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Telangana Govt Forms Panel to Resolve Section 22A Land Issues

Hyderabad, Sept 18

The state government on Friday constituted a high-level committee to fast-track resolution of Section 22A land disputes and provide relief to affected property owners. Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announced the decision in the Legislative Assembly, saying it followed Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's assurance in the House on Wednesday to address the long-pending issues.

The committee, constituted through GO Rt. No. 564, will be headed by Chief Commissioner of Land Administration D.S. Lokesh Kumar, with law secretary Papi Reddy and inspector-general of stamps and registration Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanthu as members. The government will invite applications from affected owners and take decisions on them on a fast-track basis.

Srinivas Reddy said orders had also been issued to begin regularisation of over 9,700 plots in colonies in the LB Nagar Assembly constituency under GO 118. The process will begin from Saturday and applications will be disposed of within a month, subject to court orders wherever applicable. He urged owners who had purchased plots and constructed houses in these colonies to approach the local authorities for regularisation.

The government was also examining cases involving layouts and colonies approved by HMDA, GHMC or DTCP but facing registration hurdles because of their inclusion in the prohibited list. A decision on removing such properties from the list would be taken within a couple of days, the minister said, adding that necessary legal measures would be taken to facilitate registrations.



On the Singareni coal belt, Srinivas Reddy said steps would be initiated to regularise house sites in accordance with GO 76 issued during the tenure of then Chief Minister the late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka would hold a meeting with MLAs from the region on Saturday to discuss the issue and work out a solution.

Srinivas Reddy said decisions on 12 land issues identified by the Chief Minister would be taken within a month to provide relief to applicants, adding that the government was committed to resolving the long-pending disputes through a time-bound process.

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Hyderabad, Sept 18

Telangana High Court (HC) on Friday disqualified Danam Nagender as an MLA, setting aside Assembly Speaker's decision dismissing disqualification petitions against him.

The court declared that Danam Nagender stood disqualified as a member of the Telangana Legislative Assembly with effect from April 23, 2024, under Paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution, which deals with disqualification on the ground of voluntarily giving up membership of a political party.



India Rejects Pakistan's Allegations Over Navy Ships' Collision

New Delhi, Sept 18 India on Friday strongly rejected Islamabad's allegations relating to a collision between a Pakistani vessel and an Indian Navy warship in the Arabian Sea. New Delhi on Wednesday summoned the Pakistani Charge d'Affaires (CDA) and lodged a strong protest over the "unacceptable conduct" by the Pakistan Navy vessel that led to the collision.

pected. We reject the allegations and insinuations contained therein," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his regular media briefing.

The Indian ship INS Kolkata was on a routine deployment in the western Arabian sea when Pakistani naval ship Hunain conducted itself in an "unacceptable and unprofessional manner" at sea that resulted in the collision, he said.

"The dangerous overtaking manoeuvre by PNS Hunain was in gross violation of Article 10 of the Agreement between India and Pakistan on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troops Movements of April 1991, which specifies that naval units at sea are not to be within three nautical miles of each other. In addition, the Pakistani ship also infringed the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea," Jaiswal said.

The Pakistan side has once again been "advised" about the need for all military units to observe due care and respect the provisions of the relevant agreements between the two sides in order to prevent any repeat of such incidents, he said.

Jaiswal said the incident did not cause any major damage to INS Kolkata and she remains at sea.



The incident happened on Tuesday night after the Pakistani vessel closed in on the frontline Indian Navy warship that was on a routine surveillance mission in the north Arabian Sea, according to the Indian side.

The Pakistani foreign ministry had alleged that the incident happened following a "highly provocative and unacceptable action" by the Indian vessel in the Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

"We have seen Pakistan's response to the protest we had lodged. It is the usual prevarication that we ex-

Four Of Family Killed In Shamshabad Road Accident

Hyderabad, Sept 18

Four members of a family died in a road accident near Shamshabad in the early hours of Saturday.

According to reports, the accident occurred when the Innova car in which they were travelling hit a culvert near Palamakula in Shamshabad. The car overturned and was completely mangled in the impact. Four people died on the spot.

The deceased were identified as Ketavath Lambya, Jamuna, Kathrovath Mansingh and Kethavath Vasram. The car driver, Ashok, sustained

serious injuries and is said to be in critical condition. He was shifted to a private hospital for treatment.

Police reached the spot soon after receiving information about the accident. According to the police, the victims were returning to their hometown, Mettuguda Thanda in Nawabpet mandal of Mahabubnagar district, after attending Ganesh immersion.

The bodies of the deceased were shifted to the Osmania Hospital for post-mortem.

Further details are awaited.

Tirupati Laddu Prasadam Made From Palm Oil, Chemicals, Says ED; Arrests Ghee Company Owner

New Delhi, Sept 18 The ghee used to prepare the 'Tirupati Laddu' prasadam during 2019-2024 was allegedly manufactured using refined palm oil, palmolein and various chemicals, the Enforcement Directorate said on Friday, after arresting a ghee manufacturing company promoter on money laundering charges a day earlier.

The agency said the ED Hyderabad office had taken Kailash Chand Mangla of Sukriti Foods into custody on Thursday in connection with the ghee adulteration case. He was produced before a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Special Court in Visakhapatnam, which sent him to judicial custody, said reported from the ED statement.

The agency found that the adulterated ghee used to prepare the laddu prasadam was allegedly manufactured using refined palm oil, palm kernel oil, palmolein and chemicals identified as MG-90, Myvacet Soft 400, monoglycerides, and acetic acid ester. This was subsequently supplied as 'Agmark special grade cow ghee' for supply to the TTD during the period from 2019 to 2024.

The alleged fraudulent ghee supplies were valued at Rs 230 crore, and out of this Rs 96 crore of adulterated ghee was manufactured by Mangla, it claimed. The agency said Mangla was one of the co-conspirators in the case, facilitated the procurement of adulterants and manufactured adulterated ghee at his factory premises.

Mamata Backs Cong in Nandigram Bypoll as Candidate Withdraws

Kolkata: Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday announced that her party will support the Congress in the Nandigram assembly bypoll, hours after her camp's candidate withdrew from the contest following a meeting with CM Suwendu Adhikari.

Banerjee also hit out at the Election Commission over its decision to freeze the TMC's name and symbol, and said the move was "arbitrary".

She accused the BJP of trying to "destroy opposition parties" in the country.

Describing the development as a "black day for democracy", Banerjee questioned the EC's decision to freeze the party's traditional 'Jora Ghash Phul' (twin flowers and grass) symbol, which she said had been associated with the organisation for 28 years.

"How can they (EC) freeze my symbol, which has been with us since the beginning for the last 28 years?" she said.

The EC on Friday allotted the Banerjee-led faction the name 'Mamata All India Trinamool Congress' and the 'Football Player' symbol for the October 6 bypolls, while the rival Arup Roy-led group was given the name 'Democratic Trinamool Congress' and the 'Envelope' symbol.

The poll panel's interim decision came amid a bitter dispute between rival factions over the TMC's name and electoral symbol.

Banerjee alleged that the BJP was seeking to weaken opposition parties across the country.

"The BJP has looted the elections not in Bengal but also in other states and is now trying to destroy opposition parties," she alleged.

Referring to the political developments in Maharashtra, she said, "First they broke the party of Uddhav Thackeray and then the NCP. Now, they are after us."



Banerjee also alleged that Adhikari had earlier said he would not allow the TMC's name and symbol to survive.

"We are not going to bow our heads and neither will we surrender. We will fight and bounce back," Banerjee said. The developments took a dramatic turn in Nandigram when Sanchita Pradhan Dey, fielded by the Banerjee camp, withdrew her nomination after meeting Adhikari at Nabanna.

Banerjee subsequently said her party had decided to support the Congress candidate in Nandigram "to strengthen the INDIA bloc", while a decision on Rejinagar would be taken later.

Incidentally, the Congress's Bengal unit on Tuesday claimed that the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC had approached its central leadership earlier this month with an offer to leave the politically significant Nandigram seat to the grand old party for the October 6 bypoll, a claim rejected by the TMC.



Karnataka Cabinet Recognise Tulu As State's Second Official Language

Mangaluru: Fulfilling the long-pending demand of the people of the coastal region, the Karnataka Cabinet on Friday decided to accord Tulu the status of the state's

second additional official language in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. The decision was taken at the first-ever Cabinet meeting held in Mangaluru, chaired by Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

Karnataka Apartment Bill 2026: 75% rule, common areas, compensation explained



Piloting the Bill, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said existing legislation did not clarify common area ownership in apartment complexes. “There are already disputes about that. Tomorrow, when the building has to be demolished and rebuilt, there is also no clarity about ownership of common areas,” he added.The Real Estate Regulatory Authority has also failed to tackle several issues, the minister said, noting that apartment complexes have registered under different laws. “As a result, some apartment complexes have two to three groups claiming to be official representatives. So, the law is being introduced to provide relief for apartment owners. Under this law, all Resident Welfare

Organisations must be formed as per the Bill,” he further said.

Other key issues addressed by the Bill include the management of common areas, how these areas should be transferred from the builder, how to resolve disputes, and appointing competent authorities to resolve those disputes.Additionally, the Bill introduces a provision that allows for the reconstruction of old apartments when their safety is compromised. If 75 per cent of the residents opt for reconstruction, there is a provision for that. “Those who do not agree will get compensation amounting to twice the value of the property,” he further said.Another Bill passed was the Karnataka Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 2026, which was a move to provide ‘A’ Khata to residents of unauthorised layouts in urban centres outside Bengaluru. Gowda, who piloted this Bill, said the law will ensure ‘bhoo guarantee (land guarantee)’ for all residents of the state.“Since they have not done layouts as per law, we will declare the road as a public road irrespective of the road width. Then we can provide documents for these people. Lakhs of layout residents will benefit,” he said.The Bills were passed without discussion as the Opposition BJP and JD(S) continued their protest inside the Assembly demanding the resignation of minister B Nagendra over alleged irregularities in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation.

Maharashtra man, son fall from cliff after fight over phone, mother follows

A family dispute over a mobile phone ended in tragedy in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on Friday, with a 19-year-old allegedly jumping to his death from a hill and both his parents falling to their deaths while trying to stop him, police said.The deceased were identified as 19-year-old Kunal Chandgude, father Murlidhar Chandgude, 48, and mother Sangita. The family lived in the Zalta Phata area of the city.

