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Spy in every blink

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Land acquired, CM seeks name suggestions for Warangal airport

From Our staff Reporter
Hyderabad, Sept 19

With the work on Mamnoon Airport in Warangal on track, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday, September 19, sought suggestions for its name.

Taking to X, Revanth Reddy said the project had moved closer to reality after the completion of land acquisition and its handover to the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

He said the state government allocated Rs 295 crore for land acquisition for the airport, describing the handing over of the land to

the AAI as a major step towards fulfilling the long-pending demand for an airport in Warangal.

Expressing hope to one day fly from there, the Chief Minister said the proposed airport would serve as a gateway for industry, tourism, education, employment and investment in the Warangal region.

Patting himself on the back for this progress, the CM did not miss the opportunity to point out how "the BRS was in power for 10 years and still failed to make Warangal's long-pending airport dream a reality, while its leaders remained focused on family interests and luxury farmhouses."

Telangana ready to help reach Viksit Bharat goal, says Dy CM

From Our staff Reporter
New Delhi, Sept 19

Telangana is ready to play a key role in achieving the Viksit Bharat-2047 goal, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said on Saturday, September 19.

He was addressing the conference on 'Mobilising Financial Resources for India's Journey Towards Viksit Bharat' in New Delhi, led by Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Chief Ministers and Finance Ministers of various states, senior officials of the Union and state finance departments, and economic experts participated in the conference. From Telangana, the Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by Dr. Gaurav Uppal, Secretary, Finance and Planning Department.

He said that the goal of building Viksit Bharat cannot be achieved by the Centre or the states independently. Telangana was participating in the discussion not merely to seek funds, but with a clear development plan, a defined strategy for mobilising financial resources, and a long-term vision, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said Telangana was ready for the next phase of growth with strong economic foundations. He stated that the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) reached Rs 17.82 lakh crore in 2025-26, registering 10.7 per cent growth at current prices. At constant prices, real GSDP growth was estimated at 8.5 per cent.

At the current growth trajectory, Telangana's economy is estimated to reach USD 1.21 trillion by 2047, he said. However, the state government has set a much more ambitious target of transforming Telangana into a USD 3 trillion economy by 2047.

For that, Telangana needs to change the way infrastructure is financed, Bhatti Vikramarka said. He stressed the need to gradually move away from excessive dependence on government borrowing to finance roads, bridges



and other infrastructure.

Development should not be confined to a single city, said the Deputy Chief Minister. With this objective, Telangana has developed a distinctive development model based on three interconnected economic regions — CURE, PURE and RARE.

The CURE (Core Urban Region), centred around Greater Hyderabad, is being developed as a hub for high-end services, artificial intelligence, global capability centres, fintech, life sciences and knowledge-based industries, he said.

The PURE (Peri-Urban Region) along major transportation corridors will be developed as a hub for industrial and manufacturing activities, he said.

Through RARE (Rural Agricultural and Resource Economy), the state aims to provide a new impetus to the rural economy. Digital technology in agriculture, expansion of food-processing clusters and development of cold-chain infrastructure will connect rural producers with domestic and international markets that offer higher-value opportunities, he said.



times to July 31, August 7, August 15, August 23, August 31, September 7 and finally September 14.

The nationwide authentication drive has been underway since October 2023, with oil marketing companies sending more than 12 crore SMS and WhatsApp messages and conducting outreach through distributors, delivery personnel, special camps, IVRS prompts and other channels.

The latest move comes against the backdrop of the government's substantial fiscal support for keeping domestic LPG affordable. The implicit subsidy for a 14.2-kg cylinder was around Rs 210 in September 2026, compared to Rs 721 in June, according to the ministry.

The government paid public-sector oil marketing companies Rs 22,000 crore in compensation for domestic LPG under-recoveries in 2022-23 and is paying Rs 30,000 crore in each of 2025-26 and 2026-27, the ministry said. Despite this support, accumulated under-recoveries on domestic LPG at state-owned OMCs exceeded Rs 62,000 crore as of August 31, 2026. The authentication requirement effectively creates a distinction between subsidised LPG and market-priced LPG from October 1. For eligible households, completing BAA before booking the next refill will be important to avoid losing

Danam Nagender seeks SC stay on Telangana HC disqualification order



From Our staff Reporter
Hyderabad, Sept 19

Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender has reportedly approached the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the Telangana High Court order disqualifying him from the Assembly. The High Court had declared his disqualification effective from April 23, 2024 Legislative Branch

Hyderabad: Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender on Saturday reportedly filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court, seeking a stay on the Telangana High Court judgment delivered on Friday disqualifying him from the Assembly. He urged the apex court to grant him time to appeal against the High Court judgment. He also sought a stay on the High Court order declaring the Khairatabad Assembly constituency vacant, according to reports. Geographic Reference

However, BRS MLA from Huzurabad Padi



Kaushik Reddy and BJP Floor Leader Aleti Maheswar Reddy are learnt to have already filed caveat petitions in connection with the Khairatabad MLA case. They had earlier approached the High Court over Danam Nagender filing his nomination as the Congress candidate from Secunderabad in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections while continuing as the BRS MLA from Khairatabad.

After hearing the arguments, the High Court declared that his disqualification would take effect from April 23, 2024. It directed that copies of the order be sent to the Election Commission of India and the Telangana Speaker's office. City & Local Guides

Interestingly, after the High Court judgment on Friday, Danam Nagender had said he had not considered approaching the Supreme Court. The MLA had also categorically said he welcomed the High Court judgment. The High Court had rejected an appeal by Danam Nagender's counsel seeking time to approach the apex court against the judgment.

Trump renews \$100,000 H-1B fee, orders scrutiny of layoffs

Washington: President Donald Trump has renewed a \$100,000 fee for certain H-1B visa applications and ordered closer scrutiny of employers that lay off American workers, according to a White House fact sheet and an executive order.

The measures combine the fee renewal with new checks on sponsoring employers' employment practices. Agencies must consider recent and planned layoffs when assessing applications under the skilled-worker visa programme.

The executive order directs the secretaries of state, labour and homeland security to consider whether employers directly or indirectly carried out layoffs during the previous year, or plan future cuts affecting similarly situated US workers.

That requirement covers labour condition applications, petitions, visas and entry into the United States. The order does not prescribe automatic rejection solely because an employer has announced layoffs.

"I have determined that continued efforts must be made to protect and prioritize the American workforce," Trump said in the order. Stream History Documentaries

The White House said a separate proclamation renewed the \$100,000 fee requirement first imposed on September 19, 2025. Its fact sheet described the charge as applying to certain H-1B applications. It did not specify the renewal's duration or detail exemp-

tions.

The order also sets a 30-day deadline for the labour secretary, acting through the Wage and Hour Division, to begin reviewing data from previously submitted labour condition applications. The review will determine whether further action against sponsoring employers is warranted.

Those checks will be supported by wider coordination across federal agencies.

The departments of state, labour and homeland security must consult the commerce and education departments and the Small Business Administration when processing H-1B cases. Those agencies will supply relevant wage, employment, academic, industrial and other economic information to help assess compliance with statutory requirements.

The administration presented the measures as a response to alleged displacement of American workers and misuse of the programme by some employers and outsourcing firms.

The order alleged that technology employers had collectively sought H-1B visas for hundreds of thousands of workers while laying off between 800,000 and 1.3 million American employees from 2022 through 2026. It also alleged that some employers misrepresented job duties, working conditions or applicants' qualifications. Neither the order nor the fact sheet included responses from employers or outsourcing firms to those allegations.

LPG consumers must complete Aadhaar authentication for subsidy from October 1

New Delhi, Sept 19

Domestic LPG consumers will have to complete biometric Aadhaar authentication to book refills at the regulated retail selling price with applicable subsidy from October 1, the government said on Saturday, as it seeks to ensure subsidised cooking gas reaches only eligible households.

Consumers who have already completed the authentication will not need to take any further action. As of September 19, 27.43 crore active domestic LPG consumers, or 89.9 per cent of the total, had completed biometric Aadhaar authentication, according to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry.

For those yet to complete the process, subsidised refill booking will be enabled once authentication is completed, the ministry said in a statement. Stream History Documentaries

The government said the measure is aimed at preventing diversion of subsidised domestic cylinders for commercial and industrial use, as well as eliminating duplicate and ineligible connections.

Consumers can complete the authentication during LPG delivery, at their distributor's showroom or through the mobile applications of the three state-owned oil marketing companies — IndianOil ONE for Indane, HelloBPCL for Bharatgas and HP PAY for HP Gas.

Those unwilling or unable to complete biometric authentication will still be able to receive LPG, but at the applicable market price without subsidy.

Such consumers will have to register their choice through the OMCs' digital channels, including websites, mobile apps, WhatsApp chatbots and IVRS. They can receive 5-kg or 10-kg cylinders, subject to local availability, it said.

The government had initially asked consumers to complete biometric Aadhaar authentication by June 30, but subsequently extended the deadline several

Karnataka rights panel to visit families of ‘poachers’ killed in ‘encounter’



The Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC) visited the Hanur forest in Chamarajanagar district on Wednesday as part of an inquiry into the alleged encounter killings of three suspected poachers and the subsequent violence. Its team will also meet the three men’s families, an official said.

Three suspected poachers—Antony Swamy, 50, Jone Rose Peter, 42, and Kumar Sawariyappan, 35—were killed and a fourth—Joseph Das, 44—was injured in a shootout that took place inside Hanur forest range early on August 15. This triggered a massive protest in Hanur town by the relatives of the victims.The government has defended forest officials involved in the shooting, saying the alleged poachers refused to surrender and attacked the officials. The victims’ families, however, say the men were searching for cattle when they were shot.

The commission took suo motu cognisance of the

incident and directed a team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Ashwath Narayana to inspect the “encounter” spot and examine whether there were any procedural or human rights violations by the authorities.The KSHRC team is examining the sequence of events leading to the deaths, the alleged vandalism of forest department watchtowers by a mob following the incident, and the response of forest personnel.Investigators are also collecting physical evidence, examining departmental records and recording statements from villagers, eyewitnesses, and forest officials.The killings were condemned in Tamil Nadu due to the victims’ Tamil origins. They also drew questions from the Opposition BJP in Karnataka.

A senior police officer familiar with the KSHRC inquiry told indianexpress.com that the team would first visit the Hanur police station and the forest department office to review the investigation carried out so far.“The inquiry will examine the circumstances leading to the deaths of the three suspected poachers, the alleged attack on forest department watch rooms and any procedural lapses by forest officials or other government authorities. It will also assess the families’ eligibility for compensation and recommend suitable relief to the government, if necessary,” the officer said, adding that the commission would supervise the investigation.The team will also verify whether the sequence of events described by officials is technically possible. This includes verifying the distance from which the bullets were fired and whether it is consistent with the accounts provided to the investigators.The team will also collect relevant records from the victims’ families, including their communication details and other information that could assist the inquiry.

