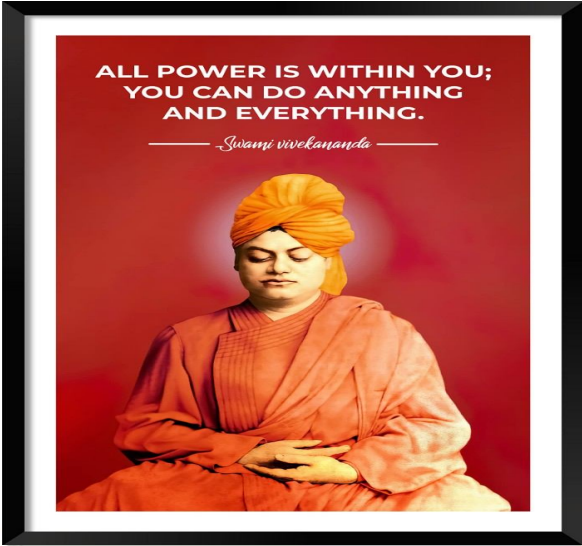
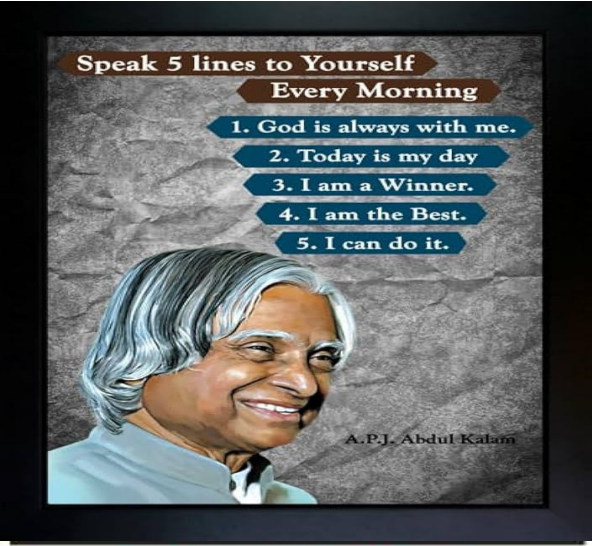




Yadagirigutta Temple Sees Heavy Devotee Rush

NALGONDA: The Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy temple witnessed a heavy rush of devotees on Sunday on account of the auspicious Sravana Masam. Devotees had to wait around four hours for general darshan and more than an hour for special darshan. The queues were packed from early morning, while long queues were also seen at the prasadam counters. In view of the expected rush on holidays during the month-long Sravana Masam, the temple Devasthanam made elaborate arrange-



NEET-PG Exam Hit By Technical Glitches At Two Jaipur Centres

New DelhiAfter power disruptions marred the NE ET-PG 2026 examination at two centres in Jaipur on Sunday, the conducting authority for the exam, NBEMS, has scheduled a retest on September 5. Only the affected candidates can appear for the exam next month, which will be conducted at 3 pm in Jaipur, according to a notice issued by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS). The NEET-PG 2026 examination, meanwhile, was successfully conducted in other centres of the country. Over 2.6 lakh candidates across 1,111 centres took the exam, officials said. Also Read - Toddler Tied To Chair, Kicked, Beaten At Delhi Playschool; Teacher Booked At the two iON Digital Zone centres in Sitapura,



Jaipur, the examination could not be completed due to an internal power failure, which was attributed to the examination agency's technological partner, TCS Ltd, in an NBEMS notice. The affected centres were iON Digital Zone iDZ Sitapura (TC Nos. 41682 and 41683). The NBEMS has also called an immediate meeting to decide the course of action against the technological partner and the agency responsible for ensuring adequate infrastructure at the examination centres, officials stated.

Also Read - 7-Year-Old Indian-Origin Boy Aces UK GCSE Maths Exam With Grade 8 Further details, including the venue for the re-examination and revised admit cards, will be shared separately, the board said. The board expressed regret over the inconvenience caused to candidates who could not complete the examination and said arrangements had been made for their re-examination. Earlier, some candidates claimed their systems shut down six to seven times

Congress Hits Back at Former Ally DMK for Hypocrisy Over Nehru, Ambedkar Omission

Chennai: The Congress on Sunday hit back at former ally DMK over its criticism on excluding the names of prominent leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru from a Tamil Nadu department policy note, accusing the opposition party of political double standards by pointing out similar instances in the Dravidian party rule. Attacking the DMK, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee Treasurer Ruby R Manoharan on Sunday claimed that the names of Nehru and B R Ambedkar were completely omitted from official policy notes tabled during previous DMK rule. Also Read - Ramadoss Urges Govt to Protect Cauvery Rights



Against Karnataka's Push for Mekedatu Former DMK MLA and the party's legal wing joint secretary E Paranthaman had on Saturday lashed out at the Tamil Nadu government for excluding key ideological stalwarts--EV Periyar, Ambedkar, and Nehru from the official policy note of t Nadu's Ariyalur Fossil Museum "Unable to digest the public verdict and standing at the peak of frustration, the and its spokespersons are

talking incoherently. They must first open and review their own past policy explanatory notes", Manoharan said a statement. "The stark truth is that during the previous DMK government tenures in 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025, the official policy notes tabled by the then minister S Rajakannappan did not mention the names of Nehru or Ambedkar anywhere", he alleged.

Kishan Reddy, Vishweshwar Reddy Inspect Rs 27 Crore Vikarabad Railway Station Works

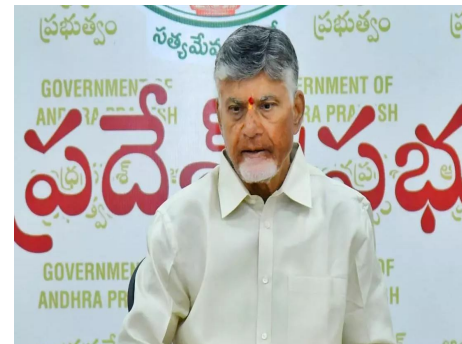
Vikarabad: BJP Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy and Union Minister G Kishan Reddy inspected the modernisation works of Vikarabad Railway Station being taken up at a cost of Rs 27 crore. Kishan Reddy said that 42 railway stations are being developed simultaneously across Telangana. The leaders reviewed the progress of the works and took stock of the ongoing Kishan Reddy said that 42 railway stations are being developed simultaneously across Telangana. ing development. They directed officials to complete the project

on time without compromising on quality standards. Speaking on the occasion, Kishan Reddy said that 42 railway stations are being developed simultaneously across Telangana. He said the modernisation of Vikarabad Railway Station is being carried out at a cost of Rs 27 crore. As part of the project, two escalators, two lifts, a canteen, facilities for persons with disabilities and other modern amenities are being developed at the station. Kishan Reddy said improved railway connectivity would play a



Naidu to Inaugurate Veligonda Phase-1, Release Krishna River Water on Monday

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate Phase-1 of the Veligonda Project on Monday and release Krishna River water into Nallamala Sagar, marking a significant development for the drought-prone region. Lakhs of farmers who have been eagerly waiting to see Krishna waters reach their fields will be thrilled to see the development. The water will now flow into Veligonda from the backwaters of the Srisailem Reservoir, an official press release issued on Sunday said. Also Read - Elephant Movement Triggers Alert



in Tirupati's Seshachalam Forest. The chief minister will lift the feeder canal gates and release 10.7 TMC of water into Nallamala Sagar. The NDA coalition government has spent more than Rs.2,400 crore on

River water is expected to bring fresh hope to the drought-prone region, it added. Also Read - RK Beach: Lifeguard Saves Man Who Entered Sea Despite Warning. The Veligonda project is also

expected to help end the severe fluoride problem in western Prakasam, and difficulties related to irrigation and drinking water will also be eliminated. An initiative has also been launched to provide drinking water through taps to every household. The government said compensation was provided rapidly to families displaced by the project. In three instalments, Rs 768 crore was provided to 6,206 families, while another Rs 169 crore has been announced. Also Read - Case Registered Against Dharmana Prasada Rao, 7 Others in Sriakulam Compensation of Rs 2

lakh each will be provided to those who turned 18 after 2019. Naidu directed officials to provide sarees, turmeric, kumkum and bangles to honour displaced women. Fodder will be provided for 30 days to 4,933 cattle belonging to displaced families. Essential commodity kits containing 25 kg of rice, 1 kg of dal, 1 kg of sugar, 1 litre of cooking oil, 2 kg of onions and 2 kg of potatoes will be provided to 10,000 people. The government said Naidu will inaugurate the Veligonda Project in the presence of lakhs of farmers and people

Telangana faces Rs 10,000 crore employee dues burden as 28,000 set to retire



Hyderabad: The Congress government is facing a growing financial burden, with nearly Rs.10,000 crore in dues pending towards government employees and retirement benefits. Employees and pensioners have already taken to the streets, demanding that the government clear the pending dues. Amid these demands, the State government is set to face another financial challenge, with a large number of employees due to retire over the next three years. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has on several occasions admitted that the State government was finding it difficult to pay salaries on the first day of every month. After signing agreements with banks in

June this year to extend accidental insurance coverage to employees, the Chief Minister had also pointed out that retirement benefits of nearly Rs.1,000 crore a month were adding to the existing financial burden. Though he said the government was releasing Rs.750 crore every month towards retirement benefits, there was still a deficit of around Rs.250 crore. The situation is likely to become more challenging as more employees retire in the coming years. According to rough estimates, over 28,000 government employees are expected to retire over the next three years. By the end of 2026, around 9,700 employees are expected to retire. Another 9,400

employees are likely to attain superannuation age in 2027, while around 8,700 employees are expected to retire in 2028. At the time of retirement, the government has to pay gratuity, pension, leave encashment and other benefits. Together, these are estimated to impose an annual financial burden of nearly Rs.9,000 crore on the State exchequer. The State government maintains that a substantial amount is being allocated in the annual budget to ensure timely payment of retirement benefits. However, employees contend that pending retirement benefits are piling up with each passing year. Of the funds allocated in the annual budget, nearly 50 per