According to local media reports, Kunal went to Khawadya hill in Tisgaon around 10 am following an argument with his parents over his demand for a mobile phone. His parents reached the hill soon after and tried to persuade him to return home.Police, villagers and fire brigade personnel also arrived and spent nearly three hours trying to bring him down. Fire personnel attempted to place a safety net below the hill, but Kunal kept moving along the edge of the cliff, officials said.Around 1 pm, Murlidhar moved closer to his son in an attempt to calm him and pull him away from the edge. Kunal then jumped, and his father fell while attempting to save him, police



said.Sangita, who witnessed her husband and son fall, also jumped from the hill moments later, officials said.All three died in the incident. Their bodies were recovered by police and sent for postmortem examination.The incident took place in the Tisgaon area under Waluj MIDC police jurisdiction. Residents said the hill has witnessed suicide attempts in the past.

‘Insect-infested flour, lack of water testing’: FDA suspends Maharashtra eatery licence



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) crackdown on eateries in Maharashtra has extended beyond Mumbai and Pune, with officials at Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar stepping up inspection drives. In a major action, FDA officials suspended the licence of a prominent eatery, Chhappan Bhog Thali Restaurant and Banquet Hall, in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on Thursday.Shrikant Karkale, Joint Commissioner, FDA (Food), Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar division, told The Indian Express that a surprise raid was conducted at the Chhappan Bhog on Thursday.He said serious discrepancies were observed, such as insect-infested jowar and bajra flour being kept in a ready-to-use condition. “During our inspection, the workers said that they would use the flour by just keeping aside the insects,” Karkale added.He also pointed out that if food stock is kept for a long period, then there is a

risk of moisture absorption and mould growth, leading to increasing insect infestation.

The FDA team also found a lack of separate storage arrangements for food, packaging materials, chemicals and personal items. “The food stock in the refrigerator/ freezer was also not properly stored or labelled during inspection. There is a risk of cross-contamination, chemical contamination and use of items that have crossed the expiry date,” Karkale said.FDA officials also said there were no records at the restaurant of testing the water used for preparing food items.They added that considering these violations, the FSSAI licence of the eatery was suspended under the Safe Food Safe Maharashtra campaign.Meanwhile, when contacted, Shivaji Patil, President, Aurangabad District Hotels and Restaurant Owners Association, said, “We are asking hoteliers to follow rules and regulations, undertake third-party audit and ensure medical check of staff.”Flour Insect-infested flour was found during the FDA raid at the Chhappan Bhog restaurant in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. (Photo Credit: Special Arrangement)

State-level FDA officials said they were stepping up inspections of establishments and facilities to identify violations, check adherence to prescribed standards and take action wherever necessary.“These ongoing inspections indicate that regulatory scrutiny is being extended beyond Maharashtra’s major metropolitan centres to ensure that businesses operate in accordance with the rules and regulations,” an FDA official added.

Swine flu cases surge to 1,777 in Delhi: What doctors are seeing

Swine flu cases continue to climb in Delhi, with 1,777 confirmed cases logged till August 20, shows data from the Delhi Health Department. Several hospitals in the city have reported a surge in cases over the past two weeks, with doctors seeing patients across age groups.While most have responded well to treatment, some have developed pneumonia and, in severe cases, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), said a source at Apollo Hospital in Jasola. “But equally, a large number of patients have responded well to treatment and recovered without needing intensive care,” the hospital source said.

According to Dr Rakesh Gupta, internal medicine specialist at Apollo Hospital, swine flu has become rampant and is suspected in almost every patient walking into his OPD this season.“Everyone coming to my cabin is suspected to have swine flu,” he said. “Out of 20 patients I see every day, 15 test positive. It’s very common,” he told

Among those who walked into the OPD on the hospital’s second floor was a 32-year-old businessman from Gujarat on a work trip to Delhi. A heaviness had settled into his body over the past couple of days, and his cough and fever had worsened rapidly, leaving him unable to ignore it any longer.He spoke through a blue disposable mask: “I am going back to Surat tomorrow. I could have gone to a doctor there, but even getting up in the morning was becoming difficult for me.”He paused as a coughing fit took hold of him. “My wife also urged me to visit a doctor. I came here directly from my hotel.”Dr Gupta said people with co-morbidities are more compromised. Those with diabetes, heart disease, or weakened immu-

nity from other conditions face a higher risk of severe illness.At Max Hospital, Saket, Dr Rommel Tickoo, internal medicine specialist, told The Indian Express that there has been a surge.“We are seeing a lot of swine flu cases. The elderly people and those with co-morbidities have complications and develop pneumonia, bronchitis. But few have needed ICU admission.”How is it diagnosed and treated

Diagnosis, Dr Gupta explained, relies on a nasal or throat swab tested through RT-PCR — considered the gold standard for confirming influenza — though rapid antigen tests are also used for quicker, if less definitive, results.Treatment options remain limited to a single antiviral, Oseltamivir, which works best when started early in the course of the illness.Doctors advise vaccinationOn prevention, he pointed to the seasonal influenza vaccine, a quadrivalent shot that protects against four circulating flu strains and is recommended annually since the virus mutates and immunity wanes over time.“People can get an annual shot of the vaccine — it’s advisable especially for the elderly, pregnant women, and those with chronic illnesses,” he said. “The immunity kicks in two to three weeks after the shot. And even if you’ve had the infection from a different strain before, that exposure can offer the body some cross-protection.”Giving a note of reassurance, he said, “This is a season of viral infections, but there’s no need to panic.”Dr Tickoo’s advice is: don’t take antibiotics. “Within the first 48 hours, start with an antiviral. Just have paracetamol and see a doctor at the earliest, if you are developing symptoms.”“Take a flu vaccine shot once a year,” he added. “The best time to take it is October.”

‘Asking from 2014’: Mamata didn’t give land for border fencing, says Amit Shah



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is on a three-day visit to West Bengal, lashed out at former chief minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee for allegedly delaying land allotment needed for border fencing.“I had been asking for 1,129 acres of land from 2014. I was tired of holding hands and feet. But she did not give the land,” Shah said at a function organised by the Sahastra Seema Bal (SSB) in Siliguri.Shah then praised Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, saying, “Now, the state government’s permission comes with just a phone call. The letter is sent later.”

He further alleged that Banerjee did not attend any SSB function in the last 15 years. The SSB sent invitations, but she never responded, he claimed. Shah said

that Banerjee had never attended a function of central paramilitary forces such as the SSB or the Border Security Force. He emphasised that these agencies are not aligned with any political party or ideology and are neutral in safeguarding the nation.Shah laid the foundation stones of several key border-security projects and later joined SSB jawans for lunch.

Highlighting the strategic importance of the Siliguri Corridor, Shah said 560 acres of land were required to secure the Chicken’s Neck—the corridor in Bengal that connects the northeastern states with the rest of India—and Adhikari had granted approval. He added that a triangular security grid would be established for the area. The entire corridor is being monitored from three bases—Chopra, Kishanganj and Dhupguri—Shah said.Shah also spoke about how the national song ‘Vande Mataram’ was now given its due importance. “Vande Mataram was not sung in the whole even after Independence. In the new rules, the national song has been given due status. This step was historic. As a result, the future generation will get to know Bankimchandra Chatterjee’s nationalist vision in a better way,” he added.Adhikari, who addressed the event after Shah, highlighted the importance of SSB. Comparing Shah with Chanakya, he said, “He is Chanakya. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah ji has secured the border.” He added that he hoped West Bengal would contribute the most to a developed India in 2047.

Congress begins alliance talks with AAP, RGP ahead of 2027 Goa Assembly elections

Panaji: The Congress has opened formal alliance talks with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) to build a united front ahead of the 2027 Goa Assembly elections. Talking to reporters, state Congress president Girish Chodankar confirmed positive preliminary discussions with AAP and RGP leaders, but noted that detailed seat-sharing negotiations will begin once the Goa Forward Party lifts its temporary suspension on alliance talks.

As the principal Opposition party, the Congress has taken the initiative to bring like-minded parties together to fight the upcoming assembly polls as a united front, he said.Chodankar said that Goa AAP chief Valmiki Naik and RGP president Viresh Borkar have shown positive signs of allying with the Congress.The formal talks of alliance will begin shortly, during which other details, including seat-sharing, could be discussed, he said.

He asserted that the Congress is also willing to go ahead with a tie-up with the Goa Forward Party, which has temporarily suspended talks.“We are waiting for the GFP to lift the suspension of talks, so that we can begin the discussion,” Chodankar said.Earlier this month, the



GFP, which had allied with the Congress during the 2022 state polls, stalled the negotiations, claiming they want to concentrate on all 40 constituencies in the coastal state.In the 2022 Goa assembly polls, the BJP won 20 of the 40 seats, while the Congress bagged 11. GFP had won one seat back then.

Rashtrapati Bhavan withdraws communique on Change of Guard ceremony cancellation amid Tarique Rahman visit row



New Delhi: A Rashtrapati Bhavan communique on Friday announcing the cancellation of Saturday’s Change of Guard ceremony to accommodate the full rehearsal of Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s ceremonial welcome was withdrawn, adding a fresh layer of confusion to the status of the high-profile visit.

The withdrawal highlighted the ongoing diplomatic friction between New Delhi and Dhaka ahead of the upcoming BRICS summit on September 12-13. Relations have been strained over Bangladesh’s recent demand for the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina.A fresh communique from the Rashtrapati Bhavan said “press release issued on the subject ‘No Change of

Guard Ceremony this Saturday’, which was issued on August 21, 2026, stands withdrawn.”This communique came an hour after the President’s house had announced that it was cancelling the weekly ceremony for the full rehearsal of the welcome planned for the visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister.“The Change of Guard Ceremony at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan will not take place this Saturday (August 22, 2026) due to the full rehearsal for the ceremonial welcome of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh,” the withdrawn communique read.The development led to further diplomatic uncertainty surrounding Rahman’s proposed visit to New Delhi for the upcoming BRICS summit following recent tensions between the two neighbours over Dhaka’s demand for Hasina’s extradition.On Tuesday, Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi sought to ease bilateral friction during a reception in Dhaka for Bangladeshi business leaders and a visiting Indian delegation during which he said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi desired to make Rahman’s trip “memorable”.However, signals emerging from the diplomatic corridors of Dhaka remained cautious and during an interview with the state-run BSS news agency published on Thursday, Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir stated that the likelihood of Rahman’s summit visit “remained slim” unless an atmosphere built on “mutual trust” and a “dignified invitation” from New Delhi were available.

