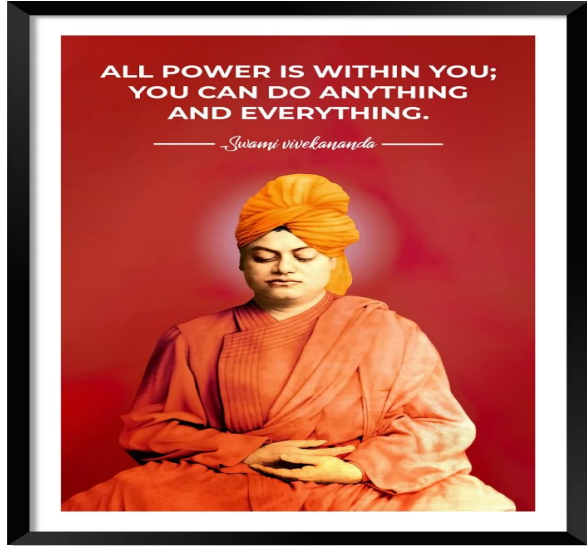
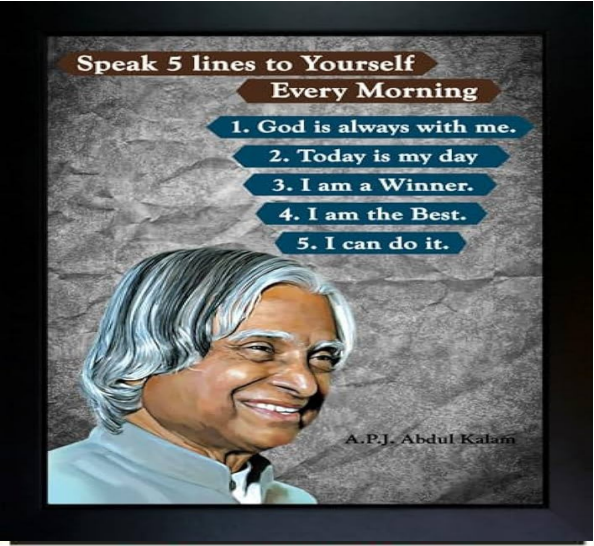




Rajanarsimha Hails Bhadrachalam Doctors for Saving 52 Lives after Chloroquine Illness



Hyderabad: Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha congratulated the doctors and staff of Bhadrachalam Area Hospital for responding promptly and saving 52 lives. Expressing delight over the doctors who immediately responded and provided better medical care to 47 children and five adults who fell ill after taking chloroquine tablets, when they were shifted to Bhadrachalam Area Hospital from Gollaguppa area in Polavaram district of

KA Paul Invites Konda Surekha To Join Praja Shanti After Congress Ouster



Hyderabad: Praja Shanthi Party President K.A. Paul has extended an open invitation to sacked Telangana Minister Konda Surekha to join his party. Shortly before her ouster from the Telangana Cabinet, Paul released a video on social media inviting her into his party fold and said that Konda Surekha is a powerful leader. He offered her a prominent platform within his party if she felt sidelined. Paul alleged that in the current Congress government, only upper caste leaders

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

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 Bunched (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

Will Konda Surekha Resign From The Congress Party?

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday decided to drop his Cabinet colleague, Konda Surekha, from the Council of Ministers with immediate effect, amid a row over the remarks made against him and others by the woman leader's daughter. A recommendation to this effect has been made to Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla for the dismissal of Konda Surekha from the Telangana cabinet. Also Read - Siddipet: Massive



Ganesh Idol Damaged As Lorry Rams Into Container Truck Reacting to the development, Surekha condemned the move, stating that her

explanation should have been sought before such a decision was taken. Speaking to a local vernacular channel, she alleged that she was not consulted as per rule and that no one spoke to her before the decision was taken. Surekha said she had replied to the show-cause notice issued by the Congress high command and had explained her

position to AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge when she met him in Delhi. Konda Surekha To Join Praja Shanti After Congress Ouster Asserting that she is a BC candidate, a five-time MLA, and has served as a Cabinet minister twice, she alleged that this was a planned attack against her by local leaders in the region. Speaking further, she questioned why she was being held responsible for her daughter's remarks, pointing out that her daughter is an

independent woman and that she has no authority to take issue with her daughter's personal opinions. Surekha added that she does not see any need to condemn her daughter's comments. Sacked from Telangana Cabinet Meanwhile, speculations are rife in political circles that if disciplinary action is taken against her and she is removed from the Cabinet, Surekha is planning to resign both from her MLA post and from the primary membership

AP Govt Revokes Suspension Of IPS Officers Kanthi Rana Tata, Vishal Gunni

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government on Thursday revoked the suspension of two senior IPS officers -- Kanthi Rana Tata and Vishal Gunni -- nearly two years after they were suspended. The two IPS officers were first suspended on September 15, 2024, and their suspension was subsequently extended multiple times for their alleged involvement in "harassing" a Mumbai-based actor-cum-model, Kadambari Narendra Kumar Jethwani. Also Read - Tenali: Man Hires Supari Killers to Murder Brother-in-Law Over Property "Government hereby revokes the sus-



pension of Kanthi Rana Tata, IPS (RR:2004) and reinstate him in service with immediate effect," Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad said in a Government Order (GO).



The chief secretary issued similar orders for Vishal Gunni, a 2010 batch IPS officer. Though the latest extension of the suspension of both the IPS officers was up to September

4, Prasad issued orders revoking their suspension with immediate effect on Thursday. Also Read - Govt To Build 4 Convention Centres Across State At Rs 200 Crore According to the GO, Tata and Gunni gave a representation to the government on August 24, followed by a letter from the Director General of Police (DGP) to the government on the same day, which ultimately led to the revocation of their suspension today. However, the chief secretary noted that the revocation of the suspension will be without prejudice to the ongoing "disciplinary and criminal proceedings." Former AP Intelligence chief and senior IPS officer PSR Anjaneyulu, who was facing allegations in the case, retire from service last month.

KTR assures to take up polytechnic students' concerns over GO 97 in Assembly



Nalgonda: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday received representations from students of Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) and government polytechnic students over issues concerning their education and recruitment. MGU students and polytechnic student representatives separately met Rama Rao near the university's main gate and submitted petitions while he was on his way to participate in the farmers' protest in Miryalaguda. The polytechnic students raised concerns over GO 97, which they said had created uncertainty among students of the Nalgonda Government

Polytechnic College. They sought continuation of the three-year diploma course, clarity on BTech lateral-entry admissions through ECET and an end to uncertainty over the SBTET framework, higher education and employment opportunities. They also urged the BRS working president to put pressure on the government to withdraw GO 97 immediately, citinBRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday met students of Mahatma Gandhi University and Nalgonda Government Polytechnic College and received petitions over GO 97, diploma admissions and

alleged irregularities in MGU's outsourcing recruitment process. ss.g the interests of students. Meanwhile, MGU student leaders sought a probe into alleged irregularities in the university's outsourcing recruitment process. They alleged that rules were violated and that transparency, the roster system and government regulations were not followed in the appointments. Rama Rao responded positively to the students' concerns and assured them that he would take the issues to the government and work to ensure justice. He assured them that he would raise their issues in the Assembly, if needed.

Ghoshamahal MLA Raja Singh Comments on Konda Surekha Issue



Hyderabad: Comments made by Ghoshamahal MLA T. Raja Singh on the ongoing controversy involving En downments Minister Konda Surekha have gone viral and stirred debate in Telangana's political circles. The episode involving Minister Konda Surekha has become a hot topic in state politics for some time. Reports state that the Congress high command and the party leadership have asked Surekha to resign, and she is now preparing to announce her future course of action. Also Read - Will Konda Surekha Resign From The Congress Party? Amid this political drama, BJP MLA Raja Singh alleged

that Konda Surekha is being pushed out of the party not for political reasons, but allegedly because of a dispute over the distribution of money shares. He claimed that corruption has always been synonymous with the Congress party. Adding another layer to the controversy, Surekha's daughter, Suhsmitha, has reportedly made corruption allegations against the Telangana Chief Minister. Also Read - Siddipet: Massive Ganesh Idol Damaged As Lorry Rams Into Container Truck Amid speculation that the Konda couple is preparing for a showdown with the Congress high command, on

Thursday the Congress high command asked Konda Surekha to resign as the Minister. The action followed after the TPCC disciplinary committee recommended stringent action against her in connection with "antiChief Minister. Also Read - Siddipet: Massive Ganesh Idol Damaged As Lorry Rams Into Container Truck Amid speculation that the Konda couple is preparing for a showdown with the Congress high command, on -Chief Minister" and "antiCongress" remarks made by her daughter. The committee recommended the removal of Konda Surekha from the Cabinet.

Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy hints at ambition to become Telangana Chief Minister

Nalgonda: Even as the Congress infighting reached the doors of AICC headquarters in New Delhi, Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy hinted at his ambition to become Telangana Chief Minister. He said even God cannot stop him from becoming the Chief Minister if the opportunity comes, while promising to bring back "Rajanna Rajyam" (YSR's rule) in the State. Speaking at the death anniversary programme of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy in Munugode on Wednesday, Rajagopal Reddy reacted to "CM, CM" slogans raised by his followers and YSR supporters for him. "If



that time comes, even Brahma cannot stop it," he said. He also vowed to bring the Congress back to power in the next elections and continue "Rajanna Rajyam", to establish YS Rajasekhara Reddy's

rule. Calling himself a true disciple of YSR, Rajagopal Reddy said he entered politics inspired by the former Chief Minister and would work for his ideals throughout his political career. He also said he

would not be deterred by conspiracies or threats Congress workers who for years. lled that some leaders who had recently joined the party were seeking to capture the Congress and wield power, and warned that

AP Govt Issues Orders To Conduct Elections For 100 Urban Local Bodies

Hyderabad: The absence of adequate rains this monsoon season has ended up adding little to the groundwater table in the north-eastern parts of Hyderabad, with residents continuing to report worries over groundwater availability across several areas. The situation has raised concerns over the sustainability of borewells and day-to-day water access as groundwater levels did not record much rise, with markedly lesser rains this season so far. The Ground Water Department reports measuring the water table using piezometers show a marginal rise in the last one month in the 15 mandals of Medchal-Malkajgiri district. The GWD report between July and August stated that groundwater has been observed at an incremental rise of 3 metres below ground level (BGL) to 0.35 metres BGL. Kukatpally



mandal stood top in Medchal-Malkajgiri district in groundwater rise with 3.08 metres below ground level (BGL), while Bachupally area registered the lowest rise of 0.35 metres BGL. A GWD senior official told Telangana Today that the groundwater resources remain under pressure due to massive borewell digging that

creates a water crisis by draining underground aquifers faster than nature can refill them. "The rainfall reported in this monsoon in the north-eastern parts of Hyderabad couldn't the official said. House owners in residential areas are allowing borewells to be drilled indiscriminately and illegally, leading to

massive groundwater extraction, said the official. Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) in Malkajgiri have urged the Telangana government to address a sharp borewells over recent months, saying the pra-clocal water table, dried up existing residential borewells and caused severe water scarcity for households.

