

EYE SECRETS

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Uttam sets deadline for Rs 813-crore payout to farmers

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, Sept 21

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday, September 21, asked district collectors to disburse Rs 813 crore to farmers affected by land acquisition.

The irrigation officials were also asked to ensure that funds already released for land acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) reach affected farmers on a war footing, warning that money should not remain parked in government accounts while irrigation projects are held up.

Reviewing the progress of land acquisition and compensation disbursement with the District Collectors through a video conference, Reddy expressed concern that about Rs 813 crore was still pending for disbursement in the accounts of District Collectors, Revenue Divisional Officers, and Special Deputy Collectors.

Officials informed Reddy that since April 1, tokens worth about Rs 3,101 crore had been submitted and around Rs 2,504 crore had been released towards land acquisition and R&R. Of the amount currently pending at the district level, about Rs 502 crore was with Land Acquisition Officers and another Rs 311 crore with Collectors.

Reddy said the accumulation of funds without them reaching land losers was a matter of concern. He asked the Collectors to personally intervene and speed up negotiations to facilitate awards and payments.

"If the money has been released, it must reach the land-losing farmers. If for any genuine reason it cannot be disbursed, explain the reason and return the money instead of keeping it idle," he said.

The irrigation minister recalled that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had committed Rs 6,000 crore during 2026 for land acquisition, R&R and forest-related requirements of irrigation projects with a view to ensuring quick completion of the irrigation projects.

He said these funds were being arranged outside the regular irrigation budget so that a lack of money would not delay priority projects.

He made it clear that tokens should be raised only after awards were passed and cases were actually ready for payment. At the same time, he stressed that acquisition must follow a humane and reasonable approach towards farmers. "The government does not want to be unfair to farmers while taking away their land. Compensation should, within the legal framework and due process, be as close as reasonably possible to prevailing market values," he said.

In cases where compensation remained unpaid after an award, he instructed officials to pay the statutory interest wherever applicable. In cases involving court or title disputes, the Minister directed officials to compile all pending cases so that they could be taken up with the Advocate General for focused legal action.

The Minister examined district-wise bottlenecks in Nalgonda, Yadadri-Bhongir, Narayanpet, Siddipet, Vikarabad, Jagtial and Hanumakonda, among others. In Nalgonda district, Uttam reviewed delays concerning Chintapalli reservoir, Pendlipaka balancing reservoir, Udayasamudram and Nellikallu. He stressed the urgency of completing acquisition for Pendlipakala, pointing out that the reservoir was crucial to deriving benefits from the SLBC tunnel once it was completed.

"If the tunnel is completed but land acquisition for the balancing reservoir remains unfinished, the investment cannot yield the intended benefit," he cautioned.

The Collectors were asked to compress timelines, rather than treating two or three weeks as routine administrative processing time.

The minister said land acquisition had become critical because several irrigation projects were substantially completed and their benefits were being held up mainly by pending distributary canals, connecting works and small stretches requiring acquisition.

Historic Occasion: Jaishankar Describes First V4+India Foreign Ministers Meeting

New York, Sept 21

: India and the four-member Visegrad group of Central European countries on Monday agreed to step up political, economic and defence cooperation at their first foreign ministers' meeting, which External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar described as a "new historic occasion". The Visegrad Group (V4) is a cultural and political alliance of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia that aims at advancing co-operation in military, economic, cultural and energy affairs.

The first meeting of the foreign ministers of the Visegrad Group and India was held on Monday on the margins of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly.

Jaishankar joined Poland's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Radek Sikorski, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Hungary Anita Orban, Slovak Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Juraj Blanar and Czech Foreign Minister Petr Macinka for the meeting.

"It was, in a sense, a new historic occasion," Jaishankar said in remarks after the meeting.

"It was a very, very productive meeting. What we agreed was that since India's relationship with the European Union itself is deepening, with the V4 we would take some special initiatives to create an annual business forum," he said, adding that there was

"consensus" that the foreign ministers of the five nations in the group would meet annually.

"We would also explore in technology and innovation whether we could be doing more. We have a very strong history with all the V4 countries in defence. We want to refresh and take forward that record and that cooperation," Jaishankar said.

The group also discussed issues including space, connectivity, and people-to-people mobility.

Jaishankar said the meeting was "very worthwhile" and "very productive", with discussions focusing on cooperation as well as major global crises, including the Ukraine conflict and developments in the Gulf.

"It was really a very, very worthwhile, very productive meeting. I'm very pleased about it," he said in remarks to reporters after the meeting.

In a post on X, Jaishankar said the first meeting in the V4+India format agreed to closer political cooperation, including annual meetings of foreign ministers, and deeper economic cooperation, including the Annual Business Forum. The countries also agreed to strengthen technology, innovation, research and education partnerships; reinvigorate defence cooperation; further develop cultural cooperation and people-to-people relations and work together to support multilateralism, he said.

Telangana movement: CM aids kin of dead activists, missing one

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, Sept 21

Taking note of their immense contribution to the Telangana statehood movement, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday, September 21, directed officials to provide financial assistance to the family of Mandala Raju, who went missing in 2013, and to that of late Lingala Kedari, who also served with dedication along with his wife, late Pushpalatha.

Thirty-four-year-old Raju of the Gorla Veedu village in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district went missing on June 20, 2013, said the Deccan Chronicle. It cited Bhupalpally MLA Gandra Satyanarayana Rao as saying that Raju was arrested and lodged in Cherlapally central jail before he went missing.

Writing to the CM, the MLA said Raju was his parents' only child, and the latter were facing financial difficulties in his absence. The Chief Minister directed officials to sanction Rs 5 lakh to Raju's father, Mandala Sammi Reddy, under the Telangana martyrs' quota.

Likewise, the CM directed officials to provide Rs 10 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to the family of the late Lingala Kedari and his wife. He said the couple, who ran a modest hotel, provided free meals, tiffins, and tea during the movement.



Lingala Kedari died on September 9, 2026, and his wife Pushpalatha the next day. While the CM's OSD has sanctioned Rs 10 lakh from the CMRF, the Hanumakonda district collector has been instructed to ensure that the sanctioned financial aid is provided to the legal heirs.

Ram Temple SIT finds 105 theft instances; chargesheet by Sept 25

AYODHYA, SEPT 21

The special investigation team (SIT) probing the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ayodhya Ram Temple on Monday informed the Supreme Court that it would file its first chargesheet by September 25. The SIT has reportedly uncovered 105 instances of alleged theft of donations in its probe.

"Within two days, we will be filing (a chargesheet)," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, noting that the statutory 90-day period from the first arrest in the case would lapse soon.

"Ninety days from the date of the first arrest are going to be over on September 25, so we will have to file the chargesheet, otherwise, they (the accused) will get default bail," Mehta told the Bench, which also included Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana.

Under Section 187 of the new Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita that replaced Section 167 (2) of the CrPC, an accused becomes entitled to statutory bail if the probe agency fails to file the chargesheet within the stipulated period of either 60 or 90 days as the case may be.

The Bench also perused a detailed status report submitted by the SIT in a sealed cover.

The SIT has reportedly found 105 instances of alleged theft after analysing CCTV footage, witness statements and donation records. It analysed hundreds of hours of surveillance video footage, transaction logs and bank deposit records to reconstruct the donation theft.

Set up on July 26 on the orders of the top court,

Sonia Gandhi's 'pre-citizenship voter entry' back under scanner

New Delhi, SEPT 21

A Delhi sessions court on Monday reopened the question of an FIR against Congress leader Sonia Gandhi over allegations that her name appeared in the electoral rolls in 1980, three years before she acquired Indian citizenship, holding that a magistrate had rejected the complaint without properly examining whether it disclosed a cognisable offence.

Setting aside the September 2025 order, Special Judge Vishal Gogne termed it "perverse and improper" and found that it was non-speaking on a key question: whether the allegations against Sonia warranted a criminal investigation.

The judge sent the complaint back for a fresh decision and directed the magistrate to hear complainant Vikas Tripathi and the Delhi Police, conduct the required inquiry and pass a reasoned order. The matter will come up on September 29.

The sessions court has neither ordered the registration of an FIR nor recorded any finding that Sonia used forged documents.



"The sanctity of the electoral roll is an article of faith for every citizen in a parliamentary democracy," the court observed, adding that even the "mightiest" in the land ultimately stand as voters like ordinary citizens.

Mumbai never sleeps, but now it will walk better: Here’s what BMC plans for its roads



Mumbai never sleeps, Mumbai roads to get wider footpaths, Mumbai roads, mumbai road projects, Ghatkopar, Bhandup, Kanjurmarg, Nahur, Mumbai news, Maharashtra news, Indian express, current affairsThe design has been finalised, but work will begin in October after the monsoon rains begin to recede. The project will initially be implemented on these 30 roads, and later scaled up to all other administrative divisions in Mumbai.As part of the Mumbai civic body’s ongoing drive to reclaim footpaths by clearing illegal encroachments, civic authorities have planned to redesign the footpaths and peripheries of as many as 30 roads in the eastern suburbs to make them walkable. The 30 shortlisted roads fall under three administrative wards, covering Ghatkopar, Bhandup, Kanjurmarg, Nahur and Mulund areas, stretching across marketplaces, railway stations, schools and bus stops.

