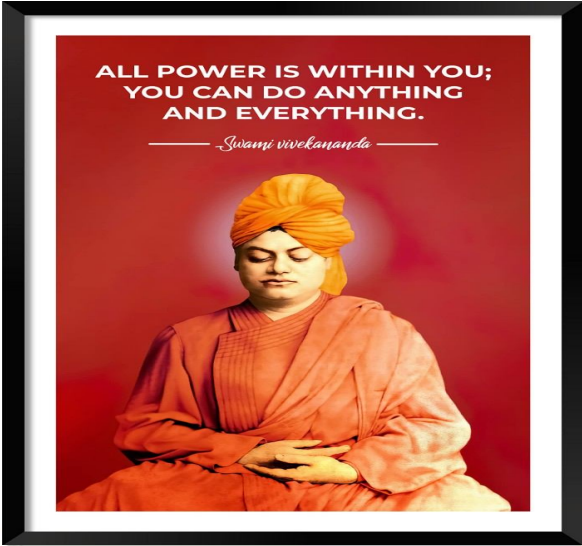
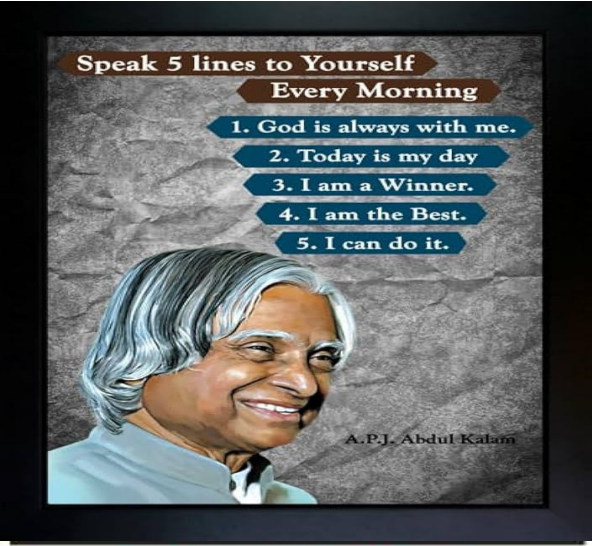
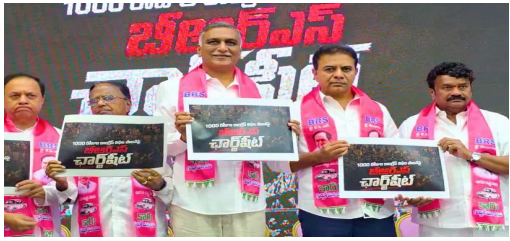




BRS releases chargesheet against Telangana Congress government over unfulfilled poll promises

Hyderabad: The BRS on Wednesday released a chargesheet against the Congress government, accusing it of failing on its election promises and delivering 1,000 days of distress to the people of Telangana. The party working president KT Rama Rao, along with senior leaders T Harish Rao and others, released the chargesheet. Addressing the gathering at Telangana Bhavan here, Rama Rao said the Congress promised 420 guarantees, 13 declarations and six guarantees, but failed to fully implement its major com-



mitments. "The Congress promised heaven within 100 days, but delivered hell for the last 1,000 days," he said. Calling the Congress rule a criminal waste, he accused it of turning Telangana into a State marked by destruction and distortion. He stated that the Congress government borrowed Rs

4.5 lakh crore without creating any new major assets. "Not a single brick, pond or check dam was built," Congress of merely blasted three checkdams and slammed the government's inaction following damage to the Pedavaagu project, Sunkishala project retaining wall and the Srisailem Left Bank tunnel collapse.

Harish Rao accuses Revanth Reddy government of reversing Telangana's progress



Hyderabad: BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T Harish Rao criticised the Revanth Reddy government for dismantling the systems built during the BRS regime. He said Telangana moved from rapid progress to regression in 1,000 days of the Congress government's rule. "KCR handed over the State like a ready-to-occupy house, but Revanth Reddy brought all the sys-

tems crashing down," he said at Telangana Bhavan, where the BRS released a chargesheet on the Congress government's 1,000-day record. Harish Rao alleged that the Congress failed to implement its six guarantees despite promising to roll them out within 100 days. He said the government's failures affected education, healthcare, electricity, drinking water and

other key sectors. He contrasted the present situation with the BRS regime, stating that former Chief Minister K Chandrababtu Naidu built Telangana into a model State over nine-and-a-half years through initiatives in drinking water, irrigation, agriculture and power. The BRS deputy leader sympathised with farmers who received 24-hour free power under the BRS government and were now struggling for quality electricity. He also said the State's healthcare system, once among the country's leading systems, had deteriorated to the extent that even essential medicines were unavailable in government hospitals. "The State should have progressed faster, but the Congress government's incompetence is reversing the progress," he said.

TGSPDCL CMD Stresses Electrical Safety Ahead of Sri Krishna Janmashtami, Vinayaka Chavithi



Hyderabad: A comprehensive review on power supply quality, safety measures, infrastructure development, and data management was conducted today by TGSPDCL Chairman & Managing Director Jitesh V. Patil during a teleconference here on Wednesday. The CMD directed officials to complete and keep ready the Network Asset Data to be transferred to RPDCL by this Saturday. He instructed

Superintending Engineers (SEs) and Senior Accounts Officers (SAOs) to closely monitor the process and ensure completion of all related works within the stipulated time-frame. Also Read - SIR Phase 3: Several States Push Forward Final Electoral Rolls In view of the upcoming Sri Krishna Janmashtami and Vinayaka Chavithi festivals, the CMD emphasized

that electrical safety should be accorded the highest priority. He instructed officials to expedite the removal of sagging power lines, replacement of bent and corroded electric poles, and installation of Aerial Bundled (AB) Cables in vulnerable locations. He further directed ADEs concerned to personally inspect pandals and Ganesh immersion procession routes, create awareness among organizers regarding electrical safety precautions, and take preventive measures to avoid any untoward incidents. Also Read - Officials Inspect KBR Park Flyover Electrical Network Shifting Works Regarding the free lefts and

CM Revanth Meets Rajnath Singh, Invites Him To Telangana Summit 2026

New Delhi: Honourable Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy extended an invitation to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to attend the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026,' a prestigious event which is being organized by the Telangana government at the 'Bharat Future City' from December 7 to 9. The Chief Minister briefed the Defence Minister the main objective of the global summit and requested the latter to inaugurate the Defence Expo-2026, which is being conducted as part of the summit. The CM met with

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Delhi on Wednesday. Also Read - Officials Inspect KBR Park Flyover Electrical Network Shifting Works During the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy and Rajnath Singh discussed several issues including the investment prospects in the defence sector in the Telangana State. The CM highlighted that the Defence Expo would feature a special session on the aerospace, defence, and space sectors, alongside a prestigious air show, industrial exhibition and live demonstrations of



land-based defence systems. CM Revanth Reddy emphasized the presence and guidance of the Defence Minister at the expo where the defence industries, startups and young scientists from across the country would also join and share their

experiences and ideas. The Chief Minister asserted that the participation of the Defence minister would serve as a great source of inspiration for all guests from the defence sector. The CM informed Rajnath Singh that the state government is look-

ing forward to hosting the Defence Expo-2026 in Hyderabad. Also Read - TGSPDCL CMD Stresses Electrical Safety Ahead of Sri Krishna Janmashtami, Vinayaka Chavithi CM Revanth Reddy sought the full cooperation of the Defence ministry to successfully organize the Defence Expo in granting the necessary airspace clearances for the airshow and ensuring the participation of Indian Air Force aircraft, as well as the 'Surya Kiran', 'Sarang' aerobatic teams, and also the support for the static aircraft display.

AP Literacy Rate Rises to 82 % in 2 Years: Nara Lokesh

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh on Wednesday said the literacy rate in the state rose from 72.6 percent in 2024 to 82 percent in 2026. The Education Minister described the achievement as a "truly historic" transformation and congratulated officials, teachers and everyone involved in the Akshara Andhra mission, said an official press release. "Andhra Pradesh's literacy rate has surged from 72.6 percent in 2024 to 82.1 percent in 2026, Education Minister Nara Lokesh announced on Wednesday," it said. Also Read - SIR Phase 3:



Several States Push Forward Dates to Publish Final Electoral Rolls Lokesh said that when he took charge of the Education Department in 2024, Andhra Pradesh had one of the lowest literacy rates in the country. At 72.6 percent, Andhra

Pradesh's literacy rate was below even Bihar, which stood at 74.3 percent, he said, observing that in just two years it moved from the bottom to above national average of 81 percent, marking a major turn-around in the state's literacy landscape. Also Read - Officials Inspect KBR Park Flyover Electrical Network Shifting Works The Akshara Andhra programme, launched by the NDA government in 2025 played a key role in the improvement, with around

25 lakh people becoming literate through the initiative, said the press release. According to the recently released central government's adult education examination results, the southern state's literacy rate has increased by up to 10 percentage points, it said. Officials have prepared a phased plan to make another 25 lakh people literate by March 2027, followed by the remaining 27 lakh people by September 2027. The Akshara Andhra programme is being implemented in coordination with 11 government departments. Lokesh directed officials to

involve MLAs and local public representatives in the programme and intensify awareness and mobilisation efforts to reach every person who remains illiterate. Also Read - Ancient Gollala Gudi Temple in Telangana Declared Monument of National Importance During a review of the School Education Department, he directed officials to track every school-age child and ensure their enrollment. According to officials, more than 1.64 lakh school-age children are currently outside the formal education system.

Konda Surekha targets Revanth, questions double standards in Congress after meeting AICC chief



Hyderabad: Minister Konda Surekha launched a direct attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy after meeting the AICC top leadership in New Delhi on Wednesday, openly questioning his conduct. She accused the Telangana Congress leadership of applying different standards in dealing with party leaders and targeting her because she was a woman from the backward classes. During an informal interaction with the media after meeting AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Surekha said that any action against her should be considered only after action was initiated against Revanth Reddy. She

questioned how the Chief Minister could publicly claim that he would remain in office for 10 years and asked whether such remarks did not amount to a disciplinary issue.

She also argued that the MLAs and MLCs who spoke against her should be issued show-cause notices, saying that she was a responsible Congress minister discharging her duties and responsibilities diligently. On her daughter's statements that stoked controversy, Surekha maintained that her daughter was married and living her own life, and that neither she nor her husband could control her actions. She said nobody had so

far asked her to resign and that she was awaiting the AICC leadership's decision on the issue. She also questioned why she was being held responsible for remarks made by her daughter, whom she described as an independent individual.

Raising the issue of social justice, Surekha asked whether the Congress was following one standard of justice for a BC and another for other social groups. She alleged that several ministers and senior leaders were facing serious allegations and sought to know what action the Telangana Congress leadership proposed to take against them.

No Plans To Privatisise Singareni Underground Coal Mines



Hyderabad: Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) management has denied any proposal to privatize its underground mines, dismissing recent reports on the matter as completely false. The management issued a strong rebuttal on Wednesday against the ongoing campaign alleging privatization of the company's underground mining operations. SCCL Officials clarified that coal production is currently underway at 21 underground mines and 17 opencast mines. Despite the company facing losses, management affirmed it will continue operating the underground mines to protect job security.

