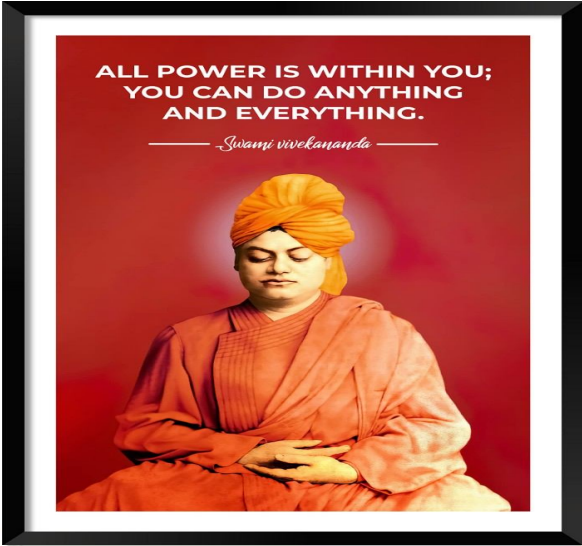
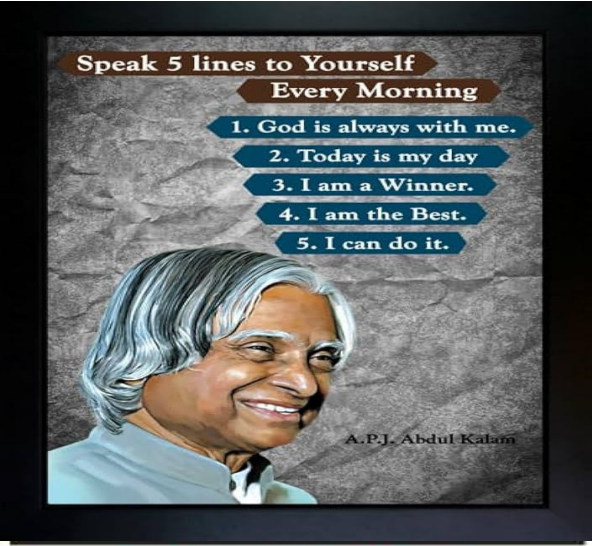




PM Modi Must Order Filing of FIR

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday attacked the BJP-RSS over the 'shuddhikaran' (purification) ceremony carried out at the venue of a rally addressed by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge in Haldwani earlier this month, saying it was a "crime" and Prime Minister Narendra Modi must order the registration of an FIR in the matter. The Leader of Opposition said this incident shows the BJP-RSS mindset that they do not want the Dalits to progress and live with respect and be successful. "We are



demanding justice for the Congress president. Give the Congress president justice in Uttarakhand. It is the duty of the central and state governments to ensure that Kharge gets justice," he stated in Uttarakhand. It was at a press conference here

Prohibitory Orders at NEET Exam Centres in Future City

Hyderabad: In view of the NEET-PG 2026 examination conducted by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) on August 30, Future City Police Commissioner Dr. Tarun Joshi has promulgated prohibitory orders in and around all examination centres within the Commissionerate limits. The prohibitory order was under Section 163 of the BNSS, 2023. It will be in force from 9 am to 12.30 pm. During this period, assembly of persons within a 200-metre radius of the examination centres is prohibited. Police and military personnel, and home guards on official were exempted from the order. The public is requested to cooperate with the police and maintain peace and order around the examination centres. Any violation of the order will attract



legal action as per applicable law. Hyderabad: In view of the NEET-PG 2026 examination conducted by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) on August 30, Future City Police Commissioner Dr. Tarun Joshi has promulgated prohibitory orders in and around all examination centres within the Commissionerate limits. The prohibitory order was under Section 163 of the BNSS, 2023. It will be in force from 9 am to 12.30 pm. During this period, assembly of persons within a 200-metre radius of the examination centres is prohibited. Police and military personnel, and home guards on official were exempted from the order. The public is requested to cooperate with the police and maintain peace and order around the examination centres. Any violation of the order will attract legal action as per applicable law.

Agriculture Commission Submits Report to Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad: The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission has submitted a report to the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on minor irrigation. The commission made several key suggestions to the government in the report recommending re-establishing a separate minor irrigation system with technical units that increase water use efficiency. It commission suggested that command area-based management systems should be established to connect small and large irrigation sources. The commission advised that a special minor irrigation law should be formulated for the conservation



of ponds and advised that the full tank level (FTL) boundaries of ponds should be identified immediately and encroachments should be removed and protected. Allow 3-4 Weeks for Voters to Respond to SIR Notices The commission stated that the restoration of ponds is necessary for water security, agricultural stabilization and development of rural livelihoods in Telangana. The Chief Minister suggested that the commission focus on issues like crop rotation, increasing the cultivation of horticultural crops, and establishing FPOs. On this occasion, the commission team explained to the Chief Minister the programs undertaken by it in the past two years and the suggestions given to the government. The Chief Minister expressed satisfac-

Revanth Reddy Urges EC to Allow 3-4 Weeks for Voters to Respond to SIR Notices

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy here on Saturday said that a week to respond to ECI, with a second notice to follow, may not be sufficient at all, particularly for vulnerable categories like daily-wage earners, migrant workers or elderly persons, least of all where the document called for must be sought from another district or another State. "I would request that not less than three to four weeks be allowed to each elector to reply and produce papers, so that the elector can establish his or her eligibility as per of SIR exercise," he said in a



letter to ECI Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Also Read - Agriculture Commission Submits Report to Revanth Reddy According to

helpdesks may be opened, particularly in urban districts, to help electors respond to the notice. In urban areas, it will be useful if the helpdesks are opened at booth level. The electors put on notice, must be actively assisted by helpdesks regarding the documents that are admissible and also in obtaining these documents from the concerned authorities. The State government is happy to assure of all possible assistance to the Commission, including opening of helpdesks, mobilising administration

for convening Gram Sabhas and Ward Committee meetings, dissemination of information and awareness to affected electors and any other logistical support as may be sought by the Commission, he said. Also Read - Prohibitory Orders at NEET Exam Centres in Future City The SIR in Telangana has now reached the stage where the numbers themselves invite the Commission's attention. Measured against the roll of 3.38 crore 10, entries (21.7 per cent) have been scribed heads. Out of the 2.65 crore enumeration forms digitised

so far, 60.50 lakh stand flagged for anomalies and 32.36 lakh for want of a link to the earlier roll. The two sets are distinct and do not overlap; they add up to 92.86 lakh and each of those electors is to be put on notice. Stated plainly, something close to one third electorate of the State must now either prove its entitlement afresh or lose its place on the final roll. The composition of the Absent, Shifted, Dead, and Duplicate (ASDD) list is a matter of grave concern. Of the 73.39 lakh flagged entries, 45.19 lakh (nearly 62%) are classified as "permanently shifted."

Govt Working to Provide Complete Healthcare to All

Alluri Sitaramaraju (Andhra Pradesh): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday said that his government was working towards providing complete health protection to everybody in the state. Addressing a press conference at Gannelli village here, Naidu noted that people living in hilly regions should not travel long distances for healthcare, adding that Sanjeevani, a health record digitisation programme, is a step in this direction. Also Read -

Natural Lifestyle Key To Holistic Health: Dr Manthana "We are transforming the system in the state to ensure that everybody gets complete health protection," he said. According to the CM, Sanjeevani programme will be a gamechanger in the state as well as the country. He noted that the government has initiated steps to ship blood samples via drones from tribal areas to larger hospitals. To extend good healthcare services in tribal regions, the CM observed that the govern-



ment is bringing up a Rs 250-crore 'Tribal Health Infrastructure Completion Mission'. He said the government laid roads stretching up to 900 km in tribal areas spending Rs 1,000 crore. Also Read - Naidu Congratulates Unveiling

of Coolphabets App Likewise, he said tap water was provided to 1.6 lakh households and promised to install rooftop solar power units. To enhance incomes in tribal areas, the CM said the government encouraged the cultivation of Araku Coffee in another onso Read - Sports Cit: Korriying in Alluri Sitaramaraju district. The CM also assured to train one lakh youth in the next three years. Naidu appreciated tribal people

for being ahead in population management, underscoring that children are an asset. Further, the CM promised to bring Godavari River water through Polavaram Left Canal to Anakaon on September 2. Lashing out at the previous YSRCP government, he said it "destroyed" the state and its systems. He alleged that thousands of people lost their lives during the previous government due to spurious liquor, and accused it of discrepancies in 2018 Group- I examination.

