for NATO



The latest NATO summit underscored a strategic reality that the Alliance can no longer afford to ignore: European security cannot continue to rest disproportionately on American military power. For decades, successive US administrations have argued that many European allies benefited from Washington's security umbrella while devoting relatively greater resources to domestic welfare than to defence.

President Donald Trump's longstanding insistence that Europe shoulder a larger share of collective defence has accelerated a debate that Russia's invasion of Ukraine had already made unavoidable. The commitments adopted at the 2025 Hague Summit, including raising core defence spending to 3.5 per cent of GDP along with an additional 1.5 per cent for defence and security-related investments, marked a watershed in NATO's long-running burden-sharing debate. Together, they signal the Alliance's gradual shift towards a more balanced distribution of responsibilities, even though translating these commitments into military capability will remain politically and economically demanding.

Defence Expenditure
The decision to raise defence expenditure reflects far more than American pressure. Russia's war in Ukraine has fundamentally altered threat perceptions across Europe, exposing critical deficiencies in ammunition stocks, missile defence, logistics, industrial capacity and military readiness.

European governments increasingly recognise that credible deterrence cannot be sustained without long-term investment in modern military capabilities, including drones, long-range missiles, cyber defence, intelligence assets and integrated air defence systems. Equally important is the political objective of reassuring Washington that Europe is prepared to assume greater responsibility for its own security, thereby preserving transatlantic cohesion at a time of heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

The evolving debate within NATO reinforces an enduring strategic lesson: lasting security ultimately rests on sustained national investment rather than permanent reliance on external partners.

Yet strategic consensus does not automatically translate into political consensus. The greatest obstacle to higher defence spending is likely to be domestic politics rather than strategic necessity. Increasing military expenditure inevitably revives the classic dilemma of "guns versus butter". Higher defence budgets require difficult fiscal choices, such as increased taxation, additional public borrowing, or reductions in spending on healthcare, pensions, and welfare programmes.

Social Priorities
Public demonstrations in countries such as Italy illustrate the political sensitivity of shifting resources from social priorities to defence. Major economies, including Britain and France, continue to face fiscal constraints, while Spain and Portugal remain cautious about substantially increasing military expenditure. The challenge for European governments will therefore be to convince their electorates that long-term security is itself a prerequisite for sustained prosperity and social stability. Without credible defence, both economic resilience and welfare become increasingly vulnerable.

Threat perceptions, however, remain far from uniform across Europe. Geography continues to shape strategic priorities. Frontline states such as Poland, Finland and the Baltic republics view Russian military power not as a distant geopolitical concern but as an immediate national security challenge. Consequently, they have demonstrated greater willingness to increase taxes, rationalise public expenditure and accelerate military modernisation. Lithuania has introduced additional security-related taxation, while several northern European countries are expanding investments in air defence, ammunition production and force readiness. In these countries, public opinion broadly accepts that

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

US Role
The evolving role of NATO's leadership has also been significant. Secretary General Mark Rutte's public engagement with President Trump has attracted criticism in some quarters for appearing unusually accommodating. Yet it can equally be viewed as pragmatic diplomacy aimed at preserving American commitment while Europe rebuilds its military capabilities. At a time when uncertainty surrounds Washington's long-term security guarantees, maintaining Alliance cohesion has become a strategic imperative rather than a matter of diplomatic convenience.

Equally important has been Ukraine's continued resistance against Russian forces. By absorbing the principal military pressure from Russia, Ukraine has effectively bought valuable time for European countries to replenish ammunition stocks, expand defence production, procure advanced weapon systems and strengthen military readiness. Kyiv's battlefield resilience has therefore become an important enabling factor in Europe's broader rearmament effort, allowing European governments to undertake structural reforms in defence planning that would have been considerably more difficult under conditions of direct military pressure. Taken together, these developments suggest that NATO is entering a new phase in which European members are expected to assume substantially greater responsibility for their own defence, while the United States increasingly functions as a strategic enabler rather than the Alliance's unquestioned security provider. Washington will remain indispensable in areas such as intel-

ligence, strategic lift and nuclear deterrence.