All-night search, a panicked guard: What led to deaths of 3 men in Karnataka forest



“As our staff approached, one of the poachers—the one who fled and later got admitted to the hospital—spotted our men and immediately fired his weapon at them,” the source said.Seeing the flash of gunfire, the forest guard at the front of the forest search party let fly a burst of gunfire, sources said.

A forest guard who panicked after encountering suspected poachers during an all-night search in the Hanur forest in the Cauvery Wildlife Reserve on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border in the early hours of August 15 fired a shotgun at close range, killing three men, preliminary investigations and forensic findings have revealed.What began as a forest department search operation in the poacher-infested territory, based on a tip-off received around 8 pm on August 14, ended with the deaths of Anthony Swamy, 50, John Rose Peter, 43, and Sebastian David Kumar, 35, residents of three villages on the forest fringes.

A fourth suspect, Mahima Das alias Benjamin, 45, from another village, escaped. Based on his account, Lourde Mary, wife of Anthony Swamy, filed a police complaint, alleging the four men were sleeping in the forest after venturing “to find lost cattle” when forest staff chanced upon them.Amid a political controversy and rival narratives over whether the men were poachers or farmers looking for cattle, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar ordered a magisterial inquiry.

According to government sources familiar with the investigation, a post-mortem has indicated that the fatal bullets were fired from a “slide action gun” (also known as a pump shotgun) at a “near range” to the victims, but not point blank.Karnataka Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy stated in the Karnataka legislature on August 17 that bullets were fired in the forest encounter with the alleged poachers from a forest department shotgun with the number R721035—issued to a forest guard identified as Shivraj S—after a forest patrol group chanced upon the suspects.“There was firing from only one gun of the forest staff,” Mariswamy, Assistant Conservator of Forests in the Hanur wildlife division, said.

Wounds indicate firing from close range, spark rowThe nature of the wounds on the victims indicates firing from a shotgun from a near distance, sources familiar with investigations of gunshot cases said.In the case of wounds from shotguns fired from a long distance, there would be multiple perforations on the body caused by small pellets bursting from the cartridge and piercing the body. Close-contact firing will leave burn and gas marks along with a large entry wound for the pellets and cartridge.

In the case of intermediate range firing of shotguns—as suspected in the Hanur shootings—a single large hole is seen for entry of pellets without traces of burn marks and gases, sources said.The analysis of photographs of the bodies of the three victims indicates that one victim has a large single entry wound on the left side of his neck, a second victim has similar wounds on his thigh and chest, and the third victim has a large bullet wound on the right side of his ribs.Questions have been raised by several family members of the victims on the nature of the wounds, suggesting that the men were shot at a very close range after capture.Karnataka BJP Leader of Opposition R Ashok has asked: “Why were they shot in the chest?”“We have seen the wounds. It looks like firing at a close range,” said Chinnappan, a relative of one of the victims after the deaths on August 15.

While post-mortem reports are indicative of the approximate range of firing that caused wounds, they would have to be corroborated with findings of ballistics and crime scene forensic teams for exact firing distances, sources said.According to the Karnataka forest department and forest officers who served in the Hanur range for many years and were briefed on what happened, the Hanur incident was an accident.

“There was a flash of gunfire when the search team approached the Karadikalu (Bear Rock) in the early hours of Saturday. The poachers were at a higher altitude on the rocks and the forest staff were below. The forest staff fired three rounds from a slide-action gun,” Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy said.“At the time of the incident, the hunters were at a higher point than the department staff at the Karadikalu rocks. Since the hunters were not clearly visible to the department staff, they were shot in the upper part of the waist when the staff retaliated. The staff did not take the action with any malicious intent,” he added.“They were conducting searches, and when they chanced upon the persons who had come with the intent of poaching, both groups became alert. They have fired, and we have fired,” Mariswamy said.

“A warning was issued, but they did not heed. The suspects fired, but it was a misfire and there was a flash. At this time, our people have fired immediately; if they had not fired, our staff would be victims,” Mariswamy further claimed.Karnataka Hanur forest 3 men killed shooting Around 8 pm on August 14, a group of 10-15 personnel, including guards, foresters, and Anti-Poaching Camp watchers, gathered. Two teams were formed to search the Hanur forest for ‘poachers’. (Representational image)

According to sources who have worked in the Hanur forest region and visited the Hanur division to interact with forest staff after the August 15 incident, the firing was the culmination of an entire night’s search for poachers in the forest.After the forest department received “actionable intelligence” of poachers entering the forest around 8 pm on August 14, a group of 10-15 personnel, including guards, foresters, and Anti-Poaching Camp watchers, gathered. Two teams were formed to search the forests for the poachers.

“Shortly after entering the forest, one team encountered the first batch of poachers. Shots were fired at a distance, and the poachers retreated and fled. Thinking the intruders had fled, the forest staff regrouped on a strategic ridge. While standing on that ridge, they heard gunshots in the valley below. This confirmed to the staff that a second gang was active down in the valley,” a

source familiar with the August 14 operation said.A few forest staff stayed behind at the ridge, and a few proceeded towards the area where the gunshots were heard, led by a forest guard. Since using flashlights would alert the poachers, the forest staff reportedly waited “along the main exit trail to lay an ambush on the exit route”.

The alleged poachers, however, did not leave the forest and instead prepared their poached game and rested at the rocky outcrop called Karadikalu where mobile network signals are available. The rock also provided long-distance visibility for flashlight beams of forest searchers.“They were resting on the rock. Around 5 am, seeing that no one had emerged from the trail, our staff decided to head back toward where the initial gunshots were heard. As they approached Karadikalu, our staff had no idea the poachers were resting right above them on the rock formation,” a source said.

“As our staff approached, one of the poachers—the one who fled and later got admitted to the hospital—spotted our men and immediately fired his weapon at them,” the source said.Seeing the flash of gunfire, the forest guard at the front of the forest search party let fly a burst of gunfire, sources said. “The guard who was carrying a slide-action gun loaded with cartridges (minimum 6 rounds at a time) reacted under intense panic from the poacher’s sudden close-range gunfire,” a source said. “He forcefully pulled the trigger hard and because he held the trigger down tightly the weapon continuously discharged all its loaded rounds in rapid succession,” the source added.The bullets sprayed around the area where the alleged poachers were resting and hit three of them above the waist, causing fatal “near range” injuries, sources said. “The firing from lower elevation at an upward angle, when the poachers jumped up on the rock to flee, resulted in the bullet spray striking the upper bodies,” the source said.“If the poacher had not opened fire first, our staff would not even have noticed them up there. So when shot at, our guard held down the trigger in panic. Only one department weapon was fired from our side,” the source added.In a video statement from the hospital, Mahima Das, who has a prior record for violation of forest and wildlife laws, broadly corroborated the forest department version without admitting that any shots were fired by the alleged poachers.“At around 5.30 or 5.45 am, they came upon us. I got scared when they fired, so I ran away. I got down (from the rock) and ran away. After five minutes, there was no sound. I was tired, unwell and had a stomach ache, so I reached home and got myself admitted to a hospital,” he said.In her complaint to the Hanur police, Lourde Mary has quoted Mahima Das as saying that the four men who had entered the forest “to look for their lost cattle” were sleeping on the rocks located around 4 km from their homes when he heard a sound and woke up while the others remained asleep.

“The forest staff had arrived at the location where we were sleeping. When they fired shots, I slipped to the side of the rocks and ran away. The other three who were still on the rocks were shot by the forest staff,” her complaint says, citing Das.“They came with the intent of poaching and were equipped with all the items required for hunting. They ventured deep into the forest up to a distance of 8 km. What is the need for venturing so deep with two country-made weapons if they were searching for lost cattle?” Mariswamy said.The forest authorities have claimed the finding of 34 kg of deer meat poached by the four men at a small distance from where they were shot. “Around 75 metres from the place where they were found, two bags of deer meat were found. It was the meat of the animal they hunted in the night,” he added.

Once Veerapan’s stronghold, poachers a menaceKarnataka Hanur forest shooting poachers Since Veerappan’s death, dozens of smaller groups of poachers have emerged from the villages surrounding the forests—inhabited primarily by migrants from Tamil Nadu.In the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, the Hanur sub-division spanning 156 km in length and 10 km in width is one of the largest forest sub-divisions in Karnataka. The forest range is notorious for the presence of poachers—the most infamous being the forest brigand Veerappan, who dominated the region from the 1990s till 2004, when he was shot dead by the Tamil Nadu Police Special Task Force (STF).

Since Veerappan’s death, dozens of smaller groups of poachers have emerged from the villages surrounding the forests—inhabited primarily by migrants from Tamil Nadu who moved into the region after the Mettur dam built on the Cauvery river inundated villages 100 years ago, say Karnataka forest staff.According to official court records for the Kollegal taluk, where the Hanur forest is located, there have been over 300 cases registered under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, in the last 10 years in the region—involving primarily Tamil Christians from border villages. There are 107 cases under trial at present.

“When Veerappan was present in this region, there weren’t many forest cases. The cases were focused on Veerappan, the STF was present in the forest, and locals would not venture to hunt in the forest. Now, the situation has changed, and there has been an exponential rise in forest cases,” said S Shashi Bimba, an advocate who has represented several accused from the forest villages in poaching and forest cases.

“There are people who come from the Anekal region near Bengaluru to hunt over here. They come from Tamil Nadu as well to hunt. Since the Cauvery river flows in this forest region, people come from other parts in boats for hunts at night,” he said.“The forest department does not have the requisite amount of staff. They are understaffed in comparison to the rise in wildlife cases. In the interior forest, nothing is visible at night. When there is fear that poachers will fire at the guards, shots are fired by the guards. There are a lot of habitual forest offenders in the region,” Bimba added.On June 1 this year, a Kollegal court acquitted three poachers in a case of hunting a baby sambar in 2016 in the forest for lack of strong evidence. The 2016 case was registered after forest staff on patrolling duty at night near the Karadikalu region noticed a torch light around 2.30 am and saw three persons running away. The forest staff found the dead body of a “baby female sambar” at the spot.The forest probe revealed that John Peter, Gnanaprakash and Aroyaswamy were the local poachers involved in hunting the sambar. John Peter incidentally hailed from the same village, Jaganathoddodi, as John Rose Peter, one of the three victims in the August 15 firing.The Kollegal court acquitted the alleged poachers by pointing out that none of the accused was arrested by the forest department from the spot where the poached meat was found.“When there is no proper evidence, we can obtain acquittals in these cases. There will usually be no eyewitnesses, and the recovery by the forest authorities cannot be proven,” Bimba said.