Harish Rao sends selfie from pending KLIS canals to Revanth Reddy

Medak: Former Minister T Harish Rao, who clicked a selfie with pending canals of Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) at Reddipalli and Manthur villages in Narsapur constituency, has sent the picture to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to inform him about the negligence of the Congress in completing the leftover works of KLIS. peaking to reporters after inspecting the canals on Thursday, Harish Rao said that the Congress government had failed to complete a yard of KLIS works during the last three years. Stating that the BRS government completed 85 per cent of the tunnel works in the 18th and 19th packages, Rao said that former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao wanted to impound Singur waters and further take Godavari water to Nizam Sagar by completing these two packages. However, the former minister said that Revanth had developed a grudge against the erstwhile Medak district and stalled the entire works.



Even though Revanth participated in Zaheerabad and Sangareddy public meetings in recent months, Rao said that the Chief Minister did not utter a single word on KLIS, which reflected his ignorance of pending irrigation projects. He further said that the works of Sangameshwara and Basaveshwara Lift Irrigation Projects, through which Chandrashekhara Rao wanted to provide irrigation water to 5 lakh acres in Sangareddy and Medak districts,

remained incomplete. Referring to the proposals to increase the height of Ghanpur anicut and Haldi Project, he further exposed Congress's negligence on irrigation projects in Medak district. Even though just 20 per cent of the lift irrigation project was pending in Dubbak when Congress came to power, Rao said Revanth failed to complete it even after repeated appeals from the local MLA Kotha Prabhakar Reddy. Due to negligence in pumping water from KLIS during the

rainy year, Rao said the water level in Mallanna Sagar, Kondapochamma Sagar and Rangnayaka Sagar was reduced to dead storage levels for the first time. Sharing the pictures of pending canals with Revanth over phone, the former minister demanded the Congress government release grants immediately to start the works of all the pending irrigation projects in Medak. Narsapur MLA V Sunitha Lakshma Reddy and other BRS leaders were present.

Harish Rao arrested in Hanamkonda during TNGOs' protest

Hyderabad: In a move that is set to trigger political debates, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has decided to drop Forest Minister Konda Surekha from his Cabinet with immediate effect and rescinded the appointment of State Planning Board Vice Chairman G Chinna Reddy. The decision to drop the Forest Minister from the Cabinet has already been informed to Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla's Office. Ever since the TPCC Disciplinary Committee submitted its report on August 20 to TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud recommending stern action against both the senior leaders for violating the party disciplinary code, there has been a lot of curiosity and anxiety in Gandhi Bhavan over the party high command's decision. Konda Surekha's daughter Konda Sushmitha had alleged that the Chief Minister had offered prime land to his brother's shell company at a throwaway price. G Chinna Reddy had alleged Wanaparthi MLA T Megha Reddy was offered a party tick-



et to contest Assembly elections after being lured by money. These outbursts drew criticism from party leaders, who demanded stern action against both the senior leaders. Though the Forest Minister contended that she cannot be held responsible for her daughter's comments, a few MLAs demanded action against her. The Chief Minister, the Forest Minister and a few other Ministers have been summoned by the party high command to discuss the issue. After a series of meetings, the high command gave Commission Chairperson Gadwal Vijayalakshmi as the new Vice Chairman of State

Planning Board. A statement from the Chief Minister's Office said Nerella Sharada is appointed as the new Chairperson of the Women's Commission. The Chief Minister also approved the appointment of former MP G Sudha Rani as the Chairperson of Kakatiya Urban Development Authority. The Forest Minister is expected to announce her future course of action shortly. Whether its nod to drop Konda Surekha from the Cabinet. Similarly, G Chinna Reddy's appointment has also been rescinded and he is being replaced by Telangana Women's Commission Chairperson Gadwal Vijayalakshmi

as the new Vice Chairman of State Planning Board. A statement from the Chief Minister's Office said Nerella Sharada is appointed as the new Chairperson of the Women's Commission. The Chief Minister also approved the appointment of former MP G Sudana Women's Commission Chairperson Gadwal Vijayalakshmi ha Rani as the Chairperson of Kakatiya Urban Development Authority. The Forest Minister series of meetings, the is expected to announce her future course of action shortly. Whether she will tender her resignation from the party and Assembly is still not known.

160 detonators seized near Bollaram army camp

Hyderabad: The police seized around 160 electric detonators allegedly abandoned by unidentified persons near the Madras Regiment Army Camp at Bollaram raising fresh concerns. Army personnel noticed a suspicious light-green plastic bucket near the rear wall of the firing range on Wednesday and alerted the Bollaram police. On inspection, police found 160 electric detonators packed in eight bundles. A bomb disposal (BD) team from Malkajgiri, along with a sniffer dog, examined the spot and identified the material as 33A-size commercial electric detonators. Following the BD team's directions, the



detonators were secured at a safe location. The Bollaram police have registered a case

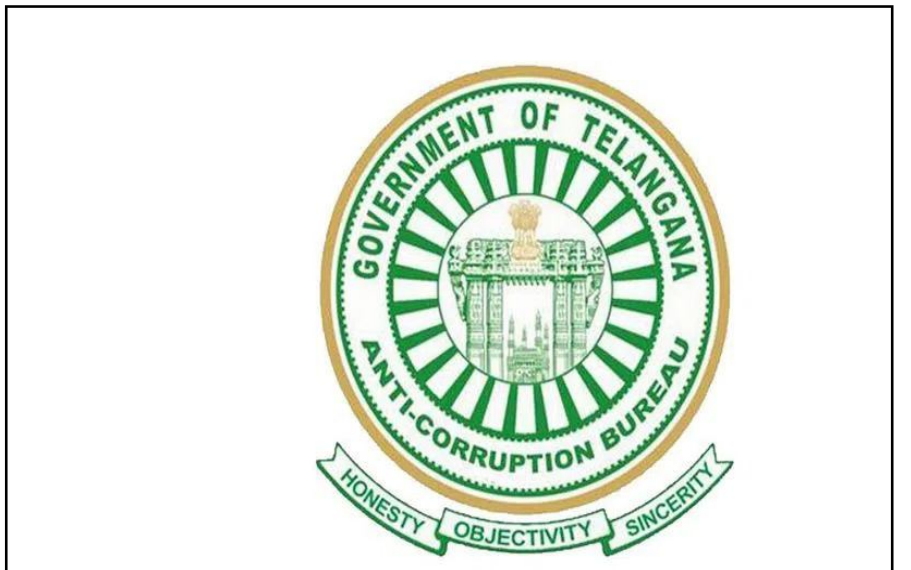
against unidentified persons who left the detonators at the spot and launched an investiga-

tion to determine their source and the reason for abandoning them near the Army camp.

ACB traps put police corruption under scanner in Telangana

Hyderabad: A series of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) traps against police personnel across the State in recent months has put the spotlight on allegations of bribery within the uniformed force, with officers from the ranks of constable and sub-inspector to inspector being caught or booked in separate cases. In the latest case at Chandanagar police station, a sub-inspector and a constable were caught allegedly accepting a Rs 75,000 bribe. The duo had allegedly demanded money from a complainant in connection with the investigation of a criminal case and filing of the chargesheet. The Chandanagar case follows several similar incidents in the city this year. Earlier in May, a Bowenpally sub-inspector and a constable were arrested for accepting a bribe to relax bail conditions and provide favourable police assistance in a criminal case.

In March, two Armed



Reserve SIs working in Cybercrime PS of Malkajgiri Commissionate were arrested for allegedly accepting a bribe in return for issuing a notice instead of arresting an accused in a cyber fraud case. The pattern has also extended beyond Hyderabad, with officials also caught in Vikarabad and Warangal districts for bribery.

The recurring incidents point out that alleged corruption is not confined to a particular rank or policing unit, with the common point in several cases being the use of discretionary powers in investigations, arrests, bail-related procedures and case settlements for extracting money. DGP CV Anand had warned that corruption would not be tolerated and said that personnel demanding or accepting

bribes would face strict legal and disciplinary action. With ACB traps repeatedly exposing alleged bribery at police stations, the challenge for the department seems to now be not merely nabbing individual offenders but also restoring public confidence in the police force. Citizens can report corruption to ACB on its toll-free number 1064.

God Chose Me: New Ram Temple Trustee Nirmala Yadav Vows To Work With Dedication, Honesty

Etah: Newly appointed member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Dr Nirmala Yadav, on Thursday said god chose her for the post and expressed her readiness to discharge the responsibility with "dedication, hard work and honesty". The temple trust on Wednesday appointed retired Air Marshal Jitendra Mishra as its first chief executive officer, besides inducting three new trustees – Nirmala Yadav, an educationist, advocate Madan Mohan Pandey and businessman-social worker Mahesh Bhagchandka. The three posts fell vacant



after the passing of Bimlendra Mohan Mishra last year and the resignation of ex-general secretary Champat Rai and Anil Mishra in the wake of the donation theft controversy. Speaking to PTI Videos, Yadav said, "I will say only this – I was chosen from across the country, which is a sign that god has chosen me. Nothing is

possible without His vision and grace. No one else has any role in my selection. God's grace has remained upon my family and me."

She also said that her selection is a representation of "Matri Shakti" (women power). On her new responsibility as a trustee, Yadav said she would work with complete dedication without compromising on her principles. "Be it the administration, arrangements, facilities or security, I will give my suggestions for what-

ever improvements are possible and will try to make the arrangements better," Yadav said. "Now that the call from Ram Lala has come, I have to work with complete dedication," she added. A former principal and educationist, Yadav said she has been associated with educational and social organisations for decades. She said her parents, Mahavir Singh Yadav and Rajwati, are no more, while her father-in-law, Surya Kumar Yadav, a former major, had been associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) after his retirement.

"My family gradually became associated with the Sangh. I was introduced to several RSS and Bajrang Dal functionaries who used to visit my family after my marriage in 1983. "I became involved in educational activities and worked in Saraswati Shishu Mandirs. My daughter was among the first students of the Balika Vidya Mandir in Shikohabad, which later grew into an intermediate college," she said.