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

For India, the significance of these developments extends well beyond Europe. The evolving debate within NATO reinforces an enduring strategic lesson: lasting security ultimately rests on sustained national investment rather than permanent reliance on external partners.

As geopolitical competition intensifies across the Indo-Pacific, India must continue strengthening indigenous defence production, modernising its armed forces and investing in emerging technologies while preserving strategic autonomy in its external partnerships. Diversified defence capabilities, resilient supply chains and sustained military preparedness are not merely instruments of deterrence; they are essential pillars of national resilience.

Europe's experience also offers a timely reminder that credible defence have been considerably more difficult under conditions of direct military pressure. Taken together, these developments suggest that NATO is entering a new phase in which European members are expected to assume substantially greater responsibility for their own defence, while the United States increasingly functions as a strategic enabler rather than the Alliance's unquestioned security provider. Washington will remain indispensable in areas such as intel-

Hormuz, the new centre of gravity in US-Iran rivalry



Barely a month after the United States and Iran agreed to halt hostilities, the Strait of Hormuz has once again become the focal point of strategic competition in West Asia. When the ceasefire understanding was announced on June 17, President Donald Trump declared that Washington had achieved its military objectives and that the Strait would remain open for international commerce.

Opinion: Iran stalemate and Europe's search for security beyond NATO
Those expectations proved short-lived. Instead of restoring stability, the ceasefire has been followed by renewed maritime tensions in the Gulf and a parallel escalation in the Red Sea through Iran's support for the Houthis. The result has been fresh uncertainty over one of the world's most critical energy corridors.

Testing Resolve

Recent American strikes in southern Iran and Iranian missile attacks targeting military facilities in Bahrain and Kuwait suggest that both sides continue testing each other's resolve while carefully avoiding a return to full-scale war. At the same time, Iran has encouraged the Houthis to intensify pressure on Saudi-linked shipping in the Red Sea, effectively opening a second maritime front around the Bab el Mandeb Strait. The confrontation has thus evolved from conventional military exchanges into a broader contest over the sea lanes that sustain global energy flows.

Stability in the Gulf will ultimately depend on renewed negotiations that address both maritime security and the underlying nuclear dispute. At the centre of the dispute lies differing interpretations of a provision in the June ceasefire. One clause required Iran to ensure the safe passage of commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Washington interpreted this as an obligation to remove naval mines, refrain from interfering with international navigation and permit unhindered commercial transit. Tehran, however, argues that ensuring safe passage also implies recognition of its authority to regulate navigation

in waters adjacent to its coastline. This divergence has transformed what appeared to be a technical clause into the principal source of renewed friction.

Complicating Situation

Operational realities have further complicated the situation. Commercial vessels seeking to avoid Iranian naval mines have increasingly relied on the southern navigation channel along Oman's coast under the protection of the US Navy. Tehran views these escorts not merely as defensive measures but as an attempt to diminish its influence over one of the world's most sensitive maritime choke-points.

Although Washington maintains that the Strait remains open, commercial behaviour tells a different story. Shipowners remain reluctant to expose vessels and crews to escalating risks, insurance premiums have risen sharply, and tanker traffic reportedly declined in early July as shipping companies adopted a more cautious approach. **Strategic Reality**
These developments underline a larger strategic reality. The contest is no longer simply about freedom of navigation; it is about influence over the world's most important maritime energy corridor. For Iran, Hormuz is far more than an economic asset. It strengthens deterrence, enhances bargaining power and provides leverage during future regional crises. For the United States, preserving unrestricted navigation is equally central to maintaining credibility with Gulf partners and ensuring stability in international energy markets.

Despite weeks of American air strikes, Iran's strategic posture appears fundamentally unchanged. Washington targeted facilities in southern Iran, but Tehran retains the ability to threaten maritime traffic without relying solely on coastal missile batteries. Much of Iran's missile arsenal has a range exceeding 1,000 kilometres, enabling launches from deep inland. Even if coastal launch sites were degraded, Iran would still possess the capability

ty to threaten shipping and military installations across the Gulf.

