



Khairatabad Bada Ganesh Immersed In Hussain Sagar

Hyderabad, Sept 25

The Khairatabad Panchamukha Sankatahara Maha Ganapati was immersed in Hussainsagar on Friday, amid chants and prayers of thousands of devotees and onlookers. The procession began at 10 am, and the 69-foot idol was immersed at 2.40 pm.

According to members of the Khairatabad Ganesh Utsav Committee, the scheduled commencement of the procession at 6 am was delayed as the crane used to lift the idol malfunctioned multiple times during the night.

With thousands of devotees watching, the procession went through Meera Theatre road, and towards Telephone Bhavan. Devotees and onlookers inside the lane showered the idol with flowers and confetti, as the idol trudged along on the massive truck.

The idol was then taken from Telephone Bhavan through the Telangana Talli flyover, and then routed

in front of the Secretariat. Within minutes, the idol reached Crane 4, which was standing by the immerse the idol. Welders undid the welds and affixation beams at the immersion site, and at 2.40 pm, the idol was ceremonially immersed to chants from devotees.

Preparations for the immersion procession began on Thursday, with the workers removing the supporting wooden beams beside the idol and preparing the massive truck to transport the Bada Ganesh idol and those of Somnath Jyotirlinga and Kali Mata. After the final ceremonies at 10 pm, the organisers began prepping for the lifting of the 50-tonne idol.

The operation to place the idol on the truck began at 5 am, and was completed an hour later. Welders took nearly three hours to affix the idol to the truck to ensure it doesn't sway during the procession, and at 10 am the procession began.

Hyderabad Ganesh immersion: 20,000 police personnel, 10,000 CCTV cameras deployed for security

Hyderabad, Sept 25

City Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar on Friday inspected security arrangements at the Khairatabad Bada Ganesh idol ahead of the final immersion and procession.

After offering special prayers at the idol along with senior police officials, Sajjanar said elaborate security arrangements had been made to ensure that the immersion festivities and the main procession from Balapur to Hussain Sagar passed off peacefully.

Around 20,000 police personnel have been deployed for bandobust, he said, adding that the police are coordinating with the GHMC, electricity, water works and other government departments as part of a comprehensive security plan.

Sajjanar said nearly 10,000 CCTV cameras along the major procession routes had been linked to the Telangana Integrated Command and Control Centre (TGICCC) at Banjara Hills for round-the-clock monitoring.

For the safety of women and young women, 26 She Teams will operate in three shifts at crowded locations, he added.

The commissioner requested citizens to follow traffic advisories issued by the city traffic police and plan their travel accordingly.



He appealed to citizens to celebrate the immersion festival peacefully and safely.

Telangana targets 5 GW hyperscale data centre capacity by 2029: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad: Amid concerns being expressed over water and power consumption by data centres, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu said the Telangana government was targeting 5 GW of hyperscale data centre capacity by 2029. He inaugurated Microsoft's India South Central datacenter region here on Thurs-

day. Microsoft opened its India South Central datacenter region in Telangana, with the region designated as a strategic hub for Asia and the Global South. Technical ReferenceAddressing the occasion, Sridhar Babu said, "I am proud that Microsoft is helping build one of India's most advanced technology clusters here.

Amid Danam setback, Revanth talks of 'Vote ki Chori', 'Party ki Chori'

Hyderabad, Sept 25

It is indeed strange to hear a political leader being eloquent in publicly condemning the very acts, which he encouraged and supported vociferously.

Be ready to hear this. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was at his oratorical best when he was critical of "vote chori, party chori and symbol chori etc.," in his speech delivered in Kerala on Friday. He seems to have suffered from selective amnesia about supporting party hoppers in his own state of Telangana. Download Travel Guides

More importantly, he seemed to have forgotten about the Supreme Court judgement endorsing the disqualification of Danam Nagender from the Telangana Assembly for joining the Congress after getting elected on a ticket issued by the main opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). Perhaps,



he believes that no one in Kerala is aware of his support for the party hopper Danam Nagender.

Revanth Reddy was speaking after receiving the Aryadan Muhammed Award in Kerala and he stressed the need for Congress MP Rahul Gandhi to become the Prime Minister. Revanth Reddy was presented the Aryadan Muhammed-2026 Best Public Servant Award at a function in Nilambur.

"There is a need to save India from communal forces, from forces

which were stealing everything. Vote ki chori, party ki chori, symbol ki chori, funds ki chori. They are stealing the future of youth. They are stealing the foundation of democracy and India - integrity of the vote," Revanth Reddy said. Send Money Overseas

He said his only remaining dream was to make Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister of India. "Winds of change are blowing. Every part of India is listening to the goonj of Rahul Gandhi's words

of hope. Let us stand behind Rahul ji till we totally save India from communal forces," Revanth Reddy appealed.

His speech elicited left many in Telangana incredulous, as Revanth Reddy himself has expressed support for turncoat Danam Nagender on many occasions and is likely to field the Nagender in the Khairatabad assembly constituency, which will have a bypoll shortly on account of his disqualification.

KTR questions ECI over voter registration, deletions

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao raised fresh concerns over the functioning of the Election Commission of India (ECI), calling for urgent steps to safeguard the country's democratic institutions.

"We call ourselves the world's largest democracy, but the institution meant to safeguard democracy is turning 'almost autocratic'," he said.

In a statement, Rama Rao questioned the decision-making process within the three-member poll panel. "Two out of three is a majority, or at least it used to be. Looks like the definition is changing now. When two of the three Election Commissioners themselves are repeatedly raising objections, it's time to fix the EC," he said.

The BRS working president also questioned the process of voter registration, deletion and restoration. "If decisions on voter registration, deletion and restoration are pushed through questionably, are we even a democracy anymore?" he asked.

He asserted that the fate of the country could not be decided by an institution whose foundations, he alleged, were eroding. He urged political parties, constitutional bodies, citizen forums and the Supreme Court to come together to "save what is left of the country's democracy". In a separate post on X on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Telangana, Rama Rao said he was not surprised that the highest number of voter deletions in Telangana were in BRS-won seats. He said the political contest in Telangana was now "KCR garu Vs All".

Plea in SC seeks SIT probe, CEC's criminal prosecution over SIR row

New Delhi, Sept 25

Amid the ongoing controversy over the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls conducted by the Election Commission, a PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking criminal prosecution of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar for alleged dereliction of statutory duties during the SIR exercise.

Filed by advocate Shailendra Mani Tripathi through advocate Chand Qureshi, the PIL seeks a judicial inquiry or a special investigation team (SIT) probe into the alleged deletion of 13 crore voters from the electoral rolls during the SIR.

It urged the top court to declare unconstitutional and void the decisions, guidelines and software modifications allegedly undertaken by Kumar without the concurrence of the two Election Commissioners.

"Declare all decisions, guidelines, directives and software modifications initiated, approved or implemented under respondent number three (CEC Gyanesh Kumar) without full commission concurrence or contrary to the majority opinion of the Election Commissioners (under Section 18 of the CEC and Other ECs Act, 2023) as unconstitutional, ultra vires and void ab initio," the petitioner submitted.

"Issue appropriate directions to the competent statutory authority to register complaints and initiate prosecution under Section 32 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, against respondents number 3, 5, 6 and all other officers found guilty of deliberate breach of official duty," the PIL submitted.



It sought a declaration that all such decisions relating to the SIR were illegal, along with the restoration of the original Form 6 used by individuals to apply for inclusion of their names in the electoral roll as fresh voters. The PIL also sought action against senior Deputy Election Commissioner Manish Garg and Director General (Information Technology), EC, Seema Khanna. The petitioner submitted that official files revealed that over a 10-month period between November 2025 and August 2026, Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi formally recorded written dissents and objections on at least 14 separate occasions, including four times on a single day, against what he termed "unilateral, unauthorised and illegal" decisions taken and executed in the name of the commission.

Karnataka man kills brother’s ‘murderer’; mother rewards him



A man, allegedly instigated by his mother over the years, killed his elder brother's suspected murderer in Karnataka's Hubballi last week. The police said they have arrested the woman and her son, along with four others, in connection with the crime. On August 28, Veerendra, alias Mujju Talakal, and another accused allegedly hacked to death Dadapeer Udayakar, 35, who was acquitted of the 2015 murder of Maruti Talakal. The police said Veerendra was a minor when his brother was killed but continued to harbour a grudge against Dadapeer.

“His mother Shakuntala Talakal would repeatedly tell her younger son that Dadapeer was responsible for the death of his elder brother. She created a sense of fear

in him, telling him that if he did not act, Dadapeer could one day kill him as well. She kept provoking him and telling him that he should take revenge for his brother's murder,” said N Shashi Kumar, Commissioner of Police, Hubballi-Dharwad. The police said that Shakuntala congratulated Veerendra after the murder, gave him a reward, and told him that she had been waiting for him to kill Dadapeer.

Dadapeer attacked with machetes near salon. Dadapeer had come to Hubballi with an elderly man on August 28. After tracking his movements, the accused allegedly collected machetes and other weapons concealed at their homes and elsewhere. Veerendra attacked him with a machete while he was sitting near a salon at Basava Colony Cross, the police said. He tried to escape but was hit by a two-wheeler and fell. The accused followed him and fatally attacked him with machetes near Siddeshwar Park. The police identified Veerendra and Deepak Chalawadi as the main accused, along with Shakuntala Talakal, Rakshit Bandivaddar, Taufiq Horakeri, and Farooq Nargund, who allegedly assisted them by arranging a vehicle, money, clothes, and weapons for the murder, besides helping them evade detection. The police further said Deepak also had previous enmity with Dadapeer. The police are on the lookout for three or four more people suspected of involvement in the murder. Further investigation is underway.

Bengal’s cleanliness crackdown begins: Check new fines for spitting, littering

West Bengal new fines, Kolkata fines September 1, public spitting fine West Bengal, littering fine West Bengal, public urination fine, open defecation fine, banned plastic bags fine, West Bengal civic rules, Bengal civic violations penalty, West Bengal cleanliness rules, Indian Express news Bengal Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul had announced the drive will start in September. (Express File Photo by Amit Chakravarty)

Starting Tuesday, West Bengal will fine people for spitting, littering, open urination and defecation in public, and violations involving banned plastic carry bags to improve cleanliness and civic discipline. Authorised civic inspectors will be on the streets, in public spots, hospital zones, and transport hubs to issue instant fines and collect them only through digital payment modes. “The move aims to improve urban cleanliness, public hygiene and civic discipline across Bengal’s cities and towns. A major step towards cleaner and healthier public spaces,” said an official. This follows an initial trial run across the hills of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, and Mirik earlier this summer. State Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul previously announced the drive will start in September. Paul and local leaders hit the streets in July and August, sweeping market stretches, handing out dustbins, and warning commuters that the awareness phase is officially over. “From September 1, let’s change the habit and change Kolkata. A cleaner, safer and more disciplined city is not the government’s responsibility alone. It begins with every citizen. Say no to littering, public spitting, illegal parking and single use plastic, and let’s work together



to build a cleaner West Bengal. Small changes in our habits can create a big change in our city,” senior BJP leader and party spokesperson Locket Chatterjee said on X.