In the first phase, civic officials said, all illegal encroachments on these roads were removed. In the second phase, the existing footpath model will be redesigned to improve walkability.“In Mumbai’s suburbs, footpaths often consist of seamless stretches of culverts created by

covering drains running underneath them. As a result, these footpaths are narrow and fail to provide adequate walking space for citizens,” Yogita Kolhe, Assistant Municipal Commissioner, told The Indian Express. Kolhe said that the BMC has involved urban planners who have drafted an integrated pedestrian design.Mumbai never sleeps, Mumbai roads to get wider footpaths, Mumbai roads, mumbai road projects, Ghatkopar, Bhandup, Kanjurmarg, Nahur, Mumbai news, Maharashtra news, Indian express, current affairs“Under this new design, the existing footpaths will be widened to ensure there is a minimum 2-meter width, and the surface will also be made uniform. Additionally, the junction areas, traffic islands around stations and junctions will also be widened and redesigned to make sure there is adequate walking space for citizens. The idea is to promote walkability as a last-mile connectivity medium and provide uninterrupted walking space from railway stations or marketplaces either to their homes or to the nearest transit point like bus stations,” Kolhe said.After removing illegal encroachments from the roads, civic officials discovered that transformers, fire hydrants and licensed hawking stalls, like Aarey milk stores, along these roads were also hindering pedestrian movement, prompting them to involve urban planners to prepare a design to use the existing space.“The basic idea is to remove the existing obstacles. At present, the road concretisation work is ongoing. The design will also integrate the new roads with new footpaths. Under the new plan, barricades will be raised to separate footpaths from roads, and markings will be implemented to prevent unauthorised parking,” an official from the civic roads department said.The design has been finalised, but work will begin in October after the monsoon rains begin to recede. The project will initially be implemented on these 30 roads, and later scaled up to all other administrative divisions in Mumbai.

Funding among key hurdles in hostel infrastructure expansion at affiliated colleges of Delhi University



The preferred accommodation option for outstation students is the on-campus hostel facility that some DU colleges offer.While the university’s hostels have 3,422 seats, over 80 colleges affiliated to it collectively have 3,788 hostel seats.This is still woefully short of the number of students enrolling in the university — a large chunk of whom come from other states. On average, roughly 2.8 lakh students enrol in undergraduate programmes annually in the university, and roughly 11,600 students enrol in PG programmes.The shortfall is particularly acute in DU’s South Campus where only two colleges have hostels — Sri Venkateswara College has about 144 hostel beds and Maitreyi College 103. Lady Shri Ram College, which is also located in South Delhi, has around 150 hostel beds.In comparison, several North Campus colleges are better off with St Stephen’s having around 380 beds, Miranda House 361, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College having around 357 and IP College for Women around 450.

The shortfall has been a red flag for years. For instance, in October 2020, citing a massive increase in enrolment after the expansion of student intake to accommodate the new Economically Weaker Section (EWS), senior officials at Shaheed Bhagat Singh College flagged the need for an urgent expansion of infrastructure.Six years later, it still functions without a housing facility for its students, and caters to both evening and morning shift students.Different college administrators that The Indian Express spoke to over the years suggest that constraints vary from one campus to another. At some colleges, land availability on campus is a factor. For instance, Aryabhatta College and Ram Lal Anand College in South Campus share a roughly 10-acre plot, limiting the scope for another large building.South Campus colleges, such as Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, also cite regulatory roadblocks because they are located on the protected forest area of the South Central Ridge.Aryabhatta College principal Manoj Sinha, said, “In the decentralised governance of Delhi University, a constituent college’s internal Building Committee handles the initial structural and administrative project approvals, as the college administration acts as the immediate local custodian of its specific campus land.”Sinha emphasised that under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (DPTA), 1994, the legal definition of a tree is incredibly broad, meaning even substantial woody shrubs and saplings require formal protection.Once the Delhi Environment department grants clearance, the executing agency — typically Central Public Works Department (CPWD) — must legally enforce strict protocols to prevent tree damage, stated Sinha.The historical nature of the campuses also throws up regulatory challenges. At Indraprastha College for Women, the Grade-I heritage status of the campus places restrictions on structural alterations and expansion.

Alongside all these factors, funding is an overarching issue. There is no student hostel at Jesus and Mary College, leaving outstation students dependent on paying guest (PG) accommodations.“We are a convent college. We don’t have any trust as such to fund such massive infrastructure,” said Principal Molly K A. After the building collapse at Satya Niketan on September 6, several women students took shelter inside the classrooms. “Till how long can I keep them in classrooms?,” the Principal had told this paper at the time.At Maitreyi College, which has a limited capacity of 103 beds, Principal Haritma Chopra said expansion requires resources not only for construction but also for staffing and services. “The challenge with expansion is the availability of resources. We have to recruit housekeeping staff and ensure other amenities like a fully functional mess. It takes a few years, but we are certainly speeding up things,” she said.Aryabhatta College’s Manoj Sinha, who is also the President of the Delhi University Principals’ Association, is blunt about

the student housing gap. “DU is never going to accommodate everybody on the campus...There are more than five lakh students in the university, with approximately three lakh in regular programmes... You cannot keep adding students and expect the existing infrastructure to accommodate everyone,” he said.

“Every college has different resources. The land parcels also vary in size. Some colleges have 16 acres, while some have very little land, such as five acres in the case of Aryabhatta College and Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies. This makes it difficult for colleges with smaller campuses to expand their infrastructure, including hostels,” he added.A former DU vice-chancellor said many colleges had been reluctant to take up hostel projects because of the financial and administrative resources involved, and that in earlier days, improved transport connectivity was thought of as a way to address growing student populations.“Many colleges were not set up as residential campuses,” he said. He said the varsity had previously added feeder bus services to Metro services as a way to improve access rather than focus on conventional measures like expanding residential provisions.

“But that model does not work for an outstation student,” he said.

The Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) was set up in 2017 as a joint venture between the Centre and Canara Bank to mobilise funds for infrastructure and research projects in higher educational institutions. Unlike the earlier grant-based approach by the University Grants Commission, HEFA was designed as a loan-based financing mechanism, with institutions expected to repay the principal while the Centre serviced the interest component. The original model envisaged 10-year loans, with institutions agreeing to escrow a specified portion of their internal accruals for repayment.This shift towards loan-based infrastructure financing has raised concerns over the financial burden on institutions.Principals of several DU colleges told The Indian Express that repaying HEFA loans has added to the pressure on their internal finances. With student fees forming a significant part of colleges’ internally generated revenue, some said institutions could be forced to consider fee hikes and other revenue-generating measures to meet their repayment obligations. “It[HEFA] creates a long-term liability. Accepting it would mean putting an unfair burden on the students by increasing the fees. Earlier, the UGC used to disburse,” said Mithuraaj Dhusiya, a current member of DU’s Executive Council.Some colleges continue to look for out-of-the box solutions to this persistent problem. Miranda House Principal Bijayalaxmi Nanda said along with exploring vertical expansion to augment its capacity of 361 beds, the college is also exploring a “buddy system”, drawing on models abroad where students without hostel rooms are matched with senior students or local hosts willing to accommodate them at home.“ The proposal is still at a very early stage, and we are currently waiting to see if any senior faculty or alumni have residential spaces that are lying unused and could be made available to students. The longer-term idea is to formalise such arrangements through MoUs, with the spaces potentially being converted into student accommodation or operated through a framework similar to Airbnb, where students who do not get hostel rooms could opt for these vetted residential options,” she said.

Six apprehended for kidnapping and duping in the name of counterfeit currency in Adilabad

Adilabad: Six persons were apprehended on charges of kidnapping after three of them were allegedly duped with the promise of being supplied counterfeit currency here on Tuesday. Police seized a car, two mobile phones and Rs 30,000 in cash from the six. Five others were still absconding.Adilabad DSP L. Jeevan Reddy said Shaik Shakeeb, Mohammad Sithar and Pratham Ravindra, all from Chandrapur district in Maharashtra, were apprehended for allegedly abducting Deepak Sriram of Yavatmal, and Sarkar Alok and Elchlawar Surender, both from Mavala.Deepak, Alok and Surender were also taken into custody for their alleged involvement in duping Shakeeb, Sithar and Pratham by taking Rs 5 lakh from them in exchange for counterfeit currency worth Rs 20 lakh.

Car driver who hit woman biker in Gurgaon tried to escape after arrest: Police



Car driver hits woman biker in Gurgaon, Car driver hits woman biker. Gurgaon, Gurgaon Police. delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairsBased on the woman’s detailed statement regarding harassment on the road, Sections 78 (stalking) and 79 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the BNS were also invoked.Soon after he was arrested on Tuesday, gym owner and former kabaddi player Kalyan Bainsla, 33, accused of hitting a woman biker with his car in Gurgaon, allegedly dashed away to escape, said police. He, however, sustained injuries during the escape bid, officers added. Bainsla, who was arrested along with his cousin accompanying him at the time of the incident, has been booked in an attempt to murder case while other charges have also been added, officers said.

The police took suo motu cognizance of the case after the purported videos of the Golf Course Road hit-and-run incident were widely shared, showing a 27-year-old woman biker, Shivani Chauhan, getting rammed by a speeding car. She had also uploaded a video on social media, where she described the incident, saying that she feared for her safety.As the dashcam and helmet-cam footage of the incident went viral, according to police,

Bainsla gave interviews to television channels to present his version, allegedly switched off his mobile phone, and fled to evade arrest. Three special teams were constituted to trace him.A team from the Crime Branch Sohna tracked him down and apprehended him on Tuesday near Rajgarh in Rajasthan. However, during the custody transit, Bainsla, who hails from Chandhat in Haryana’s Palwal, tried to escape. Along with him, the police also arrested his cousin, Lovenish Gurjar (34), a resident of New Colony in Palwal, who was accompanying him at the time of the incident.“After being apprehended, the accused attempted to escape from police custody on the pretext of urinating, during which he sustained some injuries after falling. He was provided primary treatment at a hospital,” a Gurugram Police spokesperson said.Police also seized the white Maruti Suzuki Ciaz used that Bainsla was allegedly driving, which is registered in the name of an associate, an Army personnel currently posted in Assam, according to officers. Bainsla had borrowed the vehicle two days prior to the incident.While the Gurugram Police had initially registered an FIR on Monday for rash driving under basic sections, an in-depth probe and forensic CCTV analysis prompted investigators to significantly escalate the charges. Police added Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for attempt to murder.Based on the woman’s detailed statement regarding harassment on the road, Sections 78 (stalking) and 79 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the BNS were also invoked.DCP (East) Sandeep Kumar confirmed that police have sought two days of police remand for the accused, who will be presented in court on Wednesday. “They made abusive comments and Bainsla to counter the narrative against him while on the run by giving interviews. He operates a gym and some properties of his. Attempt to murder is made out by his intent seen in the video, the girl was lucky to be having safety gear. Hence we have put in stringent sections.”