IndiGo faces another technical disruption, passengers report booking issues



EMS News Agency, Sept 17New Delhi: IndiGo’s website faced another technical disruption on Friday, leaving several passengers unable to book flights, complete web check-ins or access certain online services. Some users also reported difficulties logging into the airline’s mobile application.The airline acknowledged the issue through a service advisory, stating that it was experiencing intermittent problems with its core reservation platform. IndiGo said the disruption could make it difficult for some customers to access its online services.

“We are currently experiencing intermittent issues

with our core reservation platform, which may make it difficult for some customers to access our online services,” the low-cost airline said.“Our teams are working on priority, along with our partner, to resolve the issue as quickly as possible,” it added.During the disruption, IndiGo’s website displayed a “no data available” message when users attempted to access flight booking services. Several passengers also raised complaints through the airline’s official X account, citing failed bookings, problems with web check-ins and delays or failures in receiving payment confirmations.South Asians & Diaspora

The airline has not yet disclosed the specific cause of the latest disruption or identified the technology partner involved in addressing the reservation platform issue.The incident comes just two days after IndiGo reported a similar problem with its core reservation system. On Wednesday, the airline said it was facing “intermittent issues” with the platform that could affect customers’ access to online services.

The recurrence of the technical problem within the same week has raised concerns among passengers who rely on IndiGo’s digital platforms for booking, check-in and payment-related services.IndiGo is India’s largest airline by domestic market share and accounted for around 67 per cent of the country’s domestic aviation market in July.

Regulation of educational institutes: SC issues notice to school education secretary



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought a response from the school education secretary in the Ministry of Education on a petition alleging non-compliance with its order to consider a plea seeking directions to regulate all institutions imparting education or religious instruction to children aged below 14.A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu issued notice to T K Anil Kumar, Secretary (Department of School Education and Literacy), Ministry of Education, and sought his reply in four weeks.The top court was hearing a contempt plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who alleged that the secretary did not take any action on his representation.On May 11, the top court had directed Upadhyay to make a representation before the Union of India with his plea.

The plea, filed through advocate Ashwani Dubey,

had sought directions to “take appropriate steps to register, recognise, supervise and monitor all institutions imparting secular education or religious instructions to children up to the age of 14 years in the spirit of Article 21A read with Article 39(f), 45 and 51-A(k)”.The petition stated that Article 30 does not grant any special or additional rights to minorities beyond what is already guaranteed under Article 19(1)(g) (right to practise any profession, occupation, trade, or business).“Direct and declare that Article 30 is a specific reiteration of Article 19(1)(g) and doesn’t confer any additional rights, benefits or privileges than the rights guaranteed to the citizens under Article 19(1)(g),” the plea said.“Petitioner is filing the Public Interest Litigation under Article 32 for registration, recognition, supervision, and monitoring of all institutions imparting secular or religious education to children up to 14 years in the spirit of Article 21A, 39(f), 45 and 51-A(k).“Petitioner submits that children are the backbone of the nation’s growth and are also gullible and naive due to their tender age. Hence, the State has heightened responsibility towards them. This is an issue of national security as young kids (who) form the future of the nation, can be brainwashed or manipulated in the unregistered institution,” it said.Upadhyay, in his plea, has claimed that he visited several districts along the Uttar Pradesh border, where numerous unregistered and unrecognised institutions were allegedly found operating.He said unregistered and unrecognised institutions are proliferating across the border areas of the country without any effective oversight or regulatory mechanism.

HIV-positive Pune man who raped minor gets 20 years’ rigorous imprisonment

A Pune court on Thursday sentenced a 24-year-old HIV-positive man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a five-year-old girl in 2019. The police said the girl later contracted the virus.The incident occurred on November 25, 2019, when the girl, who stayed in a village in Pune district, went to a shop to buy snacks. The accused, who stayed in the same village, lured her with guavas and raped her. He was 19 years old at the time.

The special court observed that the offence was serious in nature, the victim was barely six years old, and the accused committed the offence despite knowing that he was HIV-positive.Investigations revealed that the accused had attempted to sexually assault the minor in 2018, but no complaint was filed against him then. The police also learnt that the accused was aware of his HIV-positive status and had been on medication for several days.The 2019 incidentAfter the minor’s grandmother lodged a First Information Report at the jurisdictional police station, the accused was initially booked under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) section related to sexual harassment and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act sections related to sexual assault and



sexual harassment.However, after a medical examination at a government hospital, on December 7, 2019, the police invoked rape charges under the IPC and penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sexual assault charges under the Pocso Act.The police submitted the chargesheet against the accused on February 3, 2020. During the trial, the prosecution examined nine witnesses.

Bengaluru police seize Rs 9 crore unaccounted cash from Kerala car



The Bengaluru police on Tuesday intercepted a Kerala-registered Creta car allegedly carrying unaccounted cash worth Rs 9 crore.The vehicle with two occupants was intercepted at a signal on Hosur Road, shortly after it crossed the BETL toll, at around 10.30 pm by the

night-beat staff of the Electronic City police station.Creta Car The Kerala-registered Creta car that was intercepted in Bengaluru.

The occupants and the vehicle were brought to the Electronic City police station and handed over to a team of Income Tax officials led by Jagadish, Deputy Director of Income Tax (Unit – 22, Bengaluru).According to M Narayana, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Electronic City Division, a detailed inspection of the vehicle led to the seizure of Rs 9 crore in cash, which had allegedly been concealed inside. “One of the detained persons has been identified as Sachin, 42, who is associated with a jewellery business based in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu,” he said.Following the seizure, Income Tax officials conducted searches at a few residences in Tamil Nadu and reportedly seized an additional Rs 1.3 crore in cash.“The Income Tax officials have taken over the case; further inquiry is being conducted by them,” a senior police officer said.

Suffer’: Bombay High Court showers ‘analog paneer’ fury on Udupi eatery

The Bombay High Court, which has often criticised the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for its enforcement action against state eateries, has now turned towards a Thane restaurant for using banned analog paneer.Remarking that the Udupi Swaad restaurant from Thane needs to “suffer” for some time, the Bombay High Court refused immediate relief to the restaurant against FDA action.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Ravindra V Ghuge and Justice Gautam A Ankhad was hearing a plea by Udupi Swaad Restaurant from Wagle Estate, Thane against the food safety body’s action on August 11.“You need to suffer first as you have made people suffer by eating this (analog paneer)...Poetic justice. We will take a different strict view,” Acting CJ Ghuge said.The suspension followed a June report that had declared its paneer sample unsafe and substandard.



The petitioner argued the action was taken without issuing a mandatory improvement notice under Section 32 of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, forcing its closure and causing revenue, livelihood, and reputation losses. However, Additional Government Pleader Vikrant Parshurami for the FDA justified the action as per the state-wide prohibition.“Have you advertised in your menu card and inform or indicate customers you are serving them analog paneer and not the actual paneer? You are making people eat something rotten by making them believe that it is paneer and you are saying improvement notice should be given to you? Why don’t you advertise

on your signboard that original food is not available with us? Acting CJ Ghuge orally questioned the petitioner.

“People do not read everything and know what they are eating. You must be adding very nice spices and masala so that it tastes better and they may say it has a wonderful taste. Then they realise they are eating something rotten as instead of paneer they ate analog paneer,” the judge added.After the petitioner assured that analog paneer would not be used again, Acting CJ Ghuge orally responded, “You must tell them what they are eating. How can you serve something that they (customers) have not asked for? You should be penalised and all those customers should go to the consumer forum and seek damages and costs.”

Brain-dead daily labourer's organs donated to needy patients in Telangana

Hyderabad: Relatives of a 30-year-old daily labourer, Siluveru Anil, a resident of Loyapally in Rangareddy district, who was declared brain dead, donated his organs to needy patients under State-run Jeevandan organ donation initiative.Anil was hit by a four-wheeler while travelling on his two-wheeler on September 6 and sustained serious injuries. He was shifted to a hospital in Hyderabad, and despite best efforts, his condition did not improve and he was declared brain dead on September 15.

‘Running from one court to another’: Why Delhi’s prosecutors are struggling



At 10.30 am on a Monday, a public prosecutor at Delhi’s Rouse Avenue Court was in a rush. Hastily adjusting his black blazer, he dashed into one courtroom, only to come out minutes later.He slumped into a chair in the corridor, buried his face in his hands, stretched his tired shoulders and let out an exhausted sigh. There was little time to rest. He reached for his diary and scanned the list of cases he had to handle that day.“Every day is so stressful. There are so many cases and it’s difficult to keep track,” he told .He is among 292 public prosecutors in Delhi’s courts, several of whom have seen their workload grow following the transfer of 138 judges through a Delhi High Court notification last month and the opening of new courts at Rouse Avenue Court.

Thirteen judges have been posted to Rouse Avenue Court to hear cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). Six are Special NIA Judges who will exclusively hear terror cases.As a result, one PP now handles five courts, up from three, while another has been assigned three instead of one. They must also prepare for cases under unfamiliar special laws.A total of 29 PPs have been impacted by the transfers.Data shows that Delhi’s trial courts have only about half the public prosecutors they need.As of August 2026, there were 32 sanctioned posts for public prosecutors, 210 for additional public prosecutors and 265 for assistant public prosecutors. Of these, only 16, 156 and 120 posts were filled, respectively, including 52 prosecutors working on a contractual basis.This leaves vacancies of 50%, 25% and 54%, respectively.Pending criminal cases in Delhi, meanwhile, increased from 13 lakh in mid-2025 to 15 lakh in mid-2026.About 20,000 criminal cases are listed every day in Delhi’s trial courts. Most Sessions Courts have

cause lists of about 20 to 25 cases a day, meaning prosecutors posted in multiple courts are dealing with up to 50 cases a day.Public prosecutors play a key role in the judicial machinery: They represent the state in serious criminal cases, argue the chargesheet, oppose bail, examine witnesses during trials and respond to applications filed by accused persons.