1. “Open defecation or urination in public places other than designated toilet/restroom facilities.”
2. “Littering, depositing, dumping or throwing any solid waste, plastic waste, garbage, debris or other waste material in public streets, roads, drains, water bodies, open spaces or any place other than designated waste collection points, and the use or carrying of banned plastic carry bags in violation of applicable laws and Government orders.”
3. “Spitting in public places, hospitals, educational institutions, religious places, markets, assembly or congregation buildings, public utility buildings or structures, and other public premises.”

Court ruled woman was murdered. Her family now fights corporation for her death certificate

For Ashwini Bidre-Gore’s family, the nightmare of losing her has continued long after her murder 17 months ago. The family has since been struggling to get her death certificate. For the first time since she died in 2016, the Executive Magistrate, relying on a court judgment, directed civic authorities to issue her official death certificate.

The order dated July 31 had confirmed Ashwini Bidre-Gore’s death based on the sessions court judgment on April 21, 2025. It also directed that a death certificate be issued to her husband, Raju Gore, under the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, and relevant State Government resolutions. The order directed that the Registrar, Birth & Death Registration Department, Panvel Municipal Corporation, “shall make the necessary entries in the official records as per this order and issue the requisite certificate to the applicant, Mr. Raju Balasaheb Gore.” Despite the order by the Executive Magistrate, the Panvel Municipal Corporation has not issued a certificate. After the order on July 31, we have submitted over 400 supporting documents sought by the competent authorities of the Corporation, but we are yet to receive the death certificate after over a month,” Gore said. He added that the delays have resulted in the denial of post-death benefits to their daughter, who is pursuing higher education. The Indian Express reached out to the Panvel Municipal Corporation but is yet to get a response. On April 21, a court in Panvel found former inspector Abhay Kurundkar guilty of murdering Ashwini in 2016. The court stated that although Ashwini’s body or



any remains were never found, circumstantial evidence showed she was murdered at Kurundkar’s residence on April 11, 2016; her body was then dismembered and thrown into a creek to destroy evidence. The appeal is pending before the Bombay High Court.

As per Indian law, a missing person can be presumed dead seven years after their disappearance, allowing their legal heir to seek rights like succession, insurance, inheritance, assets, gratuity benefits, pension, or any other welfare schemes. Gore has been writing to authorities, including the Navi Mumbai Police Commissionerate, in whose jurisdiction Ashwini worked and resided in 2016; the Thane Municipal Corporation, in whose jurisdiction Kurundkar resided and is convicted for killing

Mamata Banerjee’s niece found dead at home in Bengal’s Birbhum

Mamata Banerjee’s niece, Bristy Mukherjee (Special arrangement photo/ Image enhanced using AI) Mamata Banerjee’s niece, Bristy Mukherjee (Special arrangement photo/ Image enhanced using AI) Ex-Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s niece, Bristy Mukherjee, was found dead at her home in Birbhum district, police said Tuesday afternoon. Bristy Mukherjee was the daughter of the Trinamool leader’s cousin, Nihar Mukherjee. The police said the 28-year-old was found dead on the second floor of her house. Nihar Mukherjee is Mamata Banerjee’s maternal cousin and a regional Trinamool leader. The body has been sent for an autopsy and an investigation into her death has begun. Sources close to the family said the young woman had been battling depression for the past few years and was receiving medical treatment. She was among those who lost their job – as a non-teaching staff member of the Bolpur Upper Primary School – in March 2023 after the Supreme Court scrapped recruitment orders for teachers in state government-aided schools in the alleged ‘cash-for-jobs’ case. Nearly 26,000 teaching and non-teaching staffers were



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‘Slept in my car for a charging spot’: Noida cabbies frustrated with Vietnam venture



Their turquoise electric cars were lined up at the company’s charging facility in the basement parking area of Urbtech Trade Centre in Sector 132 when the power went out. A murmur of grumbling spread through the group. A company supervisor stationed at the site announced: “There is no light, remove the chargers now, put it back on once the power is back.” A driver in his 20s, who joined the fleet two weeks ago, told a fellow driver, “Now we will have to restart the process all over again.” Around two-and-a-half months after Vietnam-based mobility company Green SM launched its electric taxi service — Green SM Limo — in Delhi-NCR, drivers said they are spending hours waiting for chargers or going offline to conserve battery. The result: fewer hours available to take passengers and complete the targets linked to their weekly pay. A charging queue before the first ride

“We take the cars out in the morning from the hub in Ek Murti, around 17 km from here. Charging takes around 2.5 hours in case there is a long queue. Even after this, there is no guarantee that we’ll get our ride immediately. We get out, drive around the area and then a ride might come,” said the driver. Another driver, who joined the fleet 15 days ago, faces the same problem. He said he leaves his home in Loni, Ghaziabad, at 8 am but often gets his first ride only around 1 pm. “Every day since my first day, I have waited for around an hour at the station. Then the charging takes two hours,” he said. By then, a substantial part of the day has already gone. That matters because drivers have to complete either 35 trips or 580 km over six days to earn the weekly Rs 7,500 payout. “I’m left with only five to six hours in a day to complete the weekly target,” said the first driver, inserting the charger as the power comes back.

The charging problem is particularly frustrating because the company’s highest per-kilometre rate is paid during the hours when drivers most want to be on the road. Green SM pays Rs 16 per km during its peak periods of 7-10 am and 5-8 pm, said another driver. So drivers have begun trying to secure chargers before the rush — sometimes at considerable personal cost. “I once

parked my vehicle near the charging station overnight and slept inside so I could get a spot early in the morning,” said the driver.

The station closes at 11 pm, he said, and private vehicles also use the chargers. Charging is itself a lengthy process. Drivers said it takes about 30 minutes to go from zero to 20% battery, around an hour to reach 80%, and another 35 minutes to complete the remaining charge. Back at Urbtech, the queue outside the charging facility had grown longer. A security guard from a nearby school asked drivers to move their vehicles to make way for school buses. Waiting in line, a driver who has been with the company since its launch said he had gone offline with only 15% charge left in his vehicle.

“We were told there is some issue with the charging, so we’ve had to wait for at least half an hour for the past five days,” he said. “It’s been a bother. If the battery drains to 20%, I close the app so I don’t get a ride. I sometimes come to charge my vehicle on my week-offs.” Why most cars are ending up at Sector 132 Drivers make a beeline for the Sector 132 facility because it has more fast chargers than the company’s other two Noida locations. There are 12 fast chargers and 3 slow chargers, which can facilitate the charging of around 30 vehicles at a time, said an official from Jio BP, which has installed the chargers. A company official, who looks after operations in Noida, said drivers have raised concerns and these have been raised with the management.

“We have chargers in Sector 135 and 80 as well, but a majority of cars, around 100-150, go to Sector 132 as it has more fast chargers,” he said. “We don’t have permission to install them in our Noida hub as it is in the basement, but we have put two chargers on the ground floor. These are slow chargers,” the official said. He added that a facility is being set up at Golden I, which is 2-3 km away from the hub. “We are planning to expand the network in two-three months,” he said. According to Green SM India’s representative, charging infrastructure is an important part of the firm’s long-term growth strategy in India. “We are progressively developing charging access across Delhi-NCR, including Noida, in line with fleet size, actual demand, and the operational conditions of each area. The network will continue to be developed in phases, ensuring that charging access grows effectively alongside the expansion of Green SM’s operations in the market,” they said. “Green SM takes feedback from drivers seriously and has established direct channels through which they can raise operational concerns with the company,” added the representative. For the drivers, the issue remains pressing: every hour spent waiting to charge their vehicle is an hour they cannot spend taking a ride. The driver who comes from Loni said, “The company just wants targets to be completed... I worked till late the day before yesterday and could not charge my car, so today it is taking longer for me to hit the roads,” he said.

Farmers intensify protests across Punjab over land pooling, trade deal

The Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) and the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta) Ugrahan, along with the other farmers and labour organisations, intensified their protests on Monday. The KMM held day-long gatherings in all 22 districts outside the Deputy Commissioner’s offices, while the other farmers’ body continued its indefinite dharnas outside Deputy Commissioner offices in 17 districts.

The KMM claimed that hundreds of farmers, labourers, youth and members of the public participated in the gatherings, with Amritsar witnessing a particularly large turnout. The organisation raised several demands, including procurement of basmati, maize, moong, mustard and potato crops at MSP, complete loan waiver for farmers and labourers, compensation and jobs for families of suicide victims, and an effective policy to deal with floods, groundwater depletion and air and water pollution. The Morcha also demanded withdrawal of the land pooling policy, cancellation of the India-US trade deal and withdrawal of police, railway and stubble-burning cases registered during farmers’ and labourers’ movements. The body also opposed the four labour codes, Seed Act 2025, Electricity Amendment Bill 2025 and VB-G RAM G Act.

farmers protest Farmers take part in a sit-in protest outside the Deputy Commissioner’s office pressing for action on a range of issues affecting agricultural labourers, in Amritsar on Monday. (ANI Photo/Raminder Pal Singh) The BKU Ugrahan’s indefinite dharnas, launched



outside DC offices in 17 districts on Sunday, entered their second day on Monday. Protesters have brought tractor-trolleys to the sites to stay overnight. In Bathinda, large groups of farmers, labourers and women joined the protest. While in Sangrur, the protestors have blocked the road adjacent to the Deputy Commissioner’s office. The Ugrahan leaders demanded that Punjab issue a clear policy statement on land surveys being conducted through drones and other means in Bathinda and Sangrur.

They said the surveys have created anxiety among people and warned that teams entering agricultural fields for such surveys would face protests and gheraos. The BKU Ugrahan leaders also announced participation in a major gathering on September 9 to mark revolutionary poet Avtar Singh Paash’s birth anniversary, adding that the indefinite dharnas would continue.

No trial for Mumbai’s ‘miracle doctor’? Court case halted over Munir Khan’s health



In his discharge plea in 2025, Khan denied cheating anyone. He claimed that he was a businessman who manufactures ayurvedic substances through his firm, and a false case was filed against him after he refused to pay extortion money to a man.

A special court in Mumbai has halted the trial against ‘miracle doctor’ Munir Khan for advertising and prescribing a medicine named ‘body revival’ as a sure-shot cure for multiple ailments, including cancer, due to his ‘precarious’ health. During a hearing, the court noted that Munir Khan, who is in his 70s and was produced via video-conferencing last month, was not in a position to remain present for the trial. On Monday, the special court

said it will proceed to frame charges against three of his co-accused in the case filed by the Enforcement Directorate in 2013. In 2009, Versova Police registered a case against Munir Khan, with claims that he was prescribing a ‘Body Revival’ medicine as a cure for cancer, diabetes, and a host of other ailments. He had also appeared alongside several film and television stars in commercials to promote the products. In 2008, the food safety regulator claimed that “Dr” Munir Khan had no medical degree and was mixing Ayurvedic herbs with honey to sell them as a cure for Rs 16,000 per 100ml bottle. The police had said that it had received complaints from over 100 individuals about worsening health conditions, with one complainant alleging that his wife lost her eyesight after using one medicine prescribed by Khan as eyedrops.