Indian-origin truck driver arrested in US for wire fraud



ICE arrests Indian truck driver, ICE arrests Indian, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), ICE’s Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Philadelphia, Indian express news, current affairsThe DHS statement also cited other cases involving Indian nationals who allegedly obtained commercial driving licences issued by New York.US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has arrested an Indian national who was found to have a commercial driver’s licence (CDL) issued by New York and an outstanding federal warrant for wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said.Simranpal Singh was arrested on September 4 by an officer of ICE’s Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Philadel-

phia during inspections of commercial vehicles at a weigh station in Newberry, Pennsylvania.

According to DHS, Singh presented his CDL during the inspection and was subsequently identified as an Indian national who was unlawfully present in the United States. He was taken into custody.Singh also had an outstanding warrant for wire fraud and wire fraud conspiracy issued by the US District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, DHS said. He will remain in ICE custody pending his transfer to the US Marshals Service. After the criminal proceedings are completed, ICE will resume custody of Singh and he will be subject to pending removal proceedings, with due process available to him.DHS said Singh entered the US through Arizona in June 2022 and was arrested by the US Border Patrol. He was subsequently released into the country under the Biden administration.The DHS statement also cited other cases involving Indian nationals who allegedly obtained commercial driving licences issued by New York.In March, ICE arrested Sukhdev Singh, an Indian national, after he allegedly caused a crash while driving a semi-truck in Indianapolis, Indiana, leaving a US citizen critically injured. DHS said Sukhdev Singh had obtained a CDL issued by New York.In October 2025, ICE arrested Anmol Anmol, an Indian national, in Oklahoma. According to DHS, he had obtained a New York-issued CDL that listed his name as “No Name Given”.DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin criticised New York’s immigration policies and the Biden administration’s border policies in connection with Singh’s arrest.The DHS statement described New York as a “sanctuary state” and said its policies had consequences beyond the state. These characterisations were part of the department’s statement and were not independently established in the release.

Uttarakhand landslide: 7,350 Kedarnath pilgrims brought to safety

Dehradun/Rudraprayag: A day after 7,200 pilgrims were evacuated from the landslide-affected Kedarnath trek route in Uttarakhand’s Rudraprayag district, another 150 people were brought to safety by rescue teams on Tuesday, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC).According to the latest SEOC report, the pilgrims returning from Kedarnath Dham were safely evacuated from Chirbasa by 10.15 am. With this, a total of 7,350 pilgrims have been safely guided across the route, while efforts to clear the debris remain underway to resume the Kedarnath pilgrimage, which was halted two days ago.The SEOC stated that by Monday evening, 7,200 pilgrims and 1,200 mules had been safely evacuated from the landslide-affected area.

Repair work is being fast-tracked on the route, which was damaged on Sunday by falling boulders, stones and debris near the Chirbasa helipad, located approximately 2.5 km above Gaurikund.According to the police, labourers are working on a war footing to reopen the path, with safety measures being overseen by personnel from the police, the Public Works Department (PWD) and the District Disaster Relief Force.However, pilgrims intending to visit Kedarnath will have to wait, as they will only be allowed to proceed once the debris has been cleared from the route. Pilgrims travelling on foot to Kedarnath have been stranded at Sonprayag and



Gaurikund since Sunday.The police have appealed to pilgrims to remain patient until the route is fully restored and to adhere to the guidelines issued by the police and the administration.

Kerala power cuts put Satheesan government under pressure

Thiruvananthapuram: The power crisis is fast emerging as the first major political and administrative challenge for the V.D. Satheesan government, with the Left Opposition stepping up its attack over the continuing power cuts and contrasting the situation with the previous decade when Kerala had largely remained free of scheduled power restrictions.Electricity Minister Sunny Joseph’s admission on Tuesday that no final decision has been taken on buying power from NTPC at around Rs 30 a unit has added to the uncertainty.The minister said such high-cost procurement would impose a huge financial burden on the state and would require Cabinet

approval.He also declined to say how long the current power cuts would continue, saying the government was trying all possible options to resolve the crisis at the earliest.The CPI(M) led Left is using the shortage to portray the new government as incapable of managing the power sector, pointing out that routine cuts had virtually disappeared during the 10 years of the Pinarayi Vijayan government.The political challenge for the Satheesan government is that consumers, rather than statistics on power availability, are now directly experiencing the impact of the shortage.But power sector experts argue that the present crisis cannot be viewed merely as a failure to procure enough electricity at short notice.

EYE SECRETS Editorial

India’s diplomatic success at 18th BRICS Summit

The unanimous New Delhi Declaration at the 18th BRICS Summit marks a diplomatic success for India, given the 11-member grouping’s divergent interests and fractured internal

politics. Bringing together widely conflicting strategic interests and crafting a carefully worded, mutually agreeable document is a commendable task in itself. The context was complicated: Iran-UAE tensions over the West Asia conflict, the Russia-Ukraine war, and, more importantly, the United States—the elephant in the room—created formidable obstacles to consensus building. India’s diplomacy was the decisive factor in holding the text together. It used its strong ties with all members and worked behind the scenes to overcome the biggest hurdle—convincing the UAE and Iran, which sit on opposite sides of the West Asia conflict, to sign on. The outcome serves as evidence that BRICS can still function as a forum even amid real fractures among its members. However, one should not lose sight of the inherent limitations of the bloc. A key limitation is that, though BRICS can keep difficult conversations alive and affirm broad principles, it struggles to assign responsibility or organise collective action when interests occasionally collide. The document does not attempt to solve the world’s most intractable conflicts overnight, nor does it establish an immediate replacement for Western financial supremacy. It is still a long way to go for it to become a unified geopolitical bloc capable of collective action on the conflicts it discusses.

The Delhi summit proved that BRICS can survive its geopolitical contradictions, but survival cannot be taken as a strategic transformation. After demonstrating its capability to hold together a highly heterogeneous grouping at a moment when consensus appeared particularly difficult, a much harder test for India is to use that consensus to produce concrete economic and diplomatic outcomes. The achievement of the latest summit was not that it resolved the world’s conflicts; it was that it prevented the world’s conflicts from destroying the bloc’s ability to talk to one another. That is no small achievement in the present geopolitical environment. But the next stage will determine whether BRICS becomes more than a forum for carefully negotiated communiqués. The real test will be whether it can convert multipolarity into institutional reform, AI cooperation into actual technological partnerships and Global South solidarity into development finance. The declaration was unambiguously strong on the issue of terrorism. The 2025 Pahalgam attack, which killed 26 people, was condemned in the strongest terms, with leaders calling all terrorism “criminal and unjustifiable” regardless of motivation, and pledging zero tolerance. However, the document’s careful omissions were as revealing as its assertions. It avoided naming the US over the strikes on Iran and also did not condemn Iranian attacks on Gulf Arab states.

Bengal IPS officer transferred after right-wing flags video

Bushara BanoBushara Bano’s transfer comes hours after right-wing groups complained about her video on YouTube, in which she reflected on her personal journey into the civil services.Citing “public interest”, the BJP government in West Bengal has transferred IPS officer Dr Bushara Bano and two officers of the state police service.

Bano’s transfer comes hours after right-wing groups complained about her video on YouTube, in which she reflected on her personal journey into the civil services and praised the Residential Coaching Academy (RCA) at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) in Uttar Pradesh for helping her prepare for the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exams.An outfit called “Hindu Legal Fund” claimed on X that it had submitted a complaint to West Bengal Home Secretary Sanghamitra Ghosh, demanding action against the IPS officer and alleging that she failed to “maintain neutrality and use national expressions” in public communication.

In the video, the IPS officer is heard saying, “Assalamu Alaikum! I am 2021-qualified IPS officer and currently deployed as Additional Superintendent of Police in Kharagpur. After returning from Saudi Arabia, I started preparing for the UPSC examination. I was initially doing self-study, then AMU’s RCA helped me a lot. Their book library is also very good. I am sharing this with you all so that other people benefit from it.”In a post on X, Hindu Legal Fund claimed to have submitted a complaint to the West Bengal Home Secretary. “She began with Assalamu Alaikum, used Inshallah, concluded with Jazak Allah, and did not use Vande Mataram or Jai Hind. A serving officer representing the Indian state should maintain neutrality and use national expressions in public communication. Seeking appropriate review and action,” the right-wing group posted on X.When contacted by over the circumstances of her transfer and the online backlash, Bano refused to comment.Meanwhile,

TMC MP from Krishnanagar Mahua Moitra slammed the BJP government. “For a country whose Prime Minister inaugurated the new Parliament with a sengol and bare-chested sadhus, transferring a Muslim IPS officer for saying Assalamu Alaikum and Inshallah is ridiculous. We are a nation gone mad, poisoned with hate and bigotry. God Save India,” she posted on X.Bano, who was stationed as Additional SP of Kharagpur in Paschim Medinipur district, has been transferred to the post of Deputy Commandant, SAP 4th Battalion, replacing WBPS officer Subhendu Mandal.Partha Ghosh, a WBPS officer. will replace Bano in Kharagpur.

60-year-old was raped, murdered in Mohali. DNA clues lead to serial killer



serial killerThis arrest had then led police to solve two more gruesome murders that Monu had committed in the previous 15 years.A Chandigarh court on Tuesday sentenced cab driver Monu Kumar to life imprisonment again for the rape and murder of a 60-year-old woman, in what became the convict’s third conviction on such charges.All three cases in which Monu Kumar (39) suffered conviction are connected not by eyewitness testimony or confession, but by DNA evidence.

