

EYE SECRETS

Spy in every blink

English Daily

Rangareddy Vol No. 1 Issue 115

Date: Saturday, 12-9-2026

Price: 2/-

Pages: 8



New Delhi, Sept 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for the removal of the top 10 trade barriers among BRICS countries and set an ambitious target of helping 100 BRICS startups scale into other member markets every year, as India sought to turn the grouping into a more practical platform for business and economic cooperation.

Addressing the BRICS Business Forum here at Bharat Mandapam, Modi also called for the creation

Modi sets BRICS business targets, calls for removal of trade barriers

of 1,000 new business partnerships among BRICS countries and said progress on all three targets should be reviewed annually.

"As BRICS enters its third decade, I would urge the BRICS Business Council to consider three questions: Can you prepare a report on removing the top 10 trade barriers among BRICS countries? Can we support 100 BRICS startups every year to scale up in other BRICS markets? Can we develop 1,000 new partnerships among our businesses? We must review our progress every year on all three parameters," Modi said.

Highlighting the growing economic weight of the grouping, Modi said BRICS and its partner countries now formed a 21-country family, representing 50 per cent of the global population, 40 per cent of global GDP and more than 25 per cent of world trade.

"...while global GDP has grown about two-and-a-half times during these years, the combined GDP of BRICS countries has grown nearly four-and-a-half times. This means that the economic strength of BRICS has grown at nearly twice the pace of the world economy," he said.

With BRICS entering its third decade, Modi said the grouping must focus on measurable outcomes and translate its growing economic strength into concrete global solutions.

The Prime Minister said India's BRICS chairship was focused on "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" and stressed the need to reduce trade barriers and create greater opportunities for businesses.

"Today, when trade barriers are increasing in the world, India is building economic bridges," he said, noting that India had entered into free trade agreements with nearly 40 countries since 2014.

Under its BRICS chairship, India has established cooperation networks in agriculture, health care, skills and smart grids, besides initiatives such as

the BRICS Incubator Network, BRICS MSME Portal and BRICS Startup Innovation Fund.

Modi also highlighted India's startup ecosystem, saying the country now had more than 2 lakh startups and over 120 unicorns. He urged BRICS countries to take such innovations to global markets.

Calling India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) a model of "innovation at population scale", Modi said 50 per cent of the world's real-time payments were now taking place through the technology. "Innovators from BRICS countries can also draw on this experience to develop new solutions for their own countries," he said.

He also stressed the importance of secure sea lanes, open supply routes and safety of seafarers for global trade, and reaffirmed India's support for freedom of navigation.

The Prime Minister also urged greater participation of women entrepreneurs in the BRICS growth story. Nearly 200 women business leaders participated in the BRICS Women's Business Alliance meeting held in India.

State to Target Gen Alpha, Gen Beta in New Edu Policy: Revanth

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad:, Sept 11

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday said Telangana government would soon roll out a new education policy on par with the National Education Policy (NEP), with a focus on providing quality education and skills to make students job-ready and promote entrepreneurship.

The policy, he said, would cater not only to Gen Z but also to the emerging Gen Alpha and Gen Beta generations. It will focus on education, language and communication skills from nursery to Class 12, skill development for graduates, and employment, innovation and entrepreneurship for those pursuing higher education.

Replying to a debate in the Legislative Assembly on the government's initiatives, Revanth Reddy said a recent caste survey conducted by the state had established that the key reason for social backwardness was lack of access to education rather than possession of assets or property. "If we have to compete with the world, there is a need to discuss what needs to be incorporated into the education system," he said.

He said the government had constituted an Education Commission to formulate a new education policy for Telangana and appointed a committee headed by K. Keshava Rao to examine its report. The government was willing to consider suggestions and advice from legislators and the public, if submitted to Keshava Rao, he said.

Increasing the education sector's share in the state budget to 15 per cent was one of the government's goals, he added.

Responding to BJP MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy's criticism over the absence of a full-time education minister, Revanth Reddy said the fact that the Chief Minister himself was handling the portfolio showed the importance attached to education. "When I review the education department as Chief Minister, the entire system comes under review," he said, adding that he had a passion for the education sector and

had retained the portfolio with the objective of transforming it.

Revanth Reddy said the education budget had been substantially increased under the Congress government. Against the `19,093 crore allocated by the



previous BRS government in 2023-24, the Congress government allocated `21,292 crore in 2024-25, `23,108 crore in 2025-26 and `26,647 crore in 2026-27. "In just three years, we have increased the Education Department's budget by `7,554 crore," he said.

The Chief Minister said his government had filled 10,006 teacher posts within 55 days of assuming office in its first year, without any allegations of irregularities in the recruitment process. In contrast, the previous government had appointed only 7,857 teachers in 10 years, he said.

He said the government was adopting the best practices from across the world while framing the new education policy, keeping future generations in mind. He said the future of the country was shaped in classrooms, and education had the power to change the destiny of individuals, which was why he had retained the Education portfolio.

Referring to the increase in student enrolment in government schools, he said the number of students had risen by 86,000 after he took charge of the education department. He described the increase as an indication of the performance of the government's education initiatives.

Bank strike hits public sector banks across India

New Delhi: Banking services, especially at public sector banks across the country, were impacted on Friday after the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) called a nationwide strike to press for the immediate implementation of a five-day workweek and resolution of pending wage-related issues.

The strike call by the UFBU, an umbrella body of seven unions representing 90 per cent of officers and employees, did not impact the functioning of private sector banks.

Most branches of public sector banks across the country were either completely or partially closed as employees and officers observed the strike.

Services such as cash deposits and withdrawals, cheque clearances and administrative work were hit at branches of most public sector banks (PSBs) and some old-generation private sector banks.

However, digital banking services, including UPI and internet banking, remained functional.

"Since there was no positive outcome and the government did not agree to our demand, this strike is forced on us. Bank employees and officers are highly aggrieved that they alone are being discriminated against," All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) general secretary C H Venkatachalam, a constituent of UFBU, told PTI.

Meanwhile, most public sector banks informed their customers of the likely impact of the strike on operations.

In an advisory to customers, SBI had said, "We advise that while the bank has made all necessary arrangements to ensure normal functioning of the branches and offices on the days of strike, it is likely that work in banks may be impacted by the strike."

The unions are demanding that all Saturdays be declared holidays, a key point that was reportedly agreed upon during the 12th Bipartite Settlement signed with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) in March 2024 but is awaiting government notification.

Currently, banks remain open on the first, third and fifth Saturdays of the month.

Other residual demands, including the updation and improvement of pensions, a uniform dearness allowance formula for all pensioners, and an option for employees covered under the National Pension System (NPS) to switch to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), also remain unresolved.

Telangana bans analogue paneer for one year

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad:, Sept 1

The Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) has issued a notification prohibiting the manufacture, processing, packing, storage, distribution, and sale of non-dairy or analogue paneer in the State.

The ban, enacted under Section 30(2)(a) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, remains in effect for one year starting Thursday, September 10, 2026.

joined a growing group of states that have taken action against analogue paneer.

Some of the other Indian States that have already imposed a ban on analogue paneer include Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh, aiming to curtail the deceptive sale of non-dairy paneer. South Asians & Diaspora

Analogue paneer is a synthetic alternative primarily formulated from skimmed milk powder, vegetable oils, emulsifiers, and stabilizers designed to mimic the appearance and texture of traditional paneer at a significantly lower cost.

In the last few months, there have been a slew of instances where food safety enforcement agencies in Hyderabad have observed widespread malpractice with hotels, restaurants, and cloud kitchens substituting real dairy paneer with cheaper analogue variants without informing consumers.

Interestingly, despite a large number of states imposing a ban on analogue paneer, the apex food safety regulator of the country i.e. the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), officially recognizes dairy analogues as legitimate food products.

The FSSAI permits the production and sale of analogue paneer on the strict condition that manufacturers and eateries label them accurately and never market them under the name "paneer".

However, the majority of eateries seldom disclose on their menus whether their dishes contain analogue paneer or real dairy paneer.



The prohibition targets imitation paneer products that closely resemble traditional dairy paneer but are manufactured using vegetable fats, edible oils, starches, and other non-dairy substitutes. Authorities noted that these items are frequently marketed deceptively under the guise of genuine milk-derived paneer, prompting stringent regulatory intervention.

With the ban on analogue paneer, Telangana has

manufacturers.

This was the third time in recent years that the two leaders made a statement of friendship away from the usual diplomatic settings around high tables.

The last time Modi rode in the Russian presidential limousine was after the SCO meeting in Bishkek. Before that, visuals of him and Putin travelling in the vehicle on the sidelines of the SCO meeting in Tianjin, China, in September 2025 had gone viral. Putin's Aurus Senat has long attracted attention for being much more than a luxury limousine. The Russian President prefers to use his own vehicle during overseas visits, and it forms an integral part of his extensive security arrangements because of the high threat perception he faces.

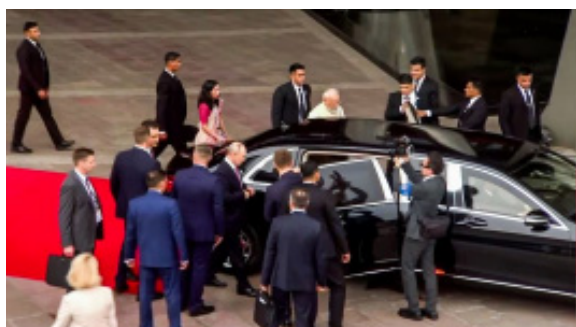
Produced by Russian automaker Aurus Motors, the Aurus Senat is designed to withstand major security threats, including ballistic attacks and blasts.

Modi shares ride with Putin in armoured Aurus Senat

New Delhi, Sept 11

Heads turned on Friday as Prime Minister Modi and Vladimir Putin shared a ride in the Russian President's heavily guarded Aurus Senat limousine on Delhi roads.

After their bilateral meeting, the two leaders travelled in the "fortress on wheels" to another venue within Bharat Mandapam, which is hosting INNOPROM, the international industrial exhibition showcasing global



Science uncovers how brain interprets artistic beauty



Cambridge: Stand in front of Turner’s Sun Rising Over Water (1825-30) and something odd tends to happen. The painting holds you, even though observers might struggle to say why. Maybe it is the colour, the balance, the composition, or the strange stillness the artwork seems to carry. Whatever it is, you feel it long before you can explain why. And the stranger next to you, looking at the same canvas with the same awe in their eyes, very likely feels it too. We often say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Yet show almost anyone a misty Chinese Song-dynasty mountain landscape, or the softly brushed figure of the Mona Lisa, and nearly everyone agrees that something striking is unfolding before them.

Beauty feels intensely private, and, at the same time, we keep discovering that we collectively share it. That contradiction is one of the longstanding puzzles in “neuroaesthetics” – the science of how the brain responds to art and beauty. How does our sense of beauty actually take shape in the brain? In our latest study, published in Nature Communications, we tried to map that shared experience. We found that instead of representing it as a single entity, the brain instead splits aesthetic experience into two major strands. One strand handles what an image shows, whether a landscape, an object or a figure. The other tracks how much pleasure it gives us, drawing on the same circuits that respond to food or money. These two separate neural systems combine to shape every judgment of beauty we make when viewing visual artworks. Neuroscientists have long argued about this question, from positions that compete as often as they overlap. One camp focuses largely on perception, on how the brain takes in composition, contrast and form. Another emphasises evaluation and reward, placing beauty in the brain’s value circuitry. A third looks to the brain systems behind imagination and self-reflection. Each account captures something real, but they had rarely been tested together in a single study. We asked 34 volunteers to look at 96 traditional Chinese watercolour paintings inside a 7T MRI scanner, powerful enough to pick up the small shifts in blood flow that track the brain’s activity. Once

they were out of the scanner, each participant rated how the paintings made them feel. Instead of working straight from those raw ratings, however, we borrowed a tool from somewhere less obvious: the recommendation engines that power services such as Netflix and Spotify. Known as collaborative filtering algorithms, these tools excel at detecting patterns of agreement buried in people’s preferences. When applied to our aesthetic ratings, they pulled out two dimensions running underneath everyone’s responses. The first sorted the paintings from most figure-like to most landscape-like, a measure of what each picture conceptually depicts. The second sorted them from most disliked to most liked across all participants, a measure of emotional value, or hedonic value (the sensory enjoyment someone gets from an experience). Despite their complementary contribution to the overall aesthetic experience, the brain kept these two dimensions remarkably separate. Visual content was read out along the visual pathways, the familiar circuits that let us tell a face from a scene. Hedonic value, on the other hand, was decoded somewhere else, within deeper regions that handle reward and pleasure. Put simply, the brain seems to judge a visual painting with much the same machinery it uses to judge the rest of the world around us. We also found that how strongly the brain encoded this two-dimensional aesthetic landscape depended on a person’s expertise in visual arts. In particular, the difference showed up in the default mode network, a system of connections in the brain tied to imagination, consciousness, self-reflection and meaning-making that several leading theories place at the heart of aesthetic experience. These results suggest that, beyond mere exposure, training in

visual arts appears to change how the brain represents beauty in the first place. Neuroscience This last point carries significant weight. If aesthetic experience has a measurable structure in the brain, and if making and viewing art can reshape it, then arts education starts to look less like enrichment and more like a kind of training that alters how perception, emotion and meaning are wired together. The clinical implications run along the same line. Art-based therapies for depression, trauma and dementia have long been valued on instinct and anecdote. A clearer neural account gives us a way to test and sharpen them. Finally, as more of the images around us, in advertising, in design and on our screens, are generated by machines, knowing what beauty looks like inside the human brain matters more than ever. Visual Art & Design Most often, we tend to treat beauty as something purely personal and assume that asking scientific questions about it misses the point. Building on pioneering work in the field of neuroaesthetics, our results suggest otherwise. Beauty has a structure, and that structure says something about the kind of creature we have become over countless years of evolution.