Yadav joined the BDM Municipal Girls' College in Shikohabad as a lecturer in 1987 and was made the principal in 1999. In 2006, she took charge as

Madras HC Dismisses MK Stalin's Plea Seeking 100% VVPAT Counting In Kolathur



Chennai: The Madras High Court on Thursday dismissed the writ petition filed by DMK president and former Chief Minister M K Stalin seeking 100 per cent counting of VVPAT slips in the Kolathur Assembly constituency. In his petition, Stalin had also sought to declare him elected after nullifying the victory of TVK MLA VS Babu, alleging irregularities in the voting process. In his petition, Stalin alleged irregularities in the voting process, claiming that verification of 14 EVMs and VVPAT machines revealed discrepancies. He has sought re-verification of all voting machines used in the constituency. The petition also sought a recount of votes and a declaration that Babu's election be declared void

and Stalin be declared the winner. Stalin lost his stronghold of Kolathur to VS Babu of the newly formed Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) in the 2026 state assembly elections. In a closely watched contest, Babu secured victory by a margin of 8,795 votes. Stalin was a three-time MLA from Kolathur, but could not manage to secure the seat for the fourth consecutive time. But despite the setback, he thanked voters, noting he made him (MK Stalin) enter Kolathur that the DMK alliance secured over 1.54 crore votes, with a narrow 3.52 per cent difference from the winning party. Following the results, VS Babu attributed the victory to party chief Vijay and a local connection. Touching upon the

anti-incumbency factor, VS Babu said that his win came against the backdrop of people's desire for change in Tamil Nadu. "I have won only with our leader. Our leader's face is the face of Tamil Nadu. People wanted a change, and they have changed it. Following the results, VS Babu attributed the victory to party chief Vijay and a local connection. Touching upon the anti-incumbency factor, VS Babu said that his. I was born and brought up in that area. We know the pulse of people. It's we who made him (MK Stalin) enter Kolathur. He doesn't know anyone in Kolathur. Whether he is CM or MLA, he should mingle with the local people first. People are watching it," VS Babu told ANI.

UP Floods: 3 Killed, Over 16,000 Evacuated As 23 Districts Hit; PM Modi Takes Stock Of Varanasi Situation

Lucknow: At least three people have died and more than 16,000 have been evacuated as floodwaters affected as many as 23 districts across Uttar Pradesh. Officials said 3042 persons were rescued and moved to safer places on Wednesday. The deaths were reported in Pratapgarh and Amroha. An 18-month-old boy, Priyansh, from Pratapgarh died, while Shera, 32, and Suresh, 55, from Gajraula in Amroha also lost their lives in rain-related incidents, officials said. Those districts affected in the floods include Ayo dhya, Azamgarh, Ballia, Barabanki, Badaun, Chandauli, Farrukhabad, Ghazipur, Gorakhpur, Hardoi, Kasganj, Lak himpur Kheri, Mirzapur, Mor adabad, Pilibhit, Prayagraj, Raebareli, Sant Kabir Nagar, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Sonbhadra, Unnao and Varanasi. In view of the current situation, the state government has deployed 1,499 boats and motorboats for rescue and relief operations, while 1,067 medical teams have been pressed into service. Moreover, it has set up 1,311 flood shelters, of which 201 are currently operational. Relief agencies have also provided assistance in 442 cases involving damaged houses, while 36,287 livestock have been affected. PM Modi Takes Stock Of Varanasi Floods Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday spoke to Varanasi District Magistrate Satyendra



Kumar and took detailed stock of the flood situation in the city. Modi, who is also the MP from Varanasi, reportedly sought information about the rising water level of the Ganga and the arrangements at relief camps for people affected by the floods. The Prime Minister directed the district administration to work on a war footing to provide relief to affected people and ensure that all necessary facilities reach them immediately. He also asked officials to make immediate arrangements wherever additional relief material is required and speed up relief work. "PM Modi has spoken to the Mayor and Collector of Varanasi and taken stock of the flood related situation in the city. He was briefed on the relief measures being undertaken,"

PM asked them to ensure that citizens face least possible inconvenience," said sources in the PMO. Relief Operations Expedited In Chitrakoot, around 150 people were rescued from Chaura village along the Mandakini river with the help of motorboats operated by the 42nd Battalion of the Provincial Armed Constabulary. Food, relief material and medical assistance were provided to those rescued. In Ballia, rising levels of the Ganga and Saryu have affected around 20,500 people. Authorities have deployed 83 boats and distributed 6,500 ration kits, 33,843 medicine kits and 83,092 packets of cooked food. A total of 16,629 livestock have been vaccinated and 965 quintals of fodder have been provided. Flood posts, NDRF

and PAC teams have also been deployed. Also, relief shelters and community kitchens have been set up at Gopalnagar Tadi and Bhojpurwa. More than two lakh cusecs of water were released from Banbasa into the Sharda, while over 30,000 cusecs were released from Nanak Sagar into the Deoha, officials said. The floods have also affected schools and educational institutions. While the submergence of the Khakra bridge cut off around 18 villages, officials have suspended classes for students from Classes 1 to 8 until situation improves. Residents in low-lying areas were advised to move to safer places. At the 200-bed medical college, the main power supply remained disrupted for more than 34 hours after rainwater entered an

underground cable box. Generators were being used to maintain essential services. In Lakhimpur Kheri, District Magistrate Anjani Kumar Singh inspected the Girija barrage afflux bund and areas affected by erosion along the Mohana river. Round-the-clock work was underway, while around a dozen houses in the submerged area were being relocated. Officials added that the Sharda river at Palia was flowing 35 cm above the danger mark of 154.59 metres and remained steady. Agricultural land and village approach roads were inundated, although no village was reported to be completely flooded.

So far, authorities have distributed 68,953 food-grain packets and more than 3.36 lakh lunch packets as part of the relief efforts. More than 5.02 lakh chlorine tablets and over 1.77 lakh ORS packets have also been distributed to help prevent water-borne diseases.

The administration has advised people living in vulnerable areas to remain alert and follow instructions issued by local authorities. In Ghaziabad, a yellow alert will remain in force until September 4. Residents have been advised to exercise caution during heavy rain and avoid waterlogged areas.

Jaipur School Whose Students Studied In 'Buffalo Shed' Razed Days After CJP Visit



Jaipur: A government school building in Jaipur, declared unsafe in September 2025, was razed by authorities on Wednesday, days after the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) members visited the school and claimed its students were being taught in a buffalo shed. Located in Rampura (Kan warpura) village in the Bagru Assembly constituency, the old building of the Government Primary School was bulldozed in the presence of district administration and education department officials. Jaipur School Whose Students Studied In 'Buffalo Shed' Razed Days After CJP Visit (ETV Bharat) On August 21, Ashutosh Ranka, co-convenor of the CJP, visited the school with his team as part of the outfit's 'School Thik Karo' campaign, and claimed the classes were being held at a makeshift place where cattle were also being tied. The villagers protested against the CJP visit, insisting that since it was their village school, they would arrange for its

construction themselves. This led to a dispute, with the CJP team alleging that stones were pelted at them. FIRs were lodged by both sides. The CJP alleged that BJP workers had attacked its members, while villagers accused the visiting group of intimidating residents and creating a ruckus. The school, which has 26 students on roll, had been declared dilapidated and unsafe following a technical survey last year and was subsequently taken out of use. Jaip School controversy A visual of the demolition drive on the following day of the incident, the classes were shifted to a room in a nearby building and are being held there at present. The room has been provided by a villager. After the uproar, the Rajasthan government on August 23 announced that a new school building would be built at Rs 18 lakh, following which Rs 12 lakh was sanctioned from the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) and Rs 6

lakh from the MLA fund. A teacher of the school, Asha, who was present at the site, said, "A new school building will be constructed here. A good space will be created. It is good for students as well as for teachers." Reacting to the development, CJP co-convenor Ranka, in a post on X, shared the video of the school building being demolished. "This is the same Rampura school that was running in the buffalo shed. Work has now started there. During the inspection, stones were thrown at us, women were beaten, and car windows were smashed. But when a good school is built for our children, it will all be worth it!" he wrote. Bagru MLA Kailash Verma stated that funds for the school had already been sanctioned. According to the MLA, Rs 12 lakh from the DMFT and Rs 6 lakh from the MLA's local area development fund had been approved on August 13, days before CJP's visit.

"They (CJP) knew

Goa Cabinet Clears Anti-Conversion Bill, To Be Tabled In Upcoming Assembly Session

Panaji: The Goa cabinet has approved a bill against religious conversion, proposing life imprisonment among other stringent penalties, and it will be tabled in the state assembly's monsoon session beginning August 31, officials said on Thursday.

The bill proposes strict punishment for religious conversion allegedly carried out through force, coercion, undue influence, allurement, fraudulent means or marriage. Under the bill, offenders may face up to life imprisonment, and it proposes fines of at least Rs 50,000 and compensation of up to Rs 5 lakh to victims.

The state cabinet on



Wednesday approved the Goa Prohibition of Unlawful Conversions of Religion Bill, 2026, a senior government official

said. It will be introduced in the state assembly during the upcoming three-day monsoon session, the official said.

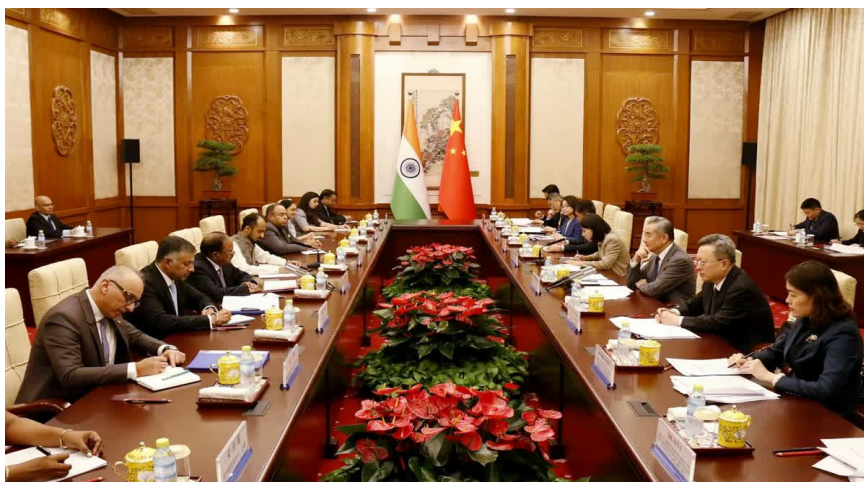
The bill also seeks to declare the marriage as "void" if it is found that it was done only for reli-

gious conversion. Offenders, including Hindu priests and Muslim clerics, could face a minimum of 10 years' imprisonment, the official said.

Under the bill, unlawful conversion of a minor, a person with disabilities, a woman, or a member of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes would attract rigorous imprisonment of 5 to 14 years along with a minimum fine of Rs 1 lakh, the official added. Various other states like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh have already enacted anti-conversion legislation.