The 60-year-old had arrived in Chandigarh from her village in Uttar Pradesh for a religious pilgrimage a few months before she was brutally raped and murdered. She was an Alzheimer’s patient and was staying with her son in Mohali.On February 27, 2024, she left her home and never returned. The next morning, her body was found in a jungle area near Government School, Sector 54. She was strangled to death. Her body bore multiple blunt force injuries. The postmortem examination confirmed sexual assault followed by murder. An FIR was registered under Section 302 of the IPC. The accused was unknown. Po-

lice began their investigation.On May 6, 2024, Monu Kumar was arrested. His clothes, discarded in a jungle area of village Dhanas, were recovered. His blood sample, collected on May 8, 2024, was sent to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) for comparative analysis against biological evidence collected from the 60-year-old’s body and clothing.The forensic examination report, completed by Dr D S Yadav, senior forensic scientist, on August 30, 2024, became the prosecution’s most powerful witness that also eventually led to Monu Kumar’s conviction.This arrest had then led police to solve two more gruesome murders that Monu had committed in the previous 15 years.Today, the 60-year-old woman’s son spoke to The Indian Express of his mother’s absence in terms of the everyday kindnesses that, once lost, become irreplaceable.“A mother’s love is what is missed,” her son said. “She used to make food and serve us with love, it felt good. I miss her dal-chawal the most. She was calm and collected. She never scolded me. Everybody respected her and we continue to miss her.”The victim’s son and relatives waited through investigation, arrest, forensic examination, chargesheet filing, and months-long court proceedings. For her family, the wait lasted two and a half years.Even while he stands convicted for three cases of rape and murder, the court did not consider it a “rarest of the rare case”.“The case in hand cannot be classified as a rarest of rare case. Therefore, it would be difficult to hold that the convict is such a dangerous person that sparing his life would endanger the community,” the order said.Monu was previously convicted on November 27, 2025 for the murder and rape of a 22-year-old MBA student who was found murdered on July 31, 2010. He was convicted for the second time on August 21 for the rape and murder of a 40-year-old woman who was found dead on January 12, 2022.

Karnataka officer faces arrest for fake income certificate to KPSC chief’s daughter

KPSC recruitment fraudSuma, daughter of suspended KPSC chairman Shivashankrappa S Sahukar, was allegedly selected by the KPSC to the post of an industrial extension officer with the alleged fake certificate.A Bengaluru court on Tuesday rejected the anticipatory bail plea of a government revenue inspector who allegedly provided a false income certificate to the daughter of the now-suspended Karnataka Public Service Commission (PSC) chairman to facilitate her appointment in government service earlier this year.Shivasharanappa, who now faces the prospect of arrest, had allegedly certified that the family of suspended KPSC chairman Shivashankrappa S Sahukar earned a meagre Rs 40,000 per annum – as opposed to a monthly salary of Rs 2.25 lakh.

The forged document was allegedly prepared for Sahukar’s daughter, Suma Sahukar, who was seeking recruitment in the state Industries and Commerce Department under the Other Backward Class (OBC) category.The Bengaluru Sessions Court had earlier granted anticipatory bail to Suma, 28, the prime accused in the case.“The revenue inspector who had issued a false income certificate to the main accused in the case had sought anticipatory bail on September 8. The plea was rejected today by the court,” Basavalingappa Bistagond, the public prosecutor for the case, said.Suma was allegedly selected by the KPSC to the post of an industrial extension officer, under an OBC quota, with the alleged fake certificate.According to the First Information Report filed on July 10, B N Shoba, an assistant secretary at the KPSC, stated that the commission called for recruitment to 50 posts of industrial extension officers in March 2024; Suma applied under the OBC III B category, wrote the entrance exam in July 2025, and was selected in January 2026. The candidate is alleged to have produced an income certificate during document verification in February.The documents also revealed that the candidate was the daughter of Sahukar, who became a KPSC member on September 3, 2019, with a salary of Rs 2.05 lakh per month and later went on to become the KPSC chairman on April 5, 2021, drawing a monthly salary of Rs 2.25 lakh, stated the FIR.On August 25, Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot suspended Sahukar as KPSC chairman over the allegations.The Karnataka High Court had also taken a stern view of the fraudulent recruitment of the then KPSC chairman’s daughter during the course of a September 7 hearing of an anticipatory bail plea filed by Sahukar in a separate KPSC recruitment fraud linked to the hiring of veterinary doctors.“It is also brought to the notice of this Court that daughters of the petitioner earlier managed to



get appointment/selection in some other competitive examination conducted by KPSC by producing concocted and fraudulent documents in favour of their candidature,” the High Court said in a September 7 ruling to reject anticipatory bail for the KPSC chairman.“Such frauds by the authorities concerned erode the faith of the public in the system and result in causing unrest among meritorious youth who are denied opportunity because of the fraud played by the authorities concerned in collusion with the non-meritorious undeserving candidates and other middlemen, for extraneous reasons,” the High Court said.The current chairman of the KPSC was appointed in 2021 during the tenure of the BJP government headed by former chief minister B S Yediyurappa.Multiple incidents of alleged recruitment fraud by the KPSC during the tenure of Sahukar have emerged in recent months.

Apart from frauds in the recruitment of industrial extension officers and veterinary doctors, top KPSC officials are also accused of facilitating fraudulent practices in the selection of 384 gazetted probationers – where over two lakh aspirants wrote the preliminary exam in 2024 to gain entry into the Karnataka Administrative Services.A KPSC member, Dr Shantha Hosamani, 62, is alleged to have obtained pecuniary benefits for selecting a candidate in the interview round of the now-stalled Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) selection process.The KPSC member is alleged to have been part of the interview panel that selected a candidate, and preliminary CID investigations have revealed that the KPSC member and the candidate were in telephonic contact after the interview in violation of KPSC norms.An ongoing investigation by the CID into corruption in the selection of veterinary doctors for 400 vacancies in the state has also revealed that the entrance exam process was compromised by middlemen who obtained leaked versions of the question papers from the KPSC controller of exams.

How cross-border search brought Nepali man home



A 24-hour cross-border search involving police and social workers in India and Nepal reunited 41-year-old Nepali man Khadka Bahadur Som Bahadur Darji with his family in the neighbouring country, after he was found wandering the streets of Nagpur with little memory of how he had reached the city.

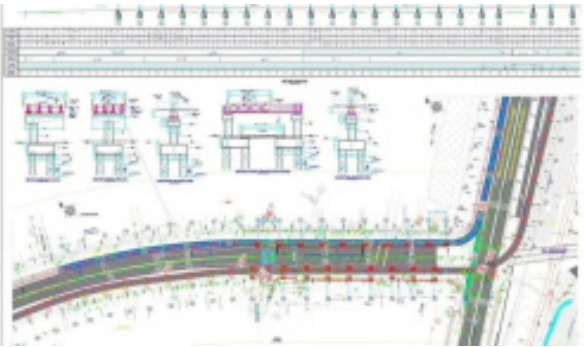
Nepali man reunites with family, Nepali man cross-border search reunites with family, cross-border search, Nepali man cross-border search, Mumbai news, Maharashtra news, Indian express, current affairsOn September 13, Darji’s relative Dipak Shahi arrived at the Aastha Shelter Centre to take Darji back home.A 24-hour cross-border search involving police and social workers in India and Nepal reunited 41-year-old Nepali man

Khadka Bahadur Som Bahadur Darji with his family in the neighbouring country, after he was found wandering the streets of Nagpur with little memory of how he had reached the city.

Darji, a resident of Niskot in Nepal’s Myagdi district, had left home around August 9-10 without informing his family. He travelled to Delhi and then boarded a train to Tamil Nadu.During the journey, Darji remembered feeling hungry and then being helped with some dahi-bhaat (curd rice) by a co-passenger. He remembers nothing after that.“I ate dahi-bhaat. I do not remember anything after that,” Darji told those who later helped him.

On August 12, Dhantholi Police found Darji wandering in Nagpur and brought him to the Aastha Shelter Centre. But tracing his family was difficult as he could provide only fragmented information — the language barrier further complicated search efforts.As news of a flash flood in Nepal reached him, Darji became increasingly anxious about his family, repeatedly expressing his desire to return home.Shelter coordinator Tushar Hukre then approached Kunda Katekhaye Bidkar, Social Service Superintendent at the Regional Mental Hospital, Nagpur. Bidkar had earlier helped reunite patients with families across the border and began working with the limited details Darji could recall.She contacted police in the Darbang area of Myagdi and also sought help from Shaligram Tiwari, chairperson and chief adviser of the Mankamana Ekta Foundation in Thane.Tiwari spoke to Darji over a video call and tried to piece together details about his identity and family.

Flyover pillar work may worsen Navi Mumbai-bound traffic after Ganpati



Traffic movement at the Mankhurd T Junction, already a bottleneck for motorists travelling from the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road towards Navi Mumbai, could face further disruption after the Ganpati festivities, with the BMC set to begin work on a crucial pillar of its under-construction flyover at the junction.The traffic police are yet to clear the proposed construction plan, with officials concerned that the pillar could further reduce the available carriageway and lead to longer queues on the Sion-Panvel Highway.