Telangana Will Extend Support for Telugu Language, Culture in Mauritius



Hyderabad: The Telangana government will extend all possible support to promote Telugu language, culture, ancient epics and heritage in Mauritius, state Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said on Saturday. A delegation led by Mauritius Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms Lutchmanah Raj Pentiah met Vikramarka here, an official release said. Vikramarka said Telangana and Mauritius have a shared close and cordial ties for a long time, recalling the common historical and cultural heritage of the two countries and the strong bonds of friendship between their people. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Urges EC to Allow 3-4 Weeks for

Voters to Respond to SIR Notices He said Telangana has a special connection with Mauritius through its Telugu language, culture, and traditions, noting that the Telugu community there is an important part of the country's rich and multicultural society. Vikramarka assured that the Telangana government would extend all possible support to take forward the Ram Bhajanam programme being undertaken by the Mauritius government. He said the Telangana government would also provide support in the areas of education, cultural research, arts, language, and cultural development. Vikramarka said Telangana and Mauritius have shared close and cordial

ties for a long time, recalling the common historical and cultural heritage of the two countries and the strong bonds of friendship between their people - Agriculture Co mmission Submits Report to Revanth Reddy The Mauritius minister said that Telugu people living in Mauritius were preserving and promoting their language, culture, and traditions through the Telugu Cultural Centre in the country. The Mauritius delegation expressed their special gratitude to the Telangana government for its commitment towards the Telugu community across the world and for its efforts to promote the Telugu language and culture globally, the release added.

Telangana, Mauritius Explore Cooperation in IT, Tourism, Public Administration



Hyderabad: Mauritius Minister for Public Service and Administrative Reforms Lutchmanah Pethia met IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat here on Saturday. The two ministers discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between Telangana and Mauritius in areas including public administration, tourism, IT and IT-enabled services (ITeS), emerging technologies, skill development and education. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Urges EC to Allow 3-4 Weeks for Voters to Respond to SIR Notices Pethia said Mauritius regarded Telangana as a trusted partner and expressed interest in collaboration in capacity building and modern administrative practices. He sought Telangana's support in enhancing the capabilities of Mauritius government employees through training and knowledge-sharing initiatives. The Mauritius Minister also expressed his government's interest in working with the MCRHRD, Young

tourism, IT and IT-enabled services (ITeS), emerging technologies, skill development and education. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Urges EC to Allow 3-4 Weeks for Voters to Respond to SIR Notices Pethia said Mauritius regarded Telangana as a trusted partner and expressed interest in collaboration in capacity building and modern administrative practices. He sought Telangana's support in enhancing the capabilities of Mauritius government employees through training and knowledge-sharing initiatives. The Mauritius Minister also expressed his government's interest in working with the MCRHRD, Young

India Skills University and other educational and skill-development institutions in Telangana. Also Read - Agriculture Commission Submits Report to Revanth Reddy Sridhar Babu said Telangana was ready to extend its cooperation to Mauritius across sectors. He said the State government attached importance to international partnerships and knowledge exchange, particularly in areas where Telangana has developed expertise. He also invited Pethia to participate in the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026, to be organised by the State government on December 7 and 8.



Jogi Ramesh's Family Concealed My Husband's

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the government is committed to the development of tribal areas and welfare of tribals. He said that their government had secured global-recognition to Araku coffee and also to tribal revolutionary Alluri Sitarama Raju by naming the Bhogapuram international airport after him. Naidu visited Gannella in Araku mandal, Alluru district on Saturday. Speaking to the tribals, he said that Sanjeevani app would be a gamechanger. If you get sick, there is no need to go to Visakha or Paderu. Your health is in your phone. You can check your health on your phone. Every Girijan will be provided better medical services.



The government has taken up the responsibility of protecting tribals' health, he said. Also Read - Govt Working to Provide Complete Healthcare to All: Naidu The CM said that internet and cell phone connectivity would be improved by installing more cell towers. All problems of tribals would be resolved. In the next three months, all the primary health centres in this region

would be improved. Every PHC will be equipped to conduct any medical test. The TDP coalition government has the credit of making he said. He said that the government would also ensure that all the jobs in tribal areas are given to tribals only. He assured the tribals of brining a fresh GO to this effect. Naidu promised to take steps for laying roads to all villages in the tribal region. Agency people

are benefiting through Araku coffee and pepper corn sales. Also Read - Natural Lifestyle Key To Holistic Health: Dr Manthana The CM also participated in 'Mukha-Mukhi' with tribals at Gannella and enquired about various government services. He spoke to a pregnant woman and enquired her about the medical services being provided to her. Gannella has 47 households, with a population of 189. Another woman informed the CM that her daughter was obtaining NEET training. He spoke to 16 people in RK Nagar, Gannella, and enquired if they were getting the benefits of all the government schemes. The women and children of RK Nagar extended a warm reception to Naidu with their Dhimsa dance.

Congress Always Relied on Lies

Hyderabad: Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao on Saturday targeted the Congress after Penguin Random House India backed out of publishing Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi's memoir - Belonging: A Journey of Love, saying the publisher's decision to seek a fact-check of certain incidents raises questions over the claims made in the book. Speaking to ANI, Rao said there had been "a lot of hype" around Sonia Gandhi's memoir, but the publisher's request for fact-checking itself showed that the Congress had "always relied on lies and tried to create stories." Also Read - Revanth Reddy Urges EC to Allow 3-4 Weeks for Voters to Respond to SIR Notices "There has been a lot of hype around the memoir written by Sonia Gandhi. However, the publisher has now



requested a fact-check of certain incidents, which itself shows that Congress has always relied on lies and tried to create stories. When an autobiography itself comes under scrutiny and requires fact-checking, the claims made by Congress leaders must definitely be questioned. The readers must also verify for themselves how many lies it contains," Rao said. Also Read - Agriculture Commission Submits Report to Revanth

Reddy BJP National Spokesperson CR Kesavan, speaking in Chennai, also hit out at the Congress over its reaction to the memoir. "Congress leaders attempting to spin stories and fabricate a false narrative of fear over the release of Sonia Gandhi's memoir is not merely ironic; it is glaringly hypocritical," Kesavan said. He questioned Congress leaders who were claiming that there was fear over the contents of the memoir,

asking them to explain why the "Congress First Family" was allegedly "nervous and jittery" about making public 51 carton boxes containing correspondence of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. "These Congress leaders should tell their Congress First Family why the Congress First Family is so nervous and jittery "Congress leaders attempting to spin stories and fabricate a false narrative of fear over the release of Sonia Gandhi's memoir is not merely ironic; it is glaringly hypocritical," Kesavan said. He questioned Congress leaders who were claiming that there was fear over the contents of the memoir,

Railway Police Nab 2 Brokers for Sedating Passenger, Stealing Valuables

Hyderabad: The Secunderabad Railway Police on Saturday arrested two real-estate brokers for offering drinking water laced with sedatives to a passenger and later stealing his valuables. The accused have been identified as Batha Prasad alias Prasad (39) of Gowliguda and Korapati Narsing Rao (44) of Rasoolpura. A mobile phone, Rs.500 in cash and intoxicated tablets were seized from the possession of the arrested persons, said Railway Deputy Superintendent of Police, Secunderabad Division, SN Jawed. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Urges EC to Allow 3-4 Weeks for Voters to Respond to SIR Notices He said both the accused were known to each other for the last five years. They were habituated to consuming alcohol and other bad habits. Both

the accused decided to commit property offences by mixing intoxicating tablets in food items or beverages in trains. Accordingly, on August 17, they came to Secunderabad Railway Station in the afternoon. They were carrying a water bottle containing water mixed with intoxicated tablets, which they concealed in their bag. At about 1.30 pm, they boarded the S-3 coach of Sabari Superfast Express. Also Read - Agriculture Commission Submits Report to Revanth Reddy After some time, a passenger Anil Kumar KG came and sat on the berth opposite to them and placed his luggage bag underneath the berth. Prasad started conversation with the victim and gradually developed an acquaintance with him. He



offered the water to the victim. After consuming it, the passenger became drowsy and fell asleep. Taking advantage of the situation, Prasad took the passenger's luggage bag and handed it over to Rao, instructing to go outside the railway station and wait. Also Read - Prohibitory Orders at NEET Exam Centres in Future City Rao accordingly left the station with the bag. After some time, also went outside the railway station.