Also Read - SIR Phase 3: Several States Push Forward Dates to Publish Final Electoral Rolls Singareni firmly stated that the company's core objective is to boost production and cut operational costs in order to bring the mines back into profitability. Regarding the Expression of Interest (EOI) floated for the Shanthikhani mine in Mandamarri, Mancherial district, management explained this was purely a pilot study, exploring whether the Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) model could help reduce costs and losses, and not a step toward privatization. The company noted that the privatization narrative built around for Shanthikhani was in fact withdrawn after it received no response. Singareni appealed to the public and media not to circulate news that could cause unnecessary anxiety among its employees and their families.

the Shanthikhani EOI is factually incorrect, adding that the EOI processor the Shanthikhani mine in Mandamarri, Mancherial district, management explained this was purely a pilot study, exploring whether the Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) model could help reduce costs and losses, and not a step toward privatization. The company noted that the privatization narrative built around for Shanthikhani was in fact withdrawn after it received no response. Singareni appealed to the public and media not to circulate news that could cause unnecessary anxiety among its employees and their families.

ACB conducts searches at premises linked to TTD Deputy Executive Officer in Tirupati

Tirupati: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday is conducting searches at the residence of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Deputy Executive Officer, Mendu Lokanatham, in Tirupati. ACB teams have been carrying out searches at Lokanatham's residence in Peddakapu Layout since Wednesday morning. Meanwhile, ACB officials are also conducting searches at his office in Tirumala. Searches were carried out simultaneously at both his residence and office. ACB officials were also conducting simultaneous searches at the premises linked to his relatives. Seven teams of ACB officials, headed by ACB DSP Srinivasa Rao, started the searches at 6 a.m. Lokanatham was at his residence when the officials arrived to begin the

searches. The searches by the anti-graft agency are part of the investigations into the allegations that the TTD official owns assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. According to sources, searches were on at a guest house in Tirumala linked to Lokanatham. Simultaneous searches were also on at the houses of Lokanatham's two brothers-in-law in Tirupati. Similarly, officials were also conducting searches at the residence of his sister in Chellur, Yerpedu mandal. ACB officials also opened Lokanatham's lockers at the State Bank of India's STV Nagar branch in Tirupati. Lokanatham is currently serving as the Temple Deputy EO of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple. He has previously held various positions in the TTD. This is the second time in a decade that the ACB has conducted searches at



the premises linked to a TTD official. In 2016, the agency had conducted searches at the residence of T. Bhupathi Reddy, then Deputy Executive Director of TTD. Simultaneous searches were also conducted at the houses of his relatives and known associates in Tirupati and

Bengaluru. The raids were conducted based on allegations that the accused was holding assets disproportionate to the known sources of income. The officials had recovered documents/records related to 12 housing sites, two bank lockers, an apartment and a four-storey building.

Hyderabad man missing in Nepal after flash floods during Kailash Manasarovar Yatra

Hyderabad: The family members of 38-year-old Rallagudem Dhanpal Reddy, also referred to as Dhanwal Reddy, of Manikonda are waiting anxiously for updates on his whereabouts after he went missing in Nepal following devastating flash floods in the region on August 26. Dhanpal Reddy had travelled to Nepal for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra as part of a 66-member tour group organised through a travel agency. He left Pune on August 23 and lost contact with his family after the flash floods struck the region three days later. His mobile phone has remained switched off since the night of the incident. Dhanpal had last communicated with his fam-



ily from the Nepal Immigration Centre. There has been no communication since then, leaving his wife Supriya and mother Anasuya deeply worried. According to his family, Dhanpal was fond of travelling and regularly visited different places every year. This was his first international trip. The family said he was reportedly the only per-

son from Telangana in the tour group. The family has approached the Cyberabad police seeking assistance in tracing him and has appealed to the State and Central governments to intensify efforts and coordinate with the Nepal authorities for search and rescue operations. Dhanpal, a devotee of Lord Shiva, has prominent tattoos depicting

Lord Shiva on his shoulders, arms and back, which the family said could help in his identification. Adding to the family's distress, Dhanpal had started a saree business on Alkapur Township Road on August 19, just a week before he went missing. The family is hoping for his safe return and has appealed to the authorities to make all possible efforts to trace him. Rajendranagar MLA Prakash Goud spoke to the family over the phone on Tuesday and assured them that he would make efforts to extend all possible assistance from the government. Several local political leaders also visited the family and extended their support.

Land controversies mount for Congress government in Telangana

Hyderabad: Since the Congress government came to power in 2023, it has faced severe criticism over acquiring farmers' lands, auctioning government lands and making plans to utilise government properties for various purposes. Several of the State government's initiatives have been mired in controversy, particularly over its unilateral decisions and plans. From Lagacherla and Kancha Gachibowli to colonies along the Musi riverbanks and the proposed Future City, the government has faced criticism over its focus on acquiring and utilising large parcels of land. Amid the controversy over the inclusion of several private properties under the prohibited 22-A list, the State government has triggered another row with its plans to utilise lands belonging to the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) and polytechnic colleges. The government is planning to allot six acres of prime TGSRTC land at RTC Crossroads to the



Housing department for the construction of Indiramma Towers. The proposal has drawn strong criticism from RTC unions. "The government should construct houses for the poor and needy, but that does not mean it can divert RTC lands. Previous governments allotted lands to the corporation to meet its future requirements. If these lands are diverted for other purposes, the corporation may not even have enough space to park its buses in the days to come," said a member of the RTC Employees Union. The government's proposal to allot RTC land to the Housing department has also raised questions as it had earlier assured employees that the corporation

would be merged with the government. "Instead of fulfilling the promises made to RTC employees, the government is eyeing the corporation's vast land holdings," the union member said. Similarly, the Telangana Polytechnic Joint Action Committee has alleged that the government is attempting to divert large parcels of land owned by polytechnic colleges for commercial development under the aegis of the Young India Skills University (YISU). The committee said using these lands for commercial purposes would leave colleges without adequate space to establish laboratories, research and development centres and other infrastructure. It alleged that this was one of the

objectives behind the government's plans to merge polytechnic colleges with YISU. Interestingly, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, while serving as TPCC president in 2021, had strongly opposed the then BRS government's plans to auction government lands. Contrary to those objections, however, the Congress government has since auctioned several plots owned by the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC). Now, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) is also preparing to auction its lands, primarily to generate revenue for the government. Irrespective of the purpose, the State government should discuss its plans with the stakeholders and take them into confidence. If RTC unions or polytechnic staff and students have any apprehensions, the government should clear them and protect their interests, said Forum for Good Governance president M Padmanabha Reddy.

Officials Inspect KBR Park Flyover Electrical Network Shifting Works

Hyderabad: A high-level team of officials comprising Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar, TGSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Jitesh V. Patil, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan and other officials conducted a field inspection on Wednesday to review the progress of the electrical network shifting works associated with the construction of the KBR Park Flyover, a key infrastructure project aimed at easing traffic congestion and improving mobility in Hyderabad. Also Read - TGSPDCL CMD Stresses Electrical Safety Ahead of Sri Krishna Janmashtami, Vinayaka Chavithi The senior officers reviewed the ongoing electrical network shifting works being executed under the supervision of the master plan wing, assessed the progress achieved so far, examined inter-departmental coordination, and reviewed the measures being taken to ensure timely completion of the works with minimum inconvenience to the public. During the



inspection, the officers also visited the Road No. 45 Junction and Film Nagar Junction areas and discussed strategies for carrying out the utility shifting works without causing disruption to traffic movement. It was decided that the works would be implemented in a phased manner through close coordination among the Police, GHMC, Traffic Police, and TGSPDCL departments. Also Read - Ancient Gollala Gudi Temple in Telangana Declared Monument of National Importance Officials informed that

necessary steps are being taken to safely relocate existing electrical poles, overhead lines, cables, and other power infrastructure to facilitate the flyover construction works. All precautions are being taken to ensure uninterrupted power supply to consumers during the execution of the shifting activities. Speaking on the occasion, Patil stated that an action plan is being prepared to convert existing 11 kV and 33 kV overhead power lines into underground cable networks at several locations in line with

the city's future infrastructure and development requirements. Also Read - AP Literacy Rate Rises to 82 % in 2 Years: Nara Lokesh He noted that the initiative would enhance the reliability of power supply while also contributing to improved traffic management and urban beautification. The officials reiterated that all concerned departments are working in close coordination to complete the works expeditiously while ensuring public safety, power supply, and smooth traffic flow.

Hyderabad: Fake currency racket busted, notes worth Rs 2.91 lakh

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force (Shamshabad Zone), along with Balapur police, busted a fake Indian Currency Note (FICN) circulation racket and arrested three persons who allegedly printed and circulated counterfeit currency notes in Hyderabad. The police seized fake notes with a face value of Rs 2.91 lakh, besides a colour printer, scanner, laminator and other material used in preparing the notes, from them. The arrested suspects were identified as Ramavath Ramu alias Mohammed (36), a Zomato delivery worker; his relative Ramavath Mothilal (35), a Rapido driver; and Ramavath Gandhi (19), an auto



driver. All three are residents of Chinthal Thanda, Vaddipatla, Telangana. Their alleged associate, Sudheer John Chela alias Vamshi of Nagole-Bandlaguda, is absconding. According to the police, Ramu and Mothilal allegedly learnt about the preparation of counterfeit currency by watching videos on YouTube and Instagram.

"Mothilal reportedly had come across a YouTube notification about making counterfeit currency notes and contacted a person through a phone number displayed in the video. He was allegedly told to procure a colour printer, scanner, bond paper and other material required for printing the notes. Subsequently, they purchased the equipment and allegedly

began printing fake Rs 500, Rs 200 and Rs 100 notes. Police said they also attempted to replicate security features, including the watermark, to make the counterfeit notes resemble genuine currency," said the police. The gang allegedly circulated the fake notes in small quantities at wine shops and veggievideo. He was allegedly table markets, particularly during night hours. Gandhi, the nephew of Ramu, was allegedly used to circulate the counterfeit video. He was allegedly eit notes in the market. The police seized 437 fake Rs 500 notes, 39 fake Rs 200 notes and 648 fake Rs 100 notes, with a total face value of Rs 2,91,100.

Student dies, 53 fall ill after alleged adverse reaction to chloroquine tablets in Andhra Pradesh

Kothagudem: A student died and as many as 53 students taken ill at Gollaguppa in Yetapaka mandal of Polavaram district in Andhra Pradesh due an alleged adverse reaction to chloroquine tablets. The students were rushed to Government Area Hospital at Bhadrachalam in the district late on Tuesday night. One of the students was said to be in an unconscious State and 20 were seriously ill, the doctors said. According to sources, a student, Paddam Roja died after suffering from malaria last Friday at the village. Following which the local doctors organised a health camp at Gollaguppa and chloroquine tablets were administered to 73 students of a government school and an Anganwadi Centre.