Equally significant is the role of the Houthis. Their ability to disrupt commercial traffic in the Red Sea demonstrates that Iran's maritime leverage now extends beyond Hormuz. By creating simultaneous pressure points in the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el Mandeb, Tehran has complicated the strategic calculations of the United States and its partners.

Rather than attempting to close either waterway completely, Iran and the Houthis appear intent on sustaining uncertainty. Even limited attacks on commercial shipping are sufficient to raise insurance premiums, divert shipping routes and increase global energy prices. In contemporary maritime conflict, disruption often proves more effective than outright blockade.

The United States also faces significant strategic constraints. A prolonged ground campaign against Iran is neither politically nor militarily attractive. Iran's highly enriched uranium stockpile is believed to be dispersed and protected in deeply buried facilities, making complete elimination through military means extremely difficult. Any attempt to seize these sites through ground operations would involve substantial risks and costs. With domestic political pressures mounting ahead of the US mid-term elections, Washington has little appetite for another prolonged military commitment in West Asia. **International Response**
Nor does the international environment favour further escalation. European allies remain cautious about direct military involvement. Britain and France have indicated their willingness to support maritime security operations, including mine clearance, but have shown little enthusiasm for widening the conflict. Germany has adopted a restrained approach, Japan remains cautious, and Gulf states have avoided direct military participation, recognising that they would be the immediate targets of Iranian retaliation.

Even China, despite its

growing dependence on Gulf energy, has largely confined itself to diplomatic appeals for keeping Hormuz open. The prevailing international preference remains de-escalation rather than expanded military action.

These realities leave Washington with limited strategic options. Military pressure has not compelled Iran to alter its position, while sanctions have failed to produce decisive political concessions. For Tehran, Hormuz remains an indispensable source of strategic leverage that strengthens deterrence and enhances its negotiating position. At the same time, Iran recognises that prolonged disruption of the Strait would also damage its own economy and strain relations with key partners such as China.

Limits of Coercive Diplomacy

The present situation illustrates the limits of coercive diplomacy. Neither sustained military action nor economic pressure has produced a durable settlement. Stability in the Gulf will ultimately depend on renewed negotiations that address both maritime security and the underlying nuclear dispute. The experience of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action demonstrated that sustained diplomacy, however imperfect, offered a more durable framework than recurring cycles of confrontation. For India, the implications are immediate. Nearly all of its Gulf energy imports and a substantial share of its westbound trade depend on secure maritime routes through Hormuz and the Red Sea. Continued instability will raise freight costs, insurance premiums and supply-chain risks while exposing India's energy security to external shocks. New Delhi's policy of maintaining balanced relations with all major regional actors remains its greatest strategic asset. India should continue supporting freedom of navigation, encourage diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions and strengthen its maritime capabilities in the Indian Ocean.

Dronacharya Awardee Chhote Lal's Mission For Olympic Gold For India



Dronacharya Award winner Chhote Lal Yadav of Varanasi, who is recognised as a boxing legend in India, feels that the award has further increased his responsibility. Talking to ETV Bharat, he said, "Determination is the most essential part of sports. India has been winning bronze medals in the Olympics, but I want to change that colour. I want to bring home a gold medal in the Olympics.

Yadav has played alongside and coached players who brought laurels to the country at the recent Commonwealth Games. After his name was announced as a Dronacharya Awardee, he said, "I am very happy. I would like to give credit for the award to the Indian Army, the children and the government for their excellent

work. If the central government hadn't supported us, we wouldn't have been able to achieve anything." He said that the support coming from various quarters has led to good performance by Indian boxers over the last few years.

Training Mary Kom And Beyond: Dronacharya Awardee Chhote Lal's Mission For Olympic Gold For India
Chhote Lal Yadav (ETV Bharat)

A resident of Pahadi village near the Banaras Locomotive Workshop (BLW) in Varanasi, Yadav has dedicated the award to the Indian Army, the Government of India, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and his guru. He disclosed that his father used to work at the BLW and his sporting journey started from the local Sriga Stadium.

He said that he was also a swimmer initially, but his enrollment with the Army Boys programme in Pune in 1999 turned his interest to boxing. He disclosed that many of his female trainees are doing very well and have been winning gold medals in boxing in various competitions.