Prasad took the passenger's mobile phone and Rs.5,400 in cash, while the remaining articles, along with the bag, were thrown into a garbage bin. Prasad kept the mobile phone with him with an intention to sell it later. Out of the total Rs.5,400, they spent Rs.400 for consuming liquor and divided the remaining Rs.5,000 equally between themselves. Based on information, the police arrested them.

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.

Sports City, Sports University To Be Established In 2,500 Acres In Amaravati:

Minister Kollu Ravindra said that a Sports City and Sports University would be established in 2,500 in Amaravati. Speaking at the valedictory of National Sports Day programme held at Tirupati, the minister said the CM was promoting prominent sport persons to set up their Academies in Amaravati. Land has been allocated for PV Sindhu, Pullela Gopichand, Kidambi Srikanth to set up their academies in Amaravati. Also Read - Govt Working to Provide Complete Healthcare to All: Naidu The minister said that 6 special academies have been set up to hone sporting talent among rural children. The TD coalition government is putting in efforts to ensure that at least one player from AP participates at every major sports event across the world. At the International Yoga Day held in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra



Modi in Vizag, over 5 lakh people participated and created a world record. CM N. Chandrababu Naidu is working towards making AP 'a healthy, wealthy and happy state'. Also Read - Natural Lifestyle Key To Holistic Health: Dr Manthana Minister Ramprasada Reddy, who also participated in the programme, said that the government was determined to provide the

best sports infrastructure that would suffice for the next 50 years. The state has been divided into three zones -- Vizag, Amaravati and Tirupati, for the development of sports. A sports manufacturing unit would be set up in 1,000 acres near Nellore for making sports goods. In Tirupati, auditoria with international standards and sporting arenas would be built in the allocated

land. Following the suggestion of education minister Nara Lokesh, grounds in all the ZPH schools would be developed with CSR funds to improve sporting talent among Nellore for making sports goods. In Tirupati, auditoria with international standards and sporting arenas would be built in the allocated g children in rural areas, he added.

Nepal flash floods: Death toll climbs to 616 as rescue operations intensify

Kathmandu: The death toll from the flash floods reached 616 on Saturday morning, while hundreds remain missing, local media reported, citing officials. As of 6 a.m. on Saturday, police had recovered 233 bodies in Chitwan, 158 in Nawalparasi East, 48 in Gorkha, 47 in Nawalparasi West, 45 in Dhading, 41 in Nuwakot, 31 in Tanahun and 13 in Rasuwa, according to leading Nepalese daily The Kathmandu Post. Meanwhile, search and rescue operations are underway across the affected districts of the Himalayan nation. Officials said that police are coordinating with residents and other agencies to locate missing people and assist those stranded by the floods. Rescued people are being taken from high-risk areas to safer locations. Additionally, search and rescue officials are working to clear roads blocked by flood debris and landslides to reopen access



and facilitate relief operations. The massive flash flood that struck Nepal's Rasuwa on Wednesday originated in the Tibetan region of China. It swept through the transboundary Bhote Koshi River, leaving a trail of destruction in the country. The bodies are being recovered from the riverbanks in several downstream districts along the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river systems, including Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Chitwan, Gorkha, Tanahun, Nawalparasi (East) and Nawalparasi (West). Officials said that the death toll is expected to rise as the search and rescue operations con-

tinue. Meanwhile, the Nepal government has agreed to accept help from international search and rescue teams. Earlier, the Balen Shah government had rejected the help, stating that Nepalese rescuers were capable of handling the search operations and that it would not allow rescuers from other nations. However, according to The Kathmandu Post report, the decision could not hold even a day as the administration decided to seek limited international help from foreign experts for rescue operations. Indian nationals account for the highest number

of missing people, according to the Nepal Tourism Board's latest records. The third flight with assistance and an 11-member medical and tunnel rescue team reached Nepal from India on Friday. The flight was carrying 10 tonnes of humanitarian assistance, including portable generator sets, dignity kits, food packets and water purification tablets.

Additionally, India on Thursday handed over the second consignment of 37.5 tonnes of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) material, medicines and food packets to Nepal to report, the decision could not hold even a day as the administration decided to seek limited international help from foreign experts for rescue operations. Indian nationals account for the highest number support the Himalayan nation in relief and rescue efforts following the deadly floods.

Cong Leader Arrested For Allegedly Blocking CM Satheesan's Convoy In Thiruvananthapuram

Thiruvananthapuram:

A Congress leader was arrested for allegedly blocking Chief Minister V D Satheesan's convoy while he was on his way to attend a function at Chenthi here, police said on Saturday. Thiruvananthapuram District Congress Committee (DCC) leader Anil Kumar alias Chenthi Ani was arrested after a case was registered against him and others for allegedly blocking Satheesan's convoy on its way to Chempazhanthi to attend an event marking the birth anniversary of social reformer Sree Narayana Guru on Friday evening. On the way, a group of people organising another Sree Narayana Guru event at Chenthi signalled the chief minister's vehicle to stop, police said. Satheesan stepped out of the vehicle following their request and was seen in television visuals arguing with Congress leader Ani. After spending a few minutes at the spot, Satheesan returned to his vehicle and left, police said. Police said no event at Chenthi was listed in the chief minister's schedule. Following the incident, organisers, including Congress workers,



released a photograph of themselves meeting the chief minister a few months back at the Secretariat to invite him to the event at Chenthi. They also told reporters that the police had visited the venue on Thursday and suggested the number of people allowed to sit on the stage. Late on Friday night, Ani was taken into custody and shifted to Sreekaryam police station, where the case was registered. Later, his arrest was recorded after the interrogation. The case was registered under Sections 126(2), 351(2) and 132 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), relating to wrongful restraint, criminal intimidation and assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from

discharge of duty, respectively. According to the FIR, at around 5.55 pm, the chief minister's vehicle stopped after he saw senior Congress leaders assembled at Chenthi and interacted with them. "The accused allegedly confronted the chief minister in an aggressive manner and loudly questioned him as to why he was not attending the event despite it being an accepted programme. When asked to refrain from being aggressive, the accused allegedly threatened, What will you do if I get angry?, thereby publicly insulting the CM and obstructing the official duties of police personnel accompanying the convoy," the FIR said. The case was registered based on the statement of

an officer who was on route-clearing duty in the area. Police said Ani would be produced before a court as part of the remand procedure. The role of the other persons is being probed based on videos taken at the time, officials said. Meanwhile, DCC is collecting details of the incident, as several Congress workers who were assembled for the Chenthi event expressed concerns about the chief minister skipping the programme and Ani's arrest, party sources said. On the other hand, when Ani was taken to hospital for a medical examination, he alleged that his arrest was part of group politics within the Congress. "It is part of the party's group politics. Groupism is the problem," he said, but declined to respond to reporters' questions about CM Satheesan. Ani's arrest also triggered discontent among some district-level Congress leaders. DCC member Suhail Shajahan expressed his protest against the arrest after meeting Ani at the Sreekaryam police station. "Regardless of which group or faction they belong to, as a person, I

am personally saddened to see a Congress worker like Ani, who risked his life for the party and worked tirelessly for it, get arrested in this manner," he told reporters. Shajahan said the Congress was a democratic party and everyone in it had the right to express their concerns. He said he did not see Ani behaving disrespectfully towards the chief minister. "Yesterday, when I contacted the Chief Minister's office, I learned that the CM himself had instructed that a case should not be filed. So, it is unclear whose interest is being served by filing a case, arresting him and trying to put him in jail," he said. He said it was for the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) to decide on any disciplinary action against Ani. Shajahan also denied that Ani and his supporters had blocked Satheesan's vehicle. "No vehicles were blocked. They came to welcome the chief minister. Thousands of workers were there, including women. Everyone was left disappointed," he said. Shajahan alleged that senior Congress leader Peethambara Kurup, who was present at the spot,

'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

Infosys Public Services CEO Lax Gopisetty Unreachable After Devastating Nepal Floods

New Delhi: Infosys on Friday said its subsidiary Infosys Public Services' chief Lax Gopisetty is not reachable following the devastating floods in Nepal. Infosys Public Services, a subsidiary of IT services major Infosys, is mainly focused on the public sector in the US and Canada. Gopisetty was visiting the region in a personal capacity, the Bengaluru-headquartered IT company said in a statement, adding that its immediate priority was to ensure his safety and well-being. "We can confirm that our colleague Lax Gopisetty, who was visiting the region in a personal capacity, is currently not reachable," Infosys



said. The company further said it is working with relevant agencies to gather information and establish contact with Gopisetty. Infosys also said it remains in close communication with his family and is providing all necessary support during the difficult time.