A second standard student Madavi Jamuna (7) suffered from vomiting at home and was rushed to Lakshmidoctor Koti Reddy and doctors from nearby areas have been treating the students. Chintoor ITDA Project Officer Shubham Nokhwal and Assistant

Sup erintenpuram Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Polavaram where she was declared brought dead. Her body was shifted to Bhadrachalam for autopsy. The Area Hospital Superintendent Dr. Rajashekhar Reddy, Dr. Ramakrishna, retired

doctor Koti Reddy and doctors from nearby areas have been treating the students. Chintoor ITDA Project Officer Shubham Nokhwal and Assistant Sup erintenpuram of Police (ASP) B Hemanth Kumar rushed to Bhadrachalam to monitor the situation.

Major Rejig in Jammu And Kashmir Police Amid Fresh Challenges

Srinagar: Authorities ordered a rejig in the police on Wednesday, appointing Sujit Kumar as the new inspector general of Police in Kashmir and Tejinder Singh as his counterpart in the Jammu region.

At the centre of the reboot is Sujit Kumar, who was inspector general of police, J&K security. He replaced VK Birdi, who was repatriated to central deputation two months ago. But he was held back to ensure smooth conduct of the now-concluded Amarnath Yatra. Hailing from the 2007 batch of Indian Police Services (IPS), Kumar's career spans holding crucial assignments in Jammu and Kashmir Police and outside, including the paramilitary. He has held postings in the Naxal-hit belt in Jharkhand. He also had a stint in the Special Protection Group (SPG), responsible for the security of the Prime Minister.

On Thursday afternoon, he took over the charge and will now oversee the



entire security of the Valley.

Kumar's task will be to bolster internal security and deal with the emerging threats faced by Kashmiri Pandits. The community has been threatened by terror groups through posters revealing their personal details, including phone numbers and addresses etc. This prompted authorities to order minority employees working under the Prime Minister's employment package to work for a fortnight from August 5.

Kumar is seen as an experienced hand who has previously dealt with such challenges in Kashmir following the constitutional changes in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. Between 2021 to 2024, he oversaw policing and law and order as Deputy Inspector General of Police in north Kashmir along the Line of Control and in central Kashmir, including the capital Srinagar.

His term was marked with several anti-terror operations and the dismantling of the network of hybrid terrorists, unlisted militants who were radicalised

to carry out terror attacks and blending back into society. Their presence was detected in the targeted killing of minority employees and targeted killings in the Valley.

"Kumar is known for professional policing and maintains calm temperament. His role will be to maintain confidence of people earned since 2019," said an official who previously worked with him. "His intense and detail-oriented investigations are well-known in police ranks. This has earned him accolades." In 2025, has got President's gallantry and received service medals for his meritorious services.

In the meantime, the Home Department has also ordered additional director general of police (ADGP) MK Sinha to replace the incumbent J&K CID chief Nitish Kumar. Now, Sinha will be the intelligence chief of the Union Territory.

Besides, Uttam Chand,

Inspector General of Police (IGP) IGP Police Operations & Services, PHQ has been posted as IGP Railways J&K vice Vivek Gupta. He will also continue to hold the additional charge of IGP Operations & Services. Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu Zone, has been posted as IGP Headquarters J&K. Vivek Gupta, IGP Railways, has been posted as IGP Security J&K

Shakti Kumar Pathak has been designated as Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau. Mubassir Latifi Ameer has been posted as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) IR Kashmir. Sahil Sarangal has been posted as Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pulwama. Sunny Gupta has been posted as SSP Kishtwar. Tahir Saleem Khan has been posted as SSP Handwara. Muzaffar Ahmad Shah has been posted as SO to IG Kashmir Zone. Naresh Singh has been posted as SSP Rajouri.

Immersion Of Ganesh Idols Under 6 Feet Height Mandatory In Artificial Ponds: BMC



Mumbai: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday said that as per the high court's orders, it will be mandatory to immerse Lord Ganesh idols under six feet in height in artificial ponds during the upcoming festival. The 10-day Ganesh festival is set to begin on September 14. In a release issued after a review meeting between civic officials, office-bearers of Ganesh mandals and idol makers at the BMC headquarters, the civic body said it has made necessary arrangements for the immersion of idols below six feet. As per the High Court's August 20, 2026 directions, its July 24, 2025 order will have to be followed until the final decision in the

public interest litigation, the BMC said. The civic body has made available 281 artificial immersion ponds, besides 44 beaches and jetties and 23 natural lakes, taking the total number of immersion sites to 348. The locations of the artificial ponds will also be made available to citizens through QR codes and Google Maps. The BMC will deploy 1,132 lifeguards, 85 ambulances, 34 cranes and 10 motor boats, besides 498 'nirmalya' (remnants of flowers, garlands) collection bins, 326 nirmalya dumpers and 6,052 floodlights and searchlights at the immersion sites, officials said. Preparations have also been undertaken along the routes of idol arrival and immersion with 4,279 potholes and

171 drain covers repaired on 506 roads. Obstructing cables have been removed at 281 locations and tree pruning carried out at 515 spots, the civic body said. To promote an eco-friendly Ganesh festival, the BMC has provided 858 tonnes of shadu clay and 25,400 litres of eco-friendly paint free of cost to idol makers. Through its online single-window system, 1,136 idol makers have so far been granted permissions. As of September 1, the civic body has received 1,885 applications from Sarvajanik Ganesh mandals for the 2026 festival, with the applications being scrutinised by the police and civic authorities. Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde announced that free health check-up camps will

Goa Assembly Passes Bill To Drop 'leprosy' References From Child Law To Curb Stigma

Panaji: The state assembly has passed the Goa Children's (Amendment) Bill, 2026, seeking to remove references to "leprosy" from the state's child protection legislation to eliminate social stigma and discrimination against people affected by the disease. State Women and Child Development Minister Vishwajit Rane introduced the bill, seeking to amend the Goa Children's Act, 2003, in the assembly on Tuesday. It was later passed in the House by voice vote. The amendment has been brought to remove social stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and bring the



state law in line with a Supreme Court order dated May 7, 2025, as per the statement of objects

and reasons.

The bill sought to omit the word "leprosy" from two

provisions of the principal Act. Under Section 2 dealing with definitions, the amendment removes "lep-

rosy" from a provision that earlier referred to it along with HIV as an illness carrying social stigma. It also removes the reference to leprosy from Section 5 relating to health and nutrition. The provision prohibits healthcare facilities and hospitals from denying treatment or admission to children or pregnant mothers suffering from conditions associated with social stigma. The amendment will have no financial implications and does not involve any delegated legislation. It will come into force immediately after receiving the governor's assent, according to the legislation.

A 10-Minute Tea Break Saved 22 Bengali Pilgrims From Nepal Flash Flood Horror

Kolkata: Kabir Suman may have immortalised love over a cup of tea with his 1992 'Tomake Chai', the most famous song by the Bengali singer-songwriter, but for Kalyan Ta and Biplab Hazra from West Bengal's Bardhaman, a simple cup of tea became a symbol of survival. The two were among a group of 22 Bengali pilgrims travelling through Nepal towards Kailash-Mansarovar when they decided to stop for tea during their journey. The break lasted barely 10 minutes. Minutes later, a terrifying flash flood, accompanied by a deafening roar, came crashing down the mountainside, carrying a deadly mixture of water, mud, soil and massive boulders. Everything in its path was swept away. Trees, vehicles, livestock and structures disappeared under the raging torrent as terrified people ran for their lives. For Kalyan Ta, a retired headmaster from Bardhaman, and businessman Biplab Hazra, that seemingly ordinary decision to stop for tea may

have made the difference between life and death.

member Bengali group that reached Kathmandu



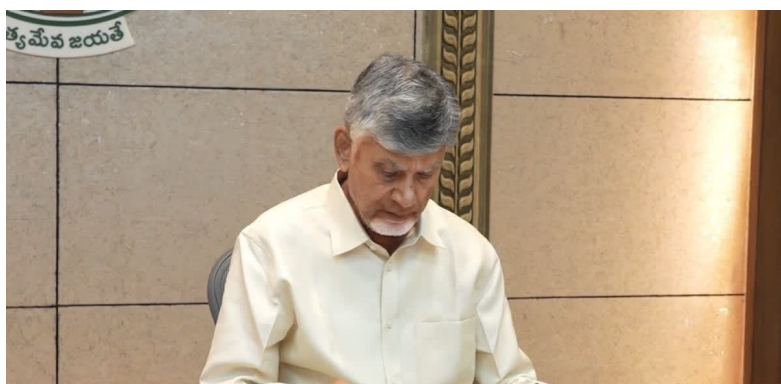
A 10 MINUTE BREAK SAVED 22 BENGALIS Kailash Mansarovar VIA NEPAL Bengali Pilgrims ran up steep hill The Dream Of Mansarovar Remains Kalyan Ta, the retired headmaster from Bardhaman (ETV Bharat) Journey To Kailash-Mansarovar Biplab had set out from Bardhaman with the dream of undertaking the Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage through Nepal. They were part of a 22-

on the evening of August 22. The group had expected to receive Chinese visas the following day, but the process was delayed. August 23 and August 24 passed without the visas being issued. Finally, at around 8.30 PM on August 25, the visas arrived. The pilgrims were instructed to begin their journey immediately, and the group left Kathmandu towards the Chinese border at around 6.30 AM the following morning.

After travelling for approximately two-and-a-half hours through the mountainous terrain, their vehicle stopped briefly. Some members of the group decided to have tea. That decision would soon acquire an entirely different significance. 'Run! Run! Get Away From Here! The tea break lasted around 10 minutes. Soon afterwards, local police urged the group to leave the area immediately. Initially, the pilgrims did not understand the seriousness of the warning. Then came a deafening roar from the mountains. The 22 tourists looked towards the mountainside and saw what initially appeared to be a huge white cloud rushing down the course of the mountain river. Within seconds, they realised it was not a cloud. It was a flash flood. A massive torrent of water, mud, soil and boulders came crashing down, sweeping away everything in its path. Kalyan, who is still shaken

by the memory, recalled the terrifying moments. "It wasn't just water. A mixture of mud and soil, along with massive boulders, was rushing down all at once. The police were chasing us with batons, shouting, 'Run! Run away from here!'" he said. "We didn't even know the area, but we ran alongside the local people and somehow managed to reach higher ground." Running Towards Survival The 22 Bengali pilgrims ran up a steep hilly stretch of around 200 metres to escape the flood. They were neither familiar with the terrain nor physically accustomed to the steep mountain route. But the fear of death gave them the strength to keep running. Even after reaching higher ground, the nightmare continued. From there, they watched in horror as vehicles, livestock and people were swept away by the raging torrent. Places bustling with activity only moments earlier disappeared beneath mud, stones and debris.