Hostel operator paid Rs 1 lakh lease a month, ran 7 facilities

The operator of the five-storey hostel building in South Delhi’s Satya Niketan, that collapsed on Sunday, had taken the building on a lease of Rs 1 lakh per month in August last year and had rented out rooms to students, The Indian Express has learnt. The operator, Sudhanshu, was arrested on Wednesday. Police said he was allegedly running around seven such facilities in the vicinity under the banner of Hostel Daze. The PG that collapsed had eight rooms with a total of 16 beds, spread across four floors. On Tuesday, police arrested the contractor, Sanoj, from Uttar Pradesh’s Kasganj. They said he was allegedly carrying out repair and construction work in the basement and on the ground floor of the building despite knowing that the building was “weak”. According to the police, even on the day of the incident, repair work was underway in the basement to address waterlogging and seepage issues, while a shop on the ground floor was being extended. “There was a high chance that the building did not have adequate support and due to the works which were being carried out in the basement and on the ground floor, it might have collapsed,” an officer said. Building owner Hariram Gupta (81), his wife Urmila Gupta (75) and their son Mahesh Gupta (52) were arrested on Monday in connection with the case. During questioning, Mahesh, who is currently in police custody, allegedly told investigators that he used to oversee the maintenance of the building on behalf of his parents. Mahesh also told investigators that repair work was being carried out in the basement as waste had accumulated owing to the monsoon showers. Repair and extension work were also allegedly underway on the ground floor which was used for commercial purposes. According to the police, Mahesh said that on the day of the incident, the family learnt about the col-



lapse from local residents and subsequently left their home and went to his in-laws’ house in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan. FIR flags building’s condition Police have registered an FIR under sections of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, negligent conduct in connection with construction or repair of buildings, and acts endangering life or personal safety. The case was registered based on the complaint of an Assistant Sub-Inspector-rank officer. According to police records, the incident took place around 1 pm, while a PCR call was received around 1.34 pm. The caller, according to the FIR, stated that a building which was home to young people had collapsed. It further states that the building was several years old. “During the preliminary local enquiry, police were informed that the owners had allegedly constructed additional floors and that further construction work was underway,” the FIR stated. The FIR further also highlights that the owner, Hariram, was aware that the building’s foundation could not safely bear the additional weight that was being put on it, but went ahead to earn money despite the potential risk to the occupants.

Panic, unease, demolition: A walk in collapsed Delhi hostel neighbourhood

EMS News Agency, Sept 10

The familiar bustle of Satya Niketan had given way to an uneasy stillness by Tuesday night. Shops were shuttered, students were carrying bags and suitcases out of paying guest accommodations, and municipal workers were preparing to take apart a building that until days ago was someone’s home and hostel. Under the lights, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) began removing the water tank and tin roofs of building 13, the first of several structures in the South Delhi locality earmarked for demolition after a five-storey building collapsed on Sunday, killing seven persons, five of them Delhi University (DU) students. Rescue underway a day after building collapsed at Satya Niketan in New Delhi on Monday. Rescue underway a day after building collapsed at Satya Niketan in New Delhi on Monday. The Delhi government has said “dilapidated buildings” near the collapsed structure will be demolished. Orders to vacate the premises have been issued to three more buildings in Satya Niketan, which is packed with private hostels and PG accommodations catering to students of DU’s South Campus colleges. Building 13 is set to be demolished on the direction of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who had cited its “dilapidated condition” and said that the action was “in the interest of public safety”. Like the one that collapsed on Sunday, building 13 housed a private hostel. Its students were evacuated on the day of the collapse. Through Tuesday, their belongings, which remained inside, were removed with the help of the Delhi

Fire Service and MCD personnel. Delhi hostel collapse exposes MCD enforcement gaps; 5 senior officials suspended Rescue operations continued for the second day in South West Delhi’s Satya Niketan on Monday. (Express photo by Praveen Khanna) An MCD official present at the site said, “The students have vacated building 13 and today, their belongings were removed. The demolition will be conducted in stages and at a very slow pace over the next couple of days. This is necessary since buildings here are located very close to each other.” A man, who runs a grocery shop in a nearby building, has a godown in building 13. On Sunday afternoon, he was asleep in his house above his shop when the crash jolted him awake. He had rushed out after hearing screams. When the dust settled, he saw that the building two properties away from his had collapsed. His shop was shut on Tuesday. “My shop will remain shut for a week. As my godown is in building 13, I have started moving my stock elsewhere,” he said. Maintaining that while authorities had assured him that his own building was safe, he added, “Since the locality has been sealed, I won’t be getting customers anytime soon.” Tamanna, a second-year undergraduate student at Motilal Nehru College, lives in a PG opposite the collapsed building. “I had felt the tremors when it collapsed. I have been traumatized since then, she said. Her PG owner, she added, is shifting them to a newly-constructed building two lanes away. “When the building collapsed, the manager told us that this building will also fall soon,” she said.

App-based rides hit in Chandigarh as Uber, Rapido licences suspended for 6 months



The Chandigarh Administration Tuesday suspended the licences of Uber and Rapido for six months, cutting off two of the city’s most widely used app-based cab services with immediate effect. The State Transport Authority (STA) has said the companies failed to satisfy the prescribed regulations relating to driver insurance and training, fares, vehicle eligibility and other safety and operational norms despite being given multiple opportunities. Earlier, the Union Territory had suspended the licences of Ola and inDrive, citing alleged violations of driver welfare and training. The regulatory crackdown on the sector is likely to affect thousands of commuters travelling between Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali, particularly daily office-goers and late-night travellers.

In Uber’s case, one of the key issues was its alleged failure to implement the fare structure notified by the Chandigarh Administration in July 2025. The STA had

Licences, registration, listing on a public portal: Government plans steps to regulate PGs

Every building offering paying guest (PG) accommodation must obtain, within 90 days, a licence from the municipal zonal authority, clearance from the local police, and a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) with regard to structural and fire safety from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the regional administration. The Delhi government has proposed in a draft Bill to regulate such establishments. Each establishment will have a unique registration number and will be listed on a public portal, says the draft regulation and welfare Bill for private hostels and PGs.

Seven people, including five students, were killed after a five-storey private hostel collapsed in Satya Niketan near Delhi University’s South Campus on Sunday. Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu chaired a meeting with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and top officials on Monday to review building safety, student accommodation, and PG regulations. Thousands of students from around the country come to Delhi every year to study or attend coaching classes. An estimated 2 lakh rooms are rented out as private hostel or PG accommodation in areas such as Mukherjee Nagar, Rajendra Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Munirka, and areas around North and South Campus, but police, the Fire Department, or MCD have no records of these buildings, their owners or tenants. “With the growing influx of students, privately operated PG accommodations have become a primary housing option... The absence of a formal integrated regulatory framework has led to... arbitrary rent practices, substandard living conditions, inadequate safety provisions, and... lack of an effective grievance redressal mechanism for students,” the draft Bill says. Work on the Bill is ongoing, and its provisions will be finalised in the next two months, Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood, who is also the chairman of the committee formed to draw up the PG regulation Bill, told The Indian Express on Tuesday. The draft has proposed a dedicated online portal (“GovPG”) with details of all registered PGs to serve as a one-stop hub

also received complaints alleging that passengers were being charged fares higher than the prescribed rates. The authority also raised objections to Uber’s subscription or recharge-based model for drivers, which it found inconsistent with the UT’s aggregator regulations. Officials further found that non-commercial vehicles were attached to the platform, as against the rules. Moreover, officials reportedly found Uber’s local office in Sector 47-C closed or locked during three inspections conducted in May. Rapido, meanwhile, was flagged for several similar compliance issues. According to STA, the insurance cover provided to its bike-taxi captains was limited to accidental death and injury. It did not fulfil the broader insurance requirements prescribed under the 2025 rules. The Rapido office in Sector 32-D was also reportedly found locked during three inspections. The company was additionally flagged over its subscription model, alleged over-charging and the attachment of non-commercial vehicles to its platform. The action follows growing friction between regulators, aggregators and drivers over the functioning of app-based transport services. Driver representatives have also raised concerns over fare structures and commissions, alleging that aggregators were charging commissions beyond the limit prescribed by the Chandigarh Administration. The STA said both Uber and Rapido had been provided adequate opportunities to demonstrate compliance, but their responses were not found satisfactory. The licences were suspended for six months under Rule 17 of the Chandigarh Administration Motor Vehicles Aggregators Rules, 2025. With Uber, Rapido, Ola and inDrive all facing suspension, the choices available to passengers for app-based rides in the city have sharply narrowed.



for information and complaints.

“Each PG must post its details and monthly updates (occupancy, rent changes, audit dates)... Students can use the portal to file complaints (anonymously). Core features include PG contact details, verification of PG registration and capacity certificates, submission of grievances, and tracking complaint status,” says the draft. “If a grievance is lodged, the portal will notify the relevant Zone Authority and institutional accommodations committee,” it says. Each college, university, and registered coaching institute will be required to set up an “Institutional Accommodation Committee” comprising two faculty members, two elected student-union representatives with at least one female member, a representative of the NSS or NCC, a ward-level municipal official, and a police liaison officer. “Every registered PG accommodation must install functional CCTV cameras at all entrances and common areas, with footage retained for a minimum of 30 days. ... Accommodations housing 15+ students are additionally required to employ a licensed security guard during night hours...,” the draft says. “Every PG must also designate a Warden who resides or maintains an office within 500 metres..., remains reachable at all times on a dedicated contact number, and is physically available within 15 minutes of any emergency call,” officials said.

Prajwal Revanna, prison mate sent to 2-day police custody over phone use in jail



A Bengaluru court Tuesday remanded former MP Prajwal Revanna and his prison mate to two days of police custody in connection with the alleged use of a mobile phone inside the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. Revanna and Prathap Rai were produced before the 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court after the Parappana Agrahara police obtained a body warrant for further investigation. “We have taken them into custody, and the inquiry is ongoing,” M Narayana, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Electronic City, said. The police said they sought their custody to ascertain how the phone reached Revanna, who alleg-

edly provided it to him, and how the device was being used inside the prison. Investigators are also probing whether any prison personnel helped facilitate access to the phone.

During a raid at the prison on August 11, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) said they recovered a smartphone from Revanna. The phone reportedly had applications, including Facebook and WhatsApp, installed and was subsequently sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for examination. According to the investigation, the phone was allegedly used to communicate with Revanna’s family members and lawyers. The police have also found that the SIM card used in the device was procured from Andhra Pradesh. In the First Information Report (FIR) registered over the alleged illegal use of a mobile phone inside the prison, Rai has been named Accused No. 1, while Revanna is Accused No. 2. During their two-day police custody, the police are expected to question the two separately to establish how the device was brought into the prison, who facilitated its access, and whom it was used to contact. The police are also examining the FSL report and other digital evidence recovered from the phone. Revanna is serving a life sentence at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison after being convicted in a rape case, while Rai is an undertrial in a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (PoCSO) Act.

Crude oil prices surge nearly 2 pc as US-Iran conflict escalates

New Delhi: Crude oil prices traded higher for a fourth straight session on Wednesday and gained around 2 per cent or over \$1 as fresh attacks involving Iran, the United States and Saudi Arabia heightened concerns over supply disruptions in the Gulf. Brent crude rose as much as 1.79 per cent or \$1.76 to near \$100 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude gained 1.88 per cent or \$1.75 to \$94.78 a barrel. Brent prices have climbed more than 20 per cent since early August as hopes for a permanent resolution to the six-month-old conflict faded and fighting intensified across the region. Both benchmarks remained in technically overbought territory. Brent’s previous close was its highest since July 23 for a second consecutive session, while WTI settled at its highest level since June 4. The latest price surge came after Iran-backed

Houthi forces in Yemen attacked four cities in southern Saudi Arabia, a US ally on Tuesday, injuring more than 70 people and setting oil installations on fire, according to reports. Reports suggest Saudi warplanes carried out airstrikes in Yemen’s Jubah district, east of the capital Sanaa, and in Taiz province in the southwest. Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said they had attacked two US destroyers and a US base in Jordan’s Al Azraq with ballistic missiles in retaliation for US attacks on Iranian oil tankers, according to them. Moreover, Jordan’s air-defence systems intercepted 18 of 20 ballistic missiles launched from Iran, while two landed in unpopulated areas, with no casualties reported, state media said citing the military. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned Iran that Washington would continue striking Iranian oil tankers in retaliation for attacks on US warships.

Heart disease led Maharashtra’s deaths in 2024, but cancer, diabetes stood out



Heart disease remained the biggest killer among medically certified deaths in Maharashtra in 2024. But the state’s mortality profile also throws up another concern: cancer, metabolic diseases and injuries accounted for a substantially larger share of deaths in Maharashtra than they did across India.Of the 3,27,174 deaths medically certified in Maharashtra in 2024, diseases of the circulatory system accounted for 30.8 per cent, or 1,00,878 deaths. Nationally, however, circulatory diseases accounted for a much larger 38.8 per cent of medically certified deaths according to data released by the Office of Registrar General of India (ORGI) last month.The sharp difference was seen in cancer, which accounted for 8.1 per cent of medically certified deaths in Maharashtra, with 26,492 deaths, compared with 5 per cent nationally.

