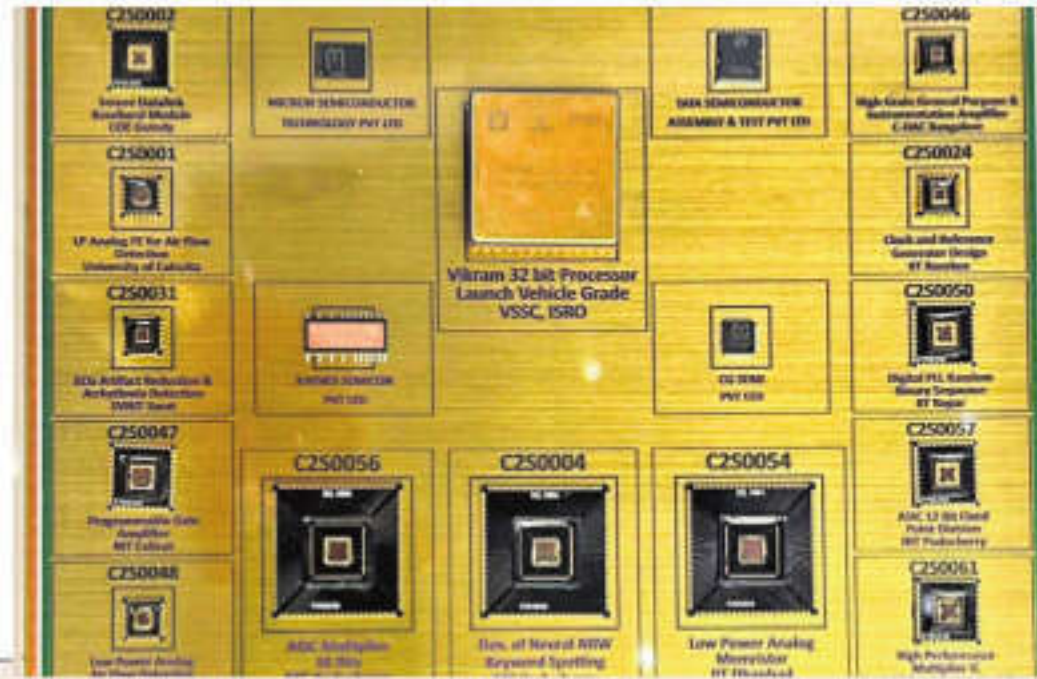




THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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INDIA'S 1ST INDIGENOUSLY-DEVELOPED SEMICONDUCTOR CHIP UNVEILED

Vikram-32-bit chip built by Isro was presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of the Semicon India 2025 conference on Tuesday

32-BIT PROCESSOR CAN HANDLE EXTREME HEAT

Vikram-32, officially known as VIKRAM3201, is India's first fully indigenous 32-bit processor chip designed to operate in the harsh environmental conditions of launch vehicles. Built on a 32-bit architecture, it can efficiently handle large volumes of data. Beyond aerospace, it holds significant potential in the defence, automotive, and energy sectors | P10

ADVANCED VERSION OF VIKRAM 16-BIT

The chip, designed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and fabricated at the 180nm CMOS semiconductor fab of Semi-Conductor Laboratory, is an advanced version of 16-bit VIKRAM1601 chip

"First 'Made in India' Chips! A moment of pride for any nation. Today, Bharat has achieved it," Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw wrote on X

10
SEMICONDUCTOR PROJECTS WORTH OVER \$18 BILLION ARE UNDERWAY: MODI

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IN DEEP WATER

People walk through a flooded street after the Yamuna river crossed the danger mark in New Delhi on Tuesday | P11

K Kavitha suspended from BRS

MANDA RAVINDER REDDY @Hyderabad

BHARAT Rashtra Samithi (BRS) supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao on Tuesday cleared the suspension of his daughter and MLC K Kavitha from the party for "anti-party activities". BRS general secretaries Soma Bharat Kumar and T Ravinder Rao issued a statement confirming KCR's decision.

"Recent activities of Kavitha are causing damage to the party. The leadership of the party has taken serious note of those activities. With this, party president K Chandrasekhar Rao has decided to suspend Kavitha from the party with immediate effect," the statement said.

BRS sources said Kavitha has called a press conference on Wednesday where she is likely to announce her resignation from both the Legislative Council and the primary membership of the party.

Kavitha has been at odds with the BRS leadership for several months. Following the state government's decision to order a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, Kavitha accused former minister T Harish Rao and former MP J Santosh Kumar of indulging in massive corruption which she claimed damaged KCR's image.

Meanwhile, the state presidents of both the Congress and BJP made it clear that there are no open doors for Kavitha.



Kavakuntla Kavitha

GOVT TO HAND OVER PREETHI CASE TO CBI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE Andhra Pradesh government has decided to hand over the case of Sugali Preethi to the CBI, in tune with the electoral promise of the ruling NDA. A few days ago Preethi's mother accused Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalayan of not keeping his promise to do justice to her daughter. Following which Pawan Kalyan reassured to do justice, while addressing the 'Senatho Senani' programme in Visakhapatnam.

Preethi, a Class X student of Cattamanchi Ramalinga Reddy High School in Kurnool, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in the hostel on August 19, 2017. The girl's parents alleged that she was sexually assaulted by school correspondent V Janardhan Reddy, and his two sons Diwakar Reddy and Harsha Vardhan Reddy. Police took Janardhan Reddy, and his two sons into custody. After eight days, the accused were released on bail.

The case is still being investigated by various teams, including an expert committee, a five-member committee, and a recently set up Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Interestingly, Kurnool Government General Hospital doctors had issued two postmortem reports in this case, and they were contradictory. In 2020, the then government issued a GO, referring the matter to the CBI. But, the CBI failed to take up the case, and Preethi's parents approached the High Court on September 11, 2020. The CBI submitted to the court that it could not investigate the case citing lack of resources.

Modi: Bihar won't forgive RJD, Cong for abusing mom

NDA gets opportunity to play the women card, announces five-hour Bihar bandh on Thursday

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR AND RAMASHANKAR @New Delhi/Patna

IN his first response to the recent abuse of his late mother from an Opposition platform in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said people will never forgive the RJD and the Congress for the slur. Expletives were hurled at the prime minister's mother during the Voter Adhikar Yatra spearheaded by Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav in Darbhanga.

Speaking to women of the poll-bound state via video conference from Delhi during the launch of a new cooperative, 'Bihar Rajya Jeevika Saakh Sahkari Sangh', Modi described the abuse as an insult to all mothers, sisters and daughters of the country, especially Bihar.

He accused the RJD-Congress alliance in the state of dragging his late mother into politics though she had nothing to do with it. "I may forgive RJD-Congress, but people of Bihar will never pardon them. Hurling abuses at my mother is nothing for those who insult 'Mother India'; such people must be punished," he said. Modi went on to allege that the RJD was seeking revenge, as its previous government was ousted because women voted against it.

Shortly after Modi response, the ruling NDA gave a five-hour bandh call in Bihar on Thursday to protest against abusive remarks. Bihar BJP president Dilip Jaiswal said the bandh on September 4 will be from 7 am to 12 noon, adding railways and emergency services will be out of its ambit.

JD(U) state president Umesh Singh Kushwaha said such abuse from a public platform was against democratic norms. "One may differ on political ideologies, but it does mean that family should be dragged into it," he said. He expressed surprise over the silence of senior Congress-RJD leaders on the matter.

BJP playing emotional card: Cong

Bihar Congress president Rajesh Kumar said the BJP was trying to divert people's attention by playing the emotional card before the assembly polls. "They did a similar thing in Karnataka. Now they are trying an encore in Bihar," he said at a press conference

People who hurl abuses at mothers have the mindset that women are weak. Abusing my mother was an insult to the daughters and sisters of Bihar



2020 DELHI RIOTS

No HC bail to Umar, Sharjeel, 7 others

IFRAH MUFTI @ New Delhi

THE Delhi High Court Tuesday dismissed the bail pleas Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, and seven others in the 2020 Delhi riots case, which left 53 dead and over 700 injured.

A bench of justices Naveen Chawla and Shalinder Kaur rejected the challenges to earlier trial court orders denying bail to the accused — Khalid, Imam, Athar Khan, Khalid Saifi, Mohd Saleem Khan, Shifa ur Rehman, Meeran Haider, Gulfisha Fatima, and Shadab Ahmed. All of them were booked under the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Arrested in 2020, the accused have been in jail for over five years now.

The bail plea of another accused, Tasleem Ahmed, was rejected by a different bench of justices Subramonium Prasad and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar. During an earlier hearing, the bench expressed concern over the prolonged incarceration of the accused.

Khalid's partner Banjojotsna Lahiri said this was the sixth time bail being denied, adding his legal team would now move the Supreme Court as a last resort.



Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam

Quota stir ends as Maha govt blinks

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MARATHA quota activist Manoj Jarange ended his fast on Tuesday evening, the fifth day of his hunger strike, saying the Maharashtra government has accepted most of his demands, including implementation of the Hyderabad gazette as documentary proof to issue Kunbi caste certificates to Marathas to make them eligible for reservation benefits currently available to OBCs.

The government accepted six out of the eight demands put forth by Jarange and constituted a cabinet sub-committee headed by BJP leader Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil. The panel sought two months to accept Maratha and Kunbi as the same caste and sage-soyere



Maratha community members stop a train during their protest, in Mumbai, on Monday. Inset: Manoj Jarange | P11

(close relatives) as demanded by the protestors.

"If any Maratha who does not have a land and revenue record to establish himself as Kunbi, and one of the persons in his clan and blood relation has the Kunbi certificate, then

the self-affidavit by that clan person will help to get a Maratha caste person to get a Kunbi certificate. The records and self-affidavit claim will be verified by the local village committee," read a government order.

WHAT NEXT

- 1 Kunbi caste certificates to be issued to Marathas to get them OBC benefits
- 2 Govt seeks two months to issue certificates
- 3 Jarange threatens to resume stir if not demands are met within two months

APCRDA to constitute SPV for major infrastructure projects in Amaravati

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE 52nd meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the CM's Camp Office on Tuesday, approved the constitution of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to oversee the key infrastructure development projects in Capital Amaravati.

The key infrastructure projects include a greenfield airport, NTR statue, smart in-

dustries, iconic bridge, sports city, river front, ropeway, and Inner Ring Road.

The Chief Minister suggested that the Bio Design Project be brought under the purview of SPV, noting that experts and organisations from seven countries are ready to partner in this public health initiative.

He also announced plans to establish a Health City in Amaravati, along the lines of the proposed Sports City.

The SPV will be fully responsible for the design, construction and revenue generation of



N Chandrababu Naidu

AP records excess rainfall in August

USHA PERI @ Visakhapatnam

ANDHRA Pradesh has recorded excess rainfall in August, with a departure of 39% from the normal.

However, the cumulative rainfall of the State between June 1 and August 31 has remained within the normal range, showing only 1% departure.

It may be noted that a series of low-pressure systems contributed to the heavy rainfall during the month.

According to data, seven districts in the State recorded large excess rainfall, 10 excess rainfall, and nine normal rainfall.

The distribution of rainfall has varied significantly across the State, with Rayalaseema districts in particular witnessing higher departures. The overall rainfall activity during the season so far has remained within normal limits.

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Forest dept to raise green cover in Nellore district

More than 20.65 lakh saplings readied to cover 960.48 hectares

D SURENDRA KUMAR @Nellore

DISTRICT Forest Officer (DFO) Mahaboob Basha said the Forest Department is intensifying efforts to expand green cover under the State government's Harit Andhra Pradesh initiative, targeting plantations over 960.48 hectares during the current financial year.

Officials said the department has prepared more than 20.65 lakh saplings in its nurseries. Following recent rains, nearly 100 hectares have already been planted with species suited to the region's soil and climate. Preparatory works, including pit digging and soil treatment, are complete in most remaining areas.

"Our target is to cover 960.48 hectares across Udayagiri, Kavali, Atmakuru, Nellore, and Nellore rural divisions. The rains have been favourable, enabling us to plant in 100 hectares already. Nurseries are well-stocked, and plantation sites are ready. By October, we are confident of achieving the target in full," Basha said.

The programme is supported by Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) funds alongside the Forest Department's budget, providing environmental and livelihood benefits.

Thousands of rural workers are engaged in nursery raising, pit digging, watering, and after-care of saplings.

Officials noted the mission aims to increase tree cover, combat climate change, improve groundwater recharge, and provide shade and shelter in urban and rural areas.

Plantations are being carried out on vacant government land, along highways and roadsides, in residential colonies, and within forest plantations.

Environmental activists and local communities have also welcomed the move. Environmental volunteer R Srinivas said, "Planting trees is not just about greenery—it's about healthier air, better rainfall, and a sustainable future. It's encouraging to see the government linking employment programmes like MGNREGS with ecological restoration."

The district administration urged citizens, NGOs, and community organisations to participate. Officials said, "People's participation is the key to sustaining plantations. We urge communities to adopt plantation sites, nurture saplings, and safeguard them as their own assets."

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Environmental and livelihood benefits.

Somireddy hits out at Jagan for 'dictatorial ways'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Nellore

TDP senior leader and Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy accused YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of dictatorial rule and pushing Andhra Pradesh into poverty during his five-year tenure.

Addressing the media in Nellore, Somireddy said the YSRCP was "desperately seeking" opposition status, but such recognition comes only from the people and not through repeated demands. He alleged that Jagan's leadership brought five



Somireddy with other leaders.

years of "poverty and destruction" to the state. Pointing to restrictions in Jagan's home constituency, Somireddy said, "In Pulivendula, even ordinary villagers need an entry pass to meet Jagan. If people in his own constituency and mandal

need a pass to meet him, what more proof is needed of his dictatorial ways?"

Drawing a comparison with the alliance government, Somireddy said, "Wherever we go, people welcome us warmly. While Jagan gave Amma Vodi to only one child, our government is offering Talliki Vandanam to all children. While he gave farmers ₹7,500 under Rythu Bharosa, we are extending ₹13,500 under Annadata Sukhibhava. Women are now traveling free under the Stree Shakti scheme, while families

are receiving three free LPG cylinders annually under Deepam. We are supporting handloom workers, fishermen, and every section of society."

He also accused Jagan of manipulating the 2019 elections. "You attacked your own uncle with an axe and pushed the blame on us to win in 2019. But people saw through your conspiracy, which is why you have been reduced to just 11 seats now. Even at this stage, YSRCP leaders should try to speak with at least a little wisdom," he said.

MCT to expedite Lakshmipuram beautification

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tirupati

TIRUPATI Municipal Commissioner (MCT) N Mourya has instructed officials to expedite the beautification work at Lakshmipuram Junction.

On Tuesday, in response to requests from the deputy mayors at the PGRS, Mourya inspected ongoing works, accompanied by Deputy Mayors Mudra Narayana and RC Munikrishna, and Corporator SK Babu. She visited master plan roads near Thondaman Chakravarthy, the Hero Honda showroom, and Padmavathipuram.

"The Lakshmipuram Junction is being developed to be more appealing," she said. She said officials are taking steps to complete the work quickly.

Govt procures 4,817 quintals of onions to support farmers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kurnool

ANDHRA Pradesh Agriculture Marketing Commissioner Vijaya Sunitha on Tuesday said the state government has extended support to onion farmers by purchasing 4,817 quintals of onions through MARKFED at a support price of ₹1,200 per quintal.

Sunitha inspected the Kurnool Market Yard and reviewed operations with officials, noting that special attention is being given to prevent farmers from incurring losses due to heavy August rains. She said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu instructed horticulture and marketing departments to provide immediate relief to distressed farmers, prompting the



Agriculture Marketing Commissioner Vijaya Sunitha inspecting the Kurnool Market Yard on Tuesday | EXPRESS

procurement drive.

Officials said MARKFED procured 212 quintals of onions on Sunday, 1,525 quintals on Monday, and 3,080 quintals on Tuesday, compared with just

233 quintals purchased by private traders over the last two days. Including purchases through Rythu Bazaars and MARKFED, total procurement has reached 5,846 quintals.