Andhra CM Directs TTD, Endowments Officials To Expedite Construction Of 5,000 Temples



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed TTD and Endowments Department officials to expedite construction of 5,000 temples across the state and finalise sites at the earliest. The chief minister said that TTD should expand its programmes for promoting Hindu Dharma and spirituality and directed officials to begin temple works once the proposed sites were finalised. "Officials should expedite the construction of 5,000 temples across the state and finalise the sites at the earliest," Naidu said in an official release late on Tuesday. During a review meeting, TTD Executive Officer Muddada Ravi Chandra said proposals had been received for 4,192 temples from 161 constituencies in 28 districts, while 967 temples had already been completed, it said. He said temples would be constructed under three categories, with priority given to SC and ST colonies, fishermen

settlements, weaker sections' colonies and general areas. Officials said works could be expedited once sites for the temples were finalised, while Naidu suggested using funds received through the Srivani Trust for temple construction and religious programmes. He said there were 11.8 lakh Srivari Seva volunteers and suggested utilising their services at newly constructed temples. The CM directed officials to examine forming executive committees comprising board members, devotees and Srivari Seva volunteers. Naidu also suggested constructing Lord Venkateswara temples in the capitals of other states in consultation with respective governments. He said countries such as Mauritius were also seeking construction of Lord Venkateswara temples and suggested developing Srivari temples into spiritual centres for Hindus. He directed officials to conduct special courses to prepare priests required for

the temples and formulate a comprehensive plan for idol installation and priest training. chief minister also ordered a restoration of 1,000 existing ancient temples and suggested special focus on developing Shiva temples and Shakti Peethas in the state. He directed officials to digitise comprehensive details of temples across the state and undertake advance planning for managing 28,000 Endowments temples, 65 TTD temples and the 5,000 newly constructed temples. Naidu called for efficient management of government-controlled temples with people's participation and suggested linking TTD's Annadanam, Pranadanam, Srivari Seva and temple construction programmes with the propagation of Hindu Dharma. He directed officials to develop Pranadanam Trust as a model for TTD's medical services, with the services of expert doctors utilised. Naidu called for integrating all hospitals under TTD and

'To Set His Soul Free': Families In Nepal Hold Symbolic Funerals For Missing Kin Week After Deadly Floods



New Delhi: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court by a journalist, who flagged alleged irregularities in the handling of donations at Ayodhya's Ram temple, challenging an FIR lodged against him by Ghaziabad police in an alleged road rage case. The plea by journalist Abhishek Upadhyay claimed that the FIR is based on concocted allegations against him and is an attempt to harass him for his independent journalism.

istic work.

In the plea, he has contended that the FIR copy has not been supplied to him and that the police were forcing nearby shopkeepers to delete the CCTV visuals of the relevant time. Upadhyay sought quashing of the FIR, or in the alternative, its investigation be transferred to an independent agency other than the Uttar Pradesh Police.

"The Petitioner apprehends imminent arrest and further physical

harm and states that, in view of the aforesaid sequence, he is not in a position to safely approach the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad." He apprehends that he may be arrested or subjected to physical harm by planted goons of the state machinery in the State of Uttar Pradesh before he can obtain effective judicial protection," the plea said. "He is therefore seeking quashing of the impugned FIR and in alternative ready and willing to join the investigation and cooperate with the Investigating Agency in accordance with law with a request that present FIR as well as other FIRs filed against him because he reported on the Ramjanmabhumi donation theft issue, may

please be directed to be investigated by Delhi police or Central Bureau of Investigation," his plea said. The FIR has been lodged against Upadhyay in Ghaziabad over an alleged road rage incident, which he has claimed was planted in connection with his reporting on alleged corruption in Uttar Pradesh. Upadhyay, who runs a YouTube channel, claimed a police team reached his residence late on August 20 and told him that a case had been registered at Indirapuram police station following allegations of road rage and abusive behaviour. According to Upadhyay, the alleged incident took place on August 18 near Shipra Mall in Ghaziabad, when a motorcyclist allegedly touched his car. He said the man subsequently called the police emer-

gency and states that, in view of the aforesaid sequence, he is not in a position to safely approach the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad." He apprehends that he may be arrested or subjected to physical harm by planted goons of the state machinery in the State of Uttar Pradesh before he can obtain effective judicial protection," the plea said. "He is therefore seeking quashing of the impugned FIR and in alternative ready and willing to join the investigation and cooperate with the Investigating Agency in accordance with law with a request that present FIR as well as other FIRs filed against him because he reported on the Ramjanmabhumi donation theft issue, may

'Kejriwal Was Respondent, Not Petitioner' In PM Modi Degree Case:

Singhvi Challenges Rs 25K Fine In Gujarat High Court



Ahmedabad: Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi on Tuesday challenged the Gujarat High Court single judge's order imposing a Rs 25,000 fine on Aam Aadmi Party supremo and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the case related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's degree. Appearing for Kejriwal,

Singhvi told the High Court that both the fine and the remarks made against Kejriwal in the single judge's order should be quashed. He described the remarks as "inappropriate, unnecessary and legally incorrect". The single judge's judgment had earlier stated that the degree in question is available on the university's website

and that despite everything being clear, Kejriwal continued to pursue the case. Kejriwal's side, however, disputed both these points. Singhvi told the court that the concerned degree is still not available on the university's website. He also pointed out that Kejriwal is not the original applicant in the case, rather a respondent. Singhvi, hence, told the single judge's observation that Kejriwal continued to pursue the case was incorrect. Singhvi further said that the RTI through which information about the degree came to light was also not filed by Kejriwal. Despite this, the former Delhi chief minister was fined Rs 25,000, he said. The senior advocate further argued that there is

no proper basis for imposing the fine and that the remarks made while imposing it should also be removed.

Singhvi also said that the Central Information Commission (CIC) had initiated the proceedings suo motu, while Kejriwal had not sought any information about the degree under the RTI. He was only made a respondent in the proceedings, he said. Singhvi reiterated that since Kejriwal was not the petitioner or original applicant, there was no question of him pursuing the case. He said imposing a Rs 25,000 fine on him in such circumstances is unfair and unnecessary. After Singhvi's arguments, the Centre sought time to present its side. The matter will be heard again on Wednesday (September 2).

100 New Airports To Be Built In India Over Next 10 Years: Aviation Minister Naidu



Ahmedabad: India will build 100 new airports in the next 10 years under the Centre's regional connectivity scheme UDAN with an outlay of Rs 30,000 crore, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu has said. He inaugurated India's third 'hub & spoke' operation from Ahmedabad airport on Tuesday. "While there were 74 airports in 2014, today we can proudly say that India's map features 166 airports. Going from 74 to 166 set a record for the country. Over the last 12 years, we completed work on a new airport or a new terminal roughly every 40 days," Naidu said at the event. "This 12-year journey was merely the beginning for the Ministry of Civil Aviation. We have expanded upon the revolutionary changes brought to the air travel sector by the 'UDAN' scheme over the past decade. Looking ahead, we plan to spend approximately Rs

30,000 crore over the next 10 years to build 100 new airports," he said. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March this year, approved the launch and implementation of the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Modified UDAN - for a period of 10 years from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 with a total outlay of Rs 28,840 crore with the budgetary support of the Centre. Naidu was here on Tuesday to inaugurate India's third 'hub & spoke' operation from Ahmedabad airport, aimed at connecting passengers seamlessly to international destinations. The strategy is meant to transform the country into a global aviation hub by providing seamless international connectivity to passengers from across the country through Indian hub airports. The Union minister said civil aviation is the fastest-growing sector in the country, and the pub-

lic demand is no longer just for a railway station or a train stop but for an airport in their own town. "And this demand is not limited to major cities -- it comes from tier-2 and tier-3 cities, Himalayan regions, remote areas, and islands like Lakshadweep and Andaman. Everywhere, people are asking when an airport will be constructed in their area. This is the voice of modern India. We are listening to it, formulating policies accordingly, and moving forward," he said. While India is rapidly expanding its airport network, the real challenge lies not in the construction but in how effectively these airports are connected -- both domestically and internationally, Naidu pointed out. "When addressing the need for convenience, we recognised the immense potential of the 'hub-and-spoke' model," he stated. Explaining the model, Naidu said that typically, international

flights operate from major cities. For instance, Delhi offers direct connectivity to 54 destinations. "However, aspirations have grown; people now want international flights to start from existing airports and desire better domestic connectivity from airports that already handle international traffic. By integrating these needs, we initiated the hub-and-spoke model," he said. The scheme started with Varanasi and Amritsar, and the response from there was very positive, the minister noted. Having launched operations at two locations, Ahmedabad was the ideal choice because the NRI community from the city and Gujarat is spread across the globe, and the ministry was receiving constant requests for connectivity from this region.

"I am confident that the figures we see here will surpass those of any other airport in the country operating on such a large-scale 'hub-and-spoke' model. We are moving forward with a focus on passenger convenience, and you will see the results of this transformation first-hand," Naidu said. The civil aviation sector is the fastest-growing sector in India, whose strength lies in its ability to generate significant economic activity and employment, the minister stressed. "Its impact extends across various sectors, connecting a diverse range of people to the airport within a city. Advancing airports

Once Invisible, 42,000 Waste Pickers Now Recognised As Climate Champions Under UN Project

New Delhi: Long before the national capital wakes up, a large force of informal workers begins its day by collecting waste door-to-door, sorting every kilogram of it by hand on street corners, and silently powering the nation's circular economy, with little to no recognition, though -- a gap that has begun to close. For thousands of these workers, that recognition has been taking shape slowly since 2020, through a first bank account, a growing saving habit, and an insurance policy, marking a change that is as much about dignity as it is about economic security. "Earlier, I spent every penny I earned on our immediate needs. But now, I can save and manage household expenses, including food and my children's education," said 48-year-old Joginder Kewat, a waste worker in Delhi. Thousands like Kewat are part of project Uthaan, an initiative supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a group of partner foundations that helps India recognise 'Safai Mitras' or waste workers as environmental stewards, partners in the circular economy, and allies in climate action. The campaign 'Planet Starts With People' -- launched on World Environment Day in 2026 -- gives visibility to these workers, placing them at the centre of the



climate story alongside others already driving sustainability and resilience but often unseen. "Before joining the project, I did not have much stability and used to earn around Rs 100 to 150 per day. But I have a secure source of livelihood now, and I earn more. This has made things easier for my family and me. I have also learned about some of the government schemes and support available to us," Kewat told PTI. Nearly four years into his association with the project, he said that his life is noticeably better than before, a change that began when the project team visited his household directly, conducting surveys and explaining government schemes and support available to workers like him. Rashida, a 40-year-old waste-picker who also works at one of the partner foundations of UNDP in Delhi, concurred. Reflecting on how her

life changed over the years, she described her family's journey from being unaware of government benefits to receiving an e-Shram card, a free LPG cylinder, and other support. Rashida still sorts the waste her husband collects, which involves separating cloth, bottles, and mattress material from the rest. However, she said that her work under the UNDP project made things somewhat easier for her family -- a change she's glad to be part of. "Through Project Uthaan, I learnt about some of the government support available to us. I got an e-Shram card, got access to a free LPG cylinder, and received other benefits. I still sort waste, but the work at Shakti Foundation has made things easier, and I am happy to be working there," she told PTI. Across India, more than 42,000 waste workers are now associated with the project, and for each of them, that same

recognition has arrived in its own way, with a shared belief in the renewed dignity of the work they do. Shabana, a 32-year-old waste worker and artist who once relied solely on her husband's income, described her situation as a strain that grew harder to manage as the cost of living rose. These circumstances led her to join a partner foundation of UNDP, where she first learnt about Project Uthaan and gradually began receiving the support available through it. "With support through the project, I was able to get some of my important documents, including my Ayushman card and e-Shram card. Having these documents has made it easier for us to access healthcare. Earlier, we had to pay for hospital treatment, while now we are able to use the benefits available through the scheme," Shabana told PTI.