"We remain in close communication with the family and are providing all necessary support during this difficult time. Our thoughts are with Lax and all those affected by this tragedy," Infosys said. Infosys said it was deeply saddened by the devastating floods in Nepal and the

tragic loss of lives. At least 320 Indians remain missing, and 400 others are stranded on the Chinese side following devastating flash floods along the Nepal-Tibet border, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday, adding that India stands ready to extend all possible help to Kathmandu to deal with the situation. The MEA said 153 Indian nationals stranded on the Chinese side have safely crossed over to Nepal. Twenty-one Indians arrived in New Delhi this afternoon, a day after they reached Kathmandu from the flood-affected areas of Nepal, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

According to his profile on the Infosys website, Gopisetty advises public sector organisations on strategy, technology, operations, and transformation to support agencies' mission, and oversees company strategy and execution to deliver purposeful objectives. Prior to his current role, Gopisetty was Global Vice President with Infosys and Head of Business Applications and Digital Workspace Service, where he expanded the practice globally across the Americas, Europe and Asia.

Before joining Infosys, Gopisetty was a Managing Director at Accenture, where he led a segment of



New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge urged the Centre to extend immediate and comprehensive humanitarian and disaster relief assistance to Nepal in the wake of the devastating floods. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Kharge expressed concern over the loss of life and property in Nepal due to the August 26 flash flood in Rasuwa district, which has led to over 550 deaths so far. "I am deeply concerned about the devastating floods in Nepal, which have caused widespread loss of life and property. According to recent media reports, more than 500 people have lost their lives, and nearly 1,000 people are still missing. The disaster has left thousands of people in dire need of food, medicines, shelter and other essential assistance," Kharge said in a letter dated August 28.

"I request you to ensure that adequate humanitarian and relief assistance is provided to the affected people of Nepal in coordination with the Government of Nepal. I am also concerned about the Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin who are stranded in different parts of

Nepal due to the floods. It is requested that requisite directions are issued to the concerned authorities to intensify rescue and evacuation efforts and make all necessary arrangements for their safe and early return to India," he added. The Congress chief also expressed concern over the 320 untraceable Indian nationals, as per the Ministry of External Affairs, in the neighbouring country. "I am also concerned about the Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin stranded or uncontactable in Nepal. As per the latest information from the Ministry of External Affairs, around 320 Indian nationals remain uncontactable. I hope the Government of India will take immediate steps to provide all possible assistance during this difficult time," the letter read. Writing to Home Minister Amit Shah, the Congress national president urged the government to deploy teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in Nepal. He wrote, "I urge the Government to consider extending immediate and comprehensive humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance to Nepal. In particular, the deployment of es and hydropower infrastructure. According to Nepal police, at least 579 people have been killed in the devastation, with nearly a thousand missing. The death toll may increase as rescue operations are still underway.

teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), wherever required and in coordination with the Government of Nepal, may be considered to assist in rescue, evacuation and relief operations in the affected areas." "The NDRF's expertise and experience in responding to natural disasters can provide valuable support in efforts to save lives and bring urgent relief to those facing this immense tragedy," the latter read. A massive flash flood swept through Rasuwa and other parts of central Nepal on Wednesday, killing hundreds and causing widespread damage to settlements, roads, bridges. The government urged the deployment of teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in Nepal. He wrote, "I urge the Government to consider extending immediate and comprehensive humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance to Nepal. In particular, the deployment of es and hydropower infrastructure. According to Nepal police, at least 579 people have been killed in the devastation, with nearly a thousand missing. The death toll may increase as rescue operations are still underway.

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 B Tech 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 from 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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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.

Oposing 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 Raghunath Motegaonkar, 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

'Threatening Slogans': IIT Delhi Director Warns Of Action Against Protesting Students

New Delhi: IIT Delhi Director Rangan Banerjee has warned of disciplinary action against students "disrupting the peaceful functioning of the campus" by raising "threatening slogans" amid the ongoing protest over the alleged suicide of a 31-year-old MSc student. Banerjee noted that the protest "escalated significantly" on Thursday night, with demonstrations reaching campus residential areas.



In an email to students on Friday, Banerjee wrote that a group of protesters demonstrated outside faculty housing between 10.30 PM and 12.30 AM and used "unsavoury, humiliating and threatening language in their slogans." "Such behaviour compromises the safety, privacy, and peace of faculty members and their families, including young children and elderly dependents," he said. The director stated the institute would act

against those disrupting the functioning of the campus. "The Institute will take disciplinary actions against individuals disrupting the peaceful functioning of the campus, including residential areas, classes, academic and other activities," Banerjee wrote. The communication came as student demonstrations entered their sixth consecutive day following Kumar's death. Students have been demanding an independent inquiry, action against institute officials and compensa-

tion for his family.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, on Thursday reconstituted the external probe panel set up to examine the circumstances surrounding the death of a student, with retired Delhi High Court judge Mukta Gupta as its head.

The development came a day after former Uttarakhand DGP Ashok Kumar, who was appointed as chair of the probe panel, recused himself from the committee citing "personal

reasons," even as student protests continued on campus. The student allegedly died by suicide after jumping from a building on the institute's campus on August 22. student, with retired Delhi High Court judge Mukta Gupta as its head.

The development came a day after former Uttarakhand DGP Ashok Kumar, who was appointed as chair of the probe panel, recused himself from the committee citing "personal

Nepal Flash Floods: Bihar Evacuates 100 Maharashtra Pilgrims Stranded In Kathmandu; Sends Them Home By Train

Patna: The Bihar government evacuated 100 Maharashtra pilgrims from Kathmandu and facilitated their homeward journey by train on Saturday. They were stranded in the neighbouring country since Wednesday's devastating floods in which over 600 people have been killed and around 2,000 are missing.

The action was taken at the direction of Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary following a request from the Maharashtra government. Chief secretary Pratyaya Amrit, state disaster management department (DMD) principal secretary Santosh Kumar Mall, and Sitamarhi district magistrate Tanai Sultania constantly monitored the rescue operation that was launched on Friday.

"All the pilgrims were safely brought from Kathmandu to the Indo-Nepal border along the Sitamarhi district. They were escorted from the Nepal border to Sitamarhi town and provided food, water and other required facilities," a senior DMD official told ETV Bharat.

Pilgrims from Maharashtra tied rakhi to the officials involved in the rescue operation. Pilgrims from Maharashtra tied rakhi to the officials involved in the rescue operation. (ETV Bharat)



Subsequently, all the rescued pilgrims were brought from Sitamarhi to Patna at 2:30 am on Saturday.

The Patna district administration accommodated them at the OP Sah Community Building, Patna, where they were provided refreshments and also arrangements were made for their medical examination.

"The chief secretary coordinated with the Railway Board chairman in Delhi, following which two additional coaches were attached to the 17609 Patna - Purna Express for the rescued pilgrims' homeward journey. They boarded the train at 7:30 am," the DMD officer said.

The rescued pilgrims

from Maharashtra at Sitamarhi on Friday evening.