Explaining his workload, one public prosecutor said, “Judges request that I finish the arguments in their courts. I tell them my difficulty and explain that I have other matters in other courts. They’re shocked, but they agree to my request. Our day is just spent running from one courtroom to another.”The problem is particularly acute in Sessions Courts, where cases require detailed reading of files. When hearings in different courts clash, prosecutors said they cannot argue either matter effectively and cases are adjourned.“Handling one court is fine. There are dozens of cases but we know how to tackle them... But in the new courts that we’ve been assigned, we don’t know the details,” said another PP.A different public prosecutor said sometimes, they are left with little time to prepare for important cases. “We don’t even have time to read through case files sometimes. Once, I just had 20 minutes to understand a high-profile case. I had to argue for police custody,” he said.

“We can’t afford to skip any hearing as the judge will impose a cost on us. Lawyers for the accused persons start complaining if we’re late. On some days, I’m in 8 courts if other PPs are on leave. In neither of them, am I able to argue effectively. The accused persons are benefiting... while years of our hard work goes to waste,” said a PP at Rouse Avenue Court.“Cases are rising, but our numbers remain the same. How can we be expected to look at multiple courts with serious cases at once? If it goes on like this without vacancies being filled, the whole system will fall,” he added.Victims, witnesses affectedThe prosecutors said the shortage is also affecting hearings involving victims and witnesses.“At times, I’m called by three different judges at the same time. In some instances, I’ve had to leave a hearing midway... This impacts the victims and prolongs the hearings,” a PP told The Indian Express.Another prosecutor said preparing for cases in multiple courts is particularly difficult because of the volume and complexity.“Some PPs are dealing with 1,000 cases... It takes a long time to scrutinise the police file and anticipate the defence’s arguments. We also have to prepare for examining witnesses... Arguments are happening only for formality’s sake... victims are suffering,” he added.

Pune on my plate: A cafe that charges you for your time, not table



Tucked in the heart of Pune’s Bhosalenagar, Mauij is not your regular cafe. It is purely time-based, spacious, yet cozy, and the kind of place that makes you stop and stare the moment you walk in.The idea is refreshing. You don’t pay for holding a table; you pay for actually using the space, which takes away the pressure to keep ordering. For students, freelancers, and startups, it’s economical because unlimited coffee, snacks, and Wi-Fi come with the time. You can work, chill, or even bring your own food.“For someone who just wants a third space, paying for beverages can feel expensive compared to a regular cafe. But at Mauij, if you plan to stay longer, it actually saves money and gives you freedom,” says manager Yash Makkad.

“Vandita Kedia, our founder, has travelled extensively and experienced these kinds of spaces herself. She wanted to bring a similar concept to India. The idea was to bring the concept of a third space to India at a time when the concept wasn’t very common here. In a normal cafe, you might sit at a table for two hours and constantly feel that you should order something because you are occupying the space; here you already know that you are paying for your time. So, it is your time and your space. You can sit, work, talk, or simply relax,” he adds.The outdoor seating is full of lush green plants, while the interiors are a full cross-world mood board. No single theme, no boring uniform look. Think bohemian textures, mismatched furniture, pops of colour, and corners that all have a different personality. One corner says “let’s get to work,” another says “let’s just chill.”That is the point. Mauij was built as a third space – not home, not office, but that

perfect in-between for all age groups.At Mauij, you pay for time, not the table. No more awkward feeling of sitting too long without ordering. It runs on a subscription model. Beverages and snacks are on the house; refill as many times as you want. You pay hourly starting at Rs 215 for the first hour, or take a day pass for Rs 1,000 per person. Monthly passes start at Rs 10,000 and give you unlimited beverages, snacks, Wi-Fi, and access to the whole space. Food is charged separately. It is also one of the few BYO (Bring Your Own) cafes in Pune.

While Mauij’s primary focus is to enhance the experience of the space itself, the cafe offers a wide and thoughtful menu comprising bestsellers like their creamy avocado toast, signature coffees, and mushroom sandwiches. What makes it special is that the menu is seasonal and changes every three months, so there is always something new to try. The chefs also keep it personal, customising dishes to your taste and preference. It’s not just unlimited snacks with your time, but quality food made to feel like your own.Mauij Mauij was built as a third space – not home, not office, but that perfect in-between for all age groups. (Photo Credit: Special Arrangement)It is fully tech-driven and automated. Scan a QR, enter your details once, and next time just punch in your number to check in. The menu pops up on your phone. So, if you don’t want to interact with anyone, you don’t have to.Makkad says, “We want Mauij to be open to everyone. We also have a group of around 10 to 12 older people who meet here once every month. They usually come on the first or second Sunday.

They come in, sit together, talk, have their coffee and spend time here.”Ananya Chandvaskar, a regular at Mauij, says, “I work at Curious Collective here... We are part of a monthly subscription model. In a way, we rented the space upstairs, which works as our co-working space. Instead of working from a typical corporate office, we chose Mauij because it gives us both an office-like setup and many different spots for shooting. It works really well for us.”Another regular at Mauij, Riddhi Khandekar says, “If I feel like sitting in the workspace and focusing, I can do that and get into a proper work mode. If I want to relax while working, I can sit on one of the sofas. If I want a change of environment, I can simply move to another corner. That’s what makes Mauij different for me. It gives me the freedom to choose how I want to work.”

Maharashtra man suffered brain haemorrhage. Centre-allocated funds were available, yet he died

For 47-year-old Rajan Ganpat Sankpal, a haemorrhagic stroke and seizures quickly became a medical emergency. A CT scan showed extensive bleeding inside his brain, and doctors urgently sought 8,000 IU of anti-haemophilic Factor VIII. Sankpal, who lived with haemophilia A, died by the end of July.His case has brought into sharp focus concerns over access to life-saving clotting-factor medicines for nearly 5,500 haemophilia patients in Maharashtra. Despite the Centre’s allocation, patient groups say Factor VIII shortages at government hospitals have persisted.Haemophilia is a genetic bleeding disorder in which the blood does not clot properly, making timely access to clotting-factor medicines essential to prevent prolonged bleeding and serious complications.“This year Maharashtra received Rs 55 crore under the Centre’s National Health Mission (NHM), while another Rs 91 crore had been allocated by the state this year, taking the total to Rs 146 crore. Despite the funds being available, procurement remains stalled,” said Jigar Kishore Kotecha, West Regional Council Chairman and Advocacy Head of the Hemophilia Federation of India, Maharashtra.Earlier, the Hemophilia Society Maharashtra flagged shortages of Factor VIII at several civil hospitals.Dr



Sunil Lohade, vice-president of the Hemophilia Society of Maharashtra, said a six-year-old child had to travel nearly 400 km to Pune because Factor VIII was unavailable nearby. “The Hemophilia Society had to mobilise the medicine,” he said, citing another death case.“Patients have also been demanding extended half-life clotting factors for the past three years,” he said.The government, however, said the issue was not a lack of funds.Dr Suhas Mohnalkar, Director of the State Blood Transfusion Council, said districts could use funds through the District Planning and Development Committee and the costs are covered by the government if patients register under the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana.

EYE SECRETS Editorial

India’s diplomatic success at 18th BRICS Summit

The unanimous New Delhi Declaration at the 18th BRICS Summit marks a diplomatic success for India, given the 11-member grouping’s divergent interests and fractured internal politics. Bringing together widely conflicting strategic interests and crafting a carefully worded, mutually agreeable document is a commendable task in itself. The context was complicated: Iran-UAE tensions over the West Asia conflict, the Russia-Ukraine war, and, more importantly, the United States—the elephant in the room—created formidable obstacles to consensus building. India’s diplomacy was the decisive factor in holding the text together. It used its strong ties with all members and worked behind the scenes to overcome the biggest hurdle—convincing the UAE and Iran, which sit on opposite sides of the West Asia conflict, to sign on. The outcome serves as evidence that BRICS can still function as a forum even amid real fractures among its members. However, one should not lose sight of the inherent limitations of the bloc. A key limitation is that, though BRICS can keep difficult conversations alive and affirm broad principles, it struggles to assign responsibility or organise collective action when interests occasionally collide. The document does not attempt to solve the world’s most intractable conflicts overnight, nor does it establish an immediate replacement for Western financial supremacy. It is still a long way to go for it to become a unified geopolitical bloc capable of collective action on the conflicts it discusses.

The Delhi summit proved that BRICS can survive its geopolitical contradictions, but survival cannot be taken as a strategic transformation. After demonstrating its capability to hold together a highly heterogeneous grouping at a moment when consensus appeared particularly difficult, a much harder test for India is to use that consensus to produce concrete economic and diplomatic outcomes. The achievement of the latest summit was not that it resolved the world’s conflicts; it was that it prevented the world’s conflicts from destroying the bloc’s ability to talk to one another. That is no small achievement in the present geopolitical environment. But the next stage will determine whether BRICS becomes more than a forum for carefully negotiated communiqués. The real test will be whether it can convert multipolarity into institutional reform, AI cooperation into actual technological partnerships and Global South solidarity into development finance. The declaration was unambiguously strong on the issue of terrorism.

The 2025 Pahalgam attack, which killed 26 people, was condemned in the strongest terms, with leaders calling all terrorism “criminal and unjustifiable” regardless of motivation, and pledging zero tolerance. However, the document’s careful omissions were as revealing as its assertions. It avoided naming the US over the strikes on Iran and also did not condemn Iranian attacks on Gulf Arab states.

SC directs Haryana Police to produce murder accused after ‘victory procession’



New Delhi: Taking a stern view of a murder accused taking out a “victory procession” after being granted bail by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the Supreme Court has directed Haryana Police to produce him before the court.A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta also recorded in its order that despite a non-bailable warrant being issued against the accused, he had not been produced in custody.

The bench took note of the submission of counsel for the complainant that the accused, Vishal, had taken out a “victory procession” after being granted bail by the High Court and had threatened witnesses.On September 8, when the matter was taken up for hearing, the bench noted that the accused was represented through his counsel. The bench directed Vishal to surrender and then seek bail, pulling him up for taking out the “victory procession” after being granted bail.“We will hear you once you surrender and then seek bail. Taking out a victory procession on bail is not right,” it said.The bench noted that the non-bailable arrest warrant issued in August had not been executed and the accused had not been arrested by the police. It added that the warrant could not be executed for reasons that the court was not going into at present.“However, we direct the superintendent of police, district Charkhi Dadri, Haryana to ensure that a non-bailable warrant is executed and respondent no 2 is produced before this court on the next date, which is being fixed as September 21, 2026,” the top court ordered.It directed the registry to forward a copy of the order to the SP within 24 hours by email and other modes.The High Court granted bail to the accused in the murder case on April 23.