Traffic heading from the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road towards Navi Mumbai already slows and merges onto the Sion-Panvel Highway. On the opposite side of the junction, construction work has narrowed the carriageway for vehicles travelling from Navi Mumbai towards the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road, slowing traffic towards the junction, especially during peak hours.With another section of the flyover now set to be taken up at the T Junction, traffic police officials are discussing an alternative traffic arrangement with the BMC.“We are talking with the BMC and are finding an alternate route as Mankhurd T Junction is a bottleneck. We expect that construction of the pillar will begin after the festivities and are working out effective ways to manage the traffic,” a Traffic Police official said.For commuters, the concern is that the construction could add to delays at a junction where waiting times are already substantial.“We are already waiting at the T Junction for quite some time — 30 minutes. If the pillar comes up at the same spot, it could add another traffic gridlock,” said advocate Shaikh Faiyaz Alam, a daily commuter.The pillar is part of the Rs 1,958-crore flyover project to ease traffic movement between the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road and Navi Mumbai-Pune. The project comprises two vehicular arms of 1.47 km and 1.93 km – one to provide direct access to Navi Mumbai and Pune for vehicles travelling from the Ghatkopar side, and the other to connect traffic from Navi Mumbai to the existing Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road flyover.Once completed, the flyover is expected to allow vehicles to bypass the existing T-junction signal. The BMC has set August 2027 as the completion deadline.The construction has already caused traffic disruptions on the Sion-Panvel Highway. On April 29, a piling rig being used for the flyover work overturned near Maharashtra Nagar, killing Mumbai Police constable Santosh Gopal Chavan and causing major congestion on the highway.

He was hungry, then everything went blank: How cross-border search brought Nepali man home



Darji, a resident of Niskot in Nepal’s Myagdi district, had left home around August 9-10 without informing his family. He travelled to Delhi and then boarded a train to Tamil Nadu.

Nepali man reunites with family, Nepali man cross-border search reunites with family, cross-border search, Nepali man cross-border search, Mumbai news, Maharashtra news, Indian express, current affairsOn September 13, Darji’s relative Dipak Shahi arrived at the Aastha Shelter Centre to take Darji back home.A 24-hour cross-border search involving police and social workers in India and Nepal reunited 41-year-old Nepali man Khadka Bahadur Som Bahadur Darji with his family in the neighbouring country, after he was found wandering the streets of Nagpur with little memory of how he had reached the city.

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Japan prepares ground for T20 with India, Sri Lanka pitches in, and sponsors line up



In January this year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Japanese counterpart, Toshimitsu Motegi, exchanged cricketing gifts. Motegi's gift was the Japan cricket team's pink jersey, while Jaishankar handed him a bat autographed by Indian cricketers.That proved to be a harbinger of sorts. The two countries are now set to play their first bilateral match at the Sano International Cricket Ground, about 100 kilometres from Tokyo, on September 22. Team India led by Shreyas Iyer will face the Japan team captained by Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming in the T20 International.

The match is part of the celebrations to mark 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Following a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in July, the two sides had announced 2027 as the 'India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons' to mark the milestone.

"Suddenly, this wasn't just us wanting to attract a full member (of the International Cricket Council) to inspire a new audience — it became a key event in the 75th anniversary celebration of friendship between the two countries. We were suddenly able to get the support of both governments in talking to our Indian counterparts," Japan Cricket Association (JCA) CEO Naoki Alex Miyaji told The Indian Express. Japan is an associate member of the ICC.For a baseball-obsessed country trying to take cricket to the masses, the T20 International, ahead of the cricket matches at the Asian Games, has come as a shot in the arm. Sponsor and spectator interest has been high, according to Miyaji, with Suzuki coming on board as title sponsor."Of course, you cannot talk about 75 years of friendship between India and Japan without talking about Suzuki. We also approached MUFG, the biggest bank in Japan, State Bank of India, and TCS, none of whom were JCA partners. We had really good responses," Miyaji said.While a chunk of the JCA budget is being invested in the India-Japan match, Miyaji pointed to long-term benefits. "Our annual budget is somewhere between 200 and

300 million yen. This match is costing us about 100 million yen. The BCCI has supported this event. But more than the money, it is about bringing new audiences, giving everyone an opportunity to see the impact a match can have, and also showcase what the Japan team can do," Miyaji said.

Anticipating a large crowd, the Sano cricket ground's capacity has been increased from 500 to 2,000. "We put tickets on sale about two weeks before the event... even before we were able to send out the emails announcing the sale, the tickets started going," Miyaji said.Not wanting to risk the quality of the cricket pitch, the JCA reached out to Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) for assistance. SLC sent their groundsmen and play for the pitches, not only for the ground in Sano but also for the stadium in Nisshin City, Aichi Prefecture, where the Asian Games matches will be played."We were going to re-play the Sano International Cricket Ground anyway, but we brought that plan forward and decided to lay pitches in Aichi at the same time. Same clay, same pitches, so teams at the Asian Games can train in Sano too," Miyaji said.

A regular at the ICC Under-19 World Cups, the Japan team narrowly missed out on making it to the T20 World Cup hosted by India earlier this year.But Japan's cricketing landscape is widening beyond Sano, which is the hub of cricket in the country. JCA's City of Cricket programme aims to develop the sport, including in schools, in hubs outside Tokyo. It started in Sano, over a decade ago, and now covers Watari, 300-350 kilometres north of Tokyo, Kaizuka in Osaka, and Nisshin."We're also working in Hamamatsu, the home of Suzuki's headquarters," Miyaji said. JCA has introduced cricket as a subject in some schools.The Chennai-born Sabaorish Ravichandran, who plays as an all-rounder for Japan, has seen the game grow during his decade-long stay there. "In Japan, everyone has a day job. Nobody gets paid to play. But on the weekends, you will see hundreds heading to Sano to play cricket. There are a couple of them who even take the bullet train to travel to play. Players like Makoto Taniyama and Wataru Miyauchi, who came through the school cricket system, moved cities just to play cricket," he said.JCA is also asking its players to learn the game's terminology in Japanese, so that it isn't viewed as a foreign sport. "We've been developing the Japan way. We do want to be distinctly Japanese in the way that we do things in cricket, on and off the field," said Kadowaki-Fleming.He added that baseball is also being tapped for cricketing talent. "I want cricket to be a genuine option for baseball players in schools. Once that happens, cricket will have its own Shohei Ohtani (baseball superstar) in a few years," he said.

Yuvraj Singh warns India before World Cup year: ‘Don’t make massive changes’

India are set to begin their 2026-27 home season officially from September 27, starting with three ODIs against the West Indies, a year out from the 2027 World Cup in Africa.Rumours and speculation have been rife regarding the spots of batting stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in the side leading up to the quadrennial event, with the former facing the heat more often between recent series. As preparations heat up for Shubman Gill's men, former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh has sounded a warning to the team management, urging them not to make huge changes to the composition over the next 13 months.

"They need to focus on building the same team to play in a year's time, because you don't want to make big changes at the last moment," the 2011 ODI World Cup winner told Cricinfo. "Whoever your players are, whether they are 16 or 20, it's important that everybody gets game time because obviously now there's more T20s and less 50-over cricket. Whatever matches there are, it's important that players get enough game time to prepare for the World Cup.Yuvraj, who was the Player of the Series during the 2011 World Cup edition, noted how India have faltered when they have made conspicuous transitions before World Cup events."Every time India have faltered is when they've made some massive changes at the last moment or in the tournament. So I think it's important that we stick to a team that we believe can lift the 2027 World Cup and stick by those guys whether they fail or succeed till that moment. Belief in the squad is very important," Yuvraj said.After returning scores of 26 and 10 in the first two ODIs in England in July, Rohit slammed his detrac-



tors with a score of 137 in the final match at Lord's, albeit in a losing cause. Rohit will be 40 by the next iteration of the World Cup in Africa in October 2027, while Kohli will turn 39 during the event. Yuvraj added that consistency in players had powered India to four finals across white-ball formats since 2023.India won the T20 World Cups in 2024 and 2026, while clinching the Champions Trophy title last year and finished runners-up at the previous World Cup in 2023."That's something that we have also done in the last two T20 World Cups," Yuvraj said. "We also played the 50-over World Cup final [in 2023]. So we have had a lot of consistency in white-ball cricket. And that's what they need to do as well to think of first qualifying for the semis and then going on to play in the last two [knockout matches]. I think that's a long way ahead. Focus should be to get a squad ready which is together and ready to fight in any situation," said Yuvraj.

Ganges Grandmasters win maiden Global Chess League title

Hyderabad: Ian Nepomniachtchi pounced on a positional error by world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen to help Ganges Grandmasters upset defending champions Al-pine APL Pipers and clinch their maiden Global Chess League (GCL) title, a joint initiative of Tech Mahindra and FIDE, in Bengaluru.The Grandmasters won the two-leg final 7-5, having drawn the opening leg 3-3 with the white pieces, to etch their name on the trophy, while FYERS American Gambits bagged third place by beating CheQ Mumba Masters 7.5-4.5 in a two-leg playoff.

Season 4 of the Global Chess League witnessed one of the closest league stages in the history of the competition, with all six teams staying in contention for the top four spots until the eighth round. The finalists were decided only after the last match was played on Saturday evening.The Pipers made it through to the final only after the Mumba Masters defeated the Gambits in the last league game, but could not find a way past the Ganges Grandmasters, who had topped the league stage on better game points.

Unlike the group stage, where a win with black fetched four points against three for white, a win in the knockout matches was worth just one point, irrespective of colour. This meant that winning more games than the opponent was the key.With the first leg ending 3-3, the Pipers would have fancied their chances with the white pieces, and it looked like they would have a chance to retain the crown with Carlsen looking good for a win on the icon board.But the Norwegian made a positional error while going for the kill on move 28, and Nepomniachtchi did not give his opponent any chance to recover.

Stavroula Tsolakidou then defeated Koneru Humpy to put the result beyond doubt. In the first match of the final,



Ganges Grandmasters grabbed an early advantage as Levon Aronian controlled the match against Anish Giri from the start, and the Dutchman ran out of time after 49 moves. The Pipers' dugout would have wondered if they were wrong in opting for the black pieces after winning the toss.With all other boards ending in draws, Volodar Murzin had to win for the Pipers to draw the match, and the former world rapid chess champion delivered under pressure, forcing Luke Leon Mendonca to resign after 49 moves to tie the score at 3-3.