14 gunshots fired in public: Gangster shot dead inside Haryana court complex

Gangster Vinod Panu alias Kana was shot dead, and one of his associates was injured after two men opened indiscriminate fire inside the Hisar court complex in Haryana on Thursday afternoon. The police said around 14 rounds were fired, triggering panic and chaos across the premises.The incident occurred around 2.30 pm when Kana and his associate entered through the court gate for a court appearance in a case. According to preliminary information, two men riding a motorcycle opened fire on them.According to eyewitnesses, lawyers and litigants were seen running for cover during the firing. Police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured men to a government hospital, where doctors declared Kana dead.

“The police have arrested one of the accused allegedly involved in the firing. His identity cannot be revealed now as he is being interrogated,” Mayank Mudgil, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Hisar, said.The police said 31 criminal cases had been registered against Kana. His record included the murder of Sanjay alias Bittu Sharma, the nephew of Lalit Sharma, who serves as the personal assistant to Hisar MLA Savitri Jindal. The police said Kana had operated across several areas, including Delhi-NCR.

Kana was arrested from Jhajjar in 2017. A reward of Rs 7 lakh was reportedly announced for Kana at the time



of his arrest.How did the attackers enter?: Bar Association chiefHisar Bar Association president Pradeep Bajia criticised the police, saying the shooting inside the court complex was a “total failure” of security. He said the premises are supposed to have tight security and questioned how the attackers managed to enter and open fire.He further pointed out that the police and district administration were aware that a hearing linked to a gang dispute was scheduled on Thursday and that rival gang members could be present. “Gang wars are increasingly taking place at different locations. There was an incident in Dadri recently, and today it has happened at the Hisar court,” he said.

Food safety violations reported in Karnataka railway canteens; Vande Bharat pantry clean



A statewide inspection drive by the Karnataka Food Safety and Drugs Administration (KFSDA) across railway premises uncovered severe hygiene violations, expired dairy products, and unpermitted food colours. In contrast, pantry conditions aboard the state’s Vande Bharat express trains were found to be clean and well-maintained. The operation covered 36 railway stations and 112 food establishments, including canteens, platform stalls, and train pantries, to inspect food safety, storage, labelling, and handling practices. Key findings flagged during the operation include expired Nandini curd and Doddi milk packets being used at the Haveri railway station.

According to officials, idlis were found being prepared using plastic materials at Mysuru railway station.

Chandrababu Naidu calls for southern states’ cooperation, proposes regional bullet train

Chennai: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday outlined a roadmap for the comprehensive development of the southern states at the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, proposing among others, a regional bullet train corridor.

He also called for greater cooperation and coordination between the Centre and the states.Addressing the meeting attended by the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, besides the LG of Puducherry, Naidu said the southern states should resolve the interstate issues through trust and mutual cooperation.“The development of the southern states can be achieved only through cooperation and coordination,” he said.The CM proposed a bullet train corridor connecting Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu via Kuppam, alongside a transit network linking Amaravati, Bengaluru and Chennai.Naidu suggested creating a common logistics network, dry ports in the southern states, and full integration of the southern power grid with the national grid to strengthen regional infrastructure and energy security.He

also proposed setting up a joint consortium with universities and skilling institutions in the southern states and a mutual aid force to share resources during disasters.The chief minister sought the establishment of a common spiritual tourism circuit connecting Tirupati with northern sites like Kashi, Ayodhya and the Char Dham.According to him, the southern states contribute 31 per cent of the country’s GDP and could achieve a USD 10 trillion economy by 2047 through strategic cooperation.The text of his speech was released in Amaravati by the Andhra government .On Andhra Pradesh’s pending bifurcation-related issues, he said institutions listed under Schedules 9 and 10 of the bifurcation Act have not been divided even after 12 years and urged the Centre to take speedy action to resolve them.He thanked the Centre for Polavaram projects, the South Coast Railway Zone and Amaravati.Naidu sought the resolution of the state’s resource deficit and issues related to Section 56 of the bifurcation Act, besides urging the Centre to expedite clearances for the Dugarajapatnam port and refinery proposals.

EYE SECRETS Editorial

India faces another tariff blow

Tariffs are the new weapons of modern trade wars. United States President Donald Trump has been using this weapon to bully foes and friends alike. India, which has been bearing the impact of his tariff tantrums, is up for another challenge now. The US House of Representatives has given Trump another weapon to launch a fresh tariff war and disrupt global trade. It passed the 'Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026' by 262–159, empowering Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on buyers of Russian oil. The Bill is designed to squeeze Russia's revenue from oil and gas exports amid the war in Ukraine. However, this legislation could have major implications for India's

economy and oil markets, as Moscow remains a major supplier of crude oil to New Delhi. It could also have implications for the US-India trade ties if Trump imposes further levies. A 100 per cent tariff would severely hit Indian manufacturing sectors—including textiles, electronics, and gems—by destroying price competitiveness in the vital American market. India has saved billions by importing discounted Russian crude oil, which helps stabilise domestic inflation for its 1.4 billion citizens. However, these energy savings risk becoming a liability if the US levies massive export penalties. It is estimated that a full-scale tariff implementation could knock nearly 0.8 per cent off India's GDP growth over the next couple of years. India currently imports 88 per cent of its crude requirements, with Russia being one of its major suppliers. In fact, when Moscow began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russian crude oil became a significant part of India's crude import basket. According to data from the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), India imported \$40.8 billion worth of Russian crude in FY2026 — nearly a third of its total crude imports. It must be pointed out that India buys Russian oil to secure affordable energy for the country, not to finance any war, and these purchases have helped stabilise global supplies and prices. If the Trump administration goes ahead with imposing a 100 per cent tariff, it would be in addition to the 10 per cent that America currently imposes on imports from India as a penalty for not doing enough to stop the import of goods made using forced labour. The Bill is a dangerous attempt to pressure India to sign a bilateral trade agreement on one-sided terms. India has built some insulation against shocks from US tariffs through new trade deals with key markets in the EU and elsewhere. But the threat of 100 per cent tariffs from a critical export destination could deal a big blow. The impact would be felt through Indian exporters, the rupee, refinery margins and the trade balance.

Sugar prices remain below Rs. 60 per kg for fourth straight day



New Delhi: The average all-India retail price of sugar remained below Rs. 60 per kg for the fourth straight day on Monday following a series of government measures, even as festive demand put upward pressure on prices in some regions. On Monday, the average retail sugar price stood at Rs. 59.57 per kg, marginally up from Rs. 58.99 per kg on the previous day. Sugar prices dropped below the Rs. 60 per kg level on Friday and eased further over the last three days, according to data maintained by the Consumer Affairs Ministry.

However, the average retail price remains higher than the Rs. 58.23 per kg recorded on August 21, when the Centre first allowed sugar imports and took other steps to rein in sweetener prices. The maximum retail price remained firm at Rs. 85 per kg, while the minimum was Rs. 40 per kg on Monday, the ministry data showed. Among the southern states, retail prices edged up in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, while Tamil Nadu and Kerala saw marginal declines. In Andhra Pradesh, the average retail price rose to Rs. 55.56 per kg on Monday from Rs. 49.58 per kg on August 21, while in Kerala, it inched up to Rs. 57.80 per kg from Rs. 56.75 per kg over the same period. In the major sugar-producing states, prices eased. Maharashtra's average retail price fell to Rs. 58.22 per kg from Rs. 59 per kg, while in Uttar Pradesh, it fell to Rs. 57.88 per kg from Rs. 59.64 per kg on August 21. Among other states, Madhya Pradesh recorded a sharper fall, with prices dropping to Rs. 56.57 per kg from Rs. 62.36 per kg, while West Bengal saw a marginal dip to Rs. 60.43 per kg from Rs. 60.95 per kg. On August 21, the government allowed sugar imports and further tightened stock-holding norms for bulk users and dealers.

Driver who rammed woman biker in Gurugram detained for attempt to murder



Kalyan Bainsla, the car driver accused of ramming a woman biker in Gurugram, has been detained in Dausa in Rajasthan. Gurgaon Police on Tuesday added attempt to murder charges to the FIR against Bainsla, who is accused of ramming his car into a woman riding a sports bike on Golf Course Road on Sunday. The car allegedly used in the incident belongs to an Army personnel currently posted in Assam and is registered in Palwal, police sources said. The accused driver, Kalyan Bainsla, had borrowed the white Maruti Suzuki Ciaz from him two days before the incident, they said.

Senior police sources said Bainsla is a gym owner based in Palwal and a former kabaddi player. Police spokesperson, ASI Sandeep Kumar, said, "After a thorough investigation and intensive analysis of CCTV footage, police added Section 109 of the BNS (attempt to murder), which carries a provision of up to 10 years imprisonment. The accused car driver, Kalyan Bainsla, who is now named in the FIR, will be arrested soon. Gurgaon Police is committed to strict action against the accused." On Monday, police had registered an FIR for rash driving and act endangering life or personal safety of others at the Sector 56 police station after taking suo motu cognisance of the viral footage. Police said the victim's statement will be formally recorded, likely later Tuesday, as part of the ongoing probe. Before he purportedly went on the run, Bainsla managed to give an interview to a news channel on Monday in which he had claimed that the bikers were speeding up, slowing down, and cutting him off ("pinch-

ing" the car), that he did not know a woman was riding the bike, and that he felt "sad" about the incident. Delhi-based biker Sia hit back at the driver's claim that he felt "sad" over the incident, saying the collision could have killed her and asking why he did not stop if he was remorseful. The woman was riding her Aprilia RS 457 sports bike alongside members of a biking group when the incident occurred on Sunday. A purported video of the incident shared on social media shows a car bearing a Haryana number plate tailing the group before allegedly cutting sharply into Sia's lane and colliding with her bike. In a video statement released on Monday night, Sia, who runs the Instagram account 'rebelwheels_sia_', directly addressed televised remarks made by the alleged accused. He is saying that we were speeding up and slowing down, and pinching his car. The full video makes it clear who was pinching whom. And agar aapko aisa lag raha hai ki hum bike tez kar rahe hain, slow kar rahe hain, to aapka kya matlab banta hai ki poore raaste aap mujhe chase karen? (Even if you felt that we were speeding up or slowing down, what business did you have chasing me the entire way?) "In driving and road-rage parlance, "pinching" refers to cutting in aggressively close to another vehicle, which may force them to brake, or trap them against a curb or lane boundary. Refuting Bainsla's claim that he was unaware a woman was riding the motorcycle, she said: "You obviously saw my hair. I have very long hair tied in a braid falling down my back. You pulled up alongside, gestured, and told me to stop the bike." Addressing Bainsla's questions regarding the number of riders present and why only two videos surfaced, Sia said the recorded angles were sufficient to establish a hit-and-run. "Are two videos not enough for a hit-and-run case? One video shows you swerving from the front lane directly into the third lane, hitting me, and fleeing. Another front video from my camera shows you hitting me from the first lane to the third lane, dragging me completely along your vehicle, and throwing me onto the road," she said. Questioning his claims of alleged regret, she added: "If you felt so much sorrow for me, why didn't you stop at that moment? It was your responsibility to stop, check on me, and see if I was injured... I could have suffered very deep injuries, my bones could have broken, or I could have died on the spot..."