Revanth Reddy likely to meet AICC leadership amid cabinet expansion buzz

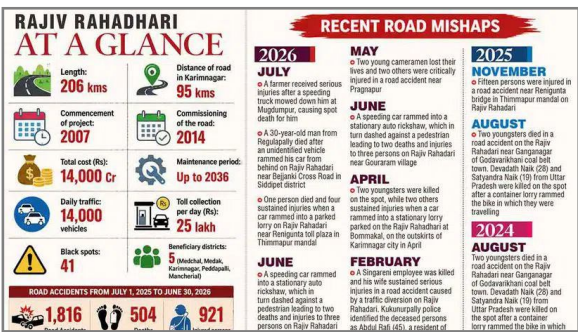


Hyderabad: After Forest Minister Konda Surekha and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka also met the AICC chief. The TPCC Disciplinary Committee has already submitted its report on the episode involving the Forest Minister to TPC president Mahesh Kumar Goud. It remains unclear whether the report has been forwarded to the AICC leadership for examination. Against this backdrop, Revanth Reddy's tentative Delhi visit has fuelled speculation that he may discuss the Forest Minister issue with the party high command. At the same time, several MLAs have been lobbying for cabinet berths and making efforts to secure the high command's approval. A few leg-

islators from the erstwhile Rangareddy and Nizamabad districts have also made repeated visits to New Delhi. Apart from cabinet expansion, there is strong speculation that the high command may approve a reshuffle of a few portfolios. This has reportedly left some Ministers worried, particularly after AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal had earlier expressed displeasure over the performance of a few Ministers. There are currently two vacancies in the State cabinet. If a couple of Ministers are dropped as part of a reshuffle, the government could make way for the induction of up to four MLAs or MLCs. Government Advisor K Keshava Rao is

Rajiv Rahadhari turns accident-prone as 504 killed in one year

Karimnagar: The state highway number one, also known as Rajiv Rahadhari connecting Ramagundam and Hyderabad via Karimnagar has increasingly become a dangerous stretch, with witnessing many accidents and fatalities at regular intervals.As per information provided by the police, the 206 kms long four-lane expressway, in particular, erstwhile Karimnagar district region saw 1,816 mishaps from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 claiming 504 lives and injuring 921 persons. The alarming number of road accidents has become a cause for the motorists, who use the road to reach Hyderabad for medical emergencies, businesses, agriculture, education and other needs every day. In the latest instance, two youngsters were killed on the spot, while two others sustained



injuries when a car rammed into a stationary lorry parked on the Rajiv Rahadhari at Bommakal, on the outskirts of Karimnagar city in April. A farmer received serious injuries after a speeding truck mowed him down at Mugdumpur, causing spot death for him in July.The increasing accidents have been attributed to flawed road design. The road has a hazardous S curve at Katnapalli village in Sultanabad mandal, a deadly curve at SCCL GM Office in Godavarikhani where accidents have become common. Absence of signboards at accident prone spots and narrow stretches aggravate the risk.Similarly, 41 black spots have been identified by the officials across the stretch, reflecting the possibility of mishaps. Major share of the dangerous spots are situated in Peddapalli district alone. Degree College, Collectorate, Kunram cross road, a road over bridge leading to Manthani are registering accidents regularly.

Experts further alleged that negligence of the officials in enforcement of road safety norms was resulting in the mishaps. They cite that no vigilance has been kept on over speeding of vehicles. "The maximum permitted speed is 80 kms per hour. However, vehicles zoom at 120 km per hour due to lack of vigil by the officials," an expert said.Meanwhile, recommendations made by an Assembly House Committee in 2013-which flagged design flaws and irregularities in the project, remain unimplemented. Bhanu Prasad, the chairman of the committee, constituted on the alleged irregularities in the Rajiv Rahadhari works, had remarked that works of the infrastructure were not executed as per norms of NHAI, but corrective measures were never taken.

Two Minors, Two Pan Shop Owners Held For Illegal Sale, Purchase of Tobacco Products



Hyderabad:Eagle Force team caught two minors red-handed and arrested two pan shop owners, both partners, who were illegally selling cigarettes and tobacco to minors in Old Bowenpally on Sunday. In the last two weeks, surveillance on two of

the accused -- Yusuf Uddin Goury, 65, and MD Rehan Ali, 19, was increased and the arrests were made after identifying that tobacco and cigarettes were being sold illegally at Nimra Pan Mahal in Gowri Nagar, Sandeep Shandilya, director TG-

EAGLE -Force said. Also Read - Yadagirigutta Temple Sees Heavy Devotee Rush Eagle teams were sent 22 times in mufti and on all the occasions, tobacco and cigarettes were found to be sold at Nimra Pan Mahal. The two minors were taken

into custody when they were found purchasing cigarettes and the entire incident was recorded on video as evidence, Sandeep said. Cigarettes and tobacco products, including Marlboro, American, Classic, Gold Flake, Charms Flake and other brands, were seized from the kiosk. The seized products are estimated to cost around Rs 60,000, he said. The arrested have been handed over to Bowenpally police. Cases were registered under Section 6 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 and Section 77 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015) against purchasers and sellers.

Former Telangana DGP Anjani Kumar discusses changing face of crime in Hyderabad



Hyderabad: The evolving nature of crime, the role of technology in policing and the importance of civic responsibility came into focus during a discussion on Patrick Radden Keefe's London Falling, featuring former Telangana DGP and former Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Anjani Kumar.

People, a book club founded by Kalpana Sinha and Unnati Ved, and explored how themes from the book's depiction of London's criminal underworld resonate with changing patterns of crime in cities such as Hyderabad.

Drawing on his decades-long experience in policing, Kumar observed that the fundamental nature of crime remains broadly similar across

major cities, including Hyderabad, New York and Paris, although its scale and methods may vary.He noted that Hyderabad has witnessed a significant transformation in its crime landscape, moving from conventional offences such as petty theft towards increasingly sophisticated forms of cybercrime, largely driven by rapid technological advancement.

Kumar also highlighted several technology-driven initiatives undertaken by the Hyderabad Police, including digitised traffic management and automated fine systems designed to minimise human intervention and improve efficiency.

Emphasising that crime prevention cannot be left to the police alone, Kumar said society has a collective responsibility to condemn criminal behaviour, including harassment, molestation, assault and digital fraud. He stressed that when citizens speak up and maintain sustained pressure, institutions and governments are compelled to take action. The discussion brought together literature, policing and questions of civic responsibility, underscoring how books can serve as a starting point for conversations about crime, governance and the changing realities of the cities people live in.

Yeleru Reservoir Modernisation Cost Soars 3.5-fold to Rs.840 Crore from Rs. 240 Crore

Kakinada: After nearly two decades of delays, the proposed modernisation of the Yeleru Reservoir project has seen its estimated cost surge 3.5 times to Rs.840 crore from the original Rs.240 crore, putting the long-pending project under renewed financial strain. The project provides irrigation water to about 53,000 acres, besides supplying drinking water to Visakhapatnam city and industrial water to the Visa khapatnam Steel Plant. It has been plagued by delays, incomplete works, fund shortages and lack of approvals. Also Read - Naidu to inaugurate Veligonda Phase-1, Release Krishna River Water on Monday The initial proposals were prepared during the

tenure of former chief minister late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. Though funds were released for some works and foundation stones were laid, several components could not progress due to technical issues. After the change of government in 2014, then Pithapuram MLA S.V.S.N. Varma revived the proposals and pursued fresh approvals and funds. The modernisation was subsequently divided into two phases, with Rs.105 crore proposed for Phase I and Rs.135 crore for Phase II. Works worth around Rs.58.50 crore were completed. Also Read - Elephant Movement Triggers Alert in Tirupati's Seshachalam Forest The change of gov-



ernment in 2019 brought the project to another standstill, with fund releases and required approvals stopping. Works that had not commenced were cancelled. According to officials, fresh proposals were submitted in 2023, but by then the estimated cost had risen sharply to about `840 crore, making the modernisation a more difficult proposition. Land acquisition has emerged as another major hurdle. Nearly 200 acres are

required for Phase I and another 300 acres for Phase II. The acquisition process could not progress as funds were prioritised for acquiring land for housing for the poor under the Jagananna colonies scheme during the YSRC regime, according to the copy. Also Read - RK Beach: Lifeguard Saves Man Who Entered Sea Despite Warning The Yeleru reservoir receives water from hillock areas and rivulets and has a capacity of 24 tmc

EAGLE Force catches pan shop owner, worker for selling cigarettes to minors in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The EAGLE Force Telangana police caught a pan shop owner and his worker for allegedly selling cigarettes to minors at Old Bowenpally in Secunderabad on SundayAccording to the police, acting on a tip off, the personnel made 22 visits to the area before catching two minors, aged 14 and 17, allegedly purchasing cigarettes from the shop on August 30. The incident was recorded on video as evidence. Following the verification, the EAGLE Force



team, along with the Malkajgiri Bowenpally police of the Commissionerate, raid-

ed Limra Pan Mahal. The shop owner, Md. Yusuf Uddin Goury (65) and his (19), Md. Rehan Ali, were apprehended. Police seized cigarettes and tobacco products of around 10 brands, including Marlboro, American, Classic, Edition Gold Flake and Chams Flake, valued at approximately Rs.60,000. The apprehended persons and seized material were handed over to Bowenpally police for further legal action.

Meerpet Police Seize 26 Bikes, Gas Cylinders in Cordon and Search Operation

Hyderabad: As part of intensified efforts to maintain public order, prevent crime and curb anti-social activities, Meerpet Police conducted a Cordon and Search Operation in Lenin Nagar and surrounding areas under the jurisdiction of Meerpet Police Station.During the operation, police on Saturday conducted thorough searches and verification of persons, vehicles and suspicious premises in the locality. Also Read - Yadagirigutta Temple Sees Heavy Devotee Rush According to police, four rowdy-sheeters and three suspects were identified and subjected to verification and necessary enquiries. During the operation, police seized 26 two-wheelers and one auto-rickshaw for verification and further necessary action. They also seized two domestic gas cylinders, gutka or tobacco products worth approximately Rs 4,000, and 2.7 litres of liquor. "As part of intensified efforts to maintain public order,



prevent crime and curb anti-social activities, the Meerpet Police conducted a Cordon and Search Operation in Lenin Nagar and surrounding areas under the jurisdiction of Meerpet Police Station on 29.08.2026," official said Police said the operation was conducted with the objective of identifying habitual offenders, preventing illegal activities, checking suspicious movements and ensuring the safety and security of

residents. Meerpet Police will continue such cordon and search operations at regular intervals as part of preventive policing and maintenance of law and order.More details prevent crime and curb anti-social activities, the Meerpet Police conducted a Cordon and Search Operation in Lenin Nagar and surrounding areas under the jurisdiction of Meerpet Police Station on 29.08.2026," official said Police said

the operation was conducted with the objective of identifying habitual offenders, preventing illegal activities, checking suspicious movements and ensuring the safety and security of residents. Meerpet Police will continue such cordon and search operations at regular intervals as part of preventive policing and maintenance of law and order.More details awaited.