The rescued pilgrims from Maharashtra at Sitamarhi on Friday evening. (ETV Bharat) The pilgrims expressed their gratitude to the Bihar government and district administrations for their promptness, rescue and ensuring safe return to Maharashtra. Many women in the group tied rakhi to the officials involved in the rescue and relief operation. Patna at 2:30 am on Saturday.

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The rescued pilgrims from Maharashtra at Sitamarhi on Friday evening. (ETV Bharat) The pilgrims expressed their gratitude to the Bihar government and district administrations for their promptness, rescue and ensuring safe return to Maharashtra. Many women in the group tied rakhi to the

USCIRF Commissioner Claims 'RSS Creating Hate, Violating Religious Freedom', Says 'Open To Dialogue'



New Delhi: Days after New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani opposed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's Madison Square Garden (MSG) event, US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Commissioner Dr Asif Mahmood said he is open to sitting with Bhagwat for a dialogue, but accused the organisation of "creating hate and violating religious". Speaking on the possibility of an open dialogue with the RSS chief, Mahmood said, "I would definitely be open to sit down if there is an opportunity. If arrangements can be made, we will be happy to sit with him, talk and bring more awareness." He said such a meeting could also provide an opportunity for the RSS to offer assurances that could change his position. "There might be some assurances and guarantees they can give which might change our mind... Our goal is to sit

with that," Mahmood.

While Mahmood made it clear that he has respect for India as a country, he raised concerns over the RSS for allegedly creating hate. "I have respect for India as a country but groups like RSS are creating hate according to our knowledge and violating the Freedom of Religion, as well as the Fundamental Human Rights," he Mahmood's comments came days after Mayor Zohran Mamdani said he does not support Bhagwat's planned event at Madison Square Garden, where the RSS chief is scheduled to address the Indian diaspora on Saturday. Mamdani, however, said the city may not have jurisdiction to cancel what he described as a private event. "I don't support the rally, but I don't know if the city has any jurisdiction on cancelling a private event," Mamdani said at a news conference on Tuesday. Bhagwat, who arrived in the US earlier this week, is scheduled to partici-

pate in the Universal Oneness programme and address a gathering of around 5,000 people at Madison Square Garden on August 29.

Mamdani, who is the first Indian-American mayor of

New York City, said the India he grew up knowing was a "pluralistic society" and a "secular republic" where every person belonged. "And it has been incredibly troubling to see the rise of a movement that is predicated on an exclusionary vision of any country, frankly, and so it is one that I find myself in deep opposition to," he said.

Mamdani said his opposition is not only as an Indian-American but also as the mayor of a city that believed in the belonging of every person, irrespective of their colour, creed, religion or

Prior to this, several interfaith and civil rights organisations including Hindus for Human Rights, Indian American Muslim Council and Interfaith Centre of New York held a press conference outside New York City Hall opposing Bhagwat's appearance at Madison Square Garden and urging the venue to cancel the event. Amid the criticism, RSS has said the event featur-

ing its chief Mohan Bhagwat in New York has been organised in the spirit of open dialogue and invited "anyone interested" in knowing more about the organisation to join the discussion.

Senior RSS functionary Sunil Ambekar said in a statement, "The Universal Oneness Celebration in New York exemplifies an interfaith gathering where RSS Sarsanghchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat ji will communicate with a diverse, multicultural, and multi-faith audience." Organised in the spirit of open dialogue and mutual respect, the event reflects "Bharatiya" ethos which is fundamentally inclusive and welcoming to all, the RSS' national media and publicity head added.

"This initiative is in line with longstanding tradition of engagement by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) with varied communities across India and the world fostering understanding and shared purpose," Ambekar said.

"We invite anyone interested in learning more about the RSS vision and philosophy to participate in these open forums of dialogue," he. Notably, Bhagwat is on a visit to the US, Canada and the UK as part of the RSS' centenary-year global outreach programme. (With Agency Inputs)

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

Trump Interacts With ISS Astronauts, Announces Setting Up Space Academy

Washington: US President Donald Trump announced the formation of a new military Space Academy and met with astronauts aboard the International Space Station, including Anil Menon, during a visit to NASA's Mission Control in Houston.

"This is a great honour, to be with you is a great honour and I just want to thank Jessica, Anil, Jack - great Americans, great patriots, brave people," Trump said, calling the orbital laboratory from Mission Control at the Johnson Space Centre on Friday. NASA astronauts Jack Hathaway, Anil Menon, and Jessica Meir are part of Expedition 75 to the International Space Station. Trump called the crew a group of "pioneers" for their efforts in space exploration. After his brief remarks, Trump had NASA astronaut Anna Menon, Anil Menon's wife, and Duke Brady, Jessica Meir's husband, briefly interact with the ISS crew.

"Hi, it's Anna. Great to see you guys up there. We love you guys. You're doing a great job," she said. The



President also offered to welcome the astronauts to the White House when they return. Menon, a colonel in the US Space Force, told Trump he was proud to serve in space and shared his experiences about the spacewalk he completed earlier this week. Trump also announced the formation of the new Space Academy - a "top line" school with tough admission standards and a "beautiful" campus to train the next generation of civilian and military aerospace experts.

"You think of West Point, and you think of Annapolis, and you think of the Air Force Academy and you think of the Coast Guard Academy. It's great. They're all great, but we're going to now have a Space Force (academy)," the US President announced. Menon said he was "so proud and excited" that the United States was preparing for missions beyond low-Earth orbit.

"We are going to pave the way to our next journey to the Moon, Moon Base and Mars," he said.

"And thank you for propelling us in that direction." "I want to get a moustache like that," Trump told astronaut Hathaway. "Absolutely, sir. I appreciate it. Yeah, the moustache is a lot of fun," Hathaway replied.

Trump was in Houston to present the Congressional Space Medal of Honor to the four-person crew of the Artemis II mission, which travelled around the moon in April, setting a new record distance from Earth for a manned space mission.

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"

Nepal Flash Floods: Death Toll Reaches 616; 11-Member Indian Team In Disaster-Hit Nation To Assist Local Authorities



New Delhi: The death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal climbed to 616 on Saturday, after rescue personnel recovered bodies of dozens of missing persons. As per official sources, nearly 2000 people still remain 'untraceable' following the flash floods that swept through Rasuwa and other parts of the Himalayan nation on Wednesday, causing widespread damage to settlements, roads, bridges and hydropower infrastructure.

According to the latest data released by Nepal Police, the death toll from the flash floods has risen to 616, with at least 1924 people still missing as of 6 AM on Saturday. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said the bodies were recovered from eight districts of the Himalayan nation. According to the NDRRMA, 233 bodies were recovered from Chitwan, 158 from Nawalparasi East, 51 from Nuwakot, 48 from Gorkha, 47 from Nawalparasi West, 45 from Dhading, 31 from Tanahu and 13 from Rasuwa.

The flash floods swept through Rasuwa and other parts of central Nepal on Wednesday, causing loss of life and widespread damage to settlements, roads, bridges and hydropower infrastructure, while leaving nearly 2,000 people missing. Nearly 2,500 stranded people have been evacuated by rescue teams in Nepal as search and relief operations continued on a war footing on Saturday.

Meanwhile, continuing its humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in Nepal, India on Saturday sent another Indian

Air Force (IAF) aircraft, carrying 10 tonnes of essential relief supplies, including medicines and food items, to support those affected. Moreover, an 11-member team from India reached Nepal on Saturday to assist local authorities following the disaster. The team, which includes medical personnel and tunnel rescue experts, was sent at the request of the Nepal government, Indian embassy sources informed.

As per the sources, the team is being sent to areas affected by the flash floods in the Himalayan nation, where rescue and relief operations are being carried out on an immense level.

On Friday, the NDRRMA said rising water levels at the flash flood site increased the risk of another flood in the area. The Nepal government said it wants to "prioritise" maximum deployment of its own security forces, which are familiar with local environmental conditions and rugged terrain. However, Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said the government is ready to take international assistance in difficult cases, where special technical skills are required for extremely complex physical structures. Nepal has also requested India and China to help construct 42 Bailey bridges to resume transport services in the flood-hit areas. The portable bridges are designed for fast assembly without heavy or special tools. Meanwhile, search and rescue operations are underway across the affected districts of the Himalayan nation. Officials said that police are coordinating with residents and other agencies to

locate missing people and assist those stranded by the floods.