'To Set His Soul Free': Families In Nepal Hold Symbolic Funerals For Missing Kin Week After Deadly Floods

Nuwakot (Nepal): Nepali families were holding symbolic funeral ceremonies to "liberate the souls" of loved ones missing since deadly flash floods swept away their villages and homes in the Himalayan region a week ago. Emergency teams have recovered more than 1,000 bodies, and nearly 4,500 people are missing after the gigantic wave of freezing water, rocks and debris triggered by a high-altitude glacial collapse roared down the China-Nepal border on August 26. Families in Nepal hold Symbolic Funerals For Missing Kin Week After Deadly Floods (ETV Bharat/AFP) After days of searching shelters and mortuaries, relatives of some of the missing lost hope and began conducting last rites. "We had to do this to set his soul free, so that he is at peace and happy wherever he is," said Dolma Newar Tamang, flanked by her sobbing son, at a funeral for her husband. He had been en route to China when the disaster struck.

"I saw the news and called him," she told AFP. "I called repeatedly, but he never picked up. Families in Nepal Hold Symbolic Funerals For Missing Kin Week After Deadly Floods A man talks on his mobile phone after looking at photographs of people missing following flash floods displayed outside a government hospital in Kathmandu. (AP) A week on from the colossal disaster, Nepali rescuers remained hopeful about finding survivors, particularly in multiple tunnels of hydropower plants across the region. So far, rescuers have recovered only bodies from tunnels blocked by sludge, but teams were still digging, drilling and blasting through debris in the hopes of reaching survivors. Nepal's Foreign Minister Shirish Khanal said he still hoped some of the thousands missing could be alive. "Miracles do happen," he told AFP in an interview. "At this point, I do not want to completely give up hope."



'Global responsibility' Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah said the catastrophe was "a serious indication that the risks we face in the Himalayan region are increasing alongside climate change". "Climate change is a global contribution, and disaster response is also a global responsibility," he added in a post on Facebook. Scientists say the Himalayas, the world's highest mountain range, are warming rapidly as global temperatures rise, accelerating glacier melt. Glaciers in the wider Himalayan and Hindu Kush ranges are a crucial water source for around 240 million people in the mountainous regions, as well as for another 1.65 billion people in the South Asian

and Southeast Asian river valleys below. Families in Nepal hold Symbolic Funerals For Missing Kin Week After Deadly Floods Identification number tags are seen on the bodies of flash flood victims. (AP) There is growing anger at the scale of destruction to hit Nepal, a largely rural nation of 30 million people. The country has contributed little to the greenhouse gas emissions driving global warming, but is among those suffering its consequences. Kathmandu has warned reconstruction costs could run into the "billions of dollars". Nepal's economy is already under pressure, with limited resources to respond to a disaster of this scale.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to participate in BRICS Summit in India

United Nations: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will participate in the 18th BRICS Summit later this month in New Delhi. As the chair this year, India will be hosting the 18th BRICS Summit on September 12-13 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The summit will bring together leaders of BRICS member and partner countries as well as outreach invitees, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. Stéphane Du jaric, spokesman for Guterres, said at the press briefing here Tuesday, "... we have yet to officially announce that the secretary-general will participate in the BRICS meeting in New Delhi in about 10 days' time." He was responding to a question on possible meetings and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin during the Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation Summit hosted in Kyrgyzstan on August 31-September 1. The theme for India's BRICS chairship is 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'. Over 350 meetings and high-level engagements have been held in over 25 cities across India to further strengthen the BRICS strategic partnership across three fundamental pillars: political and security, economic and financial, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through these engagements, and business-to-business and people-to-people initiatives, India's BRICS chairship has contributed to advancing BRICS cooperation through practical and development-oriented outcomes, the MEA has said. India, a founding member of BRICS, has previously held its chairship in 2012, 2016 and 2021. India assumed its



fourth BRICS chairship on January 1, 2026. BRICS is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Guterres, whose second five-year tenure as head of the United Nations ends in December 2026, had travelled to India in February this year to attend the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi. The summit was the first-ever global AI summit hosted in the Global South. In Bishkek, Guterres met with Iranian President

Masoud Pezeshkian on the margins of the SCO Summit. The secretary-general expressed his concern regarding the devastating humanitarian and economic consequences of the conflict in Iran, in the region and beyond. He stressed the urgent need to resolve the conflict through dialogue and negotiations, with full respect for international law, including international navigational rights and freedoms in and around the Strait of

Explained | Why The SCO's Green Technology Corridor Matters In An Increasingly Climate-Stressed World

New Delhi: The most consequential aspect of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Bishkek summit may lie not only in its geopolitical deliberations but in a less conspicuous decision: the adoption of a programme to create an SCO 'Green Technology Corridor' for 2026-2030. The programme, formally titled the 'SCO Member States' Cooperation Programme on the Formation of the SCO Green Technology Corridor (Scientific and Technological Cooperation) for 2026-2030', is potentially more than another environmental cooperation agreement. Implemented with adequate financing, technology-sharing mechanisms and measurable projects, it could provide the SCO with a platform to connect scientific research, clean technology, energy transition and climate resilience across a large part of Eurasia. The decision to adopt the Green Technology Corridor programme was actually made on May 22 this year in Bishkek at the 10th Meeting of the Heads of Science and Technology Ministries of the SCO member states. The event was chaired by Gulzat Isamatova, Minister of Science, Higher Education, and Innovation of the Kyrgyz Republic, and attended by delegations from other SCO member states. Participants discussed the results of the first competition for joint research projects and emphasized the need to strengthen direct ties between universities and research centres to accelerate the digitalization of the region's economy. Following the meeting, a protocol was signed outlining the direction of the SCO's scientific and technological policy for the coming period. Minister Gulzat Isamatova noted that joint scientific initiatives are becoming a key strategic resource, and the transition to green technologies will ensure sustainable development and environmental security for all member states. Explained | Why The SCO's Green Technology Corridor Matters In An Increasingly Climate-stressed World



determine economic competitiveness and strategic autonomy. The urgency is underlined by the latest assessment of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). Its 'State of the Global Climate 2025' report says that 2015-2025 were the 11 hottest years on record, while Earth's energy imbalance reached the highest level in the 65-year observational record. The report also notes continuing glacier loss and increasingly damaging extreme weather events. From climate declarations to technology cooperation, the central importance of the Green Technology Corridor lies in its emphasis on scientific and technological cooperation. Climate diplomacy has traditionally concentrated on emissions targets, financial commitments and negotiations over burden sharing. Those remain indispensable, but the widening climate crisis increasingly requires something more tangible: technologies that can actually reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency, protect ecosystems and enable economies to adapt to climate impacts. The SCO already possesses an institutional foundation for this. Its Meeting of Heads of Ministries and Departments of Science and Technology has been operating since 2012 and maintains a Permanent Working Group on Scientific and Technical Cooperation. Its established areas include environmental protection, sustainable use of natural resources, energy and energy efficiency, earth sciences, seismology and geology, information and telecommunications technologies and other scientific fields. The Green Technology Corridor can therefore potentially convert existing scientific cooperation into a more focused green-technology ecosystem. Why the Eurasian geography of the SCO matters

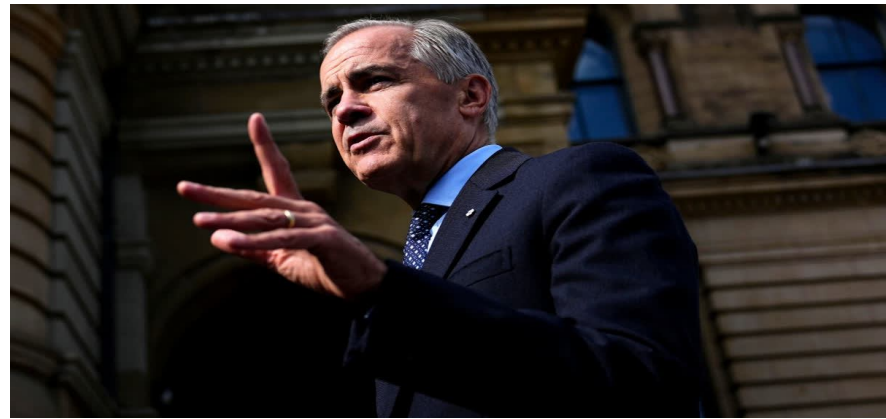
The geographical scale of the

SCO gives the agreement particular importance. The SCO comprises China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus. It is the world's largest regional organisation in terms of geographic scope and population, covering at least 24 percent of the world's total area (65 percent of Eurasia) and 42 percent of the world population. As of 2024, its combined nominal GDP accounts for around 23 percent, while its GDP based on purchasing power parity (PPP) comprises approximately 36 percent of the world's total. The organisation brings together countries with vastly different energy systems, resource endowments, industrial structures and stages of economic development. India and China are among the world's largest energy consumers and producers of renewable energy; Russia and Central Asian states possess enormous hydrocarbon and mineral resources; while several Central Asian members are simultaneously confronting water scarcity, desertification, glacier retreat and extreme weather. For some members, the immediate priority may be renewable power and grid modernisation. For others, it may be energy efficiency, cleaner industrial production, methane reduction, water conservation, climate-resilient agriculture or technologies for monitoring fragile ecosystems. A corridor linking these capabilities could allow the SCO to approach climate change as a technology and development challenge, rather than solely as a diplomatic issue. The energy-security connection

The agreement also fits into a broader transformation taking place in global energy investment. According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) 'World Energy Investment 2026', global energy investment is expected to

'Stop Trying To Be Tough': Carney Fires Back at Trump As US-Canada Trade Fight Escalates

Toronto: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney told the Trump administration Tuesday to "stop doing memes, stop throwing shade and stop trying to be tough," as he pushed back against a fresh wave of attacks from Washington. Carney said U.S.-Canada trade talks could resume if Washington became serious about negotiations, but he also accused the United States of pursuing terms that he said could leave Canadian industries "gradually wound down in Canada and wiped out." "When the Americans stop doing memes, stop throwing shade and stop trying to be tough, and start being serious about having those discussions, we can have those discussions," Carney said. "It's not constructive, but that's their democracy." His comments came during a fresh barrage from Washington since trade talks collapsed Aug. 21. Trump has moved to rename Lake Ontario "Lake America" and taunted Canada on social media, while U.S.



Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Canada could not go "tit for tat" with an economy 13 times larger. U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth also mocked the Canadian military online, posting an image Monday of two female cadets at a British Columbia training center with the words "this is real" and a Canadian flag. Carney called the post "beneath their office." The Pentagon stood by it Tuesday, saying, "The X post speaks for itself." Carney said the U.S. approach in the talks would have left Canadian industries effectively as sub-

sidiaries of American companies or imposed terms under which they would be "gradually wound down in Canada and wiped out." "We're not going to — of course, we're not going to accept those terms," Carney said. The prime minister said Washington sought an "uncompetitive" deal for key industries, including autos, while pushing changes affecting French-language and cultural protections. He said any of those issues was enough to block an agreement. Carney said Washington also sought limits on Canada's future trade deals. "Canada is a sov-

ereign state. We will strike free trade deals with the countries we wish to strike free trade deals," he said. He said there had been "mutually beneficial" elements of a deal before the talks broke down. Carney was also buoyed by Monday's Liberal sweep of three special elections, including a decisive win in Chicoutimi-Le Fjord, Quebec, where the Conservatives fell to third place. The victories brought the Liberals to 173 seats in the 343-seat House of Commons and reinforced Carney's position as he confronts Trump over trade and Canadian sovereignty.

