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Be it temporary or long term... ‘Maun’ of ministerial aspirants gives CM Revanth a breather

Hyderabad: One obvious outcome of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee leadership's meeting with the All India Congress Committee's high command in New Delhi during the culmination of l'affaire former minister Konda Surekha is that all ministerial aspirants, including those who were vocal and unapologetic, have calmed down with saintly resignation.

This has surely given Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy a breather. But the larger question is: How long will the ministerial aspirants in the Telangana Congress maintain this remotely tracked silence?

These days, leaders such as Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy, Malreddy Ranga Reddy, Kokkiralra Premasagar Rao and several other ministerial aspirants, who had earlier targeted the Chief Minister or the party either directly or indirectly, refrain from making open criticism. Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy, considered the most serious ministerial aspirant, appears to have called a sort of truce with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. What if the truce is uneasy? In any case, his criticism of the Chief Minister has noticeably reduced.

At a public meeting held at Nakrekal, Rajgopal Reddy in fact honoured Revanth Reddy with a shawl, saying he did so, following the Chief Minister's assurance that the Dindi project would be completed.

Incidentally, Rajgopal Reddy put the record straight after some people questioned whether he had honoured the Chief Minister in the hope of securing a ministerial position. Further, he said that the decision to appoint him as a Minister was not in the Chief Minister's hands. The party high command, he said, would take the final decision on whether he would be given a ministerial position.

Rajgopal Reddy said he had appealed to the Chief Minister to complete the Dindi project at the earliest, as it would provide irrigation water to the Munugode Assembly constituency.

A Telangana Congress leader said that the party high command appears to have succeeded in putting down dissent within the state unit. He said that not only Rajgopal Reddy, but also Konda Surekha, who lost her ministerial position, had recently been referring to the "party high command", instead of criticising



the Chief Minister or other party leaders.

"I don't know what the party high command assured them. But both firebrand leaders - Rajgopal Reddy and Konda Surekha - are maintaining silence," he observed, pointing out that other ministerial aspirants also went silent. It may be recalled that Rajgopal Reddy became relatively quiet after meeting Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. Since then, he has not only refrained from criticism but has also stated that the "party high command" would take care of his concerns.

Rajgopal Reddy has said that his primary objective is to work for the Congress party and help Rahul Gandhi become the Prime Minister of the country. Similarly, Konda Surekha and her husband Konda Murali have indicated that they are looking towards the party high command for their political future.

Konda Surekha has said that Delhi leaders spoke to her and assured her that "suitable positions" would be considered for both her and her husband. Konda Murali, meanwhile, has stated that his objective is to work towards making Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister of the country. Lesser disgruntled leaders too have got the message in retail that the high command is the ultimate arbiter of their political destiny

Another Congress leader, however, wondered whether the ministerial aspirants would maintain their silence in the long term. "I do not know whether this silence will continue or is merely temporary. In any case, the Chief Minister has got an opportunity to focus on other issues. Now, there are no indications from the party high command of a Cabinet expansion or reshuffle in the near future," the leader said.

President Donald Trump Says US Officials Met Iran Mediators

Washington: United States President Donald Trump said that American officials held discussions with mediators on Iran on Monday, Al Jazeera reported.

Speaking to reporters at the Oval Office, Trump confirmed the interaction but did not share any further details regarding the talks.

According to Iranian state media cited by Al Jazeera, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was also scheduled to meet with mediators in New York to discuss the latest proposals and developments in the situation between Tehran and Washington, days after US President Donald Trump rejected an Iranian proposal linked to the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz as the conflict in West Asia continues.

At the White House, Trump reiterated his assertion that the United States will win the ongoing war against Iran "very soon," adding that gas prices will come tumbling down once it ends, Al Jazeera reported.

According to an ISNA report, Araghchi, along with an Iranian delegation, was scheduled to meet mediators on Monday morning to discuss the "latest proposals and views on the current situation".

No representative from the US side is expected to attend the meeting, as per ISNA.

The meeting comes after a Qatari delegation travelled to the United States last week and presented an Iranian proposal to American officials regarding the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for economic relief.

Last week, on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly, Araghchi outlined a seven-day proposal under which Iran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz if certain conditions were met by Washington.

Iran said the proposal was conveyed through intermediaries and linked the reopening of the waterway to measures including an easing of US military pressure.

However, on Sunday, US Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz said Washington had rejected the proposal, claiming Tehran had sought sanctions relief and access to "billions in frozen assets" before negotiations on its nuclear programme.

Waltz said the US would ultimately need to reach



"some type of agreement" with Iran, but that US President Donald Trump would keep all "options on the table".

Araghchi disputed Waltz's account of the proposal, saying the US ambassador had not seen the plan.

He also said Tehran remained ready for diplomacy while preparing for the possibility of renewed hostilities.

"We are fully prepared for the war to be resumed. We stand firm in the face of any new aggression, even if it comes to a doomsday war. We don't care about U.S. midterm elections. We care about our national interests. At the same time, we stand ready for diplomacy. It is up to President Trump to choose," Araghchi said in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press". The Strait of Hormuz has remained a central point of contention in the confrontation, with Iran saying it is prepared to reopen the waterway as part of an agreement, while the US has rejected Tehran's latest proposal. Monday's meeting in New York was thus expected to focus on the latest proposals and positions being conveyed through mediators, with no direct US participation in the scheduled discussions.

SC gives Election Commission 4 months to settle TMC name, symbol dispute

New Delhi, Sept 28

The Supreme Court on Monday set a four-month deadline for the Election Commission to decide the dispute between the two rival factions of the All India Trinamool Congress over the party's name and "flowers and grass" election symbol.

Asking the rival TMC factions to complete their filing of affidavits and counter affidavits before the Election Commission in four weeks, a Bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana directed the poll panel to decide the issue in three months thereafter.

The top court turned down a request made on behalf of the Election Commission by senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu for six months to decide the dispute. "Three-month period is good enough... If some extreme exigency arises, come before us," the Bench told Naidu.

The direction came after senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Kalyan Bandhopadhyay, representing the Mamata Banerjee-led faction, submitted that they filed their responses in July itself but the other side was yet to file their affidavit.

The Ritabrata Banerjee-led faction was represented by senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and NK Kaul. On September 21, the Bench had agreed to urgently list for hearing former West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee's petition challenging the EC's decision to freeze the 'Trinamool Congress' name and symbol



following a dispute between two rival factions of the party.

Earlier, the EC had issued an interim order barring both the groups from using the 'All India Trinamool Congress' name and symbol. It said the matter required substantive determination under provisions of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

The poll panel had allotted separate names and symbols to the two TMC factions and reserved the TMCs symbol pending a substantive determination of the dispute. On September 18, Banerjee had attacked the EC over its decision to freeze the TMC name and its 'jora ghash phul' symbol, likening the loss of the party's identity to the pain of a mother losing her child and calling it a "black day" for the country's democracy.

Khairthabad by-election to test BJP's performance in Hyderabad

The upcoming Khairthabad by-election is emerging as an important test for the BJP in Hyderabad after the party's performance in recent Greater Hyderabad bypolls. The contest will also be closely watched ahead of the pending GHMC elections.

Hyderabad, Sept 28

Despite the claims being made by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State unit about gaining ground in Telangana, particularly Hyderabad, the electoral performance of the party presents a contrasting picture.

Since the December 2023 Assembly elections, there have been two by-elections in Greater Hyderabad. The Secunderabad Cantonment by-election was held in 2024, followed by the Jubilee Hills by-election in 2025.

In both elections, the BJP failed to make a significant impact, while the ruling Congress emerged victorious.

The Secunderabad Cantonment by-election was held on May 13, 2024, alongside the Lok Sabha elections. However, the BJP failed to win the seat. This was followed by the Jubilee Hills by-election in November 2025, where the BJP polled only 17,061 votes and finished a distant third.

Now, with the Khairthabad by-election expected to be held soon, the BJP's ability to improve its performance has become a subject of discussion in political circles. After Ramchander Rao took charge as BJP State president in May 2025, the Khairthabad by-election will be the second election and an important test of his leadership.

The by-election will also be a test for Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, as the Khairthabad Assembly



constituency falls under the Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency, which he represents.

Against this backdrop, the Khairthabad by-election assumes significance for the BJP ahead of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections, which have been due since January this year. Several leaders are already showing interest in contesting the by-election. Apart from former Khairthabad MLA Chintala Ramachandra Reddy, BJP official spokespersons Chikoti Praveen and Indrasena Reddy, and BJP executive member J Keerthy Reddy are among those being considered as probable candidates by party leaders.

The BJP's candidate selection and performance in the by-election have become subjects of discussion in political circles.

Piyush to attend G20 trade ministers' meeting in US

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal is set to visit the US from September 29 to October 5, 2026, where he will participate in the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on September 30 and October 1, 2026, at the invitation of the US Trade Representative (USTR).

The meeting will bring together trade ministers of G20 members. India will engage constructively with all G20 members and work towards a rules-based, open, inclusive, transparent, equitable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its core, while ensuring adequate policy space for developing countries. On the sidelines of the meeting, Goyal will hold bilateral meetings with

his counterparts. The engagements will focus on expanding opportunities for farmers, fishermen, women entrepreneurs, start-ups, MSMEs and other enterprises. Goyal will also engage bilaterally with his counterpart from the United States as part of ongoing efforts to advance a balanced and mutually beneficial India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and finalise an interim deal in line with the Joint Statement of February 7, 2026. In Milwaukee and Chicago, Goyal will meet chief executives of leading American companies in manufacturing, consumer goods, agri-business, retail and technology, and participate in round-table discussions with businesses, start-ups and innovative companies.

Bengal’s big industry push: Adani Group to invest 1 lakh crore by 2035



In what is the biggest investment announcement since the BJP came to power in West Bengal, industrialist Gautam Adani said on Thursday that the Adani Group plans to invest more than Rs 1 lakh crore in West Bengal by 2035. Significantly, this announcement comes barely two days after Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari met Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani in Mumbai and discussed investment opportunities.

Addressing an event after the foundation-laying ceremony of a 2,000-bed multi-specialty hospital in Kolkata’s New Town, the Adani Group Chairman said, “Bengal will awake, Bengal will progress, Bengal’s strength is India’s momentum. It is with this conviction that we expect to invest in Bengal over Rs 1 lakh crore by 2035 – in sectors spanning ports, logistics, power generation, power transmission and distribution, roads, bridges and ropeways, green cement and hyperscale data centres.”The industrialist added that progress cannot be measured only in kilometres of roads, megawatts of power or rupees invested. “A society must also care for its people and protect the culture, memories and institutions that give it identity. And Bengal’s identity is precious. Its ghats, its architecture, its art, its literature, its festivals; these are not separate from Bengal’s development. They are part of what makes Bengal worth building,” he said.

“Therefore, alongside our industrial and healthcare initiatives, we are also committed to supporting the restoration of the historic Writers’ Building, the revitalisation of Kumartuli Ghat and initiatives that showcase the art of Kolkata’s Durga Pujas to the world. Three decades ago, our port in Mundra in Gujarat became our first karmabhoomi – in the West. This morning, as I prayed to Maa at Kalighat, I asked for her blessings that Bengal becomes our second karmabhoomi – in the East. Because, for me, Bengal is not simply an investment destination. It is a place where I want to build, to serve and most importantly, to belong,” Adani said.

The hospital project, to be executed by the Adani Foundation, aims to cater to over 2 lakh inpatients and more than 20 lakh outpatients annually and generate

A week in jail, journalist Ravi Nair gets bail in Adani case

A week after he was sent to judicial custody in the Adani Group criminal defamation case, journalist Ravi Nair was granted bail by a Gandhinagar court on Thursday, although he is likely to spend another night in jail pending receipt of the order and completion of release formalities.Nair’s advocate Ronith Joy told The Indian Express that the Principal District and Sessions Court Judge of Gandhinagar granted bail to Nair on Thursday. “He is expected to be released on Friday once the court order reaches the jail authorities and the necessary formalities are completed,” Joy, who argued the bail plea in the court on Thursday, said.

The development came a day after the Gujarat High Court declined to grant Nair interim relief while hearing his plea challenging the non-bailable warrant that led to his arrest. Justice M K Thakker reserved the High Court’s order on the challenge to the warrant issued by the sessions court and said it would be pronounced on September 30.The High Court had also declined Nair’s request for interim release, observing that the matter had already been heard and kept for dictation.