Bengal government orders closure of 252 madrassas, show-cause notices to 100 others



The West Bengal government has ordered the closure of 252 madrassas and issued show-cause notices to around 100 others following a state-wide survey that found several institutions lacking requisite approvals and basic infrastructure, officials said.Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Minister Kshudiram Tudu said madrassas with

the necessary approvals would continue to function. The department’s survey, conducted across all districts since early June, assessed the institutions’ infrastructure, approval status and management systems.Officials said the 100 madrassas served show-cause notices would face further action after their responses are examined.

Tudu said the exercise followed directions from Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari to determine how many madrassas operate across the state with authorisation and without.State Panchayati Raj Minister Dilip Ghosh said there had been repeated complaints about some madrassas and alleged that, in some cases, people arrested for their alleged involvement in extremist activities had been working as teachers at such institutions.Madrassas being run in accordance with the law and with government permission will continue to function. But the government will not allow madrassas to be opened indiscriminately and cause trouble,” Ghosh said.Opposition Trinamool Congress MLA Kunal Ghosh, however, said all madrassas should not be “painted with the same brush.”

Bengaluru woman, lover, mother kill ailing husband, fake heart attack death

An investigation into a Bengaluru man’s death, initially portrayed as resulting from a heart attack, revealed that he was murdered by his wife, her boyfriend, and her mother, the police said on Saturday.Mubarak Basha, 40, who died on the night of September 9, had been bedridden at his home in Yellappa Garden for nearly two years following a stroke, according to the police.While his family said he had suffered a heart attack, Basha’s brother grew suspicious upon noticing marks on his body and informed other relatives and the police. The police registered a case of unnatural death and sent the body for a postmortem.

The postmortem report showed that Basha had died due to suffocation and indicated injuries to his face, cheek, and private parts, prompting the police to register a murder case against his wife Shaheena Banu, her lover Naheem Uddin Qureshi, and her mother Haseena Janu. They were subsequently arrested.A police officer said Basha and Banu had been married for 19 years, but their relationship strained after he suffered a stroke and was partially paralysed a few years ago. The couple had a daughter.Shaheena reportedly grew resentful of the con-



stant caregiving and her daughter also suffered health problems, the officer said. At this point, Qureshi, a family friend, helped them. But as days passed, Qureshi and Banu developed a relationship, according to the police.Eventually, Banu and Qureshi allegedly decided to kill Basha and she shared the idea with her mother. The police said the three accused attempted to smother Basha in his sleep. When he fought back, they allegedly beat him on the face and private parts until he died.

Inside India’s first transwomen rescue squad, trained in Kolhapur



In the last week of August, a group of people gathered at Rajaram Lake, pulled on orange life jackets, checked their ropes, and spent 10 days practising rescue drills in the water. It looked like routine disaster-response training – until you learned who they were. This is India’s first transgender disaster management and rescue team, and for its members, the life jacket has come to mean something far bigger than safety gear.

The Kolhapur District Disaster Management Authority has trained over 2,500 volunteers in the last decade. In 2019, it created the state’s first all-women rescue unit, the ‘Aapda Sakhi’ team, which now counts more than 500 trained volunteers. But ahead of this year’s monsoon, officials decided to try something unique.“We thought, why not train a transwomen team,” said Prasad Sankpal, District Disaster Management Officer, Kolhapur. “So a first-of-its-kind transgender disaster management and rescue team initiative was begun in the country.”The first batch of 10 transwomen, all associated with the Kolhapur-based Maitri NGO, went through their inaugural training module from May 26 to 28. Since then, the district has trained 15 transwomen in total, with fresh rounds of practice held every three months – the most recent a 10-day exercise at Rajaram Lake in the last week of August.Transgender rescue volunteers aboard a motorboat during a training exercise. (Express) Transgender rescue volunteers aboard a motorboat during a training exercise. Recruits learned rescue swimming, how to operate an inflatable rescue boat, dry and wet lifesaving techniques, motorboat handling and maintenance, and First Aid and CPR.“So far the results are excellent,” Sankpal said. “The institutional strengthening is already visible – the volunteers now help victims of road accidents without any instructions.”“Even today, people see us as sex workers or beggars,” said Mayuri Alvekar, founder of Maitri NGO, who brought the other volunteers on board. “I believe that such opportunities of working with the administration would help promote inclusivity and give us space in mainstream society, while changing the perspective towards us. We have been helping people during disasters or rescue needs but faced discrimination. However, now we are getting recognition and, most importantly, an identity.”Members of Kolhapur’s transgender rescue team in life jackets before a training session. (Express) Members of Kolhapur’s transgender rescue team in life jackets before a training session.“To take the initiative further, I have also created a similar volunteer team in Dhule and Parbhani,” Alvekar added.Suhasini Devmane, another team member and Maharashtra’s first transgender tourist guide, spent eight years as an ayurvedic panchakarma expert while hiding who she was.“Despite a desire to contribute to society, many of us had previously been unable to participate in social initiatives due to a lack of opportunities,” she said. “For over eight years, I had to hide my identity – else I would have lost my job, and my financial situation didn’t allow for that risk then. I believe this training will not only change society’s perspective towards transgender people but also boost the self-confidence of

individuals within the community.”

Shivani Gajabar, who is currently pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at Shivaji University, Kolhapur, says the acceptance hasn’t fully arrived yet.Members of Kolhapur’s transgender rescue team in life jackets before a training session. (Express) Members of Kolhapur’s transgender rescue team in life jackets before a training session. (Express)“Even today, transgender community members feel alienated from mainstream society,” she said. “Though giving us a platform in the disaster management rescue team is a welcome step and would help bring inclusivity – and we all would give our best while saving lives – I feel there is a long way ahead to fill the gap. Even when I go regularly to attend classes, no one sits on my bench. I’m all alone.”Her family cut off contact when she left home in Class 7. “They used to think I could not do any considerable work,” she said. “However, now, being part of the disaster management rescue team, my family members have started communicating with me again.”

What nextThe administration isn’t stopping at floods and drowning rescues. “There are around 30 categories of man-made and natural disasters, including wildlife rescues involving snakes and crocodiles in Kolhapur, and the transwomen volunteers will gradually be trained for these as well,” Sankpal said.One gap the authorities want to close: money. The volunteers currently work for free. “We are also planning to deploy them for crowd management during upcoming festivals such as Navaratri, Anant Chaturdashi, and the Jyotiba Yatra among others. Also, efforts are underway to grant home guard status to the transwomen volunteers, which would come with an honorarium,” Sankpal told The Indian Express.

PM Modi warns against ‘weaponising’ technology, critical minerals

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday cautioned global leaders about the dangers of “weaponising technology and critical minerals”, warning that such practices could undermine the gains the world has made towards shared progress, inclusive development, and prosperity.

Sitting beside Chinese President Xi Jinping on the second day of the 18th BRICS Summit here, PM Modi also referred to the lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic, which spread from China’s Wuhan and eventually reached almost every part of the world, claiming crores of lives.

Delivering his closing remarks at the summit held at Bharat Mandapam, the Prime Minister said: “Today, this group is uniting different continents, cultures, and development journeys. This is a testament to the growing strength, attraction, and unwavering confidence of BRICS.”

Stressing the theme of the BRICS Summit — ‘Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability: Shaping the Future for Inclusive Global Growth’ — PM Modi said that he is happy that, with the support of all the member states, India was able to turn the shared vision into “win-win collaboration”.On conflicts, he said: “Today, the global tensions are increasing, which is negatively affecting the common man. Pandemics, climate change disasters and supply chain disruptions have shown that in the current interconnected world, no crisis remains confined to a single region.

Kolkata cops summon Congress leaders over protest against Bageshwar Baba



The Kolkata police summoned Congress leaders Ashutosh Chatterjee and Pradip Prasad on Sunday in connection with their protest against Bageshwar Dham chief priest Dharendra Krishna Shastri’s controversial comments about eating non-vegetarian food during Durga Puja.The Congress protested on Tuesday against the remarks of Dharendra Krishna Shastri, also known as Bageshwar Baba, and its leader Atanu Das filed a police complaint against Shastri. However, the police later arrested the Congress leader for allegedly promoting hatred between different religious groups and hurting religious sentiments.“The first thing is that it is not about food, vegetarian or non-vegetarian. It is about a person who has insulted Bengali culture, heritage, and Durga Puja in its own land. We are very straight on one thing: those who stay in West Bengal are all Bengalis, be it Chatterjee, Banerjee, Bose, Das, Jain, Agarwal, or anybody else. This is a state of brotherhood and Durga Puja is for everyone,” Chatterjee, who is a Congress general secretary, told The Indian Express.Chatterjee further alleged that while Shastri insulted Bengal, the who’s who of the government were sitting beside him and laughing and eating together.On September 6, Shastri said he dislikes “dirty” non-vegetarian food being eaten during Durga Puja and at gatherings linked to the celebration. He also stated that meat must not be sold near the goddess’s idol during the festival.Atanu Das’s arrest came within hours after Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari spoke about tough action against those who burnt the religious leader’s photos during protests.Adhikari and his Cabinet colleagues hosted a dinner for Shastri on September 4, before he made the controversial remarks at a religious event in Liluah, Howrah.

CJP in Punjab schools, Congress truce, AAP family affair on social media



The Cockroach Janta Party created political curiosity at Jantar Mantar with some critics alleging that the Aam Aadmi Party was propping up the movement. Now the CJP has travelled from Delhi to AAP-ruled Punjab and, interestingly, to government schools.The CJP team, led by spokesperson Saurav Dass, visited some of the better government schools, including one with a swimming pool. Soon after, pictures of government schools struggling with basic infrastructure also began circulating.

AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal’s public appreciation of Dass only added another layer to the episode. When elections are around the corner, even a school visit can say a million words.Something rather curious has happened in the Congress since Sachin Pilot took over as the party general secretary in charge of Punjab. The knives that were out for the party’s Punjab chief, Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, have suddenly gone back into the drawer. Senior leader Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, who had been among the more vocal critics of Warring, has said, “Who said that the PCC chief should be changed?” He added that neither he nor former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi had demanded Warring’s removal. Channi, too, struck a conciliatory note, recalling that he had supported Warring’s appointment as the state Congress chief.Pilot, meanwhile, has said the Congress will fight the election under collective leadership, with Rahul Gandhi leading the campaign, rather than projecting a chief ministerial face. So, within days, the Punjab Congress appears to have discovered an old virtue: exercising restraint. Whether the truce survives for long is another matter.

A family affair on social media?

The AAP’s Punjab social media machinery has apparently got a new hand at the wheel: a top party leader’s son. The buzz in AAP circles is that the senior leader was not impressed with the way the government’s public relations work fared on social media.With Punjab heading into a crucial election year, there is little appetite for leaving the digital battlefield unattended. After all, these days, governance is only half the job. The other half is making sure that governance is seen, shared, liked and, preferably, goes viral. So, the message from the top appears clear now: if the government’s work is not reaching the people through social media, perhaps it is time to get someone closer to the source to ensure the story is not only told but told well.“The file can wait” is the mantra of bureaucrats in Punjab lately. After all, a bureaucrat can’t afford to take a chance. After the Enforcement Directorate’s raids and summons involving senior officials, the fear factor appears to have travelled straight into the corridors of the bureaucracy. Officials privately admit that the atmosphere has become so cautious that putting pen to paper on a file is no longer as routine as it used to be.

Some are said to be finding every possible reason to defer a decision, seek another opinion, or simply let the file make itself comfortable on their tables. And some files, insiders quip, have been sitting there for so long that they may soon qualify for permanent residency.

Egypt, Iran discuss diplomatic efforts to ease regional tensions



Cairo: Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi held a phone call to discuss the latest regional developments and ongoing diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions.The two ministers discussed efforts to create conditions for a return to diplomacy, including the implementation of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the United States and Iran on June 18, according to a statement from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on Saturday (local time).Abdelatty stressed the importance of intensifying ongoing diplomatic efforts to ease current escalations and reach peaceful understandings that would help restore security and stability in the region, reports Xinhua news agency.

He also underscored the importance of ensuring the freedom and safety of international navigation and

respecting the security and stability of the Gulf states in a way that serves the interests of all peoples in the region.Araghchi briefed Abdelatty on Iran’s assessment of recent developments, the course of negotiations, and the challenges facing them, according to the statement.Under the US-Iran MoU, the two sides were scheduled to hold negotiations within a period of 60 days, which ended on Monday, to reach a final agreement. Yet the talks’ fate remains unclear following the renewed escalation over the Strait of Hormuz.

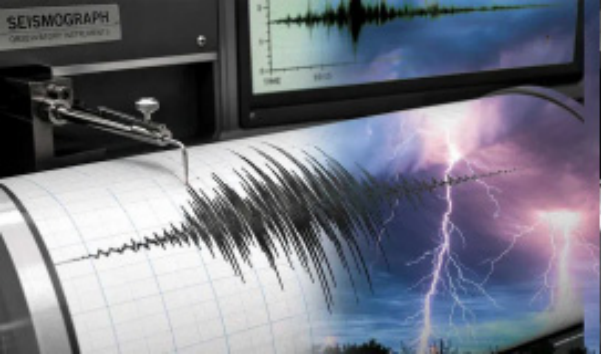
US President Donald Trump said Wednesday that the United States would launch “the most crushing economic operation ever taken” against Iran.Meanwhile, Iran’s Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has said that Iran has received “numerous” messages from neighbouring countries about “shaping new security arrangements and economic cooperation” in the region.In a post on social media platform X on Saturday (local time), Qalibaf said the United States “put the security of every single one of its allies at such risk through bullying and pure disregard for their interests for the sake of Israel.”“A homegrown, independent (regional) order is what will actually deliver peace and security,” he added.The United States and Israel launched joint airstrikes on Iran on February 28. Tehran responded by launching missiles and drones toward Israel and US military bases in regional countries, reports Xinhua news agency.Media reports, citing regional officials, said Gulf Arab countries were frustrated with Washington for initiating the war while failing to shield them.

Using thunderquakes to X-ray Earth – a new study shows urban seismology in action

Pennsylvania: When lightning strikes, it superheats the air around it and creates a shock wave that we hear as thunder. But thunder doesn’t just travel through the atmosphere to our ears.When that energy reaches the ground, some of it is converted into seismic waves that ripple through the soil and rock beneath. The resulting vibrations are known as “thunderquakes.”Until now, scientists haven’t understood these signals well enough to make practical use of them. Our team’s research shows that thunderquakes can be used to map the structure beneath the Earth’s subsurface – such as groundwater movement, environmental contamination, sinkholes, or for evaluating building sites and foundations – just like X-rays image inside the human body.We discovered this by listening to thunder with something found in communities around the world but unusual as a seismic measuring instrument: fiber-optic cable.Turning fiber optics into vibration sensors

Using a technique called distributed acoustic sensing, we turned an ordinary fiber-optic cable, the kind used for internet or phone service, into a string of thousands of vibration sensors.A laser-pulsing computer, called an interrogator, sends light through the cable and measures tiny changes caused by vibrations along its length. In our experiment, part of the Penn State FORESEE project, we used a cable that is over 2 miles (more than 4 kilometers) long. That gave us more than 2,100 sensors, spaced only a few feet apart, all listening to the ground at once.Over two years, we used an old telecom fiber to record and identify 458 clear, high-quality thunderquakes. The enormous amount of detail captured by this process has allowed us to see something that had been difficult to observe before: specific types of seismic waves produced when sound from the atmosphere interacts with the ground.The most important of these seismic waves are what we call air-coupled Rayleigh waves. They are measurable at the surface but can be used to study the subsurface far below, even down 300 feet (around 100 meters).

The trick to this technique is known as seismic dispersion: Waves of different frequencies travel at different depths. By measuring how the thunderquake’s wave speeds changed with frequency, we could reconstruct the seismic wave speed at different depths, which allows us to interpret the properties of the ground beneath the fiber.The result was the equivalent of an X-ray of the subsurface extending roughly 300 feet underground, without drilling a single hole.Imaging the subsurface typically requires specialized equipment, such as truck-mounted vibration sources or arrays of sensors that have to be installed for surveys. These approaches can be expensive and difficult to deploy over large areas.Thunderstorms offer a naturally occurring source of seismic energy that is already spread across the landscape. And fiber-optic cables are buried beneath cities and towns around the world.Instead of bringing a seismic source to the ground,



we can listen to the storms passing overhead. That could eventually make it possible to monitor the shallow subsurface continuously, using infrastructure that is already in the ground and seismic energy that is already coming from the sky.

In State College, Pennsylvania, where we conducted the tests, the geology is mostly limestone and dolomite, rocks that can slowly dissolve as groundwater moves through them. Over time, this process creates fractures, caves and sinkholes.Our thunderquake study revealed four distinct areas where seismic waves traveled much more slowly than through the surrounding rock. These “weak zones” could be caused by fractured or weathered rock or the presence of water or air. Two of them coincide with areas where satellite radar shows that the ground is actively subsiding. The depths of all four are consistent with fractures and voids documented at nearby sites. These results matter because karst landscapes like the one beneath State College are widespread. They cover roughly 20% of the world’s continental land area and affect nearly a quarter of the global population. Sinkholes, groundwater contamination and other hazards associated with these landscapes can threaten buildings, infrastructure and public safety. Knowing where these hazards are allows for better construction and planning.

Our results demonstrate a fundamental process: Sound waves in the atmosphere can be converted into useful seismic waves in the solid Earth. But thunder is only one example.Sonic booms, volcanic eruptions and meteor airbursts can produce similar atmospheric shock waves, potentially creating other natural seismic sources.The idea may even extend beyond Earth. Earth-like tectonic earthquakes are not expected to be common on some other planets and moons, but atmospheric disturbances may still be present.Titan, Saturn’s largest moon and the destination of NASA’s upcoming Dragonfly mission, is one intriguing possibility. If lightning and thunder occur there as models predict, atmospheric energy could potentially provide another way to investigate its subsurface.Back on Earth, the atmosphere is constantly interacting with the ground beneath our feet.

Israel warns US of possible Turkish radar, air-defence deployment in Syria



Jerusalem: Israel told the United States that Turkey was preparing to deploy a radar system and air-defense assets at a Syrian

airbase, Israel’s state-owned Kan TVIsraeli security officials reportedly told Washington that the alleged Turkish move could “significantly” alter the regional balance of power.

Sources familiar with the discussions told the channel that Israel did not provide a timetable for the possible Turkish deployment. Yet, they identified Abu al-Duhur military airport, which was struck by Israeli air force on Tuesday,

in northwest Syria, as a potential site.The Tuesday strikes further strained relations between Turkey and Israel. US Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack said Israel did not inform the United States of the attack in advance.

An Israeli official said

the strikes were aimed at preventing the arrival of Turkish equipment or troops by air at the airbase, Xinhua news agency reported.Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said the strikes were in response to “clear intelligence” about Turkey’s intentions to act in ways that would “endanger” Israel’s security. He said Syria had received a diplomatic warning before the strike.

Katz had said earlier on Saturday that the army issued a direct warning to senior Syrian officials before the strikes on the Abu al-Duhur air base “in an attempt to prevent the move.”“Following several discussions that Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu] and I held with the IDF and the various security officials, it was agreed that before approval

What to know about Trump’s 50 pc tariffs on Canadian goods that just went into effect



Chicago: After trade negotiations crumbled at the eleventh hour, US President Donald Trump’s 50 per cent tariffs on scores of Canadian imports kicked in Saturday.The new levies are expected to affect about 5 per cent of Canada’s annual exports to the US, roughly USD20 billion in goods ranging from hockey sticks to agricultural products. Canada’s Prime Minister Mark Carney quickly promised Saturday that his government would roll out “dollar for dollar” retaliatory measures starting September 8.No further talks are scheduled. The latest escalation between the two countries, which once held one of the world’s most durable trade alliances, plunges them deeper into a trade war that has kept both sides of the border on edge throughout Trump’s second term in office. Experts warn steeper tariffs raise costs for businesses and almost always trickle down to households in the form of higher prices.