India, China Agree To Advance Border Talks And Strengthen Commuication Between Their Militaries

New Delhi: India and China agreed to strengthen communication between their militaries and advance talks on boundary delimitation as part of a series of steps to prevent border disputes from destabilising ties. This is part of an eight-point "outcome and consensus" agreed at the 25th round of talks between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held on Tuesday in Beijing under the Special Representative mechanism. The mechanism was established in 2003 to address the boundary question between the two sides. The eight-point outcome, released on Wednesday, outlined steps the two sides will take to strengthen border management and further discussions to address the border dispute. This includes setting up an Expert Group on Boundary Delimitation



and a Working Group on Border Management, which will respectively advance discussions on an "Early and Substantial Harvest of boundary delimitation and Border Management". These groups will operate under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs and would first agree on

their respective Terms of Reference, according to the eight-point outcome. The two countries agreed last year to set up a group to explore an "early harvest" in boundary delimitation. Still, to improve border management, the two countries agreed to an additional two meeting points to hold senior military commander meetings and two additional channels of border

military hotline, in addition to existing ones, in the Eastern and Middle Sectors. The Middle Sector covers the border with China running along Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, while the eastern sector covers the border running along Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The discussion between India and China on Tuesday underlines how both sides are seeking to

Direct Uttarakhand CM To Ensure FIR Registered Against Those Involved In 'Purification' Incident: Kharage To Nadda

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage has written to Rajya Sabha Leader of the House J P Nadda over the "purification" that took place after his rally in Haldwani last month, asking him to direct Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to ensure that an FIR is filed against those involved in the incident. Kharage reminded Nadda of his assurance when he had raised the issue in the Rajya Sabha that after an investigation, strict action will be taken against whoever is found guilty. "You may recall that on August 13, 2026, in the Rajya Sabha, with great sadness and anguish, I raised the issue of purification related to untouchability after my public meeting in Haldwani on August 8, 2026," Kharage said in his letter in Hindi. "In response to my intervention, you stood up in the House and said, 'Sir, what Honourable Kharageji has said is truly a very sad subject. It is not only sad for the Congress Party, but it is sad for all of us. Whatever has happened will definitely be investigated. I want to say that



the Bharatiya Janata Party never supports such activity. I condemn it, and the National President will also look into it deeply. The hurt caused to your sentiments is a matter of regret for all of us," Kharage said. The Congress president said that Nadda had stated that after the investigation, strict action will be taken against whoever is found guilty. "The Honourable Chairman of the Rajya Sabha also expressed grief over this incident," he said. Kharage said he is surprised that even after 24 days of this incident, not even a First Information Report (FIR) has been filed against the organisations and individuals involved in this heinous act in Haldwani.

"The most objectionable aspect of this incident was that at the Ramlila Maidan site where I addressed the rally, purification was carried out, contrary to the spirit of the Indian Constitution and human values. It is generally understood that this purification process is directly linked to untouchability," Kharage said in his letter to Nadda dated September 2. Citing examples of untouchability being practised, Kharage recalled that Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar took water from a pond during the Mahad movement and even back then, individuals driven by casteist arrogance performed a 'purification' ritual -- accompanied by the chanting of mantras -- using 108

pots of cow urine and dung. Merely chanting mantras or performing a 'havan' does not sanctify such a casteist act of 'purification', Kharage said. "I wish to state clearly that this issue transcends my personal self or the office of the Indian National Congress President; it is deeply connected to the sentiments of crores of people who confront this harsh reality on a daily basis. It is essential to teach such wrongdoers a lesson," the Congress chief said. Therefore, this outrage is not mine alone but an expression of those crores of people; it concerns a mindset that directly affects a specific section of society, said. "For this very reason, I raised this issue in the House to draw the government's attention to it," Kharage said. "I, therefore, urge you once again -- in light of these facts and the assurances given in the Rajya Sabha -- to direct the chief minister of Uttarakhand to ensure that an FIR is registered against the individuals and organisations involved in the 'purification' incident that took place at Ramlila Maidan following my public

SC Quashes Rs 425 Cr Customs Penalty, Slams AI-Generated Precedentsa

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside a Rs 425.27-crore customs penalty against a diamond trader after finding that the adjudicating authority had relied on "non-existent" or wrongly cited judicial precedents—apparently generated or hallucinated by artificial intelligence. A bench comprising Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Sheel Nagu allowed the civil appeal filed by one Vijay Ghanshyam Gadiya and quashed both the Gujarat High Court order and the original customs adjudication order. The bench said entering into the merits of the challenge is unnecessary, since it has been contended on behalf of the appellant that several judgments and articles cited by the Additional Commissioner of Customs, Surat, in the Order-in-Original dated 8th October, 2025 are generated using Artificial Intelligence. "We have made the effort to individually verify whether such con-



tention of the appellant is true. Upon verifying such judgments and articles, it does appear that the second respondent (Additional Commissioner of Customs) has relied upon case laws that are either non-existent or have fake citations", said the bench. The bench said a further investigation has also revealed that some of the case laws relied upon by the second respondent, which do exist, do not lay down the ratio deduced therefrom, and it appears to be a hallucination of AI. "At this juncture, we may also add a comment on the use of Artificial Intelligence in adjudica-

tory processes. While this issue incidentally falls upon us to be considered, use of AI in the process of adjudication is not foreign. Quite the contrary, this Court has recently released draft Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence in Courts, 2026, calling for comments and suggestions", said the bench. "The use of AI in this case, resulting in reliance placed by the second respondent on material which is dubious, proves fatal to the sustainability of the order imposing penalty on the appellant. Such circumstances compel us to interfere and remand the case. Learned

Additional Solicitor General has not joined issue", said the bench. Allowing the civil appeal, the bench said, "the impugned order of the High Court confirming the penalty is consequently set aside together with the Order-in-Original, with the result that the proceedings against the appellant before the second respondent shall stand revived for being decided afresh by an officer of the same rank other than the one who passed the order dated 8th October, 2025." The Additional Commissioner of Customs, Surat passed an Order-in-Original dated 8th October, 2025 imposing a penalty of Rs. 425,27,99,100/- on the appellant, under Section 114 of the Customs Act, 1962, for mis-declaring a consignment of natural diamonds as lab-grown diamonds to pay a lower tariff. The challenge to the said penalty by the appellant before the

Motorcade Rehearsal Ahead Of BRICS Summit: Delhi Traffic Police Lists 22 Diversion Points And Over 35 Affected Roads



New Delhi: Preparations to finalise security and traffic arrangements for the BRICS Summit, scheduled to be held in the capital from September 11 to 13, have gathered pace. As part of the preparations, the Delhi Traffic Police will conduct a motorcade rehearsal today. As a result, traffic diversions and regulated movement will be in place on several major roads in Delhi from 3 pm to 8 pm today. The Traffic Police has appealed to motorists to plan their routes before leaving home and allow extra time for their journeys. According to the police, motorcades will depart from 12 designated locations at 10:30 am for Bharat Mandapam. Police conducted a return-journey rehearsal from Bharat Mandapam to these locations at 3:30 pm. The exercise created 22 diversion points across Delhi to ensure the motorcades move safely and smoothly. Special attention was also given to minimising inconvenience to the general public. The motorcade rehearsal is part of the security

preparations for the BRICS Summit, which will be held at Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan. Traffic movement will also be affected on more than 35 major roads. The police will work to minimise inconvenience to the public during the motorcade. Roads Likely To Be Affected The major roads include Sardar Patel Marg, Mother Teresa Crescent, Teen Murti Marg, Akbar Road, Tees January Marg, Rajesh Pilot Marg, Subramania Bharati Marg, Mathura Road, Motilal Nehru Marg, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Marg, Africa Avenue Road, Satya Marg, Shanti Path, Janpath, Ashoka Road, Barakhamba Road, Tolstoy Marg, Ranjit Singh Flyover, Minto Road, Panchsheel Marg, KG Marg and Lala Lajpat Rai Marg. The Traffic Police has advised people to avoid unnecessary travel on these routes during the rehearsal. Those who need to travel have been advised to check alternative routes in advance and, if possible, use the

Metro and other forms of public transport. People have also been urged to follow the instructions of traffic police personnel deployed on the spot. Diversions At 22 Locations Under the traffic arrangements, vehicles will be diverted through alternative routes at several locations, including Dr Dinesh Nandini Dalmia Chowk, Ram Charan Aggarwal Chowk, Mir Dard Chowk, Kasturba Gandhi Marg-Outer Circle, Janpath, Connaught Place, Patel Chowk, RML Hospital Roundabout, Vande Mataram Marg-Simon Bolivar Marg and Dhaula Kuan. According to the Traffic Police, emergency and essential-service vehicles will be given priority passage. The motorcade rehearsal aims to test the routes prepared for VVIP movement during the summit, the diversion arrangements, and coordination among various agencies. In view of the movement of foreign guests and delegates during the BRICS Summit, the Delhi Police and Traffic Police have prepared an extensive security and traffic plan. The September 3 rehearsal is an important part of these preparations. Additional Commissioner of Police, Traffic (Zone-II), Dinesh Kumar Gupta, said the Delhi Traffic Police is maintaining continuous coordination with security agencies and the Ministry of External Affairs in view of the BRICS Summit. He said the joint motorcade rehearsal aims to ensure traffic and security arrangements remain fully organised during the summit. He clarified that, along with ensuring the motorcade moves safely, the convenience of citizens will also receive due attention.