In his discharge plea in 2025, Khan denied cheating anyone. He claimed that he was a businessman who manufactures ayurvedic substances through his firm, and a false case was filed against him after he refused to pay extortion money to a man. In December 2025, the court rejected the discharge plea in the Mumbai Police case.

“The offence alleged is a serious offence of pretending to invent medicine to the public at large by giving advertisements on television and causing wrongful loss to the public at large... by posing to be a doctor based on fake degree certificates,” the court had said. An appeal against this order is pending before the Bombay HC. While the charges have not been framed in the 2009 Mumbai Police case, Khan was produced via VC on July 13 in the ED case. The court verified his health condition and noted he is “very old and in a precarious condition.” Special Judge SV Sahare said, “Trial cannot proceed against accused number 1, in view of his medical and physical condition.

SP questions Ram Temple Trust CEO selection process, demands HC supervised panel



New Delhi: Samajwadi Party MP Awadhesh Prasad on Tuesday criticised the report concerning the selection process for the CEO of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, saying the Trust had not been given any authority in the matter and reiterating his demand for a committee to be constituted under the supervision of the High Court. "Whatever has happened has no meaning, and the Trust has not been given any authority in this matter. We have said this many times, and our leader Akhilesh ji has also said that a committee should have been constituted under the supervision of the High Court, because this is a major issue," Prasad said.

“Those who are responsible and accountable should be held responsible. This incident has happened to protect those who are responsible, and there is no meaning

All wars should be resolved through dialogue, not on battlefield: PM Modi at SCO Summit

Bishkek: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reiterated India's stance that all conflicts should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, and not through war. Addressing the 26th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek on Tuesday, PM Modi said that the conflict in West Asia is not confined to that region and impacts the energy security, maritime trade and supply chains of the whole world.

"In today's interconnected world, the scope of security has expanded even further. The crisis in West Asia has shown that conflict in one region is not confined to that region. It impacts the entire world's energy security, maritime trade, and supply chains. Countries in the Global South bear the brunt of this. Therefore, India has been calling for the resolution of all tensions and wars through dialogue and diplomacy, not on the battlefield," he said. The Prime Minister flagged drug trafficking as a serious threat to the young generation and regional security. He welcomed the centres being established within the SCO to address challenges like security threats, organised crime, information security, and narcotics as a "positive step" and called for making them effective instruments of practical coordination and timely action.

On connectivity, PM Modi expressed India's support for efforts to connect markets, facilitate trade and create new pathways for development. "Another foundation for our shared development is strong and reliable connectivity. India supports all efforts that connect markets, facilitate trade, and open new avenues for development.

Indian Railways approves Rs 170 crore for Kavach 4.0

New Delhi: Indian Railways has approved deployment of Kavach Version 4.0 on the remaining sections covering 712 route kilometres of the Moradabad Division, Northern Railway, at a total cost of Rs.170 crore, an official statement said on Tuesday. The approved work will strengthen the division's safety infrastructure through deployment of the indigenous Automatic Train Protection system, the statement from the Ministry of Railways said. The implementation of Kavach 4.0 will provide an advanced safety layer for train operations across the identified sections, the ministry said. Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system designed to enhance operational safety. It helps prevent Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD), automatically applies brakes when required to avert unsafe situations, controls train speed in critical conditions, and significantly reduces the risk of collisions. "The initiative forms part of Indian Railways' continued efforts to expand Kavach coverage across its network and modernise railway signalling and train protection systems," the statement noted. Safety on Indian Railways has improved markedly, with train accidents dropping 88 per cent to 16 incidents in 2025-26 from 135 in 2014-15 and just two in the current year up to

Karnataka CM Shivakumar after protests over park land rule

Lalbagh protest Bengaluru, Lalbagh protest, Bengaluru park land, Karnataka parks amendment, Karnataka Parks Preservation Act, 5 per cent park land rule, Lalbagh land rule, Cubbon Park land, Bengaluru parks, Lalbagh tunnel project, Tejasvi Surya Lalbagh, Karnataka parks law, Bengaluru news, Indian Express newsBengaluru residents participate in the campaign "Walk in Lalbagh. Walk for Lalbagh", demanding protection for the few open spaces in the city. (Express Photo)Days after Bengaluru residents and BJP leaders protested in huge numbers against a legal amendment allowing the use of 5 per cent of the city's protected park land for public utilities, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday said the government would re-visit the decision.Speaking to the media near his residence, Shivakumar said, "I will examine why this proposal to allocate 5 per cent of park land came about, what the previous government did, and which land was given to whom. I will call for the files, and we can discuss this again in the Assembly.""There was no discussion while passing the amendment to the Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) Act. Now, they are staging a protest and let them do it. I am ready to hold discussions on it. I know how they (BJP) also allotted parks and other

to this report. The entire country will one day raise its voice against this, and the Bharatiya Janata Party and its associates will have to face the consequences,” he added. Meanwhile, a search committee has been formed to select the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. The committee held its first meeting on September 11 and finalised the eligibility criteria for the post. Applications will now be invited from eligible and interested candidates. The selection committee for the first CEO of the Ram Temple is scheduled to submit the names of three shortlisted candidates to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Tuesday. The final report of the selection process will be submitted to the Trust at the Ram Janmabhoomi premises. The trustees are likely to announce the name of the temple's first CEO during an important meeting scheduled for Wednesday. The members of the committee constituted to conduct the CEO interviews have arrived in Ayodhya. The panel comprises retired Justice Pramod Kohli, retired Lieutenant General Vishnu Kant Chaturvedi and expert member Suresh Hawade. The series of meetings will begin at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at Maniramdas Cantonment, where several key decisions concerning the Trust are likely to be taken. The appointment of the temple's first CEO comes in the wake of the reported theft of offerings at the Ram Temple. The Trust is also likely to formally fill another vacant official position during the meeting. Two important positions became vacant following the resignations of Champat Rai and Anil Mishra, who had served as senior office-bearers of the Ram Temple Trust.

However, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries is essential in these efforts. This is also the core spirit of the SCO Charter," he said. The Prime Minister stressed that terrorism continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and called for dismantling the entire ecosystem of terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalisation, and safe havens. He asserted that there can be no room for double standards on terrorism. "Terrorism continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity. In our fight against it, we cannot limit ourselves to a mindset of action and reaction. We must dismantle the entire ecosystem of terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalisation, and safe havens," PM Modi said.

“We must speak with one voice that there can be no room for double standards on this serious issue. Those countries which make terrorism a tool of their policy, provide shelter and support to terrorists, will have to be given a strong message that terrorism cannot be a strategic asset for anyone,” he added. The Prime Minister said that India has been and will continue to contribute to the development and humanitarian assistance of the people of Afghanistan. He outlined three main pillars of India’s approach to SCO – Security, Connectivity and Opportunity. “Over the past 25 years, the SCO has developed a strong tradition of dialogue and cooperation across the vast Eurasian region. Together, we have made valuable contributions to the well-being of our peoples and to the development of humanity. Over these 25 years, we have laid a strong foundation for cooperation. Now, in the coming twenty-five years, our goal must be to translate this cooperation into tangible results,” he said.



June, the ministry had informed in July. Consequential Accident Index — accidents per million train-kilometres — fell to 0.01 in 2025–26 from 0.11 in 2014–15, marking a reduction of about 91 per cent. Expenditure on safety-related activities has risen steadily, from Rs 39,200 crore in 2013–14 to Rs 1,20,389 crore in 2026–27. Electrical and electronic interlocking systems with centralised operation have been provided at 6,671 stations and complete track circuiting at all these stations. Interlocking of Level Crossing (LC) Gates has been provided at 10,395 Level Crossing Gates for enhancing safety at LC Gates.



lands. There's no need for anyone to worry. I know how to protect park land," he said. The chief minister was referring to the "Walk in Lalbagh. Walk for Lalbagh" protest held in Bengaluru. "I am open to suggestions from the Opposition. I will also consider suggestions from the public. It is not my intention to create any confusion. The decision will be taken keeping the larger public interest in mind," he added. The Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) (Amendment) Act 2026 amends the original 1975 Act, allowing the state "to alienate park land by way of sale,

Can barcodes stop fake Paithani saris? Designers and weavers weigh in on Maharashtra plan



A quintessential Maharashtrian craft, the Paithani sari represents the pinnacle of handloom dexterity, luxury, and silk weaving. With intricate designs taking anywhere from a month to a full year to complete, the booming market for these prized heritage saris has inevitably attracted a wave of counterfeiters and powerloom imitations. To combat fakes, Maharashtra Textile Minister Sanjay Sawkar recently announced a remedial measure: Paithani saris will soon carry barcodes and official logos to authenticate genuine handloom pieces.

While designers, weavers, and industry leaders have welcomed the initiative's intent, they responded with measured optimism, pointing out critical challenges related to implementation, durability, and anti-tampering safeguards. Some say that existing safeguards, such as 'Silk Mark' and 'Handloom Mark' tags, are already frequently forged on counterfeit products, while paper or plastic barcodes attached to a sari can easily be detached or swapped. Nivedita, a designer who works extensively with Paithani weavers for her heritage wedding collections, says the success of this initiative will depend on the robustness of its implementation.

"I wholeheartedly welcome the textile minister's announcement on introducing barcode-based traceability for Paithani. 'Paithani Sarees and Fabrics' have been GI-registered since 2010. The new initiative, therefore, has the opportunity to take this existing geographical identity a significant step further by creating individual, verifiable traceability for each sari," she says. A Geographical Indication (GI) registration is a legal status given to products that come from a specific place and have special qualities linked to that location. Yet, she flags several impor-

Young doctor's death raises uneasy questions in Maharashtra

For Dr Amol Bansude, a medical intern at Pune's Sassoon General Hospital, the death of his friend Dr Rajendra Rupnavar is a personal blow. Dr Rupnavar, who was working as a medical officer on contract at the Sub-District Hospital in Phaltan in Maharashtra's Satara district, had confided in Bansude about the pressures he faced. "I spoke with him around two weeks ago and tried to persuade him to leave the job and come to Pune, where there were openings at Kamala Nehru Hospital. But he refused. He believed in justice and was determined that justice be done," Dr Bansude told Dr Rupnavar, who had allegedly been facing pressure over issuing a medical fitness certificate required for a firearm licence by individuals linked to a political party, attempted suicide in Mumbai on August 27 and succumbed to his injuries on Monday. The doctor, who was in his twenties and came from a low-income family in Mandve village in Solapur district, had spoken about the alleged harassment and political pressure through WhatsApp statuses, Instagram reels, and other social media posts, his colleagues claimed. He allegedly said he was being harassed, facing action, and that attempts were being made to remove him from service. He had sought government intervention and action against those responsible, his colleagues added.