The High Court had also questioned Nair’s challenge to the warrant on the ground that it had already been executed, and noted that he had not informed the court that he had simultaneously moved the Gandhinagar sessions court seeking regular bail.Nair was taken into custody on September 17 after the Gandhinagar Sessions Court rejected his plea seeking cancellation of the non-bailable warrant issued after he failed to appear personally during a hearing in his appeal against his conviction. On February 10, 2026, a Mansa court in Gandhinagar sentenced him to a simple imprisonment of one year in the criminal defamation suit filed by Adani Enterprises on September 3, 2021 over certain tweets and articles attributed to him. The journalist has challenged his conviction in an appellate court in Gandhinagar, which granted

Bengaluru civic body’s plan to fell 1,139 trees for short tunnel draws ire

Amid growing opposition to tunnel projects in the city, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has proposed to fell 1,139 trees for the 2.3-km tunnel road at Hebbal. An online campaign against it has received more than 20,000 signatures.The government has proposed a 2.3-km underground twin tunnel road connecting Hebbal Junction to the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU) campus. Funded by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), the project will cost about Rs 1,130 crore. The same stretch connects to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).The GBA has invited feedback about the proposal to fell 1,128 trees, which is also under challenge in the Karnataka High Court on multiple grounds.A Change.org petition initiated by urban mobility expert Satya Arikutharam, Bangalore Environment Trust trustee Dattatraya T Devare, Citizen Action Forum’s N S Mukunda and photojournalist Puneet Sachdev states that the tunnel road would be an ecological disaster.A vegetation survey undertaken along the 2-km stretch has marked over 1,400 trees, but the official number of trees to be affected is 1,128. These include heritage trees, native, flowering, and fruiting trees in the Hebbal Tree Park, the Hebbal Lake, the veterinary college campus, the UAS staff quarters, and surrounding areas.Such a large loss of green cover and years of ex-

about 10,000 jobs, a statement said. A sum of Rs 4,000 crore has been earmarked for this project, spread across 51.75 acres.Chief Minister Adhikari, who laid the foundation for the hospital, said, “Mr Adani, we look forward to your presence to rebuild Bengal. The final vision is not just a hospital campus; it will be a fully integrated healthcare city. Nowhere in India is there a hospital of this high standard. The hospital will give a big boost to medical tourism. This is historic, meaningful and an auspicious day for us. Viksit Bharat 2047 can happen only if Bengal develops,” he said.Adani said half of the 2,000 beds in the hospital would be reserved for people from economically weaker sections eligible under state and central health insurance schemes.BJP’s industry push in BengalDrawing industrial investment to Bengal and job creation was one of the BJP’s big promises in the run-up to the election that ended the Trinamool Congress’s 15-year tenure. Shortly after coming to power, the Adhikari-led government has moved to attract investors. The focus is streamlining processes and offering incentives for industrial investment. Tapas Roy, the state industries minister, urged major companies to invest in Bengal. “I urge all of you and your good offices, please come and invest here in West Bengal. The government, our honourable Chief Minister and my department will be at your service.”Mukesh Ambani Suwendu Adhikari Suwendu Adhikari with Mukesh Ambani and Anant Ambani at AntillaChief Minister’s Antilla visitChief Minister Adhikari recently met Mukesh Ambani and his son Anant Ambani at their Mumbai residence, Antilla, on Monday. Adhikari said Anant Ambani had invited him to attend the family’s Ganapati celebrations. “I got an invitation from Anant Ambani to be part of their Ganapati celebration. I could not go last week. Yesterday, I managed to visit his residence. I performed ‘aarti’ at the temple inside their residence. I also had dinner with Mukesh ji and Anant ji,” he said. Yesterday I visited the residence of renowned Industrialist and Chairman of Reliance Industries, Shri Mukesh Ambani Ji, in Mumbai. Referring to the meeting, the Chief Minister said on Tuesday, “There will be huge investments in Bengal. All major investors will be here. The Communists and the previous chief minister Mamata (Banerjee) caused massive damage to the state. The entire country is ready to support the BJP government to get Bengal back on its feet. I have got this commitment from everybody,” he said. “Our state is ready to welcome visionary investments that empower our youth and drive sustainable economic resurgence,” he said.Earlier, the Chief Minister said a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) project will come up at Junput in the Purba Medinipur district. He also announced a solar plant by Agrawal Group in Purulia district and said the government has allotted land for two Amul ice cream factories. There are also reports that the state government is in talks with Japanese multinational Mitsubishi to set up a semiconductor factory in the state.



him bail on March 9, 2026 on the condition that he remains present during the hearing of his appeal.He, however, could not personally remain present at the hearing held on September 3, 2026 due to poor health as he has to travel from his native state Kerala, his lawyers said.Appearing for Nair before the High Court on Wednesday, advocate Abhik Chimni argued that the sessions court had erred in issuing the non-bailable warrant without first issuing summons or a bailable warrant. He submitted that Nair had appeared on three of the eight dates fixed in the appeal and had been granted exemption from personal appearance on another date, disputing the sessions court’s observation that Nair had remained absent for six months. Senior advocate Mitesh Amin, appearing for the Adani Group, had opposed Nair’s plea in the High Court and argued that the court should take into account his conduct during the appellate proceedings. Amin submitted that after Nair’s appeal was admitted and his sentence suspended, he had sought permission to lead additional evidence, which the Adani Group alleged had the effect of delaying the appeal.Even as his regular bail plea was being considered by the Gandhinagar court, Nair also approached the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking release from custody.



cavation, noise, dust, pollution, and habitat destruction will severely affect biodiversity and permanently alter the local microclimate, the petition reads.The tunnel will not eliminate congestion. It will simply move the traffic jam towards Veterinary College and Mekhri Circle, it said.The Indian Institute of Science’s (IISc) Sustainable Transportation Lab (IST Lab) said in a report that the tunnel road would not resolve congestion but simply relocate it to new choke points, while costing taxpayers roughly six times more than an equivalent metro alternative.Authored by Professor Ashish Verma of the IISc’s civil engineering department, the study found an underground metro to be far more economical on a per-passenger basis.

After ED raid on nephew, Punjab minister Mundian alleges ‘political pressure’ on family



A day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched the house of Punjab Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian’s nephew in an alleged money laundering case, the AAP leader alleged Thursday that the raid had been used to exert political pressure on his family and harass them.ED searched the house of his nephew, Gurpreet Singh alias Prince, in Ludhiana’s Sahnewal as part of its money-laundering investigation linked to the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA).Addressing a press conference with Prince, Mundian also took a dig at BJP leader Ravneet Singh Bittu, who accused him of having “fled abroad”.The Housing and Urban Development Minister alleged that during the search, ED officials repeatedly told family members to tell him to leave the Aam Aadmi Party and that Prince should stop supporting him.“The officials told the family to ask me to leave the AAP and join another party. They told them the AAP was not a good party. They asked my nephew why he was associated with me. They said the AAP was the wrong party,” he alleged.Mundian said the ED search distressed his nephew’s family and his sister-in-law, a widow with a nine-month-old daughter.“They could not find anything from our family. They stayed in my nephew’s house from 11 pm to 3 am. They did not allow an eight-month-old girl to be fed by her mother, nor did they allow a three-year-old girl to eat. They forced an

eight-month-pregnant woman to keep standing for four hours,” he claimed.“I can assure you all that the family stood up to them. We are Punjabis. We will face anything.”He said his nephew moved to Ludhiana with his children after his brother’s death and started a business to support the family.They kept asking my nephew about the money he was earning. Then they kept asking why he was earning so little and why he was supporting a minister,” Mundian told the media.He said that when the officials left, the family sought a written record of what had been recovered. “They gave it in writing that nothing had been found apart from old household articles,” he claimed.Responding to Bittu’s claim that he had left for the US, Mundian said, “I am holding this press conference in Chandigarh, not America.”He said Bittu appeared to have opened a “travel agency” after his own political ticket was cut and was now booking tickets to America for him and his nephew.The minister said he would not be intimidated by the agency’s action.“I am a soldier of kattar imaandar AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann. I will never bow before BJP pressure,” he said.

Mundian said the AAP would not be pressured into abandoning its political position, adding that the party would continue to face the Bharatiya Janata Party’s actions politically.He alleged that the BJP is using Central agencies to create fear in Punjab ahead of the Assembly elections. “The BJP is trying to fight elections through fear after failing to generate public enthusiasm. Punjab is not a place where people can be intimidated through ED raids or threats. We are Punjabis, and we are not afraid,” he added.Mundian also referred to the cases involving former Delhi ministers Satyendar Jain and Manish Sisodia, alleging that the BJP had similarly targeted AAP leaders in Delhi before elections.The ED’s searches in Punjab are part of the agency’s wider money-laundering investigation involving Tirupati Infraprojects and associated entities. The agency has also been conducting search and survey operations at GMADA and the Punjab Housing and Urban Development Department.

Punjab man attempts suicide, alleges police bribe demand after car fire



on Thursday morning, but the officer demanding the bribe threatened to tell the insurance company’s surveyor that the car was damaged in a deliberate fire.

Jobanpreet further alleged that a revenue officer took Rs 5 lakh from his family in connection with a land transfer issue in Balian village, Dhuri, in the adjoining Sangrur district. concerning their land in Balian village, Dhuri, in the adjoining Sangrur district.Reacting to the incident, Congress MP from Gurdaspur, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, targeted the Punjab government and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. “Take a look at the reality in the constituency of the Chief Minister who calls himself a ‘staunchly honest’ leader,” Randhawa said in a statement. He alleged that the incident reflected the government’s failure to deliver justice to people approaching the administration.The incident occurred days after two other alleged suicide attempts. On September 20, Jagseer Singh alias Jagga Singh, from Namol village in Sangrur, allegedly tried to end his life outside the mini secretariat in Sangrur. He accused the police of failing to act on his complaints against alleged drug suppliers and claimed that the village sarpanch had harassed and assaulted him.Jagga Singh is reportedly stable. However, the police later said that nine FIRs are pending against him, including cases under the excise and narcotics laws, and rape charges.Earlier, on September 7, agricultural labourer Gulzar Singh, a resident of Toor Banzara village in the Dirba area of the Sangrur district, allegedly attempted suicide, a day after he publicly questioned Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema about the availability of drugs in his village during a meeting at the village gurdwara. Gulzar’s family alleged that members of the village panchayat subsequently threatened him. Despite receiving treatment, he later died.

Sahil Wakode’s parents detained on way to IIT Bombay campus, alleges lawyer



Sahil Wakode’s parents were detained by Mumbai Police in Bhandup on Thursday morning while they were on their way to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay campus in Powai, their lawyer Nikhil Kamble has alleged. According to police, the couple wanted to stage a protest outside the IIT campus, but officials were trying to persuade them to hold it at Azad Maidan instead.Kamble said the Wakode couple was travelling towards the IIT Bombay campus when they were detained by the police. Kamble also said that the couple was detained at Bhandup police station for almost an hour or so. They were released later.

Kamble said, they were later taken to the government guest house to meet officials from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission.

“The parents were on their way to IIT Bombay campus in Powai. But police have detained them in Bhandup police station. We fear that they will not be allowed to head to Powai. Instead the police are now taking the parents to the government’s Sahyadri guest house to meet officials from the SC/ST Commission,” Kamble said.A police official said Sahil’s parents had been told that they had permission to stage their protest at Mumbai’s Azad Maidan but were insisting on holding it outside the IIT Bombay campus. Police were trying to convince them to shift the venue, the official said. Sahil’s parents will now go to Azad Maidan to protest.The development comes days after Sahil, a second-year BTech student at IIT Bombay, died by suicide on September 18. His parents have alleged that he faced caste-based discrimination

Five armed men loot cash, gold from Canara Bank in Jamshedpur

Jamshedpur: In a major daylight bank robbery in Jharkhand’s Jamshedpur, five armed criminals stormed a branch of Canara Bank in the Golmuri area on Thursday and escaped with a large quantity of cash and gold, officials said.Initial reports suggest that the loot is worth several crores of rupees, although neither the bank management nor the police have officially disclosed the value of the stolen assets from the bank yet.According to police and eyewitnesses, five masked assailants entered the bank carrying firearms. Once inside, they overpowered employees and customers at gunpoint and took control of the premises. The robbers then collected cash from the bank’s counters and forced open lockers, making away with gold pledged by customers against loans.During the robbery, one bank employee who tried to resist was assaulted with the butt of a revolver and sustained injuries. After executing the heist, the five criminals fled the bank on foot, triggering panic in the area.Senior police officials, along with a large contingent of personnel, rushed to the spot soon after receiving information about the incident. Investigators have begun collecting evidence from the bank premises, while teams of forensic and fingerprint experts have also examined the scene.

She gave her bank account details to 'friend'. Kills self after multiple police cases



A 38-year-old woman from Thane in Maharashtra, who had given her bank account details to a friend from her native place, committed suicide on Tuesday, August 25, after she found that multiple cases were registered against her. The account was allegedly being used for cybercrime. The deceased was Devika Armugam Pandaram, a resident of Sairam Society in Dombivli (East). Officials from the Churu Cyber Cell police station in Rajasthan had visited Devika Pandaram's home on August 8 and served her a notice to appear for questioning in a case registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology Act. Her bank account in the Bank of Maharashtra was being used in an

After Karnataka amends Bengaluru mobility law, BJP's Tejasvi Surya writes to Governor

The BMLTA (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to amend Section 19 of the BMLTA Act of 2022, which came into force in 2023 after being introduced by the previous BJP government, was passed by the Karnataka legislature Monday without a debate. "It has been reported that this provision would have the effect of retrospectively legitimising mega projects valued at nearly Rs 1 lakh crore, including the Tunnel Road Project, estimated to cost over Rs 40,000 crore, without the institutional scrutiny and due process envisaged under the BMLTA framework," the BJP MP said in the letter to the Governor.

“The intent of the parent legislation enacted in 2022 cannot be retrospectively altered in a manner that defeats the safeguards and institutional oversight it was intended to establish,” Surya further contended. The amended BMLTA Act, 2026, which introduces a new Sub-section 6 under Section 19, is seen as facilitating major Bengaluru infrastructure projects that had previously been criticised by BMLTA, like a 16.75 km-long city road tunnel project pushed by Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. According to the amended Section 19 of the BMLTA Act, “all projects initiated during the period commencing from the date of commencement of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority Act, 2022 (Karnataka Act 6 of 2023) and ending immediately before the date of notification of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority Rules, 2026... shall be deemed to have been taken, prepared, undertaken or instituted, as the case may be, under this Act.” The amendment is necessary “to ensure continuity in administrative decision-making in view of the imminent and pressing need to decongest traffic and address the mounting mobility challenges in Bengaluru,” the new law states in its statement of reasons. Prior to the recent amendment, Section 19 of the BMLTA Act, 2022, said the BMLTA had the power “to approve all major Urban Transport projects proposed” for Bengaluru “from the perspective of consistency with the Comprehensive Mobility Plan” in a time-bound manner. “No authority, agency, department under the state

Bengaluru chemist murder: Suspected arms maker nabbed after police encounter



weapon maker Suspected arms maker Syed Zeeshan who received bullet injuries in the police encounter; (top right) the weapon he used to attack the police; (bottom right) chilli powder used by the accused. A suspected arms maker and an associate of one of the accused in the murder of a medical shop owner in Bengaluru's Madiwala was shot in the right leg after he allegedly attacked a police constable with a sharp-edged weapon and threw chilli powder at a police team early on Friday. The suspect, identified as Syed Zeeshan, 34, a resident of Subhash Nagar, was being traced by the police in connection with the murder of pharmacist Syed Suhail, who was hacked to death with machetes in the middle of a traffic jam in Bengaluru on August 22. According to the police, Zeeshan had sharpened the machetes allegedly used in the attack.