Why a Rs 3,383 crore-worth BJP MLA spent 3 hours disguised as a 'beggar' in Ghatkopar

For about three hours last Monday, September 7, Parag Shah walked through Ghatkopar disguised as a beggar. He went to the station, crossed the bridge, walked along roads in his constituency and approached people for food. At one point, he went to his own office, where even the security guard did not recognise him and asked him to leave, Parag Shah says. This was not all. Even his own family members did not recognise him.

The episode has since gone viral on social media, largely because of who this beggar is. Parag Shah is a two-time Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from Ghatkopar East, a businessman and real-estate developer. In his 2024 election affidavit, Parag Shah declared assets of Rs 3,383.06 crore, making him the richest candidate in that year's Maharashtra Assembly elections. Shah said the exercise was not a political stunt. It followed a suggestion from his Jain guru, Naman Muni Maharaj, during a religious discourse. The message, Shah said, was that people often believe they are recognised because of who they are, while in reality they may be recognised because of their position, power or wealth. His guru then asked him to change his appearance, go to places in his constituency where he believed people knew him, and see how they responded. He was to return to the same places in his usual identity on the same day. Parag Shah said he spent about three hours around Ghatkopar station, on the bridge and on different roads in the area.



But the exercise, he said, ended up teaching him something beyond whether he could go unnoticed. As a beggar, Parag Shah visited a food distribution point where meals are provided free of charge. He arrived near the end of the distribution and asked if anything was left to eat. A staff member, who did not recognise him, offered him dal, rice, and a bottle of water. He then went to a samosa seller and told him he had nothing to eat. The vendor gave him five samosas. The encounters made Shah reconsider his own perception of people living with little money. "I had believed that poor people only ask for help," he said, adding that he realised they also help one another.

Canada deports 4 more Indians in extortion crackdown, total reaches 111



The latest cases involve Palwinder Singh, Jasmer Singh, Amitoz Bajwa and Sahibjot Singh. All four were found inadmissible under Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) on grounds linked to organised or serious criminality, according to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

Canada has removed four more Indian nationals in an immigration crackdown targeting foreign nationals allegedly linked to extortion networks, taking the total number of deportations under the drive to 111. The campaign has focused heavily on cases involving young Indian nationals, including men of Punjabi origin, accused of links to criminal organisations targeting South Asian businesses and families in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario.

The latest cases involve Palwinder Singh, Jasmer Singh, Amitoz Bajwa and Sahibjot Singh. All four were found inadmissible under Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) on grounds linked to organised or serious criminality, according to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). The CBSA said it had issued 188 removal orders across Canada as of September 3. Of these, 91 were in the Pacific region, which includes British Columbia and the Lower Mainland, result-

ing in 58 removals. The Prairies accounted for 47 orders and 30 removals, while the Greater Toronto Area recorded 50 orders and 23 removals. The number of cases has risen steadily since the enforcement drive intensified in 2025. By March this year, Canadian authorities had reported about 372 immigration investigations, 70 removal orders and 35 enforced removals. By May, the figures had increased to 446 investigations, 118 orders and 55 removals. By June, there were 484 investigations, 139 orders and 81 removals.

The operation is being conducted by the CBSA in coordination with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provincial and municipal police forces and immigration authorities. The CBSA said Palwinder Singh was linked to an extortion-related shooting in 2025 and was found to be a member of a criminal organisation. Amitoz Bajwa was linked to firearms offences and an extortion-related shooting. Jasmer Singh had been convicted of forcible confinement, while Sahibjot Singh admitted an association with an organisation involved in a pattern of criminal activity, according to the agency. The four were found inadmissible following proceedings before Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board and were subsequently removed. Other cases have involved young men who entered Canada on study permits or other temporary status. Arshdeep Singh, about 22, entered Canada on a study permit in 2022. He was detained in November 2025 and later found inadmissible for membership in a criminal organisation. He was deported under escort on January 19, 2026. Sukhnaaz Singh Sandhu, 25, had been in Canada since 2016 as a temporary resident and was previously linked to the Ruffians gang in Surrey. He was detained in November 2025 and deported on February 3 after being found inadmissible for organised criminality. Prabhjot Singh, 20, was arrested by the Surrey Police in connection with an extortion network and subsequently deported after being found inadmissible for organised criminality. Police later released his photograph, seeking further information. Lovebir Singh, 22, was also linked to extortion networks in Surrey and deported as part of the enforcement drive. In some cases, immigration proceedings have followed criminal convictions. Parminder Singh, about 22, was sentenced to 7.5 years in Edmonton for his role in an extortion and arson racket targeting South Asian homebuilders.

Retd forest officer re-appointment: Gauhati High Court seeks Assam government response



The Guwahati High Court last week sought the Assam government's response in a public interest litigation challenging the re-appointment of retired Indian Forest Service officer M K Yadava, considered a close aide to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. On May 14, Yadava was granted a third post-retirement contractual extension/re-engagement as Special Chief Secretary

A division bench of Chief Justice Ashutosh Kumar and Justice Arun Dev Choudhury issued notice to the Assam government on September 11 and sought its response to the contentions by the next date of hearing on October 15. Assam-based environmental activist Rohit Choudhury, represented by advocate Abir Phukan, flagged in his PIL that while a 2018 office memorandum by the Assam government had contemplated post-retirement engagement in "rare and exceptional circumstances", it was subsequently modified in 2024. The plea claimed it did away with consideration or approval of a state-empowered committee for such engagements if the proposal already had prior approval of the Chief Minister. The modification had come days before Yadava's superannuation. Yadava, who superannuated in February 2024, got extensions in February 2024 and 2025, and now in May this year. His current tenure expires on November 12 this year. Choudhury challenged the fresh re-appointment on the ground of adverse observations made by the Union environment ministry against Yadava in the past, as well as the 2024 modification to the office memorandum. He also sought records and their details based on which the decision was taken to grant Yadava a third extension.

As an interim relief, he has sought that any further extension beyond Yadava's current tenure be stayed. Allegations against the officer. Last year, the environment ministry's regional office in Shillong had directed the Assam forest department to take legal action against Yadava for authorising two commando battalion camps on forest land in "gross violation" of the law. This was after Yadava was served a show-cause notice in May 2024, after he was deemed guilty of violating the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 2023. It was held that he authorised Assam Police commando battalion camps in the Geleky forest, Sivasagar district, and in Damchera, Hailakandi district, over 26 hectares and 11 hectares of forest land, respectively, in his capacity as the then principal conservator of forest (PCCF) and head of the forest force (HoFF) in Assam.

In April 2024, even as the environment ministry had already directed the Assam government to stop work on the Damchera camp, CM Sarma sought its regularisation. Sarma wrote to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, requesting that the environment ministry accord a "post facto" approval to the camp, which was granted eventually. He had sought to justify the camps on forest land, citing national security and forest encroachment as reasons. Choudhury, in his PIL, has highlighted that this diversion, as alleged against Yadava, has public-interest significance and "assumes further importance in view of the unprecedented floods reported from Geleky" in July this year.

4 of a family die as refrigerator explodes at Karnataka home



Four members of a family were killed and two others were injured after a refrigerator in the house reportedly exploded in Karnataka's Belagavi Monday night.

Bharati Damone, 50; Sharada Damone, 45; Ganga Damone, 25; and Priya Damone, 24, were killed on the spot. Gajanan Damone, 65, and Roshan Damone, 21, suffered serious injuries and were shifted to a hospital, where they are undergoing treatment. Sharada was Gajanan's wife and Bharati Damone his sister. Priya and Ganga were Gajanan and Sharada's daughters, and Roshan is their son.

According to the Belagavi police, the Damone family planned to observe Ganesha Chaturthi and kept the idol at their house in Chavat Galli near the Central Bus Stand. They went to sleep after dinner and, as usual, slept close to the refrigerator. Residents heard a loud noise around 2.15 am, and when they rushed to the family's shed, they found it on fire. While they managed to pull out Gajanan and Roshan, others were charred to death. They have sustained 60 per cent burn injuries, according to the police. The shed, which did not have concrete walls, was shattered by the blast, and most of the valuables were burnt. "Prima facie, it is clear that the refrigerator exploded, but we are trying to ascertain how it exploded. We are probing whether a short circuit or another fire led to the explosion. The Ganesha idol was also decorated with some lights, and we suspect that there could be a short circuit," a police officer said. The police said they have registered a case and the investigation is underway. Gajanan worked as a carpenter and others worked as house helps or in commercial establishments.

India, Japan to work together in field of naval shipbuilding and repairs



Kolkata: India and Japan will explore the possibility of joint development in naval shipbuilding and design by leveraging Japan's technological expertise and India's production capabilities in accordance with their respective relevant policies. This was announced in a joint statement issued by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Japanese counterpart Shinjiro Koizumi after a bilateral meeting in New Delhi on Thursday. The use of India's production capabilities by Japan under the "Make in India" framework was also discussed. This comes at a time when India is laying stress on further developing both Naval and commercial shipbuilding capabilities at its shipyards.

Japan ranks third among the shipbuilding nations in the world with a share of nearly 11 per cent. India has set a steep target of building five per cent of the world's fleet by 2035 and making it to the list of the top five shipbuilding nations by 2047. The two Ministers affirmed their commitment to strengthening maritime security cooperation and signed the Memorandum of Arrangement on the matter between the Ministries of Defence of the two nations. "The Memorandum provides a framework for further advancing cooperation between the two countries in

the field of maritime security. Specifically, it includes the strengthening of cooperation between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navy, including information sharing in the field of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), as well as enhanced cooperation in areas such as Search and Rescue (SAR) and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)," the joint statement said. The Ministers also spoke on strengthening co-ordination for the protection of sea lines of communications through mutual visits by naval ships and units, joint exercises, personnel and Subject Matter Expert (SME) exchanges and logistical support, including use of ports, maintenance and repair facilities. Such cooperation is vital not only to Japan and India, but also to the region and the international community. "The two Ministers concurred on moving swiftly to realise concrete maritime security cooperation that serves the strategic and operational needs. They further shared the view that both sides should maximise synergies to enhance mine countermeasures capabilities," it said. Reciprocal provision of ship repair facilities, including the conclusion of ship repair arrangement in the near future, was also discussed. "The two Ministers welcomed the steady expansion and deepening of bilateral exercises conducted by Japan and India, including the Japan-India Army exercise 'Dharma Guardian' and the Japan-India Maritime Exercise 'JAIMEX'". They particularly welcomed the steady progress in coordination for the Japan-India Air Force exercise "Veer Guardian 267", scheduled to be held this year, under which Japan Air Self-Defence Force fighter aircraft will, for the first time, visit India and participate in the exercise. The two Ministers concurred on further deepening cooperation in bilateral exercises through enhanced complexities, integration of unmanned systems and pursuing joint exercises at short notice, whenever the opportunities arise," the statement said.