BJP Names Sukanta Majumdar In-Charge Of Kolkata Civic Polls, Rahul Sinha To Oversee Howrah Elections

Kolkata: The Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) has appointed Union Minister of State and former West Bengal party president Sukanta Majumdar as in-charge of its Kolkata Municipal Corporation election preparations. According to a party notification issued on Tuesday, Majumdar will be assisted by state BJP vice-president Anindya Banerjee, who has been named co-in-charge. State minister and Maniktala MLA Tapas Roy will be the convenor, while Kashipur-Belgachia MLA Ritesh Tiwari will serve as co-convenor. The BJP also constituted its election management team for the Howrah Municipal Corporation polls, appointing former state party president and Rajya Sabha MP Rahul Sinha as in-charge and



Bally MLA Sanjay Kumar Singh as convenor, as per the notification. The appointments formally mark the beginning of the BJP's election-specific organisational preparations for the two key civic bodies. The announcement was made within a fortnight of the West Bengal Assembly, in a special one-day session on August 12, passing twin legislations proposing to increase

the number of civic body wards in Kolkata from 144 to 209 and in the adjacent city of Howrah from 50 to 68, by amending the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and Howrah Municipal Corporation Acts. Although the formal election schedule is yet to be announced, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari had said that the polls for two civic bodies are planned

for late this year, following the end of the festive season. A high-level meeting of the state BJP leadership and legislators representing areas under the Kolkata Municipal Corporation was held at the party's state headquarters in Bidhannagar on Tuesday. BJP national general secretary and West Bengal organisational in-charge Sunil Bansal, organisational general secretary Amitava Chakravorty and Majumdar, among others, attended the meeting. The decision to put Majumdar in charge of Kolkata is being viewed within the party as an indication of the importance it attaches to the civic contest. The committee is expected to oversee the party's preparations, including its campaign, poll manifesto and candi-

date-selection process. BJP's choice of Majumdar also assumes significance against the backdrop of his continuing role in the state organisation despite having stepped down as state party president. Majumdar had taken over as the state BJP president from Dilip Ghosh in 2021, a few months after the party's defeat in the Assembly elections. The BJP had won 77 seats in that election after campaigning aggressively for a change of government in the state. His tenure as state president coincided with a difficult phase for the party organisation when the BJP alleged widespread post-poll violence unleashed on its workers across the state by the then-ruling TMC.

In the 2021 Kolkata civic elections, the BJP contest-

Bombay HC Cancels Typing Test For Clerks Following Glitches, Protests By Candidates



Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya: The Bombay High Court has cancelled the typing test to recruit clerks, conducted on August 16. The cancellation follows severe disruptions reported during the test held across centres in Maharashtra, a notice issued by the High Court Registrar on Friday said. A total of 13,000 candidates across the state were eligible for the High Court and Bench clerk recruitment exam. Although a written test was conducted on April 26 in the first phase, candidates complained about the delay in declaring those results. Thousands of candidates had appeared for the typing test, a crucial stage in the recruitment process initiated under the advertisement dated December 8, 2025, to fill clerk posts across the Bombay High Court's principal seat and benches in Nagpur and Aurangabad. Candidates at centres in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Kalyan, Nanded, Washim and Bhandara reported servers crashing shortly after the exam

began, leading to non-responsive keyboards, faulty mice, frozen display screens and automatic log-outs within minutes. The examinees said glitches affected the software's ability to evaluate typed passages, creating panic about fair grading. The technical glitch led to late-night sit-in protests across centres. In Kalyan, over 600 candidates staged demonstrations at the APMC Market centre. In Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, candidates blocked vehicles and demanded immediate cancellation and a re-test. The protest swelled with the joining of political leaders and student organisations, needing the deployment of police to maintain law and order. Following the mounting protests and reports submitted by the conducting agency acknowledging the disruptions, the High Court administration initiated a review. The notice issued by the High Court on the cancellation of the exam. The notice issued by the High Court on the cancellation of the exam. (ETV Bharat)

In an official notice, the court said the decision to cancel the exam was taken to uphold the highest standards of fairness in the selection process. A fresh schedule, venue and further details regarding the re-examination will be notified separately on the court's official portal.

The formal notification issued on August 29 invalidating the August 16 test has provided relief to thousands of aspirants awaiting a fair opportunity. Candidates have been advised to monitor the official website for the re-test notification. NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar criticised the severe technical mismanagement, highlighting that the contracted agency experienced complete software and server failures. He said computers and keyboards failed at multiple centres, causing thousands of candidates to log out prematurely or miss the entire exam.

Extending his support to the protesting students, Pawar demanded a complete re-examination. He

Judiciary Proactively Responded To Emerging Fraudulent Schemes Like Digital Arrest: CJI

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday said the Indian judiciary has proactively responded to emerging fraudulent schemes such as digital arrest scams rather than waiting for Parliament to address them. In his closing address at the 43rd International Symposium on Economic Crime in London, the CJI said the Supreme Court had recently taken suo motu cognisance of the "digital arrest" scam, in which fraudsters impersonate police officers, judicial officials, or bureaucrats over video calls to dupe citizens. "In response, the court has directed the Union and the states to evaluate the extent of this problem and has called for the establishment of a distinct offence, with penalties proportionate to the harm inflicted," he said. "This exemplifies a broader pattern: an Indian Judiciary that proactively responds to emerging fraudulent schemes, rather than waiting for Parliament to address them," the CJI said. He said when one looks at India's modern response to economic crime, it is best understood not as a single statute but as a layered



architecture, built deliberately over successive decades, in which legislation, institutions and judicial doctrine are each made to do distinct work. The CJI referred to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018. "I must note that these are not infallible mechanisms. Numerous individuals have alleged misuse of the PMLA process by investigating authorities, including claims of arrests made without articulated reasons, and of custody extended beyond what the existing facts appear to justify. In each such instance, the judiciary has intervened to rectify the situation," he said. Justice Kant referred to the apex court's verdict

holding that grounds for arrest must be provided to the accused in writing, rather than merely read aloud. "Furthermore, in Arvind Kejriwal versus Central Bureau of Investigation, a decision I had the opportunity to author, the court upheld the legality of the arrest but granted bail, based on the principle that prolonged pre-trial detention should not be transformed into punishment under a different guise," he said. The CJI said what had remained consistent through the decades, despite legal and technological developments, was the apex court's insistence that due process, proportionality and the presumption of innocence remain the guiding principles of its jurisprudence.

Referring to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, the CJI said it runs alongside criminal proceedings and the Indian justice delivery system has grown increasingly comfortable authorising parallel civil recovery even where a criminal trial remains protracted. "And finally, like every nation represented in this hall, India has learned through hard experience that Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with other countries, however imperfect their machinery and modalities, bring a recovered asset home far more reliably than extradition ever does. Illicit wealth, after all, rarely stays where it was stolen," he said. The CJI said if global estimates on money laundering were even roughly accurate, the world launders enough money in a single year to buy every one of the eight billion people alive on the planet a modest laptop, and still have some change left over. "And of that immense tide of illicit wealth, by the most generous reckoning, less than one unit in a hundred is ever recovered," he said.

The CJI said Indian states-

man and teacher Kautilya had, back in the second century BC, written in his treatise on statecraft, the 'Arthashastra', about distinct ways in which an official of the State might siphon away its treasury. "He then offers a line that every compliance officer present will recognise across twenty-three centuries: it is as impossible for an official to handle the king's revenue and take nothing from it as it is akin to holding honey or poison upon the tip of the tongue and taste neither," he said. The CJI said the very nature of illicit wealth and economic crime was that neither honoured the sovereignty that otherwise shields our legal structures from foreign interference. "Let this Symposium's answer be that vigilance, cooperation and the rule of law thwart fraudulence in equal and, I hope, escalating measure," he said. "In closing, I would say this: the measure of this Symposium's success will not be the eloquence with which we described the problem this week, but the diligence with which each of us, returning to our own jurisdictions, endeavours to put an end to it," he said.

NIA Raids In South Kashmir's Anantnag In Terror Case

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday carried out raids at two locations in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district as part of its investigation into a terror case. The raids were carried out at Bijbehara and Dooru in the south Kashmir district, officials said. Accompanied by Jammu and Kashmir Police and Central Reserve Police Force, NIA officers searched two residential houses as part of its probe, they added. The operation was carried out in connection with an ongoing investigation by the NIA, but the nature of the case and the details of the search were not immediately available. According to sources, searches and other legal proceedings were underway at both locations, but it was not yet clear whether any arrests have been made or any objectionable material or other items have been seized during the operation. More details and an official statement are awaited from the NIA regarding the two raids. Saturday's operation by the agency comes a day after J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha highlighted the vital role of community solidarity in eliminating



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

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

Nepal-Tibet Flood: Death Toll Mounts To 675; Nearly 2,500 Missing, Says NDRRMA

The death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal has reached 675, with nearly 2500 still missing, according to latest official sources as search and rescue operations entered the fourth day in the Himalayan region. Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) put the death toll to 675. A surgical medical team has also been mobilised to support relief and medical efforts as the emergency response continues. Kathmandu has deployed more than 18000 security personnel for search, rescue and relief operations as the Himalayan nation races to reach stranded communities and locate those still unaccounted for. Chitwan recorded the highest number of bodies



recovered at 246, followed by Nawalparasi East with 165, Nawalparasi West with 63, Gorkha with 57, Nuwakot with 51, Dhading with 45, Tanahun with 35, and Rasuwa with 13. The Gorkha figure includes various human body parts. The missing

figure of 2,498 includes people from hydropower projects, foreign nationals, civilians and security and government personnel. As many as 933 people from hydroelectric projects are reported missing, while 589 foreign nationals remain unaccounted for.