He was nabbed in an encounter near Somasandrapalya Lake around 12.50 am, the police said, adding that Zeeshan has an associate of Adil Akmal, one of the accused arrested in the Suhail murder case. Apart from Akmal, the police had arrested Arbaz, Shaan, Yasin, Rafiullah, and Syed Farhan in connection with Suhail's killing, which the investigators suspect was carried out to avenge the killing of a rowdy-sheeter, Shabbir, in January. Suhail himself was not an accused in that case, though his brothers Syed Kaleem and Nazeer were arrested in connection with Shabbir's murder, said an officer. The police suspect that the two cases are linked to a gang rivalry over control of the Bandepalya area.

Following a tip-off, Inspector Manjunath R V deputed sub-inspector Sachin Gowda and a team to trace Zeeshan. They located him near Somasandrapalya Lake some-time after Thursday midnight. According to a senior police officer, Zeeshan brandished a sharp-edged weapon when the police tried to apprehend him. He allegedly

online fraud, they said.

Seeking clarification, Devika Pandaram approached the Cyber Crime Department at the Thane Police Commissionerate, where she was informed that multiple cyber fraud cases had been registered against her across several states, including Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu. Worried over the multiple cases that would require her to travel to various states for questioning, Pandaram used a sharp blade to cut her wrist and throat at around 4 pm the same day the police visited her home. Relatives rushed her to a nearby private hospital, from where she was referred to the municipal-run Shastri Nagar Hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead, they added. ACP Suhas Hemade, Thane City Police, told The Indian Express, "Her family has said that she had provided her bank account details to a friend from her native place. She did odd jobs, and her family says she was not aware what her friend was doing with her bank account." ACP Hemade said that the police will be checking if she received any commission from her friend for allowing him to use her bank account. An FIR will be registered against the 'friend' if Devika's family files a complaint. Usually in mule accounts – accounts used to move fraudulently obtained money – the person gives access to their bank account in exchange for money. In some cases, however, the person is unaware that the account is being used for fraud.

government shall initiate any public, private or public-private partnership project concerning Urban Mobility without obtaining prior approval of the Authority. The Approval of the Authority shall be necessary to seek any financial assistance..." from the state government, external aid agencies and the Centre, says Subsection 2 of Section 19 of the BMLTA Act of 2022.

The Bengaluru tunnel road project incidentally envisages 40 per cent government funding. The amended law is seen as also circumventing controversial rules issued by the BMLTA on January 3, 2026, to facilitate retrospective clearances for big-ticket Bengaluru mobility projects – flyovers, tunnel roads, etc – that did not undergo the due process of scrutiny and analysis by state urban mobility experts and agencies. The law has come amid a challenge by citizens in the Karnataka High Court to the rules framed in January 2026.

Last year, the BMLTA, in a review of the feasibility of the 16.75 km tunnel road project, had slammed the proposal – first floated by the then deputy CM and Bengaluru development minister D K Shivakumar – for allegedly not aligning with the Metro-centric Comprehensive Mobility Plan for Bengaluru, the city's Climate Action Plan or the National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP). The BMLTA review of the tunnel road said the Comprehensive Mobility Plan for Bengaluru targets a 70 per cent share for public transport by 2035 and that tunnel roads would encourage car-based commuting instead of usage of public transport. One of the major criticisms of the proposed north-south tunnel road project in Bengaluru is the absence of a scientific travel demand assessment. The BMLTA said the feasibility study ignored interactions with other major infrastructure projects, such as Metro Phases 2A, 2B, 3, and 3A, suburban rail corridors, and the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) policy. "I hope BMLTA's sound advice is heeded and the government drops the unscientific car-only Tunnel Road. Strengthening public transport is the only proven way forward for Bengaluru," urban mobility expert Satva Arikutharam said at the time.

attacked a police constable in the team, injuring his left hand. The situation escalated when Zeeshan allegedly took out chilli powder and threw it at the policemen before attempting to attack them again. A senior police officer said, "He continued to pose a threat. The sub-inspector first fired a warning shot and asked him to surrender. When he continued to attack the police, the officer fired another round, hitting him in the right leg." Zeeshan and the constable were taken to a hospital in Jayanagar, and the two are reportedly out of danger, the police said. The police have seized the two-wheeler allegedly used by Zeeshan and three weapons. A forensic team and scene-of-crime personnel visited the spot. The police have registered a case for attempt to murder, using criminal force against a government servant, breach of public peace, and carrying prohibited arms.

Karnataka teachers suspended over RSS march, Priyank Kharge backs action

Bengaluru: Karnataka Home, IT and BT Minister Priyank Karge on Friday backed the suspension of two government school teachers in Yadgir district for allegedly participating in a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) route march, saying the Education Department was within its rights to take action if it found their participation in the programme warranted disciplinary proceedings.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Kharge stated, "That's left to the Education Department. If someone is participating in some event and the department sees it is fit to take action, they will initiate action. Why should our employees take part in the programme of an unregistered organisation?" Kharge asked. The remarks came after the Deputy Director of the Department of School Education in Yadgir issued an order suspending two government teachers for allegedly participating in an RSS route march held on October 10, 2025, after nearly 10 months.

The suspended teachers have been identified as Annasaheb Deshmukh, Head Master of the Government Junior Primary School in Kuppi, Surapura, and Gururaja Joshi, a teacher at the Government Girls Higher Primary School in Hunasagi, also in Surapura taluk of Yadgir district.

Land controversies mount for Congress government in Telangana



Hyderabad: Since the Congress government came to power in 2023, it has faced severe criticism over acquiring farmers' lands, auctioning government lands and making plans to utilise government properties for various purposes. Several of the State government's initiatives have been mired in controversy, particularly over its unilateral decisions and plans. From Lagacherla and Kancha Gachibowli to colonies along the Musi riverbanks and the proposed Future City, the government has faced criticism over its focus on acquiring and utilising large parcels of land.

Amid the controversy over the inclusion of several private properties under the prohibited 22-A list, the State government has triggered another row with its plans to utilise lands belonging to the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) and polytechnic colleges. The government is planning to allot six acres of prime TGSRTC land at RTC Crossroads to the Housing department for the construction of Indiramma Towers. The proposal has drawn strong criticism from RTC unions. The government should construct houses for the poor and needy, but that does not mean it can divert RTC lands. Previous governments allotted lands to the corporation

Six months of shelter, skill training: Gujarat draws up plan to free 4 cities of beggary

Gujarat has launched a rehabilitation initiative to make Vadodara, Gir Somnath, Ekta Nagar and Pavagadh cities free of beggary. The identified individuals and families will be provided shelter for up to six months, documentation, skill training and employment support as part of the initiative, as per a government release. They will "undergo health screening, receive assistance in obtaining essential identity and welfare documents, and be given employment-oriented training before efforts to help them find work", it stated.

The roadmap was discussed at a meeting, chaired by Mona Khandhar, Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in Vadodara, held to review and strengthen the implementation of the Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) scheme. Vadodara, Gir Somnath, Ekta Nagar and Pavagadh are among 25 districts and locations across the country that have performed well in the first phase of the Centre's campaign. The next phase will focus on making these locations free of beggary through a coordinated rehabilitation programme. The initiative will involve municipal bodies, district administrations, health departments, social security agencies and employment authorities. Officials will identify people engaged in begging and shift them to designated shelter facilities, where their essential documents such as Aadhaar cards, ration cards and Ayushman cards can be prepared.

Addressing the meeting, Vadodara Police Commissioner Narasimha Kumar said rehabilitation would have to take into account the fact that people engaged in begging were often part of the same family. He suggested that family members should, as far as possible, be accommodated together in shelters. He also stressed that

Delhi government plans to appoint transaction advisor to assess land, building assets



Delhi government is planning to engage a professional transaction advisor to conduct a comprehensive assessment of its land and building assets, which can be redeveloped and commercially utilised. According to officials, the aim is to assess the existing assets and redevelop it for optimal commercial utilisation. "It will also help in identification of revenue-enhancement opportunities and development of financially viable models for under-utilised assets," said an official. These assets include Varunalaya/Jhandewalan office premises as well as residential housing at Haiderpur and Lajpat Nagar.

“The objective is to unlock the value of DJB’s existing assets and generate additional sustainable revenue without compromising operational requirements,” said the official. The government, through the IT department, had developed a portal named Delhi Asset Management Information System (DAMIS) — a centralised, updated, digital and GIS enabled repository of all government owned land and properties. Under this, the government urged all its departments to submit details of land parcels and properties under them so that it can use the same to build schools and hospitals, among others. Various departments have already uploaded details of nearly 14,000 properties on the DAMIS, said officials. Departments were also asked to submit details on type of ownership — acquired, transferred, leased or freehold — the current status of the asset (in use, vacant, damaged, under repairs, etc.), including its use (industrial, commercial, residential), land use as per the Delhi Master Plan and whether a boundary wall exists in the area. Further, departments have been asked to submit the size of the land in square

to meet its future requirements. If these lands are diverted for other purposes, the corporation may not even have enough space to park its buses in the days to come," said a member of the RTC Employees Union.

The government's proposal to allot RTC land to the Housing department has also raised questions as it had earlier assured employees that the corporation would be merged with the government. "Instead of fulfilling the promises made to RTC employees, the government is eyeing the corporation's vast land holdings," the union member said. Similarly, the Telangana Polytechnic Joint Action Committee has alleged that the government is attempting to divert large parcels of land owned by polytechnic colleges for commercial development under the aegis of the Young India Skills University (YISU). The committee said using these lands for commercial purposes would leave colleges without adequate space to establish laboratories, research and development centres and other infrastructure. It alleged that this was one of the objectives behind the government's plans to merge polytechnic colleges with YISU. Interestingly, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, while serving as TPCC president in 2021, had strongly opposed the then BRS government's plans to auction government lands. Contrary to those objections, however, the Congress government has since auctioned several plots owned by the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIIC). Now, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) is also preparing to auction its lands, primarily to generate revenue for the government. Irrespective of the purpose, the State government should discuss its plans with the stakeholders and take them into confidence. If RTC unions or polytechnic staff and students have any apprehensions, the government should clear them and protect their interests, said Forum for Good Governance president M Padmanabha Reddy. "Development is welcomed but the government needs to follow a procedure and cannot take unilateral decisions," he said.



the government's responsibility should not end with providing training and employment, the release said. Komar said officials must carry out sustained follow-up to ensure that those rehabilitated are able to remain in their jobs and do not return to begging. Khandhar said the families identified would first undergo health screening after being shifted to shelters. During their stay, officials will assist them in securing identity and welfare documents and provide skill development and employment-oriented training. The rehabilitation plan envisages keeping such families in shelters for six months, during which they will receive support aimed at helping them become financially independent. Vadodra Municipal Commissioner Arun Mahesh Babu said the civic body had already identified locations in the city where begging is prevalent. The Vadodra Municipal Corporation currently runs around eight shelter homes and plans to strengthen the network. The meeting also reviewed the preparedness of administrations in Panchmahal, Narmada and Gir Somnath, which joined the discussions online.

metre, and if there is a building, details regarding its built-up area, plinth area, year of construction and type of construction. Also, encumbrance status — whether the land is free from encumbrance, encroached or under litigation — has been sought. Details on the shape of the plot, demarcation status, road connectivity or distance from the nearest road, custodian of the land, and any currently proposed development plans have also been requested, officials said. According to officials, DAMIS allows departments and agencies to easily enter details of land parcels and properties, generate customized reports and use high-resolution satellite imagery to create GIS based maps for spatial visualisation and analysis. Over 100 departments, offices, institutions and other entities come under the Delhi Government.

Family members can represent senior citizens, PwD electors responding to notices: Telangana CEO

Hyderabad: Adult family members can appear on behalf of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, sick electors and overseas electors who have received notices, and submit the documents or information required for their disposal, Telangana Chief Electoral Officer C Sudarshan Reddy said.

In an official communication sent to the Commissioner of GHMC and District Election Officer (DEO), Hyderabad, as well as all other District Collectors and DEOs, the CEO directed them to issue necessary instructions to Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs). The CEO also stated in the communication that EROs and AEROs must explain this decision to representatives of political parties during their weekly review meetings regarding the issuance and disposal of notices.

EYE SECRETS
Editorial

Reality check for private universities

The growing demand for higher education cannot be met by government-funded institutions alone. The private sector has an equally important role to play in expanding educational opportunities for the country's youth. However, unbridled commercialisation of the education sector by profit-driven private players is a major cause for concern. More often than not, they impose exorbitant fees that are not matched by infrastructure and amenities and resort to misleading self-promotion. While the contribution of the private sector to promoting and expanding higher education cannot be overlooked, what is needed is a proper balance between regulation and responsibility. The Supreme Court's latest order directing private universities across the country to disclose their financial records is a welcome development. The landmark order ruled that no private university should be allowed to run as a profit-making institution and sought details of how universities generate, manage and use their financial resources. The audited financial records covering the last five years, utilisation of funds, fee structures, surplus investments and payments made to persons not directly involved in educational functions are among the details that have to be presented before the apex court. It has also directed the Centre and State governments to collect detailed information about admissions, fees, use of surplus funds, staff recruitment and grievance-redressal systems of private universities and colleges. With this unprecedented order, the stage is set not only for intense scrutiny of the financial management by private universities but also the conduct of regulators. It's a reality check that was long overdue.

The top court's observation that private universities must serve the larger public purpose of education and not operate for profit hits the nail on the head. Robust regulatory oversight to check any exploitation of students is essential. Over the years, a highly competitive private sector has relied on exaggerations and half-truths to attract students. With minimal focus on impactful academic research, there is often misrepresentation of the facilities available and placement statistics. If the lack of faculty development is problematic, more worrying is the reliance on under-qualified and overworked staff. Ultimately, students bear the brunt as their interests are compromised. There are over 470 private universities in the country, apart from several 'Deemed to be Universities' that operate under private management. Within a span of 10 years, enrollment in private universities nearly tripled to over 34.6 lakh students, moving their market share from 20 per cent to one-third of all higher education students in India. The University Grants Commission (UGC) regulates private universities primarily through the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations to ensure educational quality and transparency. Unlike public universities, private entities receive minimal state or central research grants and have to depend heavily on tuition fees to fund research labs.