Russian missile barrage kills 12, injures dozens in Kyiv

Kyiv: A Russian missile barrage overnight Thursday killed at least 12 people in Kyiv as explosions echoed across Ukraine's capital throughout the night, local authorities said. At least 33 people were wounded, according to Ukraine's Emergency Service. The air raid alert remained active into the early morning hours Thursday.

The strikes hit 12 locations across Kyiv's Darnytskyi, Sviatoshynskyi and Solomianskyi districts, damaging residential buildings, a medical facility and an educational institution. Emergency crews were at the scene and pulled people out from under the rubble. In Solomianskyi district, the top two floors of a 9-story residential building were destroyed and fires broke out on other floors. People were also trapped in two residential buildings and a school shelter. 60-year-old Larysa Bondaruk sat on the ground, holding her cat, Chanel, which had been rescued by firefighters.

With tears in her eyes, she said that her neighbour's grandson had been trapped under the rubble and died. Her apartment was badly damaged. "A rocket hit the roof. It was incredibly loud, immediately, debris and doors were blown out. There were columns of smoke, columns of fire, screams, crying and despair," she said. "Two people were killed in our building, but the rescuers responded quickly and professionally. I am grateful to them for



that." Russia has intensified ballistic missile attacks on the capital to wear down Kyiv's air defence stocks. Kyiv has limited systems capable of intercepting ballistic threats, while supplies of missiles for its US-made Patriot air defence systems remain chronically constrained. US President Donald Trump had authorised Ukraine to obtain licenses to produce Patriot air-defence systems, but later reversed that decision. Ukraine, meanwhile, has intensified its own campaign of long-range strikes against weapons depots, military facilities and other strategic targets deep inside Russian territory, seeking to degrade Moscow's ability to sustain its attacks on Ukrainian cities.

Prince Harry, Meghan are returning to UK with their children, British newspaper says

London: Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, have decided to return to the United Kingdom, but they won't resume their roles as working members of the royal family, British news media reported late Wednesday. The couple's children, Prince Archie, 7, and Princess Lilibet, 5, have already enrolled at British schools and will start classes in September, according to the Daily Telegraph, which broke the story. The family plans to live at a private, non-royal residence outside of London, the newspaper said.

Harry and Meghan gave up their royal duties and moved to California more than six years ago to earn their living through lucrative contracts with Netflix and Spotify. Although relations with the rest of the royal family have soured since then, Harry has recently expressed an interest in reconciliation so he could spend more time with his father, King Charles III, who is being treated for an undisclosed form of cancer. Charles was informed of the couple's plans on Sunday and wasn't told about them during Harry and Meghan's visit to the UK last month.

Buckingham Palace has a policy of not commenting on speculation about non-working members of the royal family. A representative for Harry and Meghan declined to comment. Harry and Meghan have had a stormy relationship with the royal family ever since they decamped to a mansion in the exclusive Southern California enclave of Montecito.

In a series of interviews and Harry's memoir "Spare," the couple said they left Britain to escape the restrictions of royal life and criticized palace officials for being insensitive to Meghan's mental health while alleging that at least one member of the royal family had expressed racist views when she was pregnant with their first child. Meghan describes herself as biracial. Those tensions were exacerbated by Harry's long-running legal battle with Britain's tabloid newspapers, which he alleges illegally hacked his phones and invaded his privacy when he was younger. The prince has lost a series of lawsuits against the media, including one against the publisher of the Daily Mail, which concluded last month. The latest trial has left Harry facing a potential bill for millions of pounds after the court ruled he and other plaintiffs in the case were liable for the publisher's legal fees. Associated Newspapers has filed documents showing that its legal costs amounted to 34.5 million pounds (USD 47 million). Harry has also been embroiled in a legal wrangle with the British government after a government committee refused to authorize police protection for the prince and his family when they are in the UK. The prince says he and his family need armed police protection because they are at risk simply because they are members of the royal family, regardless of whether or not they are working royals.



Washington: Leaders of major US technology, cryptocurrency and financial companies have backed President Donald Trump's push for lighter regulation and clearer digital-asset rules, saying his policies were bringing investment and innovation back to the United States. Executives from Coinbase, Robinhood, Kraken, Chainlink Labs, Gemini and the Intercontinental Exchange joined Trump at the White House ahead of the first meeting of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Innovation Advisory Committee. Coinbase co-founder Brian Armstrong said Trump had recognised during the 2024 presidential campaign that millions of cryptocurrency supporters felt excluded by the previous administration. "He made a commitment at that time to make America the crypto capital of the world and within weeks of taking office, delivered on that promise," Armstrong said.

Armstrong cited the creation of a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve, enactment of the GENIUS Act and the appointment of pro-innovation regulators. He said the next major step was passage of the CLARITY Act, with a congressional vote expected on September 15. "This would make all of the progress that this administration has made durable into the future, so it could survive for decades and decades to come," he said. Armstrong said some large banks could oppose the legislation because of competition from cryptocurrency companies. He nevertheless described the measure as bipartisan. "There are hundreds of pages of changes that have come in from the Democrat side as well," he said. "It's a true bipartisan compromise." Intercontinental Exchange founder Jeffrey

Potassium in your plate: Dietary choices that matter

People pay far more attention today than they used to, about what they put on their plates. For many, food is not just a source of sustenance; it is a lifestyle. Be it a hearty spinach salad or greasy French fries, what people consume every day defines their health. While there is significant awareness about several micronutrients, including vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin D, iron, and calcium, a potent mineral that does not get as much attention is potassium. Potassium is an electrolyte, or a substance that carries an electrical charge when dissolved in a liquid like blood. It plays a supportive role in several functions such as nerve signalling, contraction and relaxation of muscles, cellular metabolism, and blood pressure modulation. It can also prevent kidney stones, enhance muscle health, and maintain bone health by preventing too much calcium from leaving the body through urine. Maintaining ideal levels of potassium in the body, especially for patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD), is important for staying healthy and preventing complications. Excess potassium can lead to a condition called hyperkalaemia, and hence, diet regulation is important.



How much potassium does the body contain and need?

The human body contains between approximately 40 and 50 mmol of potassium for every kilogram. The total amount depends on how muscular the person is, as 90% to 95% of potassium is found within the cells of the muscles and bones. Most of the potassium consumed (80%-90%) is excreted through urine, and the rest through sweat and stools.

Bangladesh all set to elect new president; BNP's Mirza Alamgir frontrunner

Dhaka: Bangladesh is all set to elect its new president on Thursday, with ruling BNP stalwart Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir the frontrunner in a contest that marks the country's first presidential election in 35 years. Lawmakers will choose between Alamgir and Colonel (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, the candidate of the 11-party opposition alliance. The voting will be held at the parliament (Jatiya Sangsad) from 2:00 pm to 5 pm, according to the Election Commission. Alamgir, 78, is the candidate of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), while Ahmed, 84, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is contesting as the candidate of the Jamaat-e-Islami-led alliance. The Election Commission declared the nomination papers of both candidates valid on August 16.

It is the first contested presidential election in Bangladesh since 1991, as the office had largely been filled through consensus and uncontested polls in recent decades. Speaking at the BNP parliamentary party meeting on Wednesday, Alamgir appealed to the BNP lawmakers to vote for him in Thursday's presidential election. "If I have made any mistake or unintentionally hurt anyone during my tenure, I seek forgiveness," said Alamgir, who has served as BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General, Acting Secretary General and Secretary General. Several lawmakers present at the meeting said the veteran leader became emotional and broke down in tears several times. Alamgir pledged that he would never compromise on the country's independence and sovereignty. The president-elect will take the oath as Bangladesh's new president on Friday evening at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban. The Daily Star reported, citing sources at the Secretariat and Parliament Secretariat. The presidential election was necessitated after Mohammed Shahabuddin, a close aide of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, resigned last month on health grounds before completing his five-year tenure.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, who is also the BNP chairman, had nominated Alamgir, a longtime secretary general of the party and a close ally of former premier Khaleida Zia, as its presidential candidate. Under the Constitution, a new president is required to be elected within 90 days of the office falling vacant. Parliamentary Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad is currently serving as acting president, as required under the Constitution following a vacancy in the office.

The Constitution provides for the president to be elected by Parliament. The BNP, which was voted to power in the February 12 elections, currently commands a two-thirds majority in Parliament, putting Alamgir in a strong



Bangladesh is set for its first contested presidential election in 35 years, with ruling BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir the frontrunner against opposition candidate Oli Ahmed. Parliament will vote Thursday, with Alamgir expected to become the country's 23rd president.

position to secure the presidency. If elected, Alamgir will become Bangladesh's 23rd president. He has been one of the BNP's most prominent leaders for more than two decades, having served as acting secretary general from 2011 before formally taking over the post in 2016. He played a prominent role in leading the BNP during the imprisonment of its then-chairperson and former prime minister Zia and the absence of Rahman, who was abroad at the time. The president is largely a ceremonial head of state under Bangladesh's parliamentary system, with key constitutional powers, including appointing the prime minister and the chief justice. Though the president is the supreme commander of the armed forces, those powers are generally exercised on the advice of the prime minister. Political analysts, however, said the presidency could assume greater significance under the caretaker government system recently reintroduced to oversee general elections, when the president's power would increase significantly in commanding the armed forces during such a period. The analysts also opine that Alamgir's nomination could be a well-calculated move of BNP, which in its election manifesto had promised to equip the president with more power by amending the Constitution.