Besides Mary Kom, who performed exceptionally well, winning six gold medals, Yadav has also trained other women boxers who came up with a historic campaign at the recent Commonwealth Games.

Yadav said he has earned a reputation in boxing since the age of 12. In 1999, SAI Pune selected 200 players, including Chhote Lal. He related that since his father Radhakrishna Yadav was employed with the Railways, the decision to travel away from

home for training was difficult. But he decided to go to the Sports Centre in Pune.

He said that his initial selection took place at the Sriga Stadium. "I started my sports career with swimming. After seeing my physique, my coach said that I am fit for boxing. Then I learned boxing in the Army Boys programme, and from there I became a champion in boxing. Then I joined the Army, where I was recruited by Colonel Manoj," said Yadav, who is a Subedar in the Army.

"I have achieved this position in my life with the support of many people," he said while adding that in 2017-18 he was selected to coach the Indian women's boxing team. He had started training the contingent for the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

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



United Nations member states have begun a crucial round of talks in New York to create a fairer global tax system that works for all countries, especially developing nations. The negotiations focus on a proposed UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and two related protocols covering cross-border services and tax disputes.

The Fifth session, which is underway till August 13, is the first time countries are discussing concrete draft texts for all three agreements. The decisions could affect how countries collect taxes, settle tax disputes and also share taxing rights, with major implications for development funding. This process is supported by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Financing for Sustainable Development Office.

This process is led by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with a dedicated workstream advancing each of the three instruments (on the Framework and the two protocols). Working within a tight timeline of nine sessions across

three years, the INC aims to deliver final texts to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) by 2027. Since the fourth session concluded in New York on 13 February 2026, the negotiators have been preparing the zero drafts that will anchor the next round of talks. As the member states are for the first time expected to engage with a concrete draft text across all three workstreams, ETV Bharat spoke to experts to know its impact on India. Indian tax experts see the proposed UN global tax convention as a major opportunity to strengthen India's taxing rights over multinational companies and curb profit shifting.

They opined that international tax rules must evolve with modern business models. They also stressed the need for greater information sharing and stronger checks against tax avoidance and evasion. The ongoing UN talks could reshape how countries tax cross-border business and settle disputes, particularly in developing economies.

Tax expert and Chartered accountant Gauri Chadha stated that the UN global tax convention could bring a significant change in how multinational companies are taxed globally. "The existing international tax system was designed when businesses had a more physical presence. Today, compa-

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

Fitch Retains India's BBB- Rating On Robust Growth Outlook, Flags Fiscal Risks From Youth Protests



Fitch Ratings on Tuesday retained India's sovereign credit rating at 'BBB-' for the 20th year in a row, but flagged risks of pressure on fiscal spending amid youth protest over jobs. Fitch said despite headwinds from the energy shock due to the West Asia conflict, India's economy remains strong with robust growth and solid external finance. The ratings agency forecast a 6.4 per cent GDP growth in the current fiscal year. The growth is, however, slower than the average 7.4 per cent growth clocked over the past three years. "Fitch Ratings has affirmed India's Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) at BBB- with a stable outlook," Fitch said in its rating action. India's rating has remained unchanged at 'BBB-', the lowest investment grade, since 2006. Fitch said the gains of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in state-level elections would support implementation of policy priorities at the Centre. Fitch, however, cautioned that the recent youth protests could put pressure on the government to hike spending on education-related measures, generation of jobs, including skill development. "Recent protests, stemming from leaked medical exams, may point to rising concerns among youth over employment opportunities, risking fiscal spending pressures over time," Fitch said. Last month, students had staged a massive protest in the capital over paper leak in medical entrance exam NEET and demanded transparency in competitive exams. The protests and the subsequent police action on students have been raised by the Opposition in Parliament, disrupting its proceedings in the ongoing monsoon session. Fitch said India's economy has been resilient to shocks in recent years, a trend it expects to continue. "There are residual risks from uncertainty related

to the US-Iran conflict, given India's position as large net energy importer position, but we do not expect a durable risk to growth prospects," Fitch said. India imports 87 per cent of its crude requirement, of which 46 per cent transits through or near the Strait of Hormuz, which is blocked on account of the US-Iran war which began on February 28. Fitch said India's rating reflects its robust growth outlook and solid external finance fundamentals. A strengthening record of delivering macroeconomic stability and improving policy credibility should underpin continued robust growth and enhance economic resilience, despite near-term macroeconomic headwinds from the energy shock. High growth should also support a sustained improvement in structural credit metrics and increase the likelihood that government debt will trend down, Fitch said. In the FY27