D K Shivakumar seeks CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation, fresh SIR in Karnataka

Following The Indian Express investigation into the conflict within the Election Commission of India (ECI), Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar Thursday demanded Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation and called for scrapping the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) underway in the state. Shivakumar, who previously wrote to the ECI, requesting an extension of the October 4 deadline to submit corrections for the draft voters list published on August 24, urged a "fresh revision of electoral data to protect democracy and every citizen's right to vote".

Criticising the internal functioning of the poll body, Shivakumar said, "When a majority of the members do not agree with an opinion, a decision cannot be imposed unilaterally. It would be better if the Chief Election Commissioner voluntarily resigns on moral grounds." He noted that the ECI's autonomy is severely undermined when unilateral decisions are enforced. Concerns over vulnerable voters Referring to Forms 6, 7, and 8 used in the current revision drive, Shivakumar raised questions about the execution of the process, alleging that it threatens to disenfranchise illiterate and socio-economically disadvantaged sections of society. "This is not merely a matter of opinion. It is a fundamental right. This is the voice of the common man. We want a fresh SIR to be conducted. Everyone should be given their rights. The situation must be reviewed comprehensively to ensure the right to every vote, and the electoral data must be re-examined." Shivakumar urged that Parliament debate the matter so elected representatives can voice voters' concerns. He also alleged that citizens' voting rights are being manipulated for political ends. "Similar attempts have been made in West Bengal, Bihar and several other states. Now they are trying to do the same everywhere, including Karnataka." The SIR exercise in Karnataka has categorised 1.08 crore out of 5.54 crore voters in the 'Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate, and Others' (ASDDO) list, including 46.88 lakh voters in Bengaluru alone. Additionally, notices for discrepancies have been issued to 43.81 lakh voters out of the 4.46 crore listed in the draft rolls published last month. More than half of these notices, 23.28 lakh, were issued to voters who were unmapped during the last SIR in 2002. In an August 25 letter addressed to CEC Gyanesh Kumar, Shivakumar urged the Commission to grant additional time beyond 45 days for individuals flagged under the 'logical discrepancies' category and for voters excluded from the draft list to seek reinstatement.

Sahil Wakode's parents detained on way to IIT Bombay campus, alleges lawyer



Sahil Wakode's parents were detained by Mumbai Police in Bhandup on Thursday morning while they were on their way to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay campus in Powai, their lawyer Nikhil Kamble has alleged. According to police, the couple wanted to stage a protest outside the IIT campus, but officials were trying to persuade them to hold it at Azad Maidan instead.

Kamble said the Wakode couple was travelling towards the IIT Bombay campus when they were detained by the police. Kamble also said that the couple was detained at Bhandup police station for almost an hour or so. They were released later. Kamble said, they were later taken to the government guest house to meet officials

'Have you seen her? This is her picture': Families search for loved ones after Noida bus fire



Nancy Gupta had been sitting on a stone slab outside the post-mortem house in Noida's Sector 94 for nine hours, her head resting between her folded legs, her eyes closing from exhaustion. She has been trying to reach her mother, Saroj Gupta, 52, and cousin, Mayank Gupta, 28, since 7 am on Thursday. They were travelling in an AC sleeper bus, going from Delhi to Mahoba, which caught fire around 11 pm on the Yamuna Expressway. Nine people were killed. The family had come to Noida three days ago to celebrate the first birthday of Nancy's sister's daughter, who lives here. Her mother and cousin were on their way back to Rath, a town in Uttar Pradesh. "I stayed back for work," she said. Their last conversation was before the family boarded the bus from Noida Sector 37 around 10 pm. "They told me that they were settled... I called them at 7 am today, when the bus usually reaches, but they did not pick up. I tracked the vehicle online, but it was not moving. I then called the bus operator and the police, but they did not tell us anything. Then I found out online that a bus had caught fire," she said. Nancy said the injured were taken to Kailash Hospital. "When we

from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. "The parents were on their way to IIT Bombay campus in Powai. But police have detained them in Bhandup police station. We fear that they will not be allowed to head to Powai. Instead the police are now taking the parents to the government's Sahyadri guest house to meet officials from the SC/ST Commission," Kamble said. A police official said Sahil's parents had been told that they had permission to stage their protest at Mumbai's Azad Maidan but were insisting on holding it outside the IIT Bombay campus. Police were trying to convince them to shift the venue, the official said. Sahil's parents will now go to Azad Maidan to protest.

The development comes days after Sahil, a second-year BTech student at IIT Bombay, died by suicide on September 18. His parents have alleged that he faced caste-based discrimination on campus. Based on his father's complaint, Powai Police have registered an FIR naming Professor Suryanarayana Doolia who was the invigilator for the exam where Sahil was allegedly found using a phone during mid-semester exam last week. Sahil's parents have demanded that police should immediately arrest those they hold responsible for their son's death. Earlier, his father Ravindra Wakode had warned about starting a hunger strike outside the IIT Bombay gate if no one is arrested in the suicide case.

called them, they said nobody named Saroj or Mayank was admitted there... my father keeps asking where my mother is," she cried, as her brother, who was with her, held her. By afternoon, police officers came to the post mortem house and the duo rushed to the gates. "Did you see a woman of medium height? I can describe to you what she was wearing yesterday. See, this is her picture," said Nancy, thrusting forward a photo of her mother. Relatives outside the mortuary in Noida Sector 94, waiting to identify the bodies of those killed in a bus fire, Thursday. Nine people were killed in the blaze. (Express Photo by Abhinav Saha) Relatives outside the mortuary in Noida Sector 94, waiting to identify the bodies of those killed in a bus fire, Thursday. Nine people were killed in the blaze. (Express Photo by Abhinav Saha)

The officer said nine bodies had been brought there, but they were charred beyond recognition. Families could try to identify them, he said, while DNA samples would be collected to establish their identities. Nancy was one of several families waiting outside, hoping their loved ones were not in the list of the dead. Another woman was looking for her father, who had boarded the bus along with her brother. They were headed to Auraiya. A few minutes past 11 pm, her brother called and said the bus had caught fire. "I took a cab and rushed to the spot... it took me an hour to reach. I thought it was a minor accident but then I saw flames engulfing the entire bus." My brother is safe, but I don't know where my father said," she said. Sunita Gupta, 60, and her son Shashank are also missing, said a relative from Delhi standing outside. "Their family called me, saying they haven't been able to reach them. I called the hospital, but they say nobody by their names was there," he said. Around 2.30 pm, after hours of waiting, the families finally went inside the post-mortem house, handkerchiefs pressed over their faces, as they prepared to look for their loved ones.

'We can't let our guard down': What getting around Delhi means for women students



From unreliable feeder buses and poorly lit stretches to harassment on public transport, women students said safety concerns shape even the simplest journeys to and from college. A string of rape cases have only added to their concerns

September 18 was the first time Kirti Sharma, a first-year BA Programme student at Delhi University's Maitreyi College, managed to take a bus home from college since classes began in August. That day, a bus was stuck in a traffic jam near Satya Niketan during the Delhi University Students' Union election. Kirti and her friend got on, but found themselves alone on the bus. "So we decided we would get off together at the same stop," she said.

For thousands of women like Kirti navigating DU's scattered off-campus colleges, the daily commute involves an exhausting calculation: which route to take, whose arm to hold, and how early to return behind locked hostel gates. The problem is compounded by gaps in the last-mile connectivity, poorly lit stretches, and street harassment. And the alleged gangrape of a 17-year-old in a South Delhi DDA park and a string of sexual assault cases involving minors have brought these concerns into sharp focus. Public transport issues The gaps are most apparent at the end of the college day. Day-scholars who rely on feeder buses said the services that bring them to college in the morning do not always run when classes end. Ananya Shukla, a second-year student at a women's college, said students have checked with drivers and found that buses from their areas leave as early as 6 am, but there is no corresponding service around 4 pm, when colleges usually wind up. At that hour, there are simply no buses available. They all head away in the opposite direction," Ananya said. She also pointed to the Delhi government's DTC U-Special Bus Service, which was relaunched in August last year. "But there is no public data on how many women students are actually using these 26 buses, their occupancy or how frequently trips are cancelled," said Ananya. Left with few reliable options, stu-

dents often walk through quiet stretches just to find an auto or an e-rickshaw. The problems extend to the Delhi Metro. "I take the metro every day and you feel unsafe even inside the coaches," said a first-year student from Lady Shri Ram College for Women. "This isn't just about a particular college backlane or a park. Anywhere you go in this city, you are forced to be hypervigilant... we cannot let our guard down." A 2021 alumna of the same college said students had heard the same solutions for years. "The solution every time is more policing, more surveillance, telling women not to step out after dark. Sometimes, after crimes, we see more police personnel deployed on the roads, but to what end? It becomes about managing women. This has become their sanitised fix," she said.

Unlike DU's North Campus, where colleges and departments are clustered together, institutions across South, East and West Delhi are more spread out, often alongside busy arterial roads and residential neighbourhoods. In South Delhi's Chanakyapuri, students say these gaps are particularly visible. "Even in an area like Chanakyapuri, there are so many isolated stretches where police personnel are entirely missing," said a South Campus student. "And across South Campus, even where 'pink booths' have been installed, there is no one inside them most of the time. You pass by, and they are completely deserted." Yakshna Sharma, an advocate practising at the Delhi High Court and a 2025 graduate of DU's Campus Law Centre, gave another example. "Outside Laxmibai College, a public men's washroom has been built directly against the campus boundary wall. Female students have repeatedly complained about men openly urinating, catcalling and exposing themselves while looking into the college ground. Yet there are no working CCTVs, no police presence and no functional booths," she said. Amid these concerns, colleges have instructed women students to move out only in groups. At the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur College of Nursing (RAKCON) in Lajpat Nagar IV, freshers who arrived on campus only days ago have already been instructed to follow rigid precautions.

"I just joined recently, but teachers have clearly warned us that whenever we need to step outside the campus, we must move only in groups. Even for small errands, like going to buy our textbooks, we made sure to go together," said Ngawang Gatso, a first-year B.Sc Nursing student from Uttarakhand. Tenzing Pamo, also a first-year student, said, "We stay inside the campus hostel, but stepping out is unavoidable for daily necessities. After the warning, we went in a group to get our books today. We definitely feel much more secure when we step outside together rather than going alone." Their batchmate Yangzom, who is from Tibet, said, "

Banned in India, sold in Maharashtra: Man held over fake Pakistani beauty cream



A shop owner in Maharashtra's Pimpri Chinchwad has been arrested for allegedly selling duplicate packs of Pakistan-made 'Goree Beauty Cream'. The import of Pakistan-made products has been banned in India. The Anti-Terrorist Branch of the Pimpri Chinchwad police arrested Prakash Manoharlal Guru, 39, a resident of Pimpri, on Wednesday after a raid on his store led to the seizure of 23 packets of the cream, with 'Made in Pakistan' labels.

The development comes at a time when the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has issued an alert on the use of unauthorised cosmetic products from Pakistan—Goree Beauty Cream and Chandni Whitening Cream—pointing out that they contain excessive heavy metals beyond the specified limits. The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has also flagged Goree Beauty Cream for containing mercury and lead beyond permissible limits and warned consumers against its use. Shop owner booked on cheating charges According to the police, after receiving information that duplicate packs of Goree Beauty Cream were being sold, a team raided Shakti Cosmetics Shop on River Road on Wednesday afternoon.

The police said that all the seized packs mentioned that the product was 'Made in Pakistan' and listed the retail price as Rs 550. The police said the shop owner was allegedly willing to deliver more cream packs if a larger order was placed. The FIR was lodged at Pimpri police station by Raisoddin Inamdar of SMC Toiletries. The police said Goree Cosmetics Private Limited Company, headquartered in Lahore, has authorised Mumbai-based SMC Toiletries to monitor the sale of fake products in their company's name. Guru has been booked on charges of cheating under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and under sections of the Copyright Act, a press release issued by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Branch) Dhiraj Patil said. The police said a probe is on to trace the suppliers and manufacturers of the product. The seized packs of Goree Beauty Cream will be handed over to the FDA for further investigation.

Soaps under Goree brand sold ATB Police Inspector V D Raut said two months ago, similar action was taken against a shop owner in Nigdi for selling soaps in the name of Goree Cosmetics Company. "A probe is on to find out whether these duplicate products are being fraudulently manufactured in India or abroad," Raut said. The police said that there was a demand for 'Made in Pakistan' cosmetics and beauty products in India. But following the Pahalgam terror attack last year, the government on May 2, 2025, imposed a ban on the import or transit of all goods from Pakistan. The Pimpri Chinchwad police have appealed to people to inform them about the sale of any products with 'Made in Pakistan' tags.

Police warning against loud music during Ganesh festival has BRS fuming

EMS News Agency, Sept 26

Hyderabad Ganesh immersion Reminding the revellers that DJs and loud music are banned, Hyderabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar on Thursday said that violation of the rules, especially in light of the grand processions expected on Friday, will invite action. A warning by Hyderabad Police to maintain decorum during Ganesh immersion has drawn the ire of Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), with its leaders suspecting that the direction was specifically aimed at them.

Reminding the revellers that DJs and loud music are banned, Hyderabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar on Thursday said that violation of the rules, especially in light of the grand processions expected on Friday, will invite action. He pointed out that vulgar, obscene, or provocative songs would not be allowed to be played. The warning may seem routine or apolitical but for BRS, they seem to be a pointed attack on them. There is a reason for this. The last few days have seen several videos of youths, dancing to songs praising former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and the BRS, doing the rounds of social media. Some of these numbers are old campaign songs promoting regionalism, praising KCR's struggle for Telangana statehood, and exhorting for a political fight soon. In some of the videos, loud music could be heard blaring from trucks carrying the idols for immersion at Hussain Sagar Lake. One song, "dekh lenge (we will see)", praising KCR and warning of an impending political fight, has caught on but is also being seen as provocative. In his warning, Commissioner Sajjanar said, "Ganesh immersion should be about bhakti, devotion, and not politics. We are tracking the handles, which are posting these reels, and we are also taking note of the vulgar or provocative songs that are being played."