"I have to admit that I got insanely unlucky as I prepared for this game with black and I had not thought of the line and I was in trouble. But then I had just one idea left and I was hoping that he blunders and he did and I got lucky," said Nepomniachtchi, who also received the Player of the Match award."It's also a special feeling to win the title given the support we got here and the team spirit we built," he added.Tsolakidou was named the Player of the Tournament for scoring a total of 21.5 points, including six wins and three draws in 12 games

‘We are hasty in judging him’: Former India players back Samson after 57 vs AFG



Sanju Samson turned up with his fastest T20I half-century despite a rough start against Afghanistan in the second T20I in Delhi on Tuesday, leading India to a comfortable series victory.Recovering from his poor start to the series, scoring 10 runs in the series opener, Samson registered 57 off 22 balls with seven fours and four sixes. The Kerala wicket-keeper, who had a dream T20 World Cup turnaround, led India to the title with three consecutive half-centuries in the knockout stages.Samson's T20I form went downhill during the tour to Ireland and England, scoring 33 runs in four innings. The Kerala wicket-keeper was subsequently dropped from the XI, paving the way for the inclusion of teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The 15-year-old southpaw had a quiet

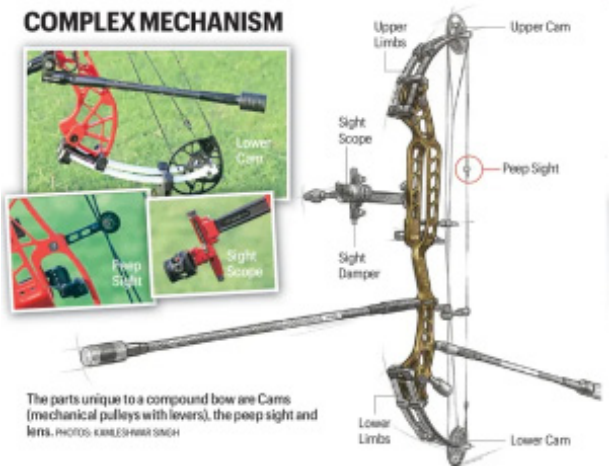
England tour with scores of 13, 14 and 15, but later went on a rampage during the three-match series in Zimbabwe, a tour Samson was not a part of.Breaking a rut of four innings without a substantial score, Samson received backing from former India seamer Mohit Sharma who said that the 31-year-old is judged prematurely."Sanju batted brilliantly. I often feel that we are a little hasty in judging him. The way he batted has probably put an end to the debate," Sharma told Cricbuzz.Former India batter Mohammed Kaif added that Samson's spot will be undisputable if he attains consistency."The biggest thing that came out of all this is Sanju Samson scoring runs, because we have given him opportunities. Why do we keep talking about Vaibhav Sooryavanshi? That's because Sanju Samson has been dismissed without even scoring 10 runs, many times. He has been out for 0, 2, 5 or 6 runs, and his form after the World Cup has not been that good," he said."Everyone knows the kind of potential and skill Samson has, and there is no better player against spin than him. He knows how to hit Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi for sixes, everyone knows about his dominance against spin. I think his problem is scoring consistently.If he does that, no harm will ever come to him. No one will ever raise a question again. Vaibhav Suryavanshi is a great talent, but he will remain benched. The 3-4 poor knocks that follow after a big score like a 100, that is where Samson needs to work on. So, I think today's innings will relieve some pressure," Kaif added.

Why tuning is the most important aspect of Compound Archery

They make it easier for the archer than a more complex Recurve bow. Simultaneously, this factor has kept Compound Archery away out of the Olympics until its inclusion for Los Angeles. Because the bow was considered too simplistic, and far too enabling to test absolute string-drawing and precision-aiming skill. It was being too helpful.But with its inclusion as a solitary mixed-team event, the focus is on what sets apart the top archers in Compound, from the rest in an event that still makes demands on tiny detailing.The force required to draw a Recurve bow using fingers is almost always in excess of 60 pounds. The compound bow has inbuilt mechanized pulleys so the maximum draw weight, has a ceiling of 60 pounds. This peak force required at full draw is 60-75% percent less than Recurve. Compound archers aim with far less strain.

The bow design, which sees use of a levering system of pulleys and cables, thence relies more on its own stretched limbs than the archer's massive shoulder / back power.The Compound bow uses a system of pulleys and cables making shooting faster and more accurate than a Recurve bow. (Express Photo by Kamleshwar Singh) The Compound bow uses a system of pulleys and cables making shooting faster and more accurate than a Recurve bow. (Express Photo by Kamleshwar Singh)The arrows are clipped on the bow string against a nocking point. Being inside the D-Loop, a short arc of material is connected to the release aid. Sitting on top of the arrow rest, a mechanism added for the first time in 1995, the archer doesn't need to touch the arrow with their fingers. It's like a gun on a tripod.Coach Sanjeeva Singh who brought Compound bows to India back in 2003, says the wheeled bow is all about tuning, draw lengths and archer position. "The position of peep sight changes based on draw length, bido and head positions of archer, as the stiffness of the (bow) limbs. The draw length and position changes due to the mechanical release. It took me a year to learn and our efforts paid off when Paltan Hansda won the junior world title in 2006," adds Singh.Worlds silver medallist Jyothi Surekha Vennam, who won three gold medals in last Asian Games, uses a bow with a draw length of 27.5 inches while her Asian games team-mate Prithika Pradeep's bow is 25 inches. Vennam has a poundage of 55 pounds before the mechanical stop triggers the release aid."While mechanical cams are the same, we have to adjust the bow limbs as per the poundage. The draw length once set, does not change and the string will stop at the set length. Then we also have to adjust the long stabiliser as well as the short Vibration Reduction System (VRS) stabiliser with the weights and dampers attached. When the arrow is drawn, the stabiliser absorbs the force as well as brings weight control and balance so that the bow does not fall too much," says national coach Jiwanjot Singh Teja.

With the mechanical system, the archers are able to shoot arrows in excess of 300kph. Recurve? Capped at



around 200kph.The bows of Vennam as well as world bronze medallist Rishabh Yadav apart from former world number one Sara Lopez only differ in poundage and the draw length. Teja also talks about more accuracy brought by new materials. "Earlier the bows were made of glass fibre but now bows are made of carbon fibre and other materials. An archer like Rishabh or Jyothi uses Hoyt Concept X with just the difference being the poundage and the size," adds Teja.The recurve bow sees archers using their back, shoulder and arm muscles more with archers relying more on technique as well as release through fingers. Teja also outlines one major difference. "In recurve, one needs to have almost perfect body alignment where one's shoulders, arms and spine form the letter T. In Compound, that's not the case. We can adjust with the tuning and other aspects of the bow," he explains.The Compound bow has an interesting history in India. Back in the 2003 World Archery Championships in USA, the then former national recurve champion Sanjeeva Singh saw compound bows for the first time. Singh immediately bought four of those.The bow was invented in the USA in 1960's, only as a more mechanically efficient equipment than Recurve, to carry back home. With India having won 16 medals in compound archery in Asian Games history, Singh, who started training compound archers in 2004, remembers how the bow fascinated him.At that time, short height archers would struggle with recurve bows. When I saw the compound bow, I was intrigued by the more mechanical efficient bow," he recalls. In 2004, John Dudley, a leading name in compound archery, was invited to conduct workshops here and as Singh learnt tuning as well as the complications of the mechanical system. "Things like adjusting the tuning of the arrowhead as well as the spine of the arrows, which are more stiffer as compared to recurve arrows, were taught," Singh recalls.

Football’s loss, hockey’s gain: How Bichu Devi became custodian of Indian fortunes

As Bichu Devi Kharibam stretched to her left for a last-gasp save against England in the Women's Hockey World Cup and kept India alive in the competition, veteran Savita Punia jumped like an excited kid in the dug-out.

The reel went viral on social media platforms with many Indian fans discovering Bichu's shot-saving prowess for the first time. However, according to Savita, this was just one of the many big moments Bichu is likely to enjoy in her career."She has been my understudy for three years and I can tell you she is one of the best goalkeepers around," Savita told The Indian Express. "Whenever we are playing, Bichu pushes me to the limit and I try to do the same. Our bond off the field helps us get better on it knowing that we have got each other's back."

Talking about that viral moment that took India to the second round of the World Cup, Bichu said, "The communication between me and Savitadi is like telepathy. As it was the last quarter, I was nervous and constantly looking at her. She asked me to calm down with her hand gestures. Once that assurance came, I just did what I had to do."

Savita, the 36-year-old goalkeeper from Haryana who is in the autumn of her career, can speak for hours about her bond with the 25-year-old Manipuri, who can duly return the favour.

Timely upgradesIf someone had asked a younger Bichu where she wants to be in 2026, she would have happily said it was the Indian women's football team. But as fate would have it, there were no vacancies by the time she made it to a local training academy. After crying her eyes out, she took her father's suggestion and picked up

hockey.Bichu's career has gone through several phases, and she has had to update herself regularly to get to where she is right now.Bichu started as a forward before P Nilakomol Singh, the understudy to goalkeeper Romeo James at the 1984 Olympics and one of the earliest Manipuri Olympians, asked her to switch roles after looking at her frame.Savita (L), the 36-year-old goalkeeper who is in the autumn of her career, can speak for hours about her bond with the 25-year-old Bichu Devi. (Hockey India) Savita (L), the 36-year-old goalkeeper who is in the autumn of her career, can speak for hours about her bond with the 25-year-old Bichu Devi. (Hockey India)"I barely knew anything about hockey. When I switched, I was a striker but Nilakomol sir asked me to become a goalkeeper. I had no idea what I would do," Bichu recalls.In 2015, Bichu shifted to the Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy to take her game to the next level. While she honed her goalkeeping skills, she also had to brush up on her Hindi."Trust me, learning Hindi seemed more difficult than goalkeeping at that time. But it was needed for me to understand the coaches better and communicate with my teammates. I learnt Hindi by watching TV news channels," said Bichu.However, all the minutes spent in front of the TV and the hours spent under the goalpost paid off when she made her senior India debut in 2022. But she was largely an understudy to Savita, one of the best goalkeepers in the world.Aggressive to patientBichu has had a lot of waiting to do in her career.Be it her transition from the juniors after the Youth Olympics medal in 2018 or the time it took for her to be a regular in the senior team. But the wait has shaped her personality to the point that she faces the best in the world without flinching.