Budget, the government estimated the debt-to-GDP ratio at 55.6 per cent of GDP, lower than 56.1 per cent of GDP in FY26. The government has set a target to bring down its debt-to-GDP ratio to 50 per cent by March 2031. Fitch estimates India's medium potential GDP growth of 6.4 per cent, led by public capex, a private investment pick-up and favourable demographics. It said India's external finances remain solid, with a low current account deficit (CAD), net external creditor position and still high forex reserves. Fitch forecast a slight widening of CAD to 1.4 per cent of GDP in FY27 from 0.6 per cent in FY26, from the energy shock. forecast reserves of USD 733 billion (7.4 months of external payments) by FY27 end. Capital outflows picked up in the June quarter of FY27, amid already subdued FDI and portfolio flows, but have reversed following the recent RBI and measures.

Another Nightclub Incident Hits England Cricket! Brydon Carse Handcuffed By Police



England players and nightclub controversies has become a connection that is often on display in world cricket. England cricket has been hit by another nightclub incident, with footage of England pacer Brydon Carse in police handcuffs outside a bar in Derby. The clip has emerged recently, and that has added to the number of nightclub incidents involving England cricketers. According to a report published by the Guardian, the England and Wales Cricket Board have confirmed that they are investigating the matter. The incident took place after Durham, the Division Two leaders, completed a three-day thrashing of Derbyshire in the County Championship on

Saturday. Matthew Potts and Ben Stokes are also briefly seen in the footage going viral. We are aware of an incident, which is reported to have taken place in Derby last night, and are currently investigating," read the ECB statement. "We will provide a further update when possible."

The report further added that Carse was released without any charges. Carse was named in the England squad for the Test series against Pakistan but was later released to play for Durham in the County Championship. He scored 26 runs in the fixture and also registered the bowling figures of 2/82. He was celebrating with his teammates after Durham beat Derbyshire in three days.

Carse was the leading wicket-taker for in the last Ashes series but has not played any match last summer. Also, he missed the series against New Zealand after sustaining wrist and elbow injuries. However, he was a late addition to the ODI squad against India. England cricket caught up in controversies

England players have been at the centre of controversies in recent times. Harry Brook was involved in an altercation with a bouncer at a nightclub in Wellington last November. This summer, Stokes and Gus Atkinson were suspended for the second Test against New Zealand after they broke the mid-night curfew after winning the first Test. The duo were seen engaged in a physical altercation.

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The incident also turned out to be a catalyst for Stokes' retirement from international cricket.

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



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

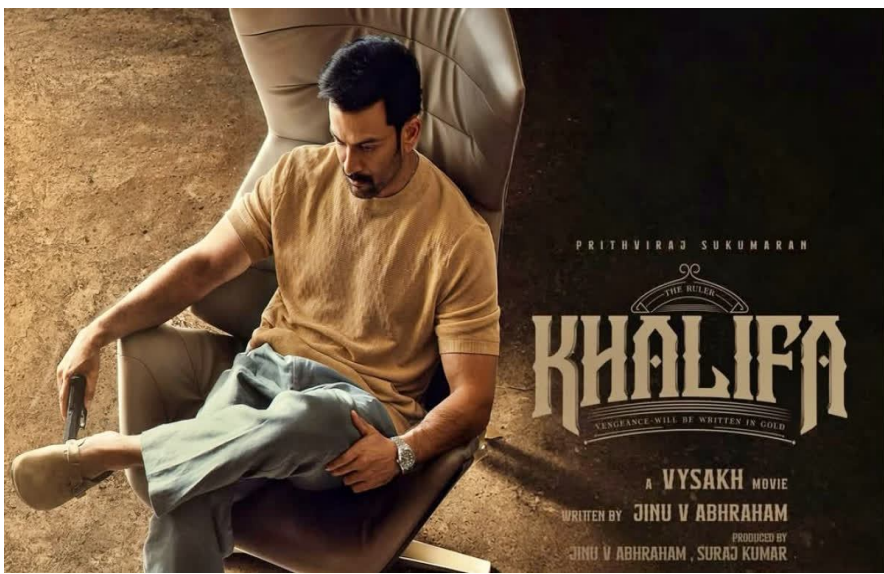
Many people questioned why she chose to speak about the language used by protesters but did not address the alleged police action against students during the protests. Bhumi said she had been watching several videos from the demonstrations and was concerned about the way some young people were speaking,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