Metabolic diseases, including diabetes and related conditions, accounted for another 7.5 per cent of deaths in the state, or 24,462 cases. The corresponding national share was 4 per cent.The state also recorded a higher share of deaths from injuries, poisoning and other external causes. They accounted for 5.5 per cent of medically

certified deaths in Maharashtra, or 18,061 deaths, against 4.1 per cent nationally.Maharashtra’s 2024 Mortality Data Maharashtra’s 2024 Mortality Data (Image generated using Gemini)Respiratory diseases were the second largest category in Maharashtra, accounting for 9.8 per cent of medically certified deaths, or 32,133 cases. The national share was 11 per cent.Infectious and parasitic diseases, meanwhile, accounted for 6.7 per cent of deaths in Maharashtra, or 21,807 cases, lower than the national share of 8.3 per cent.

The figures point to a mortality pattern in Maharashtra that differs in important ways from the national picture. The state has a lower proportion of certified deaths from circulatory and infectious diseases, but higher proportions from cancer, metabolic disorders and external causes.There is, however, an important limitation to the data. MCCD figures cover only deaths for which the cause has been medically certified and do not represent all deaths registered in the state.Maharashtra recorded 7,39,124 registered deaths under the Civil Registration System in 2024. Of these, 3,27,174 were medically certified, giving the state an overall medical certification rate of 44.3 per cent. The rate has risen from 39.3 per cent in 2022 and 42.4 per cent in 2023.Maharashtra’s certification rate was also substantially higher than the national average of 23.1 per cent. Among deaths of people who had received medical attention during their terminal illness, the state reported 100 per cent medical certification.This distinction is important in reading the cause-of-death figures. The Civil Registration System establishes that a death occurred, while the Medical Certification of Cause of Death provides a medically certified explanation of what caused it.

Man paraded for phone theft in UP, father-son duo arrested after video goes viral

The father and son were booked on charges including assault, criminal intimidation and kidnapping.The father and son were booked on charges including assault, criminal intimidation and kidnapping.Police in Uttar Pradesh’s Unnao district on Monday arrested a 50-year-old man and his son after a video of a man being publicly humiliated over alleged phone theft went viral this weekend.According to police, the incident took place on August 1, but no complaint was lodged. Police registered a case on Sunday after the video surfaced on social media. Police said the accused father and son – Raju (50) and Raj (27) – belong to the upper caste, while 30-year-old Sonu, who was paraded through the village with his shaven head, is from Other Backward Class (OBC). The victim and the arrested accused are neighbours.The police are looking for the third accused, who shaved Sonu’s head.“Of the two mobile phones reported missing from Raju and Raj’s house, one was recovered, while the other is yet to be traced,” said Pradeep Kumar Singh, the Station House Officer of Asivan police station, adding that Sonu has two criminal cases registered against him.According to police, after the video surfaced on social media, they started to verify the location of the incident and those seen in the video. “During verification, we identified the victim as Sonu, a resident of Pathakapur village. A preliminary inquiry found that the alleged disappearance of two mobile phones from the house of Raju on July 30 led to the incident. The family suspected Sonu, as he had visited their house shortly before the phones



went missing. Raju’s family said Sonu was a habitual drinker,” said a police officer involved in the probe.“Raju and his son Raj began searching for Sonu. During their search, a villager allegedly told them that Sonu was seen entering a general store that had remained shut for several years. The father-son duo then went to the shop and claimed to have recovered one of the missing mobile phones. They traced Sonu to Lucknow and brought him back to the village on August 1. Instead of handing Sonu over to the police for alleged phone theft, they shaved his head before parading him around the village,” the officer said.The father and son have been booked on charges of assault, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, criminal intimidation, and kidnapping, the SHO added.

Delhi to scrap 20-year-old bed-and-breakfast law, replace it with new policy



Twenty-one people died after a fire broke out at a Malviya Nagar hotel.Twenty-one people died after a fire broke out at a Malviya Nagar hotel.Delhi is set to overhaul the way bed-and-breakfast establishments operate in the city, with the government moving to scrap the nearly two-decade-old law governing them and replace it with a new policy framework.

The move comes after a fire at a B&B in Malviya Nagar claimed 21 lives in June and triggered a city-wide crackdown on properties violating safety norms and building bylaws. More than 750 B&B establishments are currently registered with the Delhi Tourism Department under the existing law.While the government stated that the proposed changes are aimed at keeping pace with the changing tourism and hospitality sector and making the rules more flexible, the repeal will also mark a significant shift in how B&Bs are regulated in the capital.What does the proposed bill stateThe Delhi Bed and Breakfast Establishments (Repeal) Bill, 2026, will be introduced in the Assembly on Tuesday. It seeks to repeal the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Incredible India) Bed and Breakfast Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2007, along with its amendments of 2010 and 2021.According to the Bill, the repeal will come into force on a date to be notified by the government in the Official Gazette.To avoid creating panic among people already registered and running B&Bs in the city, the proposed Bill provides that existing registrations, certificates, orders, approvals and proceedings under the repealed Acts will continue to remain valid, as long as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of the new Act.It also states that the repeal will not affect the previous operation of the laws or anything already done under them.

According to the document, Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra laid down the reasons behind repealing the B&B Act, citing the need for a “flexible” policy.“Over a period of time, the tourism and hospitality sector has undergone significant transformation, including the emergence of new forms of accommodation and evolving policy approaches. In this context, it has been considered necessary to discontinue the existing statutory framework governing bed

and breakfast establishments and to replace it with a more flexible and facilitative policy regime,” read the bill document undersigned by Mishra.Mishra said the government proposes to revamp and re-initiate the regulation and promotion of bed and breakfast establishments through an executive policy framework, which would be implemented in a more liberalised and supportive manner, while continuing to ensure compliance with applicable laws relating to safety, public health, municipal governance and public order.The Bill says a comprehensive policy in this regard is under process and will be placed before the Council of Ministers for approval. During the transition period, fresh registrations and processing of pending applications under the existing Act shall remain in abeyance,” it read.

Ram Temple Trust begins interview for selection of full-time CEO

Ayodhya: A high-powered panel on Tuesday is interviewing 18 candidates for appointment as the first full-time Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

The Trust had decided to appoint a full-time CEO after the alleged Ram temple donation embezzlement came to light.According to a senior functionary of the Trust, all the 18 candidates, shortlisted from 5,200 applicants, reached Ayodhya late on Monday night and stayed at various locations in the temple town as suggested by the Trust.The interview is being carried out in the conference room of the Ram temple’s pilgrim facilitation centre in Ayodhya.If the interviews are not completed on Tuesday, the process may continue on Wednesday, sources in the Trust said.

The candidates reached the Ram temple complex at around 9 am and the interview process started at 10 am, they said.“Each candidate had forwarded his arrival schedule at the Ayodhya airport. They were picked up by people appointed by the Trust. From the airport, they were taken to the different locations in separate vehicles,” sources said.

“The candidates have been instructed not to interact with the media. After the interview is over, all of them will be taken back to the Ayodhya airport to board a flight to New Delhi. From Delhi, they will board flights to their respective destinations,” they added.The 18 candidates include former bureaucrats and former senior position holders of temples in South India, according to sources.

SC adjourns Sambhal’s Jama Masjid plea hearing to Sept



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned till August 18 hearing on pleas filed by the committee of management of Sambhal’s Jama Masjid challenging an order of the Allahabad High Court against the survey ordered in the Shahi Jama Masjid-Harihar temple dispute.A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe deferred the matter after noting there was a letter circulated seeking adjournment.

On Tuesday, two separate pleas filed by the committee of management of Sambhal’s Jama Masjid challenging a May 19, 2025 order of the Allahabad High Court came up for hearing before the bench.The top court was earlier told that the Allahabad High Court could not have proceeded in the matter concerning the survey ordered by a Sambhal court in the dispute in light of the apex court’s December 2024 order.

In a significant order passed on December 12, 2024, the apex court had restrained till further directions the courts in the country from entertaining fresh lawsuits and

1 tonne rotten food seized from 60 Bengaluru star hotels, McDonald’s served notice

Karnataka’s food safety officials have seized nearly one tonne of expired or rotten food from 60 star hotels in Bengaluru during a three-day inspection drive that concluded on August 9.

Thirty teams of the Karnataka Food Safety and Drug Administration (KFSDA), during the inspection drive on 3- and 5-star hotels in Bengaluru Urban district, collected 77 food samples and forwarded them to the laboratories to assess their quality and compliance with food safety standards.In one of the compliance checks, the team also served notice on a McDonald’s outlet on Brigade Road after it was found using the banned Magnesium Sulfite (MgSO3) to treat frying oil, Srinivas K, Commissioner, KFSDA, said. The matter will be examined under the prevailing food safety regulations and other applicable legal provisions, and necessary further action will be taken based on the findings, he added.The samples collected from star hotels include chicken, meat, fish, bread, mayonnaise, cooking oil, fresh oil, curd, pulses, chickpeas, coriander, chutneys and marinated food products.The officials seized 640kg of expired and improperly stored mutton, fish, and chicken; 276 kg of rotten vegetables; 45 litres of expired dairy products; 12kg of stale bakery products, including cakes; expired or mislabelled 67 kg of cereals and other food products; and 49 litres of used cooking oil.

“The teams noted various safety violations, mainly non-compliant labelling as per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulations, misbranding, storage of expired food products, improper storage of meat, fish and poultry, unhygienic food-handling conditions, use of banned artificial colours and failure of prescribed food safety practices in the storage and handling

passing any effective interim or final orders in pending ones seeking to reclaim religious places, especially mosques and dargahs (a Muslim shrine).The top court had passed the 2024 order while hearing pleas challenging various provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.The 1991 law prohibits conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.However, the dispute relating to Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid at Ayodhya was kept out of its purview.The high court had dismissed a plea of the mosque committee against the survey ordered by a Sambhal court in the dispute, upholding the civil court’s direction for the survey.The high court had said the order to appoint a court commissioner and the suit were maintainable.The mosque committee had moved the high court against a November 19, 2024 order of the civil judge directing the Mughal-era mosque’s survey which took place the same day.A second survey carried out on November 24, 2024, the committee claimed, was illegal as the civil court never ordered it.On August 22 last year, the apex court had agreed to hear the mosque committee’s plea against the high court order.

“In the meantime, the parties are directed to maintain status quo, as on today,” the top court had said in its order.A suit was filed before the civil judge senior division, Sambhal, contending that the mosque was built after demolishing a temple at Sambhal.The mosque, it claimed, was built by Mughal emperor Babur in 1526 after demolishing the Harihar temple.The top court on November 29, 2024 ordered the Sambhal court to halt proceedings in the case over the mosque and its survey at Chandausi while directing the Uttar Pradesh government to maintain peace and harmony in the town.



of food products, fungal growth in vegetables, and improper segregation of vegetarian and non-vegetarian food products,” Srinivas said.In certain instances, products with a declared shelf life of one year under the applicable requirements were found to have shelf-life declarations extending up to two years, and some products had been imported and subsequently repacked, Srinivas said.As part of the drive, the officials have sealed Hotel Skyye and Pegs and Bottles on Church Street for allegedly storing expired food items. The seized food articles were subsequently disposed of in accordance with the applicable procedures.Srinivas said that special inspections were also conducted at various international food business chains operating within the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA), including KFC, McDonald’s and Subway, and samples of food products, including mayonnaise, chicken and bread, were collected and sent to food laboratories.The food safety teams also inspected godowns and warehouses supplying food products to these establishments.