Aditya Chopra ‘was chasing drones’ at his secret 13-guest wedding with Rani Mukerji



Aditya Chopra "kept chasing drones away" at wedding with Rani Mukerji, says Sabyasachi Mukherjee. Aditya Chopra "kept chasing drones away" at wedding with Rani Mukerji, says Sabyasachi Mukherjee. Actor Rani Mukerji and filmmaker Aditya Chopra pulled off a heist when they managed to get keep their high-profile wedding very low-profile. The couple, who had kept their romance a hush-hush affair, tied the knot on April 21, 2014 in Italy. "We are happy to announce that Mr. Aditya Chopra and Ms. Rani Mukherji got married last night on 21st April in Italy. The wedding was a very small intimate affair with very close family and friends," said a statement by Aditya's production house Yash Raj Films at the time.

Sabyasachi on Rani, Aditya's secret weddingOne of

Neem Karoli Baba set to enter Rs 300 cr club; posts 12740% return



Hanuman Ansh box office collection day 40: Vishal Chaturvedi's devotional drama Hanuman Ansh, featuring Shobhinaw Satyaa as spiritual guru Neem Karoli Baba, is all set to cross yet another milestone at the world-wide box office. The film, which has already raked in Rs 291.40 crore globally within 40 days, needs less than Rs 9 crore to enter the Rs 300 crore club. It has earned Rs 272.90 crore gross and Rs 231.13 crore in India.

Hanuman Ansh box office collection week 6On its sixth Tuesday (day 40), Hanuman Ansh added another Rs 10 crore to its domestic box office collection and Rs 2 crore to its overseas earnings, taking its total overseas earnings to Rs 18.50 crore, since its international release this past Friday on September 11. The film saw no change in India collection compared to its sixth Monday (day 39), when it also earned Rs 10 crore. The number of shows also remained around 9,100.

Hanuman Ansh made history this past weekend when it scored the highest grossing sixth weekend for any Indian film ever. It amassed Rs 51.50 crore at the domestic box office across the three days — Rs 22.50

Jackie Shroff wishes Baahubali's Sivagami Devi aka Ramya Krishnan on 56th birthday

Mumbai: Bollywood star Jackie Shroff extended birthday wishes to actress Ramya Krishnan on her 56th birthday on Tuesday. Born on September 15, 1970, in Chennai, Ramya turned 56 on September 15, 2026. Jackie shared a birthday tribute for the actress on his social media account, where the post features two pictures of Ramya, one in which she is seen dressed in a red saree with statement earrings, while the other shows her in an elegant black saree. Alongside the pictures, Jackie Shroff added a simple graphic that read "Happiness Always!"

For the uninitiated, the two actors have, in fact, shared screen space in the 1997 Hindi action film Shapath. Directed by Rajiv Babbar, the film featured Mithun Chakraborty, Jackie Shroff and Ramya Krishnan in prominent roles. The actor played Inspector Kishan, while Ramya was credited as Ramya Krishna and played Kavita D Kallu. Talking about Ramya Krishnan's career in the entertainment industry, she has built a career spanning nearly four decades, predominantly working in the South Indian film industries. She has acted in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam cinema, apart from her work in Hindi films.

She began her acting career as a teenager and went on to establish herself as one of the prominent actresses of Telugu and Tamil cinema. Her Tamil filmography features many memorable performances, but her portrayal of Neelambari in Rajinikanth-starrer Padayappa remains one of the defining roles of her career. She also show-

the highlights of the secret wedding was Rani becoming the first official Sabyasachi bride. Sabyasachi Mukherjee recently opened up on his experience of doing Rani's lehenga at her secret Italy wedding. "When she did a secret wedding with 15 people, I think only 13 people were allowed, and Adi was chasing drones," he said, as Rani, standing next to him, laughed out loud. Earlier, he'd revealed Rani gave him only one week to get the outfit ready.

Sabyasachi had often made an exception for Rani Mukerji, including her being the only Indian actor he still customizes outfits for. "I don't do custom for Bollywood. But I did a custom sari for her. Because I don't think Rani is Bollywood. She's family," he said in an Instagram Reel shared by Diet Sabya. In fact, the last time Sabyasachi did styling for a Bollywood film was also for Rani in Varun V Sharma's 2021 crime comedy Bunty Aur Babli 2.

Only a handful of guests were invited to the secret wedding of Rani and Chopra, including filmmaker Karan Johar. He was an assistant of Chopra on the latter's directorial debut, 1995 seminal romantic comedy Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge. Johar has also directed Rani in his directorial debut, 1998 hit rom-com Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, 2001 blockbuster family drama Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, and 2006 cult romantic drama Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna. "If the wedding information leaks, it will only be because of you. Because others don't know anyone else, and you're the only access to the outside world. Remember, if any trickle of information leaks, it will be your fault," Chopra told Johar at the time. "I will never forget how stressed I was because 2 States was releasing, and everyone thought I was being insensitive to the film by leaving on the release day," recalled Johar in a chat with Rani at Yash Raj Studios earlier this year. Johar confessed he even lied to his mother Hiroo Yash Johar about the wedding. Rani has also not shared the wedding pictures in public in the past 12 years. They became parents to daughter Adira in 2015. While she admitted last year that releasing them on their 25th wedding anniversary is a "very good idea", she fears Chopra would never want to release the photos. "My husband is a very private person and he wanted the wedding to be very private," the actor told ANI.

crore on its sixth Sunday (day 38), Rs 18.50 crore on its sixth Saturday (day 37), and Rs 10.50 crore on its sixth Friday (day 36), as per Sacnilk. Though Hanuman Ansh did face some fresh competition from the new Hindi release — Priyadarshan's crime thriller Haiwaan, starring Saif Ali Khan and Akshay Kumar — it crushed its competition by taking over 1400 new screens on Monday. Compared to Hanuman Ansh's Rs 10 crore earnings on Monday and Tuesday each, Haiwaan has managed to earn only Rs 70 lakh each on both days. Hanuman Ansh is also dominating the holdover release — Gurmeet Singh's crime thriller Mirzapur: The Movie, starring Ali Fazal — which earned Rs 5.50 crore on both its second Monday and Tuesday, almost half of what Hanuman Ansh minted on its sixth Monday and Tuesday respectively. On September 18, Hanuman Ansh will face new competition from Meghna Gulzar's police procedural Daayra, starring Kareena Kapoor and Prithviraj Sukumaran, and Kunal Kemmu's spy comedy Vibe, starring him and Preity Zinta. Hanuman Ansh has become the first-ever Indian film to cross Rs 100 crore at the domestic box office despite opening at less than Rs 1 crore. The film managed to earn only Rs 10 lakh on its opening day last month on August 7. With just 25 screens across India at its disposal, it could collect only Rs 1.08 crore in the opening week and slipped down to Rs 40 lakh in week 2. However, the third week saw an upsurge, which led to Hanuman Ansh outlasting even the tentpole Independence Day releases — Rajkumar Santoshi's Partition drama Batwara 1947, starring Sunny Deol, and Nitin Kakkar's romantic thriller Awarapan 2, starring Emraan Hashmi — which released a week after it opened at the domestic box office. Hanuman Ansh finally crossed the Rs 1 crore daily mark on its third Sunday, earning Rs 2.50 crore. Its collections then grew to Rs 10.40 crore in week 3, Rs 61 crore in week 4, and Rs 90.20 crore in week 5. It has already earned Rs 68 crore in its sixth week, with two more days yet to go. This extraordinary trajectory has allowed the film to surpass Aditya Dhar's 2025 spy thriller Dhurandhar, starring Ranveer Singh, in terms of its box-office-to-budget multiple. Made on a modest budget of almost Rs 2 crore, Hanuman Ansh has already earned over 145 times its budget at the world-wide box office. It has returned almost 12740% return on investment.

cased her versatility in films such as Kamal Haasan's Panchatanthiram and the critically acclaimed Super Deluxe. While Ramya had already established herself as a major name in South Indian cinema, her career reached another level of national recognition with SS Rajamouli's Baahubali: The Beginning and Baahubali 2: The Conclusion. As Sivagami Devi, the powerful matriarch of the Mahishmati kingdom, Ramya delivered a powerful performance that became one of the most celebrated aspects of the franchise. Ramya also explored Hindi cinema, although her career remained primarily rooted in the South. Her Hindi debut was Dayavan in 1988, after which she appeared in films including Khal Nayak, Parampara, Criminal, Chaahat, Banarasi Babu, Loha, Shapath, Wajood and Bade Miyan Chote Miyan. After a break from Bollywood, she eventually returned to Hindi cinema with Liger in 2022, in which she played Vijay Deverakonda's mother, followed by her appearance in the 2025 Hindi film Jaat.



Conclusion. As Sivagami Devi, the powerful matriarch of the Mahishmati kingdom, Ramya delivered a powerful performance that became one of the most celebrated aspects of the franchise. Ramya also explored Hindi cinema, although her career remained primarily rooted in the South. Her Hindi debut was Dayavan in 1988, after which she appeared in films including Khal Nayak, Parampara, Criminal, Chaahat, Banarasi Babu, Loha, Shapath, Wajood and Bade Miyan Chote Miyan. After a break from Bollywood, she eventually returned to Hindi cinema with Liger in 2022, in which she played Vijay Deverakonda's mother, followed by her appearance in the 2025 Hindi film Jaat.

Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna-starrer Ranabaali completes BGM for first half



Hyderabad: The makers of director Rahul Sankrityan's eagerly awaited period film, 'Ranabaali', featuring actors Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna in the lead, have now disclosed that the background music (BGM) for the first half of the film has already been completed and that the film will be ready well ahead of its release date of October 16 this year. The makers, using the official handle of the film, wrote, "#Ranabaali is arriving in theatres on October 16th, 2026. The post-production work is progressing smoothly, with the film set to be wrapped well in advance of the announced release date." They went on to say, "The BGM work for the first half has already been completed, and everything is right on track for the grand release this Dussehra. Get ready to witness a spectacular cinematic experience on the big screen. #RanabaaliOnOct16th." Just a couple of days ago, director Rahul Sankrityan had disclosed that he gave Rashmika Mandanna's character in the film his mother's name. Taking to his X timeline to announce the news that the actress had completed shooting for her portions in the film, director Rahul Sankrityan had said, "While writing #Ranabaali, I found myself walking down memory lanes for every little detail of its world. And when I sat down to write my female protagonist, I began with something deeply personal, I gave her my mother's name. Jayamma."

The writer and director of the film had gone on to

Nivin Pauly film earns Rs 310 cr, biggest Malayalam hit ever



Bethlehem Kudumba Unit box office collection day 26: Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju's romantic comedy Bethlehem Kudumba Unit may have already rewritten the Malayalam box-office record, but the film is showing no signs of slowing down. After surpassing Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra to become the highest-grossing Malayalam film worldwide, the romantic comedy continues to hold audiences in theatres in its fourth week. On September 15, the film added Rs 1.40 crore to its India collection, taking its domestic total to Rs 175.05 crore gross, while its worldwide gross climbed to Rs 310.55 crore. According to Sacnilk, Bethlehem Kudumba Unit collected Rs 1.40 crore nett in India on Day 26 from 1,412 shows. The film's India nett currently stands at Rs 149.90 crore, while its overseas collection has reached Rs 135.50 crore.

Bethlehem Kudumba Unit Day 26 box office collectionThe fourth Tuesday brought in Rs 1.40 crore for Bethlehem Kudumba Unit, a 33.3% drop from the previous day's Rs 2.10 crore. The film continued to draw audiences across more than 1,400 shows. The fourth weekend had begun on a stronger note. On Friday, September 11, the film earned Rs 2.50 crore from 1,420 shows, with overall occupancy at 35.7%. Saturday saw the collection rise to Rs 3.85 crore from 1,460 shows, while occupancy increased to 54.8%. The film recorded its strongest collection of the fourth weekend on Sunday, earning Rs 4.60 crore from 1,501 shows at 63% occupancy. On Monday, September 14, it collected Rs 2.10 crore from 1,425 shows, with occupancy at 32.6%.

On Tuesday, the film's occupancy fell to 24.7% across 1,412 shows, resulting in the Rs 1.40 crore India net collection. The Girish A. D.-directed film opened strongly and maintained its momentum through the first three weeks. Bethlehem Kudumba Unit collected Rs 52.30 crore in its first week, followed by Rs 49.85 crore in the second week and another Rs 33.30 crore in its third week. The latest Day 26 figures have pushed the film's India net collection to Rs 149.90 crore. The Malayalam version remains the biggest contributor to the film's domestic earn-

Anupama Parameswaran reflects on life, says 'every moment counts'

Chennai: Underlining the fact that life was short and that every moment counted, actress Anupama Parameswaran on Tuesday said that if there was one thing she had now come to understand, it was that "Today is really all we have." Taking to her Instagram page to post a reel, the actress wrote, "Not just a reel, an archive of memories." She further went on to add, "Life is full of surprises, and with them come lessons. Some beautiful, some difficult, all leaving something behind. But if there's one thing I've come to understand, it's that life is short. Every moment counts. Every memory matters. And today is really all we have." It may be recalled that Anupama had put out a cryptic post in July this year that came under the spotlight. In it, Anupama had said that peace had found her and that she no longer needed to take any more permissions or be in fear. Taking to her Instagram page to

add, "Through every emotion she goes through, I took utmost care to make sure she remains a woman who could inspire the women of today, even though she belongs to another time." Stating that the unit "adorned her world with beautiful silks and cottons, zari and vintage colours, antique gold and all the warmth of a time gone by", the director said and went on to describe Rashmika's character in the film. "She is the love in Ranabaali's heart. The spirit in his soul. The grit in his spine. And the sweetness in his madness," he had explained. "Then came @iamRashmika. She didn't just make Jayamma real. She made her eternal for all of us. You all will witness this on 16th October. We will always love you. And now, we already miss you, Jayamma. That's a wrap on that intoxicating smile. #Ranabaali #Jayamma @MythriOfficial @RanabaaliFilm @TheDeverakonda," he wrote. For the unaware, Vijay Deverakonda essays the role of Ranabaali, while Rashmika Mandanna plays his wife Jayamma in the film. Arnold Vosloo, best known for his work in 'The Mummy', plays the antagonist Sir Theodore Hector. 'Ranabaali' is being produced on a grand scale by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, with T-Series presenting the film. The movie is set against a British-era backdrop and is being made as a period action drama. Set in the 19th century, the film is based on real historical events that took place between 1854 and 1878, and is being mounted as a massive pan-India project. Sources claim 'Ranabaali' is inspired by real incidents from the 1850s that never found space in mainstream history books. They say it will be based on real incidents in the time period of 1850-1900 and that the film will look to showcase incidents that the British misrepresented in history. Sources have also pointed out that Ranabaali will not be a biopic, and not a textbook retelling but will be a cinematic reconstruction of an era built from multiple real accounts, oral histories, and suppressed records. After 'Geetha Govindam' and 'Dear Comrade', 'Ranabaali' will be the third film in which Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda will be seen appearing together as a pair.

ings. It earned Rs 1.25 crore from 1,257 shows on Day 26, recording 24% occupancy, and has collected Rs 143.25 crore so far. The Telugu version added Rs 10 lakh from 85 shows at 27% occupancy, taking its total to Rs 3.52 crore. The Tamil version contributed Rs 5 lakh from 70 shows at 34% occupancy, taking its overall collection to Rs 3.13 crore. Bethlehem Kudumba Unit overtakes Lokah Bethlehem Kudumba Unit made Malayalam cinema box-office history on its 24th day when it overtook Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra. The Nivin Pauly-Mamitha Baiju film had reached a worldwide gross of Rs 304.95 crore at that point, moving ahead of Lokah's lifetime gross of Rs 301.41 crore.

Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra, directed by Dominic Arun, starred Kalyani Priyadarshan in the title role alongside Naslen, Sandy Master, Arun Kurian and Chandu Salimkumar. The film also featured Tovino Thomas, Dulquer Salmaan and other prominent actors in supporting and cameo appearances. Top five highest-grossing Malayalam filmsWhile Bethlehem Kudumba Unit currently occupies the top spot among the highest-grossing Malayalam films, Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra follows with a reported worldwide collection of Rs 301.41 crore. L2: Empuraan, starring Mohanlal and Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead roles, is next with a reported worldwide collection of around Rs 262 crore. The film also features Tovino Thomas, Manju Warrier, Indrajith Sukumaran and several other actors, with Prithviraj Sukumaran directing the sequel. Vaazha II: Biopic of a Billion Bros is among the other major Malayalam blockbusters, with a reported worldwide collection of around Rs 235 crore. The coming-of-age comedy-drama stars Hashir H., Alan Bin Siraj, Ajin Joy and Vinayak V., with Vijay Babu, Aju Varghese and other actors in supporting roles. Rounding out the top five is Thudaram, which has reportedly earned around Rs 232 crore worldwide. The film stars Mohanlal and Shobana in the lead, with Bharathiraja, Prakash Varna and Maniyanpilla Raju among the other members of the cast.

Nivin Pauly's biggest hitMade on a reported budget of Rs 25 crore, Bethlehem Kudumba Unit has emerged as the biggest hit of Nivin Pauly's career. The actor has credited the film's success largely to its appeal among family audiences. Speaking to Variety India, Nivin said, "This is my biggest hit so far. All credit goes to the team, especially director Girish AD. It was a wonderful success. The age-gap romance, the packaging, the humour... everything landed. Family audiences are the backbone of Indian cinema, in any language. If families like a film, ticket sales soar. Theatres are happy too — concession sales boom." Directed by Girish A. D., Bethlehem Kudumba Unit revolves around Ashley, a young woman, and Justin, her older neighbour, and explores their age-gap romance through a mix of humour, emotion and family drama. The film also features Sangeetha Prathap, Suresh Krishna, Vinay Fortt, Roshan Shanavas and Shyam Mohan in key roles. It is produced by Dileesh Pothan, Fahadh Faasil and Syam Pushkar under the Bhavana Studios banner. The film's music is by Vignesh Jija. The film is edited by Ajmal Sabu and editing by Akash Joseph Varghese.

pen the rather cryptic post that gave the impression that she was finally free from something that had been imprisoning her, the actress wrote, Sometimes, you have to let go of the dead ends to finally find your peace. And today, peace found me." She had further said, "From today, I choose my voice. I choose my life. No more permissions. No more fear. Just me, finding my way back to myself and falling in love with the life I almost forgot was mine. And there's something I've wanted to say for a very long time... Something I wasn't allowed to say for far too long. I love you all." She wrote, "Thank you for standing by me, believing in me, and filling my life with so much love. If I haven't said it enough before, please know that I have always felt it. Every message, every prayer, every ounce of kindness reached me when I needed it the most. Thank you, Universe, for leading me back to myself." Anupama concluded the post saying,