“Nearly all industries and professions are likely to see downstream effects from this spiralling trade dispute,” said Augustine Lo, of law firm Dorsey & Whitney, whose work includes advising clients on international trade.Again, the 50 per cent tariffs from the US are set to affect USD 20 billion of Canadian goods.Canada sends the vast majority of its goods exports to the US (72 per cent last year), and the Trump administration says the new taxes will be levied on products ranging from hockey sticks to wine and cement. The list is long. According to documents published by the White House, other goods subject to the tax include honey, seeds and agricultural products, as well as select makeup, perfumes, clothing, jewellery, furniture, cameras, fabric and more.The 50 per cent levy also applies to some products that were previously protected under the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a trade pact from Trump’s first term. That marks a shift from past levies, and further underlines questions around the future of the USMCA overall.

How is Trump imposing these tariffs?

To impose these 50 per cent tariffs, Trump reached back to a long-dormant Great Depression-era law: Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930.When the US and world economies were in collapse nearly a century ago, Congress passed the 1930 law as part of broader “Smoot-Hawley” legislation (named after its congressional sponsors). The act raised tariffs more generally across the board, and became notorious among economists for limiting world commerce and making the Great Depression worse. But Section 338, which authorises the president to slap import taxes of up to 50 per cent on imports from countries that have discriminated against US businesses, has never been used specifically to raise tariffs until now.

CM Yogi hails India’s achievements on National Space Day, says progress giving momentum to ‘Viksit Bharat’

New Delhi: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday extended his greetings to scientists and the people of the state on National Space Day, describing the occasion as a celebration of India’s scientific talent, innovation and remarkable journey in space.In a post on X, CM Yogi highlighted India’s growing achievements in science, research and space technology, while praising the country’s expanding global recognition. He said India’s progress in the space sector reflects the spirit of innovation and the broader vision of building a developed and self-reliant nation.

“Heartiest congratulations to all scientists and the people of the state on National Space Day, a radiant symbol of India’s scientific talent and the power of innovation. This day is a celebration of India’s bold flight—from the Moon to the infinite possibilities of space—as well as the extraordinary journey of scientific capability and innovation. Under the illustrious leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the new India is continuously setting new milestones in the fields of science, research, and space technology, giving renewed momentum and global recognition to the resolve of ‘Viksit Bharat-Atmanirbhar Bharat’,” he said.South Asians & Diaspora

National Space Day is celebrated in India on August 23. The day marks the historic soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander near the Moon’s south pole in 2023, making India the first nation to reach that region of the Moon. The achievement became a defining

No investigation is required to justify the levies. Nor is there any limit on how long they can stay in place. Since there’s no precedent, however, the latest tariffs may also see more legal challenges.When announcing his planned tariffs last month, Trump claimed that Canada was unfairly discriminating against US exports of automobiles, alcohol and dairy products. The president expressed anger over Canada’s retaliation against his own tariffs last year, noting Canadian imports of American alcohol and cars started to fall last spring.Is Canada retaliating?

Canada’s Carney quickly promised to match the new levies “dollar for dollar”, later announcing retaliation would begin September 8. He noted Canada’s tariff increases would target steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper and electronics.The prime minister said Canada was willing to drop remaining retaliatory tariffs on steel, aluminium and autos if the US substantially lowered its own, and to encourage provinces to restore US alcohol sales. But eventually, he said Washington’s final demands went too far.Carney accused Washington of using “economic integration as a weapon,” and that Canada had been “attacked” by the latest US tariffs. He said his country had the reserves and resilience to respond.Trump’s top trade negotiator, Jamieson Greer, pledged additional measures to respond to Canada’s retaliation, without immediately specifying what that would look like. In a Saturday interview with “Fox & Friends Weekend,” Greer also claimed the administration offered to cut tariffs on steel, autos and lumber, but Canada “didn’t want” the deal.

What’s next?

Tariffs are taxes paid by importers, or businesses that buy goods from abroad. That typically trickles down to consumers through higher prices — and, as seen over the last year, can also create uncertainty for workers across affected sectors.North America now has a “new tariff landscape,” Dave Townsend, a partner at law firm Dorsey & Whitney, said Saturday. He noted a big question is whether the latest levies prove to be temporary.The 50 per cent tariffs come on top of previously imposed levies, including a 10 per cent rate Trump slapped on Canada just last month ostensibly for failing to do enough to prevent imports produced by forced labour and separate sectoral levies impacting trading partners globally.

The growing trade sanctions on Canada underscore Trump’s willingness to risk breaking established alliances. And Canada’s reluctance to accept a deal may reflect recent experience.Trump has repeatedly targeted Canada, even after instances where it made concessions following his demands. Some tolls on the newly opened Gordie Howe Bridge will be shared for 15 years, despite the fact that Canadians paid for the span linking Detroit and Windsor. Canada also withdrew a digital services tax last year. All the while, Trump has threatened more tariffs over everything from a TV ad criticising his trade policies (later pulled by Ontario’s government) to wildfires that blackened skies across North America.Steeper tariffs have already contributed to higher inflation, but appeared to level off some in recent months, per researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, notably after the Supreme Court in February struck down some of Trump’s most sweeping levies.Still, Saturday’s taxes against Canada mark the latest instance of Trump turning to other laws to impose tariffs.



milestone in the country’s space programme and demonstrated the growing strength of India’s scientific and technological capabilities.As India observes National Space Day 2026, ISRO Chairman and Secretary of the Department of Space Dr V Narayanan has called for greater innovation, collaboration and ambition as the country works towards becoming a global leader in space.The 2026 celebrations are being held under the theme, “Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership.”The theme reflects India’s ambition to strengthen its scientific and technological capabilities while encouraging innovation, partnerships and greater participation in the global space ecosystem. In his National Space Day 2026 message, Dr V Narayanan emphasised the importance of continuing to push the boundaries of science and technology while building partnerships that can strengthen India’s space ecosystem.

Dozens abducted from mosque in Nigeria’s Niger state

Armed assailants attacked multiple villages in Nigeria’s north-central Niger state, kidnapping worshippers from a mosque in Kpenya village and abducting dozens more across Borgu Local Government Area. Police confirmed the incident but did not provide figures, while residents estimated between 60 and 80 people were taken.

Abuja: A number of people were kidnapped from a mosque in a spree of abductions at several villages in Nigeria’s north-central Niger state, police said Saturday.The assailants attacked a mosque in Kpenya village after attacks in a string of villages in the remote Borgu Local Government Area of Niger state Friday, police spokesperson Wasiu Abiodun said.

Such attacks are common in Nigeria, where mul-

tiple armed groups operate, killing and kidnapping people for ransom. The groups sometimes clash in competition with each other. No group has claimed responsibility for the Friday attacks.Abiodun did not provide figures but said no lives were lost in the Friday attacks, and said the military was deployed to the area. Residents said scores of people were abducted, with some estimating between 60 and 80 people were kidnapped. A search for survivors was underway Saturday.

Borgu area council chairman Abdullahi Mohammed Nasir said at least 60 people were kidnapped and an unspecified number of people sustained gunshot injuries while trying to escape the gunmen.“People were abducted while praying at a Juma’at mosque on Friday,” Nasir said. “That was when the bad people came and surrounded the mosque and took them away.”

Celine Dion makes emotional return to stage after six years in Paris



Los Angeles: Singer-songwriter Celine Dion made her return to stage as she performed to a packed audience recently. The 58-year-old singer opened her 26-date residency at Plenitude Arena, Paris on Saturday as she took to the stage after 6 years. The singer took a pause just moments into her first song as she welled up in front of a roaring crowd. She wiped her eyes, took a breath and let herself take in the moment she had waited years to experience.

She said, "I had promised myself not to cry. I don't keep my promises. But I'm so happy to see you all. I missed you. I'm going to sing like you without crying. I made a

promise. I made a promise to come back, to be back on stage. So here I am, singing for you and singing for me, singing live! Thank you so very much for your support, your patience and if I may say so, I am everything I am because you loved me".Celine Dion is one of the most celebrated singers in contemporary music. She is known for her powerful voice, emotional delivery and extraordinary vocal range. She was born in Charlemagne, Quebec, in 1968, and began performing professionally as a teenager before achieving international recognition in the 1990s.Her breakthrough came with hits such as 'The Power of Love', 'Because You Loved Me' and 'It's All Coming Back to Me Now', which established her as a global pop icon. Her track 'My Heart Will Go On', from the 'Titanic', became one of the most recognizable songs in popular culture and earned her multiple major awards. She has also enjoyed a remarkable Las Vegas career, where her residencies became hugely successful.She was diagnosed with Stiff-Person Syndrome (SPS), a rare neurological disorder, in 2022. It is generally considered an autoimmune neurological condition in which the immune system interferes with the nervous system's control of muscles.Beyond music, she is admired for her resilience and dedication to her craft, continuing to connect with audiences despite significant personal and professional challenges. Her legacy remains defined by vocal excellence, emotional authenticity and enduring global appeal.

Sameera Reddy shares glimpses of Goa family getaway with children

Mumbai: Actress Sameera Reddy made some precious core memories with her family as she enjoyed a fun getaway in Goa during the weekend.She shared a glimpse of her family holiday on her IG on Sunday.The clip uploaded by Sameera had her soaking in the natural beauty of the Siolim backwaters with her kids during a boat ride.During their time in the water, they ended up witnessing a crocodile, who was relaxing by the shore. The clip also had the little munchkins making the most of their time in the water, after which they all ended up seeing a beautiful sunset.Sameera admitted that she had to force herself to put down her to-do list and live in the moment.

The 'De Dana Dan' actress shared on her official handle, "Crocodiles & Rainbows...I have remind myself to be in the present . To stop my to-do list. To be mindful . To make core memories. To be in grace. Every day thankful for moments like these...Siolim backwaters , Goa (sic)."Sameera is known to share such light-hearted and special moments from her personal life with her Instagram family.On August 12, Sameera provided an insight into the 93rd birthday celebration of her father, Reddy Garu.She dropped a video on the photo-sharing app featuring her and her father.The 'Musafir' actress also ex-



pressed gratitude for celebrating another milestone with her dad. Sameera shared that she looked forward to making many more such birthday videos with her father for years to come.She penned, "Keep on running Papa 93 yrs Happy birthday Reddy Garu . We love you. Every year I wait to make this video . And I pray to keep doing so . #grateful."In the clip, her dad opened up about what keeps him feeling young and energetic at 93.He revealed that his strength and youthful spirit stem from a young mindset, along with the love of his family.