The missing list includes Nepali citizens living abroad who were on a visit to Nepal; 589 foreign nationals, 562 people were reported through the Rasuwa District Emergency Operations Centre (DEOC), 65 from Makwanpur and 115 from Nuwakot. The list also includes 45 Nepal Army personnel, 27 Nepal Police personnel, 13 Armed Police Force personnel, 15 Customs Office personnel and 4 Immigration Office personnel, while three people have also been reported missing from Langtang National Park. Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said 18,708

security personnel have been mobilised for the rescue operation, including 8,370 Nepal Army personnel, 6,135 Nepal Police personnel and 4,203 Armed Police Force personnel. Rescue teams have so far brought 7,514 people to safety, including 279 people rescued from a hydroelectric tunnel. As many as 227 foreign nationals have also been rescued.

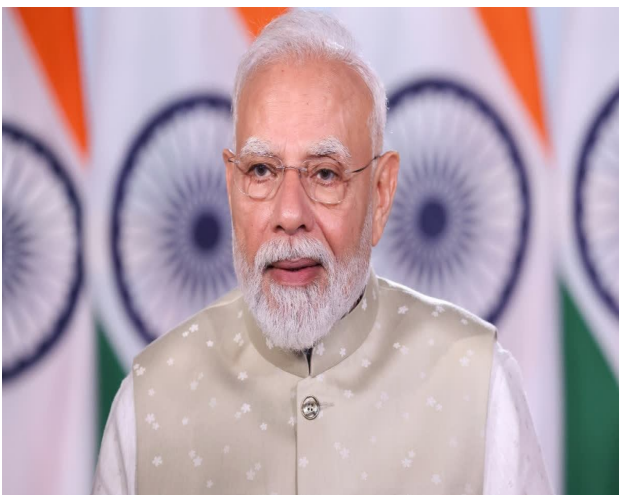
All Updates So Far

27 police personnel remain out of contact. 18,708 personnel have been deployed for the response. 675 bodies have been recovered. 2301 people have been injured and rescued. 119 injured people are currently under treatment or

Make India Drug-Free: PM Modi Appeals To Citizens In 'Mann Ki Baat'

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday appealed to citizens to join hands to free India from the menace of drug abuse and build a stronger future for the youth.

In his monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi noted that the 'Drug-Free Youth for a Developed India' campaign is gaining momentum across the entire country. "Its goal is crystal clear - drug-free youth, drug-free India. Let us come together to build a drug-free India and a stronger future for our youth," he said. The Drug-Free India through the 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan' (NMBA) is a flagship initiative of the government launched on August 15, 2020 under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR). The campaign seeks to prevent substance abuse through awareness generation, community participation, treatment,



rehabilitation, aftercare and social reintegration while fostering a nationwide movement against drug abuse. Referring to the PM SVANidhi Yojana, a welfare scheme for street vendors, the prime minister said the scheme is helping lakhs of women street vendors expand their businesses, increase their incomes and build a better future for their families. He said millions of

mothers and sisters are gaining new strength through the 'PM SVANidhi Scheme' and this aspect of 'women's empowerment' does not receive as much discussion as it should. "Nearly 46 per cent of the beneficiaries of the 'PM SVANidhi Scheme' are women. That means around 35 lakh women across the country are connecting with this scheme to advance their businesses," he said.

Launched in June 2020, the PM SVANidhi scheme was formulated to assist street vendors to overcome the adverse effects of financial constraints and to restart their lost businesses during the COVID pandemic. Since the inception of the scheme, it has proved to be more than financial support for street vendors and has given them a sense of identity and formal recognition for their contribution to the economy. Initially launched till December 31, 2024, the scheme has been extended till March 31, 2030. The Prime Minister is currently on a state visit to Uzbekistan, and the radio broadcast is usually recorded a few days in advance and played on the last Sunday of every month.

DGCA Flagged Safety Issues With Tecnam Aircraft Before Kanpur Crash

Lucknow: Aviation regulator DGCA had flagged safety issues concerning Tecnam aircraft over a month before a Tecnam P2006T training aircraft crashed in Kanpur on August 27, killing a trainee pilot and an instructor.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had also issued safety recommendations to flying training organisations (FTOs) concerning the Tecnam aircraft and asked them to implement them with immediate effect.

According to official communications accessed and reviewed by PTI, the DGCA had at least twice since 2025 flagged concerns over Tecnam planes, primarily used in India for flying training, with FTOs. The latest communication, dated July 10, 2026, circulated safety recommendations issued by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) following the May 12, 2022 crash of a twin-engine Tecnam P2006T, operated by FSTC Flying School Pvt Ltd, at Bhiwani in Haryana.

In the email, the regulator advised FTOs to



"avoid parking Tecnam aircraft on apron/tarmac for prolonged periods during the summer season prior to commencing training flights". It also said, "Greater emphasis should be placed on training for handling emergency situations, particularly during critical phases of flight on Tecnam aircraft." The DGCA further directed that "checklists should be revised to explicitly incorporate all Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM)-recommended actions for handling emergency situations".

The communication was based on the final investigation report of the

2022 Bhiwani accident, which was available on the AAIB website, the email said. An earlier DGCA communication had sought feedback from FTOs on the operational performance of Tecnam aircraft, a civil aviation source told PTI. A reminder was sent on August 4, 2025, with the subject: "Reminder regarding Feedback checklist for 'Operational Assessment of General Aviation (GA) Aircraft's Performance - Tecnam Aircraft." The reminder referred to an earlier email seeking responses through the feedback checklist, according to the source. A flying instructor, who spoke to PTI on condi-

tion of anonymity, said several instructors had faced difficulties.

"Diamond and Cessna aircraft, which have traditionally been flown for a long time, have good reliability, maintenance and airworthiness. Tecnam aircraft are becoming more popular because of their affordability, but there is a flying risk associated with them," the instructor said. The senior pilot trainer said the concerns extended to both single-engine and multi-engine Tecnam aircraft and claimed that incidents involving the aircraft were not always reflected clearly in available records.

Transfers, DPCs And Filling Up Of Vacancies To Be Given Priority: Omar Abdullah To Jammu Kashmir Teachers

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday said that government will address their service grievances related to transfers, promotions and filling up of vacancies. Abdullah has also said that government will work to improve the infrastructure of schools in the Union Territory. Addressing an educational conference organised by the JK Teachers Forum at the Sher Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar on Tuesday, Abdullah said that transfers, Departmental Promotion



Committees (DPCs), vacancies and other administrative matters "will be considered with urgency and fairness." Acknowledging the infrastructure gaps in many schools especially in rural areas and institutions operating from rented or temporary premises, Abdullah said the government was working to modernise

facilities including through smart classroom initiatives. Regarding the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET), Abdullah said that the government will pursue the matter in accordance with the "current legal position" while keeping in mind the period up to August 2028 as reflected in the relevant judicial observations.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the new challenges facing teachers including maintaining "student attention amid the widespread use of smartphones and social media" and addressing the emerging role of artificial intelligence in education and assessment. He said that the responsibility of providing a better future to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir lies not only with the teachers but also parents and the administration. Abdullah also expressed concern that students who are admitted to government schools mainly for board exams have to attend private coaching

Wise Words Abroad, Silence At Home: Sibal Slams Bhagwat Over His Remarks In US

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Sunday took a swipe at RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat over his remarks in the US that unity in diversity is in Bharat's DNA, saying words don't matter as actions must speak. Sibal, who is a senior advocate and an Independent Rajya



Sabha MP, slammed Bhagwat's comments and said it was a case of "wise words abroad" but

"silence at home". In a social media post on X, Sibal said, "Bhagwat in New York: 'Diversity is a decoration of our innate unity. It has to be protected'. Wise words abroad, silence at home. Words don't matter; actions must speak!" His remarks came after Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief

Bhagwat said that unity in diversity is in Bharat's DNA, underscoring that it has to be celebrated, respected and accepted. Addressing over 6,000 members of the Indian-American community and interfaith leaders at a mega rally at Infosys Theatre in the iconic Madison Square Garden in New York on

Onion Prices Soar To Rs 60-65 Per Kg In Delhi, Kitchens Feel Price Pinch As Supplies Tighten

New Delhi: Onion prices have been steadily rising in the national capital. A month ago, onions were selling for Rs 35-40 per kg, but prices have now risen to Rs 60-65 per kg. The rising price of onions has become a concern for people in Delhi, as onions are an essential part of everyday cooking. The increase is putting additional pressure on household kitchen budgets. When the ETV Bharat team visited the Tekhand vegetable market in Okhla, it found that green vegetables were still relatively affordable, but onion prices had been rising continuously. Customers were seen buying onions despite the higher prices. According to one seller, Arif, onions are currently being sold at Rs 60 per kg, compared with Rs 35-40 earlier. He said onion supply in the market has declined, driving prices up, and warned that prices could rise further. A customer, Shatrughan, said he bought onions for Rs 60 per kg, whereas they were available for Rs 40 just a few days ago. He said shopkeepers indicated prices could rise further, while other

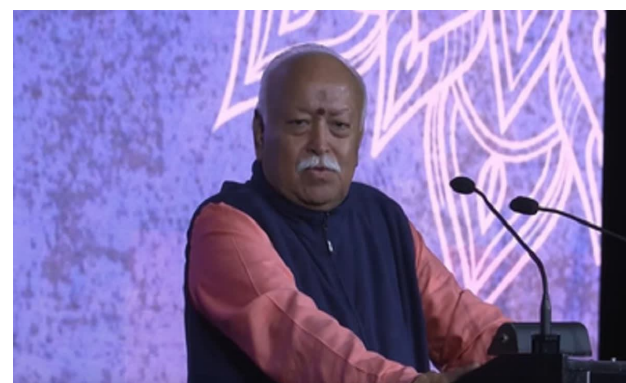


green vegetables were also gradually becoming expensive. Vegetable seller Ramnath said customers who earlier bought onions by the kilogram are now purchasing only half a kilogram. "This also affects our business, but what can we do? Inflation is rising. People who eat onions will continue to eat them, though those who used to consume more may now buy less," he said. Another customer, Surendra, said sugar prices had also increased from around Rs 40 per kg to Rs 65-70 per kg, while onions had reached Rs 60 per kg. He alleged that prices of essential items were rising rapidly while people's incomes were not increasing. Delhi Government Plans Action If Prices Rise Further The Delhi government has decided to monitor the

availability and prices of onions and sugar. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has directed officials to prepare an action plan to make onions available through camps at different locations if prices rise further. The government said it will procure onions from NAFED if needed and sell them at the procurement price, while covering transportation and related expenses. Officials have also been directed to monitor onion supplies reaching Delhi, ensure stocks reach markets and take action against hoarding. The government said there is currently no shortage of onions or sugar in the capital. **Onion Prices Are Rising** The rise in onion prices is linked to the end of the current season, lower arrivals than last year, and weather-related disruptions. Farmers have also suffered greater losses due to changing weather conditions. Rain in Maharashtra has further affected transportation

and supplies to Delhi.