At Least 30 People Killed In A Landslide At A Landfil In Capital Of Guinea

Conakry: A mountainous heap of refuse collapsed at the largest landfill in Guinea's capital of Conakry early on Sunday, killing 30 people, according to the central government. Authorities said that heavy rains, which started at around 2 a.m., washed over the refuse at Dar Es Salam — the largest landfill in Conakry — and triggered a landslide that buried nearby shacks. A search and rescue operation was underway to find survivors. Six people were seriously injured, and several homes were destroyed. The site, an open-air waste dump which is the largest in the city, had been designated for closure on Sunday, accord-



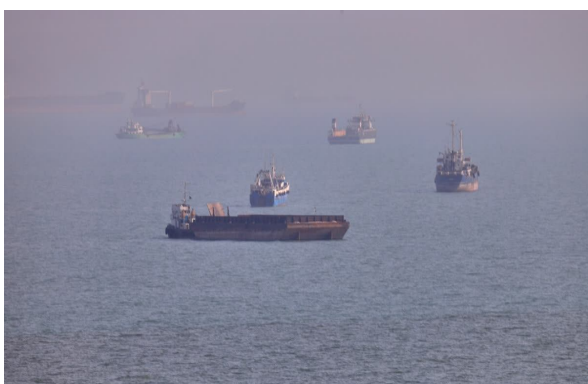
ing to Lt. Col. Baldé Mamadou Bailo, the sanitation officer for the military engineering battalion. Locals living around the landfill had been given eviction notices, which forced many to leave the area, but many others were

still around at the time of the disaster, according to authorities. "We will ensure that the remaining families are relocated elsewhere," Dienabou Touré, the minister of territorial administration and decentralisation, said at

the scene. Guinea is mineral-rich with huge deposits of bauxite — the largest in the world — and also has iron ore, gold, diamonds and minerals. However, according to the World Bank, 43.7% of the population lives below the national

US Military Completes Latest Strikes Against Iran, While Trump Vows More

Washington: The U.S. military hit targets in Iran on Tuesday and Tehran fired missiles and drones at various sites across the region in response as hostilities flare once again in an intermittent war that has lasted more than six months. One U.S. strike hit a home hosting a wedding, killing five people and wounding dozens, local officials said. U.S. Central Command said in a statement Tuesday evening that it had completed the latest barrage against Iranian military targets including air defense sites, radar systems and maritime assets. The U.S. strikes followed others on Sunday that abruptly ended a month without military action and threatened to fully reignite a conflict that has spiked global oil prices and posed political problems for Republicans in November's midterm congressional elections. The renewed fighting



comes after President Donald Trump had appeared to pivot toward trying to bend Iran to his will through economic sanctions. "If the failed Nation of Iran retaliates for this very justified attack, they will be hit again at a much harder and higher level, but it will not be the biggest attack of them all, that is waiting in the wings," Trump warned on social media. U.S. Central Command said the latest strikes were in response to Tehran trying to attack commercial ships and American forces in the Middle East. Trump offered an additional

explanation, telling Fox News in a phone call that U.S. forces struck Iran's radars. "They tried to rebuild their radar because they can't see anything," Trump told Fox. "We waited until it was almost built and then we hit it." After the U.S. attacks started, Iran launched ballistic missiles at Jordan. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard claimed to have targeted a U.S. base along Jordan's Gulf of Aqaba coast, according to Iran's state television. Jordan's military said it shot down 10 of the missiles and the three remaining landed in

unpopulated areas. Explosions that appeared to be interceptions of incoming air attacks were seen over Aqaba. Iranian state media reported that the U.S. had bombed civilian sites along Iran's southern coast and hit a civilian airport. A U.S. strike hit a home where a wedding ceremony was being held in Kuhestak in southern Iran, killing five people, including a child, and wounding at least 68 others, Ahmad Nafisi, Hormozgan Province's deputy governor, told Iranian state television in a phone call. "Make no mistake: these crimes will not go unpunished," Ebrahim Azizi, chairman of the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said on X. U.S. Central Command is aware of the reports of civilian casualties, said Capt. Tim Hawkins, a spokesman. He noted that they "originated from Iranian state media." "The U.S. mili-

Stateless of the Earth— migration, humanity and the crisis of our conscience



The haunting image of thousands of desperate people risking their lives to cross a narrow stretch of sea into Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta has once again exposed one of the greatest moral failures of our time. Within a matter of hours, over 60,000 migrants crossed into Ceuta from Morocco, while dozens lost their lives in the sea or were crushed in the chaos. Behind every statistic lay a shattered family, an unfinished dream, and a life driven to desperation by poverty, conflict, or hopelessness. Opinion: Counting the uncounted—why India's migration survey matters. Opinion: Shattered lives—the human cost of India's migrants. The tragedy in Ceuta is not an isolated event. It is merely another chapter in an unfolding humanitarian crisis that stretches across continents. From the Mediterranean Sea to the Bay of Bengal, from the deserts separating Mexico and the United States to the forests between Belarus and Poland, migrants continue to perish while the world debates sovereignty, security and politics. Human suffering is increasingly becoming collateral damage in geopolitical conflicts. The latest reports about hundreds of Rohingya refugees feared missing or dead after boats disappeared in the Bay of Bengal have again demonstrated how invisible some human tragedies become. While international humanitarian agencies expressed concern, the issue barely found sustained attention in many countries. Denied citizenship in Myanmar, persecuted for decades and forced into refugee camps in Bangladesh, the Rohingya belong nowhere. Every attempted journey towards a safer future carries the risk of trafficking, starvation, or drowning, after the Second World War under circumstances vastly different from today's realities. Modern migration involves mixed flows of refugees, economic migrants, climate-displaced persons and victims of organised crime. Governments require practical mechanisms that combine border security with humanitarian protection rather than treating them as opposing goals. Tackling Together Countries of origin must address corruption,

unemployment, conflict and political persecution that force people to flee. Destination countries should develop orderly migration pathways while combating human trafficking networks. Transit countries require international financial History of Migration Migration is as old as human civilisation itself. The earliest humans migrated from Africa to populate the world. Every civilisation has been built upon waves of migration. Trade routes, kingdoms, cultures, religions and languages flourished because people moved from one land to another in search of survival and opportunity. Human history is essentially the history of migration. Ironically, in an age celebrated as the era of globalisation, migration has become one of the world's most contentious issues. Goods travel across borders with minimal restrictions. Capital flows across continents in seconds. Information travels instantly through satellites and fibre-optic cables. Yet human beings are increasingly trapped behind fences, walls and hostile immigration regimes. Markets have become global, but compassion has remained confined within national boundaries. Statelessness is among the deepest forms of human insecurity, stripping people not only of legal identity and basic rights, but also of hope, belonging, and dignity. For millions, migration is not a choice but a desperate act of survival. Wars destroy homes. Ethnic conflicts erase communities. Religious persecution forces families to flee. Climate change devastates agriculture. Rising sea levels swallow islands. Economic collapse leaves millions without employment or hope. Political oppression silences dissent. The Mediterranean Sea has become one of the world's largest cemeteries. Thousands of migrants from Syria, Sudan, Libya, Eritrea and Afghanistan have drowned while attempting to reach Europe. Similarly, thousands attempting to cross the US-Mexico border have died in deserts, rivers and mountains. Others have suffocated inside trucks abandoned by traffickers. Human desperation has become a

profitable business for organised criminal networks operating across continents. India too faces a complex migration challenge. It shares long and porous borders with Bangladesh and Myanmar. Historical migration, economic migration, displacement caused by conflict, and illegal trafficking have all shaped the demographic realities of eastern and northeastern India. Assam, West Bengal, and Tripura have debated undocumented migration for decades. Political Slogan These concerns cannot simply be dismissed because every sovereign nation has both the right and the obligation to regulate its borders. However, border management and humanitarian obligations should never become mutually exclusive. Democratic societies are expected to follow due process before deportation, determine nationality through lawful procedures, and protect individuals against arbitrary treatment. Unfortunately, migration has increasingly become a convenient political slogan. Across many democracies, migrants are portrayed either as economic burdens or security threats. Populist politics often converts human tragedies into electoral opportunities. This growing dehumanisation has dangerous consequences. Once migrants are viewed merely as statistics or "illegal infiltrators," society gradually loses its ability to empathise with individual human suffering. A drowning child becomes a political argument rather than a humanitarian emergency. Religious polarisation further complicates public discourse. Victims belonging to one community may receive widespread sympathy, while others remain invisible. Human rights, however, cannot depend upon religion, ethnicity or nationality. Climate change is emerging as another powerful driver of migration. Scientists increasingly warn that the 21st century may witness unprecedented climate migration involving tens of millions of people. The international refugee protection system itself requires urgent reform. The 1951 Refugee Convention was drafted after the Second World

War under circumstances vastly different from today's realities. Modern migration involves mixed flows of refugees, economic migrants, climate-displaced persons and victims of organised crime. Governments require practical mechanisms that combine border security with humanitarian protection rather than treating them as opposing goals. Tackling Together Countries of origin must address corruption, unemployment, conflict and political persecution that force people to flee. Destination countries should develop orderly migration pathways while combating human trafficking networks. Transit countries require international financial support to manage humanitarian responsibilities. The United Nations must be empowered to coordinate global responsibility-sharing, rather than leaving frontline countries to shoulder disproportionate burdens. International organisations should establish quicker mechanisms for determining refugee status, protecting children, combating trafficking and ensuring humane treatment irrespective of legal status. Journalists should move beyond reporting numbers and begin telling human stories. Every migrant has a name, a family and a history. When journalism restores individuality, public empathy follows. When media reduces people to anonymous crowds, compassion diminishes. Students should learn not merely about immigration laws but about human dignity. Literature, cinema and art possess extraordinary power to awaken empathy where political speeches fail. Ultimately, migration is not merely about borders; it is about belonging. Statelessness represents perhaps the deepest form of human insecurity because it strips away not only legal identity but also hope. The greatest migration crisis of our age is not only the movement of displaced people. It is the gradual migration of compassion out of human hearts. Unless that compassion returns, no wall will ever be high enough, no fence strong enough, and no border secure enough to protect the of civilisation.