US: NYC, Nation's Largest School System, Bans AI For Students Through 8th Grade

New York: New York City's public schools will temporarily ban elementary and middle school students from using generative artificial intelligence tools during the upcoming school year, Mayor Zohran Mamdani announced Wednesday. The one-year moratorium — part of a broader assessment of how children in the nation's largest school system interact with the technology — will apply to "all software that uses student-facing generative AI" for students through eighth grade, the mayor's office said. It described the policy as the most expansive prohibition in the country. At the same time, the city will establish twice-yearly AI literacy classes for all public high school students. It will also launch pilot programs allowing some high school students to use a



handful of AI platforms under an educator's supervision. Companion chatbots will be prohibited across all grades, officials said. The approach comes as students, parents and schools across the country attempt to navigate the use of AI tools in the classroom and elsewhere. Schools are working to teach children how to incorporate the technology while preventing them from relying too heavily on it or using it to cheat. "Each day when our children come to school, we teach them to ask questions, to challenge assumptions, to interro-

gate the premise, to ask why. When it comes to AI in our schools, we hold an obligation to do the same," Mamdani, a Democrat, said at a news conference. The Los Angeles school district, where students returned to classrooms in mid-August, is temporarily blocking access to generative AI tools on student devices across all grades. The Los Angeles Unified School District said Wednesday that the ban will remain in place across the country's second-largest school district as officials develop a student AI policy during the school year. In June, LAUSD

became the first major school district to eliminate the use of school-issued devices for its youngest students as part of a sweeping screen time policy. The policy banned devices before second grade, set screen time limits for all grades and blocked YouTube and other social media sites during the school day. In New York, the city will also recommend screen time limits for students, suggesting a daily cap of 30 minutes for students in grades three through five and 45 minutes for those in grades six through eight. Teachers will be allowed to use AI for instructional planning and operational tasks. At least 37 states have official AI guidance that schools can use as a blueprint, though there is no single definition of AI literacy or consensus on how it should be taught. New York state last year

India's 7.8% Growth Despite Global Disruptions Remarkable: FM Sitharaman At Investors Meet In US



New Delhi: India achieved a notable 7.8 per cent growth in the first quarter of fiscal year 2026-27 despite global disruptions, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said. Against all odds, it remains the fastest-growing major economy worldwide, she added. On Wednesday, Sitharaman took part in a high-level business roundtable with investors, hosted by the Consulate General of India in New York in collaboration with Bank of America, New York. Addressing investors, Sitharaman said that "despite global disruptions and against all odds, India continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world, recording a remarkable growth of 7.8 per cent in Q1 of FY 2026-27," the Finance Ministry said in a post

on X. Sitharaman arrived in New York after participating in the G20 finance ministerial meeting in Asheville, North Carolina. Sitharaman added that with its strong reform orientation, India has also provided greater regulatory certainty through a range of reforms, including the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. "Such reforms have contributed to ensuring ease of compliance and reducing paperwork, which has remained a prime focus of the Government of India since it assumed office over a decade ago," the post on X said. She added that among the key areas on which the government has focused are creation of capital assets and providing sustained support to industry through infrastructure development, particularly avia-

tion; fostering a friendly and conducive investment climate; promoting the development of AI and data centres; supporting global capability centres; ensuring credit availability to MSMEs; and reducing non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks. These measures have helped create a more enabling business environment for banks and industry to thrive, grow and emerge stronger, the finance minister said. Sitharaman further said that India has consistently remained committed to the path of fiscal prudence and fiscal discipline over the past several years, despite the ongoing challenges confronting the global economy since the onset of COVID-19. She highlighted the investment climate in India that has improved significantly, with both

the central government and state governments demonstrating greater keenness and competitiveness in attracting and facilitating investments in their respective regions. Such efforts are part of the larger national endeavour towards achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the minister said. Earlier, in his welcome address, India's Ambassador to the United States Vinay Kwatra said that the GDP numbers for the first quarter manifest the resilience of the Indian economy. He said both India and the US can benefit from India's fast-growing economic trajectory by creating stronger linkages between trade and investment between the two countries, according to the Finance Ministry's post on X.

'Rename It To Trump Strait?': US President Pitches New Name For Hormuz



Washington: US President Donald Trump raised the prospect of renaming the Strait of Hormuz to the "Trump Strait", questioning the designation of the critical waterway in a social media release. In a statement published on his social media platform, Trump remarked, "Now that we have it under U.S.A. control, should we change the name Hormuz Strait to TRUMP STRAIT???" Asserting that the suggested title would be deemed "hotter" than previously, the post concluded with the signature "President DONALD J. TRUMP", alongside expressions of gratitude towards readers for their. These statements surface amid escalated friction concerning the Strait of Hormuz, an essential international petroleum transit corridor that stays positioned at the core of hostilities involving Washington and Tehran. This renewed combat has once again spread towards American military installations across the area while pulling Washington's Gulf partners further into the half-year war. Trump

had previously cautioned of "much harder and higher" strikes should Iran retaliate against US raids, which Tehran's state media reported claimed 11 lives in the southern and southwestern regions of the country. The newest phase of hostilities kicked off when Washington struck Iranian positions on Sunday, marking the initial confirmed attacks in multiple weeks, prompting Tehran's units to target American service members in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, alongside unclaimed projectile strikes hitting two oil tankers. Additional US strikes unfolded on Tuesday, as Iranian state television documented blasts in the nation's southern sector near the Hormuz Strait and upon a Gulf island, alongside reports that American forces targeted an airfield in the southern province of Kerman. Following six months of warfare, both adversaries remain at a standstill, with Tehran maintaining the closure of the Strait of Hormuz while the United States continues executing a counterblockade targeting Iranian har-

bours.

The wider conflict in the Middle East commenced near the end of February via US-Israeli offensives against Iran that resulted in the death of its supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

A delicate truce between Washington and Tehran subsequently fell apart following assaults directed at commercial vessels within the Hormuz Strait, a passage through which one-fifth of global oil shipments transited prior to the outbreak of war. Trump's latest suggestion follows prior campaigns concerning geographic titles. Amid trade disagreements and discussions regarding Canada joining as the 51st US state, Trump previously designated Lake Ontario as "Lake America" via a social media post earlier in the year, though this label failed to supplant the globally accepted name. That recommendation arose during tariff tensions between Washington and Ottawa regarding economic disadvantages. Conversely, a separate renaming initiative achieved formal adoption within the United States federal administration. Following his return to the presidency in January 2025, Trump mandated that federal authorities refer to the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America", which subsequently featured across official US cartography and administrative records. This measure encountered pushback from Mexico, with then-President Claudia Sheinbaum stating that while Washington could apply the term to its segment of the continental shelf, the broader international sea would retain the designation of the Gulf of Mexico.

US Govt To Expand Vetting Of Social Media For Visa Applicants



Washington: The US government reportedly plans to expand vetting of the social media accounts of visa applicants, including foreign journalists, as part of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt reposted an article on Thursday on X by the Daily Signal that said the State Department is expand-

ing its social media vetting to applicants for more types of visas. The Daily Signal said it had obtained an internal memo outlining the require visa applicants to change the settings on their social media accounts to "public" or "open." Asked by AFP about the report, a State Department spokesperson said, "The department is constantly reviewing and evaluating screening and vet-

ting procedures worldwide to ensure that our visa process upholds the highest standards for US national security and public safety." "Online presence vetting is about applicants demonstrating their eligibility to receive a visa under US law and ensuring that no individual poses a risk to the safety and security of the United States," the spokesperson said. The United States already

requires applicants for various categories of visas, including student visas, to make their accounts public.

The Daily Signal said it would now apply to foreign media representatives and some nationals from Mexico and Canada. Since taking office last year, Trump has moved to expel millions of undocumented migrants and restricted the entry into the United States of citizens of a number of countries.

"A visa is a privilege, not a right," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said. The Trump administration finalized rules last month that impose stricter limits on how long foreign students and journalists can stay in the United States.

Under a change that could be implemented as soon as September, foreigners on student visas would be admitted for the length of their academic program up to a maximum of four years. Foreign journalists would be limited to stays of just 240 days, or around eight months, but

USS Abraham Lincoln Will Stop In Thailand On Its Way Home From Lengthy Deployment In Middle East

Bangkok: The USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier will make a stop in Thailand after its grueling deployment in the Middle East, Thai officials said Wednesday. The Lincoln was supporting the U.S. war against Iran, and its deployment included a record-setting uninterrupted time at sea of more than 250 days. Concerns have grown about the Lincoln's lengthy deployment following reports of deteriorating mental health among the crew and shortages of supplies including food and hygiene products. Thai defense ministry spokesperson Surasart Kongsiri said the Lincoln will stop in Thailand next week for rest and recovery before returning to its U.S. base. "The stop in Thailand is a chance for the crew to go ashore and relax," he told reporters at a news conference in Bangkok. On Tuesday, the Royal Thai Navy said three ships from a U.S. Navy carrier strike group were scheduled to stop in eastern Thailand and that no military exercises would be carried out during the visit.



Extended deployments of carriers wear on service members who are away from home for long periods and increase strain on the ship and its equipment. While renewed hostilities between the U.S. and Iran calmed in recent weeks, the Navy is enforcing a reimposed blockade on Iranian ports in the Strait of Hormuz, and the Trump administration has offered no clarity on how it intends to wind down the conflict, which will hit the six-month mark this week. Separately Wednesday, the U.S. Navy's top uniformed officer told

reporters that with the surprise needed to launch the Iran war, it took some time to put a "process in place so that we were really replenishing at sea in an effective and systematic way." Speaking about the Lincoln, Adm. Daryl Caudle said the issue was not about having enough protein or vegetables, but items like hygiene products, energy drinks and soda that sailors come to expect during long ship deployments. He said parts, food and "niceties" have different supply chains and that "we had to get all those dialed in," noting that "there was some learn-

ing curve on our replenishment process."

"It's a fair critique that there were some puts and takes at the beginning of Epic Fury until we got that dialed in," Caudle said, referring to the war's code name. "I think we're in a good place. He said parts, food and "niceties" have different supply chains and that "we had to get all those dialed in," noting that "there was some learn-

Vance Says Trump Administration 'Screwed Up' Communications Around Epstein Files

Washington: Vice President JD Vance says the Trump administration "absolutely" mishandled the communications surrounding the Jeffrey Epstein files. During a lengthy podcast interview with Joe Rogan released, Vance pointed largely to former Attorney General Pam Bondi, who infamously stated that an alleged "client list" of Epstein's was "sitting on my desk right now." Epstein was a convicted sex offender who was known for his



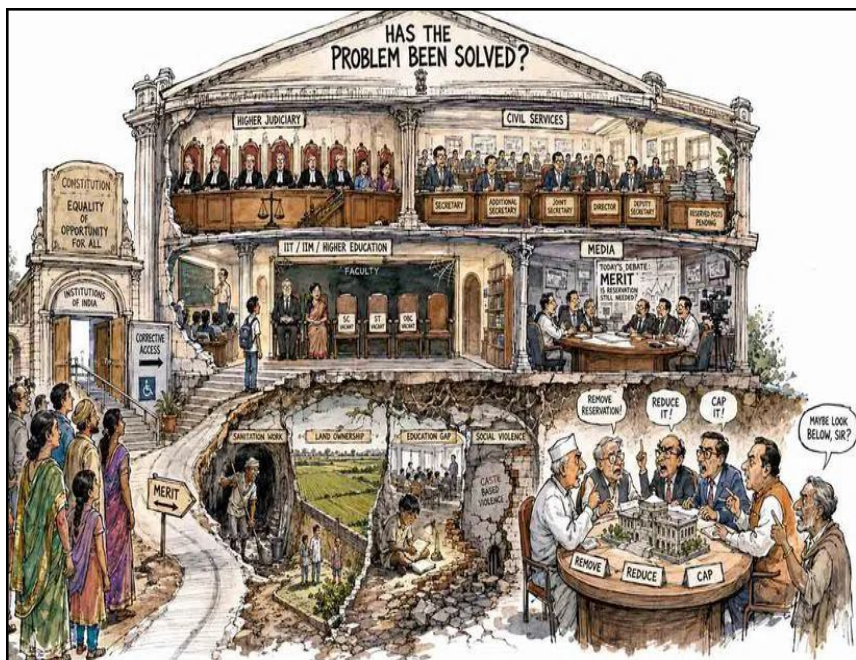
wide web of connections to the world's elite. In addition to those comments, the Justice Department under Bondi had also offered conservative commentators and influencers binders

that were called "The Epstein files: Phase 1" and "Declassified." "I know Pam. I like Pam. I don't think there was anything malicious going on," Vance told Rogan. "I think Pam was

trying to respond to the political moment. I think she overstated what we had and what we didn't have." As a result, Vance said, Bondi was "roasted" publicly for it and led people to "mistrust" the administration's transparency efforts on the Epstein files.