The Commissioner assured that the state plans to procure the remaining 3,400 metric tonnes of onions in the fields, emphasising that no farmer would be left to suffer losses. She appealed to farmers to allow onions to mature fully, dry and grade them carefully before bringing them to the markets.

"The government is committed to safeguarding farmers' interests, and MARKFED's procurement initiative is a testament to that commitment," Sunitha said.

Kia India launches skill & edu initiatives

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Anantapur

KIA India launched two community initiatives in Anantapur district on Tuesday under its Kia Social Contributions programme, focusing on youth skill development and education infrastructure.

At the APSRTC depot in Hindupur and Anantapur, it introduced a Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) driving training programme to equip 352 unemployed. It is being implemented in collaboration with Sambhav Foundation. Kia Chief Administrative Officer Kabdong Lee said, "It is about driving change. By empowering youth with skills, we are helping them control their future. We are proud to collaborate with APSRTC and Sambhav Foundation to make it a reality."



Kia India launch event.

'Power Walk,' welfare progs mark PK's b'day in Nellore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Nellore

DEPUTY Chief Minister and JSP chief Pawan Kalyan's birthday was celebrated with enthusiasm in Nellore on Tuesday, with party leaders and cadres organising a "Power Walk" and various service activities.

A rally from VR Centre to Gandhi Bomma Temple, led by AP TIDCO Chairman Vemulapati Ajay and coordinated by JSP district secretary Gunukula Kishore, marked Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's birthday celebrations. JSP cadres also conducted health camps, food distribution, blood donation drives, and clothing donations across Nellore district.

Addressing the gathering, Ajay and Kishore praised Pawan Kalyan's commitment to public causes, citing his fight against uranium mining, efforts to highlight the Uddanam kidney problem, and support during natural calamities. They recalled struggles of party supporters who braved hardships to back Jana Sena. The leaders urged cadres to remain united for political change.

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'Pulivendula by-poll undemocratic'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kadapa

FORMER Chief Minister and YSRCP Chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy accused TDP of butchering democracy in the Pulivendula ZPTC by-poll by not allowing voters to exercise their franchise. Rounding off his three-day tour of Pulivendula on Tuesday, Jagan said the by-poll set an example of how TDP demeaned the democratic process.

At Ambakapalli, villagers told Jagan about the atrocities committed by TDP workers during the ZPTC by-polls and



Jagan at Pulivendula.

explained how police was used to suppress their right to vote. "Everyone in this village has shown how their freedom to vote was denied. This is a mockery of democracy. I thank you for your unflinching loyalty," Jagan said.

"We have seen how TDP was

routed later in the general elections, giving YSRCP a landslide win. God will teach a lesson, injustice cannot prevail for long. Farmers' issues remain neglected, and under the guise of "Super Six", people are being cheated. A time will come when this government will be thrown out," he said.

Jagan performed Jalatharathi at Ambakapalle Cheruvu as Krishna waters reached the reservoir. Through PADA funds, ₹1.4 crore was spent to acquire 14 acres and construct a tank for Ambakapalli Gammakunta.

INFRA IN NMC

Citizens told to pay tax on time

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Nellore

NELLORE Municipal Corporation (NMC) Commissioner YO Nandan on Tuesday appealed to citizens to pay their taxes on time and actively participate in the city's development, emphasising that funds for infrastructure and public welfare projects depend on timely tax collection.

Speaking at a press meet, the NMC chief highlighted ongoing development works under the guidance of MAUD Minister P Narayana and Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy. "We are prioritising infrastructure creation. Corporation funds will be spent only on essential facilities like roads, drains, street dividers, greenery, streetlights, drinking water supply, parks, and sanitation. All tax collections are being utilised in a planned manner to ensure development," Nandan said.



NMC Commissioner YO Nandan.

NSU holds global meet on edu and tech

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tirupati

THE National Sanskrit University (NSU), Tirupati, organised an international conference on 'Empowerment of Education through Technology and Innovations in Pedagogical Practices' at the Chelikani Annamacharya Auditorium.

Sri Venkateswara Vedic University Vice-Chancellor (V-C)



NSU conference.

Prof. Rani Sadashivamurthy stressed on technology in education and its role in globalising Sanskrit. Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University (Assam) V-C

Prof. Prahlad R Joshi highlighted how digital platforms can spread Sanskrit's wisdom globally.

International speakers, like H Lucy Guest (UK), Krishnakarthi Prabhu (USA), Prof. Tikaram Nyaopane and Navaraj Katle (Nepal) said ancient Sanskrit texts hold scientific insights that remain relevant to education and technology.

EXPRESS READ

Pavitra Prathista held at temple

Tirupati: As part of the Pavitrotsavams, Pavitra Prathista was performed on Tuesday at Sri Soumyanatha Swamy Temple, Nandalur, with devotional rituals.

Programmes will continue till September 4, concluding with Maha Poornahuti, Pavitra Visarjana, Kumbha Prokshanam, and Utsava Murthies procession

MLA flags off new ambulance in Chittoor

Tirupati: Chittoor Collector Sumit Kumar and Chittoor MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan on Tuesday flagged off an ambulance at the Secretariat to strengthen emergency medical services. Sumit said another ambulance, being provided through the CSR initiative of IOCL, will arrive soon, raising the total to three

Ambekar Academy produces good results

Kurnool: Nandyal Collector G Rajakumari announced ₹1 lakh aid for each district student securing MBBS admission, to support books and expenses. She praised Chinnatekur Ambekar Academy for producing eight MBBS, six IIT, and 19 NIT seats this year, empowering rural students through quality education

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

03rd September: The Sun and Moon are meeting up again. Actually, we are heading for one of the most interesting alignments of the year and it is likely to encourage volatile passions and uncontrollable feelings. That's the forecast. The advice is to be clear, cool and collected - and infinitely tolerant and flexible.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

By all accounts a new acquaintance has high expectations of you, probably too high. That could be a problem if you're working with them. In any event, the next few days will bring clarification of a situation that has been causing considerable confusion, both to you and others.

Taurus (Apr 21 - May 21)

The Moon's far-sighted, adventurous position is one of those special factors which urges you to broaden your horizons. At the very least you may get in touch with family members overseas or far away. You never know - you might find something to your advantage.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The Moon is once again persuading like-minded people to team up on a favourite activity, offer them something in return. Don't worry if somebody seems determined to do you down. If you have nothing to hide, then you have nothing to fear.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Nothing stays the same for ever - as you know. Like it or not, your working pattern is about to alter. Yet, before you are ready to tackle major ambitions, you must complete tasks already in train. It's all a question of taking everything in the best order and of walking before you run.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)

If you have been dwelling in the past, today's lively Moon should encourage you to get going, think afresh and face the future. When making plans, try not to be restricted by inhibitions and taboos which now exist solely in your imagination. Maybe that's not a bad thing!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

You could soon have a second chance to cater for recurring irritations. Financial worries you'd thought had been dealt with might return to haunt you, but this time you can lay them to rest. If past extravagance has caused a dent in your savings, the process will soon be reversed.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Take decisive action at work, and try to pin other people down now, as later on they'll be inclined to change their minds. When it comes to cash, you should take all necessary steps to repay loans and balance the books. You will not regret your caution and foresight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Mars is sailing through a most promising region of your chart and, although you may be subject to minor irritations, these could be the first indications that grand opportunities are on the way. Change, it is said, is always difficult, but it's never too difficult for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

There seems to be no problem too great for you to deal with efficiently and with good results, all the more so if you have a wide circle of helpers. It's all down to the Moon's supportive presence in your chart, one which encourages you to accept responsibility for others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

The current atmosphere favours individual effort and competition, and frequently everyone seems to be out for themselves. Don't be surprised if colleagues are rather jumpy. You may even sympathise with their uncertainty about the future. Try to reassure them!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You're probably wondering just what you must do next. Your best plan is to take the initiative and offer a chance for other people to see just how well you can do under pressure. Put doing a good job before winning and, paradoxically, you may do better than expected.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)

You have to give in order to receive. The point is that only if you are prepared to spend a little extra, and to invest in your future, can you expect to gain the rewards that you now so richly deserve. In any case, a friend should be about to repay a favour.

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9.

Sudoku HARD TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE. Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-23.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- 1 An outstanding example of cartography (6,3)
8 After a drink Jack went back to the dance (5)
9 Continue with food for crows we hear (5,2)
10 Clever people are quick on it (6)
11 It checks the growth of population (6)
12 Vessel in a state of great distress (8)
15 Pass, momentarily fail then break down totally (8)
18 Passes out, having got involved in fast (6)
20 Get to grips with the staff shortage? (6)
21 Here is what one is given (7)
22 Sewer may be rebuilt like other water carriers (5)
23 Put up with being altered to new format (9)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Ushered, 4 Raced, 7 Zero, 8 Harvests, 10 Paper money, 12 Impede, 13 Scales, 15 Team spirit, 18 Composed, 19 Anna, 20 Thong, 21 Stretch.

DOWN

- 2 Dodge nowadays accepted by first wife (5)
3 His run resulted in a rapid admission (6)
4 Paper hat with bells on (8)
5 Support the Spanish cast (6)
6 Damages for one thousand couples (7)
7 Keen desire of eagles in different ages (9)
11 Concerted movement created a firm basis (9)
13 Refuse CO agitating to send the troops in (3,5)
14 Crooked dealing put straight (7)
16 A time to be noble? (6)
17 A holiday is needed to make it safe (6)
19 Possibly perfect but certainly stressful (5)

Down: 1 Unzip, 2 Hornpipe, 3 Dragon, 4 Review copy, 5 Case, 6 Dismiss, 9 Cradle song, 11 Cabinet, 12 Illicit, 14 Impels, 16 Trash, 17 Ammo.

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Jumble puzzle grid with circled letters and cartoon illustration.

Yesterday's Jumbles: NUTTY SHIFT BUNKER HYBRID Answer: Using a jackhammer to bore holes into the granite was working until it - BIT THE DUST

PROMOTIONS

3 govt medical colleges get new principals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE State government has appointed new principals and superintendents to three government medical colleges and four teaching hospitals, streamlining leadership in key health institutions. The move follows a round of promotions and transfers in the 2024-25 panel year.

Dr Devi Madhavi, professor at Government Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada, has been appointed principal of Vizianagaram Government Medical College. Dr M Vijayarsi has been named principal of Anantapur Medical College.

At his request, Dr Y Appala Naidu, superintendent of Vizianagaram GGH, was moved to Government Medical College, Srikakulam, as principal. Dr Allu Padmaja was transferred as superintendent of Vizianagaram Teaching Hospital.

'Not enough CCTV cameras to cover entire premises of police stations'

Advocate Commissioner submits report to HC, flags lack of surveillance in upper floors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE Andhra Pradesh High Court on Wednesday adjourned a hearing on the installation of CCTV cameras in police stations across the State, following a report by Advocate Commissioner MRK Chakravarthy.

The court was hearing a contempt petition filed by advocate Tandava Yogesh in 2022, alleging non-compliance with Supreme Court directives to install CCTV cameras in all police stations and jails.

Chakravarthy reported that he inspected six police stations in the erstwhile Krishna and Guntur districts—Penamaluru, Amaravati, Tulluru, Arundelpet, Nallapadu, and Mangalagiri. While CCTV cameras had been installed, he said they were insufficient to cover the entire premises.

On average, each station had about 10 cameras, with Man-



galagiri having 11. However, cameras were installed only on the ground floor in stations with multiple floors, leaving upper floors without surveillance.

He further noted that police officials said they lacked direct access to retrieve footage from Digital Video Recorders (DVRs). Footage is shared via email from relevant offices only when required, and passwords are

'Not allowed to inspect SP offices'

Chakravarthy said he was not permitted to inspect the SP offices in Guntur and Krishna, preventing verification of footage availability or audio clarity. Since no police officials were present during inspections, he could not gather details about recording processes

changed immediately after access in emergencies.

Since no police officials were present during inspections, he could not gather details about video recording processes, DVR access, or storage duration. He also said he was not permitted to inspect the Superintendent of Police offices in Guntur and Krishna, preventing verification of footage availability or audio clarity. Special Govern-

ment Pleader Tirumanu Vishnuteja requested more time to provide details on DVR storage. The court granted the request and adjourned the hearing to Thursday.

The case originated from a PIL filed by Yogesh in 2019 seeking enforcement of the Supreme Court's 2015 orders on CCTV installation. The High Court had directed phased implementation on July 15, 2019, but alleged non-compliance led to the 2022 contempt petition.

Additionally, a habeas corpus petition filed by Kataru Nagaraju in November 2024 alleged the illegal detention of his brother, Gopiraju, by Machavaram police in Palnadu district.

During recent hearings, the court raised doubts about police reports by Sub-Divisional Police Officers certifying full CCTV coverage. To verify, it appointed the Advocate Commissioner to conduct inspections.



Police dogs and handlers during the 22nd batch passing out parade at the 6th APSP battalion ground in Mangalagiri on Tuesday | PRASANT MADUGULA

35 police canines and 61 handlers inducted into duty

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE passing out parade of the 22nd batch of police canines — 35 dogs and 61 handlers — was held at the 6th Battalion ground in Mangalagiri on Tuesday.

Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha and Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta attended the occasion.

Speaking on the event, Anitha praised the contribution of police dogs in VIP security, criminal investigations, and tracking offenders. "It is a matter of great satisfaction that this batch of canines has been given the necessary training to investigate and to effectively counter terrorist activities in line with rising crime rates in modern society. Despite the challenges following bifurcation, our State established a canine training centre that continues to prepare dogs to meet the specific needs of the police

force," she said. She added that the State faces a significant need for more trained dogs for crime investigation, crime control, VIP security, and district-level policing. She assured government support to set up a full-fledged, well-equipped canine training centre.

The DGP said the dog squad plays a crucial role across police wings. "One Canine, Two Jobs" is a true force multiplier. It makes our teams more versatile in the field and saves both budget and manpower. We have also introduced pseudo scents to modernise training, ensuring our dogs meet global standards in a safer and more effective environment," he said.

Home Secretary Kumar Viswajeet, Intelligence Chief Mahesh Chandra Ladda, ADGP (L&O) Madhusudan Reddy, IG Ch Srikanth, IG (EAGLE) Ake Ravikrishna, IG Mohan Rao, and Vijayawada CP Rajasekhar Babu were present.

Moderate to heavy rainfall in Uttarandhra today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has issued an alert as a low-pressure system over the northwest Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify within 24 hours.

APSDMA Managing Director Prakash Jain said the system may move west-northwest to-

ward Odisha, bringing gusty winds of 40-60 kmph along the coast. Fishermen were advised not to venture into the sea.

The weather system is likely to cause moderate to heavy rainfall in Srikakulam, Parvathipuram Manyam, and Aluri Sitarama Raju districts on September 3. Light to moderate rainfall is expected in Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema,

East Godavari, West Godavari, and Eluru districts.

By 5 pm on Tuesday, heavy rainfall was recorded in Srikakulam district, with Santabommali receiving 88.7 mm, Vajrapukothuru 80.7 mm, Palasa 70.5 mm, Ravivalasa 56.5 mm, Madanapuram 53.5 mm, and Haripuram 53 mm.

At the same time, the Godavari River's water level at Bhadrachalam was 41.3 feet,

with an inflow and outflow of 9.72 lakh cusecs at the Dowleswaram Cotton Barrage, leading to the withdrawal of the first danger warning.

The Krishna River at Prakasam Barrage recorded inflows and outflows of 3.52 lakh cusecs. Authorities urged residents to avoid crossing overflowing rivers, streams, and canals until floodwaters fully recede.