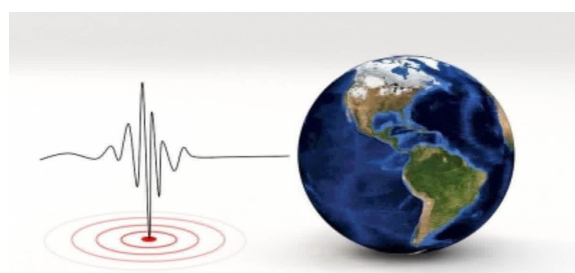
Rescued people are being taken from high-risk areas to safer locations. Additionally, search and rescue officials are working to clear roads blocked by flood debris and landslides to reopen access and facilitate relief operations. The massive flash flood that struck Nepal's Rasuwa on Wednesday originated in the Tibetan region of China. It swept through the transboundary Bhote Koshi River, leaving a trail of destruction in the country.

The bodies are being recovered from the riverbanks in several downstream districts along the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river systems, including Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Chitwan, Gorkha, Tanahun, Nawalparasi (East) and Nawalparasi (West).

Officials said that the death toll is expected to rise as the search and rescue operations continue. Meanwhile, the Nepal government has agreed to accept help from international search and rescue teams. Earlier, the Balen Shah government had rejected the help, stating that Nepalese rescuers were capable of handling the search operations and that it would not allow rescuers from other nations. Indian nationals account for thout heavy or special at police are coordinating with residents and other agencies to e highest number of missing people, according to the Nepal Tourism Board's latest records. The third flight with assistance and an 11-member medical and tunnel rescue team reached Nepal India on Friday.

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.

Signs of contact the company's trouble emerged in 2025 when five workers from KPA Engineering separately contacted 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-

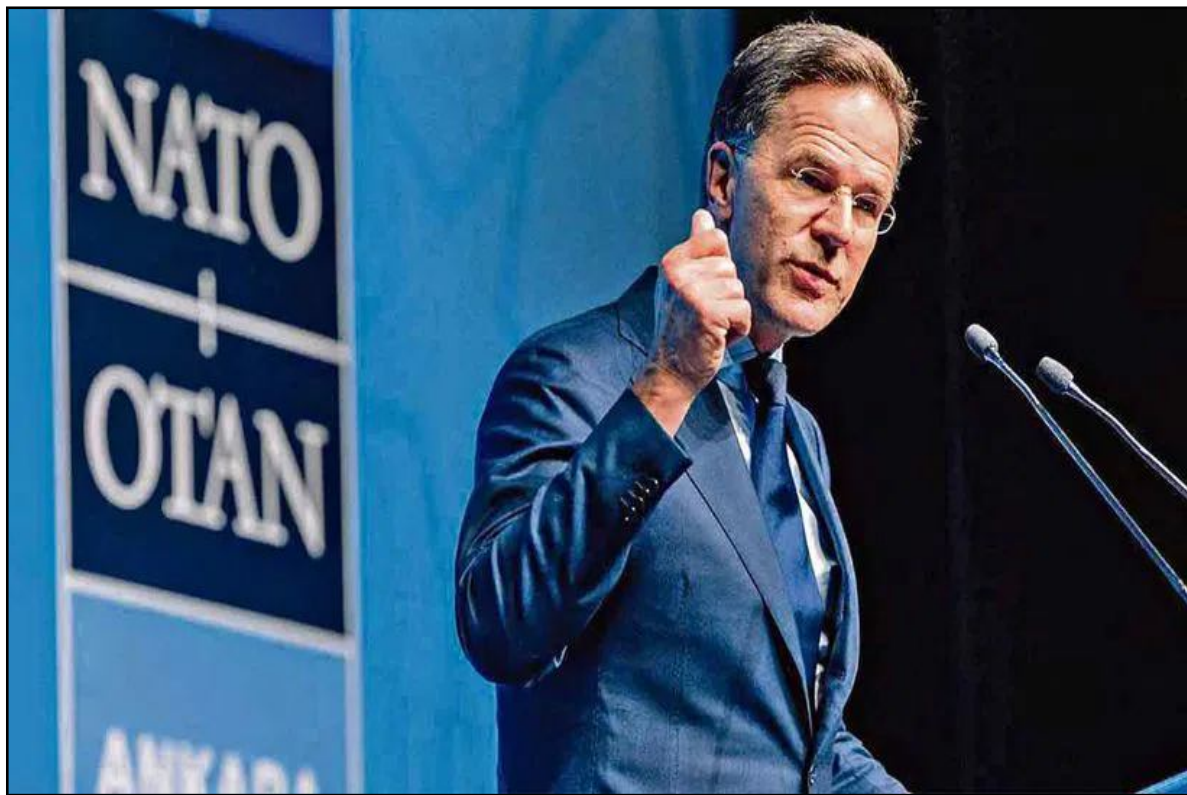
er. However, in May and June, four other KPA Engineering workers filed claims for unpaid salaries.

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

Defence Expenditure
The decision to raise defence expenditure reflects far more than American pressure. Russia's war in Ukraine has fundamentally altered threat perceptions across Europe, exposing critical deficiencies in ammunition stocks, missile defence, logistics, industrial capacity and military readiness. European governments increasingly recognise that credible deterrence cannot be sustained without long-term investment in modern military capabilities, including drones, long-range missiles, cyber defence, intelligence assets and integrated air defence systems. Equally important is the political objective of reassuring Washington that Europe is prepared to assume greater responsibility for its own security, thereby preserving transatlantic cohesion at a time of heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

The evolving debate within NATO reinforces an enduring strategic lesson: lasting security ultimately rests on sustained national investment rather than permanent reliance on external partners. Yet strategic consensus does not automatically translate into political consensus. The greatest obstacle to higher defence spending is likely to be domestic politics rather than strategic necessity. Increasing military expenditure inevitably revives the classic dilemma of "guns versus butter". Higher defence budgets require difficult fiscal choices, such as increased taxation, additional public borrowing, or reductions in spending on healthcare, pensions, and welfare programmes.

Social Priorities
Public demonstrations in countries such as Italy illustrate the political sensitivity of shifting resources from social priorities to defence. Major economies, including Britain and France, continue to face fiscal constraints, while Spain and Portugal remain cautious about substantially increasing military expenditure. The challenge for European governments will therefore be to convince their electorates that long-term security is itself a prerequisite for sustained prosperity and social stability. Without credible defence, both economic resilience and welfare become increasingly vulnerable. Threat perceptions, however, remain far from uniform across Europe. Geography continues to shape strategic priorities. Frontline states such as Poland, Finland and the Baltic republics view Russian military power not as a distant geopolitical concern but as an immediate national security challenge. Consequently, they have demonstrated greater willingness to increase taxes, rationalise public expenditure and accelerate military modernisation. Lithuania has introduced additional security-related taxation, while several northern European countries are expanding investments in air defence, ammunition production and force readiness. In these countries, public opinion broadly accepts that

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

US Role
The evolving role of NATO's leadership has also been significant. Secretary General Mark Rutte's public engagement with President Trump has attracted criticism in some quarters for appearing unusually accommodating. Yet it can equally be viewed as pragmatic diplomacy aimed at preserving American commitment while Europe rebuilds its military capabilities. At a time when uncertainty surrounds Washington's long-term security guarantees, maintaining Alliance cohesion has become a strategic imperative rather than a matter of diplomatic convenience. Equally important has been Ukraine's continued resistance against Russian forces. By absorbing the principal military pressure from Russia, Ukraine has effectively bought valuable time for European countries to replenish ammunition stocks, expand defence production, procure advanced weapon systems and strengthen military readiness. Kyiv's battlefield resilience has therefore become an important enabling factor in Europe's broader rearmament effort, allowing European governments to undertake structural reforms in defence planning that would have been considerably more difficult under conditions of direct military pressure. Taken together, these developments suggest that NATO is entering a new phase in which European members are expected to assume substantially greater responsibility for their own defence, while the United States increasingly functions as a strategic enabler rather than the Alliance's unquestioned security provider. Washington will remain indispensable in areas such as intel-

ligence, strategic lift and nuclear deterrence.