Despite hardships, Dr Rupnavar earned admission to Grant Medical College in Mumbai and later joined as a contractual medical officer at Phaltan, where he served for one and a half years. On July 29, he posted a suicide note written on his left palm as his WhatsApp status. Dr Apurv Dalvi, national coordinator of the All India Medical Students Association, immediately alerted the Indian Medical Association (IMA). Dr Rupnavar had also called Dr Dalvi earlier. "I am feeling so bad that I was caught up with a protest—foreign medical graduates in New Delhi—that I could not immediately attend Dr Rupnavar's call a fortnight ago," Dr Dalvi told After Dr Santosh Kulkarni, IMA Maharashtra president, received a call from Dr Dalvi, he contacted Medical Superintendent Dr Leela Madane. "This was three weeks ago when we asked them to conduct a proper enquiry. Dr Madane informed us that he was fine and at his brother's house," Dr Kulkarni said.

However, Dr Bansude recalled that 'Raj'—as he was known to his friends—was extremely upset. "I told him to forget this episode and move on. He came from a very poor family and had been alone from his early days; his uncle supported him. Only recently did he finish paying his loan and settle down," Dr Bansude added. According to his colleagues, Dr Rupnavar had travelled to Mumbai to bring the matter to the attention of senior authorities. They alleged that he was unable to meet the officials concerned. Following his suicide bid, he was rushed to Sion Hospital in a critical condition. According to the Sion Hospital administration, Rupnavar had suffered a cervical injury and developed complications related to it. He

rent questions. "I would love to see addressed at a policy level whether the final technology is a 1D barcode, QR code, RFID/NFC tag, or even a woven-in identifier, and whether it needs careful evaluation for durability, accessibility, scalability and tamper-proof authentication. Secondly, who will issue and authenticate each code? How will weavers and weaving clusters be registered?" she asks. Moreover, how will the yarn, zari, place of manufacture and individual artisan be recorded, she asks. "How will existing Paithanis be brought into the system? What will distinguish an authentic Paithani from a semi-Paithani or imitation? Who will maintain the database, and how will consumers access and verify this information?" she asks, adding that she would like to see these aspects considered to make the framework truly bulletproof. "Done thoughtfully, this could become a landmark model for protecting India's GI crafts and empowering the artisans behind them," says Nivedita. Rizwan Quereshi, a fourth-generation weaver from Aurangabad, says there are many rip-offs of Paithani, including powerloom products made from polyester rather than silk. "The industry is being hit as a result of these fakes. While we welcome the minister's desire to help the craft, we are not clear on how the government's bar code initiative will function or how easy it will be for weavers to use," he says. Anagha Ghaisas of Saudamini Handloom, who is also a filmmaker, teacher and a supporter of textiles, is expected to speak to the minister about the bar code. "This is a positive step. All these years, no government has made an effort to protect the originality of Paithani and ensure that only pure Paithani reaches buyers. The minister's announcement of having a bar code is welcome, though we need to understand the technical steps," she says. At the end of this year, Saudamini Handloom itself is taking a step to strengthen the Paithani industry. It will open a 100-handloom cluster and experiential centre by the waters of Manas Lake in Bugaon. One of the best-known Paithani brands in the country, Paithanis by Mrga Kiloskar, was also an innovator and pioneer. Every Paithani sari by the exclusive designer Mrga Kiloskar features a running deer logo woven near the pallu. "Having a barcode is a great step. But you can start with good intentions and find that some people misuse them. Ideally, the state's focus should be on promoting the craft and educating the customers on how to detect authentic Paithani and how to buy it. It is important that buyers are educated in the qualities and value of Paithani," says Kiloskar.

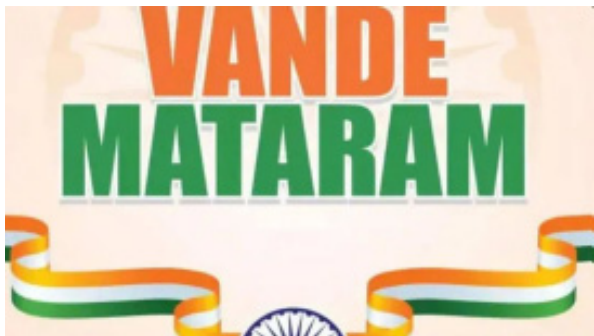


subsequently suffered a cardiac arrest during treatment and died on August 31. "The exact medical cause of death will be established through the medical and post-mortem records, which will be submitted to the police. The circumstances that led to the suicide attempt, and whether the alleged pressure had any connection with it, will have to be established through an investigation," said an official from the hospital administration. On Monday, Dr Leela Madane, Medical Superintendent of Phaltan Sub-District Hospital, was suspended, with the order stating that she had allegedly been insensitive and used harsh communication with junior medical officers. The order also mentioned that an inquiry committee had found mismanagement and lack of control in the hospital administration.

Dr Rupnavar's death also brought renewed attention to the death of a woman doctor who had worked at the same hospital and died by suicide in 2025. Allegations of workplace harassment and pressure had emerged in that case as well, and doctors' organisations had sought an impartial inquiry. "Need safe environment for doctors" The central unit of the Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) has demanded an immediate, impartial and transparent investigation into the circumstances of his death. "We need a safe, dignified and supportive working environment for every doctor," said MARD president Dr Atharva Shinde, calling for strong laws and institutional mechanisms to prevent mental harassment of doctors. Dr Dalvi added that a grievance portal should be set up to allow direct complaints and timely intervention, while Dr Kulkarni described the second such incident at the hospital as deeply concerning. "No doctor should be driven to the brink of despair because of harassment or external pressure," he said. Meanwhile, Satara district police officials said a First Information Report was registered at Dadar railway police station on Monday. "This was a zero FIR registered based on the complaint filed by the family members of the deceased. Charges of abetment of suicide have been invoked.

The Government Railway Police (GRP) then sent the case to Satara police," an officer said."

Naga students demand Assembly resolution against Vande Mataram



Kohima: The Naga Students' Federation on Tuesday marched to the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, demanding a resolution against the singing of Vande Mataram at official events, saying the protest was not intended to insult the nation but was prompted by the song being "against our faith". On the first day of the Monsoon session of the Assembly in the Christian-majority northeastern state, the protesters marched from Naga Solidarity Park, raising slogans. NSF president Mteisingding said the students' organisation would not compromise on the rights and religious beliefs of the Naga people. "We outrightly reject the imposition of Vande Mataram as it goes against our religion," he said, while clarifying the protest was not intended to insult the nation or the national song. Mteisingding called upon the Naga people to stand for their "right to protect their faith". He also urged Naga MLAs to prioritise their religious convictions, say-

Global bond rout deepens as Japan yield hits key milestone

TOKYO/LONDON/SINGAPORE, - A sell-off in global bond markets deepened on Tuesday, with Japan's 10-year bond yield hitting 3% for the first time since 1996, the latest manifestation of trader angst about energy-driven inflation, monetary tightening and worsening fiscal conditions.The rout took 1n major economies from the United States to Germany as well as Britain, where bond yields surged 10 basis points, playing catch-up with global moves after Monday's UK public holiday. Euro zone yields hit fresh over-10-year highs as the Middle East crisis stokes price pressures globally, driving market bets central banks will raise interest rates soon.Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here.

A deluge of bond sales from big tech companies aggressively raising money to fund the AI boom, in an environment where the U.S. 10-year yield has passed \$40 trillion, has exacerbated government bond selling in recent weeks. Yields rise when bond prices fall.Governments are jittery, and last month the U.S. Treasury stepped into markets in 1 bid to cap a rise in borrowing costs. Still, 30-year Treasury yields have already recovered around two-thirds of their fall after that move.And the 10-year yield's underscoring by the rise in 10-year Japanese government bond (JGB) yields to 3% for the first time in 30 years, something seen as practically unthinkable until recently after over a 10-year decade of massive central bank debt purchases kept rates artificially low.The rise in U.S. and Japanese yields reflect inflation and fiscal worries, said Tai Hui, APAC chief market strategist at J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

"The 10-year yield's rise in the Middle East risks pushing energy prices higher ... meanwhile, few actions have been taken to consolidate fiscal deficits in both economies."Brent crude rose 2% to over \$92 a barrel on Tuesday and European natural gas prices were at their highest since March, after Monday saw the first exchange of direct attacks between the U.S. and Iran in a month.

END OF ERA? DEFINITELYFor Japan in particular, higher yields increase the cost of servicing the developed world's biggest debt pile 1 at a time when Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is planning aggressive investment. Five-year JGB yields hit a record high 2.26% .U.S. 10-year Treasury yields also pushed to the highest since January 2025 at around 14.79%, while the 30-year yield was at 5.27% just 6 basis points shy of levels before August's intervention.Germany's 10-year yield was at 3.35%, its highest since 2011, and France's at 4.21%, its highest since 2008, as data 1 showed euro zone inflation 1 rose above 3% in August, cementing bets on a September European Central Bank rate rise.Britain's 10-year gilt

Iran urges US to comply with interim deal after Trump threatens further strikes

DUBAI, - Iran said on Tuesday it would reciprocate if the United States honoured its commitments under a 1 June interim deal on halting their conflict, but tensions remained high after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened Tehran with further strikes.Oil prices rose after the 1st exchange of direct attacks since late July, and following reports of two tankers coming under fire leaving the Strait of Hormuz, the global oil supply waterway that Iran has effectively closed to shipping.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.The six-month-old conflict had shifted into an economic standoff before a U.S. attack on Iran's Larak Island on Sunday, which Iran responded to by launching missiles overnight at two U.S. air bases in Jordan."We're going to hit 1 them hard ... There will be a response," a Fox News reporter quoted Trump as telling the channel on Monday, although the president separately told reporters that the renewed strikes 1 did not signal a return to full-scale war.A senior Iranian source told Reuters the exchanges of fire were a "limited and contained confrontation" 1 but said Tehran would deliver a harsh response if attacked again.While neither side appears to want a return to all-out war, their pledges to respond to further attacks highlight how 1 quickly a conflict that has increasingly been fought through sanctions, blockades and economic pressure could spill back into military action.

FEARS THAT IRAN CONFLICT COULD 1 RUN AND RUNTehran has repeatedly said it 1 will allow free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz only if Washington implements the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by both sides in June but quickly unravelled.The MOU declared an end to fighting but deferred many of the most difficult issues and paved the way for a broader 60-day negotiation period - which passed without further agreement.

"I am stating clearly that if the U.S. returns to its 1 commitments under the Memorandum of Understanding, the Islamic Republic of Iran will immediately reciprocate," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said.He was speaking in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, during a summit 1 of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, whose members also include Russia, China, India and Pakistan.