EXPRESS READ

High Court adjourns MLC's resignation plea

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh High Court adjourned MLC Jayamangala Venkataramana's petition by a week, seeking a directive to the Legislative Council Chairman to act on his resignation submitted on November 23, 2024. Despite passing of nine months since resignation, no decision was made, prompting legal action. The Chairman's counsel requested time to file a detailed counter

E-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Punalur, Kerala invites e-tender cum e-auction from individuals/institutions for slaughter tapping of 20312 nos of rubber trees at Ayiranoor/Kulathupuzha Estate for felling and removal trees after tapping. For details, please log in to: www.rplkerala.com/tender and www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Ph: 0475-2222971, 72, e-mail: mrplpunalur@gmail.com
RPL/F-7028/2025-26/1130 dated 19.08.2025
D3/657/2025/1&PRD
Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
LABOUR DEPARTMENT, A.P.
EOI for EMPANELMENT OF THIRD PARTY AUDIT AGENCIES
Applications are invited from Reputed, Third Party Audit agencies to undertake certification and compliance audits of establishments in accordance with applicable labour laws.
Please visit <https://labour.apcfse.in> for application, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Terms & Conditions, corrigendum/addendum if any. Last date for submitting applications is 19-09-2025.
Sd/- M.V. Seshagiri Babu, I.A.S., Commissioner of Labour

KFC Kerala Financial Corporation
E-Tender Notice
Tender Notice KFC/IT/E-Tender/04/2025-26
Kerala Financial Corporation invites e-Tenders for the Supply, Installation & Implementation of CRM, LOS, LMS, Accounting and Supporting Solutions as part of the ongoing digital transformation initiative.
Details available at: www.kfc.org
Thiruvananthapuram. Sd/- MD(KFC)
Date: 03.09.2025

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE
The TGRANSCO invites bids through tenders on e-procurement platform for the following works. Specification No. TGT-CONST-e-03/2025-26 of CE (Construction). Name of the work: Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of (i) Stringing of 132kV DC line (4.5 km) from existing 132/33kV SS Kolampaka to existing 132kV RTSS Alair (Conversion from 2 phase to 3 phase system) (ii) 2 Nos. 132kV Feeder Bay Extension at existing 132/33kV SS Kolampaka (iii) 2 Nos. 132kV Metering Bay extension at existing 132kV RTSS Alair in Yaddri - Bhongir District.
Further details can be seen @ <https://www.telangana.gov.in/telangana.gov.in>. Phone: 040-23396000 Extn: 3356, 3508, 3643, 3572. 040-23336172
Sd/-
DIPR R.O.No.598-PPCL/AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt:02.09.2025 Chief Engineer/Construction

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, TUTICORIN-628 004
GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Only Through E-Tendering Mode)
VOCPA E-Tendering Website: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>
NIT No. 04/ PD/DRP various projects /2025-26/D.2824 Dated: 02.09.2025
V.O.Chidambaranar Port invites tenders (Online tenders) in "Two bid system" from interested, reputed, well experienced DPR Consultants
Name of work: Preparation of Detailed Project Reports for Various Projects at VOC Port, Tuticorin
Bid security amount: Rs.10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs only)
Downloading of Tender from VOCPA online e-tendering website. 02.09.2025 to 23.09.2025
Pre Proposal Conference date: 09.09.2025 at 12:00 hrs through Video conference (Link will be sent to the bidders who show interest via mail)
Last Date and Time for submission of Tenders online. 23.09.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs
Online Technical bid opening Date and time. 24.09.2025 at 15:30 Hrs
Period of completion: As specified in clause 2.1 V of Section 2 of Tender.
Validity of tender: 120 days from the last date fixed for receiving the tender
For further details, visit port Website: www.vocport.gov.in
Ph.No : 0461-2372306
Email : ce@vocport.gov.in
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER VOCPA

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No.SGITO/e-Tender/Drugs (07)/Synchro DG(136)/2025-26 Date:02.09.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)
Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the KPP portal of GOK for The Following:-
(1) Drugs, Surgicals, Disposables, Consumable & other Items (2) Providing and Installation of Synchronization Panel Board of 500 KVA and 250 KVA DG Set
The Tenderers can download the documents from <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> on or after 03.09.2025 and the last date for submission of completed tenders through KPP-portal:
(1) Drugs, Surgicals, Disposables, Consumables & other Items - 20.09.2025 upto 4:00pm.
(2) Providing and Installation of Synchronization Panel Board of 500 KVA and 250 KVA DG Set - 03.10.2025 upto 4:00pm.
The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/- Director, Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/SI/2599/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Notice
e' NIT No.21/1-7/60.151 works/CE/R&B, SH & MD, APRDC/2025-26, Dt.01.09.2025
Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for two road works in Vizianagaram District, one road work in Anakapali District, one road work in Kurnool District, one road work in Salya Sai District, one road work in YSR Kadapa District and one road work in Chittoor District. The last date of receipt of tenders is 18.09.2025 upto 3.30 PM. Tenderers can download the tender schedules and other details from e-market place i.e., www.appeprocurement.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Engineer (R&B) SH & Managing Director, APRDC
DIPR No.17428/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt: 02/09/2025

ANDHRA PRADESH INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED
(An undertaking of A.P. Govt.)
D/o. Chief Engineer-C, APIC Towers, Plot-1, IT Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur Dist-522503
e-Procurement Notice
Tender Notice No. 82 & 83/CE-C/APIC/2025-26 Dt 29-08-2025
Tender Notice No.82: Setting up of new Industrial Estate at Nayunipalli, Nayunipalli (V), Vetapalem (M), Bapatla District, Andhra Pradesh under MSME. ECV : Rs.4,74,95,809/-
Tender Notice No.83: Setting up of new Industrial Park at Gangapalem, Gangapalem (V), Yerragondapalem (M), Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh under MSE-COP ECV : Rs.4,74,95,824/-
Tender Notice No. 82 & 83, Bid down load starts from 29.08.2025 at 08.00 PM and last date for submission of bid is 15.09.2025 up to 3.00 PM.
The details of tender notice and bid documents can be downloaded from www.appeprocurement.gov.in
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER-C, APIC Ltd., Mangalagiri
DIPR No.4393PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt:02/09/2025

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
No.3047/PW/EE/BRC/DB/DR/25-26 Puducherry, dt.01/09/2025
PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender
The Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads (Central) Division, Public Works Department, Puducherry (Official email id : eebrcpudw@py.gov.in) invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate bids from the approved and eligible contractors / firms for the following work :
1. N.W. : Improvements to the road and reconstruction of 'U' drain including improvements to the RC24 Lapsnet road from ECR junction at Sivaji statue to College road at Lapsnet, Puducherry. Tender No. 35/PW/BRC/25-26, Estimate Cost : ₹.9,82,88,296/- (inclusive of GST @ 18%). Earnest Money : ₹.19,65,366/-
Time for Completion : 15 (Fifteen) Months (Including Monsoon Period). Last date and time of submission of bid : on (or) before 04.00 PM on 16.09.2025. Date & Time of Opening of bid : 10.30 AM on 17.09.2025.
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.pudutenders.gov.in
No.370/DI/AD(Press)/2025-26 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

OPPORTUNITIES
General

INSTITUTE OF BANKING PERSONNEL SELECTION
IBPS
An assessment, India trusts us

CRP RRBs XIV
COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF OFFICERS (SCALE-I, II & III) AND OFFICE ASSISTANTS (MULTIPURPOSE) IN REGIONAL RURAL BANKS (RRBs)
Official Website: www.ibps.in
In case of queries / complaints please log in to <https://cgrs.ibps.in>
The online examinations for the upcoming Common Recruitment Process for RRBs (CRP RRBs XIV) for recruitment of Group "A" - Officers (Scale-I, II & III) and Group "B" - Office Assistants (Multipurpose) will be conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) as per the tentative schedule provided below. The interviews for recruitment of Group "A" - Officers (Scale-I, II & III) under the same process will be coordinated by the Nodal Regional Rural Banks with the assistance of NABARD and IBPS and are tentatively scheduled in the month of January/ February 2026.
IMPORTANT DATES
Activity Tentative Schedule
Online registration & Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges 01.09.2025 to 21.09.2025
Edit Window for Candidates to Modify/ Correct Application Form (including online payment for Edit) After closure of Registration (will be notified on Official IBPS website)
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training (PET) November, 2025
Online Examination - Preliminary (Officers/OA) November/ December, 2025
Result of Online exam - Preliminary December, 2025/ January, 2026
Online Examination - Main / Single (Officers/OA) December, 2025/ February, 2026
Candidates are advised to regularly visit the official IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.
Candidates intending to apply for CRP RRBs - XIV are advised to read detailed Notification carefully and ensure that they fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria on the stipulated dates as specified in the detailed notification issued and hosted on official IBPS website, before registering online. Candidates must follow the instructions mentioned in the detailed Notification.
Mumbai Date: 01.09.2025 DIRECTOR

Aeronautical Development Agency
(Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
PB No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017
ADA:ADV-134-2025 01-09-2025
WALK-IN INTERVIEW: RECRUITMENT OF PROJECT ASSISTANTS ON TENURE BASIS
ADA invites applications from young, energetic and meritorious Indian Nationals to the post of Project Assistant-1 on tenure basis. Candidates possessing the required educational qualifications in the respective discipline of Engineering / subject from a Government recognised University/Institute and fulfilling other eligibility conditions (as mentioned below) may attend a Walk-in Interview with duly filled-in application and testimonials as per the following schedule:
Sl. No. Qualification Subject / Engineering Discipline Date of Interview/ Time of Reporting
1. B.E / B.Tech / M.E / M.Tech Aeronautical / Aerospace Engineering 16-09-2025, 08.30 AM
2. B.E / B.Tech / M.E / M.Tech / B.Sc (CS/IS/IT) PLUS M.Sc (CS/IS/IT) Computer Science / Information Technology/ Information Science & Engineering 17-09-2025, 08.30 AM
3. B.E / B.Tech / M.E / M.Tech Mechanical / Production / Industrial Production Engineering 19-09-2025, 08.30 AM
4. B.E / B.Tech / M.E / M.Tech/B.Sc (Electronics/ Telecom) PLUS M.Sc (Electronics/Telecomm) Electronics & Communication/ Telecommunication/ Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering 22-09-2025, 08.30 AM
2. Venue of WALK-IN Interview: Aeronautical Development Agency - Campus 2, New Thippasandra, Bangalore - 560 075.
3. General Conditions: (1) Candidates may report to the venue on the specified dates for WALK-IN interview (as per the subject/ Discipline depending on their eligibility) between 08.30 AM to 11.00 AM for registration & verification of documents. No candidates will be allowed for registration after 11.00 AM.
4. Please log-on to ADA website <https://www.ada.gov.in> for detailed advertisement, instructions and downloading application format.
Director (Admin & HR), ADA

AMARAVATI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (ADCL)
(CIN Number: U93000AP2015GGC105530), Email : adcl@amaravati.gov.in
34-15, Venkateswara Nagar, Near Yamachandri Complex, Sonavaram Building, Ring Road, Vijayawada.
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 346/ADCL/LPS/2025 Dated: 02.09.2025
Name of Work: Package XXXXVI: WORLD BANK & ADB financed Amaravati development programme related to Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in the Zone-4, Zone-7, Zone-9 & Zone-10 including Design, Engineering, Construction, Supply & Installation of Electro-Mechanical Equipment, Testing and Commissioning in Amaravati Capital City, Andhra Pradesh on Lumpsum Contract (% Percentage Tender) & Performance based O&M for a period of 7 years including Defect Liability. Estimated Contract Value (ECV): Rs. 262.48 Crores
NIT No. 347/ADCL/LPS/2025 Dated: 02.09.2025
Name of Work: Package XXXXVII: Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in the Zone-4, Zone-7, Zone-9 & Zone-10 including Design, Engineering, Construction, Supply & Installation of Electro-Mechanical Equipment, Testing and Commissioning in Amaravati Capital City, Andhra Pradesh on Lumpsum Contract (% Percentage Tender) & Performance based O&M for a period of 7 years including Defect Liability. Estimated Contract Value (ECV): Rs. 207.85 Crores
NIT No. 348/ADCL/LPS/2025 Dated: 02.09.2025
Name of Work: Package XXXXVIII: Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in the Zone-12 & Zone-12A including Design, Engineering, Construction, Supply & Installation of Electro-Mechanical Equipment, Testing and Commissioning in Amaravati Capital City, Andhra Pradesh on Lumpsum Contract (% Percentage Tender) & Performance based O&M for a period of 7 years including Defect Liability. Estimated Contract Value (ECV): Rs. 207.85 Crores
The above three bids can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 03.09.2025 to 25.09.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 25.09.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs. Technical Bid opening is on 25.09.2025 @16.00 Hrs. For further details please refer to www.appeprocurement.gov.in and www.adcl.in
NIT No. 349/ADCL/2025-26 Dated: 02.09.2025
Name of Work: Package XXXXIX: Establishment of Road Connectivity E3 Phase III Road to Old Mangalagiri Highway-Engineering and Construction on Lumpsum (% Tender) Basis with Defect Liability Period Two Years. Estimated Contract Value (ECV): Rs. 61.67 Crores
The above bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 03.09.2025 to 18.09.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 18.09.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs. Technical Bid opening is on 18.09.2025 @16.00 Hrs. For further details please refer to www.appeprocurement.gov.in and www.adcl.in
Sd/- Chairperson and Managing Director, ADCL, Vijayawada

AP WILL EMERGE AS EAST COAST LOGISTICS HUB, SAYS NAIDU

Unveils plans for new varsities, expanded ports, digital platforms, and inland water transport, while targeting threefold rise in sector's contribution to economy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Visakhapatnam

CHIEF MINISTER N Chandrababu Naidu has announced that Andhra Pradesh will be developed as a key logistics hub on the East Coast to meet global standards. He said the State government will soon establish a Logistics University and a Civil Aviation University to strengthen the sector.

Speaking at the East Coast Maritime Logistics Summit, organised jointly by the Global Forum for Sustainable Transformation (GFST) and Maritime Gateway in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, the Chief Minister noted that the logistics sector currently contributes around 1 per cent to the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). He emphasised the goal of raising this share to 3 per cent in the coming years.

Naidu proposed the creation of a 20-member advisory body comprising representatives from port and shipping industries to guide the State on developing Andhra Pradesh as a global logistics hub. He said that with six operational ports and four more under development, the State is well-positioned to



CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu addressing the East Coast Maritime Logistics Summit in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday | EXPRESS

The State already ranks second in sea cargo transport. Now, the focus is on infrastructure for shipbuilding, ship and container repair, and ship recycling, particularly at Dugarajupatnam and Machilipatnam

N Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister

expand its port-led economy. The government also plans to establish fishing harbours or ports at intervals of about 50 kilometres along the state's 1,050 km coastline.

Highlighting the demand from neighbouring states such as Telangana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and parts of Karnataka, the Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh already ranks second in sea cargo transport. He added that

the government is focusing on infrastructure for shipbuilding, ship and container repair, and ship recycling, particularly at Dugarajupatnam and Machilipatnam, along with facilities to maintain defence vessels.

Earlier, Naidu attended a roundtable with CEOs from the shipping and logistics sectors. He also released two publications and launched the AP of the Air Cargo Forum of India. Ministers BC Janardhana Reddy, Dola Balaveeranjanya Swamy, and Kondapalli Srinivas, along with GFST Vice Chairman and Director SP Tucker, officials, and industry representatives were present.

about 13 per cent in India compared with 8 per cent in several other countries.

The Chief Minister further noted that the government is working on inland water transport as an alternative to reduce costs, citing the example of the Buckingham Canal that once facilitated transport between Kakinada and Chennai.

Referring to discussions with shipping industry leaders, he said the State would take up certain issues with the Government of India. He also reiterated the government's focus on water security, river interlinking, and skill development to support industrial needs. Visakhapatnam, he added, is expected to grow as a technology hub, with initiatives such as a proposed data centre.

Ministers BC Janardhana Reddy, Dola Balaveeranjanya Swamy, and Kondapalli Srinivas, along with GFST Vice Chairman and Director SP Tucker, officials, and industry representatives were present.