PV Sindhu, Vinesh Phogat, Neeraj Chopra: Thank Facebook for their Man



The day Tejaswin Shankar's knee flared up at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, his first instinct wasn't to call his coach. It was to find Wayne Lombard. Shankar had just pulled out of the high jump, terrified that a familiar patellar tendon problem had suddenly become something much worse. That night, his mind went to dark places. The next morning, he reached out to Lombard. Shankar eventually completed the decathlon, won a bronze and made history as the first Indian to win a CWG medal in the event. But the episode offered a glimpse into the peculiar position Lombard occupies in Indian sport. He isn't just the strength and conditioning coach who prescribes exercises or the sports scientist who studies numbers. He is the person athletes call when they are frightened by what their bodies might be telling them. PV Sindhu has worked with him across Olympic cycles and, after another injury-hit spell, brought him back on her team last year. Murali Sreeshankar credits Lombard's programmes for playing 'a massive role' in his comeback from a career-threatening knee injury. And when Sjoerd Marijne returned as head coach of the women's hockey team this year, one of his conditions before accepting the offer was to have Lombard on his team. Around 30 elite Indian athletes, according to Lombard's count, now train under or work closely with the South African. The list is a who's who. The trust behind it is even more extraordinary. Because Lombard did not arrive in India as some grand high-performance visionary with a masterplan to transform Indian sport. Lombard was a cricketer in South Africa, good enough to play a couple of first-class matches but realistic enough to know where his game was taking him. "I wasn't good enough to take the next step," he says. So, he began studying sports management at an academy in Durban. Then sports science took hold. A three-year undergraduate degree became an honour's year in biokinetics — rehabilitation, return-to-play and the mechanics of getting injured bodies back to competition. Then came the apprenticeship that gave him the foundations for everything that followed: an internship at the High Performance Centre associated with the Sports Science Institute of South Africa. "That's where my journey really started," he says.

In 2016, when Wayne Lombard first landed in India, he started working with three young athletes about to become some of the most recognisable names in Indian sport: Neeraj Chopra, Vinesh Phogat and Tejaswin Shankar. (Photo: Hockey India) In 2016, when Wayne Lombard first landed in India, he started working with three young athletes about to become some of the most

Shooter Esha Singh's scintillating 2026 form puts her in line for Asiad success

Esha Singh walks into the Asian Games at Aichi-Nagoya the world no 1 in the women's 25m pistol, and world no 2 in the women's 10m air pistol event. At 21, the Indian shooter has already tasted success at the Asian Games, winning two individual silver medals and a team gold in Hangzhou. Her scintillating form over the last 18 months point to a repeat of her Hangzhou heroics – 25m World Championship bronze medal, two World Cup titles, a world record score of 43 – Esha has been near unstoppable. As if the 25m dominance wasn't enough, she added a 10m World Cup silver medal won in Munich this year as well.

“In the last Asian Games, Esha went and won the silver medals in both individual events as well the gold and silver in team. There will be higher expectations this time and as a human being, Esha will know it in the back of her mind too. The important thing is such things are bound to happen and we train accordingly. There is no magic pill to forget but then training and focus means you cut out the noise. If one follows what he/she has practiced, results will follow,” says Ronak Pandit, Indian shooting High Performance Manager and Technical Director and Singh’s coach. In Japan, Asia’s best will be present. Pistol shooting enjoys a strong Asian presence – Paris Olympics 10m air pistol champion Oh Ye-jin of Korea and 10m air pistol world champion and 25m world silver medalist Yao Qianxun from China will also be competing in both the events. Singh will also see the ever-present challenge from Paris Olympic double-medallist Manu Bhaker in both the events apart from the gauntlet thrown down by world no 3 and three-time World Cup champion Suruchi Phogat in the 10m event. Quality field

That path to gold gets further complicated as Tokyo Olympics mixed team champion and Individual silver medalist Jiang Rانxin will also be among the 10m pistol field apart from Paris Olympics champion Yang Ji-in of Korea and Paris Olympics silver medalist Xiao Jiaruixuan of China being the title contenders in the 25m event. In Cairo, Singh had won the bronze with Ji-in winning the title and Qianxun winning the silver. In the World Cup in Munich this year, Singh won the title in the 25m final as well as silver behind Phogat in 10m pistol, with her competing in

Railway beat Police 4-1 to clinch Hockey India senior men's title

Hyderabad: Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) scored a 4-1 win over All India Police Sports Control Board to emerge champions of the 6th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship 2026 at the Gachibowli Hockey Complex here on Monday. Railway, who had remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, once again displayed their class in the final. They showed no mercy to the Police team, who had also enjoyed a good run in the championship. Police, who had defeated last year's runners-up Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) in the semifinal, were unable to reproduce the same quality of play.

Though Police managed to run the Railway team ragged in the first half of the final, they faded after the break as Railway steamrolled to the title. The first half was a tough contest, with Police matching the Railway team and keeping them on a tight leash. It took Railway almost

recognisable names in Indian sport: Neeraj Chopra, Vinesh Phogat and Tejaswin Shankar. Lombard got his PhD. He went to China and returned to South Africa. And then, while looking for his next opportunity, a Facebook message appeared from Donovan Pillay, then head of science at JSW Sport. Would he be interested in coming to India to work at the Inspire Institute of Sport? There was a decent chance Lombard never saw the message. "I never check it." The year is 2016. Lombard has just landed in India and encounters three young athletes about to become some of the most recognisable names in Indian sport. Neeraj Chopra had just then broken the world under-20 javelin record and was dealing with an elbow problem. Tejaswin was beginning to emerge in the high jump. Vinesh Phogat was attempting to rebuild herself after the injury that had ended her Rio Olympics bid.

With Vinesh, Lombard worked alongside another South African physio, Sandhya Silal. It was not an easy introduction. Lombard was coming off a devastating injury. She had every reason to be suspicious of anyone telling her how to rebuild her body. "For us to get the buy-in was not easy initially," Lombard says. Then the work started producing results. "She just bought in, and it was really easy from there." Years later, it is telling that Lombard speaks about Vinesh not in the language of protocols and exercises, but in the language of trust. That, increasingly, has become his currency. There is a temptation to make Lombard's story about the machinery of modern sport—force plates, blood profiles, load monitoring and biomechanics. Those things matter. But they are not why athletes keep coming back. "You have to understand the emotions," Lombard says. "They're just human beings in the end. You can't just treat them as these robots that can go and perform. You need to be good at your job. But if you are going to be an a*****, no one's going to want to listen to you." Over a decade, he has learnt that the body arriving at an elite programme often carries a much longer history. Many Indian athletes come from modest backgrounds, some with nutritional deficiencies accumulated while growing up.

“The malnutrition that happens at a young age is quite a problem,” Lombard says. “If we could address that at a very young age, I think that would set these athletes up at the national level a lot better. And a lot of our over-use-type injuries will change if we change the nutrition profile at a very young age.” Hockey demands repeated high-speed running. Badminton is built around violent acceleration, deceleration and changes of direction. And then there is Tejaswin, the Asiad gold prospect for whom Lombard has to prepare one body for 10 events. “He needs to have a really strong upper body. He needs to be fit because he needs to run the 1,500. He needs to be able to sprint,” Lombard says. The method changes with the sport. So does the athlete. What remains constant is the relationship. With Sindhu, for instance, the work is increasingly data-driven, measuring movement, jumping and training loads.



a field including Ji-in and former world champion Doreen Vennekamp of Germany in the 25m and Yiyaao and London Olympics silver medalist Celine Goberville of France in the 10m. Her 25m title in Munich came when she broke the previous world score of 42 set by Ye-ji before she won the silver in the 10m event two days later. Singh had talked about how she competes with herself and does not think about her opponents. "I don't really see who is standing besides me or the names who are in the final and I just aim to focus on my thoughts and my process and that's what I did. 25m pistol is definitely a challenging game. The whole dynamics are a bit different and since there are no decimals, it's a very tight game," Singh had said earlier. Since 2025, Singh has made it to the four finals in 25m and three 10m finals in ISSF World Cups. Pandit talks about how the 21-year-old has maintained the balance. The starting sequence with the gun for both remains the same. So that lessens one variable. But then maintaining the right balance is tricky.

When you find one event easier or do well, then you train more in that. It's like if one is good in science, then he will give it more time as compared to if he is average in maths or vice versa. It cannot be a 50-50 balance but we compensate by doing live fire in one event and dry fire in another during training. 25m is about the ability to lift more consistently as well as the continuity of trigger. In 10m, Esha is technically very strong. So we have been working on the tactical part. She is an aggressive triggering shooter and does not overthink," says Pandit. Over the last few months, Pandit has been re-enforcing only one thing in Esha's shooting. "When she made the world record, we did not even talk about it.

20 minutes to find the opening goal. Atul Deep struck in the 20th minute to put his side 1-0 up as Railway went into the break with the lead.

Upon resumption, Police began making their moves and one such raid resulted in a goal. Shubham equalised for the Police team in the 36th minute but, thereafter, they could do little to stop Railway from running away with the championship title. Railway responded immediately as Rohit Rohit struck in the 36th minute to restore the lead. Thereafter, it was Amandeep Lakra who ensured the game remained in Railway's control. He scored a brace within a minute to give Railway a 4-1 lead. Amandeep scored both goals off penalty corners in the 41st and 42nd minutes. Police tried their best to come back into the game in the final quarter but were unable to breach the Railway defence. Railway's Atul Deep had earned a green card in the 14th minute, while Rohit Rohit was shown

Ganges Grandmasters advance to GCL final after dramatic finish



Hyderabad: Ganges Grandmasters advanced to the finals of the Global Chess League (GCL), a joint initiative of Tech Mahindra and FIDE, in Bengaluru on Saturday despite losing to PBG Alaskan Knights, while Alpine APL Pipers will have to wait for the final league match to know their fate after the defending champions went down to Triveni Continental Kings. Both Alpine APL Pipers and Ganges Grandmasters went into their final round-robin matches with 18 match points, and a win against teams at the bottom of the standings would have been enough for them to ensure a place in the final.

However, two-time champions Triveni Continental Kings threw the race for the final wide open as they became the first team in Season 4 to win both their matches against the Pipers, winning 11-6 in the first match of the day. Their loss meant that Ganges Grandmasters needed to score just one game point against PBG Alaskan Knights

Sahithi Varshini earns third WGM norm, becomes Woman Grandmaster

Hyderabad: The wait has finally ended for Sahithi Varshini. The gifted chess player from Visakhapatnam, the City of Destiny, kept her date with destiny by earning the significant third and final WGM norm to become a Woman Grandmaster. By securing her third and final WGM norm in the recently concluded international tournament in Europe, she completed all the requirements for the title. Sahithi produced an outstanding performance in the latest tournament. She finished runner-up with six points from nine rounds and recorded a 2408 performance rating. Her victories over strong opponents IM Neelash Sahas and Vedant Panesar were among the highlights of her performance. Competing on equal terms with highly rated players and securing crucial victories demonstrated Sahithi's steadily improving strength. With this performance, Sahithi's live classical rating has reached 2324. In recent months, Sahithi has shown significant progress in her performances. At the Juraflore International Chess Tournament in France, she excelled in a strong international field and was named Best Woman Player. Competing against four IMs and one GM, she demonstrated her strength by securing victories against strong opponents.