Traders said if onion supplies from Maharashtra do not return to normal in the coming days, retail prices in Delhi could rise further. The Centre has started moving onion buffer stocks from Maharashtra to Delhi through dedicated railway rakes under the "Kanda Express" initiative. The first consignment of around 800 tonnes is scheduled to reach Delhi on Wednesday, with onions to be sold at Rs 35 per kg through NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar outlets. The move comes as rain in Maharashtra has disrupted transportation and affected onion arrivals in Delhi. Traders said wholesale onion prices have risen to around Rs 50 per kg from Rs 25 earlier, while alternative supplies from Alwar and southern states remain limited. The Centre maintains onion buffer stocks to control prices when supplies tighten. The Centre has maintained about 1.21 lakh tonnes of onion buffer stock for 2026. The government has said onion availability remains comfortable for domestic demand,



New Delhi: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday (IST) said "unity in diversity" is embedded in Bharat's DNA, asserting that the country's larger destiny is to demonstrate to the world that diversity and oneness can coexist. Addressing the Universal Oneness Celebration at Madison Square Garden in New York, which was attended by thousands of people from across 39 US states, Bhagwat said diversity should be celebrated, respected and accepted while retaining a strong sense of shared humanity. Bhagwat contrasted the idea of "pluralism", which he said is often associated with the United States, with "unity in diversity", which he described as intrinsic to Bharat. "When we say United

States of America, one word is often discussed frequently. That is pluralism. And when we say Bharat, another phrase is discussed - unity in diversity. For Bharat, this unity and this diversity, both are in their DNA," Bhagwat said. He said nations should not be viewed merely as geographical entities, arguing that each nation has a larger role and purpose in the world. "Every nation has a message to deliver. Every nation has a mission to accomplish. Every nation has a destiny to fulfill," the RSS chief said, quoting Swami Vivekananda. Elaborating on Bharat's role, Bhagwat said its destiny is not only to understand the principle of unity in diversity but also to repeatedly demonstrate it to the world. "Bharat is there to realise and from time to time make the

world realise this unity in diversity. We are one, and due to diversity, that oneness is decorated," he said. Bhagwat called for diversity to be celebrated, respected and accepted, while maintaining an awareness of the underlying sense of oneness. "Diversity has to be celebrated, has to be respected, has to be accepted. And at the same time, we must keep in mind this feeling of oneness. It is a very real feeling," he said. The RSS chief also invoked ancient Indian sages, saying they had envisioned the principle of oneness and undertaken penance with the welfare of the world in mind. "Our ancient rishis had foreseen that and created a whole nation for that. The well-meaning rishis, with a feeling of welfare of the world, undertook the difficult penance. Through that, our nation was created," Bhagwat said. He reiterated that a nation cannot simply be defined by its geographical boundaries and said fulfilling Bharat's destiny was a collective responsibility. "No nation is a geographical piece of land. All nations have a destiny to fulfil.

This is the Bharat destiny," he said. Calling on Bharatiyas to recognise that responsibility, Bhagwat urged them to fulfil their duties in both their "karma bhoomi" and "janma bhoomi". "Let us awaken as Bharatiyas to that destiny and fulfil our duties in our karma bhumi as well as our janma bhumi. If we do that, that will be a boon for the world struggling with all these problems and stumbling at every step," he said. He added that Bharat should provide sustenance and support to a world facing multiple challenges. The Universal Oneness Celebration was a key event during Bhagwat's international outreach, bringing together diaspora groups around themes of cross-cultural dialogue, shared values and collective action. Bhagwat arrived in New York earlier this week as part of a three-nation tour covering the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, undertaken during the RSS centenary year at the invitation of overseas organisations. The RSS was founded in Nagpur in 1925 and is marking 100 years since its establishment. It describes itself as a vol-

Nepal Flash Floods: Death Toll Rises To 675 As Rescuers Race To Find Thousands Missing

Kathmandu: The death toll from flash floods in Nepal rose to 675 on Saturday, with bodies continuing to be recovered as search and rescue operations pressed ahead amid renewed rainfall, rising water levels and fears of further flooding in the Bhotekoshi River basin.

Nearly 2,400 people remained missing, including at least 320 foreign nationals, while more than 4,400 people have been rescued or evacuated so far as rescuers race against time to reach remote settlements cut off by the destruction of roads and bridges.

Officials further said that the rescued ones included at least 261 foreign tourists who went "out of contact". Of them, 167 were Indians, 40 Chinese, eight Ukrainians, four each from Germany and Malta, three from the US, and the rest were from Türkiye, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Oman, Belgium and Bulgaria.

So far, 675 bodies of the Bhotekoshi flood victims have been recovered from eight districts, PTI reported, quoting Nepal Police. The rescuers have recovered 246 bodies from Chitwan, 165 from Nawalparasi East, 63 from Nawalparasi West and 57 from Gorkha, police said. Similarly, 45 bodies were recovered from Dhading district, 51 from Nuwakot, 35 from Tanahu and 13 from Rasuwa district.

More than 15,000 security personnel have been mobilised for search and rescue operations, while helicopters have been making repeated sorties to evacuate stranded people and deliver relief supplies.



The disaster, believed to have been triggered by a collapse or avalanche of ice and rock in the Himalayan region near the Nepal-Tibet border, sent a massive torrent of water, mud and debris downstream through central Nepal on Wednesday, devastating towns and villages in several districts, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects.

The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, became the main conduit for the floodwaters spreading downstream into central Nepal, causing the devastation. Seven people were also reported dead on the Chinese side of the border, with more than 550 people reported missing, according to Chinese authorities.

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Saturday said the government is with the flood-affected citizens of the country and its priority is to save the life of every citizen. "It is the priority of the state to save the life of every citizen through the mobilisation of all the state mechanism," he said.

Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said search and rescue teams, medical personnel and emergency responders were working together in the affected areas, while authorities were coordinating with families to identify missing people. Diplomats were also facilitating communication with families of missing foreign nationals.

Khanal said the government was monitoring the possibility of further flooding and that the affected region remained on "high alert". Renewed rain is adding to the difficulties, with emergency teams warning that weather and damaged infrastructure are making it harder to reach some of the worst-hit areas.

Some of the most severely affected locations can be reached only by helicopter after roads and bridges were swept away, while difficult terrain is further complicating rescue operations.

A new lake formed upstream of the disaster zone after the initial flooding, raising fears of another surge downstream. Chinese monitoring indicated that the lake had subsequently

shrunk from its peak level, but Nepali authorities continued to closely monitor water levels and the possibility of further flooding.

An 11-member Indian team which was sent to Nepal carried out on-site reconnaissance of hydropower projects across the affected corridor, but many more remain unaccounted for at several sites. The Indian tunnel-rescue specialists are expected to provide technical assistance for some of the most difficult operations.

Nepali security forces have rescued 191 workers and residents from hydropower projects across the affected corridor, but many more remain unaccounted for at several sites. The Indian tunnel-rescue specialists are expected to provide technical assistance for some of the most difficult operations.

Since Wednesday, India has dispatched 57.6 tonnes of relief material to flood-ravaged areas of Nepal. Kathmandu on Saturday praised India's assistance, with Nepal's Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle describing the Indian government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "exceptionally gener-

India Reiterates Support For Negotiated Two-State Solution In Palestine

Jerusalem: India on Tuesday reiterated its longstanding support for a "negotiated two-state solution" in Palestine and reaffirmed the country's consistent support for the Palestinian people, Sripriya Ranganathan, a secretary at the External Affairs Ministry, said. Ranganathan, Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs), is on an official visit to Egypt, Palestine and Lebanon from August 16-21. Ranganathan on Tuesday called on Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine and also "conveyed India's concern over the grave humanitarian situation in Gaza." "Amb Sripriya Ranganathan called on Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine. The two sides reviewed the full spectrum of India-Palestine bilateral relations, including their extensive development cooperation initiatives," the Representative Office of India to



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

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

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

Bangladesh civil society demands judicial probe into Hindu family's murder

Dhaka: A civil society group on Saturday demanded judicial investigation into the murder of a Hindu family amid skepticism over police explanations about the massacre in northwestern Rangpur in Bangladesh.

The demand by Rangpur City Civic Society (RCCS) came two days after leading rights group Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK) and minority rights group Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council raised questions surrounding the police account of the family's murder.

Decomposed bodies of retired Hindu school teacher Ganapati Chakraborty, 65, his wife Pritilata Chakraborty, 50, and their children, Agami Chakraborty Prarthi, 23, and Priyam Chakraborty, 12, were discovered August 22 in their locked home in Rangpur. Police detained two men, cousins Mughdho and Siddhartha, for their involvement in the



killings.

On Saturday, the RCCS said in a statement read out at a press conference: "The police comments in the media over the murders of all four members of the family after the arrest of two suspects created skepticism and questions in the public mind reflecting their lack of confidence on police actions."