We have adequate fertiliser stocks to ensure no farmer faces shortage: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

CHIEF MINISTER N Chandrababu Naidu has reaffirmed his government's commitment to supporting its farmers by ensuring surplus fertiliser stocks and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

During a review meeting at his Undavalli camp office on Tuesday, Naidu addressed key issues concerning fertiliser supply, horticultural crops, and market strategies, issuing directives to safeguard farmers' interests.

The State has increased its fertiliser reserves to meet agricultural demand. Officials reported that Andhra Pradesh received 2.02 lakh metric tonnes of urea this season.

Additionally, 51,700 metric tonnes of DAP were supplied, an increase of 16,000 metric tonnes, while complex fertilisers reached 2.72 lakh metric tonnes, surpassing the previ-

ous year's allocation by 1.20 lakh metric tonnes.

Through the Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation (Markfed), approximately 2 lakh metric tonnes of urea have been distributed, ex-

580 MT of onions procured: Minister

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu asserted that the State government is the first in India to support commercial crop farmers effectively. He said the government has procured 580 MT @ ₹12/kg.

ceeding the State's demand. Naidu emphasised that these stocks ensure no farmer faces shortages and directed officials to counter misinformation about fertiliser scarcity with transparent communication.

To curb illegal activities, the Chief Minister took a firm stance against black-market fertiliser sales and hoarding, ordering stringent action against violators. He mandated the use of the Integrated Fertiliser Management System to track urea usage and ensure equitable distribution, while the e-Crop platform will monitor cultivation patterns.

Naidu also advocated for reducing reliance on chemical fertilisers and pesticides, aiming to transform AP into a chemical-free agricultural hub.

For onion farmers, Naidu instructed officials to procure the entire produce and arrange drying in community halls to reduce post-harvest losses. On tobacco, ₹54 crore has been disbursed for HD Burley tobacco purchases, with ₹59 crore still pending.

Naidu mandated minimum support prices for 11 key crops to cover cultivation costs.

Provide ₹2.5k MSP for onions, demands Jagan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kadapa

YSRCP president and former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has lambasted the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government for abandoning farmers, alleging that no crop in AP is fetching remunerative prices.

During a visit to Duggannagaripalli in Vemula mandal of YSR Kadapa district on Tuesday, Jagan interacted with onion and sugar cane farmers, who expressed distress over low prices and lack of government support.

Jagan highlighted the plight of farmers growing onions, bananas, sugar cane, and pulses, who are struggling with unremunerative prices.

Tributes paid to former CM YSR

The 16th death anniversary of former CMDR Y S Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) was solemnly commemorated at YSR Ghat in Idupulapaya of YSR Kadapa district on Tuesday. YSRCP president and former CM YS Jagan, joined by his mother YS Vijayamma, and wife YS Bharathi, paid tributes to the late leader.

market at inflated prices of ₹ 450 per bag, compared to ₹ 265 during YSRCP's tenure.

He accused the government of encouraging black marketing for commissions, neglecting Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) that ensured accessible urea distribution under YSRCP. Jagan questioned why urea quotas are not allocated to RBKs and PACS, alleging deliberate mismanagement.

Further, Jagan pointed out that the promised ₹40,000 investment support under the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme over two years has only delivered ₹5,000 so far.

CRDA to get addl staff on deputation

Continued from page 1

The meeting also discussed hospitality and tourism development. Officials informed the Chief Minister that several prominent hotels have shown interest in constructing convention centres in the capital region. Some have already been allotted land, while others have sought fresh allotment. The Chief Minister agreed to provide land, stressing that the facilities must meet global standards.

Regarding future land acquisition as per the master plan, Naidu directed that the process should be carried out after discussions with farmers, ensuring no inconvenience to them. A PowerPoint presentation on the construction of the iconic bridge was also given. The Chief Minister suggested that the islands in the Krishna river be developed into tourist attractions.

To bear the increasing workload of CRDA projects, the Chief Minister approved the appointment of additional staff on deputation, and on-duty basis.

Jagan is real backstabber, says Varla

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

TERMINING YSRCP president and former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as the real backstabber, TDP politburo member Varla Ramaiah dared those calling TDP supremo and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu a backstabber to come for an open debate. He observed that Jagan is worse than Goebbels in spreading false information.

Speaking to mediapersons at the TDP headquarters near Mangalagiri on Tuesday, Ramaiah said though Naidu did not commit any mistake by taking the reins of the party in 1995, he is carrying the 'backstabber' tag for the last three decades.



He said that Naidu protected the TDP from an evil force that influenced party founder NT Rama Rao at that time. The people supported the act of Naidu and gave their mandate to him in the 1999 elections. In case of Naidu not taking reins of the party and the Chief Minister, the TDP might have been disappeared by that evil force, observed Ramaiah.

Lavu meets RBI Guv, discusses potential impact of tariff hike on MSEs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

LOK Sabha MP and Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu, participated in an informal discussion with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor on the

subject "RBI's evolving role in India's dynamic economy."

The meeting was held as part of the Finance Committee's study tour at the RBI headquarters in Mumbai on Tuesday. The three-day study tour will feature extensive stakeholder consultations across key sectors that form the backbone of

the Indian economy, enabling the Committee to gather diverse insights for informed policy-making.

During the interaction, Devarayalu raised key concerns on the potential impact of recent tariff changes on small and medium enterprises (SMEs), particularly in the tex-

tile and shrimp export sectors, which are vital contributors to AP's economy. He emphasised the need for a balanced policy approach to safeguard employment, competitiveness, and the export potential of such industries.

He also sought clarity on mitigation measures that RBI is

considering to shield vulnerable sectors from adverse tariff-linked shocks, ensuring that access to credit and liquidity support remains robust.

Additionally, the TDP MP highlighted the growing challenge of banking frauds and stressed the importance of stronger oversight mecha-

nisms, technological interventions, and improved accountability frameworks to protect depositors and strengthen trust in the financial system.

The deliberations reflected the Committee's commitment to ensuring a resilient financial ecosystem that can support India's growth trajectory.

Kopparthi poised for giant leap as industrial hub

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kadapa

ANDHRA Pradesh's Kopparthi Mega Industrial Hub in Kamalapuram constituency, Kadapa district, is fast emerging as a key industrial centre, with the coalition government driving rapid development.

Minister for HRD and IT, Nara Lokesh, on Tuesday inaugurated two major manufacturing units and an Executive Centre Building, marking long strides in job creation and industrial growth.

The TechnoDom India Pvt. Ltd. LED TV manufacturing unit, part of the Dubai-based TechnoDom Group, was formally launched by Minister Lokesh. Established in 2010 with its headquarters in New Delhi, TechnoDom has invested Rs. 121 crore in this facility, which will employ 300 people.

The plant, located in the Kopparthi Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC), aims to produce 10 lakh LED TVs and 10 lakh LED monitors annually. Future plans include a Rs. 55 crore investment to manufacture refrigerators, air conditioners, and other appliances.

In another milestone, Lokesh inaugurated the Texana World Pvt. Ltd. ready-made garment unit in the hub's North Block.

A subsidiary of Mumbai-based Tex Port India Pvt. Ltd., Texana has invested Rs. 50 crore, creating direct employment for 2,100 people, primarily



Minister for IT Nara Lokesh inaugurates Texana ready-made clothes manufacturing unit at Kopparthi industrial hub on Tuesday | EXPRESS

women. Tex Port, operating across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, produces over 1.7 crore garments annually. Lokesh also launched the Executive Centre Building within the Kopparthi EMC, constructed at a cost of Rs. 31.50 crore over 6.3 acres. Spanning 46,700 square feet, the G+2 structure features co-working spaces, an APIIC office, a business centre, a convention centre, and recreational facilities. Supported by ₹2,137 crore from the central government, the hub offers robust infrastructure, including roads, electricity, and water supply. Companies like ALL Dixon Technologies already employ over 2,000 people here.

LOKESH OPENS MODEL DEGREE COLLEGE

HRD & IT Minister, Nara Lokesh, inaugurated a state-of-the-art Model Degree College in Pendlimarri, Kamalapuram constituency, Kadapa district, on Tuesday. Built with ₹12 crore from the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) funds, the college features modern infrastructure to elevate educational standards. Additionally, Lokesh launched an Administrative Block constructed under the PM-USHA scheme, marking a major step toward improving higher education facilities in the region. During his visit, Lokesh inspected a second-year BA Economics classroom.

Lokesh launches smart kitchens in govt schools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kadapa

In a groundbreaking initiative, Minister for HRD, IT, and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, inaugurated India's first Centralised Advanced Smart Kitchen at the MPP School in CK Dinne, Kamalapuram constituency, Kadapa district, on Tuesday.

Built at a cost of ₹2 crore, this state-of-the-art facility aims to provide nutritious, hygienic meals to students. Lokesh also virtually launched four additional smart kitchens in Kamalapuram (2), Jammalamadugu (2), and Kadapa (1).

Under the Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme, these five smart kitchens will serve 10,332 students across 136 schools, with meals delivered via 13 dedicated vehicles.

Operating on solar power and supervised by nutritionists, the kitchens adhere to stringent quality standards, using water from a specialised RO plant.

Lokesh inaugurated the RO plant and food distribution vehicles, ensuring compliance with the government's menu for hygienic and tasty meals delivered on time.

By December, 33 smart kitchens across 11 mandals in Kadapa district will cater to

1,24,689 students, Lokesh announced, emphasising plans to scale the model statewide based on performance.

He urged staff to collect parental feedback to refine operations and inspected the kitchen to assess food quality and preparation processes.

On the occasion, Lokesh interacted with Class 10 students, seeking feedback on educational reforms.

Students appreciated the semester-wise textbook system for reducing bag weight and praised the improved taste of mid-day meals due to fine rice on menu. They requested computer labs, new benches, a higher compound wall, and larger school bags.

By December, 33 smart kitchens across 11 mandals in Kadapa district will cater to 1,24,689 students. Collect parental feedback to refine operations of the modern kitchens

Nara Lokesh, HRD & IT Minister

EXPRESS READ

Gangavaram Port sets record in vessel handling

Vijayawada: Adani Gangavaram Port set a new operational record in August by handling 66 vessels, the highest in a single month since its inception. The previous record was 61 vessels, achieved in January 2024. Port officials said the increase was made possible through various measures

Cabinet rank for 3 chairpersons

Vijayawada: The State government on Tuesday extended Cabinet rank to AP State Mahila Commission Chairman Dr Rayapati Sailaja, AP State Scheduled Caste Commission Chairman KS Jawahar and AP Press Academy Chairman Aalapati Suresh.

TG asks CBI to probe KLP irregularities

NDSA report and Ghose committee observations warrant a thorough investigation, said Spl CS in govt order

MANDA RAVINDER REDDY @Hyderabad

FOLLOWING Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's announcement, the state government has formally decided to hand over the investigation into the alleged irregularities in the construction of the Kaleshwaram project to the CBI.

On Tuesday, Special Chief Secretary (Home) Ravi Gupta issued orders to this effect.

The orders stated that given the complexities of the case, including the participation of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) in the project's design and execution, it was deemed appropriate to entrust the probe to the CBI.

"In view of the NDSA report, the findings of the Commission of Inquiry, the Assembly's decision on the construction of the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram project, and the sinking of piers resulting in huge financial loss to the state exchequer, the government has decided to entrust the investigation to the CBI under Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946," the orders read.

The government noted that as part of the project, three barrages were built on the Godavari at Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla. On October 21, 2023, six piers of Block 7 of Medigadda Barrage

sank. The NDSA committee inspected the site on October 24, 2023, and submitted three reports, on November 1, 2023, May 1, 2024, and its final report on April 24, 2025.

The NDSA found that the failure of Medigadda Barrage was due to multiple factors, including planning, design flaws, quality control issues and construction deficiencies arising from the absence of stringent checks.

The orders further recalled that Justice PC Ghose, former Supreme Court judge, was appointed to head the Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952. The Commis-

sion, which examined allegations of irregularities, embezzlement and corrupt practices in the construction of the barrages, submitted its report on July 31, 2025.

The Commission identified lapses warranting criminal action, citing negligence, malicious intent, suppression of facts and financial irregularities. It concluded that there was poor, or in fact no, planning in the construction of the barrages.

The orders said that the Assembly later held a short-duration discussion on the findings. "It was noted that the observations of the NDSA and the Commission warrant a thorough and detailed investigation," the government said.



EXPRESS READ

DRI slaps ₹270 cr fine on Ranya Rao, three others

Bengaluru: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has imposed a fine of ₹270 crore on Kannada actress Ranya Rao alias Harshavardhini Ranya along with three others accused arrested on charges of gold smuggling. The DRI has issued show cause notices to Ranya, Tarun Konduru Raju, Sahil Sakariya Jain and Bharat Kumar Jain. The prime accused Ranya alone has to pay a fine of ₹102.55 crore

Two held for peddling ganja in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Task Force team of the Excise Department seized 1.2 kg of ganja and arrested two individuals during a raid conducted near a toddy shop in Langar Houz on Tuesday. Along with the contraband, the officials also seized a motorcycle allegedly used for transporting the ganja and two mobile phones. Police registered a case and has initiated further investigation into the matter

TN secures ₹7k cr German investment, eyes 15k+ jobs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

TAMIL Nadu has secured investment commitments worth ₹7,020 crore during Chief Minister M K Stalin's visit to Germany as part of his week-long trip to Europe, bolstering the state's push to position itself as India's manufacturing and R&D hub. At the Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave in Germany, 23 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed with firms for ₹3,819 crore investment in projects that are expected to generate 9,070 jobs.

Combined with three marquee deals announced earlier - ₹2,000 crore from Knorr-Bremse, ₹1,000 crore from Nordex Group, and ₹201 crore from ebm-papst - the total MoUs signed so far in Germany stand at 26 with potential to generate 15,300 jobs.

Several of the commitments came from existing investors who are planning to expand their pres-

ence in the state. BASF, Herrenknecht and Witzenmann India all signed up for new capacity addition, highlighting what state officials described as confidence in Tamil Nadu's "industrial ecosystem" and stable policy environment.

Among the larger announcements, Vensys Energy will invest ₹1,068 crore in a new wind components facility, creating over 5,200 jobs. BASF's environmental catalyst and metal solutions arm will expand its Chengalpattu operations, while Poland-based Bella Premier Happy Hygiene committed ₹300 crore to expand its sanitary and medical products plant in Dindigul. Herrenknecht, the world leader in tunnel boring machines, will enlarge its Chennai facility to serve metro and coastal road projects.

Other investors include Puls, a German power supply specialist; Witzenmann, a maker of flexible.

5-day Barista coffee training for tribal youth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC), in collaboration with the Coffee Board of India, will conduct a free five-day Barista coffee skills training programme for tribal youth in Araku from September 23 to 27. The programme will be held at the Araku Youth Training Centre (AYTC) in Alluri Sitarama Raju District, with participants receiving free food and accommodation.

On the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu visited ASR district, where local youth requested training in coffee preparation. Responding immediately, Naidu directed officials to implement the programme.

APSSDC MD and CEO Ganesh Kumar said the initiative, developed in consultation.