He had also said on Monday that war was in no one's interest and that Tehran was still open to a 1 negotiated solution.But 1 there has been no sign of a breakthrough and the heightened tensions this week have renewed fears of oil supply disruptions from the world's key crude-producing region, with Brent futures rising another

Hindu identity not tied to worship: RSS chief at Toronto event

Toronto: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has said Hindu identity cannot be defined by a particular language, form of worship or way of life, arguing that its central principle is respect for diversity and recognition of the unity of existence.Addressing a gathering of more than 2,000 Hindus and friends of the community in the Greater Toronto Area, Bhagwat said outward differences were natural but did not divide humanity at its core. "When I say Hindu, the word Hindu cannot be defined by any specific language, through any specific worship, or through any living style," he said."All these are there. These are diversities of human beings. Hindus respect all, Hindus accept all. They don't mind," Bhagwat added. His remarks came at a Hindu



yield rose to 5.25%, its highest since 2008.Analysts noted some different forces at play as global borrowing costs rise."In Europe and the UK it is more because of heightened inflation expectations, while in the U.S. the upticks in long-end yields are still more driven by higher real yields although inflation expectations have been creeping up too," said Frances Cheung, OCBC's head of FX and rates strategy.Real yields are the returns that a bond investor demands above inflation, an indicator of true borrowing costs for governments 1 and companies.

Concern that the U.S. Federal Reserve was 1 too relaxed about inflation has also been 1 in the mix for Treasuries.This started to shift last week, as new Fed Chair Kevin Warsh sounded tough on inflation, sending longer-dated yields lower and shorter-dated ones higher as bets on a September Fed rate hike rose."The idea... is that the hawkish pivot by Chair 1 Warsh at Jackson Hole was going to rein in long-end yields and restore stability and inflation credibility," said Kenneth Broux, head of corporate research FX 1 and rates at Societe Generale.

"The 1 presumption of the conflict between the U.S. and Iran and higher energy prices has effectively killed that idea and added new bearish impetus to bonds."U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent shrugged off worries about the bond market in an interview with Reuters on Sunday, saying the effect of higher energy prices would fade and higher yields reflected confidence in the economy.But as governments competing for the same broad pool of capital, higher yields 1 in one market 1 can push them up elsewhere.Australian 10-year yields notched their sharpest rise in five months on Tuesday, in part due 1 to fears higher JGB yields would mean fewer Japanese buyers of Australian debt.Further Japanese yield rises could drive a gradual re-allocation into Japanese assets, said TD Securities senior rates



1.3% on Tuesday."The tit-for-tat missile exchanges between the US and Iran bring validation to those who believe that even if not a 'forever war', this conflict will run and run," said PVM analyst John Evans.Highlighting such concerns, two supertankers carrying Saudi oil were struck by unknown projectiles within minutes of each other while transiting outbound through the Strait of Hormuz late on 1 Monday, according to data from shipping intelligence and 1 tracking firms Marisks and Kpler.

ECONOMIC PRESSUREThousands 1 have been killed in the conflict, mainly in Iran and Lebanon, since it began with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28. Washington has increasingly relied on economic pressure to try to force Tehran to stop blockading the Strait and end the conflict.U.S. 1 Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has warned that countries doing business with Iran could face U.S. sanctions and said secondary sanctions are likely to be 1 unveiled weekly in the effort 1 to pressure Iran, with an initial focus on banks.Iran's central bank governor, Abdolnaser Hemmati, said on Tuesday that Tehran had sufficient foreign currency reserves.The central bank was ready to inject up to \$2 billion into the foreign exchange market to calm recent volatility, Hemmati was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

"I am telling the president of the United States: Iran has (foreign) currency 1 and it has 1 enough," he said.His comments appeared partly aimed at reassuring markets after Iranian officials, including Pezeshkian, pointed to growing 1 difficulties for Iran's economy.Iran's currency plunged to a record low in August, crossing the psychological threshold of 2 million rials to the dollar, while annual inflation reached 66% in July.Additional reporting by Dubai newsroom, Phil Stewart and Kanishka 1 Singh in Washington, David Lawder in Asheville,

Vishwa Bandhu gathering centred on the theme "Embracing the world in friendship." The programme brought together community and faith leaders, scholars, professionals and representatives of organisations from across Canada.Bhagwat said India's civilisational traditions had trained people to identify a common principle beneath visible differences. "They have been trained to see the unity underlying the diversity," he said. "So in Bharat, diversity is never a problem for unity because our tradition tells us not only unity in diversity, diversities of unity."He said differences should be accepted, respected and celebrated because they were expressions of an underlying unity.

Nepal battles misinformation as AI-generated visuals flood social media after disaster

Kathmandu, Nepal is battling a deluge of misinformation, alongside rescue and relief operations as fake and AI-generated visuals inundated social media following the devastating flash floods, prompting the government to order 72 users to remove inappropriate content over the past few days.The Nepal Press Council, the country's media regulatory body, has opened a dedicated portal, titled "Special Complaints on the Bhotekoshi Incident", through which the public can report misinformation and graphic material related to the disaster, The Kathmandu Post reported on Monday.The move comes as social media platforms have been inundated with dramatic videos and images purportedly showing the destruction caused by the flash floods in the Himalayan nation.While some of the footage is genuine, fact-checkers have found that several widely circulated videos and images are from disasters in other countries, recycled from earlier events or generated or manipulated using artificial intelligence, the report said.

The rapid spread of misleading content has complicated an already chaotic information environment at a time when families are desperately searching for missing relatives and authorities are trying to establish the full extent of the disasterFor social media users chasing views and virality, the tragedy has also become a source of lucrative content, prompting concerns among authorities, journalists and fact-checkers.According to Nepal Press Council Chairman Umesh Shrestha, 72 social media users have been instructed to remove inappropriate content, most of it posted through personal accounts.

The council's dedicated portal had received 101 complaints by 5 pm on Saturday, including complaints against 67 personal accounts that had posted gruesome visuals, Shrestha said."Similarly, complaints have been lodged against some online news portals and their social media pages," he said, adding that mainstream media organisations had largely avoided publishing misleading information and excessively graphic visuals."This is a positive takeaway," Shrestha said.One widely circulated video purported to show Home Minister Sudan Gurung inside a tunnel at the disaster site helping with rescue operations. The footage, however, was traced to a tunnel rescue operation in Uttarakhand, India, and had originally been posted by the Fire Service Uttarakhand Police on August 14.Another video posted on X on August 27, showing what appeared to be a catastrophic flood, garnered more than seven million views. It was



assessed by Hive Moderation, an AI detection tool, as 97.2 per cent likely to have been generated through artificial intelligence, while X's community notes also flagged it as fabricated.

A separate video purporting to show a bridge collapsing during the Nepal-Tibet floods was also assessed as entirely AI-generated.Nepal Fact Check, a fact-checking website, debunked another video claiming to show a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) in Rasuwa. Fact-checkers traced the footage to a glacial outburst flood at Columbia Glacier in Alaska, the United States.Similarly, "before and after" photographs claiming to show a settlement in Rasuwa before and after the floods were found to be fabricated by the Australian Associated Press fact-checking unit.Fact-checkers say the growing use of AI has added a new dimension to the longstanding problem of recycled and falsely attributed disaster footage.The government's Social Media Regulation and Management Committee, which has been tasked with addressing graphic content, AI-generated misinformation, fake QR codes and other forms of online deception, has also begun discussions with social media platforms, the Post report said.

The crisis has also raised concerns over the circulation of graphic footage showing bodies, injuries and devastated communities, often without warnings or consideration for victims and their families.The flash floods, believed to have been triggered by a collapse or avalanche of ice and rock near the Nepal-Tibet border, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal on August 26.Over 900 people were killed, while more than 4,245 people are still missing following the disaster, authorities said.

Majority of Americans oppose Trump's new Canada tariffs, renaming Lake Ontario, Reuters/Ipsos poll finds

WASHINGTON, A majority of Americans 1 oppose President Donald Trump's moves last week to raise taxes on imported Canadian goods and his order to rename Lake Ontario as "Lake America," a new Reuters/Ipsos poll found.The three-day poll, which concluded on Sunday, showed Americans are 1 wary of the feud with Canada — for decades a top U.S. trading partner — which 1 has escalated since trade talks between the two countries collapsed and Trump last 1 week ordered the hike in tariffs on Canadian goods.

The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.Only 20% of poll respondents supported higher 1 tariffs on Canadian goods compared to 57% who opposed them and 21% who couldn't say where they stood. 1 About one in five poll respondents hadn't heard about the development.

U.S. households are already under financial pressure from the surge in gasoline prices since Trump launched a war on Iran in February, and American voters rate the 1 cost of living as the top issue determining how they will vote in November 3 midterm elections. 1 Trump's Republican allies will be defending slim congressional majorities in the elections. Trump's approval rating in recent weeks has 1 been mired 1 at the lowest level of his political career.The trade conflict took a theatrical turn last week when Trump on Thursday renamed Lake Ontario, one of the five Great Lakes of North America, as "Lake America." Trump's designation applies to U.S. federal usage about the lake, and does not govern 1 what

Germany set to blame Russia for attempted airport drone attack



Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul stopped short of fully confirming the reports on Tuesday during a visit 1 to Algeria but signalled new measures against Russia were being contemplated. When he returns to Germany 1 later on Tuesday he is du

BERLIN, Germany is set to blame Russia for an attempted drone 1 attack on a Ukrainian cargo plane at Leipzig/Halle airport in August and could prepare new 1 sanctions against Moscow in coordination with allies, two sources said on Tuesday.Airport workers had found a drone laden with explosives and a detonator at the airport, an important civilian freight and NATO logistics



Canada, international bodies or 1 other organizations call 1 the lake. The president has often ribbed Canada, threatening to annex the longtime ally as a 51st U.S. state. He ordered the Gulf of 1 Mexico be renamed the "Gulf of America" at the start of his second 1 term in 1 January 2025. Just 14% of Americans in the Reuters/Ipsos poll said they supported changing the name of Lake Ontario, which has gone by that name for more than 400 years. Sixty-three percent of poll 1 respondents opposed 1 the name change and the rest were unsure or didn't 1 answer the question.The poll, which was conducted online and nationwide, gathered responses from 1,023 U.S. adults and had a margin 1 of error of 4 percentage points.

Germany set to blame Russia for attempted airport drone attack

hub in eastern Germany 1 that is also a base for several giant Ukrainian Antonov An-124 cargo planes.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.Germany had 1 previously stopped short of blaming Russia but called the incident part of a 1 hybrid war being waged on Europe. Relations between Russia and the West collapsed after the 1 full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.The two sources who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed reports in 1 German media that the government would blame Russia and could prepare new sanctions. They did not disclose details of the proposed sanctions.

Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul stopped short of fully confirming the reports on Tuesday during a visit 1 to Algeria but signalled new measures against Russia were being contemplated. When he returns to Germany 1 later on Tuesday he is due to hold a press conference alongside Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt."There is no 1 overreaction on 1 our part, but there is a response when we are attacked," Wadephul said. "Russia must understand that Germany is a stabilizing force in Europe — one that is always ready to negotiate but will not be intimidated in any way."