"We absolutely screwed up the comms of the Epstein files. Like, we just did," Vance said. "But do I think the reason we screwed up the comms is because we were trying to hide

Why India still needs reservation



Every few years, the debate over reservation in India returns with renewed force. Some argue that reservation has served its purpose and should now be reduced, capped, or gradually withdrawn. The argument is often framed in terms of merit, equality of opportunity, or the country's changing social and economic conditions. These are legitimate questions in a democracy. But before asking whether reservation should be withdrawn, we need to ask a more fundamental question: Has the underlying problem that reservation was intended to address actually been resolved? The evidence from India's institutions suggests otherwise. Higher Judiciary Consider the judiciary, an institution often perceived as operating above social divisions such as caste. Government data placed before the Rajya Sabha in December 2023 show that, of 650 High Court judges appointed between 2018 and 2023, only 23 belonged to Scheduled Castes, representing 3.54 per cent, while 10 belonged to Scheduled Tribes, representing 1.54 per cent. OBC representation was 11.7 per cent, and religious minorities 5.54 per cent. SCs and STs alone constitute roughly one-quarter of India's population, while estimates of the OBC population range from about 41 per cent in National Sample Survey Organisation data to 52 per cent in the Mandal Commission's 1980 estimate. The point is not that every institution must mechanically reproduce the demographic composition of the population. Rather, persistent under-representation raises a legitimate question about whether equal opportunity has translated into equal access to positions of authority.

Civil Services

The situation in the higher civil services also deserves attention. According to a written reply in Parliament, between 2020 and 2024 only 135 SC and 67 ST candidates were directly recruited to the IAS. In the IPS, the corresponding figures were 141 SC and 71 ST candidates. These numbers should not be interpreted in isolation, since recruitment in any period depends on the number of vacancies and the structure of the recruitment process.

Nevertheless, the continued absence of comprehensive caste-wise information on the composition of serving IAS, IPS and IFS officers makes it difficult to assess how far representation has progressed over the longer term. India's constitutional framework recognised that historically excluded communities need access not only to employment but also to institutions in which public decisions are made. The private sector provides even less reason for optimism. Evidence from sectors such as the media suggests continuing India-Newsland study found no Dalit or Adivasi editor-in-chief or managing editor among major Indian media organisations in both 2019 and 2022, while around 90 per cent of leadership positions were occupied by upper-caste individuals. Of Representation One of the weaknesses in the public debate is the tendency to reduce reservation to government employment. That was never its entire purpose. The constitutional framework recognised that historically excluded communities need access not only to employment but also to institutions in which public decisions are made. This is why affirmative-action provisions extend into political representation and educational institutions as well. Representation matters because institutions do not operate in a social vacuum. Legislatures make laws, courts interpret them, universities shape knowledge and professional norms, and public administrations design and implement policy. When communities that have experienced historical exclusion remain substantially under-represented in these institutions, their perspectives and experiences are less likely to influence decision-making. It means something more basic: a democratic institution should not repeatedly reproduce the exclusion found in society around it. Major Concern The situation in higher education makes the issue even more visible. RTI concerning IIT Delhi's faculty composition in mid-2024 showed that only 2.69 per cent of filled faculty positions were occupied by SC candidates and 1.11 per cent by ST candidates, while 89.1 per cent were from the general category.

At the same time, a substantial number of sanctioned faculty positions remained vacant. The situation at the IIMs has also raised concerns. A government response in 2021 indicated that a large proportion of reserved faculty positions remained vacant, including nearly 60 per cent of reserved SC and OBC positions and close to 80 per cent of ST positions. Nationally, government data have also indicated that reserved teaching positions in central institutions have remained substantially unfilled. These figures highlight the gap between formal reservation and effective representation, as reserved posts have little impact when they remain vacant for years. Likewise, representation cannot improve if institutions repeatedly fail to recruit eligible candidates or if recruitment procedures systematically create barriers to entry. The question, therefore, should not simply be whether reservation exists. We should also ask whether it is being implemented effectively. The argument for retaining reservation becomes stronger when institutional representation is considered alongside broader social conditions. Data from the NAMASTE programme, covering approximately 38,000 sanitation workers, showed that 77 per cent belonged to SC or ST communities, with a further 14.7 per cent belonging to OBC communities. This concentration is particularly significant given that manual scavenging has been prohibited by law for decades. Similarly, patterns of land ownership continue to reflect historical inequalities. National-level evidence consistently indicates that Dalit and Adivasi households possess agricultural land at levels that are low relative to their population shares. Violence against historically disadvantaged communities also remains a serious concern. NCRB data indicate that 48,669 cases were registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in 2024, while more than 2,87,000 cases remained pending trial at the end of the year. These indicators matter because reservation cannot be evaluated independently of the broader social

structures in which people compete for education, employment and political influence.

Reservation Needs Reform

Defending reservation does not require defending every aspect of its present implementation. There are serious problems that deserve attention: large backlogs of reserved vacancies, uneven enforcement of laws protecting SCs and STs, inadequate representation in some institutions, and the limited reach of affirmative action in the private sector. Private higher education is a particularly important example. Parliamentary findings have indicated very low enrolment of SC students and negligible enrolment of ST students across private higher education institutions. These failures should not be used as evidence that reservation has failed. In many cases, they demonstrate that the policy has not been implemented adequately. The appropriate response is, therefore, to improve implementation, strengthen transparency, address institutional vacancies, improve educational opportunities at earlier stages, and examine carefully whether sectors currently outside the reservation framework require additional mechanisms to promote equal opportunity. The Real Question The strongest case for retaining reservation is empirical. If reservation was introduced to address social exclusion and unequal opportunity, its continuation should be judged by whether those inequalities have declined. The evidence shows that significant gaps in representation, education, employment, land ownership, and social security remain. This does not mean reservations should remain unchanged forever. Policies must evolve with changing circumstances, and their design and implementation should be regularly reviewed. But reform is not the same as withdrawal. India has made substantively indicates that Dalit and Adivasi households possess agricultural land at levels that are low relative to their population shares. Violence against historically disadvantaged communities also remains a serious concern. NCRB data indicate that 48,669 cases were registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in 2024, while more than 2,87,000 cases remained pending trial at the end of the year. These indicators matter because reservation cannot be evaluated independently of the broader social

Is Mother Nature metaphor normalising a culture of extraction?



Among these metaphors, none has enjoyed greater cultural legitimacy than that of 'Mother Nature'. From Bhoomi Mata in India to Mother Earth in the Americas, the Earth has been imagined as feminine — nurturing, fertile, forgiving and infinitely generous. The symbolism appears reverential. Yet an uncomfortable question deserves attention — has the feminisation of nature inadvertently normalised an expectation of endless sacrifice, making ecological exploitation appear permissible? Moral Temple This is not an argument against feminine symbolism itself. Many Indigenous cultures that personify rivers, forests and mountains as female have simultaneously evolved sophisticated traditions of ecological restraint. The issue is not that nature is imagined as feminine; it is the particular social expectations historically attached to femininity. In patriarchal societies, motherhood has often been celebrated for its selflessness. A "good" mother is expected to give without calculation, endure without complaint and forgive without limit. When this moral template is projected onto nature, environmental exploitation risks being interpreted not as violence but as dependence upon an endlessly giving parent. The distinction is significant because language influences political behaviour. Cognitive linguists George Lakoff and Mark Johnson argued that metaphors are not merely literary devices but conceptual frameworks through which societies organise thought and action. Metaphor determine what appears natural, legitimate and inevitable. If nature is framed primarily as a mother, it becomes easier to imagine her as an inexhaustible source of care rather than as a living system with ecological limits and intrinsic rights. The metaphor may unconsciously privilege gratitude over reciprocity and entitlement over restraint. Reverence and Reality Empirical evidence reveals the contradiction between reverence and reality. According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform

on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), nearly 75% of Earth's terrestrial environment and about 66% of the marine environment have been significantly altered by human activity, while around one million species now face the risk of extinction. The UN Environment Programme's Global Resources Outlook estimates that global material extraction has risen from roughly 27 billion tonnes in 1970 to more than 100 billion tonnes by 2019, a nearly fourfold increase driven by expanding consumption and industrialisation. Simultaneously, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that approximately 420 million hectares of forest have been lost globally since 1990. These figures expose a profound paradox: societies continue to invoke 'Mother Earth' in public discourse even as they intensify the extraction of the ecosystems upon which life depends. The contradiction extends to the language of development itself. Rivers are increasingly described as 'water resources', forests as 'timber stock' and mountains as repositories of minerals awaiting economic utilisation. Environmental valuation frequently reduces ecosystems to the services they provide for human welfare. Yet when ecological disasters strike, political rhetoric swiftly returns to appeals for protecting 'Mother Nature'. The metaphor survives because it generates emotional resonance, while economic policy often proceeds according to an entirely different logic — that of extraction, efficiency and growth. The coexistence of sentimental language and instrumental practice suggests that reverence alone offers little protection against exploitation. Ecofeminist mEcofeminist scholarship has long recognised these parallels. Carolyn Merchant, in *The Death of Nature* (1980), argued that the Scientific Revolution transformed nature from a living organism into a machine designed for human control. Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva later suggested that the historical subordination of women

and the domination of nature emerged from similar systems of hierarchy, commodification and control. However, ecofeminism has also been subject to important criticism. Scholars such as Val Plumwood cautioned against assuming any essential or natural connection between women and the environment. To romanticise women as inherently closer to nature risks reproducing the very stereotypes feminism seeks to dismantle. The analytical value of ecofeminism, therefore, lies not in biological claims but in exposing how structures of domination operate through similar cultural logics. Genuine ecological justice requires moving beyond reverence towards responsibility, beyond gratitude towards reciprocity, and beyond metaphors that celebrate sacrifice towards institutions that respect limits. India presents a particularly revealing case. Few societies have embedded ecological symbolism more deeply within religious and cultural traditions. Rivers such as the Ganga are worshipped as mothers, forests have historically been regarded as sacred spaces, and the Earth itself is invoked through rituals of gratitude. Yet India also ranks among the world's largest consumers of natural resources, while its cities continue to confront severe air pollution, groundwater depletion and biodiversity loss. The contradiction is not evidence that cultural reverence is meaningless; rather, it demonstrates that symbolic respect without institutional accountability cannot restrain ecological degradation. Rituals alone cannot substitute for environmental regulation, sustainable production or democratic accountability. It would nevertheless be simplistic to argue that calling nature 'Mother' causes environmental destruction. Such determinism ignores the decisive roles of capitalism, industrialisation, colonial extraction and state policy. The metaphor did not produce the climate, metaphors shape the moral vocabulary within which these systems operate. They influence what societies perceive and gratitude towards reciprocity, and beyond metaphors that celebrate sacrifice towards institutions that respect limits.