CHANGE OF NAME I.N.PALANIAPPAN alias N.PALANIYAPPAN S/o Nagapppan Karuppanchettiar, residing at 2-312/11, J1, Sri Sai Enclave Apartment, Kongareddypalli, Chittoor-517001, AP hereby declare that I have changed my name from I.N.PALANIAPPAN alias N.PALANIYAPPAN to PAZHANIYAPPAN NAGAPPAN

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (A Government of India Undertaking) Expression of Interest for EOI No. IRCON/BD/ELECT/TEAM_01/CM/RL/EOI/2025 Date: 02.09.2025

ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH Union Bank of India VIR Annexe, Kusugul Road, Keshwapur, Hubballi

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E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE

- 1 M/s. Mydhilli Hospitals Rep. by its Partners, D.No.14/20 ICS Road, Gudur, Tirupati (District), Andhra Pradesh Pincode-524101. 2 M/s. Mydhilli Medical Distributors Rep. by its Partners, 14/20 ICS Road, Gudur, Sri Potti Srinimalu Nellore, Andhra Pradesh Pincode-524101. 3 M/s. Mydhilli Medicals Rep. by its Partners, 14/20 ICS Road, Gudur, Sri Potti Srinimalu Nellore, Andhra Pradesh Pincode-524101.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower/guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged to The South Indian Bank Ltd. Branch Nellore (Secured Creditor), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The South Indian Bank Limited (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "as is where is" basis, "as is what is" and "whatever there is" condition on 22.09.2025 for recovery of an amount of Rs. 5,61,58,058.92 (Rupees Five Crores Sixty One Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand and Fifty Eight and Paise Ninety Two Only) in M/s Mydhilli Hospitals, Rs. 1,44,20,182.88 (Rupees One Crore Forty-Four Lakhs Twenty Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Two and Paise Eighty Eight Only) in M/s Mydhilli Medicals and Rs. 1,25,46,856.34 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Five Lakhs Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Six and Paise Thirty Four Only) in M/s Mydhilli Medical Distributors as on 01.09.2025, with future interest, costs and expenses etc. thereon due to The South Indian Bank Limited, Branch Nellore (Secured Creditor), from the above mentioned Borrower(s) and guarantor(s).

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of property admeasuring Ac 18.80 Cents along with all other constructions, improvements, easementary rights existing and appurtenant thereon situated in SyNos:920-1,935-A,935-E,918, 929-A, 929-C,934-2,933,932-B,932-A, 929-B,917-2B, 934-1A,934-1B,934-1C,935-C,935-F,915-3,916,936-2B,917-1, 919-1A, 919-1P,919-2,928-1B,929-D,929-E and in East Guduru Village, Guduru Mandal, SPGR Nellore District, in the name of Mrs. Gurram Mydhilli more fully described in the Documents mentioned below. Item No.1: Land measuring Ac 2.37 Cents (Ac 1.11 Cents + Ac 0.94 Cents + Ac 0.62 Cents) as follows, 1(i) Land measuring Ac 1.11 Cents in Sy No:920-1, under revenue records 1B, Khata No: 444, in Sale deed No 249/2017 dated 09.02.2017, SRO Gudur, bounded in East: Land belongs to Velugu Srihari reddy; West: Land belongs to the executant. North: Land belongs to the executant; South: Irrigation Channel 1(ii) Land measuring Ac 0.64 Cents in Sy No: 935-A, under revenue records 1B, Khata No:444, in Sale deed No 249/2017 dated 09.02.2017, SRO Gudur, bounded in East: Land belongs to Magunta Jegan mohan reddy; West: Land belongs to Magunta Jegan mohan reddy; North: Land belongs to Magunta Jegan mohan reddy; South:Irrigation Channel 1(iii) Land measuring Ac 0.62 Cents in Sy No: 935-E, under revenue records 1B, Khata No.444, in Sale deed No 249/2017 dated 09.02.2017, SRO Gudur, bounded in East: Land belongs to Magunta Jegan mohan reddy; West: Land belongs to Magunta Jegan mohan reddy; North:Irrigation Channel; South: Land belongs to Magunta Jegan mohan reddy Item No.2: Land measuring Ac 1.75 Cents in Sy No: 918, under revenue records 1B, Khata No.444, in Sale deed No 1030/2017 dated 10.05.2017, SRO Gudur, bounded in East: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; West: Land belongs to Penna Chaitanya Reddy to some extent, land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; North:Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; South: Irrigation Channel Item No.3: Land measuring Ac 0.41 Cents in Sy No: 920-A,929-C under revenue records 1B, Khata No: 444, in Sale deed No 1031/2017 dated 10-05-2017, SRO Gudur, bounded in East: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; West:Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; North:Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; South: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli. Item No.4: Land measuring Ac 4.33 Cents in Sy Nos:929-B,932-A,932-B,933, and 934-2 under revenue records 1B, Khata No: 2033, in Sale deed No 1032/2017 dated 10-05-2017, SRO Gudur, bounded in East:Land belongs to Eluru Srihari Reddy to some extent and Land belongs to Kamireddy Srinivasulu Reddy to some extent; West: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; North: Land belongs to Nysa Sudhakar Reddy to some extent and land belongs to Devurri Manyam to some extent; South: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli. Item No.5: Land measuring Ac 2.01 Cents in Sy Nos:917-2B-B,934-1A,934-1B, 934-1C, 935-C and 935-F under revenue records 1B, Khata No: 2033, in Sale deed No 1033/2017 dated 10-05-2017, SRO Gudur, bounded in East: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; West: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; North:Irrigation Channel in sy.no. 937 to some extent and land in sy no 938 belongs to the Magunta Madhusudan Reddy to some extent; South:Irrigation channel to some extent and land in sy no 913 belongs to Gurram Mydhilli to some extent. Item No.6: Land measuring Ac 4.93 Cents (Ac 4.30 Cents+ Ac 0.63 Cents) as follows, 6(i) Land measuring Ac 4.30 Cents in Sy Nos:915-3,916 and 936-2B under revenue records 1B, Khata No: 2033, in Sale deed No:1034/2017 dated 10-05-2017, SRO Gudur, bounded in East: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; West:NH-5 Road; North: Laka; South: Land belongs to Penna Chaitanya Reddy. 6(ii) Land measuring Ac 0.63 Cents in Sy Nos:917-1 under revenue records 1B, Khata No: 2033, in Sale deed No 1034/2017 dated 10-05-2017, SRO Gudur, bounded in East: Land belongs to Penna Chaitanya Reddy; West: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; North: Irrigation Channel; South: Land belongs to Penna Chaitanya Reddy. Item No.7: Land measuring Ac 3.00 Cents in SyNos: 919-1A,919-1P,919-2,928-1B, 929-D and 929-E under revenue records 1B, Khata No: 2033, in Sale deed No 1035/2017 dated 10-05-2017, SRO Gudur, bounded in East: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; West: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; North: Land belongs to Gurram Mydhilli; South: Irrigation Channel to some extent and land Sy no.913 to some extent. Reserve Price Rs.77,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.77,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Only) EMD shall be deposited on or before 21.09.2025 by 04.00 PM Bid Increment amount Rs. 1.00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only) Date and time of auction 22.09.2025 from 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon (With 5 minute unlimited auto extensions till sale is concluded) Encumbrances known to the Bank Nil

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The online auction will be conducted on the website https://disposalhub.com of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited The Mortgages/ Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with their interest by September 22, 2025 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

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F.No. CICR/RS/YP-SRF/25-26/Recruitment/ Date: 02.09.2025 The eligible candidates are invited to appear for Walk-in-Interview for the temporary (contractual) position of Senior Research Fellow and Young Professional.

Table with 4 columns: S.No, Name of the post, Educational Qualification, Written Exam/ Date of interview. Lists 9 positions including Senior Research Fellow, Young Professional-II, and Young Professional-I with their respective qualifications and exam dates.

Instructions: 1. All the above engagement is temporary/contractual & carries no other allowances. 2. The Walk-in-interview will be held as detailed above at this Institute. 3. These temporary contractual appointments are till 31.03.2026 or even before on the discretion of the Competent Authority. The Senior Research Fellow/Young Professional will have no right to claim any employment or engagement in CICR/ICAR.

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— Rammath Goenka

FRESH PRICE PUSH AWAITED AS CAR SALES HIT A BUMP

PASSENGER car sales—a bellwether for consumer confidence—slipped for the fourth straight month in August. Dispatches to dealerships fell to 330,000 vehicles, a 7 percent decline from August 2024. This is significant since the economy unexpectedly grew at 7.8 percent for the April-June quarter year-on-year, while goods and services tax collections for August rose 6.5 percent. This disconnect between economic indicators is perhaps because of aspirational changes among the middle class. The small car and hatchback have been weakening as a status symbol of having arrived in the world of mobility, to be replaced in the role by sturdier sports utility vehicles. This segment, which accounted for just 13.5 percent of sales in 2015, dominated the market in 2024-25 accounting for a 55 percent slice of the pie. At the same time, expensive motorbike brands like the ₹36-lakh Roadmaster have been performing well in the South.

But that is not good enough. This June saw even SUV sales declining for the first time in years with a 2.1 percent fall. The most recent slump in sales has been explained as potential customers holding back after the Prime Minister announced a tax bonanza this Diwali. The market expectation is that the levy on cheaper models would go down to 18 percent from 28 percent, while that for luxury cars would rise to 40 percent. Perhaps a 10 percent cut in this price-sensitive market may be lubricant enough for sales to move ahead again.

On the broader landscape, car sales in reverse gear must be seen as a result of 'sticker shock'. The under-₹5-lakh small car is a myth of the past. No decent model can be had for less than ₹10 lakh today. Prices have more than doubled in 5 years as higher steel and other component prices, relentless tax hikes, and changing safety and emission norms have added to costs. For instance, just adding the mandatory six airbags costs about ₹60,000 a unit. Car manufacturers, too, have taken customers for granted and have continued to increase their margins. Strangely, we keep forgetting India is an extremely price-sensitive market and consumers have their way of hitting back. The GST cutback could not have been timed better for this \$240-billion industry that contributes about 6 percent to India's GDP. Both the government and manufacturers will have to find ways of making cars more affordable.

DON'T OVERWHELM GHATS' ECOSYSTEM WITH RAIL LINK

THE Western Ghats, which have lost green cover of at least 58 sq km in the decade to 2023, appear to be in for further deforestation with a plan to double the railway line from Karnataka to Goa. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has, in its ecological impact assessment report, given 'conditional' approval for track doubling between Castlerock in Karnataka and Mollem in Goa, laying emphasis on "mitigation measures". At the crux is diversion of 15.6 hectares of forest land needed for the 345-km Hosapete-Tinaihat-Vasco line, of which the 32.3-km Castlerock-Kulem stretch passes through the Kali Tiger Reserve in Karnataka, and the Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and Mollem National Park in Goa. For the project to go through, Rail Vikas Nigam, the implementing agency, and the Goa government need this clearance, which the Supreme Court had revoked in 2022, terming it "potentially destructive" and ordering a fresh environmental impact assessment.

Wildlife activists, ecologists and a section of Goans are up in arms over the shift in the WII report. The single track itself has resulted in the death of wild animals—between February and April 2023, an assessment team counted 341 animal deaths on the tracks. Pollution is the other big issue with apprehension that the line would carry coal from Karnataka's hinterland to the Goan port of Vasco. For the government, the rail link will boost trade and tourism, transport iron ore, coal and steel, and link Goa to Hampi, another tourist hub.

The ecology of the region is already compromised, with widening of the national highway (NH4A) through Anmod Ghat. While National Highway Authority claims 22,000 trees were cut for the project, activists say over 1 lakh were axed and construction will lead to more silting of the Kali and Mahadayi rivers. The combined effect of a highway, power transmission lines and a railway project in the same area could be overwhelming for the Western Ghats, a global biodiversity hotspot recognised as a Unesco heritage site. New projects are bound to damage habitats and pose fresh threats to the ecosystem. While the government proclaims that development and environment can go hand-in-hand, and connectivity is vital for a booming economy, it should keep in mind the ongoing devastation in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir, where flash floods and landslides have become a norm.

QUICK TAKE

A FRIEND IN NEED

BARELY had the death toll from Sunday's earthquake in eastern Afghanistan registered above 1,400 that another strong one hit on Tuesday. Jalalabad, the area's largest city, brings up grave memories in India—of suicide bombers targeting the consulate in 2013 and a gathering of Sikhs in 2018. Despite this, the Indian government has kept its promise to be an early responder in its neighbours' crises. It comes at a time the two governments are trying to come closer again after a few years of diplomatic freeze. In July, Russia became the first country to formally recognise the Taliban government. Given the historical links and upended regional reality, it would not be a misstep if India became the next.

NE should, ironically, thank Donald Trump for compelling the Narendra Modi government to undertake a long-overdue course correction in India's foreign policy. For nearly three decades—beginning with the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, to the Manmohan Singh government, and then with accelerating speed during the Modi government—India was set on a course of becoming a subordinate ally of the United States. This was a strategic policy orientation which eroded the basis of an independent foreign policy and the scope for strategic autonomy.

Till recently, the Modi government had proudly proclaimed that it had signed all the 'foundational' military agreements with the United States and aligned itself with its geopolitical strategy in the Indo-Pacific region. The QUAD (the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue between India, Australia, Japan, and the United States) was a manifestation of this emerging alliance. During the first term of the Trump presidency, India had meekly stopped buying oil from Iran, to our great detriment, falling in line with the unilateral sanctions imposed by Trump; this was followed by stoppage of buying oil from Venezuela.

The second coming of Trump was seen as a heaven-sent opportunity for India to further cosy up to the United States banking on the personal friendship between Trump and Modi. Such an approach has led to the shameful silence on Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza—a project that Trump actively supports and abets. Neither did India condemn the bombing of Iran's nuclear installations by the United States, an act of aggression against a friendly country, which was heightened by the danger of nuclear proliferation.

But Trump's ultra-nationalist stance and extremism in using tariffs as a weapon to bully India is something which even Modi and the BJP are unable to stomach. Nor can they countenance being treated on par with Pakistan. The reality is that the moment India and Pakistan became nuclear weapon states, any military conflict between them opens the way for the United States to act as the arbiter, given the strategic ties that bind both countries to America.

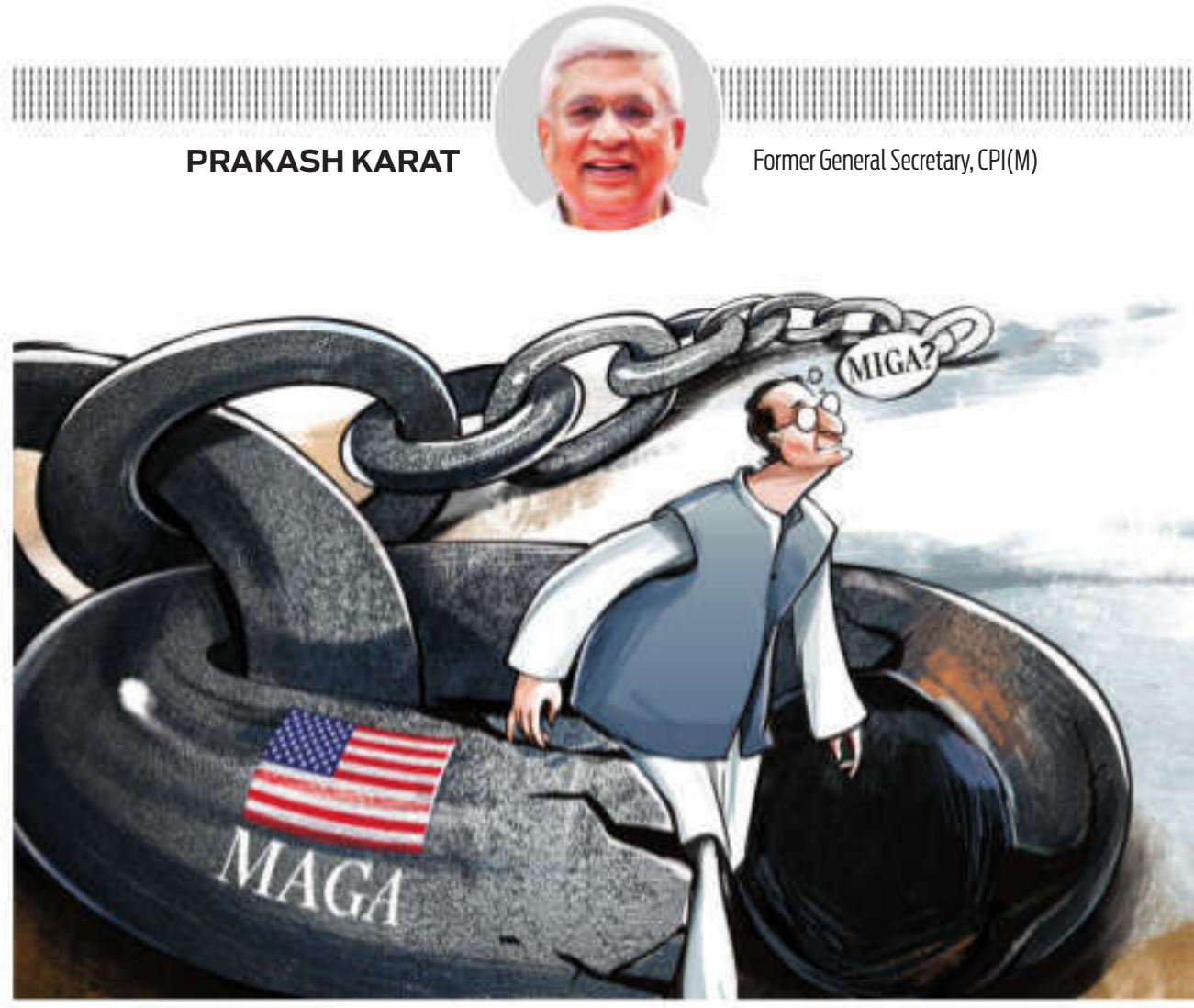
Even before Trump assumed the presidency this year, the United States under President Joe Biden had

It's not accidental that Trump has levied some of the highest tariffs on three founding members of BRICS. India should use the opportunity to make the Global South more cohesive

TIME INDIA STOPS BEING AMERICA'S SUBORDINATE ALLY

PRAKASH KARAT

Former General Secretary, CPI(M)



MANDAR PARDIKAR

occasion to remind the Modi government of its obligations as a 'strategic partner'. When Modi visited Russia and met President Vladimir Putin in July 2024, the Biden administration made known its displeasure. The US ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, warned, "Don't take the relationship for granted," and added: "I know India likes its strategic autonomy. But, in times of conflict, there is no such thing as strategic autonomy."