The Russian embassy had no immediate comment, but it has previously 1 dismissed accusations about its possible 1 involvement as a "fabricated 1 provocation" and as "a new wave of anti-Russian hysteria in Germany".European intelligence officials have long monitored what they describe as Russian sabotage incidents in Europe aimed at 1 weakening NATO's unity and its member states' willingness to support Ukraine against 1 Russian aggression.Marie-Agnes 1 Strack-Zimmermann, the German chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Security and Defence, called for Russia to be clearly identified as the mastermind behind the attempted attack.

In Japan’s Asian Games, China’s growing footprint — on field & behind the scenes



China arrived at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games as the continent's dominant sporting power. With 38 medals, including 23 gold, they are already leading the medal table, a position they have occupied at every edition since 1982. But there is another Chinese dominance at these Games, one that is less visible. Japan is hosting the Games, but China's corporate presence is spread across different layers of the event, much of it away from the competition arenas.

A Shanghai-based company is the host broadcaster, another Chinese company is involved in the opening and closing ceremonies, and there are others that have been roped in for supply of temporary power, venue technology, LED screens and sporting equipment. The most prominent is the China Media Group-International Media Port (CMG-IMP), the host broadcaster appointed by the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games Organising Committee (AINAGOC) and approved by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). Gold medalist team China, rear in blue, silver medalist team Japan, in red, and bronze medalist team South Korea interact on the podium after the men's 4x200-meter freestyle relay final in swimming at the Asian Games in Tokyo, Japan, Monday, Sept. 21, 2026. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae) Gold medalist team China, rear in blue, silver medalist team Japan, in red, and bronze medalist team South Korea interact on the podium after the men's 4x200-meter freestyle relay final in swimming at the Asian Games in Tokyo, Japan, Monday, Sept. 21, 2026. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae) CMG-IMP is producing the international television footage and providing facilities and services to rights-holding broadcasters, including the beauty shots of Nagoya and Aichi prefecture. According to the OCA, 3,858 personnel are working for the host broadcaster, which is providing live coverage of 28 sports while leaving out 15. This is the first time that the Shanghai-based operation has been named the host broadcaster for an event held outside China. Hong Kong-based outlet Bastille Post reported that the CMG is also taking some of the production away from Japan, and doing it remotely from China. The broadcasting contract itself has an unusual history. AINAGOC's first host-broadcast contract went to ISBHAO, a consortium involving Spain's International Sports Broadcasting and China's Yahoo Sports Culture Media. This contract was later terminated, and AINAGOC conducted a new selection process. CMG-IMP eventually won the new con-

tract for a reported sum of 5.156 billion yen (approx Rs 314 crore).

AINAGOC and OCA did not respond to a questionnaire sent by The Indian Express on the host broadcaster's contract as well as the broader Chinese involvement in the Games' delivery. OCA president Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani of Qatar told Chinese state media CGTN on Saturday: "What we have seen is impressive. The assessment would be at the end of the Games, we will see how things go in the next 17 days but what I have seen is really, really impressive." Then there is Zhejiang Dafeng Industry, based in China's Zhejiang province, which is an AINAGOC Tier 2 official partner and "responsible for the planning, production and operation of the opening and closing ceremonies of the 20th Asian Games as well as digital content creation, the design and production of the cauldron, performances and cultural programmes", according to the OCA statement earlier this year. Past experience, Dafeng, the OCA said, was listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange in 2017. The company was also involved in the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023.

The same pattern — of companies involved in the Hangzhou Asian Games also being a part of the Aichi-Nagoya operations — appears elsewhere. Beijing-based Starting Future Technology is an official supplier for venue technology operations. Its previous event experience includes the Hangzhou Asian Games and the Harbin Asian Winter Games. Shanghai Yude Energy is a partner for temporary power supply at the Games. The organisers said the deal with Shanghai Yude, that also supplied temporary power at the previous edition of the Games, does not include Japan's regular public electricity supply and is restricted only to Games operations. China's mixed relay triathlon gold medalists from left, Lin Xinyu, Li Mingxu, Huang Anqi and Zhang Xirui react on the podium at the Asian Games in Gamagori, Japan, Monday, Sept. 21, 2026. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila) China's mixed relay triathlon gold medalists from left, Lin Xinyu, Li Mingxu, Huang Anqi and Zhang Xirui react on the podium at the Asian Games in Gamagori, Japan, Monday, Sept. 21, 2026. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila) There are Chinese suppliers inside the competition venues, too. Shandong Taishan Sports Equipment is supplying equipment across nine sports — boxing, wrestling, gymnastics, taekwondo, karate, wushu, kurash, jujitsu and archery. Shenzhen Transtech Display Technology is an official supplier of LED screens across venues. The Chinese presence also extends into newer parts of the Games. Tencent Technology (Shenzhen) Company Limited is an official supplier for esports solutions, with esports returning as a medal sport after its debut at Hangzhou. Sportswear company 361° is a "prestige partner" of the Games, making Aichi-Nagoya its fifth consecutive Asian Games partnership after Guangzhou, Incheon, Jakarta-Palembang and Hangzhou. Meanwhile, the host — Japan — also has its share of companies on the ground. The major areas that Japanese companies are involved in include transport, communication and other Games operations.

India not a sporting superpower, but can make presence felt at Asian Games

Those numbers — and a small, unassuming knick-knack tucked inside the goodie-bag given to every Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games athlete — can put the next fortnight into perspective. It's a small fist-sized sauce-plate, the Japanese trick for portion control, never overwhelming the dish with the dip. For India's 2026 Asiad batch, it's a metaphor — the Asiad medal, no matter how much hype it creates, is just the dip for the Olympic Games at Los Angeles in two years. Japanese cutlery is designed for small bites. Nagoya is the smallest start for what needs to be achieved at LA '28. It has 20 Olympic quotas on offer. Both hockey teams could do with nailing down that Olympic qualification — for 20 years ago, they didn't secure Beijing participation. The men's team has won two Olympic bronzes since, but an Asiad gold is something best sealed before dreaming too big. A Nagoya gold in archery will perhaps be the most significant, with the sport offering six individual and two team quotas. The gettable one is in the Compound mixed team event, a discipline Indians have long dominated, but the stakes have never been this high to prove the Koreans can be denied. Mirabai Mirabai Chanu on the podium at the medal ceremony after she won her third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold. India are not exactly favourites in Recurve either. But Dhiraj Bommadevara is considered a generational talent. He will need tonnes of adaptability in cloudy, windy conditions though to beat Koreans such as Sim Woo-jin, though both gold and silver fetch quotas. There's no Deepika Kumari in the women's entries, and the likes of Ankita Bhakat will need to be at their best to grab a coveted final.

Another notable omission is that of Manika Batra in table tennis, though India got a medal courtesy Ayhika (another shocking absence) and Sutirtha Mukherjee, who will compete at Nagoya. There are no Olympic quotas available, but a men's doubles medal from Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah might start a happy streak. Squash and tennis offer a men's singles and women's singles quota each to the winner. And while Anahat Singh has the Malaysians leader in Asia in her sights, it is in tennis with Sumit Nagal that India can dream. Dhaksineswar Suresh has been on a roll these last 12 months, but he won't be fielded in singles — curiously. The quota is quite alluring though. Surfing, dinghy sailors and triathlon are other LA-coded golds, with a lesser Indian likelihood though.

Like weightlifter Mirabai Chanu's pursuit of the elusive Asiad podium, or a badminton singles gold — a good time for Lakshya Sen and Ayush Shetty to spring back to life. India also hasn't won a rowing gold since Dattu Baban Bhokanal, Sawarn Singh, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh got home the Quadruple sculls top spot in 2018, but lightweight's Ujjwal Kumar has had a good year. The Asian Games really gets exciting on match-ups though: CWG 60kg champion boxer Sachin Siwach taking on Uzbeki royalty Abdulmalik Khalolov. Or 51 kg breakout pugilist Sakshi Chaudhary going up against Chinese Olympic champ Wu Yu for gold. Or Jyothi Yarraji, who won a silver at Hangzhou, once again getting flanked by old Chinese rivals, Wu Yanni and Lin Yuwei, in the 100m hurdles. The first medal up for grabs will pit 10m Air Rifle shooters Elavenil Valarivan-Tilottama Sen-Sonam Uttam Maskar against the latest Chinese sensation, Wang Zifei. All of India's attention has shifted to Pistol though, as seeking redemption in Japan is former world champion Rudranksh Patil. Interestingly, Patil won the world title while still a teen in 2022, but failed to qualify for the Paris



Olympics. The boy who won bronze when Patil won gold, Chinese Sheng Lihao, spearheads their shooting bunch, while only 21 years old, but already a double Olympic champion. There are a few other names that haven't fulfilled their touted potential. India has endless patience for the talent of 9kg wrestler Deepak Punia, but Nagoya might be a good place to put it past Russian-born Bahrain heavyweight, Akhmed Tazhudinov. India hasn't won an Asiad wrestling gold since Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia's 2018 triumphs, when Deepak picked silver.

India's Tejaswin Shankar competes in the men's decathlon long jump at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, Thursday, July 30, 2026. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant) India's Tejaswin Shankar competes in the men's decathlon long jump at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, Thursday, July 30, 2026. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant) Asiad medals tend to rain on India in track and field. However, gold could be hard-earned. High jumper Pooja bombed at the Commonwealth Games but redemption could come at Nagoya — she has Uzbek Barnokhon Sayfullayeva, a pair of Kazakhs and Chinese Jiawen Lu snapping at her heels. Rumesb Pathirage looms large on the javelin field, but Yashvir Singh and Rohit Yadav have a chance to keep India interested if they can get into 87m+ territory. Sarvesh Kushare and Tejaswin Shankar can carry forward their success train from the CWG, and the sprinters are due to 'not' mess up. While two kabaddi golds are demanded, the superstar cricket teams too can pay their dues, with a fuss-free march to gold.

Temporary stands are being erected at a baseball stadium that seats 500. Jasprit Bumrah and Shreyas Iyer can send the humble

India thrash Korea 63-31 to extend unbeaten run in 2026 Asian Games Kabaddi



Hyderabad: India kabaddi men's team continued its unbeaten run at the 2026 Asian Games with a commanding 63–31 victory over the Republic of Korea in their second Group A fixture at the Tokai Citizens Gymnasium on Tuesday morning.

Captain Sunil Kumar's side, many of whose raiders and defenders are familiar names from the Pro Kabaddi League, took early control of the contest and never let go.

CSK MD Viswanathan confirms Dhoni's role in Zaheer's appointment

New Delhi: Legendary former India captain MS Dhoni was actively involved in the decision to appoint former India pacer Zaheer Khan as the new head coach of Chennai Super Kings (CSK), franchise managing director Kasi Viswanathan said on Monday. Five-time champions CSK on Monday named 47-year-old Zaheer as their head coach for IPL 2027, filling the high-profile vacancy left by former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, who parted ways with the franchise after an 18-year association. Apart from Dhoni, CSK's cricket management team included owner Rupa Gurunath and captain Ruturaj Gaikwad. "See, basically, the cricket management took this decision. They wanted Mr Zaheer Khan as the head coach based on his experience. He has played over 100 games in IPL and was an all-round player.