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

For India, the significance of these developments extends well beyond Europe. The evolving debate within NATO reinforces an enduring strategic lesson: lasting security ultimately rests on sustained national investment rather than permanent reliance on external partners. As geopolitical competition intensifies across the Indo-Pacific, India must continue strengthening indigenous defence production, modernising its armed forces and investing in emerging technologies while preserving strategic autonomy in its external partnerships. Diversified defence capabilities, resilient supply chains and sustained military preparedness are not merely instruments of deterrence; they are essential pillars of national resilience. Europe's experience also offers a timely reminder that credible defence 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-

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 chokepoints.

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

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.

When And Where To Watch Women’s Asia Cup 2026: Schedule, Squads And Live Streaming Details



The Women’s Asia Cup is all set to kick off in Dubai on Friday, and it will mark the 10th edition of the tournament. The tournament will be played in the T20I format, and eight teams will participate in it. 15 matches will be played in the tournament, which will run till September 13. The eight teams have been divided into two groups. Group A comprises India, Pakistan, Thailand and Hong Kong. Defending champions Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, UAE and Indonesia will be in Group B. The top two teams will advance to the semi-finals. The semi-finals will take place on September 10 and 11, and the title clash will take place on September 13. Sri Lanka are the defending champions after winning the title in

2024. India will aim to clinch the silverware after a disappointing run in the women’s T20 World Cup, where they exited in the group stage. How do Associate Teams qualify for the tournament? The associate teams booked their spot in the competition through the Premier Cup, which featured 18 participants. Indonesia, Hong Kong, Thailand and the UAE topped their respective groups and then won the quarter-finals to book their berth in the Asia Cup. Hong Kong: Natasha Miles (c), Maryam Bibi, Chan Ka Ying, Chan Sau Ha, Chan Shing Yan, Dorothea, Iqra Sahar, Joyleen Kaur, Mahekdeep Kaur, Mariko Hill, Marina Lamplough, Ruchiha Venkatesh, Shanzeeen Shahzad, Siu Mei Wai,

Wong Wing Kiu Hailey, Yasmin Daswani. India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Shafali Verma, Bharti Fulmali, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), G Kamalini (wk), Arundhati Reddy, Prema Rawat, Radha Yadav, Sree Charani, Renuka Thakur, Nandni Sharma, Kranti Gaud, Pratika Rawal. Thailand: Naruamol Chaiwai (c), Nannapat Konchaoenka, Natthakan Chantham, Chanida Sutthiruang, Suleeporn Lao, Onnicha Kamchomphu, Thipatcha Puttawong, Phannita Maya, Aphisara Suwanchonrathi, Sunida Chaturonggrattana, Chayanisa Phengpaen, Nannapat Chaihan, Koranit Suwanchonrathi, Thana Seesawan, Naomi Hamilton. Pakistan: Fatima Sana (captain), Ayesha Zafar, Eman Naseer,

Eyman Fatima, Gull Feroza, Momina Riasat, Muneeba Ali Siddiqui (wk), Sadaf Shamas, Nashra Sundhu, Sadia Iqbal, Saira Jabeen, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani, Waheeda Akhtar. Bangladesh: Nigar Sultana Joty (c), Nahida Akter (vc), Dilara Akter, Farjana Easmin, Juairiya Ferdous, Sharmin Akter Supta, Sarmin Sultana, Sobhana Mostary, Shorna Akter, Ritu Moni, Fahima Khatun, Rabeya Khan, Marufa Akter, Sultana Khatun, Shanjida Akther Maghla. Indonesia: Nanda Sakarini (c), Kadek Winda Prastini, Rahmawati Pangestuti, Wesika Ratna Dewi, Rada Rani, Desi Wulandari, Putri Suwandewi, Kisi Salisa Kasse, Sang Maypriani, Ni Kadek Ariani, Darni Bangi, Dara Agung

Jio Platforms Gets Sebi Nod To Launch Country's Biggest-Ever IPO

Jio Platforms Ltd, the digital services division of Reliance Industries, has received Sebi approval to float an initial public offering that could raise around USD 4 billion (approximately Rs 37,700 crore), making it potentially the largest IPO in the country. Jio Platforms had filed its draft papers with the market regulator in June for the proposed public issue.

According to an update with the market regulator on Friday, Jio Platforms obtained Sebi's final observations on August 28. Sebi's observation is a key step in the initial public offering (IPO) process, after which a company can proceed with further preparations for the public issue, subject to applicable regulatory requirements. According to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP), Jio Platforms will offer up to 27 crore fresh equity shares. The issue will account for around 2.9 per cent of the company's total equity base post-issue. The company is expected to raise around Rs 37,700 crore through the IPO at a valuation of around USD 137 billion, making it the largest IPO in



the country's history, sources said. In comparison, the proposed IPO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) is estimated to be around Rs 30,000 crore, according to sources. If Jio Platforms raises the estimated Rs 37,700 crore, its issue would therefore be significantly larger. The IPO proceeds are proposed to be used primarily for repayment or prepayment, in full or in part, of certain outstanding borrowings of Jio Platforms' material subsidiary, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (RJIL), apart from general cor-

porate purposes. The proposed IPO will be closely watched by investors and the broader market, given Jio Platforms' scale and prominent investor base. Jio Platforms has previously attracted some of the world's largest technology and private equity investors. In 2020, the company raised Rs 43,574 crore from Meta, the promoter of Facebook, for a 9.99 per cent stake. Google invested Rs 33,737 crore for a 7.73 per cent share. It also raised around Rs 74,745 crore for about a 15.2 per cent stake from a group of global finan-

cial and strategic investors, including Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, TPG, L Catterton, PIF, Intel Capital and Qualcomm Ventures. Reliance Industries currently holds 66.43 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital of Jio Platforms. Meta and Google together hold 17.71 per cent, with the remaining stake held by other investors. The IPO would mark the first public offering from the Reliance group since 2008 and the first-ever IPO of a consumer-

Govt To Buy Back Rs 30,000 Cr Securities



: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday announced the buyback of government securities worth Rs 30,000 crore on September 3. The auction will take place on September 3, between 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber), the RBI said in a notification.

The government will buy back securities such as 7.33 per cent GS 2026, 5.74 per cent GS 2026, 8.15 per cent GS 2026, and 8.24 per cent GS 2027, the notification said. The central bank has not notified any amount for the individual securities within the aggregate ceiling of Rs 30,000 crore. Auction for securities will be conducted using multiple price methods, the RBI said.

This comes at a time when the liquidity in the banking system is in huge surplus and the central bank has been conducting variable rate

reverse repo (VRRR) auctions to remove excess surplus liquidity from the system.

The central bank, so far in August, has conducted 21 VRRR auctions to remove excess surplus liquidity from the banking system and align overnight money market rates close to the repo rate. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday announced the buyback of government securities worth Rs 30,000 crore on September 3. The auction will take place on September 3, between 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber), the RBI said in a notification.

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How India Can Qualify For WTC Final? Qualification Scenario For Men In Blue After Draw Against Sri Lanka



: India won the two-match Test series in Sri Lanka 1-0. Despite winning the series, India suffered a big blow to the rankings. The road to reaching the World Test Championship (WTC) final has become even tougher. If India had won the second Test against Sri Lanka, they would have gained 12 WTC points, and their percentage point would have reached 63.33, which would have taken them past Bangladesh to fourth place in the points table. However, as the match ended in a draw, India's percentage has slipped to 51.51, remaining in fifth place. Despite winning the series against Sri Lanka, the team failed to take

the lead in the WTC points table. Seven matches to go for India. In the current World Test Championship 2025-27 season, India still has seven Test matches to play. All these matches are important for India. This year, they will play two Test matches against New Zealand. Next year, they will play a five-match Test series against Australia. India needs to perform brilliantly and win all seven matches. What is the equation for India? If India win all seven matches, they will easily qualify for the WTC final. However, if they win six matches and lose one, the equation to qualify will be difficult for the Indian team.