There have been ample indications of India reducing its dependence on Russia for its defence supplies while substantially increasing the purchase of US weaponry and equipment—a demand that was made by successive US administrations and now being vociferously raised by Trump's cabinet ministers.

The consequences of joining the American bandwagon in South Asia and the Asia-Pacific region have been unfolding over time. India's foreign policy is in shambles as a result. In South Asia, India has become isolated from its neighbouring countries as never before. Both the futile quest to counter China's rising influence in the region and the obsessive Pakistan-centric policy have been the causes. The Hindutva worldview being imported into foreign policy and international relations have dented India's image and standing in the world. Now that the Hindutva ethno-nationalism has collided with the racist nationalism of MAGA, India's pro-US strategic and foreign policies are at a dead-end. MAGA + MIGA do not make MEGA.

In this context, the recent steps to

RETURN OF THAI SHADOW PLAY

SHANKARI SUNDARARAMAN

Professor at School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University



ASIAN AXIS

ON August 29, the Thai constitutional court, in a 6:3 ruling, dismissed the government of Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, which had been in power for less than a year. The roots of the current crisis lie in the 2023 elections, following which Thailand's political fortunes have unfolded as a complex drama.

Pita Limjaroenrat's Move Forward Party (MFP) delivered a major upset by emerging as the largest formation in an election where no one secured a clear majority. The MFP had earlier been in opposition from 2014 to 2023, when the government was headed by Prayut Chan-o-cha, a former military general who came to power following the 2014 coup d'état. Though the MFP won in 2023, it failed to find support in the senate and the house of representatives that selects the prime minister.

With the MFP not getting the legitimacy to form the government, the Pheu Thai party founded by former PM Thaksin Shinawatra was in the reckoning. The adage that politics makes strange bedfellows was in play when the Pheu Thai allied with the conservative parties that are close to the country's powerful monarchy-military combination.

This unusual alliance between erstwhile political rivals was not likely to offer long-term stability, but the short-term goal of keeping the MFP out of the ring and allowing for Srettha Thavisin to be anointed PM. As part of the alliance with military-backed groups, the return of Thaksin was a clear driver of Srettha's government. Thaksin's eight-year prison sentence was set aside, and when Srettha himself lost the confidence of the conservatives, the rise of the Thaksin family with Paetongtarn as PM took the centre stage. Now, with Paetongtarn's dismissal, the nation's constitutional court has dismissed two PMs in two years on matters of 'unethical conduct', with Srettha's as the first.

Srettha's selection of a minister with a criminal record and jail term led to his ouster in August 2024, after being in office for just about a year. For Paetongtarn, the court linked her removal to a phone call she had had with former Cambodian PM Hun Sen, father of the current PM Hun Manet. The call indicated that the Thai leadership was opposed by the military, which was the factor driving the deadly Preah Vihear conflict between the two countries. The call recording was leaked and Paetongtarn's stance was seen as anti-national and unethical.

On the surface, the cause behind both these dismissals addresses the issue of integrity and lack of ethics. However, a deeper understanding of the dynamics driving Thai politics shows two other causes: first, the tensions brewing along the border with Cambodia, and second, the Shinawatra factor that triggers deeper schisms in the military-monarchical political elite that remains at the core of Thailand's political authority.

The border conflict began in July and continued for five days, with intense firing resulting in casualties on both sides. The



Political power in Thailand remains in the grip of the military-royalty elites. The dismissal of two PMs in two years—including of Paetongtarn, scion of the Shinawatra dynasty—traces back to that power play. Claims over Hindu historical sites across the border also follow this script

ceasefire, worked out in Kuala Lumpur, was merely an end to the armed conflict. But the Preah Vihear crisis is rooted in the domestic political dynamics of Thailand and its ramifications on Cambodia.

Thaksin Shinawatra's support base during his active political years—prior to his exile for 15 years—was mostly in the northeast of Thailand, which borders Cambodia. In the past, the country has witnessed protest movements by Thaksin's supporters, popularly called the Red Shirts, and the military-elite backed groups known as the Yellow Shirts. Thaksin's overreach into some areas the mon-

archy considered sacred led to the formation of a separate group under the leadership of Sondhi Limthongkul, who headed the Yellow Shirts. Protests by these two groups paralysed Bangkok for days in the run-up to the 2006 coup.

The military-backed conservatives and the monarchy are deeply entrenched, and the military has been part of the power structure for nearly a century. The rift between the Shinawatra family and the military runs deep, and the military resorts to its own machinations to control the political outcome.

Preah Vihear has been a flashpoint for several years. To add to it, the Thai monarchy has coveted the Angkor Wat, the sprawling Hindu-Buddhist temple complex in Cambodia, linking the claim to its historical relations with the Angkor dynasty. In the pre-colonial times, the decline of the Khmer empire saw inroads from Siam, or Thailand. During this time, the provinces of Battambang and Siem Reap exchanged hands between the Siamese emperor and the Khmer kings.

Later, European colonialists drew the boundaries, though Thailand was never colonised—leading to the continuation of territorial disputes in the post-colonial period. The dispute became even more complicated when, in 1962, the International Court of Justice stated that Preah Vihear belonged to Cambodia; but 4.6 sq km of land near it still remains contested. The regions around the Preah Vihear complex are seen as the historical base of the Shinawatra supporters, and civilian casualties in the area trigger sharp reactions among political groups in Thailand as well as Cambodia.

Though the actual violence in the recent clash lasted only five days, the repercussions—in terms of Thailand's political stability—raise long-term doubts on the role of the military. Its discomfort with the Shinawatra family is neither new, nor innocuous. Now it's clear the military will try to guard its grip on Thai politics—whoever the threat and whatever the cost.

(Views are personal)
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improve relations with China and Modi's visit to Tianjin to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit and the bilateral meeting with President Xi Jinping are positive developments. There is much to be done to overcome blind anti-China hostility and to adopt a realistic approach to bridge differences between the two countries.

There is tremendous scope to use Chinese investments and technology to boost the manufacturing sector in India. This requires withdrawing the restrictions placed on investments from Chinese companies in various sectors. For instance, the government had refused to give clearance in 2023 for a \$1-billion investment by the giant electric vehicle manufacturer BYD in a joint venture with an Indian company to produce EVs and batteries. This venture would have enabled India to acquire the latest technical knowhow and production capacities, as BYD is the leading EV company in the world. There are various other sectors where economic cooperation with China will significantly benefit Indian industry and infrastructure development.

The US-led international order has been in decline for some time and is being increasingly challenged by multi-polarity. The pro-US policies have actually hampered India from utilising the opportunities to strengthen itself in a growing multipolar world. India, as a member of BRICS and SCO, has not put its full weight behind developing and energising these forums.

It is not accidental that Trump has levied the highest tariffs on three of the founding members of BRICS, apart from Russia and China—50 percent on Brazil, 30 percent on South Africa and 50 percent on India. These three are the major countries of the Global South, representing South America, Africa and Asia, respectively. India will chair the BRICS next year. This is an opportunity to take the lead to formulate policies which can enhance Global South cooperation in trade and investment.

Does the Modi government have the resolve and vision to boldly strike out on a new path that will restore an independent foreign policy and truly assure strategic autonomy? Or, will it bide time to wait for the next favourable turn in Trump's mood swings to get back on the beaten track of becoming a subordinate ally?

(Views are personal)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Opportune India

Ref: China must earn India's trust, not merely mention it (Sep 2). China has territorial disputes with all its neighbours. India is inclining towards China due to tariff pressure, and towards Russia for cheap oil. What will be the stance once the two issues take a positive turn is to be seen.
A G Rajmohan, Anantapuramu

Shuttling glory

Ref: Shuttlers put up fight, have a long way to go (Sep 2). India is set to host the world championships next year. The players should earnestly prepare themselves for the big event. They should be given adequate rest and logistical help, including the best coaches.
R Sampath, Chennai

Critical precision

Ref: Gilded age 2.0 (Sep 2). Peter Navarro's core point—that a few powerful groups gain, while ordinary Indians see little benefit—was not without merit. Yet, by framing it in caste terms, he handed critics an excuse to dismiss him as ignorant or insensitive. Policy critiques demand precision.
M Jameel Ahmed, Mysore

Nationalist intimidation

Ref: The many shades of patriotism (Sep 2). Dissent is the essence of democracy, but the right to dissent is never accorded the latitude it deserves. Being born in a particular country is incidental, and there is nothing sacrosanct about it. One should learn to respect their country, and not intimidate fellow citizens to love it.
Balu Sundaram, Madurai

Countering misinfo

Ref: India must use lessons China learnt long ago (Sep 2). In times of propaganda, narratives are repeated until they become the truth. So counter-attack is important. This should not go on high in the air. India failed to counter the attack when Donald Trump peddled misinformation.
S Kanthimathinathan, Kovilpatti

Tarred ifs

Ref: Modi, Putin add to strategic band (Sep 2). President Donald Trump is becoming the architect for the downfall of the US with his newfound tariff wand. Already the coal 'tar' in tariffs has blackened his image at home and abroad, with only umpteenth 'ifs' pestering him non-stop.
Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati



Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
It appears that the PM may finally summon up the courage and empathy to visit Manipur briefly on September 13. But that may be a case of TILT - too little, too late.



Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
The anger of these young people standing on the streets of the country with placards against electoral corruption indicates that bad days have now begun



Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi @SudhanshuTrivedi
...Congress and Rahul Gandhi have only succeeded in hurting the sentiments of Bihar's people through abusive language and contrived theatrics.

Poll panel says Cong leader enrolled as a voter in New Delhi and Jangpura constituencies

'Penal offence': EC notice to Khera for 2 voter cards

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A day after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi wound up his 'Vote Adhikar Yatra' in Patna, it was daggers drawn between the Election Commission and Congress leader Pawan Khera on Tuesday after the poll body issued a notice to Khera based on BJP's allegations that he holds two voter ID cards in Delhi.

According to the notice issued by poll authorities in Delhi, Khera is enrolled as a voter in the New Delhi and Jangpura Assembly constituencies. The notice has been issued under Section 17 and Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which prohibit a person from being registered in more than one constituency or more than once in the same constituency.

"As you may be aware, being registered in the electoral roll of more than one constituency is a penal offence under the Representation of the People Act 1950. You are therefore, directed to show cause as to why action should not be taken against you under said Act," read the notice.

The Congress leader has

Response deadline fixed, action to be taken on failure

The Congress leader has been directed to reply to the notice by 11 am on September 8. The EC also said it will proceed in accordance with the law once Khera submits his reply or if he fails to respond by the deadline.



been directed to reply to the notice by 11 am on September 8. The EC also said it will proceed in accordance with the law once Khera submits his reply or if he fails to respond by the deadline.

Hitting back at the EC, Khera said the poll body's action confirms the Opposition's complaint of how the EC functions to support the ruling regime. The Congress spokesperson said that while the Opposition's complaints of 'vote theft' are disregarded, the EC rushes to act against

opposition members.

Khera further sought to know why the EC did not issue a single notice to the 1,00,000 fake voters of Mahadevapura constituency, which was exposed by Rahul Gandhi. "We will not stop exposing the EC's wrongdoings in the Bihar SIR and other election processes," he wrote on X.

The BJP on Tuesday alleged that Khera had two voter IDs and Rahul Gandhi was running a campaign against voter roll revision in Bihar to "protect and hide" his party's theft of votes.

Khera ID cards in contrary to Rahul's 'vote chori' jibe: BJP

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP on Tuesday accused Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera of being registered as a voter in two constituencies by holding two EPIC numbers—one in Delhi's Jangpura and another in a different constituency.

"Rahul Gandhi screamed 'Vote Chori' from the rooftops. But just like he forgot to mention that his mother, Sonia Gandhi, enlisted herself in India's voter list even before becoming an Indian citizen, it has now emerged that Pawan Khera, Congress spokesperson—who never misses a chance to flaunt his proximity to the Gandhi—holds two active EPIC numbers (in Jangpura and New Delhi Assembly Constituencies, falling under East Delhi and New Delhi Lok Sabha seats respectively)," BJP's Amit Malviya said.

He said that it was now for the EC to investigate how Khera holds two active EPIC numbers, and whether he voted multiple times. Khera is also holding malicious press conferences in Bihar to mislead voters, the BJP leader added.

MHA frames strict rules for entry and stay under Foreigners Act '25

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

WITH an aim to further tighten national security by better regulating immigration to the country, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday issued a set of new rules under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, which stipulates stricter norms for entry, stay and deportation of foreigners.

The order through a gazette notification said, foreigners may be denied entry or stay in India, if found to be "convicted of serious crimes such as terrorism, espionage, rape, murder, human trafficking, cyber-crime, drug smuggling, or membership of a banned organisation".

Persons found to be involved in cases relating to "fake travel documents, money laundering, hawala transactions, child abuse and racketeering" will also be barred from entering India.

Noting that India would continue to maintain "a strict zero-tolerance" toward individuals involved in "anti-national or subversive activities", in the order the MHA has advised the Bureau of Immigration to maintain and update a database of such individuals and prohibit their entry.

According to officials, all



Biometric details needed

As per the MHA order, it is mandatory for every foreigner applying for a visa or Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration to provide biometric details before approval and these include fingerprints, facial scans and other data, which will be stored on a central government portal.

States and Union Territories (UT) have been asked to set up dedicated detention or holding centres for illegal immigrants until they are deported.

The centres will restrict movement of foreign nationals found staying without valid documents. The Coast Guard and border security forces have also been instructed to capture biometric and demographic details of illegal entrants before

their deportation, they said.

As per the MHA order, it is mandatory for every foreigner applying for a visa or Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration to provide biometric details before approval and these include fingerprints, facial scans and other data, which will be stored on a central government portal.

Foreigners seeking employment in India cannot work in sensitive sectors such as power supply, petroleum or water distribution without explicit approval from civil authorities, it noted.

The new rules also tighten regulations on media and mountaineering expeditions, as in the order the MHA said, "Foreigners wishing to shoot feature films, documentaries, web series or reality shows in India must obtain written permission from the central government."

Foreigners must also secure special permits to enter protected or restricted regions, including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Nationals of Afghanistan, China, and Pakistan will not be allowed entry into these sensitive areas.