Bank account frozen in cybercrime probe? Karnataka CID helpdesk offers relief

The Karnataka Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has set up a dedicated helpdesk to assist people whose bank accounts have been frozen during investigations into cyber fraud and suspected mule-account networks.Functioning under the Cyber Command centre at the CID headquarters, the helpdesk provides grievance redressal for account holders whose accounts may have been frozen because a transaction linked to them was allegedly connected to a cybercrime.The new mechanism brings together the account holder, bank, and investigating agency to examine why an account was frozen and whether the entire account needs to remain blocked. In cases where only a specific amount is suspected to be linked to a crime, officials will examine whether a lien (a temporary legal hold on a specific portion of your funds), rather than a complete debit freeze, would be sufficient.The initiative follows the Karnataka High Court’s intervention in cases involving the freezing of bank accounts during cybercrime investigations.During a hearing on June 22 in Selladurai vs Reserve Bank of India and Others, Justice Suraj Govindaraj observed that Karnataka needed an appropriate grievance-redressal mechanism for complaints arising from debit freezes and liens ordered by investigating officers.The court observed, “Insofar as actions initiated within the State are concerned, it would be necessary for the State of Karnataka to establish an appropriate grievance redressal mechanism to address complaints arising out of debit freezing and/or marking of lien pursuant to orders passed by any Investigating Officer within the State of Karnataka.” It then appointed Dr Pronab Mohanty, Director General of Police, Cyber Command, as the nodal officer.The court also flagged the need for investigating officers to specify the amount for which a lien was sought, record reasons for a complete debit freeze, standardise procedures for freezing and de-freezing accounts, and periodically review freeze orders.In a subsequent proceeding, the Karnataka High Court directed a petitioner and the bank representative to appear before the CID helpdesk with communications and orders received from the police stations relating to the freezing of the accountHelpdesk to mediate frozen-account disputes“The helpdesk will essentially function as a mediation centre, helping people understand why their bank accounts have been frozen and identifying possible ways to resolve the issue,” Mohanty told The Indian Express.“If the freezing order has been issued by the Karnataka Police, we can examine the reasons behind it and, where appropriate, help expedite the process. If it has come from another state, we can coordinate with the concerned authorities there and also take



up the matter with the bank. In each case, we will assess whether the entire account needs to remain frozen or whether placing a lien would be sufficient,” he said.The helpdesk is currently operating on an experimental basis, and has conducted sessions on four Thursdays so far. Around seven to eight cases originating in Karnataka have been resolved, officials said, while cases from other states remain pending due to the need for coordination with the respective investigating agencies.One such case involving a victim from Tamil Nadu highlights the plight of bona fide account holders whose accounts are frozen during cybercrime investigations. The case involved a property seller who had executed a registered sale deed and received the sale consideration from the purchaser. His bank account was subsequently frozen after investigating authorities alleged that part of the funds transferred by the purchaser was linked to a cyber fraud. The seller is unable to access the sale proceeds despite having transferred ownership of the property. The matter was subsequently referred to the CID helpdesk, but has yet to be resolved.The CID is also using the Grievance Redressal Module introduced by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, through which affected account holders can register complaints and submit documents.6.11 lakh cases in 2024: Cybercrime surge in KarnatakaThe National Cybercrime Reporting Portal data for 2024 shows that Karnataka recorded losses of Rs 2,915 crore across 6.11 lakh cybercrime cases, nearly four times the Rs 660 crore reported in 2023.Between December 2025 and February 2026, the Cyber Command centre registered 60 First Information Reports in which 869 bank accounts were linked to cybercrimes. Investigators also received 8,788 complaints through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal. The police alleged that account details were collected from the public and accounts were opened in the names of relatives to facilitate fraudulent transactions.

British national shot dead by Pakistani forces in PoK



London: Pakistani security forces shot down a British national during the protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), according to media reports. The deceased, 50-year-old Mohammad Akhtar, a resident of the UK's Peterborough city, was killed on June 9 after Pakistani security forces opened fire on protesters gathered to demand economic and electoral reforms in PoK, British daily The Guardian reported, citing his family.

Reports suggest that another British national has remained behind bars in a regional prison in PoK for more than two months despite the efforts by his family to secure his release through the intervention of the UK's Foreign Office. The previously unreported details highlight the impact of the clashes on British nationals with familial ties to the region, where the violence has killed dozens and posed one of the biggest challenges to Pakistani authorities in recent years. Akhtar was staying in Kotli city in PoK, near the area where the clashes broke out. His family said he was hit by a stray bullet during

firing by Pakistani forces. "He wasn't taking part in protests, but the demonstrations were happening close to his house. There was firing by the forces that day, and he was hit by a stray bullet. There was a bullet wound on the side of his chest," The Guardian quoted Mohammad Saad, Akhtar's cousin, as saying.

Saad further said that Akhtar's children chose not to take up the matter with British authorities. He added that they had been unable to file a police complaint in PoK and feared that drawing attention to the case could put the family at risk. Additionally, 38-year-old British national Waqas Arif, from Nottingham, was detained in Mirpur city in PoK, following the June 5 protests, despite his family's claim that he had not participated in the demonstrations.

"Waqas was not involved in any kind of protests. But since my other two brothers were involved and they went for the protests with everybody else, the Pakistani forces along with the Rangers came into my house, and they took my brothers away," The Guardian quoted his sister Sumera as saying. "There is no charge. He hasn't done anything. This is my brother, but I think there are thousands of other brothers like him from everywhere who they have put in (prison) so they can minimise the protest power ... they have not even been taken to court," she said. Meanwhile, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) expressed grave concern over the dire situation in PoK. "FCDO ministers and the UK high commissioner in Islamabad are in touch with their counterparts, and UK travel advice was updated on 7 August and continues to advise against all but essential travel to affected areas," it stated.

People raise concern over communication blackout in Pakistan's Balochistan



Quetta: People have voiced concerns over the communication blackout as authorities have suspended mobile and internet services in Quetta and various other parts of Pakistan's Balochistan for a second consecutive day due to looming security threats, local media reported on Tuesday, citing sources within the Home and Tribal Affairs Department.

The basic mobile network signals were partially restored in some areas while internet services remained fully disrupted in several areas, resulting in residents being unable to access essential digital communication, leading Pakistani daily The Express Tribune reported. In addition to the communication blackout, all commercial and financial services have stopped operations in Nushki district on August 5. The financial blackout is expected to last until August 31, resulting in people unable to access financial services.

Local trade and business operations in Balochistan have been disrupted due to the closure of financial institutions without prior notice. Government workers and retired personnel were unable to draw their monthly salary to buy basic groceries or medicines, while students are unable to pay for tuition or living expenses. Local business owners and residents have voiced concerns over the dual shutdowns and urged authorities and banking officials to resume services so that people are able to access financial and communication services, Tribune reported.

Trump smuggled out of Air Force 1 in food cart to military jet in Turkey to evade threat

New York: US President Donald Trump was put in a food truck after he boarded Air Force 1 in Turkey and smuggled to a military jet to take him to Britain because of "credible threats" against his official plane, according to media reports. After he publicly boarded the Air Force 1 in Ankara under the glare of the media last month, he and some key aides got into a catering truck that had been raised to the level of the plane, The Washington Post reported Monday.

He was moved to a car from the food truck, which "had been fitted to the belly of the plane", and taken to a smaller C32A military jet, The New York Times said. He and the small group of aides flew to the British Air Force base Mildenhall, where he switched to the Qatari-donated plane for the next leg of the flight to the US, both newspapers reported, quoting unnamed officials. Meanwhile, the other officials and the reporters, who had boarded Air Force 1, flew on the older plane to Britain and joined Trump on the onward trip, oblivious to Trump having made the switch. Journalists on the plane reported that they had been asked to keep the windows closed during the flight. The White House did not confirm or deny the reports about the operation that sounds like a spy thriller, but White House communications director Steven Cheung hinted that the president's trip faced security issues requiring special measures. He said, "As the president has said recently, there are many enemies of America who have their sights on him, and we use every tool at our disposal to address those threats". There was another drama behind the return journey on July 8 from the NATO summit in Ankara. The plane gifted by Qatar, which Trump flaunted as a showpiece because of its luxuries, was used for Trump's trip to Ankara.

But the Secret Service and other security officials did not consider that the hasty upgrades it received had given it the level of security of the older Air Force 1s. Therefore, they first made the switch to an older Air Force 1, and sent the Qatar plane on to Britain, before the switch to the military jet. Trump said that he had sent the Qatar plane to Britain because US military personnel at the



US President Donald Trump was reportedly moved secretly from Air Force One to a military jet in Turkey amid credible security threats. Officials cited concerns over the Qatar-donated aircraft's security systems, while the White House declined to confirm details surrounding the covert transfer

base wanted to see the plane. However, reports said the reason was the "credible threats" that had been intercepted, and the Qatar plane's upgrades did not include the anti-missile defence systems and the wiring to resist electromagnetic surges that the older Air Force 1s had. It appears that the Secret Service and other security officials later thought that even the older Air Force 1 was not safe enough and decided to smuggle Trump to the military jet, a variant of Boeing 757 without the ostentatious luxuries he is fond of. When The New York Times exposed the inadequacies of the Qatar-donated plane quoting official sources, the Department of Justice issued subpoenas to the reporters as well as to their relatives, including the mother of one of the journalists, demanding their phones. Officials defended the unusual subpoenas, claiming they wanted to find the leakers they asserted had endangered national security before dropping them because of the backlash.

US court permanently dismisses criminal case against Adanis; truth has prevailed, says Gautam Adani



New York/New Delhi: A US federal judge has permanently dismissed the criminal securities-fraud case against Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar, closing nearly two years of prosecution without a trial. US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis of the Eastern District of New York granted the Justice Department's Rule 48(a) motion, dismissing Counts Two, Three and Four of the indictment — covering securities-fraud conspiracy, wire-fraud conspiracy and securities fraud — with prejudice, meaning the charges cannot be refiled.

The court reserved judgment on Count One (Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations) and Count Five (obstruction of justice) as they relate to non-appearing defendants, pending further compliance by the government with Rule 48(a). "Truth has prevailed," Gautam Adani said in response to the ruling, adding that he respected the judicial process and thanked those who had stood by the Group through the proceedings, while reaffirming its commitment to "nation-building" and "long-term value creation." The indictment, unsealed in November 2024, alleged Adani Group executives paid roughly USD 265 million in bribes to Indian officials to secure solar-power contracts projected to generate more than USD 2 billion in profits, while misleading investors who helped raise nearly USD 4 billion in US financing, and that other defendants destroyed evidence and lied to federal investigators. The Adani Group has consistently denied the allegations, calling them baseless. US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis granted the Justice Department's Rule 48(a) motion to dismiss Counts Two, Three and Four of the indictment against Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani and former Adani Green CEO Vneet Jaain.

The counts covered securities-fraud conspiracy, wire-fraud conspiracy and securities fraud. The court found that the DOJ had met the legal requirements for dismissal on one ground: its argument that alleged statements about Adani Green's anti-bribery policies and corporate compliance could amount to "inactionable puffery" — broad statements that investors could not reasonably rely on — creating legal risks for the prosecution.

The order followed the Justice Department's decision to seek dismissal after an extensive review of the case. In its submissions before the court, the government said continuing the prosecution no longer served the interests of justice, citing significant jurisdictional and evidentiary challenges, the predominantly Indian nature of the alleged conduct, the fact that Indian authorities had examined the matter, the absence of identified investor losses and broader public-interest considerations.

The DOJ also stated that the indictment, unsealed in November 2024 during the closing weeks of the previous Biden administration, had little realistic prospect of proceeding to trial and appeared to have been a politically motivated "name and shame" exercise orchestrated by the outgoing administration. Before approving the request, Judge Nicholas Garaufis directed the DOJ to publicly explain its reasons for seeking dismissal and required the defendants to file sworn declarations confirming there had been no promise, offer, quid pro quo or undisclosed agreement connected with the decision. In his sworn declaration, Gautam Adani categorically denied the existence of any promise, offer, quid pro quo or undisclosed agreement relating to the DOJ's decision. After reviewing the government's submissions and the sworn declarations, the court accepted the motion and permanently dismissed the case.

The dismissal means the criminal proceedings concluded before trial. No witnesses were examined, no evidence was tested in court and no judicial findings were made on the underlying criminal allegations. Separately, the US Securities and Exchange Commission's civil action against Gautam Adani has resulted in a final judgment under which he consented to permanent injunctions covering specified US securities-law violations without admitting the allegations, except as to jurisdiction. Adani welcomed the decision "with humility and deep respect for the judicial process." "Throughout this challenging period, our faith in truth, fairness and the rule of law remained unwavering. My deepest gratitude to those who never lost faith in us, in the system and in India's capacity for justice. We will continue doing what matters: building for our nation, creating value that outlasts us and serving a purpose larger than ourselves. That is our commitment," he said in a post on X. The indictment, returned by a grand jury on October 24, 2024 and unsealed on November 20, alleged three interlocking schemes between 2020 and 2024: paying roughly USD 265 million in bribes to Indian officials to secure solar-power contracts projected to generate more than USD 2 billion in after-tax profits over two decades; misleading US and international investors to raise close to USD 4 billion in financing; and destroying evidence and lying to the FBI, SEC and a federal grand jury to obstruct the resulting investigations. The charges followed shortly after Gautam Adani twice publicly congratulated then-President-elect Trump on X, including a November 13, 2024 post announcing the Group's intent to "invest USD 10 billion in US energy security and resilient infrastructure projects." The Adani Group has consistently denied the allegations, maintaining it acted in line with applicable law. The proceedings unfolded against a backdrop of intense scrutiny following a January 2023 short-seller report from Hindenburg Research, which triggered a rout that briefly wiped out more than USD 150 billion in the Group's market value. These allegations were also rejected by the Group. Adani's legal team, retained in August 2025, spent what Robert Giuffra of Sullivan & Cromwell described as "many thousands of hours" on the matter, submitting roughly 600 pages of legal argument, expert reports and presentations to the DOJ over ten weeks between February 3 and April 17, 2026 — including an 118-page letter, a 95-page slide deck, a separate 151-page presentation to the SEC, and around 200 pages of expert opinions from four specialists: a

Harvard Law School professor, a former Acting SEC Chair, a former Chief Justice of India, and a former chairman of India's Central Electricity Authority. The Adani Group says the litigation never interrupted its operations, financing or project execution. It invested more than Rs 2.08 lakh crore in the second half of FY25 and FY26, including record annual capital expenditure of Rs 1,52,967 crore in FY26 — the highest by any Indian corporate — while its asset base grew from Rs 4.12 lakh crore in FY23 to Rs 7.85 lakh crore in FY26 and its market capitalisation recovered above pre-indictment levels. Major projects came onstream during the period including Navi Mumbai International Airport, Terminal 2 at Guwahati Airport, the Colombo West International Terminal, and the Ganga Expressway; Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone became India's first port operator to handle more than 500 million metric tonnes of cargo in a financial year; and Adani Green Energy crossed 20 gigawatts of operational renewable capacity.