He said action will be taken against those using loud sound systems, harassing women in the processions, and posting provocative or inflammatory political content. It is this particular warning that BRS has interpreted as targeting the party and its supporters. "Hitler rule in Telangana. Police commissioner announces that they will take action on youth who have played KCR songs during Ganesh immersion," BRS social media convener Dr M Krishnak posted on social media. Former Minister Koppula Eshwar said, "They cannot stop the vibe. Only KCR and BRS songs are being played at Hussain Sagar Lake." Meanwhile, the city is preparing for the final immersion processions on Friday with thousands of trucks and vehicles carrying the idols set to arrive at various places, including the 16th-century lake. The City Police has deployed over 28,000 personnel besides drones and electronic surveillance for smooth conduct of the immersion. Several arterial roads have been blocked to facilitate quick and easy movement of the vehicles

Infusing mitochondria helps renew tissues deprived of blood: research



James McCully was in the lab extracting tiny structures called mitochondria from cells when researchers on his team rushed in. They'd been operating on a pig heart and couldn't get it pumping normally again. McCully studies heart damage prevention at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School and was keenly interested in mitochondria. These power-producing organelles are particularly important for organs like the heart that have high energy needs. McCully had been wondering whether transplanting healthy mitochondria into injured hearts might help restore their function.

The pig's heart was graying rapidly, so McCully decided to try it. He loaded a syringe with the extracted mitochondria and injected them directly into the heart. Before his eyes, it began beating normally, returning to its rosy hue. Since that day almost 20 years ago, McCully and other researchers have replicated that success in pigs and other animals. Human transplantations followed, in babies who suffered complications from heart surgery — sparking a new field of research using mitochondria transplantation to treat damaged organs and disease. In the last five years, a widening array of scientists have begun exploring mitochondria transplantation for heart damage after cardiac arrest, brain damage following stroke and damage to organs destined for transplantation.

Mitochondria are best known for producing usable energy for cells. But they also send molecular signals that help to keep the body in equilibrium and manage its immune and stress responses. Some types of cells may naturally donate healthy mitochondria to other cells in need, such as brain cells after a stroke, in a process called mitochondria transfer. So the idea that clinicians could boost this process by transplanting mitochondria to reinvigorate injured tissue made sense to some scientists. From studies in rabbits and rat heart cells, McCully's group has reported that the plasma membranes of cells engulf the mitochondria and shuttle them inside, where they fuse with the cell's internal mitochondria. There, they seem to cause molecular changes that help recover heart function: When comparing blood- and oxygen-deprived pig hearts treated with mitochondria to ones receiving placebos, McCully's group saw differences in gene activity and proteins that indicated less cell death and less inflammation. About 10 years ago, Sitaram Emani, a cardiac surgeon at Boston Children's Hospital, reached out to McCully about his work with animal hearts. Emani had seen how some babies with heart defects couldn't fully recover after heart surgery complications and wondered whether McCully's mitochondria transplantation method could help them. During surgery to repair heart defects, surgeons use a drug to stop the heart so they can operate. But if the heart is deprived of blood and oxygen for too long, mitochondria start to fail and cells start to die, in a condition called ischaemia. When blood begins flowing again, instead of returning the heart to its normal state, it can damage and kill more cells, resulting in ischaemia-reperfusion injury. Since McCully's eight years of studies in rabbits and pigs hadn't revealed safety concerns with mitochondria transplantation, McCully and Emani thought it would be worth trying the procedure in babies unlikely to regain enough heart function to come off heart-lung support.

Parents of 10 patients agreed to the experimental procedure, which was approved by the institute's review board. In a pilot that ran from 2015 to 2018, McCully extracted pencil-eraser-sized muscle samples from the incisions made for the heart surgery, used a filtration technique to isolate mitochondria and checked that they were functional. Then the team injected the organelles into the baby's heart. Eight of those 10 babies regained enough heart function to come off life support, compared to just four out of 14 similar cases from 2002 to 2018 that were used for historical comparison, the team reported in 2021. The treatment also shortened recovery time, which averaged two days in the mitochondrial transplant group compared with nine days in the historical control group. Two patients did not survive — in one case, the intervention came after the rest of the baby's organs began failing, and in another, a lung issue developed four months later.

Indian teen's family sues NYC for USD 105M over carriage tragedy

New York: The family of Indian teenager Romanch Mahajan, who was killed when the horse drawing their carriage bolted in June last year, has initiated legal proceedings demanding \$105 million in compensation from the New York City government. The family claims in a notice to the city filed last week that stray electricity in Central Park spooked the horse and that it was a result of the city government's negligence. Mahajan's family was on a holiday in the city celebrating his graduation from high school and took a ride on a horse carriage on June 17. Applying For Government Grants

When the carriage driver got out to take a picture, the horse suddenly bolted, throwing Mahajan's mother Priya off the vehicle. Mahajan dove after her in an attempt to save her, but hit his head on the ground and died from the injury. The family filed notices against the city and four of its departments in the first step towards suing them in court, alleging that their negligence caused the accident. The stray voltage, among other factors, "caused, precipitated, contributed to and/or was a substantial factor" that made the horse bolt, they allege.

Downloading Interactive Geographic MapsThe allegation about the electric voltage echoes a claim made by the Transport Workers Union, to which carriage driver Ertan Gokdepe belonged. Defending him, the union's local unit Vice President Alexander Kemp said last month: "Blue-collar carriage drivers should not be punished for an unforeseeable hazard caused by flaws in the city's power grid." Eighteen-year-old Mahajan, who was from Pathankot, had recently completed his 12th standard from

The group has now performed this procedure on 17 babies. The transplant procedure remains experimental and is not yet practical for wider clinical use, but McCully hopes that it can one day be used to treat kidney, lung, liver and limb injuries from interrupted blood flow.

The results have inspired other clinicians whose patients suffer from similar ischaemia-reperfusion injuries. One is ischaemic stroke, in which clots prevent blood from reaching the brain. Doctors can dissolve or physically remove the clots, but they lack a way to protect the brain from reperfusion damage. "You see patients that lose their ability to walk or talk," says Melanie Walker, an endovascular neurosurgeon at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. "You just want to do better and there's just nothing out there." Walker came across McCully's mitochondrial transplant studies 12 years ago and, in reading further, was especially struck by a report on mice from researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School that showed the brain's support and protection cells — the astrocytes — may transfer some of their mitochondria to stroke-damaged neurons to help them recover. Perhaps, she thought, mitochondria transplantation could help in human stroke cases too. She spent years working with animal researchers to figure out how to safely deliver mitochondria to the brain. She tested the procedure's safety in a clinical trial with just four people with ischaemic stroke, using a catheter fed through an artery in the neck to manually remove the blockage causing the stroke, then pushing the catheter further along and releasing the mitochondria, which would travel up blood vessels to the brain. The findings, published in 2024 in the *Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism*, show that the infused patients suffered no harm; the trial was not designed to test effectiveness. Walker's group is now recruiting participants to further assess the intervention's safety. The next step will be to determine whether the mitochondria are getting where they need to be, and functioning. "Until we can show that, I do not believe that we will be able to say that there's a therapeutic benefit," Walker says. Researchers hope that organ donation might also gain from mitochondria transplants. Donor organs like kidneys suffer damage when they lack blood supply for too long, and transplant surgeons may reject kidneys with a higher risk of these injuries. To test whether mitochondrial transplants can reinvigorate them, transplant surgeon-scientist Giuseppe Orlando of Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem and his colleagues injected mitochondria into four pig kidneys, and a control substance into three pig kidneys. In 2023 in the *Annals of Surgery*, they reported fewer dying cells in the mitochondria-treated kidneys, and far less damage. Molecular analyses also showed a boost in energy production. It's still early days, Orlando says, but he's confident that mitochondria transplantation could become a valuable tool in rescuing suboptimal organs for donation.

The studies have garnered both excitement and skepticism. "It's certainly a very interesting area," says Koning Shen, a postdoctoral mitochondrial biologist at the University of California, Berkeley, and coauthor of an overview of the signalling roles of mitochondria in the 2022 Annual Review of Cell and Developmental Biology. She adds that scaling up extraction of mitochondria and learning how to store and preserve the isolated organelles are major technical hurdles to making such treatments a larger reality. "That would be amazing if people are getting to that stage," she says. "I think there are a lot of thoughtful people looking at this carefully, but I think the big question is, what's the mechanism?" says Navdeep Chandel, a mitochondria researcher at Northwestern University in Chicago. He doubts that donor mitochondria fix or replace dysfunctional native organelles, but says it's possible that mitochondria donation triggers stress and immune signals that indirectly benefit damaged tissue. Whatever the mechanism, some animal studies do suggest that the mitochondria must be functional to impart their benefits. Lance Becker, chair of emergency medicine at Northwell Health in New York who studies the role of mitochondria in cardiac arrest, conducted a study comparing fresh mitochondria, mitochondria that had been frozen then thawed, and a placebo to treat rats following cardiac arrest. The 11 rats receiving fresh, functioning mitochondria had better brain function and a higher rate of survival three days later than the 11 rats receiving a placebo; the non-functional frozen-thawed mitochondria did not impart these benefits. It will take more research into the mechanisms of mitochondrial therapy, improved mitochondria delivery techniques, larger trials and a body of reported successes before mitochondrial transplants can be FDA-approved and broadly used to treat ischaemia-reperfusion injuries, researchers say. The ultimate goal would be to create a universal supply of stored mitochondria. This article is republished from Knowable Magazine.

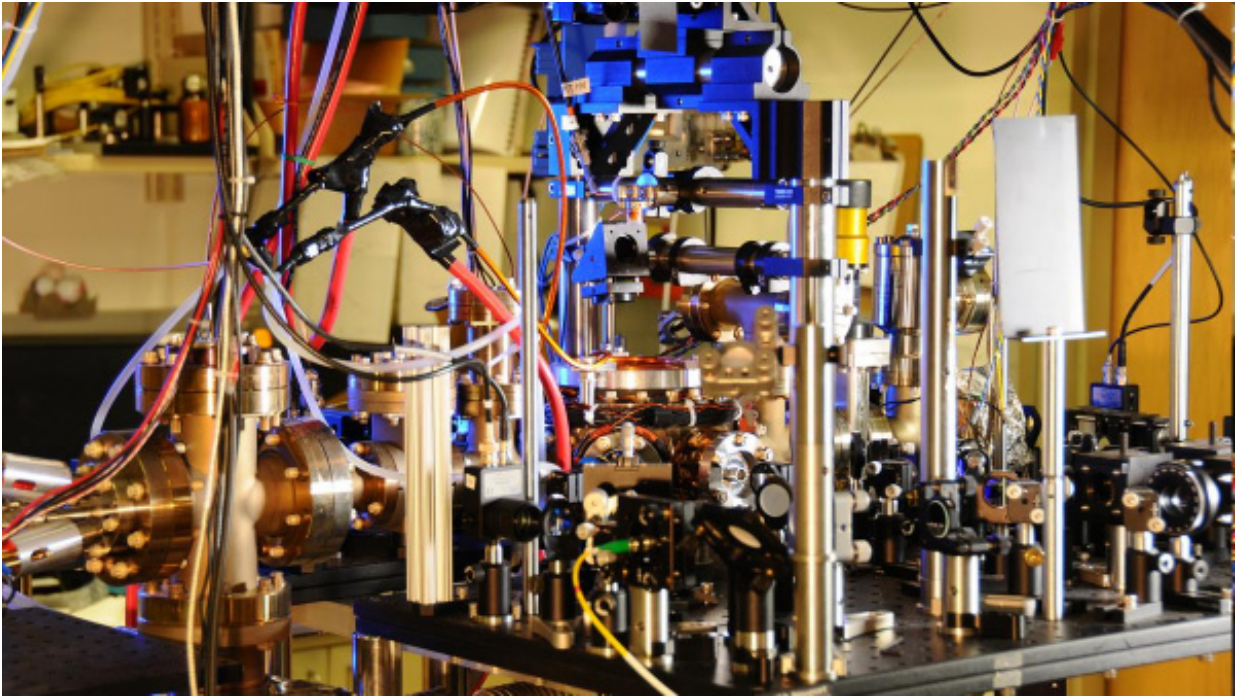


When the carriage driver got out to take a picture, the horse suddenly bolted, throwing Mahajan's mother Priya off the vehicle. Mahajan dove after her in an attempt to save her, but hit his head on the ground and died from the injury.

Angel's Public School and was set for college when the tragedy struck. Exploring Equestrian Gear And Supplies His death gave momentum to the campaign to ban horse-drawn carriages, a tourist attraction in the city.

Named the Romanch Mahajan Bill in his memory, the City Council is expected to vote on the ban soon, and supporters say the proposed legislation has majority support to pass. His father Deepak Mahajan made a tearful plea to the Council through a video link last month to ban the carriages. "A young boy came to America full of dreams and left us far too soon," he said. Comparing New Electric Vehicle Leases "This was not an unpredictable accident," he said.

Intercontinental optical clock comparison sets stage to redefine the second



Researchers from around the world have completed the world's largest, most demanding head-to-head comparison of clocks in history to build confidence for the upcoming redefinition of the second. The duration of a single second is currently defined by caesium (Cs) atomic clocks. Lasers 'count' the radiation emitted by Cs atoms in these devices to measure one second, give or take a few billionths. As the applications of atomic clocks have expanded — including GPS navigation, climate science, and radio astronomy — expectations of their performance have also increased, necessitating the more advanced optical clocks. Scientists around the world have been studying and testing these next-generation devices. Because they can enumerate one second up to around 18 decimal places, scientists expect optical clocks will replace Cs atomic clocks as the world's new time standard around 2030. Until then, however, optical clocks will have to pass rigorous tests attesting to their ability to work in step from different parts of the world. The new effort presents the largest, most sophisticated such test to date. It involved 10 optical atomic clocks on three continents and 65 researchers.