"So, they preferred that he will be a good option for them and we abided by what the cricket management wanted. Definitely, he (MS Dhoni) was part of the decision when this was taken. Without his advice, we don't do anything," Viswanathan told IANS on Monday. Asked about Dhoni's future as a player after he did not play a single game for CSK in IPL 2026 due to fitness issues, Viswanathan said, "See, basically, he continues to be a player for us. That is the only thing I can say." Viswanathan also confirmed that Zaheer, a member of India's 2011 ODI World Cup-winning team, would have complete autonomy in selecting his backroom staff. "He will decide on the support staff," he said. As of now, CSK's support staff includes Mike Hussey, Sridharan Sriram, Rajiv Kumar, Eric Simons and James Foster. Zaheer, who was previously a trainee at the MRF Pace Foundation in Chennai, served as Director of Cricket Operations and Head of Global Development at Mumbai Indians from 2018 to 2022 before taking up a mentoring role with Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2025. As a left-arm pacer, Zaheer represented Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, claiming 102 wickets in 100 matches at an average of 27.27. However, this will be Zaheer's first stint as head coach of a cricket team. He can focus solely on CSK as he has no other franchise T20 cricket coaching commitments. Outside coaching and mentoring,

The Indian raiding unit was clinical throughout, picking up 38 out points across the match against Korea's 23, while the defence backed that up with a string of successful tackles that repeatedly stalled Korea's attacking rhythm. India raced to a 34–14 lead at the interval, built on 23 out points and seven bonus points in the opening half alone, along with two All-Outs that Korea simply had no answer for. Korea's raiders struggled to find gaps in the Indian defensive line, managing just 10 touch points of their own before the break. The second half followed a similar pattern, with Korea showing marginally more fight but never threatening a comeback. India added a further 29 points after the restart, inflicting one more All-Out and stretching their bonus-point tally to 17 for the match, while Korea's response yielded 17 points but nothing close to the scale needed to peg back the deficit. With the win, India remained firmly on course to top Group A, having now beaten hosts Japan and Korea in successive outings. The men's team next takes on Bangladesh on September 23 in Group A action as they continue their pursuit of a ninth Asian Games gold medal in the last ten editions.



Zaheer co-owns Antwerp Anchors in the European T20 Premier League in Belgium, Jaffna Kings in the Lanka Premier League in Sri Lanka and Vancouver Anchors in the Super60 league in Canada. Asked how long negotiations lasted before Zaheer agreed to join CSK, Viswanathan chose not to disclose details. "That is the process everybody goes through. Those are all things which we need not tell," he said.

The search for Fleming's successor was far from simple, especially with 2027 being the final season of a three-year cycle. It is understood that extensive conversations were held with various candidates after Fleming left CSK to become England men's Test head coach. The insistence on an Indian head coach with previous IPL experience, given the familiarity with Indian conditions and local players, as well as Zaheer's previous association with Dhoni as an India teammate, were factors in his appointment, according to the report. Notably, CSK's official statement announcing Zaheer's appointment did not mention a multi-year deal, indicating that it will initially be a one-year stint. Zaheer's immediate task will be to map out the team's retention strategy and identify targeted players ahead of the mini-auction in December. Having missed the playoffs for three consecutive seasons, CSK will look to return to the playoffs in the 2027 season before the next mega auction.

Vakiti Srihari reviews preparations for Khelo India Youth Games-2026

Hyderabad: Telangana Sports and Youth Services Minister Vakiti Srihari directed officials to ensure that the Khelo India Youth Games-2026 are organised in a prestigious and successful manner, adhering to the highest standards. At a review meeting here on Monday, the Minister called for comprehensive facilities and seamless execution so that Telangana earns appreciation across the country for the conduct of the Games and the hospitality extended to participants.

Sports Advisor to the State Government A.P. Jithender Reddy, Special Chief Secretary (Sports) Jayesh Ranjan, and Dr A. Sonibala Devi, Vice-Chairperson and Managing Director of the Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG), attended the meeting. Srihari said hosting the Khelo India Youth Games was a prestigious opportunity for Telangana and directed all departments and stakeholders to work together to ensure the smooth conduct of the Games.

The Minister asked officials to ensure that athletes, coaches, technical officials and other personnel arriving from across the country face no inconvenience. He stressed the need for adequate facilities covering accommodation, transportation, food, security, medical services, sporting venues, sports equipment and other essential requirements, leaving no scope for lapses. Srihari said the Khelo India Youth Games should not be viewed merely as a sporting event, but as an important platform to showcase Telangana's sporting potential and organisational capabilities to the nation. Geographic Reference Jayesh Ranjan informed the meeting that an Organising Commit-



tee, under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, would be constituted, with 17 sub-committees functioning under its supervision. He said officials from various government departments would be included in the committees to strengthen inter-departmental cooperation and ensure effective execution of responsibilities. Sports Advisor A.P. Jithender Reddy suggested that representatives of the concerned sports associations be given appropriate representation in the sub-committees. He also stressed the need to procure the required sporting equipment well in advance, ensure its safe storage and make it readily accessible to athletes whenever required. Dr A. Sonibala Devi briefed the meeting on the measures already initiated by the Sports Authority of Telangana for the Khelo India Youth Games-2026, the arrangements currently underway, coordination among various departments and the proposed course of action.

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

An advertising campaign featuring American actor Sydney Sweeney has sparked widespread backlash from female athletes who say it is sexualising women in sports. In the ad for the sports prediction market platform Novig, Sweeney appears with little or no clothing, covering parts of her body with strategically placed footballs and other sports apparel. Many female athletes criticised the ad on social media and called it disrespectful to women. "I can't describe how infuriated I feel when I watch this," four-time Olympic swimming gold medalist Ariarne Titmus wrote on Instagram. "How do we live in a world

where monetising a woman's body and sexualising women's sport is still a thing?"

Check Out | Hanuman Ansh collection day 39: Neem Karoli Baba film makes 7x Dhurandhar 2; earns Rs 280 cr British sprinter Amy Hunt addressed the actor in a post-race interview with the BBC on Sunday, September 13, after finishing fourth in the 200 meters at the Ultimate Championship in Budapest, Hungary. "Sydney Sweeney, this is what women in sport look like," she said, looking at the camera. "Muscles, hard work, sweat, blood, tears." Former US gymnast Gracie Kramer called the ad infuriating. "I've spent my entire life competing in a sport

where female athletes have been oversexualised, reduced to our bodies, and forced to fight to be taken seriously for what we can actually do," she said on Instagram. Kramer posted stories featuring female athletes training with the caption: "What a woman in sports looks like."

Must Read | Bethlehem Kudumba Unit box office: Nivin Pauly film earns Rs 304.9 cr; dethrones Lokah Sofie Fella, a Chinese-German rugby player, said female athletes can be role models for girls and women because they manage to "untangle" from society's ideals of beauty and femininity.

Prajakta Koli doesn’t see Safed Sagar’s Madhavi Reddy as ‘red flag’: ‘She was in love’



Madhavi Reddy, Prajakta Koli’s character in Oni Sen’s Netflix India period war drama Operation Safed Sagar, has a unique vantage point in the show. At the start of the series, set in the events leading to the 1999 Kargil War fought between India and Pakistan, she’s a civilian who just shows up at Indian Air Force (IAF) base. Her longtime boyfriend Bal Reddy aka Baldy (Mihir Ahuja) is too busy with his Flying Officer duties to pay as much heed to their love life as he used to. So, she flees home and just shows up at his door, wishing to live the rest of her life with him.

Is Madhavi Reddy a red flag?

To many, Madhavi Reddy could come across as a red flag. It’s the opposite of Farhan Akhtar’s 2004 war drama Lakshya, where Preity Zinta’s journalist character pushes her boyfriend, Hrithik Roshan’s directionless character, to join the Indian Army and fight in Kargil War. Madhavi, having no inkling about what a soldier’s life entails, is obsessively and blindly in love. “I actually didn’t see Madhavi as a red flag at all. It was a very human, common emotion that anybody feels, when you want to spend your life with somebody you’re hopelessly in love with,” Prajakta tells SCREEN in an exclusive interview.

She reminds those who would argue otherwise that the characters she and Mihir play in Operation Safed Sagar aren’t just “characters written on paper”, but living, breathing people with flesh and blood. “And there are so many colours a person has. While he’s fighting for our country, he’s also a man in love. While she’s supportive of her dream, she’s also someone who wants a life with him,” says Prajakta. She feels in her realm of reality, Madhavi also took a “very brave step” of “leaving everything for the man she loves”. In her capacity, Madhavi is somewhere as brave as how a soldier like Baldy is on the battlefield.Mihir Ahuja and Prajakta Koli in Operation Safed Sagar. Mihir Ahuja and Prajakta Koli in Operation Safed Sagar.Prajakta is thus glad that war dramas like Operation Safed Sagar have come a long way from back when soldiers’ wives were reduced to weeping women waiting eagerly with open doors for their husbands to return from war. “Operation Safed Sagar deals with so much more of what happens with a soldier than what

happens at the frontlines. I love how it humanizes them to have these complex building blocks of life. The fact that I get to play one of them is such an honour for me,” says the actor, who shares that mantle with Amrita Bagchi and Dia Mirza, who play Alka Ahuja and Kamalpreet Kaur, the wives of Kargil War hero Ajay Ahuja and Golden Arrows Commanding Officer BS Dhanoa respectively.

Madhavi Reddy starts as the only civilian at an IAF camp

Madhavi’s role in the show goes beyond a flying officer’s love interest, as she almost becomes the eyes through which the audience explores a air force camp. “With Madhavi, what’s the most beautiful is she’s very, very ordinary. She doesn’t come from that world. She somehow finds herself there. And then her journey goes from not understanding what this life is to eventually, evolving into this person who accepts responsibility of how Baldy’s life does get affected by her. That’s beautiful,” says Prajakta. Which is why it didn’t matter to her if Madhavi was projected as just a woman in love, and not a woman driven by ambition. Thus, she never got into Madhavi’s backstory of whether she had a job or wanted to be a working woman at all.“That’s not a discussion I ended up having with them. I liked that she was a woman so in love she was ready to leave everything behind for someone she saw a life with. I find that very romantic,” confesses Prajakta. “Of course, in no way do I come from a place of not caring about the ambitions she might have had or what she might want to do, but this part of her story deals with her life with Baldy and doing whatever she can to achieve that. So, that’s what we focused on more,” she argues. A turning point in her arc comes when Alka explains to her why wives don’t discuss grave personal issues with IAF officers on the day of a sortie.Has that strategy and ability to compartmentalize her emotions and her husband’s priorities also helped Prajakta in her own personal life? “I don’t think both are comparable at all. I can’t even fathom to understand how the people and the families in our forces deal with this compartmentalization because it’s so much more complex than what us civilians can imagine. The most I could do was to get close to an idea of what Madhavi would be in real life. Obviously, in no way would I ever know that as a civilian. But I’ve tried to interpret what I thought could be done in that case,” says Prajakta.She acknowledges that while she relates with Madhavi woman to woman, she can’t place both their personal lives on the same pedestal. “Our lives are so much easier and safer because of the people who are guarding us at the borders. For me to ever say if they can compartmentalize, so can I, it’s just silly. I honestly don’t even know the pressures they must be going through to have that kind of a mental balance,” adds the actor. Another moving scene that offers a peek into the sisterhood between the pilot wives at the camp is the one where Madhavi reveals she’s pregnant after concealing it for weeks after Ajay Ahuja’s death. “It’s just the amount of emotions that’s common between them — courage, strength, grit, grief sometimes, and hope!