Series against Australia and New Zealand. India will play against New Zealand in New Zealand in November. Afterwards, they will play against Australia in India for a five-match series. It will be very important for India to garner maximum wins, and so beating New Zealand in New Zealand will be the biggest challenge for the Men in Blue. What if India lose both Tests against New Zealand? If India lose both Tests against New Zealand and win all five matches against Australia, their percentage points will be 59.26. So, the series against New Zealand will be extremely important for the Indian side.

However, the percentage points of the finalists in two editions have been much higher. South Africa reached the final with 69.44 points and Australia with 67.54 points will be the biggest challenge for the Men in Blue. What if India lose both Tests against New Zealand and win all five matches against Australia, their percentage points will be 59.26. So, the series against New Zealand will be extremely important for the Indian side. In the last cycle. Before that, in the 2023 WTC, Australia reached the final with 66.67 points and India with 58.80 points.



Samantha Ruth Prabhu Shares Pregnancy Update, Says 'Didn't Expect' To Feel This Empowered



: Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu is enjoying her pregnancy journey and has been sharing small glimpses of the special phase with her fans. The actor recently took a break from work after announcing that she is expecting her first child with filmmaker Raj Nidimoru. On Friday, Samantha interacted with fans through an Ask Me Anything (AMA) session on Instagram and spoke about her experience of becoming a mother. During the session, Samantha asked

new mothers, "New mamas, how we doing?" Several fans replied by sharing their own experiences of motherhood, and Samantha joined in with an update about her pregnancy. One fan spoke about gaining weight during pregnancy. Responding to the fan, Samantha revealed that she has already gained 11 kg. "I feel ya. 11 kgs up already," she said. Samantha Ruth Prabhu Shares Pregnancy Update, Says 'Didn't Expect' To Feel This

Empowered Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Instagram Story (Photo: IG) Samantha has also been giving fans a glimpse of her pregnancy journey on social media. She recently shared pictures from her babymoon in Vietnam, where she was seen showing off her baby bump. The pictures received plenty of love from fans, who also noticed her pregnancy glow. Samantha and Raj Nidimoru made their relationship official in 2025 with a traditional yogic ceremony at the Isha Yoga Centre in Coimbatore. The couple recently celebrated the success of their film Maa Inti Bangaaram, which was directed by Nandini Reddy. Samantha starred in and produced the film, while Raj served as its creator.

hearted comment, saying, "That already sounds like a full-time job!"

Another fan said that motherhood has made her want to "set the bar higher for myself." Samantha agreed with her and opened up about how pregnancy has made her feel. "Love that for you! Didn't expect to feel this empowered by this whole thing. Thought I'd be mostly overwhelmed," she said.

When another fan directly asked Samantha if she was enjoying this phase, the actor gave a heartfelt response. "With all my heart," she said. Samantha Ruth Prabhu Shares Pregnancy Update, Says 'Didn't Expect' To Feel This Empowered Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Instagram Story (Photo: IG) Samantha has also been giving fans a glimpse of her pregnancy journey on social media. She recently shared pictures from her babymoon in Vietnam, where she was seen showing off her baby bump. The pictures received plenty of love from fans, who also noticed her pregnancy glow. Samantha and Raj Nidimoru made their relationship official in 2025 with a traditional yogic ceremony at the Isha Yoga Centre in Coimbatore. The couple recently celebrated the success of their film Maa Inti Bangaaram, which was directed by Nandini Reddy. Samantha starred in and produced the film, while Raj served as its creator.

Yash Starrer Shows Signs Of Recovery, Crosses Rs 150 Crore In India



Yash's Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups has shown some improvement at the box office after a huge drop on its second day. The Geetu Mohandas directorial has now crossed Rs 158 crore in India net and is nearing the Rs 200 crore mark worldwide. The film, which opened in theatres on August 26, has also continued to attract audiences despite mixed reactions and social media criticism. Toxic Box Office Collection Day 3 According to the latest Sacnilk data, Toxic has collected Rs 19.29 crore net in India on Day 3 so far. The film recorded an occupancy of 22.8% across 16,417 shows so far on Friday. With this, Toxic's total India net collection has reached Rs 158.04 crore. Its India gross collection currently stands at Rs 188.61 crore, while its worldwide collection has crossed Rs 190

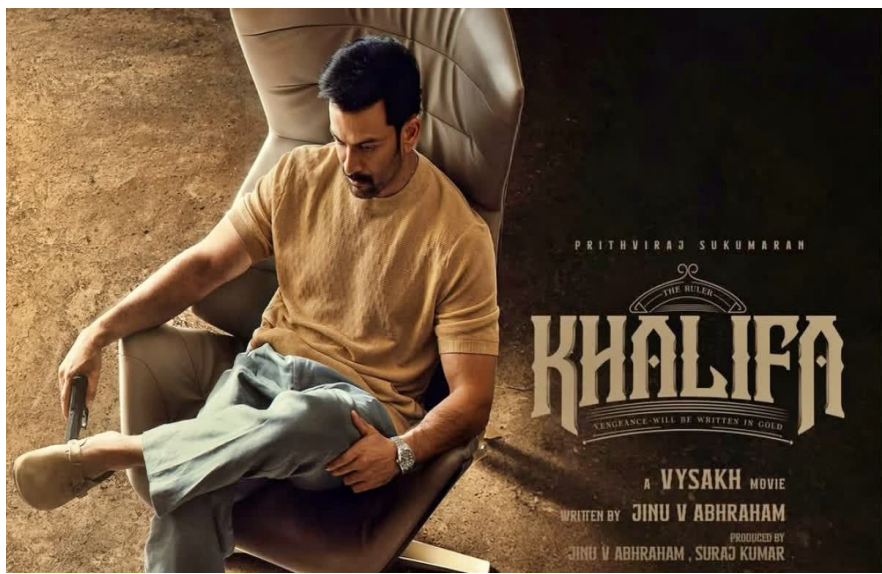
crore. The Day 3 figure is still live, so the final Friday collection is expected to be higher. Box Office Breakdown Day Collection (India Net) Day 1 (1st Wednesday) Rs 101.10 Cr Day 2 (1st Thursday) Rs 37.65 Cr Day 3 (1st Friday) Rs 19.29 Cr (early estimates) Total Rs 158.04 Cr Data Source: Sacnilk Toxic Recovers After Day 2 Drop The Day 3 numbers are important for Toxic after the film witnessed a sharp fall on its second day. The Yash starrer opened with a massive Rs 101.10 crore net on Day 1. However, its Day 2 collection dropped considerably. The film eventually ended Thursday with Rs 37.65 crore net. With Rs 19.29 crore already coming in on Day 3, Toxic is showing some stability as it enters the weekend.

With the weekend now underway, Toxic will need a strong jump in collections to maintain its box-office momentum and move closer to recovering its reported budget. Despite the drop after Day 1, the film has already crossed Rs 150 crore in India net within three days. BookMyShow Rating Controversy Meanwhile, Toxic has also become a topic of discussion on social media over an alleged change in its BookMyShow audience rating. A Reddit user claimed that the film's audience rating had disappeared from the platform. According to screenshots shared by the user, Toxic was earlier showing a rating of 5.5/10, while the page later displayed only the number of likes. The claim led to speculation among viewers, but there has been no official confirmation that

the change was connected to the film's makers. The discussion comes as the film continues to attract attention both for its box-office numbers and its mixed audience response. Toxic Set in Goa, Toxic follows Raya, played by Yash, a powerful gangster who builds a criminal empire through violence and betrayal. The story also explores his relationship with his sister Ganga, played by Nayanthara. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film stars Yash, Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria and Rukmini Vasanth in key roles. Toxic was released in theatres on August 26 and has been in the news for its action, violence and intimate scenes. Produced by KVN Productions, the film has reportedly been made on a budget of around Rs 500 crore.

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, tond 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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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 Telugu action film also stars Mahesh Babu and Priyanka Chopra Jonas. Prithviraj will play Kumbha in the film. Varanasi is scheduled to release in theatres on April 7, 2027.

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.