Credit-rating agencies upgraded several Group companies during the period, investors, including Apollo Global Management, BlackRock and Capital Group expanded their positions, banks such as MUFG, SMBC, Deutsche Bank, BNP Paribas, and Societe Generale deepened their relationships with the Group, and partnerships with Google, MSC, IHC, EdgeConneX, Embraer and Dioxycle also broadened. Adani had announced nearly USD 15 billion in fresh investment commitments in a single week as the US legal clouds began to clear. Judge Garaufis of the Eastern District of New York granted the DOJ's Rule 48(a) motion in part, dismissing Counts Two, Three and Four of the indictment — securities-fraud conspiracy, wire-fraud conspiracy and securities fraud — against Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani and former Adani Green Energy CEO Vneet Jaain, with prejudice, meaning they cannot be refiled. He reserved judgment on the remaining charges: Count One, alleging Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) violations, and Count Five, alleging conspiracy to obstruct justice, both brought against five non-appearing, India-based co-defendants — Ranjit Gupta, Cyril Cabanes, Saurabh Agarwal, Deepak Malhotra, and Rupesh Agarwal. The DOJ has until August 31 to satisfy the court's requirements on those two counts, and the non-appearing defendants' counsel must confirm their clients' consent by the same date. Garaufis was explicit that the outcome reflects prosecutorial discretion, not a verdict. "No one should mistake the court's granting of the Rule 48(a) Motion as to Counts Two, Three, and Four, for the court's agreement with the Department's decision to dismiss these Counts or as expressing any opinion about the merits of the case," he wrote. No trial was held, no witnesses testified, and no evidence was tested. Of six sweeping "overlapping" justifications offered by the DOJ for dismissing all charges against all defendants — including that "this is a foreign case", that India had "found no actionable conduct," and that "not a single penny has ever been lost on the securities at issue" — the judge rejected every one as unsupported.

On the government's claim that the case was essentially foreign, he noted tartly that if counting mentions of "India" in the indictment settled the question, the 108 references to "United States" and 110 to "US Issuer" might just as easily make it a domestic case. On the claim that Indian authorities had cleared the conduct, he found the three unauthenticated Indian filings cited by the DOJ did not, in fact, support that assertion at all — they were decisions by Indian bodies not to investigate, brought by private complainants on unrelated claims, and "not one of the documents meaningfully contends with the allegations in this case". The one rationale the court did accept: that the alleged false statements in Adani Green's bond and loan documents — pledges of a "zero tolerance policy for bribery and corruption," "robust internal compliance measures" and oversight by a "risk management committee" — amounted to "inactionable puffery", the kind of generic corporate assurance courts have found too vague for investors to reasonably rely on.

That alone, the judge found, was sufficient and substantial grounds to dismiss the three fraud-related counts. He explicitly rejected the DOJ's separate argument that the transactions fell outside US securities jurisdiction, noting the indictment itself alleges investors "irrevocably committed themselves in the United States" and that the scheme relied on the US financial system.

The most pointed criticism was reserved for how the dismissal decision was made inside the DOJ. Garaufis wrote that the process contained "irregularities" and was "highly unusual," describing how Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General R Trent McCotter — who joined the Deputy Attorney General's office in January 2026 and, by his own account, "had never heard of any defendants in this case" — became the sole architect of the dismissal after months of meetings with Adani's defence team, "with tremendous help from counsel for Appearing Defendants," and apparently without input from the FBI, SEC investigators, or the prosecutors who originally built the case. Two DOJ attorneys involved in bringing the original indictment, Shy Jackson and Andrew Tyler, withdrew from the case two days after McCotter filed the dismissal motion. Garaufis was equally unsparing of McCotter's written justifications, calling one claim — that prior DOJ leadership had unsealed the indictment as a "name and shame" exercise, dumping "a potential quagmire of a case into the lap of the incoming Administration" — "baseless" and "unbecoming of his office", adding that in 26 years on the bench he did not share McCotter's characterisation of the FBI, SEC, and prosecutors' integrity. Central to the proceedings was whether Gautam Adani's publicly announced pledge to invest USD 10 billion in the US had influenced the DOJ's decision. In a sworn affidavit, Adani stated, "I am not aware of anything promised, offered, sought, received, agreed to, or accepted by anyone in connection with the dismissal of the indictment." He disclosed, however, that during settlement talks his counsel had suggested his "publicly stated intent to invest USD 10 billion in the United States might be part of a resolution... if that was what the DOJ or SEC wanted." His lead counsel, Giuffra — who is also President Donald Trump's personal attorney — said in his own declaration that he had raised the investment offer with the DOJ "on two occasions". A May 11, 2026 email from US Attorney Joseph Nocella, cited in the ruling, responded that "the portion of the joint defense offer made by [Appearing Defendants] to resolve the criminal charges against them by, in part, a general proposal to invest USD 10 billion in the United States is categorically rejected by this Office," adding that the proposal "will not be considered by this Office." After reviewing the affidavits, Garaufis wrote he was "now convinced" McCotter was the "sole decisionmaker" and that the investment pledge was, in fact, a "non-consideration."

A green transition accelerating at express speed



The successful trial of India’s first hydrogen-powered coach at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in July 2025 is more than a technological breakthrough. It is a testament to Indian Railways’ accelerating green transition.As one of the largest rail networks in the world, the Indian Railways is undertaking a transformation with few global parallels, with the aim of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, four decades ahead of the national target.This ambitious shift is not just limited to clean energy adoption but also extends to a fundamental rethinking of infrastructure, operations and financing models, placing the Indian Railways at the forefront of India’s sustainable development agenda.With over 24 million passengers and three million tonnes of freight moved daily, the decarbonisation of India’s railways has direct implications for national climate targets.The initiatives undertaken

In the last 10 years, the Railways has electrified close to 45,000 kilometres of its broad gauge network. As a result, over 98% of its broad gauge network stands electrified, reducing diesel dependence and cutting emissions sharply. The transition is complemented by large-scale renewable integration, with 553 MW of solar, 103 MW of wind and 100 MW of hybrid capacity (756 MW in total) already commissioned. More than 2,000 stations and service buildings are powered by solar energy, while several railway buildings, including in the Northeast Frontier zone, have secured the Bureau of Energy Efficiency’s “Shunya” net-zero label. Innovation in clean traction is exemplified by the first hydrogen-powered train, part of a wider “Hydrogen for Heritage” initiative to deploy 35 such units.Parallel measures include shifting freight from road to rail to raise its modal share to 45% by 2030, introducing biofuel blends, constructing green buildings, and operationalising Dedicated Freight Corridors which are expected to avert 457 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) over 30 years. These steps signal a technological transformation and a systemic reimagining of the Indian Railways as a climate-positive backbone of national mobility.Climate finance takes the main line

The decarbonisation drive is increasingly underpinned by a robust and evolving green finance architecture. Since FY2023, the government has issued sovereign green bonds worth ₹58,000 crore, with the transport sector emerging as a major beneficiary. According to data from the Ministry of Finance, approximately ₹42,000 crore has been allocated for the procurement of electric locomotives and metro and suburban rail expansions. These

The need to address caste-based atrocities

Despite constitutional promises of equality, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) face persistent caste-based violence and exclusion. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, released in late September, reported that 57,789 cases were registered against SCs in 2023, marking a 0.4% increase over the 57,582 cases reported in 2022, and 12,960 cases were registered against STs in 2023, a sharp 28.8% increase over the 10,064 cases reported in 2022. From assaults in rural areas for defying caste norms to urban discrimination in housing and employment, caste continues to deny citizens dignity and opportunity.

Caste hierarchies remainSocial reformers such as Mahatma Phule, B.R. Ambedkar, Periyar, and Mahatma Gandhi, who challenged the Brahmanical caste order, remain a beacon of hope. Their movements, coupled with constitutional safeguards such as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, aimed to dismantle caste hierarchies. Despite these efforts, progress has been uneven. The belief in caste-based superiority persists, enabling social elites to perpetrate acts of violence, ranging from forcing Dalits to drink urine to ostracising Adivasis for asserting land rights, with alarming impunity. Such acts reflect not only individual prejudice but a societal failure to internalise humanitarian values. This raises questions about India’s claim of being a civilised society.

The current political dispensation, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has fallen short in addressing this crisis. The government occasionally promotes symbolic gestures — by including Dalits and Adivasis in religious rituals, for instance; but these efforts lack substance. Hindutva narratives often frame resistance from marginalised communities as a threat to cultural unity. They often label activists as “Hinduphobic”. This rhetoric stifles legitimate demands for justice. This was seen, for instance, in the vilification of those protesting an order of the Supreme Court that diluted provisions of the Atrocities Act. Restrictions on Dalit-Bahujan cultural expressions (as seen during the release of the Hindi film Phule) further alienate these communities from becoming part of the mainstream discourse. Moreover, policies promoting social justice, such as reservations in education and employment, are inconsistently implemented. As a result, social elites continue to control and dominate institutions.

The absence of a robust policy framework to bridge the gap between social elites and subaltern groups is glaring. The BJP and its affiliated organisations have not launched a national campaign to challenge caste prejudice or foster inter-caste fraternity in the fear that it would dilute the privileges of dominant castes. Instead, the promotion of Brahmanical cultural narratives often relegates the struggles of Dalit and Adivasi communities to the margins and portrays their resistance as a challenge to traditional authority rather than as a fight for universal dignity. This ideological stance, maintained by Hindutva ideologues, undermines the constitutional vision of an egalitarian society.

Historically, India witnessed powerful resistance movements that reshaped caste dynamics. The Dalit Pan-

allocations integrate climate objectives into the very core of capital budgeting.At the institutional level, the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has played a pivotal role in mobilising climate aligned capital. Beginning with its \$500 million green bond issuance in 2017 which was utilised for the re-financing procurement of electric locomotives, the IRFC has steadily expanded its green financing footprint. Most recently, it extended a ₹7,500 crore loan to NTPC Green Energy for the development of renewable power capacity, signalling a growing trend of cross-sectoral financing aimed at strengthening India’s low-carbon infrastructure.

Multilateral agencies have also supported the green transition of the Indian Railways. In June 2022, the World Bank approved a \$245 million loan for the Rail Logistics Project, aimed at enhancing rail freight infrastructure, decongesting corridors and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.Yet, more can be done. The first priority is to match electrification with genuinely decarbonised electricity. If the additional traction power is drawn from a coal-heavy grid, climate gains will be diluted. A solution lies in directly procuring large volumes of renewable energy through long-term contracts with solar and wind producers, a step that has already seen some progress. This would ensure that “green trains” are powered by truly green power, making emissions reductions real rather than notional.Second, last-mile connectivity must be approached with a climate lens. Railway stations should evolve into multi-modal green hubs, seamlessly integrating electric buses, bicycle-sharing networks and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. For freight, the low-carbon advantage of rail must be preserved through cleaner first-and-last-mile links, whether through electric trucks, Liquefied natural gas-powered vehicles, or emerging hydrogen mobility solutions.Third, rolling stock innovation must keep pace with global benchmarks. Hydrogen fuel cell trains could be piloted on select non-electrified branch and heritage lines where full electrification is not cost-effective. In parallel, the adoption of lightweight coaches, aerodynamic locomotive designs and Artificial Intelligence-driven energy optimisation systems can reduce traction energy needs and improve operational efficiency.Finally, technology alone will not drive transformation; behavioural change is equally critical. Green certification for trains, carbon labelling of freight services and public awareness campaigns can make passengers and businesses conscious participants in climate action. With its vast daily reach, the Indian Railways can shape public perception of sustainable mobility in a way no other transport system can.Meeting the challenge

By 2030, if the net zero target is achieved, Indian Railways could prevent over 60 million tonnes of annual CO2 emissions which is equivalent to taking 13 million cars off the road. The financial case is equally compelling: electrification and energy efficiency measures are projected to generate cumulative fuel cost savings of over ₹1 lakh crore by the end of the decade.The challenge is not in setting targets but in mobilising and managing the capital to meet them. Done right, India’s railway decarbonisation plan could become a global benchmark, proving that large, state-run transport systems can transition to low-carbon operations without derailing fiscal discipline.



The current political dispensation, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has fallen short in addressing this crisis. The government occasionally promotes symbolic gestures — by including Dalits and Adivasis in religious rituals, for instance; but these efforts lack substance.

thers in the 1970s galvanised marginalised communities, asserting their right to political power and social prestige. The rise of the Bahujan Samaj Party in northern India further empowered Dalits and OBCs, amplifying their voices in governance and public discourse. Intellectual and cultural initiatives, from Dalit literature to Adivasi art, laid claim to India’s pluralistic heritage. Yet, today, such movements are fragmented or are relegated to the periphery, with little capacity to challenge current social ills. The response of civil society to caste atrocities has also waned.The limitations of existing constitutional mechanisms and legislative orders are evident. While there are laws, enforcement is hampered by delayed investigations, low conviction rates, and societal bias within the judiciary and the police. For instance, a 2023 study by the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights noted that over 60% of cases under the Atrocities Act remain pending in courts. This underscores the need for systemic reforms beyond legal provisions.A multi-pronged approachAddressing caste atrocities demands a multi-pronged approach rooted in political will and social reform. First, the state must strengthen the enforcement of existing laws, ensuring swift prosecution of perpetrators and sensitising law enforcement agencies about the ills of the caste system. Second, political leaders must champion a national campaign to promote egalitarian values, using education, the media, and public platforms to challenge conventional caste relationships based on hierarchies and prejudices. Third, civil society, including religious institutions, cultural organisations, and academia must foster dialogue to bridge divides between communities. Fourth, affirmative action policies should be rigorously implemented, with transparent monitoring to ensure equitable access to education, jobs, and resources. Most crucially, Dalit, Adivasi, and Bahujan voices must be amplified.