The group said they identified 19 questions regarding the two subsequent police statements which contradicted the comments of the slain family's relatives, circumstance of the crime scene and forensic

experts.

The ASK group raised near identical questions surrounding the police account of the murder of the family saying the skepticisms should not be dismissed as baseless or misleading.

"It is crucial to clarify if any forensic and digital evidence was found which is consistent with the police claims regarding the motive, timeline, and method of the killings, the unusual phone call at 2:40 am, and the suspects' presence," the ASK said on Thursday. A minority body also raised questions about the murders.

"We are watching the developments. But it remains a big question how two alleged drug addicts could kill four people and give the house a look of a robbery scene in such a meticulous manner," a leader of the minority rights group Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council said.

Police had in their first briefing on August 23 said Chakraborty was killed on the rooftop of his house and his wife and daughter were killed on a second-floor staircase while his son was killed in his sleep inside the house, the RCCS said.

India, US Discuss Cooperation In Indian Ocean Region



Aug 26: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri discussed with US Under Secretary of State Allison M Hooker ways to deepen India-US cooperation in the Indian Ocean region during a call. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said both sides discussed opportunities for practical cooperation and complementarity in the region. "Foreign Secretary

@VikramMisri held a productive call with US Under Secretary of State Allison M Hooker to advance discussions on the India-US Indian Ocean Strategic Venture (IOSV) initiative, launched by the leaders of the two countries in February 2025," he said on social media. "Both sides discussed opportunities for practical cooperation and complementarity in the Indian

Ocean Region, including maritime security, strategic infrastructure and connectivity, in line with the priorities of partner countries," he said. IOSV -- a bilateral initiative -- was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump following their talks in Washington DC in February last year.

US Issues Security Alert In Mexican Border City And Suspends Consular Activities

Mexico City: The U.S. government issued a travel alert for Americans planning to visit Mexicali in northern Mexico and temporarily suspended consular activities in the border city due to a "potential threat," without providing details.

The notice, released Monday night, said that because of information about "a threat," consular activities and travel to the capital of Baja California state, across the border from the U.S. city of Calexico, California, were suspended.

The U.S. did not provide



details about the threat or whom it was directed at and only urged its citizens to avoid government buildings, seek shelter in the event of an incident and remain aware of their surroundings.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Tuesday that "there was

an alert about the possibility of a criminal group" and added that the report was based on information from U.S. agencies.

"There is no further information about what this alert could involve, but simply to remain alert and maintain surveillance in Mexicali,"

Sheinbaum said at her regular morning news conference.

The city remained calm throughout the day Tuesday. Later that afternoon, Sheinbaum's security cabinet said in a statement that authorities "have not identified any elements confirming a specific or imminent risk to the population" but that authorities had stepped up surveillance and patrols in Mexicali as a "preventative measure."

Later in the day, Mexican and U.S. authorities said that Mexican security forces, working with informa-

Gloom in the lives behind the loom—giving Telangana’s weavers their due



Suresh’s hands move swiftly across the loom, weaving threads together, transforming them into a six-yard heritage piece. In about 25 days, his Ikat-weaving family can produce seven sarees. Yet, the household earns just Rs 10,000-12,000 from them. The income is hardly enough to meet household expenses. Suresh says rising input costs and changes in taxes on cotton have only added to the pressure. Suresh’s story is not an isolated one. Behind every saree lies the cost of yarn, dyes, labour, and the financial risk of producing each piece. Despite the effort that goes into making these sarees, the economics of weaving are becoming increasingly difficult. From Pochampally Ikat and Gadwal sarees to Narayanpet textiles and Siddipet’s Gollabhama sarees, handloom is deeply woven into Telangana’s cultural identity. But behind the celebrated sarees, intricate designs and Geographical Indication (GI) tags lies a more difficult question: can Telangana’s handloom traditions survive unless the people who produce them sustain themselves? According to the Telangana Handlooms and Textiles Department, the State has around 59,325 handloom weavers and ancillary workers, along with approximately 42,500 powerlooms and around 500 weavers’ cooperative societies. These figures represent not merely an industrial sector but thousands of households whose livelihoods remain tied to weaving and allied activities.

Telangana’s handloom story is also a story of remarkable diversity. Pochampally Ikat has become perhaps the State’s most recognisable textile identity, while Gadwal sarees are known for their distinctive weaving traditions. Narayanpet has its own long-standing textile heritage, and Siddipet’s Gollabhama sarees have acquired GI recognition. These traditions demonstrate that weaving is not simply a method of producing cloth; it is also a form of cultural knowledge transmitted across generations.

Keeping the Loom Alive
National Handloom Day

(August 7) often brings attention to the finished product. Sarees are displayed, exhibitions are organised, handlooms are promoted, and consumers are encouraged to purchase indigenous textiles. All of this is important. But the conversation should not end with the product. The more fundamental question is about the weaver behind the product. Rising input costs are one of the most immediate concerns. Ramesh, a Pochampally silk weaver, described rising prices of silk yarn, cotton and chemical dyes as one of the biggest pressures facing small producers. For them, the difficulty begins even before the weaving starts: purchasing raw materials can require borrowing, while irregular orders make repayment difficult. The imbalance between the labour invested in intricate designs and the amount received from local traders and intermediaries also weighs heavily on weavers. Anil, a traditional weaver from Puttapaka, says intricate designs involve days of work, yet local traders and intermediaries often determine the price at which the weaver’s work changes hands. The problem becomes particularly visible when one examines the economics of an individual saree. A traditional Gadwal saree easily takes up to five days of intensive and highly skilled family labour. Raw materials account for approximately Rs 3,200 while around Rs 1,200 goes towards labour, taking the production cost to about Rs 4,400. Once the saree moves through wholesale and retail channels, with transportation, urban showroom expenses and retail margins added, it eventually reaches customers at approximately Rs 9,500-11,000.

This varies from saree to saree depending on yarn, zari, design, quality and labour time. The example nevertheless reveals the considerable distance between the value of the finished product and the income of the person who produces it.

Price of Survival

Pochampally offers perhaps the clearest illustration of the paradox facing the handloom sector.

Pochampally Ikat has acquired considerable national and international recognition and has become one of the strongest symbols of the State’s textile heritage.

However, recognition of a textile does not necessarily mean adequate remuneration for the person who produces it. Traditional handloom products increasingly compete with machine-made textiles that can reproduce patterns at lower prices and in much larger quantities. For consumers, the difference between a genuine handwoven product and a mechanically produced imitation is not always immediately visible. An artisan from Siddipet, says buyers often do not understand why an authentic handloom product must cost more. The challenge, therefore, is not merely to protect a design. It is to protect the livelihood attached to that design. Exhibitions are steps in the right direction and can bring weavers closer to consumers and create opportunities for direct sales. But occasional exhibitions alone cannot resolve the structural problem of market access. The question of who buys the finished product is equally important. Government support can provide an important market and promotional mechanism, but many artisans continue to depend heavily on private traders and intermediaries. This dependence can leave weavers with limited control over pricing. A stronger direct-market ecosystem could allow producers to retain a larger share of the value created by their labour.

The Jogulamba Gadwal district administration has 24 registered primary weavers’ cooperative societies and more than 2,000 geo-tagged looms. The district has also implemented various welfare measures for weavers. Narayanpet has its own long-standing textile identity, marked by distinctive borders reflecting the region’s historical influences. Yet, it does not enjoy the same level of visibility as Pochampally and Gadwal.

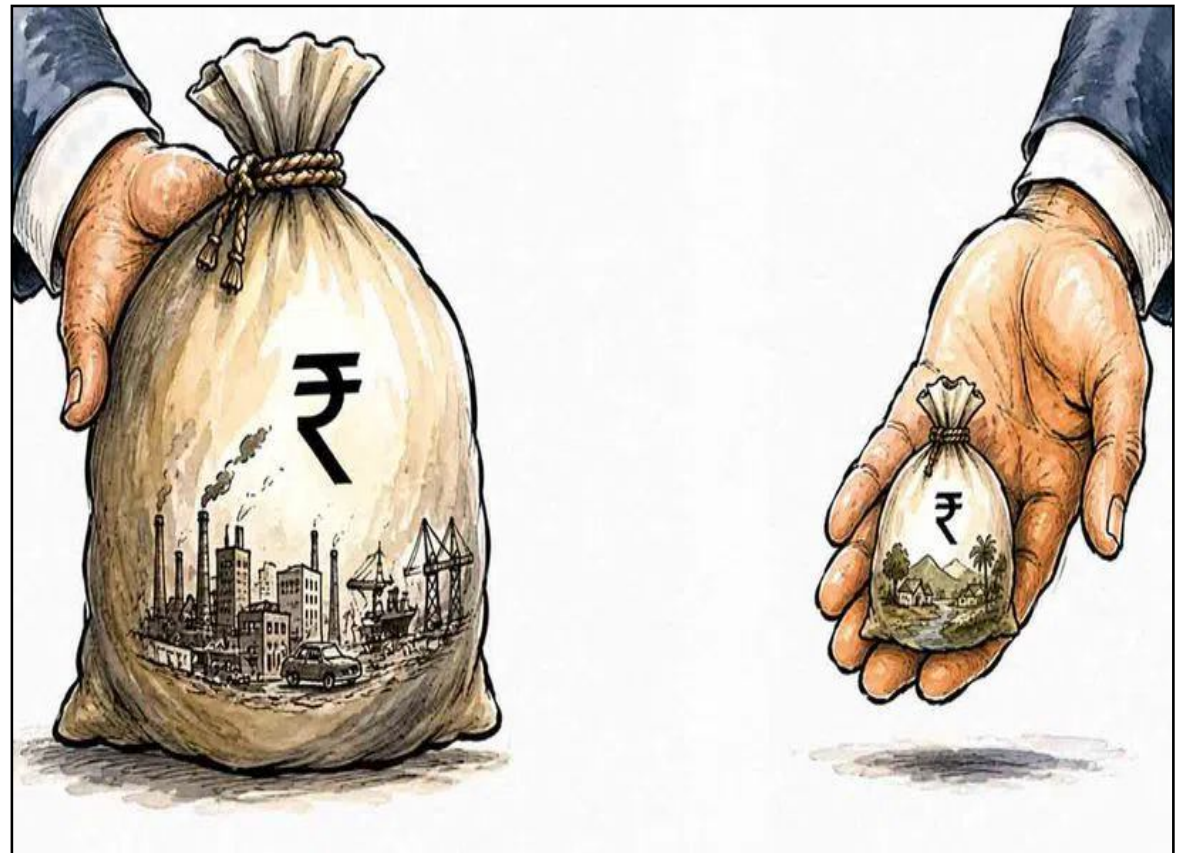
Siddipet’s Gollabhama saree represents another distinctive tradition. Its defining feature is the