Anxiety, depression most common mental health conditions: WHO

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

OVER a billion people are living with mental health disorders, anxiety and depression being the most common conditions, according to new data released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday.

It shows that while prevalence of mental health disorders can vary by sex, women are disproportionately impacted overall.

Suicide remains a devastating outcome, claiming an estimated 7,27,000 lives in 2021 alone, said the new findings published in two reports – World mental health today and Mental Health Atlas 2024.

Highlighting that suicide is the third leading cause of death among people aged 15–29 years worldwide and disproportionately affects marginalised populations, the report said suicide accounts for more than one in every 100 deaths (1.1%) globally.

For every death by suicide there are more than 20 suicide attempts. "Globally, more than twice as many males die by suicide than women do."

"Despite global efforts, progress in reducing suicide

- 1 bn+ people living with mental health disorders
- More women (581.5 mn) than men (513.9 mn) live with a mental disorder
- Normally more than twice as many males die by suicide than women
- Mental health disorder second biggest reason for long-term disability
- Depressive and anxiety disorders more common among women, while autism & ADHD more common in men



7,27,000 LIVES LOST TO SUICIDE IN 2021

mortality is too low to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of a one-third reduction in suicide rates by 2030. On the current trajectory, only a 12% reduction will be achieved by that deadline," it added.

"Transforming mental health services is one of the most pressing public health challenges," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

"Investing in mental health means investing in people, communities, and economies – an investment no country can afford to neglect. Every government and every leader has a responsibility to act with urgency and to ensure that mental health care is treated not as a privilege, but as a basic right for all."

The report said that mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression are highly prevalent in all countries and communities, affecting people of all ages and income levels.

They represent the second biggest reason for long-term disability, contributing to loss of healthy life. They drive up health-care costs for affected people and families while inflicting substantial economic losses on a global scale, it added.

However, it said, depressive and anxiety disorders are more common among females than males throughout the life-course, while males are much more likely to have disorders of intellectual development (idiopathic), autism spectrum disorders, conduct disorder and ADHD.

'Can haul up Prez/guv for contempt?'

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

ON the sixth day of hearing in the Presidential Reference case, the Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the parties what the consequences would be if the Governor or the President did not follow the timeline prescribed by it in its April 8 verdict.

"Can the Governor or the President be hauled up for contempt of court if they will not follow the April 8 verdict?" the SC asked. To this, one of the respondents, the Tamil Nadu government, through its lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi, replied that "deemed assent" to the bills can be a consequence.

The SC also observed that certain instances of delay in granting assent to Bills cannot justify the laying down of a blanket timeline for the Governors and President to act as per Articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution, respectively.

"If there are individual cases of delay, the aggrieved parties can approach the Court to seek relief, and the Court may direct that the decision should be taken within a time limit; however, it cannot mean that the Court should lay down a general timeline for the actions of the Governor and the President," the five-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice B R Ga-

ALSO IN TOP COURT

'Bar exam fee not unconstitutional'

The SC on Tuesday in its order rejected a plea challenging the fee charged by the Bar Council of India (BCI) for conducting the All India Bar Examination, after holding that the fee was not 'unconstitutional'. A two-judge bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Sandeep Mehta observed that the BCI incurred huge expenses for conducting the examination.

Indore cartoonist granted bail

Indore-based cartoonist, Hemant Malviya, accused of sharing allegedly objectionable cartoons of PM Narendra Modi and RSS workers on the social media, was granted anticipatory bail in the case. A two-judge bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria granted police the liberty to seek cancellation of bail in case the cartoonist did not cooperate.

va, said.

Singhvi argued that the timelines were necessary in view of the repeated instances of Governors withholding Bills indefinitely.

The SC was hearing a Presidential Reference that questions its April 8 judgement, which prescribed timelines for the President and the Governor to decide on bills.

Singhvi submitted to the apex court that the killing of a Bill is available only to the Cabinet and nobody else. "It cannot be by the Governor. Your Lordship will have no scheme of Constitution left if

that is allowed," he added.

Singhvi further contended that a Governor cannot be the final arbiter of a Bill. "Governor cannot withhold assent, kill a Bill, or be a judge in this. He is not the final arbiter or the Super Chief Minister. Ultimately, allegedly unconstitutional Bills are passed every day, and courts will decide that. Even if the majority introduced it, courts will see it... that is separation of powers," he said.

The Court also questioned whether it can grant deemed assent for bills not acted upon by the Governor.

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

THE torrential downpour is throwing road traffic out of gear. Reports of stodgy gridlocked vehicular movements have been hitting the headlines countrywide. Waterlogging, choked drains, flash floods, and cratered roads slow traffic to a standstill. Yet, the misery of congestion pales in comparison to the deeper menace: the rain does not just delay—it kills.

Official data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) reveals a grim picture. Pothole-related crashes, a category tracked separately in the annual Road Accidents in India reports, have claimed thousands of lives in the past decade. In 2017 alone, 9,423 such accidents left 3,597 people dead and over 25,000 injured. Though the numbers dipped in 2018, the following years saw fluctuations rather than lasting improvements. The pandemic year 2020 brought a temporary decline, with reduced traffic translating into fewer crashes, but the respite was short-lived. By 2023, pothole-related deaths had surged again, with 2,161 lives lost in 4,446 accidents. The persistence of these numbers underscores a failure to fix one of the most basic responsibilities

POTHOLES DEATH TRAPS ON ROADS

Lives lost
Pothole-related crashes, a category tracked in the annual Road Accidents in India reports, have claimed thousands of lives in past decade.

of road governance.

Beyond potholes, the impact of monsoons on road safety becomes stark when accidents are disaggregated by weather conditions. Rainy-day crashes are a telling proxy for the dangers posed by inadequate road infrastructure during storms. In 2023 alone, 13,734 people were killed in road accidents on rainy days, with a further 18,193 suffering grievous injuries and 17,909 sustaining minor wounds. Uttar Pradesh stands out accounting for nearly a quarter of these deaths—3,387 lives cut short, alongside thousands more seriously injured. Its population and heavy traffic partly explain the scale, but the figures also reflect glaring infrastructural, regulatory gaps.

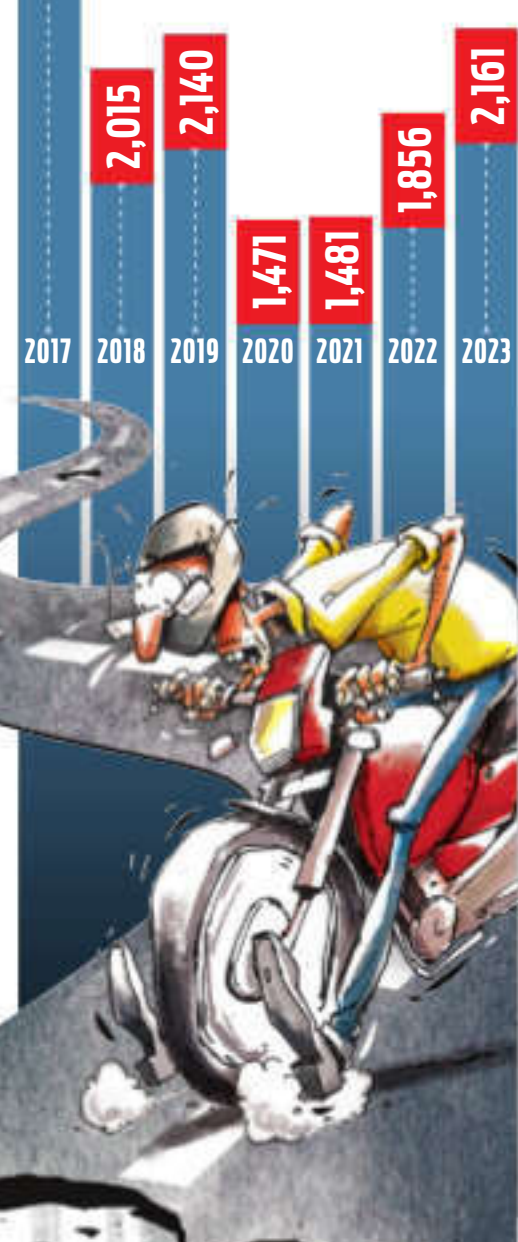
Madhya Pradesh (1,661 deaths) and Bihar (1,311 deaths) also bear heavy tolls, while Kerala presents a contrasting pattern. Though it recorded 493 deaths—lower than several other large states—it reported the highest number of grievous injuries in the country at 3,054.

This suggests that while more lives are being saved, survivors often endure life-altering harm. Karnataka shows a similar imbalance: 744 deaths but a staggering 2,723 grievous injuries, pointing to the human cost of surviving a crash. Maharashtra, Odisha, and Delhi also feature prominently in the casualty charts, with the capital's 148 rainy-day deaths alarming for a city-state.

At the other end of the scale, smaller states/UTs report far fewer fatalities, though their figures still remind us that no region is untouched. For example, Delhi's relatively low number of grievous injuries (55) contrasts sharply with its 739 minor injuries, hinting at different crash dynamics in an urban environment.

These numbers are not merely statistics—they represent families shattered, futures rewritten and lives lost.

FATALITIES IN INDIA
The top five states with the highest number of deaths are Uttar Pradesh (3,387), Madhya Pradesh (1,661), Bihar (1,311), Maharashtra (931), and Karnataka (901)



Poor urban planning causing lack of infra, impacting pedestrians: Experts

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

CITING poor urban planning causing lack of infrastructure—a situation exacerbated by increasing vehicular traffic and inadequate footpaths—experts on Tuesday voiced their concern about pedestrians' rights being ignored in India.

They were speaking at a two-day 'Connect Karo', a flagship annual event organised by World Resources Institute (WRI) India, an independent research organisation, in New Delhi.

Speaking at a session titled "Safer Streets for Tomorrow: Learnings from a Decade of Practice", Director of National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) Debolina Kundu said that none of the urban mission launched by the Government aimed at renewal of cities except Smart Cities Mission (SCM) talks about walkability. "We are talking about pedestrian mobility of cities, so we cannot do that until and unless we really mainstream pedestrianisation...I believe it is very important that we really sensitise our policy makers and at all levels. Interventions need



to happen at the ward or sub-ward level," she said.

The Lead Transport Specialist at World Bank Gerald Ollivier also painted a grim picture of pedestrian facilities in the country and spoke about how improved walkability and cycling transformed the metro service in Sri Lanka's Kandy.

"The city (Kandy) had invested \$10 billion in metros. The metros were not carrying out enough people. The people were not satisfied...And then we worked with them for a full \$150 million programme, only focused on walking and cycling. \$150 million may seem like big, but compared to the \$10 billion, it's 1.5 percent. So it's not a very big investment relative to the major investment in mass trans-

port and other systems. The project was completed two years ago and it had an economic rate of return of 55%. It contributed massively to an increase in ridership in the metro and the quality of the urban environment completely shifted," said Ollivier.

Connect Karo brings together leaders committed to critical issues related to sustainable cities, clean energy, food, land and water, and climate action and finance. Earlier, speaking at the plenary session on 'Financing India's Transition', NITI Aayog chief executive officer (CEO) BVR Subrahmanyam said, "India is undertaking an unprecedented experiment to become a developed nation by 2047, while walking a low-carbon path."

INDIA	Max	Min	Mumbai	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	31	26	28	28	25
Bhopal	26	23	29	29	25
Jaipur	28	24	33	33	28
Ahmedabad	26	24	32	32	27
Chennai	33	27	29	29	26
Kolkata	29	27	30	30	22
Srinagar	20	14	29	29	25

● Incessant rains leave behind a trail of large-scale destruction in Jammu ● CM seeks enhancement of compensation for affected families

Thousands homeless as over 2K houses damaged

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

INCESSANT rains have caused large-scale destruction across Jammu, leaving a trail of shattered homes and broken lives. In just four of the worst-hit districts, over 2,100 houses have been damaged, displacing families and rendering thousands homeless and without shelter.

Rains have been battering the Jammu region since mid-August, and the weatherman has predicted more rainfall in the region in the coming days.

In the mountainous Kishtwar district, where 66 persons were killed and 31 are still missing after heavy rains triggered a cloudburst and flash flood in remote Chesoti village on August 14, torrential rains have caused multiple cloudbursts, causing massive damage to property.

"At least 427 residential houses have been damaged in the district. Of them 51 have been fully damaged, 98 severely damaged, and 278 partially damaged," Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar told this newspaper. The remote Marwah-Warwan valley in the district has been worst hit by the weather fury. "About 144 residential houses, including 24 fully, 45 severely, and 75 partially, have been damaged in Marwah-Warwan Valley," the DC said. Cloudbursts hit six to seven locations in the valley, damaging



The Tawi River flowing in spate near the Gujjar Nagar area in Jammu Tuesday | PTI

Affected families seek relief to rebuild homes

As per SDRF norms, an amount of ₹1.35 lakh is provided as compensation to the fully damaged houses, while ₹6,500 and ₹5,000 for utensils are given to those whose houses have been partially damaged. The affected residents have demanded adequate compensation to rebuild their houses.

roads and bridges, he added.

Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh said, "About 500 residential houses have been damaged in the district by the rains. Of them, 50 houses have been fully damaged, 100 severely, and 350 houses partially damaged." There was no loss of life.

In the Kathua district, where 10 lives have been lost

to flash floods and cloudbursts triggered by heavy rains, "about 1000 residential houses have been damaged", and many have been rendered unsafe for living, sources said.

The Ramban district, which lies on the Srinagar-Jammu highway, has not escaped the devastation caused by the torrential rains. Five people have been killed due to landslides, and 200 residential houses have been damaged," Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan said.

As per SDRF norms, ₹1.35 lakh is given as compensation to the fully damaged houses, while ₹6,500 and ₹5,000 for utensils are given to those whose houses have been partially damaged. The affected residents have demanded adequate compensation.

Mann says Centre's riders hampering flood rescue

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday claimed that the riders imposed by the Union government were hindering his government's ability to provide adequate relief to flood-affected people, even as he demanded higher compensation for farmers and victims who have lost their lives or property in the recent deluge.

He said farmers were devastated by the floodwaters, which damaged paddy and other crops that were on the verge of harvest. "At least ₹50,000 per acre should be paid to farmers for their crop loss," he urged, adding that livestock loss had worsened the situation for rural households dependent on dairy and animal husbandry.

Touring flood-hit villages of Ferozepur district in a boat, Mann said that thousands of families were reeling under the impact of heavy monsoon rains and water released from dams, which submerged nearly three lakh acres of farmland across the state.

Mann also pressed for an upward revision of ex gratia compensation for families of those killed in floods—from the existing ₹4 lakh to ₹8 lakh. Similarly, he said relief for disability should be increased to ₹1.5 lakh from ₹74,000 for 40-60% disability, and to ₹5 lakh from ₹2.5 lakh for above 60%



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann during a visit at flood-hit Ferozepur in Punjab | PTI

U'khand district facing land subsidence crisis

Uttarakhand, already reeling from a relentless barrage of natural calamities, is now confronting widespread land subsidence in Chamoli's Nanda Nagar. On Monday night, two more buildings in Nanda Nagar's Band Bazar suffered severe damage. This has plunged villagers into panic.

disability. Calling the current norms "totally unrealistic," he said they failed to match the actual losses suffered by farming families already struggling with high input costs.

He said that he had apprised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of the state's situation when they called him on Monday. He also wrote

to them seeking the Centre's intervention. The CM said that the Union Government must adopt a liberal approach for duly compensating the flood victims in this hour of crisis and demanded the release of ₹60,000 crore pending with the Centre, which he said could be used to support flood victims.

Mann described the floods as the worst in recent memory, affecting more than 1,300 villages across 10 districts. "This is the biggest loss of crops and property in recent history. Punjab has made the country self-reliant in food production. Now, in this hour of crisis, it is our legitimate right to get justice," he said. There is a grave concern that conditions may further deteriorate in the coming days, leading to further devastation, he added.