Ram Gopal Varma and Mohit Suri announce new film collaboration



Mumbai: Ace filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma announced through his latest post on X (Earlier known as Twitter) that he is working on something exciting with the 'Saiyaara' maker Mohit Suri.On Sunday, RGV took to the micro-blogging site and shared a selfie with Mohit Suri, claiming that the two filmmakers are 'cooking a love dish full of gangster curry'.While the 'Satya' maker did not divulge any details about their forthcoming project, he assured that they will be revealing them shortly.Reacting to the announcement, users expressed their excitement in the comment section.

One of the netizens shared, "Its Just WOW to see you both in one photo.. I Love Mohith suris films and how he blends Trend setter music! I watched his ZEHER, Woh Lamhe in Theatres at that Time. What a Music in those Films.. Just WOW !!"Another one commented, "Sir, just add that raw Satya–Company masala, mix it with Mohit Suri's signature music magic, and let your unique music taste do the rest. This gangster curry already sounds dangerously delicious.""Sir.. Push your ideas into different.. Unforgettable cinema to change film stage like shiva but new way once again..." read the third comment.At the moment, Ram Gopal Varma is busy working on his horror comedy, 'Police Station Mein Bhoot' featuring Manoj Bajpayee and Genelia Deshmukh.Earlier, RGV spoke about reuniting with Manoj Bajpayee for his much-awaited drama. He told IANS, "Working with Manoj again after Satya is both thrilling and nostalgic. Fear becomes most frightening when it challenges the highest authority of protection, and a police station is the ultimate symbol."

Armaan Malik hits back at 'ungrateful' tag after Amaal's Salman Khan Films row

Mumbai: Singer and composer Armaan Malik reacted to netizens saying that he and his brother, Amaal Malik, are ungrateful to Salman Khan after Amaal recently called out the Salman Khan Films team for not giving him credit in a post celebrating 11 years of the track 'Main Hoon Hero Tera' from 'Hero'.Amaal, who composed the track, had commented on the celebratory post, pointing out that he was not given his due credit. Later, the post was edited to give due credit to Amaal.

A netizen slammed Amaal and his brother Armaan Malik, calling them 'ungrateful'.The X user wrote, "Whah a shameful behavior from the two brothers.. the support they got should have gone to more grateful and worthy people."Armaan responded to the netizen by asking them to come up with an original song and later see it not being given its due credit.

The singer and composer shared on the micro-blogging site, "I'd be curious to hear how that feels ?? Don't talk about gratitude. I've always been grateful for my beginnings, but I also know how hard it has been to reach where I've reached. If we don't fight for our right, no one will."On Friday, Salman Khan Films shared an 11th anniversary post for 'Hero' that featured the track 'Main



Hoon Hero Tera'. However, they left out the composer and lyricist of the song.Lashing out, Amaal commented, "Whoever is handling the page or the social media of @skfilmsofficial, I love the audacity you have shown by leaving out the composer, & the lyricist of the song lol!"It doesn't look nice that a song that is created with the pain, blood, sweat and tears of a music composer & his lyric writer, is celebrated without the creators being respected or even mentioned.

Nafisa Ali health update: Actress begins targeted therapy after cancer progresses



Mumbai: Veteran actress Nafisa Ali shared her health update through her latest post on Instagram. She revealed that she has been put on Targeted Therapy by her medical team as her cancer has progressed.On Sunday, Nafisa took to her official handle and published a picture of herself from the hospital.

Expressing gratitude for all the support she has been getting during this challenging journey, the 'Life in a... Metro' actress wrote, "My treatment protocol has changed

and now I have been put on Targeted Therapy... fighting the good fight . Thank you for always keeping my support energy strong. (sic)."Explaining in simple terms what it means, she went on to write, "In very simple terms The PET/CT suggests that the ovarian/peritoneal cancer has progressed, with new deposits on the surface of the liver."As the post was uploaded on social media, several netizens wished Nafisa a speedy recovery, sending lots of prayers her way.Nafisa is battling stage 4 peritoneal and ovarian cancer. She was first diagnosed back in 2018 and had received treatment for stage 3 cancer.Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with a recurrence of stage 4 peritoneal cancer last year. Nafisa even underwent surgery in April. She had been getting her chemotherapy sessions as part of her ongoing treatment.In July, Nafisa shared that she had completed her 10th chemotherapy session and was headed to Goa to spend some peaceful moments by the sea.Taking to her official IG, she treated the netizens to a glimpse of her calming walk on the beach. She even expressed gratitude for the healing power of nature.Nafisa posted a candid picture of herself at the beach and shared the caption, "Happy did my 10th chemotherapy yesterday and flew to Goa today for my beach walk ... the sea is my healer."

Kajol shares hopes and fears as son Yug turns 16

Mumbai: Actress Kajol got emotional as her son Yug Devgan turned 16 on Sunday. She shared a heartfelt birthday message in which she reflected on how quickly he has grown while expressing her hopes for the person he will become.

Taking to Instagram, Kajol admitted that she could hardly believe her son had reached the age of 16. She said that despite seeing him grow taller and stronger, she still sees the little boy he once was. "Can't believe we're already there.. it's a moment of disbelief almost. Because whenever I see u I still see a little boy almost superimposed on you. And I know ur taller and stronger now but for me that will always be the case.. small you and big you all mixed together," she wrote.

The 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' actress went on to share her hopes and fears for Yug as he enters another important phase of his life. She said her biggest wish was for him to grow into a good man who can face life's challenges with courage, grace and kindness. "I wish u so many things today.. I have some fears as well but mostly hopes that u will grow to be a good man. The kind who faces all of what life throws at him with courage, grace and most importantly kindness. To yourself and the world at large," she added.Kajol concluded the emotional note



by encouraging Yug to embrace life fearlessly and make the most of every opportunity. "Fly high and live large my darling. Love u more than u will ever know," she wrote, adding the hashtags #birthdayboy and #loveyousomuch.The dotting mother also shared a heartwarming picture of Yug lovingly planting a kiss on her. The image speaks volumes about their deep and affectionate bond. Kajol and actor Ajay Devgn tied the knot in 1999 and have two children, daughter Nysa and son Yug. Nysa is their elder child, while Yug was born in 2010.

‘He lost it’: Salman Khan praises Qazi Touqeer; compares his struggle to Bobby Deol



Bigg Boss 20 Weekend Ka Vaar: While the makers of Bigg Boss 20 have faced criticism over what some viewers have called an underwhelming cast this season, singer Qazi Touqeer has emerged as one of the show's most talked-about contestants. He even earned praise from host Salman Khan during the season's first Weekend Ka Vaar.On Saturday, Salman interacted with the contestants for the first time since the grand premiere. While he advised some of them to pull up their socks, Qazi received words of encouragement from the host, who also praised his journey.On the latest episode of Bigg Boss 20, Salman praised Qazi's performance during his first week in the house. He said, "Let me tell you guys, no matter how many stars exist in this house, there's only one rockstar amongst you all. Qazi Touqeer, the entire week you played quite well."

Salman later called the contestants to the activity area and, putting the spotlight on Qazi, asked him about his journey over the past two decades. "Tell me one thing: you got everything in life so soon; you became a rockstar, did a show with Arijit Singh, you won the show. Arijit is doing so well right now. You got this platform now, but what did you do in the last 20 years?" Qazi replied, "I did a lot of live shows."Salman further said, "When you entered the show, people wondered how you sang, and they cannot stop praising you now. They appreciate your humor, your performance. Sometimes in life, you get a few things very quickly, and you lose them also quickly. In Hollywood, John Travolta had no work for 20 years, but he never stopped working hard. Even Bobby Deol, one of the biggest stars today, went through a bad phase, but he never gave up. Everyone faces ups and downs, and during the downtime, you have to work 10 times harder.""A

good thing about the bad times is that it ends, and when you take good times for granted, as I do sometimes, it also ends. I know that during the bad times, keep working hard, as Qazi Touqeer did. He achieved so much, then he lost it, but he didn't stop working. Through all your struggles and challenges, the biggest effort was to stay mentally strong, which a lot of people can't do. So people should learn this from you," the host added.Big Boss 20 contestant Qazi Touqeer is a singer who rose to fame after participating in the singing reality show Fame Gurukul in 2005. He went on to win the show, reportedly receiving the highest number of votes recorded for a singing reality show at the time. It was during Fame Gurukul that Qazi met Arijit Singh, and the two went on to become close friends.In 2009, Qazi participated in the captive reality show Sarkaar Ki Duniya. Although he released several songs between 2005 and 2006, he gradually moved away from the lime-light. He continued performing live and creating content for social media, but did not achieve the same level of professional success as some of his contemporaries. In 2015, Qazi made a special appearance alongside Katrina Kaif in the song "Afghan Jalebi" from Phantom.After more than a decade away from television, Qazi Touqeer has returned to the small screen with Bigg Boss 20. His stint on the show has earned him considerable praise and support from viewers. Recently, Gauahar Khan praised Qazi, calling him one of the strongest contenders on the show. His close friend Arijit Singh also extended his support on social media, writing, "I will have to watch Bigg Boss for the first time because apna rockstar Qazi hai udhar."

Genelia Deshmukh celebrates brother Nigel's birthday with heartfelt post

Mumbai Actress Genelia Deshmukh wished her "best brother in the entire world", Nigel D'Souza, on his birthday with a heartfelt post on social media.On Saturday, Genelia took to her official Instagram handle and shared a couple of black-and-white family photos featuring husband Riteish Deshmukh, their sons Riaan and Rahyl, and her parents.

Genelia further wrote an emotional birthday note expressing her love for her brother.

The 'Masti' actress penned, "Best Brother in the entire world. I Love you very much Nigu Pigu – I truly believe I'm blessed to be your sister. I feel like you are that loyalist who will always stand up for his people, his friends, his family and that is a quality that is just so rare to find (sic).""I promise you – I will always be there for you even on days you don't need me. Happy Birthday @nigeldsouza12," she further added.Genelia recently uploaded a few glimpses of her Raksha Bandhan celebrations with her brother on social media.The 'Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na' actress was seen lovingly tying a Rakhi. Following this, the sibling duo was seen hilariously fighting over an envelope, which Genelia admitted was an annual affair.