Gollabhama, or milkmaid, motif associated with the region’s pastoral communities. Rather than simply printing the figure onto the fabric, weavers create the motif through an intricate extra-weft technique, incorporating additional coloured threads into the textile itself. The skill involved is considerable, but the economic return can be modest. A cotton Gollabhama saree can require three to four days of intensive work, while artisans working through middlemen may receive only a few hundred rupees for producing a piece that can eventually reach urban markets for several thousand rupees. For the artisan, the problem is, therefore, not a lack of cultural value. It is the inability to convert that cultural value into a sustainable income. Lesser-Known Traditions Telangana’s textile landscape also contains several lesser-known traditions that deserve much greater public attention. The Puttapaka Telia Rumal, associated with the Nalgonda region, is one such example. It is a distinctive double-Ikat tradition involving an elaborate yarn-conditioning process before weaving. Traditional treatment using materials such as castor oil and ash contributes to its characteristic texture and finish. The technique embodies generations of specialised knowledge that cannot easily be recreated once the community practising it disappears.

Further east, Mahadevpur Tussar silk represents another lesser-known textile tradition associated with the Godavari region, while Amarchinta silk sarees from Wanaparthy district are known for fine silk and intricate zari work. These traditions demonstrate that Telangana’s textile heritage cannot be reduced to a handful of commercially successful names. Yet, obscurity itself can become a threat.

When a craft remains unknown to consumers, the market for it remains narrow. When the market remains narrow, younger members of artisan families have fewer incentives to inherit an occupation that requires considerable skill but offers

Beyond IFI rankings — India’s investment divide



Five States— Maharashtra (31%), Karnataka (21%), Gujarat (15%), Delhi (13%) and Tamil Nadu (6%)—accounted for nearly 85 per cent of India’s cumulative equity inflow from October 2019 to March 2026, while the entire north-eastern region attracted less than one per cent. The contrast is striking, especially given the Northeast’s abundant natural resources, rich biodiversity, strategic international borders, and immense tourism potential. The disparity raises an important question: what really attracts investment?

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Opinion: India’s FDI slowdown: Why foreign investors are pulling back
Andhra Pradesh tops India’s investment chart with 25.3% share in FY26
The recently released Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) by the NITI Aayog offers some answers. More than a ranking of States, it provides a framework for understanding why some regions consistently attract investment while others struggle despite possessing significant potential. As India pursues the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, these insights are particularly relevant.

According to the NITI Aayog, India needs to sustain annual GDP growth of nearly 7.8 per cent to achieve developed economy status. Meeting that ambition will require far more than public expenditure; it will depend on creating business environments where private investment can flourish.

India’s investment rate has recovered to 29.9 per cent of GDP in FY2025, marginally above the average of the previous decade. While public investment has strengthened roads, ports, and digital infrastructure, long-term economic transformation will increasingly depend on private enterprises investing, innovating, and creating productive employment. Investors today evaluate much more than tax incentives. They look for quality infrastructure, policy stability, efficient

institutions, skilled human capital, financial soundness, and an ecosystem that reduces business uncertainty.

Recognising this reality, the IFI assesses all 36 States and Union Territories across eight dimensions: infrastructure, business climate, natural resources, government policy, regulatory ease, institutional environment, financial health, and environmental resilience. Together, these indicators reflect the broader conditions that influence investment decisions in an increasingly competitive global economy.

Business Climate

The findings reveal that India’s investment divide is driven less by geography than by differences in economic ecosystems. States that dominate FDI have built diversified industrial clusters in automobiles, electronics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and engineering. These industries create supplier networks, specialised skills, research capabilities, and logistics infrastructure that reinforce investor confidence.

By contrast, much of the Northeast remains dependent on relatively small-scale and low-value industries such as wood products, food processing, textiles, and non-metallic minerals. Without stronger industrial ecosystems, attracting large-scale foreign investment becomes considerably more difficult.

Infrastructure presents another challenge. Many northeastern States continue to score below the national average on infrastructure and resource availability, increasing logistics costs and reducing industrial competitiveness. Policy consistency, fiscal capacity, and institutional effectiveness also shape investment decisions.

Tourism presents the Northeast’s greatest opportunity, as the region possesses assets that few parts of India can match. Yet, it accounted for only 0.43% of India’s domestic tourist visits and 1.17% of foreign tourist

visits in 2024

Beyond these measurable factors lies a perception gap. Concerns over connectivity, distance from major markets, and historical security issues continue to influence investor sentiment even where conditions have improved significantly.

An analysis of the IFI data reveals one important finding. Among the index’s eight pillars, business climate emerged as the only pillar with a statistically significant association with FDI. This suggests that investors respond less to isolated incentives and more to the overall quality of a state’s business environment.

A strong business climate combines three essential ingredients: sustained economic performance that signals market potential, an innovation ecosystem that supports long-term growth, and business facilitation through transparent regulations, efficient approvals, and predictable governance. Together, these factors transform investor interest into actual investment.

NE’s Untapped Advantage

This finding carries an important lesson for the Northeast. Rather than attempting to replicate the manufacturing-led development model of western and southern India, the region should build on its own comparative advantages while simultaneously strengthening governance and business confidence. Every region does not need to compete on the same strengths to attract investment.

Tourism presents perhaps the Northeast’s greatest opportunity. Blessed with spectacular mountain landscapes, exceptional biodiversity, vibrant indigenous cultures, adventure tourism, wellness destinations, and strategic proximity to Southeast Asia, the region possesses assets that few parts of India can match.

Yet despite this enormous potential, the Northeast accounted for only 0.43 per cent of

India’s domestic tourist visits and 1.17 per cent of foreign tourist visits in 2024. The gap reflects deficiencies in connectivity, tourism infrastructure, destination branding, policy implementation, and private sector participation rather than any shortage of attractions.

Unlike heavy manufacturing, tourism generates employment across a wide range of sectors, including hospitality, transport, handicrafts, local food enterprises, and community-based services, while requiring comparatively lower capital investment. India’s policy allowing 100 per cent FDI under the automatic route for tourism-related activities further enhances the region’s ability to attract domestic and international investors.

The timing is particularly favourable because global travel preferences are changing. Gen Z and millennial travellers increasingly seek authentic experiences over conventional sightseeing. Adventure tourism, eco-tourism, wellness retreats, cultural immersion, and unexplored destinations are among the fastest-growing segments of the travel industry. These emerging preferences align remarkably well with what the Northeast already offers.

Instead of competing with established heritage destinations such as Tamil Nadu or Uttar Pradesh, the region can position itself as India’s premier destination for experiential and sustainable tourism. Strategic investments in connectivity, hospitality infrastructure, digital promotion, skill development, and cross-border tourism circuits can unlock this potential while generating employment and raising regional incomes.

Competitive Advantage

The broader lesson from the IFI is that every State does not need to pursue an identical development strategy. Competitive advantage emerges when strong institutions, sound governance, and business confidence are combined with region-spe-

three-time defending world champions, the Netherlands

Indian defence led by veteran goalkeeper Savita put up a valiant performance yet again, but the Paris Olympics gold medallists and three-time defending world champions, the Netherlands, won 2-0 in the first match of the second round of the FIH World Cup here on Friday. The Indian goalkeepers and defenders, who had saved 12 penalty corners in the previous match against England, prevented the world No. 1 team from playing freely at the packed Wagner Stadium, and the co-hosts could not score a single field goal. For the Dutch team, which had scored 15 goals in three matches in the first round, Yibbi Jansen scored in the second minute and Frederique Malta in the 38th minute, both from penalty corners. The Netherlands also earned a penalty corner in the final seconds, which was blocked by Savita, along with a couple of attacks in the last quarter. India now face Australia on Sunday and must win this match to keep their semifinal hopes alive. The Netherlands did not lose a single match at the Paris Olympics or the last World Cup. Furthermore, they lost only two matches in the last season of the FIH Pro League. Dutch supporters came to the Wagner Stadium wearing orange jerseys, the same colour as India's jersey today, while the co-hosts played in blue. The Netherlands defeated Japan 9-0, Australia 4-2, and Chile 2-0 in the first round, while the Indian team also remained unbeaten to reach the second round.



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

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

thwarted the rebound. In the final minute of the second quarter, Beauty Dungdung received a green card, reducing India to 10 players on the field for two minutes. At halftime, the Netherlands held a one-goal lead. Having been unable to score for over half an hour, they earned three penalty corners in the third quarter. In the fourth quarter, the Indians made a few attempts but were unable to finish. Losing possession proved costly for the team. Five minutes before the hooter, the Dutch strikers launched repeated Navneet intercepted an aerial pass in the 22nd minute, but her shot missed the target. In the 28th minute, the Dutch attacked from the left and passed the ball into the centre of the circle. They goal but were unable to beat Savita. In the next minute, attempted a shot in front of goal but were unable to beat Savita. In the next minute, Savita ran forward and blocked Pien Dickey's shot. The ball was still in the circle, and Salima

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



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

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

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

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

Two Sisters From Bihar's Nalanda Break Glass Ceiling To Make A Mark As National Rugby Players



Two Sisters From Bihar's Nalanda Break Glass Ceiling To Make A Mark As National Rugby Players
Two sisters from Nalanda faced taunts, but made a mark in rugby through sheer hard work. Two sisters from Raghu Bigha village in Nalanda make name in rugby. Two sisters from Raghu Bigha village in Nalanda make name in rugby. (ETV Bharat) author img By ETV Bharat English Team

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2026 at 6:11 PM IST

3 Min Read
Choose ETV Bharat Nalanda: Two sisters from Raghu Bigha village in Nalanda faced taunts as they played rugby. People mocked them for wearing shorts. But Dharmendra Sao, father of Komal Kumari and Priyanshu Kumari, who works as a daily wage labourer, didn't pay any heed to how people responded and encouraged the girls to follow their passion. Years of hard work have helped the two sisters

make a name for themselves in national-level rugby.