An Income Tax law that finally speaks plain English



For decades, filing income tax returns in India has been less about calculating taxes and more about decoding legal language. Even educated taxpayers often struggled with terms such as "previous year," "assessment year," endless provisos, scattered exemptions, and cross-references spread across hundreds of sections. Tax compliance became an exercise in interpretation rather than understanding. That may finally be changing. With Parliament approving the Income-tax (No. 2) Bill, 2025, India has embarked on one of the most significant legal reforms in direct taxation since the Income Tax Act of 1961. The reform is not about introducing new taxes or increasing tax rates. Instead, it seeks to make the law more accessible, transparent, and taxpayer-friendly. At a time when India is rapidly digitising governance and aiming to improve the ease of doing business, simplifying tax legislation is both timely and necessary. As Simple As That The most striking feature of the new legislation is its simplicity. The sprawling six-decade-old Act has been reduced from nearly 47 chapters and around 819 effective provisions to just 23 chapters and 536 sections. Hundreds of lengthy provisos and explanations have been absorbed into the main provisions, eliminating much of the complexity that accumulated through decades of amendments. Rather than forcing taxpayers to navigate an intricate legal maze, the new law presents rules in shorter sentences, clearer language, and structured tables. Perhaps the most welcome change is linguistic rather than fiscal. The confusing distinction between the "previous year" and the "assessment year" disappears, replaced by the far more intuitive term "tax year." This may appear cosmetic, but for millions of salaried employees and first-time taxpayers, it removes one of the most persistent sources of confusion. A single reference point makes tax calculations

easier to understand while leaving the "financial year" to govern compliance deadlines and administrative procedures. Organisation has also received overdue attention. Under the earlier law, provisions relating to salaries, gratuity, leave encashment, voluntary retirement benefits, pensions, and retrenchment compensation were scattered across different sections, forcing taxpayers and professionals alike to move repeatedly between chapters. The new Act groups these related provisions together, making it significantly easier to determine taxable income without constantly cross-checking multiple clauses. Similarly, exemptions that once crowded Section 10 have been shifted into well-organised schedules, while provisions governing charitable and non-profit organisations are brought together in dedicated parts of the legislation. This restructuring will particularly benefit trusts, educational institutions, and donors who have long struggled with fragmented compliance requirements. Perhaps, the most welcome change is linguistic rather than fiscal. The confusing distinction between the "previous year" and the "assessment year" disappears, replaced by the far more intuitive term "tax year." Another area receiving substantial attention is Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS). Instead of requiring taxpayers to search through numerous sections for rates, thresholds, exemptions, and applicable categories, the new law presents much of this information through simplified tables. Whether one is dealing with contractor payments, rent, bank interest, e-commerce transactions, or lottery winnings, the applicable rates and thresholds can now be located much more easily. Take rental income as an example. The revised framework clearly specifies the applicable TDS rate once monthly rent crosses the prescribed

threshold, identifies the responsible deductor, and explains the relevant exceptions in one place. Such presentation reduces ambiguity and minimises errors in compliance. Importantly, the legislation preserves continuity where it matters most. It does not alter existing tax rates or tax regimes. The tax relief announced in Budget 2025 continues unchanged. Individuals opting for the new tax regime continue to enjoy zero income tax liability up to Rs 12 lakh through the enhanced rebate under Section 87A, while salaried taxpayers effectively remain tax-free up to Rs 12.75 lakh after accounting for the standard deduction. Taxpayers should, however, bear in mind that income subject to taxation at special rates, including certain categories of capital gains, is not eligible for this rebate. Existing Rights, Liabilities The law has come into force with effect from 1 April 2026, providing sufficient time for the Income Tax Department, employers, banks, financial institutions, and software providers to align their systems. Equally important is the inclusion of a comprehensive "Repeal and Savings" provision that protects existing rights and liabilities during the transition. The government's proposed section-wise "old-to-new" navigation guide should also ease the adjustment for tax professionals accustomed to the 1961 Act.

Beyond legal drafting, the reform reflects a broader shift in India's approach to public administration. The country has increasingly embraced digital governance through faceless assessments, online return filing, pre-filled tax forms, Aadhaar-linked verification, and data-driven compliance. However, technology alone cannot simplify governance if the underlying law remains difficult to comprehend. Digital interfaces become genuinely user-friendly only when the legal framework itself is written in language that ordinary citizens can understand.

This reform also aligns with India's broader ambition of improving the ease of doing business. Investors and entrepreneurs value not only competitive tax rates but also certainty, predictability, and simplicity. A tax code that is easier to interpret reduces compliance costs, lowers litigation, and improves voluntary compliance. Internationally, countries that have modernised tax administration have often coupled digital transformation with legislative simplification. India's latest reform follows this global trend. Drafting Challenge Yet simplification alone cannot eliminate every challenge. The effectiveness of the new law will ultimately depend on how clearly the accompanying Rules, Forms, and administrative guidelines are drafted. Frequent amendments, inconsistent interpretations, or excessive procedural requirements could gradually reintroduce the very complexity the reform seeks to remove. Continuous taxpayer education, robust digital support, and transparent implementation will, therefore, be crucial. The larger significance of the Income-tax (No. 2) Bill lies in its philosophy. Rather than askate in plain English, not require specialised legal expertise for routine transactions. A simpler statute can improve volvedue inadvertent mistakes, minimise disputes, and build greater trust between taxpayers and the state. India has not introduced a new tax system; it has introduced a new way of reading tax law. In an era where governance increasingly emphasises citizen-centric services, plain language is not merely a drafting choice; it is a democratic necessity. If implemented effectively, this reform could transform tax compliance from an annual exercise in confusion into a process that is transparent, predictable, and accessible to every taxpayer. That, perhaps, is the most meaningful tax reform of all.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's Contribution Guides East Zone To Tournament Final After 13 Years



: **Marnus Labuschagne** has been axed from Australia's ODI squad for the upcoming series against Zimbabwe and South Africa. The selection call has put his place in the team for the 2027 ODI World Cup under doubt. Labuschagne has been a key member of the Australian team since 2022. Also, he played a pivotal role in the team's title run in the 2023 ODI World Cup held in India. He amassed 362 runs from 10 innings with an average of 40.22, including three fifties. He also scored a half-century in the summit clash. However, his form since 2024 has suffered a dip. Since the start of 2024, he has averaged just 21.87 in ODIs. An unbeaten 77 is his highest score during the specific period. His dismal form has culminated in the right-hand batter missing out on the squad for the Zimbabwe and South Africa tours. Australia chief selector **George Bailey** clarified that Labuschagne's

exclusion was specifically for the ODI format. "We're separating those formats out, so this was a one-day cricket conversation," Bailey said during a video call with reporters. "(Marnus) again, he's played some really important one-day cricket for us, at his best. That looks a certain way, but the way that squad and team is structuring up, there just wasn't space for him," he has averaged just he added. "I think this is a pretty important tour for us. It's hard to get the link, but Zimbabwe and South Africa, that's where the World Cup will be played late next year." Australia have also recalled several senior players who have averaged just layers to the squad. All-rounder Mitchell Marsh, opener Travis Head and fast bowler Josh Hazlewood are returning to the national side after missing the most recent ODI series against Bangladesh. Marnus Labuschagne has been axed from Australia's ODI squad for the

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Pakistan Release Seven Players Along With Head Coach In Midst Of Test Series



: Pakistan are going through a disastrous form in the three-match series against England and are already trailing by 0-2. In a surprise move, Pakistan team management has released seven players, including three seniors, which includes former white-ball captain Salman Agha as well. The shake-up has taken place after a discussion between the team management and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The reasons for dropping various players range from fitness and form to disciplinary issues. Pakistan are going through a horrendous run, currently los-

ing five out of their last six Test matches. Seven players released along with head coach Mohammad Rizwan, Imam-ul-Haq, Salman Agha, Ali Usman, Aamer Jamal, Awaiz Zafar, and Khurram Shahzad are the seven players who have been released. Notably, Jamal was recalled to the Test squad for the Test tours of the Caribbean and the UK last month. Also, Usman has been sent back home despite taking his maiden five-for in the second innings at Headingley and becoming the first away spinner to do so at the venue since 1972. Rizwan has been struggling with the

bat and has registered scores of 7, 1, 12 and 42 in the ongoing Test series. Also, he amassed only 41 runs from three innings in the Caribbean. Imam suffered a grade-1 tear in his left calf. Also, head coach Sarfaraz Khan and bowling coach Umar Gul have been released. Five uncapped players in the squad Apart from five uncapped players, PCB have added Saim Ayub and Abdullah Fazal to the squad, who have a combined experience of only 10 matches between them. Left-arm spin-bowling all-rounder Arafat Minhas has featured in three ODIs and four T20Is for the coun-

try but will represent them in red-ball cricket for the first time.

Left-arm fast bowler Mohammad Imran Jr, wicketkeeper-batter and player of the tournament of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2025-26 Saad Baig, right-arm pace bowling all-rounders Mohammad Imran (also known as Imran Randhawa) and Razaullah have earned their maiden call-up in the international set-up.

Mike Hesson and Ashley Noffke have replaced Sarfaraz and Gul in the coaching setup. Pakistan finished at the bottom in the previous World Test

India's FCNR (B) Inflows Projected To Touch USD 80-85 Billion;

New Delhi: India may now receive Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits in the range of USD 65-70 billion by the end of the scheme and overall USD 80-USD 85 billion, according to an SBI Research report. The total amount mobilised so far in 45 days has crossed the total amount mobilised in 2013 over a three-month period. "Given the current trend, we believe that the total amount mobilised so far in 45 days has easily crossed the total amount mobilised in 2013 in 3 months! Overall, we believe India may now receive FCNR (B) deposits in the range of USD 65-70 billion by the end of the scheme and overall USD 80-USD 85 bn," the SBI Research report stated. The report noted that public sector banks served as the primary drivers of this mobilisation. Citing data from the Reserve Bank of India, the report noted that FCNR(B) deposits worth USD 17.41 billion were mobilised till July 17, 2026. The total deposit inflows reached USD 20.72 billion till July 17, which included USD 1.97 billion from Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) and USD 1.34 billion from External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs). The report mentioned that total FCNR deposits were expected to reach USD 26-28 billion by July 23 alone. SBI Research revised its total FCNR forecast at the end of the scheme



upward to USD 65-70 billion from an earlier estimate of USD 40-45 billion. "We also believe that a significant majority of existing FCNR deposits which are going to mature in Aug/ Sep'26 will be renewed under the new scheme (gravitated by higher interest rates) and will boost the FCNR (B) inflows," the report added. "Our preliminary estimate indicates that an amount worth USD 10 billion on a conservative basis, in addition to baseline estimates are going to be mobilised mostly through those economies where tax concessions are available," the report said. Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) increased by USD 7.6 billion from June 8 till July 17. Meanwhile, deposit mobilisation recorded USD 17.4 billion for FCNR(B) flows, possibly reflecting that the exchange process at the

RBI by the banks was happening gradually, accounting for roughly 44 per cent of the total amount. "The next reporting for FCA for July is for the week ended July 24 and the week ended July 31, and we expect for the next 15-day period (17-Jul-31 Jul) FCA inflows could touch USD 10-12 billion based on current trends," the report said. "This should make most of the overall FCA accruals/growth (till July end) of USD 17-20 billion post the RBI meas. The report mentioned that total FCNR deposits were expected to reach USD 26-28 billion by July 23 alone. SBI Research revised its total FCNR forecast at the end of the scheme upward to USD 65-70 billion from an earlier estimate of USD 40-45 billion. "We also believe that a significant majority of existing FCNR deposits which are going to

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Biharis Have Begun Investing In SIPs And Mutual Funds, But The State's AUM Remains Low



Patna: Despite an increase in awareness about investing in mutual funds and systematic investment plans (SIP), Bihar's total assets under management (AUM) continues to remain low, compared to the national average. The number of investors in the state has risen from around seven lakh in 2018-19 to 1.17 crore at present, but the state's total AUM in June 2026 stood at only Rs 84,795 crore, which is estimated to be around 1 per cent of the country's total AUM of Rs 85.76 lakh crore. This means that while a large number of investors in Bihar have begun investing in mutual funds and SIPs, their investment amounts are still not significant. Many investors have even exited their investments after some time, even in cities like Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Begusarai and Purnia have also been investing in mutual funds and

SIPs, with the small investors realising that a small SIP can grow into a substantial amount over time. However, experts say that simply starting an investment isn't enough. Staying invested over the long term is also crucial. Sources disclosed that equity funds account for 72 per cent of mutual fund investments in Bihar. This is followed by hybrid funds at 14 per cent, solution-oriented funds at 5 per cent and debt-income funds at 3 per cent. Experts say a key reason for greater equity investment is the expectation of higher returns. However, this also carries higher risks.