To measure the passage of time, strike up a conversation with the person next to you. If it's riveting, time will fly. But if it advances in painstaking steps, time will slow to a crawl. For better or for worse, this isn't good enough for scientists. To understand how much time one second denotes, they use natural phenomena. In the early 20th century, the definition of a second was one-86,400th of a mean solar day. The first quartz crystal clocks that appeared in the late 1940s could measure time more accurately than the earth's rotation. So scientists switched to the earth's revolution around the sun. In 1956, one second became equal to one-31,556,925.9747th of the time the earth took to go once around the sun from January 0, 1900. Since then, scientists have been building better clocks that, at each step, also incentivised them to refine the time standard. The current standard is based on atomic clocks. These clocks don't directly measure time. Instead, they are complicated setups scientists put together to generate radiation of a fixed frequency. (Frequency is nothing but the inverse of time.) In 1967, the SI unit of time was defined thus: "the duration of 9,192,631,770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the caesium-133 atom" This verbose definition really communicates a simple meaning.

An atom's internal energy comes in fixed steps, like rungs on a ladder. It can jump up a rung by absorbing the right amount of energy and jump back down by giving that energy up again. In a Cs atomic clock, the energy that makes the jump is supplied by a finely tuned microwave signal. The atoms react most strongly when the microwave frequency is 9,192,631,770 Hz. Electronics watch how many atoms make the jump. If that number slips below a peak, the equipment nudges the microwave setting until the jump rate is back to the maximum. When that happens, the microwave signal itself is guaranteed to be exactly 9,192,631,770 Hz, i.e. composed of 9,192,631,770 waves per second. Chips called frequency dividers count these microwave waves and pass on only every 9,192,631,770-th one. This wave comes along every one second — and is the SI definition of the second. Around the world, many countries have set up their own Cs atomic clocks to define their respective national time standard. In India, the National Physical Laboratory in New Delhi maintains five Cs atomic clocks. The clocks' output is disseminated to various applications around India via the INSAT satellites, telecommunication signals, and fibre links. The wall clock hanging in your house is likely powered by two AA batteries and uses a quartz crystal oscillator. After a few months, the clock will start losing a few seconds. The Cs atomic clock that defines the US national time standard loses only one second every 300 million years, however. This is stupendous, yet in some cases it isn't good enough. As their application in defining the time standard suggests, atomic clocks are used in many technologies that we encounter every day. The American GPS network, Russia's GLONASS, Europe's Galileo, and India's NavIC constellation use atomic clocks onboard satellites to accurately measure distance and location data for both civilian and military use. Astronomers use it in radio-astronomy to piece together signals received on different parts of a large telescope. This is how they captured history's first photograph of a black hole in 2019. Climate scientists use atomic clocks for

ultra-precise measurements of the earth's gravity that reveal where ice and water have been lost. As these applications have expanded, the expectations of atomic clocks have, too. The definitive emission in Cs atomic clocks, of 9,192,631,770 Hz, is in the microwave range of the electromagnetic spectrum. In optical atomic clocks, it's in the optical (or visual) range. The radiation emitted when a strontium atom jumps between two particular energy levels is 429,228,066,418,009 Hz. When a ytterbium-ion jumps between two levels, the radiation has frequency 642,121,496,772,645 Hz. Because this radiation contains 110,000-times more waves per second, a device that can count them out can also measure one second more precisely. The frequency of the radiation emitted is also proportional to the clock's stability. In 2014, one optical atomic clock that used strontium atoms would reportedly drift by less than one second in 15 billion years. This is why optical atomic clocks are set to become the next global time standard. But ahead of the milestone, scientists must prove that clocks in different countries agree with one another to the 18th decimal place.

Enter: the new test. It involved 10 optical clocks based on five atoms: strontium-87 (Sr), ytterbium-171 (Yb), charged ytterbium-171 ions in two states (Yb⁺ E2 and Yb⁺ E3), charged strontium-88 (Sr⁺), and indium-115 ions (In⁺). The clocks were located at six national metrology institutes in Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the U.K. and Japan. The two clocks participating from Germany were in the same building, so the scientists linked their outputs through short optical fibres. The clocks across France, Germany, and Italy were linked with telecommunication fibres that already run through these countries. To prevent any noise or distortion from corrupting the data, scientists installed bespoke repeaters and amplifiers. Finally, to link the clocks across the English Channel, the Baltic Sea, and all the way to Japan, the teams used an advanced GPS technique called integer precise point positioning (IPPP). Because optical clocks occasionally take breaks for maintenance, the teams set up simpler backup clocks that stepped in temporarily to keep time using GPS data. When the optical atomic clocks were back in operation, the backups would handover and step back. In this way, all the clocks ran for 45 days between February 20 and April 6, 2022. Every time two different clocks were running and connected, the researchers divided their laser frequencies to make a ratio. In total the teams reported 38 independent optical-frequency ratios, far more than any earlier project. Four of these ratios — Yb⁺/E3 to Yb, In⁺ to Yb, Sr⁺ to Sr, and Sr⁺ to Yb — had never before been measured directly. The tightest single result was the ratio between the In⁺ and Yb⁺/E3 clocks in Germany, measured locally with an uncertainty of just 4.4×10^{-18} .

The teams found that the fibre and satellite links told the same story for most ratios. For example, the Sr clocks in Germany and France differed by a factor of less than 2×10^{-16} via both technologies, showing that long fibres and IPDP could both support ultra-precise timing in good conditions. Similarly, same-atom ratios — Sr to Sr, Yb to Yb, and Yb? to Yb? — confirmed that many clocks were healthy. The Germany and the U.K. clocks were compared by GPS across the North Sea and matched within 3×10^{-16} even after accounting for downtime. Combine results responsibly! The researchers were also able to reveal gaps they will have to fix before 2030. Every GPS-based ratio that involved the Italian Yb clock was off by about 4×10^{-16} compared with fibre measurements, pointing to a previously unnoticed signal distribution glitch at the Italian facility. The strontium clocks in France and Germany showed small but real offsets, up to 2×10^{-16} , when the teams checked them against other clocks and each other. These shifts were large enough to matter for a future definition of the second and will need further study. The authors of the paper describing the test, published in *Optica* on June 12, noted that recognising such hiccups is exactly why large, redundant campaigns are valuable. Because many ratios shared the same clocks, fibres, backups or GPS receivers, the teams noted that their errors were correlated. To address this, they developed a 38×38 matrix capturing 242 non-zero correlation coefficients. These coefficients captured the degree to which any two variables were related, e.g. it was 0.94 when two ratios shared a common clock on the same fibre.

Google introduces photo-to-video generation in Gemini with Veo 3 model rollout

Hyderabad: Google has introduced a powerful new photo-to-video generation feature in its Gemini platform, allowing users to transform static images into eight-second AI-generated video clips with sound. The tool, powered by the company's Veo 3 video generation model, is now rolling out to Google AI Pro and Ultra subscribers in select countries. The feature is accessible via the Gemini app and Flow — Google's AI filmmaking tool — by selecting the "Videos" option from the tool menu and uploading a photo. Users can then describe the scene and sound to animate everyday objects, drawings, nature scenes, or personal moments. "From reimagining fairy tales to ASMR content with lava textures, users are pushing the bound-

aries of creativity,” Google said. In just seven weeks since Veo 3’s wider rollout in May, more than 40 million AI-generated videos have been created using Gemini and Flow. The feature expands Gemini’s growing role as an everyday creative companion. Once a photo is uploaded and the prompt is entered, Gemini animates it into a short, shareable video. Users can preview, download, or share the output via a single tap. The tool is designed for quick creative expression, whether it’s turning sketches into motion art or adding visual depth to photo memories. The photo-to-video feature is currently available in over 150 countries. Google said it has integrated extensive safety protocols into the tool’s backend.

Anahat Singh and Tanvi Khanna set up all-India quarters to guarantee a medal at Asian Games



Anahat Singh has bigger goals than that at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, but there were little hiccups at the start as India's No.1 and No.2 squash players set up a women's singles quarter-final by winning their Round of 16 clashes against the Singapore sisters on Thursday.Tanvi Khanna played her part in that. Ranked 71st in the PSA charts, India's second-highest ranked women's player had to dig deep against Au Yeong Wai Yhann before winning 3-1 (5-11, 11-4, 11-5, 13-11). On another court around the same time, Anahat, India's top medal hope and world No.17, breezed past Au Yeong Wai Lynn 11-4, 11-5, 11-7.

Yhann, a graduate in psychology from the University of the West of England, was Singapore's first female squash pro to win a PSA Challenger title. The 27-year-old's teenaged sister, Lynn, is a product of the Singapore Sports School and is just starting out at the PSA

level.Chasing her first individual medal at the Asian Games, third seed Anahat received a first-round bye. Tanvi had to come through by beating South Korea's Kim Dami 3-0 in her opening round. The Indians will clash on Friday for a place in the semi-final, which assures a bronze.

Anahat, 18, and Tanvi, 30, have played each other multiple times on the national circuit before Anahat leaped to the elite PSA level. The two crossed paths earlier this year in the semi-finals of the JSW Indian Open, a PSA Copper event, in Mumbai, where Tanvi took a game off Anahat before losing 3-1.India's men's singles hopefuls too had a good day as Abhay Singh and Veet Chotrani moved into the last eight. Abhay, the world No.26 seeded second in Japan, brushed aside Sri Lanka's Ravindu Laksiri 3-0 (11-3, 11-5, 11-6) for another straight-games win. The 38th-ranked Veer was given a scare by Sanjay Jeeva, the world No.59 Malaysian, in a topsy-turvy contest where the Indian came through 3-2 (11-9, 8-11, 11-6, 15-17, 11-6).Veer will battle with Pakistan's Irfan Muhammad in the quarter-final on Friday, while Abhay will face Japan's No.1 Ryunosuke Tsukue.In mixed doubles, where India is defending a gold medal, the pair of Joshana Chinappa and Velavan Senthilkumar defeated the younger Indian combine of Shameena Riaz, daughter of India's former hockey captain and two-time Asian Games medallist Mohammed Riaz, and Suraj Chand 2-0 (11-7, 11-10). Joshana, playing in her seventh Asian Games, and Velavan will take on The Philippines' David Pelino and Jemyca Aribado for a place in the semi-finals.

A 0-0 win, a \$500 review and Asian Games heartbreak: How Mongolia's no-show cost India's eFootball medal hopes

India suffered a cruel twist of fate on Wednesday in Aichi-Nagoya after Mongolia's no-show in a decisive group-stage match saw the eFootball team of Danial Patel and Chinmay Sahoo get eliminated, ending their medal hopes at the 2026 Asian Games.Patel and Sahoo had begun their campaign with a 0-0 draw against Uzbekistan, who then beat Mongolia 6-3 and 12-0 across the mobile and console games, leaving them with a substantial positive goal difference of +15.Uzbekistan's results meant India needed a strong result against Mongolia to progress to the knockouts and keep their medal hopes alive. But the Mongolian team failed to report within the stipulated check-in time, arriving three minutes late and resulting in a forfeit.Under the tournament rules, India were awarded the win, tying them with Uzbekistan on points in Group F. But because it was recorded as a 0-0 forfeit win, India gained no goal-difference advantage, resulting in their elimination as Uzbekistan progressed from Group F.India's console player Sahoo told The Bridge that India did protest the decision, but it led nowhere."We protested and said that we want to play the games instead of a forfeit win, but they [officials] said a forfeit win is what the rules say," he said. "We were told we could pay \$500 for a judge panel check."India eventually decided against going ahead with the review."The thing is \$500 is kind of a waste of money, because they have mentioned that com-



ing late is a forfeit according to the rules," he added. "Unless they gave us a 3-0, 3-0 walkover with a +6 goal difference, we were not qualifying."India also missed out on qualification as one of the best second-placed teams in the draw, with Thailand (+3) and Saudi Arabia (+2) progressing to the quarterfinals.This was a frustrating end for India, with Patel being the reigning Asian eFootball champion. The exit ended India's hopes of winning a first Asian Games esports medal after they failed to win one at the 2022 edition.Uzbekistan eventually reached the semifinals but lost to Malaysia. Iran emerged as the eFootball champions.

Tough draw for Lakshya, Sindhu; Satwik-Chirag have it easy

In men's singles, while top Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen received an opening round bye, he will face former world champion Loh Kean Yew, who also received a bye, in the second round. If Sen gets past Yew, the world No. 14 will easily reach the quarter-finals where he will likely face world No. 1 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia.Ayush Shetty also received a first-round bye but will face his first real test in Round 3 against Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei.PV Sindhu also received a first-round bye in women's singles and is likely to easily progress to the quarter-finals where she could face Tokyo Olympics champion Chen Yufei.

Young Unnati Hooda will open her campaign against North Korean Yu Mi Song and will likely run into world No.6 Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia in Round 3.The discipline to watch out for — men's doubles — will see Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty open against the Thai combine of Peeratchai Sukpun/Pakkapon Teeraratsakul. The defending champions have an easy route to the semis where they will likely face top seeds Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae of South Korea.Haniharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun have a very tough opener against second seeds Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri.In women's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will open against Lok Lok Lui and Hiu Yan Tsang of Hong Kong. If they win they run into Japa-



nese world No.3 Yuki Fukushima and Mayu Matsumoto in Round 2. The Indian combine beat Yuki and Mayu in the team quarter-finals earlier this week.Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singhi will start against Indonesians Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma and Meilyyssa Trias Puspitasari. If they win, they will run into South Korean second seeds Hana Baek and Sohee Lee.In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto will face Nibal Ahmed and Abdul Razzaq Aminath Nabeeha of Maldives in Round 1.The individual competitions begin on Friday.Indian badminton has already secured a medal with the men's team claiming bronze.At Hangzhou 2023, Indian shuttlers won three medals, including a first-ever badminton gold.