"People used to taunt me for wearing shorts, and I was mocked for coming home at night," said Komal, 17, about the struggle that she faced in pursuing the sport. Not only Komal; her sister, Priyanshu, is now a successful national-level rugby player.

Two sisters from Raghu Bigha village in Nalanda make name in rugby. Two sisters from Raghu Bigha village in Nalanda make name in rugby.

(ETV Bharat) Family members of the sisters said that the villagers questioned them for allowing girls to play the sport. However, Sao said he worked hard as a daily wage labourer while his wife, Pinki Devi, did sewing, to ensure that the girls could continue to play the game. The family comprises three daughters and one son, and all three daughters play rugby.

Despite a limited income, Sao said he never stopped his daughters from playing.

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



New Delhi: Gold and silver prices surged to more than three-month high levels in the national capital on Friday, extending their gains for a second straight session as a weak US dollar and firm global trends drove investors towards precious metals. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,63,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), up from the previous close of Rs 1,62,300 per 10 grams, according to local traders. The precious metal was last quoted around these levels on May 19, when it had stood at Rs 1,63,600 per 10 grams. Silver also mirrored the bullish trend, jumping Rs 5,000 to Rs 2,50,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), its highest level in 15 weeks. The white metal had settled at Rs 2,45,000 per kg on Thursday and gained Rs 15,000 over the last two

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

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

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

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

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

Kriti Sanon Has A Message For Rakhi Outfit Trolls - Check Her Raksha Bandhan Post

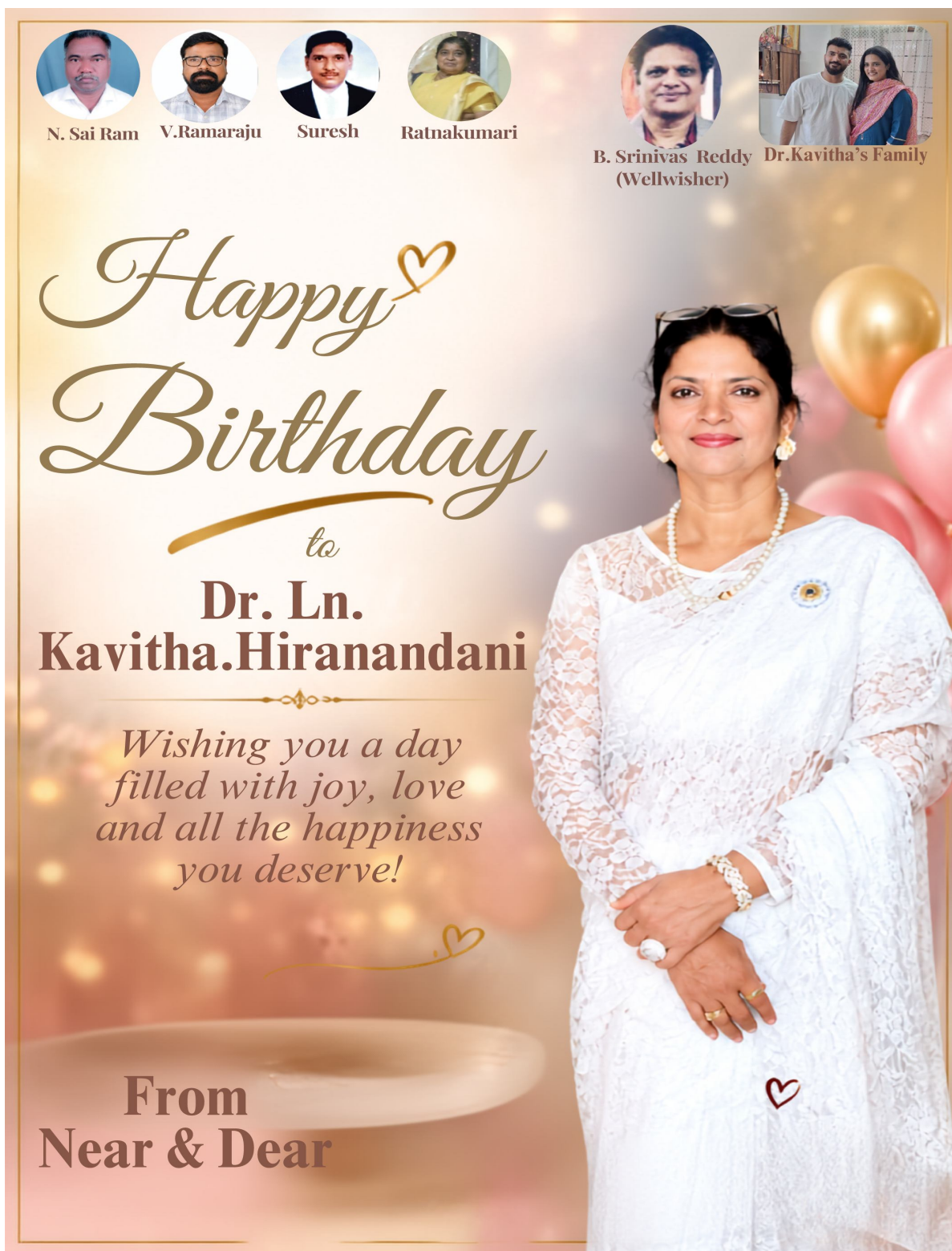


Kriti Sanon has responded to the social media trolls who criticised her outfit in a recent Raksha Bandhan advertisement. Instead of directly addressing the criticism on the festival, the actor appeared to take a subtle dig at those discussing her clothes. On Raksha Bandhan, Kriti shared a post with her sister, Nupur Sanon. However, the actor chose not to share a picture showing their outfits. Instead, she posted a close-up picture of their hands as they held each other's hands. Both sisters could be seen wearing rakhis. Kriti's choice of picture seemed to keep the focus on the bond between the

sisters rather than the controversy surrounding her clothes. Her caption also made it clear that she was not interested in the ongoing debate. "While the Rakhi fashion committee is still in session, we're focusing on what really matters. Happy Rakhi to all," Kriti captioned her post. The post received strong support from her fans. Many praised the actor for not letting the criticism affect her Raksha Bandhan celebrations. One fan commented, "The caption followed by fire emojis). Go, girls," while another wrote, "Unshaken - Unbothered - Unstoppable." Several

others also sent messages of support and praised the bond between Kriti and Nupur. A comment read, "I think you looked fabulous and pretty in that outfit @kritisanon." Another read, "Rakhi fashion committee (followed by laughing emojis) I love how she doesn't care about the 20 hr media debate about her clothes... Kriti, please mock these people a little more." What sparked the controversy? Kriti recently faced criticism after appearing in a Raksha Bandhan-themed advertisement for a jewellery brand. In the advertisement, the

actor was seen wearing a bralette and skirt while celebrating the festival with her sister. The advertisement soon became a topic of discussion on social media. Some users questioned Kriti's choice of outfit and said it was not suitable for an advertisement based on a Hindu festival. The criticism later turned into a wider debate about culture, religion and what women should wear during festivals. Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut was also among those who criticised the advertisement. Sharing her views on Instagram, Kangana questioned why Kriti



Happy Birthday
 to
Dr. Ln. Kavitha Hiranandani

Wishing you a day filled with joy, love and all the happiness you deserve!

From Near & Dear

Wishers: N. Sai Ram, V. Ramaraju, Suresh, Ratnakumari, B. Srinivas Reddy, Dr. Kavitha's Family (Wellwisher)

Emraan Hashmi Tests Positive For Swine Flu, Says 'Really Unwell', Postpones Bengaluru Event



Bollywood actor Emraan Hashmi has tested positive for swine flu (H1N1) and is currently recovering. The actor reportedly fell unwell after returning from a recent work trip, including a visit to Ranchi. He had been feeling unwell for the past few days before undergoing a medical test, which confirmed the infection. According to a report by a newswire, doctors have advised Emraan to take rest and follow basic precautions while he recovers. The actor has not separately confirmed the swine flu diagnosis in a public statement. However, he recently informed his fans that he was unwell and had to postpone a scheduled appearance in Bengaluru. Emraan was set to perform at a Bollywood-themed event in

Bengaluru. Sharing an update on his Instagram Story, the actor apologised to his fans and announced that the event had been postponed. He also assured ticket holders that their tickets would remain valid for the new date. "Hey Bangalore, I'm really unwell and unfortunately won't be able to make it to the Bangalore show. But picture khatam nahi hua, bas postpone hua hai! I'll see you all at Sunburn Union on 12th September, Saturday. Your tickets will remain valid for the new date. Can't wait to see you guys!" he wrote. Emraan Hashmi's Instagram Story (Photo: IG) The Bengaluru event, which was scheduled to feature Emraan, has now

been moved to September 12. His health update comes shortly after reports that the actor was preparing to return to the stage after almost two decades. According to another newswire, Emraan was set to headline Bollywood-themed shows in Bengaluru and Hyderabad. The actor is currently also enjoying the success of his latest film, Awarapan 2. Directed by Nitin Kakkar and produced by Vishesh Films, the film sees Emraan return as Shivam Pandit, the character he played in the original 2007 film Awarapan. In Awarapan 2, Shivam is approached by an Interpol officer to help rescue children who have been abducted. The action thriller also stars Disha Patani as Zara and Shabana Azmi as gang-

ster queen Nafisa. Suvinder Vicky, Vijayant Kohli and Purnan Gabbi are also part of the cast. The sequel has performed strongly at the box office and has crossed the Rs 200 crore mark. The original Awarapan, directed by Mohit Suri, did not perform well when it was first released in 2007 but later developed a strong fan following. Its music, especially songs such as Toh Phir Aao, continues to be popular. Emraan had recently attended a Mumbai screening of Awarapan 2 with Disha Patani. The two interacted with the audience and spoke about the response to the film. During the interaction, Emraan also hinted at the possibility of a third part. When a fan predicted that Awarapan 2 would



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