India must revisit the animal welfare framework at its zoos

The move by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) to suspend the membership of the Delhi’s National Zoological Park (originally the Delhi zoo) has sparked much debate on the animal welfare framework in Indian zoos. On October 7, WAZA notified suspension of the Delhi zoo’s WAZA membership, effective from October 8, 2024, with the possibility of cancellation if the conditions laid down by WAZA in the said notification are not fulfilled by the zoo by April 7, 2025.The decision has evoked shock but also relief as the Delhi zoo’s 29-year-old African male elephant, Shankar, which was given to India as a diplomatic gift by Zimbabwe in 1998, has been consistently neglected. Shankar had a female companion which passed away in 2005 and was never replaced. The male elephant exhibits maladaptive behaviour. This situation is problematic as elephants are extremely social animals forming complex relationships. WAZA was made aware of the elephant’s plight through numerous complaints. A team from WAZA also visited the zoo on March 18, 2024, which showed the elephant to be in a poor physical and mental state. It was found to be tethered by a chain in a solitary enclosure without the normal stimulants or the immersive environment found in the wild which keep elephants content and healthy.

The WAZA team thereafter urged the Delhi zoo to take note of the elephant’s plight and act within the next 15 days to end the animal’s suffering in line with WAZA’s Animal Welfare Strategy which specifies the ‘Five Domains Animal Welfare Model’. Nothing substantial was ever done, compelling WAZA to indefinitely suspend the Delhi zoo’s WAZA membership. But this suspension has been made subject to two conditions: either get the animal relocated or address its health concerns by April 7, 2025. The deplorable condition of the elephant goes against every ideal of WAZA carved out through its science-based knowledge in animal care and welfare, environmental education and global conservation, since its inception in 1935, with the aim of guiding zoos and aquariums across the world and ensuring animal welfare and conservation.

Plight of other elephantsDelhi zoo also has two Asian elephants — a male and a female. It is hard to ignore the mental distress that these Asian elephants exhibit through their incessant ‘head-bobbing’, which is a classic sign of mental distress in elephants. The elephants are also in an enclosure with insufficient area. It is agonising to see

them in distress. Studies suggest that on average, a wild elephant, under non-extreme environmental conditions, walks for up to 10 kilometres a day. They also forage in a forest for up to 19 hours a day during which they undertake a range of behaviours that are regarded as essential for their survival.It appears that it was the poor nutrition, unsuitable environment and poor physical health of Shankar which compelled WAZA to act against the Delhi zoo. Notably, these are also problems which affect the two Asian elephants causing them to lose motivation to undertake survival-related behaviours. The situation at the Delhi zoo is an outright violation of global standards in the maintenance of zoos and its animals in other countries such as the United Kingdom and Ireland. The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA), in its ‘Management Guidelines for the Welfare of Elephants’, states that zoos must ensure that the standards of husbandry practices, housing, health and welfare management of elephants are humane, appropriate and in line with their intelligence, social behaviour and longevity.The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom, in its ‘Standards of Modern Zoo Practice’, acknowledges that as elephants are highly-intelligent animals with large natural ranges and a complex social life, meeting their needs in captivity is challenging. It further states in paragraph 8.8.4 that elephants have to be kept in stable, female groups with matriarchal herds being the norm and that even the non-productive, older or problem elephants have to be kept in groups considering their indispensable need to socialise. In paragraph 8.8.6, it further states that even the bull elephants in musth, if separated from cows or other bulls, cannot be subjected to prolonged physical or social isolation from other elephants. But the Delhi zoo has kept Shankar in social isolation for a very long time. Pertinently, in paragraph 8.8.5, it states that female elephants must have contact with other female elephants at all times and shall ideally be part of a group of at least four female elephants that are over two years old. The female Asian elephant has not had any female company for a very long time. Thus, the zoo is violating every single one of these global standards despite being the object of international censure.CZA is remiss in statutory dutiesIt is hard to believe that the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has not been aware of the rampant violations of law at the zoo

How is the immune system kept in check? | Explained



The story so far: The Nobel Prize season for 2025 began with the announcement of the Physiology or Medicine Prize on October 6. The three awardees — U.S.-based researchers, Mary E. Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell, and Japan’s Shimon Sakaguchi — were chosen for their “discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance.” Their discovery enabled a fundamental understanding of how the immune system works — how it is regulated and kept in check. This has led to the evolution of several new potential treatment options, currently being tested, including for cancer.

What does their discovery mean? Unless the body’s immune system is kept in check, it can attack its own organs. In that case, why do most people not develop autoimmune conditions where the body turns on itself? U.S. and Japanese scientists, working independently, arrived at an explanation for how the immune system is kept in check. It is for their work in making discoveries concerning what prevents the immune system from attacking the body that the Nobel was awarded. The laureates identified the immune system’s regulatory T cells which perform the precise task of preventing immune cells from launching an attack on the body.Literally every day the immune system, a formidable army, is on guard, battling pathogens that try to invade the body. The question here is how do these cells “know what they should attack and what they should defend”, as the Nobel Committee pointed out. “Their discoveries have been decisive for our understanding of how the immune system functions and why we do not all develop serious autoimmune diseases,” said Olle Kämpe, chair of the Nobel Committee.What are regulatory T cells?

The story goes back to Sakaguchi when he was working at the Aichi Cancer Centre Research Institute, Japan, some four decades ago. All T cells have special proteins called T-cell receptors on their surface. These receptors can be likened to a type of sensor. Using them, T cells can scan other cells to discover whether the body is under attack. There are a vast number of T cells with different receptors that can detect invaders, including new viruses. But they also have receptors that can attach to human tissues. But then, intuitively, is there a switch mechanism that warns the T cells off body cells?In the 1980s, scientists realised that when T cells mature in the thymus, a small gland located in the upper chest behind the breastbone and in front of the heart that plays a crucial role in the immune system, they are taught to recognise and eliminate the body’s own proteins in a process called central tolerance. By the time Sakaguchi began his research into trying to understand this mechanism, his colleagues had already reportedly performed an experiment on newborn mice. They hypothesised that the mice would develop fewer T cells and have a weaker immune system if they removed the thymus. Instead, the immune system went into overdrive and ran amok, with the little mice developing several autoimmune conditions. This experiment might not have satisfied its primary goal, but in it was the idea for a Nobel that would come about 30 years later. Sakaguchi took off from where the experiment stopped. He injected these mice with T cells and it appeared that the T cells could protect the mice from autoimmune diseases.

Veering off from the current scientific wisdom of the time, Sakaguchi was convinced that the immune system must have some form of security guard — one that calms

down T cells and keeps them in check; in this case, protecting the mice from the autoimmune condition. It took him over a decade, but in 1995, he presented to the world, a new class of T cells to the world, those that carried an extra protein called CD25 on their surface. This was called the regulatory T cell. But other researchers were not convinced yet of this idea.

It would take a second act, and efforts from Brunkow and Ramsdell, to concretely prove the experiment. A new set of mice, being studied since the Manhattan Project in fact, stood up to the occasion. In this instance, half of all the male mice were sickly and died in a few weeks, while the females thrived. It turned out the male’s organs were being attacked by T cells that destroyed the tissues. The Nobel-winning pair, who were then working at a biotech company Celltech Chiroscience in the U.S., realised that the mice could provide important clues in their work. After years of study, at an age when molecular biology was at best infantile, with a great deal of patience, they narrowed down on the faulty, mutant gene and named it Foxp3. They finally had an explanation for why a specific mouse strain was particularly vulnerable to autoimmune diseases. They also showed that mutations in the human equivalent of this gene cause a serious autoimmune disease, IPEX.Two years later, Sakaguchi and others could prove, this time, convincingly, that the Foxp3 gene controls the development of the regulatory T cells, being able to prevent other T cells from mistakenly attacking the body’s own tissue, in a process that is called peripheral immune tolerance. Regulatory T cells also ensure that the immune system calms down after it has attacked invaders, answering Sakaguchi’s initial question.

What are the specific uses in medicine? While specific therapies are yet to hit the market, over 200 studies involving regulatory T cells are currently in progress, said Thomas Perlmann, secretary-general of the Nobel Assembly.

Just four mutations help naked mole rats fix DNA and live longer

The naked mole rat (Heterocephalus glaber) is a small, hairless rodent native to East Africa, and famous for living an astonishingly long time, up to around 37 years, nearly 10x longer than mammals of similar size. Scientists have long suspected its remarkable longevity comes from adaptations that keep its DNA intact.As we age, DNA damage accumulates in our cells. Normally cells repair these breaks using several molecular pathways, but errors or inefficiencies in repair make genomes unstable and lead to ageing and disease.One molecule known to influence this process is cyclic GMP-AMP synthase (cGAS). In humans and mice, cGAS helps detect foreign DNA, such as that from viruses, and triggers immune responses. However, it also suppresses one of the body’s main DNA-repair systems, called homologous recombination. As a result, human cGAS can actually make cells more prone to ageing and cancer.Scientists have wondered whether, during evolution, the naked mole rat might have changed cGAS so that it no longer interferes with DNA repair, or maybe even helps it. A new study led by researchers at Tongji University, and recently published in Science, set out to check this idea.The researchers compared the cGAS genes and proteins of naked mole rats with those of humans and mice. They used genetic engineering tools to switch specific amino acids — the building blocks of proteins — between species and observe the effects on DNA repair. They also performed experiments in cell cultures, fruit flies, and mice to test how these molecular changes affected genome stability, cellular ageing, and lifespan.

Asian Games host Nagoya city in Japan sees extensive flooding due to record rain



Central Japanese city of Nagoya, the venue of the upcoming Asian Games, was hit by extensive flooding after record rain fell in parts of the city on Tuesday. It resulted in flooding dozens of roads and homes, and stranding pedestrians and vehicles.However, the athletes who had arrived early for the Asian Games were unharmed, mayor Ichiro Hiroasawa said on Wednesday. “We are not worried about the conditions of the venues and we believe there is no problem holding the Asian Games as planned,” Hiroasawa told reporters as per AP.

Hiroasawa said about 400 athletes and staff who are staying in converted shipping containers — remodeled to

serve as temporary housing units for the Asian Games — were briefly evacuated to higher ground during the heavy rain. He added there were a number of leaking roofs but nothing more serious around the dozens of Games venues.On Tuesday, The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) organised a send-off ceremony for the 503-member India contingent, with several athletes and teams in attendance. Several prominent names and teams, including members of the hockey squads and top track-and-field athletes, were absent from the function as they have either already reached the Games venue or are in the final stages of their preparations. At the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, India won a record 107 medals, including 28 gold.The Asian Games, an event with more athletes than the Summer Olympics, open Sept. 19 in Nagoya and surrounding areas and run through Oct. 4.More than 11,000 athletes are signed up from 45 countries and regions in Asia. By comparison, about 10,700 athletes participated in the Summer Olympics in 2024 in Paris.Meanwhile, in a bid to keep costs low, the organisers of the Aichi-Nagoya Games have done away with a conventional ‘athletes village’. Instead, the 17,000-odd athletes taking part will be provided with three accommodation options — a cruise ship, hotel rooms, and containers.

Dortmund’s Karetsas hospitalized after circulatory problems ends UCL debut

Konstantinos Karetsas debut UEFA Champions League match ended after 25 minutes when the teenager slumped to the ground in the match against Villarreal on Tuesday night. “Konstantinos Karetsas had to leave the field due to circulatory problems. Kosta is doing well under the circumstances and is on his way to the hospital for further tests,” Dortmund said in a statement.The incident transpired in the first half when the 18-year-old Greek player passed the ball to a teammate and then signalled to the referee before sitting down. Karetsas was treated laying down then taken away on a stretcher. The score was 0-0 at the time in what was a 3-2 win for Dortmund.

“I hope and I think that everything is OK and I hope that he’s back and fit with us soon,” Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel told Amazon Prime. Dortmund c’est terriblement triste leur début de saison, tu avais le potentiel de créé un duo absolument iconique avec Konstantinos Karetsas et Giannis KonstanteliasDortmund went ahead through Renato Veiga’s attempted clearance in the 53rd minute before Villarreal levelled with a close-range header in the 66th. Serhou Guirassy restored the lead from Fabio Silva’s pass in the 80th and converted a ?penalty four minutes later after being fouled, before scoring an own goal in added time while ?trying to help in defence.

In the other matches, Real Madrid punished two costly Inter Milan mistakes to win their Champions League



opener 2-1 on Tuesday, with Kylian Mbappe and Federico Valverde scoring and goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois keeping the visitors at bay at the Santiago Bernabeu.Erling Haaland struck twice after halftime as Manchester City won 2-0 at Porto, extending coach Enzo Maresca’s winning start following three successive Premier League victories.Real Betis twice came from behind to beat Lille 3-2 in France, with defender Marc Bartra scoring twice before Troy Parrott grabbed the winner. Lille later had Ethan Mbappe sent off.Aston Villa held off Club Brugge to win 3-2 in Belgium, helped by two Pau Torres assists, while Razvan Marin’s free kick earned AEK ?Athens a ?1-0 home victory over LASK.