Roshibina Devi Naorem's third Asian Games medal: A historic hat-trick after a dramatic road to Nagoya

Three consecutive Asian Games appearances, three consecutive medals. Roshibina Devi Naorem became the first Wushu player from India to win a hat-trick of Asiad medals. But this time, she had to fight just to make the squad, arriving as a last-minute injury replacement after a selection process that was itself mired in controversy, before clinching silver on Thursday at the Aichi Prefectural Martial Arts Hall in Nagoya.At 17, Roshibina had bagged bronze at the Jakarta Games in the women's Sanda 60kg division and improved to silver at the 2022 Hangzhou Games.Now 25, the Manipuri secured silver for the second time in the same weight division of Sanda, the combat-sport discipline of Wushu. She had earlier defeated Macao's Chu Man Sin 5-0 in the quarterfinals to assure herself of a medal. In the Sanda category of Wushu, semifinalists are guaranteed at least a bronze. But Roshibina was looking to better her 2022 performance.She prevailed 2-0 against Indonesia's Thania Kusumaningtyas to progress to the final, but eventually succumbed 0-2 to China's Zhang Xiaoyu in the gold-medal bout.The silver, nonetheless, has etched her name in the record books in a sport where China and Iran have remained dominant forces for years. Wushu originated in

China and dates back to ancient times. It consists of two categories — Taolu, which focuses on precision and the execution of choreographed movements, including both unarmed and weapon events; and Sanda.This was India's 11th medal in Wushu at the Asian Games -- one gold, two silver and eight bronze.The selection drama before a historic third-Out with a knee injury a year ago, Roshibina had lost to Divyanshi Choudhary in the trials and, as a result, missed the cut for India's seven-member Wushu squad approved by the Sports Ministry on August 22.Divyanshi was picked in the women's 60kg Sanda category. However, she suffered a partial high-grade ACL tear, resulting in the Wushu Association of India (WAI) picking Roshibina as her replacement.Divyanshi strongly protested against the decision in a highly charged video posted on social media, in which she alleged that Roshibina had mentally and physically harassed her and her family."I am really fed up. I have been harassed so much mentally from June, July to now, it's September, I am being harassed, because she (Roshibina) wanted to go (to the Asian Games)," she had said in the video.Divyanshi also questioned her removal from the Wushu squad,

Satnam, Salman claim historic bronze in men's double sculls at Asian Games



Nagoya: Satnam Singh and Salman Khan's men's double sculls bronze turned out to be the saving grace as the embattled Indian rowing team produced one of its worst performances in Asian Games history here on Thursday.The duo's bronze was India's first-ever men's double sculls medal at the continental Games.Rowing was introduced at the Asian Games in 1982. India won its highest medal tally in the sport at the 2010 Guangzhou and 2023 Hangzhou editions.

India won five medals in 2010, including one gold, three silver and one bronze. The tally remained the same in 2023, but there was no gold, with the rowers winning two silver and three bronze medals.The 2018 Games yielded three podium finishes, including one gold.India's performance in this edition equalled its tally from the 1982, 1994 and 2002 editions.The Indian pair stayed in second place until the 1,500m mark before slipping to third in the final 500m, clocking 6:13.25 at the Nagaragawa International Regatta Course.China's Yi Xudi and Yide Nie won gold in 6:09.37, while Uzbekistan's Pavel Sorin and Mekhrojbek Mamatkulov claimed silver in 6:10.49.The Indian duo finished 3.88 seconds behind the gold medallists.Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the duo after their bronze-winning performance at the Games.A fine performance by Satnam Singh and Salman Khan in the Men's Double Sculls, earning India a well-deserved Bronze medal. Their composure and coordination stood out. May this achievement inspire them to scale even greater heights in the years ahead," the Prime Minister posted on X.

Satnam, who had won a bronze at the Hangzhou edition in the men's quadruple sculls, added another Asian Games medal to his collection."I feel very proud because India had never won an Asian Games medal in the men's double sculls, and now I have been part of winning that first medal," Satnam said after the event.On the controversy surrounding the rowing team, he said, "I am sad about what happened with my partner (old partner). We had a chance for a better medal, but the decision has already been made and cannot be changed now.""We only came together in the men's double sculls five days ago. I feel proud that, after only five days together, we have managed to win an Asian Games medal in this event," he added.There was disquiet among the rowers two days before the start of competitions on Wednesday, with some claiming they had been shifted from the events they were originally entered in and that reserves had been included in the first team.The changes were made after a

Unbeaten centuries and five-wicket hauls mark HCA league action

Hyderabad: Centuries by C Tej Charan (101 not out, 85b, 13x4, 2x6) of Mahbub College and R Shanmukh (103 not out, 116b, 12x4) of Adams XI, along with fine spells by V Supreeth (5/15) of HCA District, S Aarya Harinath Reddy (5/17) of Sri Shyam and Md Sofi (5/6) of Sunshine, were among the highlights of the HCA C-Division one-day league cricket championship here on Thursday.

The scores:C-Division one-day league:Akshit 142 in 29.4 overs (Aditya Daga 39, E Durga Prasad 58, AC Ashish Kumar 3/22, Shetty Vicky 3/23) bt Consult 118 in 24.2 overs (V Varun 30, B Srikanth 3/9, S Apoorv 4/15).Vijaynagar 131/3 in 30 overs (Iraj Ikshwaak 56 not out) lost to Deccan Colts 132/2 in 28.1 overs (Abdul Raheem 40, B Harshith 57 not out).CK Blues 112/9 in 25 overs (V Supreeth Goud 38, B Veerabadra 4/13) lost to Nizam C Club 116/3 in 14 overs (Mirza Maqbool Baig 50 not out, Md Mudassir 33 not out, D Sai Uddiran Raj 3/28).Picket 125/6 in 25 overs (V Bhanu Teja Reddy 30) lost to Team Kun 128/6 in 24.1 overs.Victoria 50 in 16 overs (Abdul Hanif 3/10, Pawan Kumar 3/9) lost to Red Hills 56/2 in 9 overs.Hyd Panthers 110/6 in 33 overs (Sai Varshith P 34) lost to Yadav Dairy 111/1 in 24.5 overs (A Jayadeep Karthik 57).Abhinav Colts 104 in 29.4 overs (Risheek R Mandapuram 4/21) lost to Hyd Patriots 108/1 in 17 overs (Ritvik N 34, Raghaav Narayan 51 not out).Young Masters 182 in 29.5 overs (Md Farhan Shareef 58, Arshad Khan 41, Kevin Phillips 3/54, Shashwat Reddy 3/0) bt Shanti Associates 134/7 in 42 overs (R Shiva Ram Charan 45, Shaswat Reddy 36, Abdul Raqeeb 3/28).HCA Dist 8 205/7 in 26 overs (Oni Sukumar 62, Ashwith U 50,

meeting of the team managers of different participating countries on Monday.Another rower said players who had either been dropped or shifted to other events were "very disturbed" and had not taken food after the development earlier in the day.

The controversy appeared to have died down as the rowers competed on the first day of events on Wednesday, but a few players said they were contemplating making a representation to the Sports Minister.Even as rowing competitions began on Wednesday, at least two rowers said some players were considering making a complaint to the Sports Minister once the contingent returned to India.Rowing Federation of India (RFI) president Balaji Maradapa, meanwhile, accused a former coach of "influencing" the athletes. He also said the changes in crew members were made in the interest of the team by the coaches after the duration of the rowing competition was compressed from four days to two due to weather disruptions caused by Typhoon Duijuan.Earlier, India narrowly missed another rowing medal when Balraj Panwar finished fourth in the men's single sculls final in 6:54.80.Panwar stayed in second place at the 500m, 1,000m and 1,500m marks but slipped to fourth in the final 500m.China's Deng Zhiwei won gold in 6:38.98, while Panwar finished 15.82 seconds behind the winner.The lightweight men's double sculls duo of Rohit and Ujjwal Kumar Singh also finished fourth, while the men's quadruple sculls team ended fifth.India's last Asian Games medal in the men's single sculls came at the 2014 Incheon Games, when Sawarn Singh won bronze.Bajrang Lal Thakkar remains the only Indian to win gold in the event, claiming the historic title at the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games.

In the women's four final, India's Gurbani Kaur, Aleena Anto, Tendenthoi Devi Haobijam and Poonam finished sixth in 6:55.32, 20.45 seconds behind gold medallists China. Uzbekistan won silver in 6:38.05, while Vietnam took bronze in 6:43.86.In the lightweight men's single sculls Final B, Ajay Tyagi topped the 7-12 classification race in 7:01.54.For 26-year-old Satnam, the journey to the Asian Games rowing podium began away from the water.A former national-level handball player, he took up rowing around eight years ago after being inspired by Olympian Swarn Singh Virk, who won gold in the men's lightweight double sculls at the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia.Hailing from Punjab's Mansa district, Satnam quickly emerged as one of India's promising rowers.Download Interactive MapsHe represented India at the 2018 Youth Olympics, finishing eighth.He later won the men's single sculls title at the 40th Senior National Rowing Championships, becoming the first Indian Navy rower to claim the event.Satnam was also part of India's gold-winning men's quadruple sculls team at the Senior Asian Rowing Championships last year.A first for SalmanFor 28-year-old Salman, who won his maiden Asian Games medal, the rowing journey began in 2018 after he joined the Bombay Engineering Group of the Indian Army.Coaches Satywan, Satish Siraat and Prabhat Mishra introduced him to rowing and selected him for the centre's team.He went on to represent his battalion and compete in inter-centre championships.Salman twice came close to giving up the sport, but his coaches encouraged him to continue.



Bhanu 3/40) by Ranga Reddy Dist 34 in 15.3 overs (N Manesh Kumar 3/5, V Supreeth 5/15).St Andrews 189/9 in 32 overs (K Thrishul 32, Syed Sufiyan Abdul Kareem 41, Suhas Yadav G 3/33, Pawan Kumar Sharma 3/48) lost to Mahbub College 191/3 in 28.1 overs (C Tej Charan 101 not out, Harshavardhan 42 not out).Ameerpet 94 in 40 overs (Sardar Parmeet Singh 33, JLN Meher Prasad 3/15, Md Sofi 5/6) lost to Sunshine 95/1 in 9.2 overs (Ishaan Virani 60 not out).Lucky XI 103/9 in 33 overs lost to Reliance 104/0 in 11.2 overs (Md Suleman Uddin 91).Sri Shyam 151/3 in 20 overs (M Varun Sandesh Goud 71, B Aarav Goud 45) bt SK Blues 72/10 in 14.4 overs (S Aarya Harinath Reddy 5/17).PJLCC 145/7 in 20 overs (M Shiva Naga Koushik 44, J Anshul 40, Virat Kashyap 4/33) bt Bharat 72/7 in 20 overs (Parv Soni 4/11).Gaganmahal 119 in 39.5 overs (Syed Waleed 31, C Dayanand 4/14) lost to HCA Dist 7 122/5 in 21.3 overs

Sehrawat's record caps another India goalfest vs Thailand

Mumbai: With each goal India scored, the celebrations remained rather muted, both on and off the pitch. Except for that one goal late in the 57th minute.The Indian women's hockey team has been growing in confidence since June. They won the Nations Cup to earn promotion to the top-flight FIH Pro League, then they finished an impressive fifth at the World Cup last month.

Their campaign at the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya started with comprehensive wins over minnows Uzbekistan (19-0) and Indonesia (13-1). On Wednesday, at the Gifu Prefectorial Green Stadium, another goalfest was expected of them. And they delivered, beating Thailand 20-1.India knows though, that these results are coming against teams well below their standard, and there are bigger challenges ahead as they head to the latter stages of the tournament. And so they celebrated each goal with a smile and a few high-fives.Then came that goal by Deepika Sehrawat towards the end. It was her ninth of the day, and it helped her break her own record of scoring the most goals by an individual player in a women's hockey match at the Asian Games.Teammates rushed towards her to offer a hug in celebration for a personal milestone.But the bigger picture still remains

unchanged.The team may be in good form, but the target at the Asian Games is to win the country's first gold medal in the women's hockey tournament since the event was introduced to the Asiad roster in 1982. And with that gold comes the coveted quota for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.Matches against minnow teams may have come early for India, yet they still need to be won. And once again, the Indian team got off to a flying start with Sehrawat scoring in the second minute through a penalty corner.The team's designated drag-flicker, in fact, scored each of her nine goals through penalty corners. There was no keeping away Navneet Kaur from scoring though. The bonafide goalscorer scored four goals — one in each quarter — while Rutuja Pisal also picked up a hat-trick with two first-quarter goals and her last coming in the 47th minute.Lalremisiami, Sakshi Rana, captain Salima Tete, veteran Neha Goyal chipped in with goals as Thailand struggled to string together any passes to threaten the Indian goal.In fact, the Indians did not face any circle entries in their own half throughout the first half.In the 57th minute though, there was a major celebration on the pitch. A rookie error in defence saw a wayward pass being misstrapped by an unchallenged

Richa Chadha feels 2026 is the year of Ali Fazal: ‘He lived in a shanty, had just a bicycle’



A couple of years after becoming a mother to her and husband Ali Fazal's daughter Zuneeyra Ida Fazal, Richa Chadha is taking it slow. She's shooting for a Netflix India show, and is all set to launch her travel show Musafiri on her new YouTube channel this Friday on September 25. The weekly series is both written and narrated by Richa, the first season of which explores Mumbai in all its rich cultural, architectural, and anthropological glory. The series starts with a confession that she felt the need to make it after motherhood changed her forever.While she's always been vocal against environmental and sociopolitical excesses, she's found another reason to double down on that. "Questioning the world also comes from motherhood. That's why people ask, 'What will we leave behind for our children?' This is a big reason for me to do the show. I've had this research document for 12 years, but I finally acted on it after becoming a mom," Richa tells SCREEN in an exclusive interview. The first two episodes of the show explore gems hiding in plain sight — an Armenian church in Kala Ghoda and Gilbert Hill in Andheri, a 66 million years old rock formed by cooling molten lava from a volcanic eruption.