‘You figure out, fail and win’: Dulquer Salmaan reveals best advice from father Mammooty

Unlike many of his peers and colleagues, Mammooty is not known to have pulled strings to facilitate his son Dulquer Salmaan’s film debut. Despite having the power to bring in some of the finest Malayalam filmmakers to launch his son and bankroll the film himself, Mammooty never did.In fact, Dulquer Salmaan made his foray into Malayalam cinema through a movie, Second Show (2012), helmed by debutant director Srinath Rajendran and featuring a couple of newcomers in the central roles.Cinema Anatomy | Toxic: Yash, Geetu Mohandas’ crime thriller becomes the very monster it set out to destroyRegardless, the actor never denied that being “Mammooty’s son” helped him gain quick entry into Tinseltown and land the lead role in his debut movie itself.Recently, a fan asked Dulquer what the best piece of advice he ever received from his legendary father was. His response not only shed light on the bond the father-son duo shares but also offered a profound lesson on parenting.

‘He doesn’t interfere’: Dulquer Salmaan on Mammooty“I think I’m the most blessed son because my father doesn’t interfere too much in my life. He says, ‘You do, you figure out, you fail, you win; it should all be you. If anything happens, I’m here as a backup. I’m like your safety net.’ Like in the circus, if you fall, there’s a safety net,” he said.

Dulquer added, “He’s my safety net. But he does not tell me what to do. He says, ‘You figure, you learn, you make mistakes.’ So I think that is my biggest blessing.” Dulquer Salmaan made these remarks during a promotional event for his upcoming movie, I’m Game, directed by Nahas Hidayath.Also starring Kayadu Lohar, Mysskin, Antony Varghese Pepe, Samyuktha Viswanathan, Vinay Fortt, and Kathir in key roles, I’m Game will hit the screens on Thursday, September 3.Must Read | ‘We knew our careers could end’: Parvathy Thiruvothu on forming WCC, facing ‘empty threats’

When Dulquer Salmaan recalled earning first paycheck at age 10In another interview a few years ago, Dulquer revealed that his first paycheck was Rs 2,000, which he received without nepotism. “I was 10 years old. This has nothing to do with my dad; this is not some nepotism advantage. I was randomly picked by director Rajiv



Menon’s ad agency. They came to my school to pick kids for a television commercial (TVC), and I was one of those who got selected. They gave me Rs 2,000 for that,” he told Curly Tales YouTube channel.“It (the Rs 2,000) was like unheard-of money, like it was Rs 2 crore or something. I was 9 or 10 years old at that time. I gave Rs 500 to my grandparents and the rest to my mother. And then I used to keep asking her, ‘Maa, that Rs 2,000 I have, can I buy this?’ So then my mom was like, ‘You finished that Rs 2,000 long ago.’ She still talks about this,” he added.

ICYMI | Kamal Haasan-Asin’s Samurai-Kalaripayattu epic, 19th Step, was killed 20 days before filmingDulquer was most recently seen in Selvamani Selvaraj’s Kaantha (2025), while his last Malayalam lead role was in King of Kotha (2023).Mammooty was last seen in director Mahesh Narayanan’s Patriot

Kalamaya Cineverse wrote, “Another milestone for #EnnaVilai Proud to be an Official Selection at the Atlanta Indian Film Festival (AIFF). One Powerful Story. One Global Journey. Taking Tamil Cinema to the world. In Theatres – September 2026. Written and Directed by @sajeevpazhoor.”The film, which has caught the attention of critics and film buffs, is to have a theatrical release in September this year.It may be recalled that the makers of the film had chosen to express their gratitude

After Saiyaara, Aneet Padda takes on a cult leader in JioHotstar’s Hunkkaar



After making a smashing debut with Mohit Suri’s Saiyaara, actor Aneet Padda will next be seen in the web series Hunkkaar: The Roar. In the upcoming JioHotstar show, Padda plays an assault survivor, while Fatima Sana Shaikh will be seen as a police inspector investigating her case. The OTT platform unveiled the teaser for Hunkkaar on Tuesday.The teaser opens with 17-year-

old Meenu Rawat (Aneet Padda) sitting at a police station with her family. She accuses Sunil Chakosi aka ‘Baapi’, a powerful and influential cult leader, of sexual assault. Meenu also reveals that she was a student at Mahasherni School in Baapi’s Shaburi Fort. Police inspector Fatima Sana Shaikh is assigned to investigate the case.Towards the end of the video, when the police tells Meenu that ‘Baapi’ will be questioned, she takes a stand against the system and reveals that she would not leave the premises until an official complaint is filed against him. Hunkkaar’s teaser also gave glimpses of the rest of the cast, including, Ram Kapoor, Mohd Zeeshan Ayub, Arjun Mathur and Zoya Hussain.

While sharing the teaser on her Instagram handle, Aneet Padda wrote in the caption, “Presenting a little something I shot before Saiyaara. Hunkkaar has been a part of my journey for a while, and I’m glad to finally share it with you all.”She added, “Nahi hoga insaaf ka intezaar, bas goonjegi sachhai ki Hunkkaar (There will be no waiting for justice when the roar of truth will rise). Hotstar Specials: Hunkkaar – The Roar, streaming from 25th September, only on JioHotstar. Produced by Birla Studios and Applause Entertainment, in association with Purple Pebble Pictures, A Mangata Films Production.”

Hanuman Ansh song makes visually impaired singer viral, once sang in Bundelkhand streets



Director Vishal Chaturvedi’s latest film Hanuman Ansh, based on the life of Neem Karoli Baba, has proved the true power of positive word of mouth. The devotional drama, that started with just Rs 10 lakhs on its first day of release on August 7, has now crossed Rs 50 crore worldwide. The film’s songs have also been grabbing attention, especially the track ‘Tere Hi Bharose Hanuman’, sung by a visually impaired Bundelkhandi folk singer Suneel Lodhi. In a recent interview, he recalled how he spent years in Bundelkhand singing with his tambura and has now made his way to Bollywood.

While reacting to the massive success of the song ‘Maine Tere Hi Bharose’, he told Hindustan Times, “I am getting so many calls congratulating me for the songs. Log keh rahe hain ki viral ho gaya hai gana (People are saying it’s viral). Bahut acha lag raha hai... I want to thank God and all the people who helped me in my journey.”

The Bundeli singer then opened up about how his relationship with music started when he was very young, around 10 or 11. “I used to sing on the tambura,” he shared. Lodhi slowly made devotional and Bundeli folk songs a part of his signature tracks. He mostly performed for people around him before social media gave him a bigger platform.He recalled singing songs for the Bundeli Duniya page since a long time. “That is where my Bundeli songs started getting noticed.” One of those songs – “Dula Ban Ke Aa Gai”, has reached over lakhs of views, but it was the track “More Sankat Ke Kataiya” that helped him gain more popularity. The song was recorded with Lodhi singing and playing the tambura.Then, filmmaker and music producer Pankaj VRK heard his voice and liked the raw quality of his singing. “I have been working on YouTube for around three years. ‘More Sankat Ke Kataiya’ sounded very good in his voice, so I wanted to contact him,” Pankaj recalled.However, it was difficult to find Lodhi and Pankaj revealed that he had to look “here and there” for his contact number. Later, the singer travelled to Indore for the first time before the journey before going to Mumbai. After getting a call from Mumbai after “More Sankat Ke Kataiya” circulated online, the filmmaker helped him reach Sai Baba Studio in Mumbai, where he recorded around eight songs, with “Maine Tere Hi Bharose” released till now.

“I sang it on the tambura, recorded the vocals in the studio and came back. I did not know that this song would be in a film. More ‘Sankat Ke Kataiya’ is a traditional Hanuman bhajan. I keep singing these traditional bhajans.

Rana Daggubati ‘loves’ wife Miheeka Bajaj’s busy schedule: ‘She has zen-like energy’



Rana Daggubati and Miheeka Bajaj have often spoken about finding a balance between their personal and professional lives. However, Rana says he is happy to see his wife keeping busy, with Miheeka now travelling frequently for work.When asked if Miheeka’s thoughts on work-life balance had influenced him, Rana Daggubati had an interesting answer. He said that these days, she is the busier one in the relationship, with work taking her to different cities. “Well, now she has projects in Bombay, Goa. She travels more than I do. She’s on calls longer than I, and I love it. It’s great,” said the Baahubali actor in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India.

The 42-year-old actor was also asked if they have managed to strike that perfect balance between work and their personal lives. Rana explained that he does not really look at his work as something he needs to take a break from because of his love for movies. He stated, “Now, I don’t see any other job or anything else that one can do in life that can keep you so engaged. And it’s not like someone’s put a gun to my head saying, ‘listen, yehi karna hai (you have to do this).’”The actor feels that stepping away from work to maintain a work-life balance isn’t ideal. He added that doing something that you are “interested in” and “happy” about, should also be prioritised.During the interview, Rana Daggubati also credited Miheeka with a “Zen-like energy” that’s been

grounding him — and revealed one of the sweeter details behind their relationship in the process. Her favourite possession, by her own admission, is a handmade Yoda figurine (from Star Wars) he gave her early on, back when she asked him for something that represented him fully.Rana said, “Oh, it’s actually a mould, like a hand-made mould of a Yoda which we picked up at some point, somewhere. And I think when we first met, she said, ‘Okay, what’s something that represents you fully that you can give me and I can keep?’ And everything was just pointing to Yoda and nothing else. So, I said, ‘this is all the knowledge, this is where I get everything from. Keep it very carefully.’”

Jason Momoa to feature in ‘Copperhead’

Los Angeles: Actor Jason Momoa is the latest addition to the cast of “Copperhead”. The film is directed by John Swab and produced by Black Label Media alongside Miles Teller’s production company Lime Tree Productions and Swab, according to the entertainment news outlet Deadline.

The film also features actors Tenoch Huerta, Adria Arjona and Kiefer Sutherland, alongside the actor.It revolves around an undercover drug deal which explodes into violence, and a veteran detective is forced to team with a federal agent to unravel the conspiracy within their elite task force, reads the official logline.There is no information about Momoa’s character in the film.Momoa has recently starred alongside Dave Bautista in the Amazon MGM action comedy “The Wrecking Crew”. He will next feature in “Street Fighter”, which is based on the game series, “