Alcaraz loses in US Open quarters as Shelton ends 18-match Grand Slam win streak

Battling physical duress, world No. 2 and defending US Open champion Carlos Alcaraz was knocked out of the tournament in a quarter-final defeat against home favourite Ben Shelton.The No. 8-seeded Shelton overcame Alcaraz in an epic five-setter that extended well past midnight at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York on Tuesday night. Alcaraz, who was faced with an apparent wrist injury and had also appeared to vomit in a towel during the marathon contest that eventually lasted over four hours, managed to push the game to a decisive fifth set, forcing a 10-point tiebreak.

However, Shelton held his nerve as the match clock struck 4 hours and 28 minutes to draw the contest in his favour at 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 6-7(7) at 3:33 am on Wednesday.Having returned from a wrist injury hiatus of nearly four months that saw him miss the season’s French Open and Wimbledon, Alcaraz had a seamless run up until the quarter-final match-up against an in-form Shelton, whom he had beaten in all three previous meetings.

Grand Slam streak endsThe Spaniard, who became the youngest male player ever to complete the Career Grand Slam earlier this year, marked his first Grand Slam defeat in 19 matches since the Wimbledon final against



Jannik Sinner in mid-2025. He had then gone onto beat Jannik Sinner in the 2025 US Open final and the Australian Open final earlier this year.Djokovic to Fritz: Seven top-10 seeds are already out of the US OpenAlcaraz’s defeat meant that only two of the top 10 seeds in the men’s bracket in the remainder of the tournament. Top seed Alexander Zverev is slated to face in his Botic van de Zandschulp last-eight clash. Meanwhile, the eighth-seeded Shelton will face compatriot Frances Tiafoe in his second US Open semi-final appearance since 2023.

IOA forms committee to probe Lakra’s harassment charge against top HI official

EMS News Agency, Sept 10The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has constituted a four-member independent inquiry committee headed by retired High Court judge Deepa Sharma to probe the allegations of harassment and intimidation levelled against Hockey India secretary Bhola Nath Singh by former women’s team captain Asunta Lakra.The panel, formed following a directive from the Sports Ministry, includes former track-and-field athlete Vandana Rao, former women’s hockey team captain Mamta Kharb, and lawyer Sitwat Nabi as members.

Lakra, who is also a member of Hockey India’s Executive Board, had accused Singh of threatening and harassing her after she objected to the alleged sexual harassment of girls in Jharkhand at the hands of local coach Sudhir Golla.Hockey India has been directed to handle all requisite payments concerning the committee’s honorarium, travel, accommodation, and incidental expenses.

“Hockey India is also requested to extend its full co-operation to the committee and to ensure that all relevant documents, information and such other assistance as may be required is made available to the committee in a timely manner...,” IOA President PT Usha’s letter to HI stated.The dispute between between Hockey India and Lakra had taken an ugly turn after the national federation’s ethics committee issued a show cause notice and launched an inquiry against the former captain after she was accused of threatening young player Albela Rani Toppo, who is also from Jharkhand.Toppo had alleged that Lakra tried to intimidate her and even threatened to end her career for unspecified reasons.In response, Lakra termed HI’s



Lakra, who is also a member of Hockey India’s Executive Board, had accused Singh of threatening and harassing her after she objected to the alleged sexual harassment of girls in Jharkhand at the hands of local coach Sudhir Golla.

action as “continued intimidation and retaliation” and pleaded with Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to intervene and stop the ethics committee inquiry against her.This was after the sports ministry asked the IOA to form an independent panel to probe Lakra’s allegations of sexual harassment.

Tilak Varma falls on 99 in Duleep Trophy final, misses 9th FC century



Tilak Varma continued his impressive red-ball form but fell painfully short of a memorable century during South Zone’s clash against East Zone in the 2026-27 Duleep Trophy final on Wednesday.Batting at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai after East Zone piled on a gargantuan 708-run first-innings total, the left-handed Tilak was nearing his second successive century in the tournament after his team had slipped to 336 for the loss of nine wickets. Attempting to clear the field for his milestone run, Tilak instead holed out to off-spinner Kounain Quraishi, offering a caught-and-bowled dismissal.Bundling out South Zone for 336, with a 372-run innings lead, East Zone all but ensured their first title win in 14 years with only a day’s play left in the final.The

23-year-old, who is leading South Zone for the first time this edition, was closing in on his third Duleep Trophy century in only six matches since making his debut in the red-ball tournament in 2023.Tilak, who will also travel with India’s T20I squad for the Asian Games later this month as vice-captain, has put on impressive performances during the ongoing edition, starting with South Zone’s semi-final win over North Zone.

After his unbeaten 116 had rescued South Zone in the first innings in the semis, Tilak made 51 not out from 79 balls in the second innings to guide his side through a chase of 181 and into the final at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 2 in Bengaluru last week.For Tilak, the two performances made a strong red-ball statement. He has established himself in India’s T20 setup, but his two knocks in Bengaluru showed another side to his batting. The first required him to rebuild after South had been reduced to 80/5. In the second, he had to play the anchor and ensure the chase did not become difficult.In Chennai, the southpaw elevated his First-Class credentials further, with an excellent conversion rate reading eight centuries against seven half-centuries in 24 matches, with an average north of 58.Earlier in the final, Tilak’s East Zone counterpart Ishan Kishan set up the match with a career-best score of 270, packed with 30 fours and seven sixes. Kishan’s knock was the second-highest individual score in a Duleep Trophy final, only behind Raman Lamba’s 320 for North Zone in 1987.

‘Too early to say they’ll make it’: India World Cup winner on Rohit, Kohli playing 27 WC

Given the lengthy breaks between India’s ODI assignments in the lead-up to the 2027 ODI World Cup, the suspense over Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli’s future in the format has become a constant part of pre-series discussions.Even as BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia recently brushed aside the rumour mills over former captain Rohit’s potential snub from the ODI squad moving forward, debates have swelled over the 39-year-old’s spot. Former India seamer and Gujarat Titans head coach Ashish Nehra has now opened up on the possibility of Rohit and Kohli making it to the quadrennial event set to be played in October-November next year in Africa.Nehra, who was part of the 2011 World Cup-winning Indian team, said it was still too early to be sure both Rohit and Kohli will make it to a fourth successive World Cup together since 2015.

‘Even Gill is not in T20 squad’Citing the example of his GT captain Shubman Gill not making it to India’s T20I squad despite being the captain in the ODI and Test formats, Nehra said there was no room for such assumptions in Indian cricket.“We all know what Rohit and Virat have achieved over the last decade. But for me, 13 months is a long time. It is very difficult to say right now whether Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli will be there. Forget those two. Age is just a number.“We talk about Shubman Gill and Jasprit Bumrah, but even Shubman is not in the T20 squad. The way the sport is going, it is fast-paced and more formats are coming. So, it is difficult to say. It is sim-



ply too early,” Nehra was quoted as saying at the Cricket Association of Bengal’s (CAB) annual awards ceremony earlier this week.Rohit will be 40 at the time of the World Cup next year while Kohli will turn 39 during the tournament. Nehra said that there was no reason to discard the heavyweight batters, provided they continue to score runs consistently towards the World Cup.“If they are doing well and performing, why not? But again, if you were the coach or if I were the coach, it would not be my decision alone. That doesn’t work with the BCCI. There are selectors and other decision-makers involved, so there are many people involved in the decision-making process,” he added.Kohli (14,941) and Rohit (11,895) are the two highest active run-scorers in ODI cricket. The duo are likely to return to action during India’s home series opener against the West Indies, starting September 27 in Thiruvananthapuram.

Anmol Ekka’s six-goal blitz powers India men into AHF Junior Asia Cup semis

Moqi: Defending champions India stormed into the semi-finals of the AHF Junior Asia Cup 2026 with a ruthless 15-0 demolition of Chinese Taipei in their final Pool A match here on Wednesday.Captain Anmol Ekka was the star of the show, scoring six goals — all from penalty corners — as India turned a goalless opening quarter into a one-sided contest. The victory took India to the top of Pool A with 10 points from three wins and a draw.South Korea claimed the second semi-final spot from the group with nine points after edging Japan 3-2. Japan, Indonesia and Chinese Taipei were eliminated from the title race and will now feature in the classification matches.

India dominated possession and created several openings in the opening 15 minutes but were unable to breach a disciplined Chinese Taipei defence. The breakthrough finally came in the 17th minute when Aryan Xess opened the scoring, with Prabhdeep Singh doubling the lead a minute later.Gursewak Singh made it 3-0 in the 22nd minute before Ekka converted his first penalty corner three minutes later. Arjun Santosh Hargude added another in the 28th minute, and Ekka struck again moments later as India went into half-time with a 6-0 lead. The third quarter belonged almost entirely to India.Ekka converted two early penalty corners to complete his hat-trick and then added another to take his tally to four. Ajeet Yadav also got on the scoresheet in the 35th minute be-



fore Ekka converted again in the 45th minute to make it five for the evening and take India into double figures. There was no let-up in the final quarter.Harpal scored in the 48th minute before Ekka completed his remarkable six-goal haul three minutes later with another successful penalty corner. Harpal added his second soon after, while Aryan Xess rounded off the rout with his second goal of the match as India completed a 15-0 victory.The result underlined India’s attacking strength and set-piece efficiency, particularly after they found their rhythm following the first-quarter stalemate. The defending champions now head into the semi-finals with their confidence boosted by a dominant finish to the pool stage.

Pegula rallies past Navarro to reach third straight US Open semi-final

New York: The No. 3 seed Jessica Pegula came from a set down to defeat No. 26 seed Emma Navarro 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 in 2 hours and 21 minutes at a packed Arthur Ashe Stadium, advancing to the US Open semifinals for the third consecutive year.This is Pegula’s fourth Grand Slam semifinal; she also reached the last four at the Australian Open earlier this year. The US Open 2024 runner-up now holds the most three-set wins (90) and comeback wins (48) among WTA Tour players since the start of the decade.

No. 1 seed and two-time defending champion Sabalenka awaits Pegula in the semifinals after dismissing Linda Noskova in a hard-fought quarter-final, 7-6 (1), 3-6, 7-6 (7).Pegula is 4-9 against Sabalenka and has lost to her twice in Flushing, most recently in the semifinals of last year’s US Open. They also met in the 2024 US Open final, with Sabalenka winning the match and the title, 7-5, 7-5.Pegula, who had a stellar 2026, claiming two titles in Dubai and Charleston and reaching the finals at three additional events in Cincinnati, Washington, D.C., and Berlin—altogether racking up five finals appearances, the most of any WTA player—is one of four players vying for

the title of No. 1 in the world, a crown she’d capture only if she wins the championship and Elena Rybakina fails to advance to the semifinals.The first set opened with an exchange of service breaks, with both players facing and saving additional break points. Both players also struggled to get their first serves in, leaving them vulnerable to attacks on their second serves.Pegula, in particular, looked rattled on serve, committing three double faults in a single game and slipping to a 2-4 deficit (compared with a total of 10 double faults across her first four matches), according to US Open reports.A nearly nine-minute game ensued, which Navarro survived. After Pegula’s first efficient hold, at love, the younger American had the first set on her racquet. Navarro managed to claim the frame on her second set point, 6-3.The 50-minute set wasn’t a clean one for either player. Navarro committed five double faults of her own (to just one ace), matching Pegula’s serving stats exactly.Pegula underlined the second set with vastly improved play. But, as in the first set, the two players traded early breaks to keep the match on serve. When the score levelled at 4-4, neither player could sustain an edge.But then, down 4-5 and serving at 30-30, Navarro hit her first double fault of the set.

Riteish Deshmukh, Genelia on production, managing star entourages: ‘Your choice to say no’



A couple, collaborators, producers — Riteish and Genelia Deshmukh wear many hats. Married for over 20 years, they have produced seven films so far, with their latest being Raja Shivaji, based on the life of the Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. In an exclusive interview with SCREEN, the couple discussed the various aspects of production.‘When you approach an actor, you know what comes with them’The rising cost of stars’ entourages is a discussion that producers have publicly voiced in recent years. SCREEN asked Riteish Deshmukh and Genelia about their views on the matter.

Given that Raja Shivaji featured stars such as Sanjay Dutt, Salman Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Vidya Balan, Mahesh Manjrekar and Boman Irani, among others, we asked the couple how much of the entourage cost they bore and whether there was ever a point when they felt the money should instead go into the filmmaking.Answering the question, Riteish Deshmukh said, “I think every film has its own economics. And, I truly believe that when you are considering a certain actor, by that time, you get well versed with the kind of entourage or whatever the person is going to come with, and having accounted for all that if you think it’s still viable then you’ll approach the actor.”He continued, “Eventually, at a production level at least with our Mumbai film company or the actors that we worked with, we had a great time with the actors that were on board and including the entourage that all the staff of other people that they worked with because we’ve worked with most of them at an actor level. I know Abhishek’s makeup dada to his valet to his driver to Sanju sir’s valet to Boman... So, we have known each other at an actor level and at production level also. We never had an issue.”