Sahithi continued her impressive run at the Kanizsa Open 2026 in Hungary. She scored 5 points in 9 rounds, recorded a 2429 performance rating, and secured her second WGM norm. Her victories over GM Yeshaayahu Tzidkiya, rated 2492, and IM Sahib Singh, rated 2354, were particularly noteworthy. Thus, after consistently delivering strong performances against tough international opponents, Sahithi secured her third WGM norm and became eligible for the WGM title. She had previously earned the Woman International Master (WIM) titles and is also recognised as the first woman chess player from Visakhapatnam to earn the WIM title. Sahithi displayed exceptional talent in chess from a young age. She won Asian Under-10 and Under-12 titles, besides securing a Commonwealth Under-10 gold medal. She has also represented the Indian team at the Chess Olympiad. Her consistent performances at the international level have helped her steadily improve both her rating and playing strength. Her father and coach, M. Lokeswara Rao, has played a crucial role in Sahithi's chess journey. He has

Varun Chakaravarthy ruled out of Afghanistan T20Is, doubtful for Asian Games



India spinner Varun Chakaravarthy has been ruled out of the remaining two T20Is against Afghanistan with a side strain, with his participation in the upcoming Asian Games also under the cloud. The 35-year-old, who returned to the Indian team after spending two months on the sidelines due to a hamstring injury, had been at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence undergoing rehab and was cleared to play the Afghanistan series. The Indian Express understands that Varun has been told to report to the CoE immediately for further tests after he complained of a side strain at the conclusion of Sunday's first T20I in Delhi on Sunday. With the Indian team set to leave for the Asian Games in Japan on September 18, his availability remains unclear at this stage, with a decision expected only after the medical team takes further tests. It is understood that the Indian team management has also taken aback by Varun's latest injury as prior to the series, he had cleared the fitness test at the CoE.

CoE under spotlight Varun's injury puts the focus back again on the CoE. This isn't the first instance of a player returning after rehab and again getting injured. During the UK tour, pacer Harshit Rana suffered a hamstring injury and was sent back to India, where he has been undergoing rehab. And during the rehab process, he suffered a rectus femoris strain during the match simulation for his inclusion in the team for the T20Is against Afghanistan and the Asian Games. Yash Thakur was named his replacement after he was ruled out.

with the black pieces to advance to the final on a better game-point score. That target was achieved after Ian Nepomniachtchi drew against Viswanathan Anand on the Russian board and Stavroula Tsolakidou defeated Nino Batsiashvili to put the Grandmasters ahead. But Player of the Match Abhimanyu Mishra got the better of Luke Leonard Mendonca in 32 moves on the prodigy board, while Grandmasters' Leinier Dominguez Perez lost on time in a time scramble after knocking off a few pieces while trying to play quickly. Earlier, Alpine APL Pipers looked on courses in the opening minutes of the match before Aravindh Chithambaram began tightening the noose around Vidit Gujrathi's white king. Despite a time scramble in the endgame, Aravindh managed to convert the position and won the match in 36 moves. But it was Alireza Firouzja, who ultimately put the brakes on the Pipers' march as the Frenchman forced world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen to resign after 49 moves. This was Carlsen's first loss in the competition and Firouzja's first win, keeping alive his team's hopes of at least making it to the third-place playoff. Volodar Murzin's win over Pranav V on the prodigy board meant that the Pipers at least scored six points and kept their chances of making it to the final alive. "It was a good game and after a sharp opening I found some good moves and when we went through time trouble, I managed to put pressure and win the game. As a team, we played very well today and made it difficult for them to win (the title for the second time)," said Firouzja. FYERS American Knights can pip the Pipers for the final spot if they beat CheQ Mumba Masters in the final league game and score at least nine game points.



trained and guided her from a young age, helping her develop into a player capable of competing at the international level. "The WGM title marks another significant milestone in Sahithi Varshini's chess journey and a new beginning towards greater heights," the proud father said. "As a WGM, Sahithi will continue her international chess journey with the ambition of achieving the prestigious Grandmaster (GM) title and reaching even greater heights in the world of chess," he said.

Earlier this year, he injured his toe during the IPL and underwent a rehab programme at the CoE before joining the T20I squad for the tour of the UK. However, like Rana, he also picked up a hamstring injury and spent two months on the sidelines recovering and working on his fitness. Before his comeback to the Indian team, Varun also played a game for Dindigul Dragons in the Tamil Nadu Premier League. He was eventually cleared to play the Afghanistan series, but during the outing at Kotla, where India won by 7 seven wickets, he is understood to have picked up a side strain. Having struggled off-late with the ball since the T20 World Cup, Varun appeared to have found his form back in the first T20I against Afghanistan, where in the four overs he conceded only 16 runs and picked up one wicket. Speaking of his comeback after the game, Varun said, "Look, injuries are very common for all sportspeople and it just shows that we are working, we are giving our best. Sometimes we push beyond our limits and that is when the body gives in. So, that is when we have to take a step back and work better and come back stronger." Varun, will now head back to the CoE, with a slim chance of making it to the Asian Games. Defending champions India play their first match on September 28 and the chances of Varun recovering in time for the event looks far-fetched as things stand. If Varun is ruled out, India may bring Kuldeep Yadav, who is currently playing county cricket for Yorkshire, back into the fold as they already have Axar Patel and Washington Sundar as their spinners.

Chess Olympiad 2026 countdown marked with ceremonial torch handover

Hyderabad: The official countdown for the Chess Olympiad 2026 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, was marked with the handing over of the ceremonial torch bearing the Olympiad flame by FIDE Interim President

‘I literally have to snatch phones’: Kareena Kapoor on device rule for Taimur and Jeh



Actor couple Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan have often spoken about the different roles they play as parents to their sons, Taimur (9) and Jeh (5). While Kareena tends to be the stricter parent, Saif is more relaxed and playful with the children. At the 16th edition of Expresso, the Jab We Met actor spoke about how she gets “hyper” when it comes to her children’s screen time. When asked about Taimur and Jeh’s usage of de-

vices such as laptops and mobile phones, Kareena said, “They do not have access to phones. Taimur’s nanny has a phone which he insists is his phone. I said, ‘It’s not your phone.’ He asked if he can tell his friends that it’s his phone, but I denied. I am hyper about the whole digital thing, but then he then points out that ‘you and abba also talk on the phone.’ When they are playing games all day, I literally have to snatch phones from their hands.”

While Kareena Kapoor tends to panic when her sons max out their screen-time limits, her husband Saif Ali Khan is usually the calmer parent, often asking her to relax. “Saif feels that I am too hyper and I need to relax, but I tell him that I need to be hyper about this. So, this is the only thing that we probably argue about. I just want to keep them still as small as possible... forever,” she said. Kareena also spoke about the negative impact of technology and AI, revealing that she feels “paranoid” about how they could affect her sons. “I want to move with time, but not at a dangerous level. If it is going to be that, then we have to find a way around it. Right now, my children are really small and I am paranoid about it. I am a mother, they are 9 and 5, and certain things about AI disturb me. We need to find a way – ban certain things and use it for certain things.” Kareena Kapoor was joined by her Daayra co-star Prithviraj Sukumaran and the film’s director, Meghna Gulzar, for the Expresso session at Taj Lands End, Mumbai. The conversation was moderated by Priyanka Sinha Jha, Chief Operating Officer, Screen Academy.

Pankaj Tripathi film earns 7x Haiwaan; beats Bhooth Bangla

Mirzapur Movie Box office Collection day 11: After a strong opening week marked by phenomenal collections, director Gurmmeet Singh’s Pankaj Tripathi-led Mirzapur: The Movie has slowed down at the box office. However, it’s still faring much better than Priyadarshan’s Haiwaan and earned more than seven times what the Saif Ali Khan-Akshay Kumar starrer made on Monday.

Mirzapur total collection During the day, September 14, Mirzapur recorded an India nett collection of Rs 5.50 crore across 7,014 shows, bringing its total domestic earnings to Rs 190.20 crore, according to industry tracker Sacnilk. Although its Monday earnings marked a 58.5 per cent dip compared to Sunday (Rs 13.25 crore), the crime thriller is still holding strong and has thus far grossed Rs 273.64 crore globally. With this, the movie has surpassed Priyadarshan’s Akshay Kumar starrer Bhooth Bangla (Rs 270.91 crore) as the fourth-highest-grossing Hindi film of the year. It is currently trailing behind director Vishal Chaturvedi’s Hanuman Ansh (Rs 277.80 crore). On Monday, Mirzapur witnessed an overall occupancy of 26.82 per cent in the Hindi market. While morning shows opened at just 12.62 per cent occupancy, the rate fluctuated throughout the day, reaching 30.92 per cent in the afternoon, dipping slightly to 30.31 per cent in the evening, and nosediving to 27.85 per cent during night screenings.

Mirzapur vs Haiwaan vs Hanuman Ansh However, Mirzapur is performing much better than Haiwaan, which minted only Rs 70 lakh on the same day, despite marking



its fourth day in theatres. Nevertheless, Hanuman Ansh’s blockbuster run seems to have significantly hampered Mirzapur’s prospects. On the same day, marking its 39th day in cinema halls, the devotional drama earned Rs 8.25 crore, taking its total domestic earnings to Rs 222.88 crore. Also starring Ali Fazal, Divyendhu, Jitendra Kumar, Ravi Kishan, and Rasika Dugal in key roles, the Pankaj Tripathi-starrer is based on the widely acclaimed Amazon Prime Video series of the same name and takes the audience back to an unexplored narrative track set in 2018, the year the first season premiered. In her review of the film, SCREEN’s Shubhra Gupta wrote, “I quite enjoyed Mirzapur: The Movie because it knows how to stay in its lane, papering over its flabby bits with continual speedy spurts and an intriguing climax.”

Athletes accuse Sydney Sweeney’s ‘mostly naked’ ad of ‘sexualising women’ in sports



British sprinter Amy Hunt addressed the actor in a post-race interview with the BBC on Sunday, September 13, after finishing fourth in the 200 meters at the Ultimate Championship in Budapest, Hungary. “Sydney Sweeney, this is what women in sport look like,” she said, looking at the camera. “Muscles, hard work, sweat, blood, tears.”

An advertising campaign featuring American actor Sydney Sweeney has sparked widespread backlash from female athletes who say it is sexualising women in sports. In the ad for the sports prediction market platform Novig, Sweeney appears with little or no clothing, covering parts of her body with strategically placed footballs and other sports apparel. Many female athletes criticised the ad on social media and called it disrespectful to women.