'The Move Reflects Familiar Cycle Of Internal Chaos...': Mohammed Yousuf Criticises PCB's Squad Shake-up Ahead Of Edgbaston Test

Former Pakistan batter Mohammed Yousuf criticised the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) decision to release seven players and two coaches from the squad ahead of the third Edgbaston Test against England, saying that the move reflects the familiar cycle of "internal chaos, differences of opinion and controversies" that have haunted the country's cricket and the focus should be "on the field, not the boardroom".

Pakistan made major changes to their Test set-up ahead of the third and final Test against England from September 9, replacing almost half of their squad and releasing head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and bowling coach Umar Gul following heavy defeats in the first two Tests against Three Lions, according to Cricinfo. The changes come after Pakistan suffered a 194-run defeat in the second Test, allowing England to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series. In the first Test, Pakistan had lost by an innings margin. PCB had released seven



players from the squad, including Mohammad Rizwan, Imam-ul-Haq, Salman Agha, Ali Usman, Aamer Jamal, Awaiz Zafar and Khurram Shahzad after the loss at Lord's. In their place, Pakistan have brought in five uncapped players along with Saim Ayub and Abdullah Fazal, who have a combined experience of just 10 matches. The five uncapped players added to the squad are Arafat Minhas, Mohammad Imran Jr, Saad Baig, Mohammad Imran Randhawa and Razaullah. Hesson and Ashley Noffke, who are part of Pakistan's white-ball coaching set-up as head coach and bowling coach, respectively. Posting on X, Yousuf

said that the decision "does not appear to be only performance-related" and spoke of how Pakistan cricket has faced such "turbulence" time and again in the aftermath of their landmark 1992 World Cup win, which "eroded stability and distracted from the game itself". He called for strong performances and consistent positive results to "silence the news", saying that "success remains the most effective antidote".

"The recent decision by the authorities to recall players and coaching staff from the ongoing tour does not appear to be only performance related. After all, we are not sending legends like Zaheer Abbas, Javed

Miandad, Inzamam-ul-Haq, or Saeed Anwar as replacements. Instead, this move reflects the familiar cycle of internal chaos, differences of opinion, and controversies that have long haunted Pakistan cricket. Since the glory of the 1992 World Cup, such turbulence has resurfaced time and again, eroding stability and distracting from the game itself," he said.

"We have endured such turmoil in different forms many times before, each episode leaving scars on the team's progress and the fans' faith. The lesson is clear! only strong performances and consistent positive results can silence the noise. Pakistan cricket must

FSSAI Notice To 5-Star Hotels JW Marriott, Andaz Over Hygiene Issues, Cockroaches On Premises



Food regulator FSSAI on Wednesday said it has issued notices to five-star hotels JW Marriott and Andaz at Aerocity here for serious violations of laws related to hygiene, including presence of cockroaches near freezers.

In a social media post, the regulator informed that it has issued a notice to JW Marriott hotel, which is a unit of Aria Hotels and Consultancy Services Pvt Ltd. The notice has been issued "over serious food safety violations and non-compliance with FSSAI requirements."

In another post, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) informed that it has issued notice to Juniper Hotels Pvt Ltd (Andaz, Aerocity, Delhi) following inspections that "uncovered serious

food safety violations". The regulator has collected samples from both the hotels and further action would be taken based on lab reports. During the inspection, FSSAI officials found serious deficiencies related to hygiene and sanitation.

In the case of JW Marriott, the officials observed inadequate pest control, presence of cockroaches and fruit flies, and poor maintenance of food premises. In the case of Andaz hotel, the FSSAI inspection revealed active cockroaches near freezers, houseflies, mosquitoes in the grinding room, spider webs, and the discovery of a 'gutka' packet inside the bottling plant area. Comments from both the hotels could not be

immediately obtained.

During the inspection at JW Marriott, FSSAI officials found "serious hygiene and sanitation deficiencies, including unclean utensils and food-contact surfaces, visible particulate matter in drinking water, inadequate pest control, cockroaches and fruit flies, and poor maintenance of food premises."

The regulator found spoiled/fungal-affected food in the hotel. It also observed improper food storage and cross-contamination risks. "These included fungal growth on apples, rotten tomatoes, uncovered food, damaged storage containers, inadequate vegetarian/non-vegetarian segregation, improperly stored cut vegetables and food products not maintained as per prescribed storage conditions," FSSAI said. Moreover, FSSAI pointed out that various kitchens and food preparation areas, including the Chinese, Indian, Italian and bakery kitchens, showed deficiencies such as pest infestation, non-operational exhaust systems, poor sanitation, inadequate allergen segregation, defective storage

containers, improper food identification and inappropriate storage of food products.

Deficiencies were also observed in the water bottling area, dry store, coffee shop and vegetable preparation area, including rusting of the drinking-water storage tank, deficiencies in imported-food labelling, poor sanitation and fruit-fly infestation.

"The overall inspection revealed deficiencies relating to licensing/KOB compliance, labelling, food storage, temperature control, sanitation, pest control, personal hygiene, cross-contamination prevention, allergen management, traceability, maintenance and potable-water," the regulator said.

Elaborating on the violation, the regulator said that certain food products /materials, including paneer, khoya, chana masala and chilli, were found without the requisite licence/appropriate endorsement available for verification.

That apart, the hotel company was found carrying out retail and re-

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen capped his mas

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen capped his masterful undefeated campaign by retaining his title after defeating Belarusian chess grandmaster Denis Lazavik in a lop-sided final of the chess competition at the Esports World Cup here on Saturday. Team Liquid's Carlsen came with a clear goal and pursued it with unrelenting determination, not losing a single match en route to successfully defending his title. The 35-year-old Norwegian secured a 2-0 (3-1, 3-1) win over Lazavik of AGAL in the grand final. "I followed Denis' games and talked to the coaches. I do feel, especially with Hikaru's approach, it was not



right. Funny thing is, I said that he is not great at defending endgames, so I thought I should keep it together better than Hikaru," the five-time world champion said after the win. "I have played Denis many times online, where I played riskily

and got punished for it, so I didn't give him obvious positional advantages." Asked if there was any moment when he felt he might lose, Carlsen said: "There were several moments, a couple against Alireza, against Nihal as well. There were certainly

some moments, but I am thrilled to go undefeated. "I was not trying to do anything out of the ordinary. I tried to take my chances, with a little bit of randomness, and I am happy." Asked what it would take to beat him, Carlsen said: "I don't know. In this format, it is not easy at the moment, I think. I think Alireza had a very good chance. It is not easy..."

United States' Hikaru Nakamura finished at the third position after beating Alireza Firouzja 4-1. The championship games each. If required, a third set will consist of two games to determine the champion.

Govt Rolls Out Foreign Asset Disclosure Scheme For Small Taxpayers



New Delhi: The Income Tax Department on Saturday notified a new voluntary disclosure scheme allowing small taxpayers to declare certain undisclosed foreign assets and income by paying an effective 60 per cent tax, as the government seeks to bring overseas holdings into the tax net without exposing eligible taxpayers to further penalties or prosecution.

The Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme (FAST-DS), announced in the 2026-27 Budget, will take effect from August 16, with online declarations open until December 31, 2026, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said. The scheme is aimed at taxpayers such as students, young professionals, technology employees and relocated non-resident Indians who may have failed to disclose eligible foreign assets or income. Under the rules, taxpayers will pay 30 per cent tax on the value

of the declared undisclosed foreign asset or income, plus an additional amount equal to the tax, effectively taking the levy to 60 per cent. The fair market value of assets will be determined as of March 31, 2026, the CBDT said. There are two categories of declarations under FAST-DS. For an undisclosed foreign asset or foreign income that was not previously offered to tax, the aggregate value must not exceed Rs 1 crore. A second category covers foreign assets that were already offered to tax or acquired when the taxpayer was a non-resident but were not reported in the relevant tax-return schedule. The threshold for such declarations is Rs 5 crore, with a Rs 1 lakh fee payable. The CBDT said the scheme is intended to enable eligible taxpayers to disclose "certain undisclosed foreign assets or income. Under the rules, taxpayers will pay 30 per cent tax on the value

frequently asked questions. Taxpayers making valid declarations will receive immunity from any further tax or penalty and from prosecution under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, in respect of the assets or income disclosed. The declared income or the amount invested in the disclosed asset will also not be included in the taxpayer's total income under the Income-tax Act, 1961 or the Black Money Act, the CBDT said. Notifying the rules for the scheme, the CBDT said the scheme "enables eligible taxpayers to declare certain undisclosed foreign assets, undisclosed foreign income, or undeclared foreign assets" on payment of the specified tax or fee. For example, where an undisclosed foreign bank account is valued at Rs 60 lakh and undisclosed foreign income amounts to Rs

20 lakh, the total tax payable would be Rs 48 lakh, according to an example in the CBDT's frequently asked questions. Taxpayers making valid declarations will receive immunity from any further tax or penalty and from prosecution under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, in respect of the assets or income disclosed. The declared income or the amount invested in the disclosed asset will also not be included in the taxpayer's total income under the Income-tax Act, 1961 or the Black Money Act, the CBDT said. Notifying the rules for the scheme, the CBDT said the scheme "enables eligible taxpayers to declare certain undisclosed foreign assets, undisclosed foreign income, or undeclared foreign assets, on payment of a specified tax or fee".