Measuring AUM

Mutual funds expert Sanjay Prasad explained that AUM can be measured in several ways. "In the context of a state, AUM helps us understand how much investors in that state have invested in the

equity markets and mutual funds,” he said while underlining that despite the growing number of investors in Bihar, a major problem is that investors aren't staying long-term. “Many investors enter the stock market and mutual funds through apps but they lack adequate information. When they see losses within six months or a year, they exit their investments,” he said.

Prasad further stated that only 5 per cent of investors who come through apps stay for five years. Meanwhile, for those who invest under the guidance of an advisor or expert, this figure is 35 per cent. This is because advisors provide investors with investment information and encourage them to stay invested for the long ter.

He said that patience is crucial in investing.

"Previously, people would invest in land or gold and then let it go for long periods. Money grew there because investors stayed put," he said. Long-term persistence is also essential in mutual funds and SIPs. A key feature of the stock market, mutual funds, and SIPs is that investments can be withdrawn if needed.

"Patience is a part of life. It's not like we start something today and profits start coming in tomorrow. Any endeavor requires five or ten years of patience. Same is the case with equity," Prasad underlined.

He pointed out that the number of investors in small towns has certainly increased, but the investment period hasn't. Many investors lack proper guidance. Some start investing through banks but fail to stay in the market for long. He said that there is a need to educate people that

Zombie Reddy Nxt Lvl: Teja Sajja Returns For Sequel, Upendra And Shanaya Kapoor Join Action-Comedy



Teja Sajja turned 31 on Sunday and received a special birthday surprise from the makers of *Zombie Reddy*. The Telugu zombie comedy is getting a sequel, titled *Zombie Reddy Nxt Lvl*, with Sajja returning as the lead. The announcement comes with a glimpse that gives a hint of the madness waiting in the second chapter. In the video, Sajja is seen standing alone as thousands of zombies surround him. The sequel is being planned on a much bigger scale and will blend action, comedy and zombie mayhem. But Teja Sajja is not returning alone. Kannada star Upendra has joined the cast, while

Shanaya Kapoor is set to make her South Indian cinema debut with the film. *Teja Sajja* returns to the zombie-verse *Zombie Reddy Nxt Lvl* is directed by Suparn S. Varma, known for projects such as *The Family Man 2*, *Rana Naidu* and *Haq*. The original film's creator, Prasanth Varma, is also closely involved with the sequel. The screenplay has been written by Hussain Dalal, Prasanth Varma and Suparn S. Varma. Gowra Hari has composed the music. Speaking about his return to the franchise, Teja said the original *Zombie Reddy* gave him the freedom to take risks and trust the audi-

ence. He credited the response to his character and the world of the first film for giving the team the confidence to dream bigger. According to the actor, the sequel takes that ambition several steps further. He said the scale, action and world created for *Zombie Reddy Nxt Lvl* are far more ambitious this time Upendra and Shanaya Kapoor join the cast. One of the biggest additions to the sequel is Kannada star Upendra. The actor, known for his distinctive screen presence and unconventional films, brings another major name to the zombie franchise. The film will also mark Shanaya Kapoor's debut in South

Indian cinema. While she has already been associated with Hindi films, *Zombie Reddy Nxt Lvl* will introduce her to audiences across the southern markets. The makers are looking to make the sequel bigger not just in terms of its cast but also its world and action. Director Suparn S. Varma said the film aims to explore the idea of zombies as creatures that reflect fear around losing control and the breakdown of order. At the same time, he described the project as an unapologetically chaotic space that allowed him to experiment with a very different cinematic world.

Rashmika Mandanna Looks Fierce With Blood-Stained Spear In New Poster

Rashmika Mandanna is gearing up for a fierce new avatar in her upcoming film *Mysaa*. The makers have now announced the release date of the action thriller along with a striking new poster featuring the actor. *Mysaa* will hit cinemas worldwide on November 27, 2026. Rashmika took to her Instagram handle to share the new poster, which shows her in an intense and powerful look. The actor can be seen holding a blood-stained spear, which hints at the fierce and action-packed world of the film. Sharing the poster, Rashmika wrote, "MYSAA! The rage! The pain! The heartache! The grief! The grit! The courage! The power and the storm you don't anticipate coming - That's Mysaa! In cinemas worldwide on 27.11.26!" The makers also shared the poster on social media and described Rashmika's character as someone who is strong and fearless. They wrote, "Resilient by nature. Fearless by choice. Unbreakable by spirit. Get ready to experience the world of #MYSAA with #RashmikaMandanna like never before." Ever since *Mysaa* was announced, the film has generated curiosity among fans, mainly because of Rashmika's intense and bold character. The actor is expected to be seen in an action-



heavy role, which is very different from many of her previous performances. Earlier, the first-look poster of the film had also caught attention. Rashmika was seen with a blood-streaked face, messy hair and a sword in her hand. *Mysa* is directed by Rawindra Pulle and produced by Uniform Formula Films. The film is described as an emotional action thriller set against the backdrop of tribal lands. It will reportedly feature Rashmika as a Gond tribal girl. Reportedly, other cast members include Samuthirakani, Guru Somasundaram, Easwari Rao, Praveen Dacharam, Rahul Ravindran, and Tarak Ponnappa. The project is also said to be one of the most physically

demanding films of Rashmika's career. The actor had previously suffered a hip injury while shooting for a dance sequence in the film and had called *Mysaa* "the most aggressive film" she had worked on. With the release date now locked and a new intense poster adding to the excitement, *Mysaa* is set to arrive in theatres worldwide on November 27, 2026. heay role, which is very different from many of her previous performances. Earlier, the first-look poster of the film had also caught attention. Rashmika was seen with a blood-streaked face, messy hair and a sword in her hand. *Mysa* is directed by Rawindra Pulle and produced by Uniform Formula Films. The film is

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Raksha Bandhan 2026: Dhaagon Se Baandhaa To Sang Rakhna, 5 Songs That Celebrate Sibling Love



: Sunil Lodhi, a 25-year-old visually impaired singer from a small village in Sagar, may never have imagined that his voice would one day reach the big screen. But his faith in God and love for music helped him turn his limitations into his strength. In an exclusive interview with ETV Bharat, Sunil Lodhi opened up about his journey from singing bhajans and traditional Bundeli folk songs in his village to becoming a singer in the film *Hanuman Ansh*. He also spoke about his struggles, his meeting with YouTuber Rohit Sahu and how his music eventually reached the film industry. Singer Sunil Lodhi (Video Source: ETV Bharat) Today, Sunil is winning hearts with his soulful voice and devotional songs. His voice can be heard in the devo-

tional song "Maine Tere Hi Bharose Hanuman, Sagar Mein Naiya Daar Dai", which has been included in *Hanuman Ansh*. The song is getting attention on social media, with people making reels and short videos using it. Sunil Has Been Visually Impaired Since Childhood Sunil Lodhi is a resident of Agra village in the Surkhi assembly constituency of Sagar. He has been visually impaired since birth. His parents tried their best to get treatment for him, but his eyesight could not be restored. Speaking to ETV Bharat, Sunil said, "My parents took me everywhere for treatment according to their ability, but perhaps it was not God's will. I could never see the world with my own eyes. There are my parents, two brothers and

sisters in my family. We make a living from two acres of land and livestock. Due to financial difficulties and my visual impairment, I could not complete my education. But when I devoted myself to God, it felt as if my entire world changed." Sunil Lodhi (Photo: ETV Bharat) Despite his difficulties, Sunil developed a strong interest in music and bhajans at a young age. While studying in school, he would sing songs and bhajans for his teachers and classmates. Some of them would record his performances on their mobile phones. His popularity slowly grew in his village. He began getting invitations to sing at religious and cultural programmes. He later learned to play the tambura, and singing bhajans became an

important part of his life. A Viral Video Changed His Life Sunil's life changed when he met YouTuber Rohit Sahu in 2019. Rohit uploads videos under the name Bundeli Duniya. After hearing Sunil sing, Rohit started recording his performances and sharing them on social media. One of Sunil's Bundeli songs, "Dulha Bankar Aa Gav Thela, Hai Motor Ko Byaw...", reached a large audience on YouTube. The video was viewed by around nine lakh people. After this, Sunil started getting more invitations to perform. He also began earning money from his performances, which helped his family financially. Sunil and Rohit then recorded several bhajans together. One of them, "O More Sankat Ke Kataiya Hanuman," became a major hit on

Shweta Tiwari Gets Apology From Online Abuser, Thanks Raj Thackeray's Party For Tracking Him Down In 3 Days



Actor Shweta Tiwari has shared an update on the online abuse she recently faced. The actor revealed that one of the men who allegedly abused her on social media has now been identified and has apologised to her in writing. She credited Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) member Snehal Adarkar and her team for helping track him down. Shweta had earlier called out abusive comments

made by several men against women on social media. She shared screenshots of the comments and posted the Instagram accounts of some of the people involved. She also questioned whether such behaviour could be linked to people who claimed to support MNS chief Raj Thackeray. Her posts soon caught the attention of MNS member Snehal Adarkar. Shweta said

Snehal reached out to her and assured her that the party did not support such comments or the way these men had spoken about women. She also told the actor that the people involved were not MNS members. According to Shweta, Snehal did not stop at simply responding to her concerns. She told the actor that the team would try to identify the person behind the abusive messages and asked her to give them a few days.

Shweta has now revealed that the team managed to trace the man within three days. Snehal reportedly shared his phone number with the actor and also sent her a handwritten apology from him. Sharing the update, Shweta said she was thankful that the matter was taken seriously and followed up without her having to make another request. She wrote, "Within just three days, she sent me the phone number of the person involved. And also a handwritten apology letter by him." The actor further thanked Snehal and the MNS team for their efforts. "I genuinely want to thank @adv_snehal_adarkar and the MNS team for taking the effort to look into this, find the person responsible and get back to me without me having to ask them to do it," she said.

Shweta also revealed that Snehal told her she could reach out to the team if she faced a similar problem in the future. The actor said the response made her feel that her complaint had been taken seriously. However, Shweta mentioned that one apology does not solve the larger issue of online abuse. She pointed out that social media allows many people to attack women from behind anonymous screens, often believing that they