‘Infringement’: Athletes react to Sydney Sweeney’s controversial ad “I can’t describe how infuriated I feel when I watch this,” four-time Olympic swimming gold medalist Ariarne Titmus wrote on Instagram. “How do we live in a world where monetising a woman’s body and sexualising women’s sport is still a thing?” Check Out | Hanuman Ansh collection day 39: Neem Karoli Baba film makes 7x Dhurandhar 2; earns Rs 280 cr British sprinter Amy Hunt addressed the actor in a post-race interview with the BBC on Sunday, September 13, after finishing fourth in the 200 meters at the Ultimate Championship in Budapest, Hungary. “Sydney Sweeney, this is what women in sport look

like,” she said, looking at the camera. “Muscles, hard work, sweat, blood, tears.” Former US gymnast Gracie Kramer called the ad infuriating. “I’ve spent my entire life competing in a sport where female athletes have been oversexualised, reduced to our bodies, and forced to fight to be taken seriously for what we can actually do,” she said on Instagram. Kramer posted stories featuring female athletes training with the caption: “What a woman in sports looks like.” Sofie Fella, a Chinese-German rugby player, said female athletes can be role models for girls and women because they manage to “untangle” from society’s ideals of beauty and femininity. “And that’s why that Sydney Sweeney ad is so disrespectful to every female athlete in the world,” she said in an Instagram post.

Among others who tore into Sweeney and Novig are British cyclist Sophie Capewell, Welsh Rugby Union player Lisa Neumann, English rugby union player Ellie Boatman and Australian water polo player Tilly Kearns. Reacting to the controversy, British public relations (PR) consultant Mark Borkowski, who has worked with heavyweights like Soviet and Russian politician Mikhail Gorbachev and Argentine football legend Diego Maradona, called the advert “cynical soft porn.” The Guardian reported. He noted, however, that the row would eventually benefit Novig, as everyone is now discussing its name. “Sex still sells. And the outrage, the culture war argument gets you one thing: enormous reach,” he said. Borkowski added, “Sweeney will make a lot of money over a short span of time. But often it is about how your brand sustains over the years, not in the first flourish. And this sort of promotion can come back to haunt people.”

Novig CEO responds to backlash However, Jacob Fortinsky, co-founder and CEO of Novig, threw his weight behind the advert and the actor, saying criticising the commercial’s purported adult content is unsound because the sports trading app is restricted to users aged 21 and older. “Sydney is great at captivating audiences and being the centre of attention. In some sense, it forces us into the national discourse,” he reportedly said. He added that the actor approached Novig, launched last month, about an equity partnership and helped to craft its message. ICYMI | Samir Soni got divorced the morning his debut film role was chopped: ‘Was harder for Neelam’ A publicist for Sweeney, however, didn’t immediately respond to news agency Associated Press’ (AP) request for comment.

Sydney Sweeney reacts to Novig ad controversy In an apparent reference to the criticism, Sweeney over the weekend posted a series of covers from ESPN The Magazine’s “Body Issue”, an annual special edition that showed athletes posing nude or semi-nude in a celebration of the diversity of bodies. Sweeney, a two-time Emmy nominee, starred in and produced last year’s Christy,

Neena Gupta recalls being fired after makers got Archana Puran Singh: ‘They lied to me’



Neena Gupta has been working in Hindi movies since the early 1980s, but despite winning a few notable awards, including the National Film Award, she never got the lime-light that she felt she deserved in those days. Since television was in its infancy at the time, Neena also dabbled in a few television shows, and landed in the hit 1990s sitcom, Shriman Shrimati, where one of the leading roles was played by Archana Puran Singh. In a recent interview, Neena opened up about replacing Archana on the show as the latter went on her maternity break, but the makers later unceremoniously fired Neena without informing her. In a chat with Zoom, Neena recalled the incident from the hit TV show that aired for almost four years. This was a weekly show which was led by Archana, Rakesh Bedi, Reema Lagoo and Jatin Kanakia. “There was a lot of injustice done to me on Shriman Shrimati,” Neena re-

called and added, “You don’t know what happened to me! My god!”

Archana was playing the role of Prema Shalini, a famous film actress, and during her pregnancy, she went on a maternity break. During this time, the makers hired Neena as a new character named Sapna, who was treated as a replacement for Archana’s character. Neena was brought in under the impression that Archana won’t return to the show, and that Neena would continue as one of the leads. “Archana was doing the role. She got pregnant and they hired me. I asked them if Archana was coming back after her maternity break. They said, ‘No, she won’t be coming back’,” Neena recalled and said that she agreed to be a part of the show. The show was a massive hit and Neena knew that it was very difficult to replace someone who was successfully playing a particular role. Despite the challenge, she agreed. “When a show is a hit... And Archana is such a good actor... It’s very difficult to replace such an actor. People don’t accept you so easily. I took the challenge.” Neena was a part of 22 episodes of the show, and one day, she learnt that the makers had replaced her. When she was hanging out with a friend in Delhi, they got a call from Rakesh, who was her co-star on the show. Rakesh informed them that they were going to shoot the next day, and Neena was shocked to learn that no one from the production had informed her about it. “My friend asked if my role was even there anymore. Without telling me, they got Archana back. Such things also happen,” she recalled

“The producer and director were at fault here. They must have known that Archana would come back, but they told me otherwise because they must have thought that I wouldn’t take it up if I knew that Archana would come back. They lied to me. This is the first time that I am talking about it,” she said. Archana rejoined the show after her maternity break and continued to be a part of Shriman Shrimati until the show’s end in 1997. The show aired on Doordarshan and was produced by Adhikari Brothers. In 2005, the show was rebooted on SAB under the title Aaj Ke Shrimaan Shrimati. In 2018, there was another reboot titled, Shrimaan Shrimati Phir Se. Both the reboots had different cast. And TV’s Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain was also said to be inspired by Shriman Shrimati.

Tom Holland, Zendaya to have official wedding ceremony after Dune 3, claims stylist Law Roach

Tom Holland and Zendaya attended their first Emmy Awards together on Monday night in Los Angeles. Holland accompanied Zendaya as she was nominated for her lead role of Rue Bennett for the third and final season of HBO’s psychological drama show Euphoria. At the event, Zendaya’s long-time stylist Law Roach retracted his previous statement about the couple’s wedding, and said that the official ceremony will take place later this year.

Tom Holland, Zendaya not married yet?

At the red carpet of the Emmy Awards 2026, Law Roach retracted his statement from March and said that he had “lied” and that back then, Zendaya “wasn’t married.” “I actually lied. She wasn’t married. They actually haven’t had an official ceremony yet,” said Roach, as per Variety. He did not specify when the couple got legally married. Roach then spilled the beans on when the nuptials may finally happen. “It’s gonna happen after the Dune press tour,” claimed the stylist, adding, “She’s been his wife for a really long time now, but it’s not official yet.” Law Roach previously confirmed their wedding at the 2026 Actor Awards in March, Law Roach claimed on the red carpet that Tom Holland and Zendaya were already married. He said, “The wedding has already happened,” teasing further. “You missed it.”

Tom Holland and Zendaya’s relationship Tom and Zendaya began dating almost a decade ago on the sets of Jon Watts’ 2017 superhero movie Spider-Man: Homecoming, in which they played the lead couple of Peter Parker and MJ respectively. Since then, they’ve shared screen space in the sequels — Spider-Man: Far From



Home (2019), Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021), and most recently, Spider-Man: Brand New Day earlier this year. This year has been special because the couple were also seen touring across the globe together for Christopher Nolan’s blockbuster action adventure fantasy film The Odyssey. However, they don’t have any scenes together in the film. Zendaya has had a busier year though — also having starred in the final season of Euphoria and Kristoffer Borgli’s romantic dark comedy The Drama opposite Robert Pattinson. Zendaya will wrap up 2026 with reprising the role of Chani in Denis Villeneuve’s sci-fi action film Dune: Part Three opposite Timothee Chalamet, which is slated to release in cinemas on December 18. If Roach’s claims turn out to be true this time, Zendaya and Tom Holland may finally end up having their wedding ceremony after that, either around Christmas by the end of the year or early next year.

Neem Karoli Baba film makes 7x Dhurandhar 2; earns Rs 280 cr

Hanuman Ansh Box Office Collection Day 39: Director Vishal Chaturvedi’s Hanuman Ansh, based on the life of Neem Karoli Baba, is making up for its lacklustre opening weeks, when it earned as little as Rs 5 lakh on some days. Now, despite inching closer to completing 50 days in theatres, a feat not many Indian movies achieve these days, the devotional drama is holding strong at the box office, minting over Rs 8 crore even on weekdays.

Hanuman Ansh total collection On its sixth Monday in theatres, Hanuman Ansh earned more than seven times what director Aditya Dhar’s Ranveer Singh-starrer Dhurandhar: The Revenge made on the corresponding day. On Monday, the devotional drama recorded an India nett collection of Rs 8.25 crore across 5,198 shows, taking its total domestic earnings to Rs 222.88 crore, according to industry tracker Sacnilk. Its worldwide gross now stands at Rs 279.80 crore.

Must Read | Bethlehem Kudumba Unit box office: Nivin Pauly film earns Rs 304.9 cr; dethrones Lokah On the corresponding day, Dhurandhar 2 minted Rs 1.05 crore across 2,808 shows as it moved into the final leg of its theatrical run. Meanwhile, its prequel, Dhurandhar (2025), earned Rs 2.35 crore across 5,318 shows on its sixth Monday in cinema halls. While Dhurandhar minted Rs 840.20 crore domestically and Rs 1,307.35 crore globally overall, its sequel completed its theatrical run with an India nett collection of Rs 1,149.30 crore and a worldwide collection of Rs 1,813.39 crore.

During the day, Hanuman Ansh witnessed an overall occupancy of 26.04 per cent in the Hindi market. While the morning shows opened at 16.85 per cent occupancy, the rate improved as the day unfolded, reaching 27.54 per cent in the afternoon and 30.54 per cent in the evening, before dipping to 29.23 per cent during night screenings.

On Monday, Hanuman Ansh also collected about 11



times what director Priyadarshan’s Haiwaan, starring Saif Ali Khan and Akshay Kumar in the lead roles, made on the same day. Despite it being only its fourth day in theatres, the crime thriller earned just Rs 70 lakh across 3,265 shows, poised to become a box-office bomb. The devotional drama also fared better than Gurmmeet Singh’s Mirzapur: The Movie, which earned Rs 5.50 crore across 7,014 shows. Following its release on Friday, August 7, Hanuman Ansh’s India nett collection hovered under the Rs 50 lakh mark for 15 days, before its earnings saw a massive jump, even exceeding Rs 22 crore on certain days. ICYMI | Samir Soni got divorced the morning his debut film role was chopped: ‘Was harder for Neelam’

About Hanuman Ansh Starring Shobhinaw Satyaa, Vihaan Shedge, Chandan K Anand, Purnima Tiwari, Anil Rastogi, and Gulshan Pandey in key roles, Hanuman Ansh is written by director Vishal Chaturvedi himself. It features cinematography by Vishal Bawa and editing by Shankh Rajyadyaksha. Sadhu Tiwar