Latest ICC Rankings: Shubman Gill Slips Two Spots; Babar Azam Out Of Top 10



The ICC has released the latest Test rankings. The rankings have brought setbacks for several players. The rankings of England captain Joe Root and India captain Shubman Gill have seen

their rankings drop. Pakistan captain Babar Azam has once again slipped out of the top 10. Meanwhile, Steve Smith has climbed up by one spot. Rankings released after India vs Sri Lanka

Test series The ICC has announced the new Test rankings after the India-Sri Lanka Test series. Notably, England's Harry Brook retains the top spot, and his current rating stands at 856. Australia's Steve Smith has moved up one place to second position with a rating of 840. Joe Root has slipped one spot to third place with a rating of 820. His ranking suffered due to a poor performance in the second match of the series between England and Pakistan. Shubman Gill slips in rankings India captain Shubman Gill has not slipped out of the top 10, but has slipped in the rankings. Gill has fallen two places to the 9th spot with a rating of 709. However, Indian wicket-keeper-batter Rishabh

Pant retains the 7th position with a rating of 713. Pakistan captain Babar Azam has suffered the biggest setback as he is dropped out of the top 10 to the 15th position, with his rating falling to 679. On the other hand, Pakistan's Saud Shakeel has made a significant leap of 15 places to reach the 18th spot. Daryl Mitchell takes a leap Australia's Travis Head is in fourth place with a rating of 811. South Africa's Temba Bavuma is in fifth place, while New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra is in sixth. New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell has also climbed one spot and is now in eighth place. Jasprit Bumrah moves to the third spot. The Indian right-arm pacer has lost his second spot and is now at the third position behind Australia's Mitchell Starc and New Zealand's Matt Henry.

Padmaavat Writer Says Jauhar Scene Reflected 'Reality Of Those Times' Amid Swara Bhasker's Remark



Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Padmaavat* is once again being discussed over its jauhar scene. The debate has returned after actor Swara Bhasker's recent comments about the sequence faced criticism. Amid the backlash, the film's co-writer Prakash Kapadia has defended the decision to show jauhar in the film. He said the scene was based on the makers' research and their understanding of the period shown in the film.

What did Prakash Kapadia say about the jauhar scene? Speaking to a newswire, Kapadia said the team had studied historical material before making Padmaavat. He explained that the makers presented the events based on what they found in historical accounts. "We made the film according to our

research and what is written in history books,” Kapadia said. The writer also said that people can have different opinions about a film. However, he maintained that the jauhar sequence was shown as part of the reality of the period in which the story was set. “Every person interprets the film differently. What we showed, including the jauhar scene, was the reality of those times; it cannot be changed now,” he said. Kapadia also spoke about the Rajput warriors shown in the film. He said the men were entering a battle knowing that they might not come back alive. “The situation was that of ‘do or die’. Woh log (the male warriors) kesariya kar ke utare the,” he said. Kesariya was a Rajput tradition linked to men going to battle in saffron clothes. It was

associated with warriors preparing to fight until death. Kapadia said this was the situation shown alongside the jauhar in the film.

Why is the jauhar scene being discussed again? The scene has come back into focus after Swara Bhasker spoke about its portrayal. She questioned whether showing mass suicide in a heroic way could send the wrong message, especially to people who have survived sexual violence. She also raised concerns about the idea that choosing to live could be seen as dishonourable. Her comments led to criticism on social media. Swara later clarified that her remarks had been mistranslated. She also said that she had never called Rani Padmavati or the women who performed jauhar cowards. Prakash Kapadia reacts to Swara

Blasker's criticism Kapadi, said he had not followed all of Swara's recent comments closely. He suggested that the way people react to a film can depend on their mindset when they watch it. "It depends on the person's mood; even if it's a good film and you watch it with a bad state of mind, you will find it bekaar," he said. The writer also said that a viewer's intention can affect how they see a film. According to him, some people watch a movie simply as an audience, while others may watch it mainly to find something controversial or negative.

Kapadia recalled that Padmaavat had faced strong opposition even before its release. Several groups had protested against the film without watching the finished movie. "With Padmaavat, people had raised objections even before watching the film and had protested on the streets. The same conversation is continuing years later, so what can I say, let people say what they want to," he said. The film, which starred Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh and Shahid Kapoor, had faced protests and controversy over its subject and portrayal of Rajput history before reaching theatres.

Nivin Pauly Tired Of Benz Shoot Delays, Says He Couldn't Change Look For Nearly A Year



Nivin Pauly is frustrated with the constant postponement of his Tamil film *Benz*, which is part of the Lokesh Kanagaraj Cinematic Universe (LCU). The actor revealed that he has been unable to change his hairstyle and beard for nearly a year because he still has around 30-35 days of shooting left for the film. Nivin spoke about the delay while promoting his latest Malayalam film *Bethlehem* on the YouTube channel. During the conversation, the host noticed that the actor had maintained a similar look across his recent films and asked if

it was because of the 'Nivin Pauly factor.' Nivin explained that the reason was his commitment to Benz. "I can't change my look due to my commitment to Benz, the Tamil film. There was a proper agreement for it that I had to maintain my appearance. We began shooting for it last year, and it keeps getting postponed," he said. The actor has appeared in the same look in films including Sarvam Maya, Baby Girl, Prathichaya and Bethlehem Kudumba Unit. However, he said the delay has now become frustrating as he has other Malayalam projects.

ects to work on. When the host pointed out that Nivin had managed to release Malayalam films despite the delay, the actor said he still could not change his look because a major portion of Benz remains to be completed. "Now, for Bethlehem Kudumba Unit and another recently launched film, I couldn't change my look because I still have 30-35 days of shooting left. Nothing seems to be moving. I'm tired of calling them about this. Guys, at least after watching this interview, please make a decision and complete the film," Nivin said. Benz was announced in 2024 with

Raghava Lawrence as the lead. The film is directed by Bakkiyaraj Kannan and produced by Lokesh Kanagaraj. Sudhan Sundaram and Jagadish Palanisamy. Nivin was later introduced as the antagonist, Twin Fish Walter. The film is part of the LCU, which also includes Kaithi, Vikram and Leo. Ravi Mohan and Samyuktha are also part of the cast. However, Benz is yet to get a release date. Nivin is currently shooting for a Malayalam film with Rukmini Vasanth and Aju Varghese. He also has Ram's Tamil film Yezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai, featuring Soori

Rukmini Vasanth's Fans Disappointed Over Her Intimate Scene In Yash's Toxic: 'Wasn't Expecting This From You'



Yash-starrer Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups has finally reached theatres, but the film has already sparked discussions on social media. A scene featuring actress Rukmini Vasanth has caught the attention of viewers, with some fans expressing disappointment over the intimate sequence. Rukmini, who recently gained wider attention for playing

Kanakavathi in Kantara: Chapter 1, plays Mellisa in Toxic. She shares the screen with Yash, Kiara Advani, Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi and Tara Sutaria. Rukmini Vasanth's Scene In Toxic Goes Viral! A scene featuring Rukmini has been circulating on social media. In the sequence, her character is seen waking up with a blanket wrapped around

her. The scene has led to criticism from a section of viewers, who have questioned the creative choice and the way her character has been presented. Some fans were particularly surprised to see Rukmini in such a scene. One user wrote, "How am I supposed to process scenes like this? Rukmini, I seriously wasn't expecting this from you".

How am I supposed to process scenes like this? [????#Rukmini](#), I seriously wasn't expecting this from you! [????#Toxic#ToxicTheMovie](#) [#Yash#RukminiVasanth#KiaraAdvani](#) [pic.twitter.com/13smWTBx](#)— Navya? (@Mine_vya) August 26, 2022

Another user questioned the decision behind the scene and wrote, "Rukku, WTF is this?" A third user criticised the writing, saying, "What is this? Why such a cheap script?"

— Viswa SVB ??
 (@viswagm) August 26, 2026
 However, reactions to the scene have not been completely one-sided. One social media user pointed out that there is no kissing or love-making scene involving Rukmini and suggested that some of the criticism was unnecessary. Fans Rukmini's Choice The scene has started a discussion about the choices made by Rukmini in Toxic. Some viewers have questioned why the actress agreed to be part of the sequence, while others have directed their criticism towards the film's writing and presentation. Rukmini has been receiving attention for her recent work, especially after her performance as Kanakavathi in Kantara: Chapter 1. Her role in Toxic is another major addition to her growing filmography. So far, the actress has not publicly responded to the criticism surrounding the scene. The makers of Toxic have also not issued any statement on the matter. Toxic's Intimate Content Sparks Discussion

Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone Trailer Divides Fans Over Dark Visuals, Familiar Scenes: 'Where's The Magic?'



HBO has released a new teaser trailer for its upcoming Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone series, giving fans a much closer look at the new generation of actors stepping into the magical world. The eight-episode series will premiere globally on December 25, 2026. It is based on J.K. Rowling's first Harry Potter novel and will retell the story that was previously brought to the big screen in the hugely popular film franchise. The new trailer shows several familiar moments from Harry's first year at Hogwarts. It also introduces more of the characters who will guide, challenge and support the young wizard during his first year at the school of witchcraft and wizardry. The trailer brings back familiar moments from the new footage gives fans a better idea of what the first season will cover. Harry can be seen exploring Hogwarts, using the invisibility cloak and facing Professor Snape. The trailer also features Quidditch, one of the most popular parts of the wizarding world, along with the memorable troll sequence involving

Harry, Ron and Hermione. McGonagall's sorting ceremony also gets a glimpse in the trailer, as new students are placed into their Hogwarts houses. Hagrid, Dumbledore, Snape and Quirrell are among the other familiar faces seen in the footage. While many of these moments will be instantly recognisable to fans of the films, the series is expected to spend more time on details from Rowling's original book.

Trailer reaction online

The new trailer has sparked a mixed reaction among Harry Potter fans, with many expressing excitement about finally seeing the books adapted in greater detail, while others questioned the series' visual tone and its close resemblance to the original films. Some fans said they had never been particularly fond of the movie saga and were looking forward to the series for the scenes and storylines that were left out of the films, including the Marauders' backstory. However, the trailer's dark colour palette drew criticism from viewers who felt it lacked the "magic"

and "wonder" associated with the Wizarding World. Others were amused by how closely some moments and even dialogues appeared to mirror the films, with one fan asking why the adaptation was recreating not just the scenes but the dialogues too. Dominic McLaughlin leads the new Harry Potter cast. Newcomer Dominic McLaughlin plays Harry Potter, taking over the role made famous by Daniel Radcliffe. McLaughlin's Harry is an 11-year-old orphan who grows up with his aunt Petunia, uncle Vernon and cousin Dudley. He has little idea about the magical world until letters from Hogwarts begin arriving at the Dursleys' home. His life changes when Hagrid, the Hogwarts gamekeeper, arrives to tell him that he is a wizard. Harry then enters Hogwarts, where he meets Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger and begins a friendship that becomes central to the story. Arabella Stanton plays Hermione Granger, while Alastair Stout makes his acting debut as Ron Weasley. The two characters were