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

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

Prithviraj-Mohanlal Starrer Shows Decent Start With Over Rs 2 Cr

Prithviraj Sukumaran and Mohanlal's Khalifa: The Ruler has opened in theatres with a decent start. The Malayalam action thriller, which released on Thursday, August 20, had already sold around 2 lakh tickets in advance before its theatrical release. According to the latest live figures, the film has collected Rs 2.59 crore net in India on Day 1 so far. Khalifa Box Office Collection Day 1 As per the latest figures, Khalifa has earned Rs 2.59 crore net in India on its opening day so far. Its India gross collection currently stands at Rs 3.06 crore. The Day 1 collection is not final yet, as the figures from the remaining evening and night shows are still being added. Hence, the film's final opening-day collection is expected to be higher. Khalifa is currently running across 1,628 shows in India and has recorded an overall occupancy of around 41% so far on Thursday. The film has been released in Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu. Its strong advance booking had created interest among moviegoers ahead of its release, especially due to the presence of Prithviraj and Mohanlal. What Is Khalifa About? Directed by Vysakh, Khalifa: The Ruler is an action thriller based on money, power and gold



smuggling. The story moves between Kerala and other countries and also has elements of crime and family drama. The film follows Aamir Ali, who finds himself caught in a difficult situation involving powerful people, old conflicts and hidden secrets. As the story moves forward, Aamir faces betrayal, revenge and changing relationships. Khalifa is planned as a two-part film. The first part, which has been released, is titled Sanju Sivaram.

Khalifa: The Ruler has a runtime of 2 hours and 39 minutes. The film has received a UA16+ rating and has been released in Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu.

The story centres on a powerful gold smuggling kingpin whose criminal empire spreads from the Middle East to India. Prithviraj Sukumaran's Next Film Prithviraj Sukumaran will next be seen in SS Rajamouli's Varanasi. The Today, sets up the main story and introduces the characters and conflicts that are expected to continue in the second part. Khalifa Cast And Runtime Along with Prithviraj Sukumaran and Mohanlal, the film stars Tovino Thomas, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Krithi Shetty, Malavika Sharma, Indrans, Shammi Thilakan, Sathyaraj, Kayadu Lohar, Kajal Aggarwal

and Sanju Sivaram.

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Will Yash's Toxic Release Be Affected By Theatre Owners-Producers Clash In Tamil Nadu? Here's What We Know



Yash's much-awaited film Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is set to release worldwide on August 26. However, a dispute between theatre owners and film producers in Tamil Nadu has raised questions about the film's release in the state. Amid the ongoing dispute, ETV Bharat spoke exclusively to representatives from both sides to understand whether the issue could affect the film's release in the state. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic stars Yash, Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi and Tara Sutaria in key roles. Produced by Venkat K Narayana under KVN Productions, the film is a gangster action thriller with a mafia backdrop. It is expected to release across around 12,000 screens worldwide. What is the dispute about? Theatre owners and distributors in Tamil Nadu have asked that films should be released on OTT platforms only after completing eight weeks in theatres. However, the producers' association has rejected the demand. Following the disagreement, producers' associations announced that the release of new Tamil films, film shoots and other related activities would stop from September 1. This has led to questions about whether the ongoing dispute could affect the release of Toxic in Tamil Nadu. Toxic release will not be affected Speaking exclusively to ETV Bharat, Tamil Nadu