Richa admits that while content creators like Archana Puran Singh and Farah Khan now make more money a year through YouTube than they do from their respective film careers, she doesn't have a revenue model for her travel show yet. In fact, Phull Stop, her new YouTube channel on which Musafiri will stream, has just been started from scratch. "I feel I make money, yaar. I'm not chasing money otherwise I'd do a platform deal before putting it out. But instead, I have a new channel with no subscribers that I'm launching it with. But I feel people would take to it because there's a lot of curiosity around India," argues Richa.While she has no sponsors onboard yet, she wouldn't mind seamless brand integrations because her travel show does have the scope for that. "The fourth episode is about how Mumbai got rich, and it's all about the big business families. It'll mention the Wadias and the Tatas. So, if it's a seamless integration, I'd be up for it," says the actor. More seasons of the show will explore other cities of India and the world. "As of now, it's just Mumbai. Because we don't have the money for boarding and lodging of my crew in other cities," she adds, channeling her signature candid humour.Richa Chadha on getting back in action post motherhood

Richa becoming a mother coincided with her and Ali starting a production house, Pushing Button Studios,

Meghna Gulzar’s powerful film is a call to reconsider the system



Bollywood cinema has given us a host of quick-on-the-draw cop dramas, where the policeman dispenses justice with his fists—a vigilante who doesn't function inside the realm of law, at the heart of a film that shouts for attention. In this world of black and white, Meghna Gulzar invites you to a nuanced discussion on crime and punishment, the cost of extra-judicial justice and why the hum-drum procedure matters with Daayra.

Daayra is an exception in the loud and angry mainstream Bollywood cinema of today. It is not a revenge drama where one man exacts violent retribution, nor is it a courtroom drama where justice is demanded with heavy theatrics. Instead, it features two cops, played by Kareena Kapoor and Prithviraj Sukumaran, dedicated to the uniform but divided by what they perceive as justice. One believes justice delayed is justice denied, while the other believes the rule of law takes precedence even when an interminable wait is part of the process. The film showcases the minutiae of police procedure and asks difficult questions along the way. The most important question comes early in the film and leaves you uncomfortable: what happens when those supposed to implement the law believe it's not enough?

While you are dealing with the horror of watching a young woman being kidnapped, abused and burnt, you are hit by visuals of people celebrating the police for killing the suspects the same week the crime was committed. Visuals of fireworks, dhols, dancing and celebration recreate the public reaction to the 2019 Hyderabad case in which four suspects in a rape and murder case were killed by the police in an alleged encounter. As you watch the film, you don't feel the happiness or relief that 'justice' was quickly dispensed; instead, Daayra makes you examine the system and procedure that led to that moment.And perhaps that's the biggest takeaway from Daayra — it is time to reconsider the laws, procedures and systems that deal with crimes against women, right from the moment a distressed family member walks into a

which has also bankrolled Musafiri. The banner, which also produced Shuchi Talati's 2024 critically acclaimed coming-of-age film Girls Will Be Girls, is still in a nascent stage. Richa admits balancing both her babies — her daughter and her production house — is no cakewalk. "It's very difficult. I cry out of frustration. I've come back from something so transformative, and now have to multitask like a pro. "This is just that phase of my life where I have to raise a child, run a production company, focus on my acting career, and get back to my own health," she says.Richa recalls obsessively raising her first baby — her production house — till moments before she delivered her second. "I was unable to relax even on an epidural because I realized, 'Oh my god, this email has grammatical errors!' So, I snuck my phone into my hospital gown, went to the washroom, and started to type out while taking a leak. Only then I went for my delivery. I felt like I was just buzzing for a few months after that, and then my health forced me to take rest. But this is also the modern surroundings that you almost feel guilty taking a break for yourself. It's capitalism," asserts Richa.What helped Richa was a realization that probably every mother goes through after giving birth — that their life is not their alone anymore. "In the very first few days after giving birth, I realized as far as this relationship is concerned, the 'selfish' part of my personality will just have to melt away. I'm just a service provider for this being, who'll need to be fed every few hours. Whether I've had sleep, rest or food, it doesn't matter. When that dawns on women, that there are no off days on this job, it's a big shift to realize that this one thing is insular and everything will cater to this being now," confesses the actor.But taking a backseat from her primary occupation of acting hasn't stopped Richa from championing Ali, who's arguably had his career-best year with three critically acclaimed and commercially successful consecutive projects — Prosit Roy's Prime Video India crime show Raakh, Shakun Batra's segment in Netflix India's romantic anthology Lust Stories 3, and most crucially, Gurmeet Singh's crime thriller Mirzapur: The Movie, which has amassed over Rs 220 crore at the domestic box office so far. "What a year he's having! How can I not champion him?," says an elated Richa.With a slower return to acting, and her partner's career flourishing, is her state of mind not more complex than just harbouring boundless pride? "Of course, it's more complex than just being supportive, but not this year. We've been together for a long time. We've been married for six years. When I see the culmination of all the hard work he's done over the years in 2026, there's no complexity. There's just pure happiness. I've seen him at the time when he lived in a shanty and owned a bicycle. He's not only my partner, but also my friend. To see him overcome everything is just a very different feeling. I feel like maine iss din ke liye isko paal pos ke bada kiya hai," says Richa.Richa hails it as a collective win because not just Ali, but also she has been at the receiving end of naysaying towards him. "When I announced my relationship, two members from the film industry called me and said, 'Iss ladke ka kuchh nahi hoga'. From everyone writing him off to almost making fun of him when his film with Judi Dench came out, to see him get both critical love and box office success, I'm very happy," she adds, referring to Stephen Frears' 2017 Hollywood period film Victoria & Abdul.

police station.

The encounter is the last chapter of this film, the story starts much earlier when a scared woman calls her brother to say that she is stranded on a highway at night, and a truck driver has offered help. Her worried mother approaches the police, only to be turned away. The police officer quotes his 25 years of experience to announce that most missing girls eventually return home. His attitude is summed up in the line: "100 baar mein 99 baar ladki ghar aa jaati hai."The mother is asked inappropriate questions, made to go through unnecessary procedures and then told the case doesn't fall under that particular police station's jurisdiction.This is where the film made me question the procedure itself. When a family member walks into a police station saying that their daughter is missing and potentially in danger, should the first response really be about jurisdiction and paperwork? Shouldn't the first response be to find her?The concept of a Zero FIR exists precisely to ensure that a complainant is not made to run from one police station to another simply because an incident falls outside territorial jurisdiction. But Daayra makes you think about something beyond whether a provision exists on paper: how quickly and humanely is the system actually able to respond when a person walks through that door in distress?In the film, by the time the system begins moving, the girl has been abducted, raped, killed and burnt. And that is where the question becomes much bigger than one police officer.One of the most uncomfortable things that Daayra raises is that almost everyone appears to be operating within a system that has its own rules, procedures and explanations. But somewhere in that process, the person at the centre of the case disappears.

The mother is not looking for an FIR number, she is looking for her daughter. That distinction seems simple, but it is important.The question becomes even more pertinent when we remember what happened after the 2012 Nirbhaya case. The public outrage led to the Justice JS Verma Committee, followed by the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013. The law introduced new offences such as stalking and voyeurism, strengthened punishments for several sexual offences, and brought in procedural safeguards for victims. It also made the failure of a public servant to record information relating to certain sexual offences punishable.And yet, Daayra takes us to a police station where the problem seems to begin with something much more basic: whether the person in distress is being heard and whether the system is responding with the urgency that the law intends.There is a line in the film that stays with you. Kareena Kapoor's character says: "The laws changed, but the people are the same."This is where the encounter becomes complicated; when the police kill the four suspects, the public celebrates. There are fireworks, dancing and applause. The officers are treated as heroes. But the victim's family doesn't celebrate as their daughter is still dead.And through that contrast,

Yami Gautam pays tribute to Maheshwari handloom tradition



Mumbai: Actress Yami Gautam celebrated traditional Indian craftsmanship as she wore an elegant black Maheshwari saree, showcasing the heritage of the traditional handloom.In a recent Instagram post, the 'Bala' actress revealed that the saree was woven by a seventh-generation Salvi family weaver from Maheshwar, who has carried forward the family's legacy of handloom craftsmanship. The saree was crafted using silk, cotton and zari.

Sharing details about the traditional weave, Yami highlighted the history of Maheshwari handloom and the generations of artisans who have helped preserve the

Manasa Varanasi announced as female lead in Sharwanand-Sreenu Vaitla’s ‘George Krish’



Hyderabad: The makers of director Sreenu Vaitla's upcoming Telugu film 'George Krish', featuring actor Sharwanand in the lead, have announced that actress Manasa Varanasi will play the female lead in the film.For the unaware, Manasa Varanasi's most recent film, 'Couple Friendly', went on to emerge as a huge hit, and the actress was praised for her performance in the film.Sources say that Manasa's role in 'George Krish' will have great significance.

The film has generated excitement among fans ever since it was first announced, with Sharwanand, who is

craft. She also emphasised that the beauty of the craft lies in the hands of artisans who have kept the weaving tradition alive across generations.Sharing a series of photographs, she wrote: "The black Maheshwari saree is woven by a seventh-generation Salvi family weaver from Maheshwar, carrying forward a family legacy of handloom craftsmanship. Woven in silk, cotton and Zari. Maheshwari weaving was nurtured by Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar, who brought skilled weavers to Maheshwar. The beauty is in the hands that have kept this craft alive for generations."In the photographs, the 'Kaabil' actress is seen posing in a black saree featuring golden embroidery along the sides. She paired it with matching earrings and wore her hair in a high bun. She completed the look with subtle makeup.Through her look, Yami celebrated the artistry and heritage of Maheshwari handloom while drawing attention to the craftsmanship behind the traditional saree.Yami also wore the same black Maheshwari saree while receiving the National Award for Best Actress for her performance in 'Article 370'. The 72nd National Film Awards were held on September 22 in Kevadia, Gujarat.Maheshwari weaving is a traditional handloom craft that originated in Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh. The craft was promoted in the 18th century by Queen Ahilyabai Holkar of the Holkar dynasty, who invited skilled weavers from Surat and South India to create special sarees for royal guests.

riding high on the success of his recent films 'Nari Nari Naduma Murari' and 'Biker', teaming up with director Sreenu Vaitla for the first time.Presented by ATV, the film is being produced by Ramabrahmam Sunkara under Anil Sunkara's AK Entertainments banner, with Ajay Sunkara as co-producer.It may be recalled that the makers unveiled the title and release date through a colourful and eye-catching poster in August this year. The Sankranti sentiment is particularly special for Sharwanand, as films featuring the actor that have released during the festival have gone on to emerge as huge successes.Films such as 'Shatamanam Bhavati', 'Express Raja' and 'Nari Nari Naduma Murari' were all released during Sankranti and emerged winners. Now, 'George Krish' is also set to be released during the festival.'George Krish' was launched in a grand fashion with a traditional pooja ceremony. For the muhurtham shot, producer Suresh Babu switched on the camera, while MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav sounded the clapboard. Sreenu Vaitla himself directed the first shot.The film boasts a strong technical crew. KV Guhan will be the cinematographer, while Anup Rubens will score the music. Avinash Kolla will serve as the production designer, and Amar Reddy Kudumula will take care of the editing. Nandu Savirigana and Gopi Mohan have written the script, while Kishore Garikipati will serve as the executive producer.For the first time, the worldwide theatrical distributors of a film were announced on the day of its launch. Asian Suresh Entertainments will distribute the film in Nizam, Vaasudeva Movie Creations in Vizag, Vintage Creations in East, Adithya Films in West, Vyom Cinemas in Krishna, RK Entertainments in Guntur and Abhi Cinemas in Nellore. Overseas distribution will be handled by VYOM Cinemas and Cinema Paradiso.

Ivy League university graduate fails to answer Rs 25 lakh Ramayana question



KBC 18: Amitabh Bachchan-hosted Kaun Banega Crorepati 18 saw a contestant from Delhi take the hot seat on Wednesday's episode. Aman Sharma, who is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (an Ivy League university in the US), spoke about his love for nature, birds and wildlife during his time on the hot seat and encouraged Bachchan to nurture a few plants in his home.Aman

managed to successfully answer all questions till Rs 12.5 lakh, but it was the question for Rs 25 lakh that left him puzzled. The question was: According to the Valmiki Ramayana, which maternal uncle accompanied Bharata to his grandfather's kingdom? The options were: Shoorasena, Yudhajit, Panchashikha, Japaka

Check this space tomorrow to learn more about the toughest question on the latest episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati 18. We will be bringing you the question and the story behind it.Since Aman did not know the correct answer, he quit the game and won Rs 12.5 lakh. Upon quitting, he guessed Shoorasena as the answer, which was incorrect. The correct answer was Yudhajit>About YudhajitAs per Valmiki Ramayan, Yudhajit was the twin brother of Kaikeyi, who is the mother to Bharata and the youngest queen of King Dashratha. It was Kaikeyi who demanded that the king send Lord Rama to exile for 14 years. She also demanded that her son Bharata must be crowned king.Aman Sharma's dream to save Indian wildlifeAman Sharma, during his time on KBC, shared that he started taking an interest in photography when he was a teenager, and since then, he has traveled to various national parks and jungles to click rare, exotic species of birds and animals. He shared that he developed a gradual interest in plants and nature and started gardening at his home, and now, he has over 500 plants on his terrace.Aman shared that he completed his education from the Ivy League University, University of Pennsylvania in the US and came back because he wants to work at a grassroot level in India and help in saving the wildlife of the country. He suggested that if each home starts gardening, it can help in constructing a migration corridor for various species of birds.

Bhuvan Bam says ‘Dhindora 2’ stays true to its roots

Mumbai: Actor and content creator Bhuvan Bam has opened up about the challenges of creating the much-awaited second season of his popular series "Dhindora".In an exclusive interview with IANS, he revealed that the process involved rewriting several drafts, jokes and storylines as he worked on bringing "Dhindora 2" to the screen.

Speaking about the first glimpse, Bhuvan said, "Dhindora is extremely personal to me because these characters have grown with me and the audience over so many years. We've been working on Season 2 for a long time, so finally seeing the first glimpse out there feels special. It's bigger and crazier, but still has everything people

love about this world."He added, "I feel right now it's in a space that resonates with my current maturity level, and it also touches upon topics that I strongly believe in. I hope it resonates with my existing audience as well as the newer audience that's watching."Rohit Raj, Founder and Producer at BBKV Productions, added, "Taking Dhindora from an independent YouTube series to Netflix has been an incredible journey. We wanted to make Season 2 bigger without losing the madness and familiarity that made the first one special. This glimpse is just the beginning."Netflix had recently dropped the first glimpse of "Dhindora 2", marking the return of the much-loved world and characters of BB Ki Vines on a bigger canvas.