“If there’s an entourage cost that doesn’t work for you, I think it’s your choice to say no as a producer. If it’s not working then there can be a discussion. I feel that’s something that both sides need to take responsibility,” said the Sitaare Zameen Par actor.“The industry is a very lovely place. It is often very much bashed and spoken

about, but it’s like any other industry. You have great people and you have some not so great people but on the whole, it’s a very very lovely place. Everyone who came on “Raja Shivaji” came from their hearts,” said Genelia, who produced this film with husband Riteish.Riaan Deshmukh, 11, and Rahyl Deshmukh, 10, sons of Genelia and Riteish, also made their debuts through the film. They played Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at different stages of his life in the historical drama. When asked what it was like to have the entire Deshmukh family on the set, Riteish joked that getting their time was the only hassle the production had to deal with.“Initially, both of us didn’t want them in the movie. It was one of our chief ADs who said, ‘You know, why don’t we think of them? I said, ‘Let me give it a thought.’ Then I bounced the idea with them, both of us together, and they reluctantly agreed,” said the proud father.Genelia continued, “They were like, ‘Our football practice is going to get cancelled’.”Riteish laughingly added, “So if the production had date issues, it was because of the boys because they had school (laughs).”Again, Genelia’s motherly instincts kicked in as she exclaimed, “No. I had no issues. Don’t say anything about my boys (laughs). They had their football practice and we clearly managed it!”“So, the whole unit knew that okay, these are the only 2 days that the boys could shoot, so we had to figure it out. And practically there were other kids and we did the same for them because we didn’t want any of the kids on the shoot to miss any of the school days. But it was just nice to have them,” said the “Lai Bhaari” actor.Giving an insight into a special moment involving Abhishek Bachchan and his son Rahyl, Riteish recalled, “I remember Rahyl was shooting, the younger one. It was his first day, and on the same day Abhishek just walked in to visit the set. So when Rahyl was shooting, and I was telling him what to do; Abhishek was busy shooting the two of us and he was sending me pictures. So it was quite a sweet moment for me because it was a scene about two brothers, and Abhishek was playing my elder brother and in my real life he is like an elder brother to me.

Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh share pregnancy photos with daughter Dua on her birthday



Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh’s little family is getting bigger. The couple, who announced their second pregnancy earlier this year, have now shared a set of intimate black-and-white photographs as they prepare to become parents again. The photos come on Dua’s second birthday today, making the glimpse of the family together even more special.Deepika-Ranveer’s pregnancy photoshoot with Dua

In one of the photographs, Ranveer stands close to Deepika, gently holding her baby bump as the two smile with their foreheads touching. Deepika is seen in a fitted lace outfit that highlights her growing bump, while Ranveer keeps his look simple in a white shirt and trousers.Another photograph brings their daughter Dua into the frame. The little one stands between her parents, playfully covering her face as Deepika and Ranveer crouch beside her. The couple have largely kept Dua away from the public eye, making this a rare and heartwarming glimpse of the family together.Sharing the pictures, Ranveer wrote, “Baby Dua and our hearts are getting bigger! Thank you for your blessings (sic).” Take a look at the post below:

Deepika and Ranveer welcomed their first child, daughter Dua Padukone Singh, on September 8, 2024. Since then, the actors have kept their daughter’s life largely private. The couple had announced their second pregnancy earlier this year through a joint Instagram post featuring Dua. In the photograph, Dua is seen holding a pregnancy test showing two pink lines, with both parents’ hands gently holding hers. Deepika captioned the post with evil eye emojis.Even as she prepares to welcome her second

child, Deepika has continued with her work commitments. She will next be seen in Siddharth Anand’s King, which stars Shah Rukh Khan and Suhana Khan. She is also part of Atlee’s ambitious sci-fi action film Raaka, headlined by Allu Arjun. Deepika has reportedly continued shooting portions of Raaka during her pregnancy.Ranveer, meanwhile, has begun work on Pralay and is currently filming the project in Mumbai.

Akshay Kumar reveals what ‘Haiwaan’ taught him on his birthday

Mumbai: On his birthday, actor Akshay Kumar shared a thought-provoking reflection on life and revealed a lesson his upcoming project ‘Haiwaan’ has taught him. The ‘Airlift’ actor took to Instagram to share a short but meaningful note about the difference between appearances and reality.Reflecting on the notions of good and evil, the actor suggested that things may not always be as they seem.

Sharing a video from the movie, Akshay wrote, “On my birthday, a small thought...What looks evil may not always be evil. And what looks good may not always be good. Maybe that’s what Haiwaan taught me. Thank you for all the love you’ve given me over the years. This Friday, I’m giving you a side of me you haven’t seen before. See you in cinemas. Love & Prayers, Akshay.”

Through his post, Akshay hinted at the shades of morality explored in ‘Haiwaan’, leaving fans curious about the narrative and his character in the upcoming project. His fans also took to the comments section to extend their warm birthday wishes to the actor.One fan commented, “Happiest birthday to Khiladi akshay kumar sir.” Another said, “Happy Birthday Akshay sir love you.” “Happy Birthday to you sir ji God bless you all the best upcoming movie love you akki,” wrote another.In the upcoming crime thriller “Haiwaan,” Akshay Kumar takes on the role of a dark and cold-blooded antagonist. He plays a dangerous killer and a seemingly polished, unassuming mastermind whose troubled past sheds light on how he eventually turns into a psychopath. The film sets up a gripping face-off between Akshay’s character and Saif Ali Khan, who plays a visually impaired martial artist determined to protect a young girl. The upcoming crime thriller “Haiwaan” marks the reunion of Akshay Kumar and Saif Ali Khan on the big screen after 18 years.

Vishal Bhardwaj talks about love, desire and complicated stories

Mumbai: The makers of “Lust Stories 3” on Wednesday unveiled the trailer of the upcoming anthology with filmmakers such as Vishal Bhardwaj, Shakun Batra, Vikramaditya Motwane and Kiran Rao contributing to stories talking about love, desire and complicated stories.Lust Stories 3 brings together actors such as Radhika Apte, Konkona Sen Sharma, Aditi Rao Hydari, Radhika Madan, Sana Thampi, Vijay Varma, Abhishek Banerjee, Siddharth, Ali Fazal and Gurfateh Pirzada.The trailer offers audiences a glimpse into four very different stories, each carrying its own tone, rhythm and surprises, while remaining connected by a larger exploration of what people want, what they hold back and how those desires can shape the relationships around them.

The film will be balancing humour and chemistry with moments of vulnerability and introspection.Vishal Bhardwaj said in a statement: “What fascinates me about desire is how deeply it is connected to imagination – to the stories we tell ourselves, and sometimes the stories we are afraid to tell out loud. I was drawn to the idea of exploring that space through a character finding her own voice and discovering what happens when that voice reaches beyond her.” “There’s humour, mischief and emotion in that journey, but also questions about identity, expression and who gets to tell stories about desire. That made this a particularly exciting story for me to explore.”Bhardwaj said that being part of an anthology with three such distinctive filmmakers was a “wonderful creative experience, and Netflix gave all of us the freedom to tell these stories in our own way”Talking about being a part of the anthology, Vikramaditya Motwane said: “What drew me to Lust Stories 3 was the chance to explore what happens when the comfort of everyday life begins to rub up against the desire for something unexpected, and this story allowed me to explore that space



with warmth, humour and a little bit of unpredictability.” “Bringing it to life with the crew, the producers, Netflix, and with this madly gifted cast was an incredible experience.”What interested Kiran Rao about this story was how the first sparks of an attraction can quickly become something far more complicated.She added: “Desire makes us curious, and sometimes willing to take chances we normally wouldn’t. I was interested in what happens when those choices begin to have unexpected consequences.” “The anthology format, and the creative freedom Netflix gave us, allowed me to play with intimacy and humour. I really enjoyed finding that balance, letting the characters follow their impulses, and take us to surprising territory. I hope it’s a fun, unpredictable ride that keeps the audience on their toes.”Shakun Batra said for him, the most interesting relationships are the ones where people don’t quite know what they’re feeling, or how to make sense of it. ‘Affection, insecurity, allure and frustration can all exist at the same time, often in ways that surprise us. I wanted to explore that emotional ambiguity with honesty, without judging the characters or trying to give them easy answers.” “

Mary Kom tells Rhiti Tiwari ‘whole world knows me, I don’t know you’

Mumbai: In the upcoming episode of ‘Bigg Boss 20’, six-time world champion boxer Mary Kom will be seen engaging in a war of words with Rhiti Tiwari in the kitchen over doing dishes and making tea.A promo shared by the channel on Instagram showed Mary asking contestant ScoutOP about who else has been asked to do the dishes alongside him. Rhiti, who is standing next to her, replies that she has been given the duty but is currently busy making tea for everyone.In the clip, Rhiti says: ““Meri hi duty hai bartan ki, par ab main chai bana rahi hoon na” Mary then asks Rhiti “Chai banane mein kitna time lagta hai? (how much time does it tae to make tea)” A miffed Rhiti asks Mary to make the tea. She then escalates the matter by telling Mary that she knows what she needs to do. “Mujhe pata hai mujhe kya karna hai (I know what to do). I respect you a lot, but don’t go around talking about me behind my back.” Rhiti says in the promo.Mary responds “The whole world knows me. Aap kaun hain, main nahi jaanti” (I don’t know who you are). An angry Rhiti shared that the world will get to know a ‘different side’ of Mary Kom too.Big Boss is an Indian Hindi-language reality television show of the Bigg Boss franchise in India that airs on Colors TV. It is based on the Dutch format of Big Brother. The 20th edition started on September 6. It has a diverse lineup of 16 celebrity contestants including



names such as MC Mary Kom, Kanika Mann, Mahhi Vij, Kushal Tanwar, Aman Gandhi, Isha Rikhi, Arishfa Khan, Qazi Touqeer, Asif Khan, Aamrapali Dubey, Rhiti Tiwari, Uditi Singh, Tanmay Singh aka ScoutOP, Rohed Khan, Yung DSA and Love Gill.

Neha Kakkar debunks Sunidhi Chauhan’s ‘reality shows are fake ‘claim



The last season of Indian Idol 16 concluded after a long run of nine to 10 months. The reason behind the show getting multiple extensions was good TRPs. Recently, singer Neha Kakkar defended claims that singing reality shows like Indian Idol are seeing a drop in their TRPs. Neha also took a dig at Sunidhi Chauhan, who earlier said that all such shows are scripted. Sunidhi had said on Raj Shamani’s podcast for Brut India that reality shows have fake contestants and are manipulated by the makers.

Sunidhi Chauhan’s comment about reality showsDuring Raj Shamani’s podcast in 2024, Sunidhi Chauhan said that she enjoyed being a part of reality shows for the first two years. She stated that reality shows back then were authentic and said, “I enjoyed the first two years; things were going very well. But then the turbulence began. Reality shows also changed a lot. They used to be so real earlier. Now what you hear on TV is all doctored... it’s all corrected. They want to make sure that there is no bad singer they have on the show. It looks funny how someone who got praise gets eliminated in the next episode.”

Sunidhi further shared, “These things had started to bother me; that’s why I stopped being a part of reality shows. Then I did The Voice India and there were a few conditions I had. They agreed to that, and the show did decently well. It was not as big as Indian Idol, though. I was relieved that what the audience was hearing was genuine; I can’t stand cheating. I was happy to be a part of it till the time it was okay. Now I don’t wish to be a part of it. I did five of them.”

She added, “On Dil Hai Hindustani, fake stories were made about contestants. The most shocking thing for me,

which also became a deal-breaker, was when I was told that a certain contestant needed to be pushed ahead in the game, so I should say nice things, but I refused. They would choose a few contestants to take forward; they would sign a contract so, when the person wins, they would do shows with him or her.”In 2021, during another interview with ETimes, Sunidhi Chauhan had said, “The reality shows today are all good platforms. They make you an overnight success. Your AV that is made helps people know you; you don’t have to struggle. Artists suffer in this because the hunger to work hard dies there. When I judged Indian Idol 5 and 6, we were all told to praise contestants, which is why I am not a part of reality shows as a judge today. I couldn’t do that.”

Neha Kakkar hits back at Sunidhi ChauhanRecently at an event, Neha Kakkar reacted to Sunidhi Chauhan’s remarks about reality shows being scripted. Neha defending its dropping TRPs, and said, “Indian Idol lost its fame because I stopped doing the show. Till the time I was doing the show, the TRP was the highest, but as they say, grapes are sour if you cannot get them; that’s the case. Those who don’t get the grapes only find them to be sour. The show is not scripted at all; people’s lives cannot be scripted. All of us Indian’s come from humble backgrounds, even I do, and if someone’s story makes me emotional, then it’s bound to happen.”Neha Kakkar was seen as a judge on Indian Idol from season 10 to 13; she was last seen judging Superstar Singer 3 in 2024. On the latest season of Indian Idol, Sherya Ghoshal, Badshah, and Vishal Dadlani were seen as judges.

‘Hanuman Ansh’ earns Rs 150 crore at box office

New Delhi: “Hanuman Ansh”, based on the life and teachings of spiritual leader Neem Karoli Baba, has earned over Rs 150 crore at the box office.The film is directed by Vishal Chaturvedi and follows a grieving young Lakshminarayan, who embarks on a spiritual journey in search of God after the death of his mother.As he travels across North India seeking answers to life, death and human suffering, he eventually transforms into the revered saint Neem Karoli Baba, whose teachings of love, service and compassion touched countless lives.It features Shobhinav Satya in the lead role alongside Vihaan Shedge, Chandan K Anand, Purnima Tiwari, Anil Rastogi, Gulshan Pandey and Bhagvandas, among others.