Theatre Owners Association president Subramanian said the dispute will not affect Toxic. "Toxic is releasing worldwide on August 26. It will be released in around 700 theatres in Tamil Nadu alone. The dispute between producers and theatre owners will not affect this film in any way. As for what happens after September 1, we will have to wait and see. It is not acceptable for producers to make such an announcement without understanding our expectations," he said. Producers explain their stand Producer and Producers' Association treasurer Dhananjayan also spoke to ETV Bharat about the issue. He said that producers want audiences to watch films in theatres, but OTT platforms have become an important part of the industry. "Theatre owners have asked us to sell a film to

an OTT platform only after eight weeks of its theatrical release. However, this is not practical. If a film is doing well in theatres, their demand is understandable. But if a film does not even run for a week in theatres, it is not right to stop producers from selling it to an OTT platform," he said. Dhananjayan also pointed to films such as Thaa Kizhavi and Youth. He said Thaa Kizhavi was sold to an OTT platform after six weeks, while Youth was sold after five weeks. He further said that it is difficult to know in advance whether a film will perform well in theatres. "A film may or may not run successfully, and nobody can predict that in the current situation. Therefore, it is not right for theatre owners to put such a condition on producers," he said. According to Dhananjayan, Toxic has

avoided the issue as the film is releasing before the September 1 deadline. About Toxic Set in Goa from the 1940s to the 1970s as colonial rule ends, Toxic follows a ruthless mobster named Raya (played by Yash) who builds a massive criminal empire through blood and betrayal. Years later, hardened by his own toxic choices and a broken family, Raya faces his ultimate threat: a revenge plot driven by his own neglected son.

The film has sold over 7.5 lakh tickets in advance bookings across India, earning Rs 27.72 crore, while the collection stands at Rs 36.21 crore including blocked seats. Karnataka leads with Rs 16.4 crore, followed by Maharashtra at Rs 3.39 crore and Gujarat at Rs 2.45 crore. The film is scheduled to release worldwide on August 26.

Aamir Khan Begins Intense Physical Transformation To Play 25-Year-Old In Ashutosh Gowariker's Lalkaara



Aamir Khan is once again preparing to push his physical limits for a film. The 61-year-old actor has reportedly begun an intensive weight-loss programme to play a 25-year-old cricketer in Ashutosh Gowariker's upcoming sports drama Lalkaara. According to a media report, Aamir is undergoing a "massive weight-loss" regimen as he prepares for the physically demanding role. The actor is known for changing his appearance dramatically when a character requires it, and Lalkaara appears to be another such challenge. What makes the transformation particularly interesting is the age gap. Aamir will be playing a character in his mid-20s, almost four decades younger than his real age. Reports suggest that the actor is working on his physique to make the character look convincing on screen rather than relying entirely on digital de-ageing.

Lalkaara is expected to be set around the historic 1952 Test series between India and Pakistan. The film reportedly draws from the early years of legendary Indian cricketer Lala Amarnath and the world of cricket in the years following Partition. While it is not being described as a straightforward biopic, the story is expected to explore themes of rivalry, friendship, nationalism and the changing relationship between the two countries. The project also brings Aamir and Gowariker together after more than two decades. The duo previously worked together on Lagaan (2001), another cricket-based drama that went on to become one of the most celebrated films of Indian cinema. The film was also nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. Aamir has already shown how far he is willing to go for a

role. In Dangal, he gained considerable weight to play the older Mahavir Singh Phogat before losing weight to portray the younger version of the wrestler. He also built a muscular physique for Ghajini and underwent another striking physical transformation for PK to look leaner. With Lalkaara, the challenge is different. This time, Aamir needs to bring out the athletic appearance and energy of a young cricketer while also convincing audiences that he is 25. The film is written by Piyush Gupta and Neeraj Singh. Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani are producing it under the Excel Entertainment banner. Farhan was earlier reported to be part of the film's cast, but he later clarified that he was never officially signed as an actor. Sidhant Gupta has since been linked to the project in a key supporting role.