Scindia's son MP cricket body chief

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

UNION minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's son, 29-year-old Mahanaryaman Scindia, on Tuesday became the youngest chief of the Indore-headquartered Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA).

Already the vice-president of the Gwalior Division Cricket Association (GDCA), Mahanaryaman was elected the MPCA president unopposed. He also serves as the president of the Madhya Pradesh T20 League (MPL) which was launched in Gwalior in the year 2024.

Importantly, not just the post of the MPCA president, but the other office bearers of the 68-year-old cricketing body, including the vice-president, secretary, joint secretary, treasurer and executive body members, were also elected without any contest on Tuesday. The newly-elected executive was finalised in the MPCA annual general meeting organised at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.

His grandfather and former Union minister Madhavrao Scindia headed the MPCA from 1982 till death in 2001, while father and present Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia held the post from 2004 to 2019.

Held on rape charge, AAP MLA flees police custody

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN a dramatic development, Punjab's AAP MLA from Sanaur, Harmeet Singh Dhillon, aka Pathanmajra, escaped custody on Tuesday after the Patiala Police arrested him on charges of rape and cheating. A reported exchange of fire and injury to a police officer upon one of the escaping vehicles hitting him were the highlights of the escape.

The incident followed Pathanmajra's criticism on Sunday of his own government's handling of the recent floods in Patiala. The MLA claimed repeated warnings about the need to desilt rivers like the Tangri and Ghaggar were ignored by senior officials under political directions, worsening the damage in villages. He said that despite raising the issue in the assembly, filing deputations, and personally meeting officials, no action was taken.

A police team from Patiala, along with a Haryana Police team, went to the house of his relative, Gurnam Singh Laadi, an elected member of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGMC), in Karnal to arrest him. Pathanmajra gave them the slip and



fled in a white SUV. Police sources claimed villagers and his supporters helped him escape. There were reports of an exchange of fire during the chaos. A police officer was injured after a vehicle hit him. Officials confirmed another FIR will be filed for assaulting an officer on duty. Later, the police seized a vehicle and arrested one person.

The case against Pathanmajra was registered on Monday under Section 376 of the IPC. Police said an old complaint against him had been under investigation, and on August 26, a Zirakpur-based woman filed a fresh complaint alleging that the legislator had sexually exploited her on the promise of marriage. She accused him of

Harmet's security cover withdrawn a day earlier

The escape came just a day after the Punjab government withdrew the MLA's security cover. Only months ago, he had been provided extra protection after claiming he faced threat calls. The state also ordered the transfer of all SHO and police post heads in his Sanaur constituency.

misrepresenting himself as divorced, continuing relations while already married, threatening her, and sending her obscene material.

The escape came just a day after the Punjab government withdrew the MLA's security cover, recalling eight gunmen previously assigned to him. Only months ago, he had been provided extra protection after claiming he faced threat calls. The state also ordered the transfer of all SHO and police post heads in his Sanaur constituency.

Before his arrest, he accused the AAP's Delhi leadership of "illegitimately ruling Punjab" and attempting to silence local MLAs. He also blamed the government for withdrawing his security.

Forest conservation rule tweak to help self-reliance in mineral sector: Yadav

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

RECENT amendment to forest conservation rules is aimed at promoting self-reliance in the critical and strategic minerals sector under the newly launched National Critical Mineral Mission, 2025, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav has said.

"The amended rules simplify the approval process for mining these minerals in forest areas for both public and private entities," said Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav. Under this mission, 24 minerals have been identified as critical and strategic, and 29 others as important for strengthening the country's economy and national security.

The notification modifies the definition of forest land diversion, allowing state governments to grant initial 'working permission' for linear projects. This includes preliminary project activities such as roadworks (other than blacktopping and concretisation), laying railway tracks, and installing transmission lines.

Previously, state governments could mobilise resources

'Amended rules will simplify nod process'

"The amended rules simplify the approval process for mining these minerals in forest areas for both public and private entities," said Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav. Under this mission, 24 minerals have been identified as critical and strategic, and 29 others as important for strengthening the country's economy and national security.

only after receiving in-principle or Stage-I approval for a project.

In another amendment to the rules, the government has ambiguously included the emergent nature of projects related to public interests. Policy analysts interpret critical minerals mining would be termed as emergent public interests. In a notification issued in September 2024, the government obscured projects related to defence and national security on the public portal 'Parivesh'. Following this, additional projects such as minerals mining may be exempted from public scrutiny under the guise of public interest.

HC judge recuses from mining case, says BJP MLA tried to contact him

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

A Madhya Pradesh HC judge hearing a writ petition on illegal mining in the state has withdrawn from the case, stating that a ruling BJP MLA, Sanjay Pathak attempted to contact him over the matter.

The petition was filed by Ashutosh Dixit (a resident of Mundwara-Katni) in the HC, claiming that he had complained to the state's Economic Offence Wing (EOW) about rampant illegal mining in Sihora and Gosalpur areas of Jabalpur district, besides Katni district. The petitioner had stated that the petition had to be filed in the HC, as no action was being taken by the EOW on the complaint.

While perusing the intervenor applications on Monday, the HC Judge Justice Vishal Mishra stated, "Sanjay Pathak has made an attempt to call me to



have a discussion regarding this particular matter, there, I'm not inclined to entertain this writ petition. Let the matter be placed before the Chief Justice for listing the matter before the appropriate Bench for consideration."

Earlier, the EOW informed the single-judge bench during the hearing that the complaint was made by the

petitioner against M/S Nirmala Minerals and Anand Mining Corporation.

Both companies are allegedly related to mining baron-turned-BJP MLA Sanjay Pathak, who was a minister in one of the previous BJP regimes led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

During the hearing, intervenor applications were filed by Anand Mining Corporation and Nirmala Minerals (Sanjay Pathak's mother, Nirmala Pathak, and son, Yash Pathak, were directors in the respective companies) through one Varun Kumar Gautam.

Congress' state chief Jitu Patwari said, "Chief Minister Sir, the truth is now out in the open as evidence! You may pretend to be 'Dhritarashtra'! 'Sanjay' has understood the Mahabharata of corruption!"

Sanjay Pathak is a four-time MLA from the Vijayraghavgarh constituency of Katni district.

Uproar over BJP vs BJP duel in land scam case

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

A political storm has erupted in Gujarat after BJP MLA and former cabinet minister Raman Vora was accused of posing as a bogus farmer to purchase agricultural land. The controversy has escalated with former BJP MLA Poonam Makwana and other complainants demanding criminal action, income tax scrutiny, and cancellation of land deals allegedly involving Vora's family.

The case, which spans Gandhinagar and Idar, has triggered multiple investigations, including notices from Mamlatdars, and charges of political pressure to suppress evidence. There are also accusations that Vora falsely posed as a farmer to acquire agricultural land in Gandhinagar's Palaj and Idar's Dawad villages.

Makwana has written to the Gandhinagar Collector, demanding immediate action against Vora, alleging that af-

BONE OF CONTENTION

It is alleged that BJP MLA Raman Vora falsely posed as a farmer to acquire agricultural land in Gandhinagar's Palaj and Idar's Dawad villages

Ex-BJP MLA Poonam Makwana has written to the Gandhinagar Collector, demanding action against Vora, accusing Vora of manipulating records and using a bogus farmer certificate

He has also alleged that Vora transferred the land in the names of his wife and sons before selling it off to his associate Dinesh Patel for ₹3.7 cr

Patel, in turn, swiftly converted the land to non-agricultural status and handed it back to Vora's sons Bhushan and Suhag, it is alleged

ter purchasing the land in 2004 through partnerships, Vora manipulated records, used a bogus farmer certificate, and transferred the land in the names of his wife and sons before selling it off to his close associate Dinesh Patel for ₹3.7

crore. Patel, in turn, swiftly converted the land to non-agricultural status and handed it back to Vora's sons Bhushan and Suhag, it is alleged.

Makwana's complaint has raised a bigger question: whether these multi-crore deals were ever reflected in the income tax returns. The legislator has demanded that authorities not only probe tax evasion but also take criminal action under Sections 63 and 84-C, and restore the land to the genuine farmer partners. Bank and cheque-related discrepancies have also been highlighted as suspicious financial manoeuvres.

Meanwhile, an Ahmedabad resident, Prakash Parmar, filed another complaint before the Collector, presenting evidence that Vora was not a farmer in multiple survey lands in Dawad. He questioned why certain land deeds were reversed and demanded a full inquiry. The Collector has since directed the Idar



PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR

Our correspondent in Bihar

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Tejashwi shakes a leg, stirs fresh controversy

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav probably told himself he deserved a letting-hair-down moment after the gruelling 16-day Voter Adhikar Yatra. He rocked to a Bhojpuri number and danced with some youth on Patna's 'Marine Drive' Wife Raj Lakshmi and sister Rohini were present. However, not everybody was impressed. Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi took a jibe at Yadav, saying, "Had it been Lalu Raj, these youth would have been abducted and forced to dance at the CM's residence. They would have been forced to do 'Katte Pe Dance.'" The reference was to a criminal practice of people twisting their legs around to escape bullets fired at their feet from a pistol.



Bihar cricket assn gets charge of Rajgir Stadium

There is good news for sportspersons of Bihar. The state government has agreed in principle to transfer the responsibility of the Rajgir International Cricket Stadium to the Bihar Cricket Association. BCA president Rakesh Tiwari said that the decision will create opportunities for players of the state. Not only do the players have a dedicated place to practice and participate in competitions in a modern, fully equipped stadium, but the stadium also contributes to the growing cricketing infrastructure in Bihar. An MOU has already been signed for the Moin-ul-Haq stadium in Patna, which is being developed to host international cricket matches.

Rahul's two-wheeler present to dhaba owner

In an unexpected gesture, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi gifted a brand-new Pulsar 220 motorbike to a dhaba owner from Darbhanga, whose motorbike had disappeared during the Voter Adhikar Yatra in the district on August 27. During the roadshow, security personnel took the bikes of Subham and six others. After the roadshow, the motorbikes were returned to their respective owners, but Subham's bike was missing. He talked to the security personnel, who invited him to come to Patna, where Rahul Gandhi handed over the keys of the motorbike. Subham thanked Rahul Gandhi profusely for the surprise largesse.





128 years later 3 skulls returned to Madagascar, including one of a decapitated king



Weather forecast table for various cities including Beijing, Colombo, Dhaka, Dubai, Houston, Istanbul, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Moscow, New York, Singapore, Toronto, Washington.

DISASTERS OVERWHELM FRAGILE, WAR-HIT NATIONS

Race against time as Afghan quake toll tops 1,400



Collapsed houses in an area devastated by powerful earthquake that killed many and destroyed villages in eastern Afghanistan in Kunar province | AP

JALALABAD

THE Taliban said the death toll from a major earthquake in eastern Afghanistan passed 1,400 on Tuesday, with more than 3,000 people injured, as the United Nations warned of an exponential rise in casualties. The figures provided by Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid were just for the province of Kunar.

Sunday night's powerful 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck several provinces, causing extensive damage. It flattened villages and trapped people under the rubble of homes constructed mostly of mud bricks and wood that were unable to withstand the shock.

Rough terrain is hampering rescue and relief efforts, forcing Taliban authorities to air-drop dozens of commandos to evacuate the injured from places where helicopters can-

not land. Aid agency Save the Children said one of its teams walked for over 12 miles (to reach villages cut off by rock falls, carrying medical equipment on their backs with the help of community members. An aftershock of 5.2 close to the epicenter of Sunday's quake rattled the area on Tuesday, according to the US.

3rd quake hits Afghan

Third major quake since the Taliban takeover, striking an Afghanistan already burdened by aid cuts, economic collapse, and mass returns from Iran and Pakistan

casualty numbers. "We cannot afford to forget the people of Afghanistan who are facing multiple crises, multiple shocks, and the resilience of the communities has been saturated," Ratwatte said. AP

Sudan landslide flattens village, over 1,000 dead



People inspecting the debris after a landslide devastated the village of Tarasin in Sudan's Jebel Marra area | AFP

CAIRO

SUDAN appealed for international aid on Tuesday after a landslide wiped out an entire village in western region of Darfur, killing an estimated 1,000 people in one of the deadliest natural disasters in the African country's recent history. The village of Tarasin was "completely leveled to the ground," the Sudan Liberation Movement-Army said as it appealed to the UN and international aid groups for help to recover the bodies.

Nine bodies recovered

A local emergency network that has been supporting communities across Sudan said its teams recovered the bodies of at least nine people on Tuesday

The tragedy happened Sunday in the village, located in Central Darfur's Marrah Mountains, after days of heavy rainfall. "Initial information indicates the death of all village residents, estimated to be more than 1,000 people," the rebel group said in a statement. "Abdel-Wahid Nour,

the group's leader, made an appeal on Tuesday for international help. "The scale and magnitude of the disaster are immense and defy description," he said.

The ruling Sovereign Council in Khartoum said it mourned "the death of hundreds of innocent residents" in the Marrah Mountains' landslide. In a statement, it said "all possible capabilities" have been mobilised to support the area.

Footage shared by the Marrah Mountains news outlet showed a flattened area between mountain ranges with a group of people searching the area. Luca Renda, the UN humanitarian coordinator in Sudan, said he was "deeply saddened" by the reported landslide, adding that local sources indicated that "between 300 and 1,000 people may have lost their lives." AP

FRANCE ON THE BRINK: PM FACES BUDGET VOTE CRISIS

Bayrou's austerity plan sparks backlash; confidence vote looms on September 8



THE BUDGET PLAN

€44 bn in cuts planned for 2026

Elimination of 2 public holidays France's debt: €3.35 trillion (114% of GDP) Deficit: 5.8% (EU target: 3%)

WHAT'S GOING ON? Prime Minister François Bayrou risks losing power over proposed €44 billion spending cuts

Broad opposition across political spectrum

Outcome could force Macron to appoint a new PM or call new elections

PARLIAMENT BREAKDOWN 210 seats Bayrou's alliance



Opposition (far-left and far-right) 320+ seats Bayrou likely to lose confidence vote

OPPOSITION VOICES MARINE LE PEN: Rejects plan, calls for new elections JEAN-LUC MÉLENCHON: Demands Macron resign if Bayrou falls RAPHAËL GLUCKSMANN: Wants major revisions to the budget WHAT'S NEXT? September 8: Confidence vote September 10: Nationwide protests planned ("Block Everything" movement) Possible new PMs: Sébastien Lecornu, Gérald Darmanin, Catherine Vautrin NATIONWIDE UNREST BREWS The "Block Everything" movement plans nationwide protests over the 2026 budget and holiday cuts

Israel expands Gaza offensive with reservist call-up; 47 dead

DEIR AL-BALAH

ISRAEL began mobilising tens of thousands of reservists and repeated evacuation warnings on Tuesday as part of its plan to widen its offensive in Gaza City, which has sparked opposition domestically and condemnation abroad.

The call-up, which was announced last month, comes as ground and air forces press forward and pursue more targets in northern and central Gaza, striking parts of Zeitoun and Shijaiyah — two western Gaza City neighborhoods that Israeli forces have repeatedly invaded during the nearly two-year war against Hamas militants.

Zeitoun, once Gaza City's largest neighborhood with markets, schools and clinics, has been transformed over the past month, with streets being emptied and buildings reduced to rubble as it becomes what Israel's military last week called a "dangerous combat zone."



Palestinians mourn by the shrouded bodies of relatives killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza City at dawn, at the Al-Shifa hospital | AP

Israel says Gaza City is still a Hamas stronghold where the militants have a vast tunnel network, despite multiple incursions throughout the war. It's also one of the last refuges in northern Gaza, where hundreds

of thousands of civilians are sheltering, facing the twin threats of combat and famine. Some reservists are refusing to serve again, accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of prolonging the war for political purposes. AP

China to unveil modern weapons for 1st time at military parade



Chinese soldiers rehearse ahead of 80th anniversary of Japan's WW II surrender | AP

BEIJING

CHINA's missiles, fighter jets and other military hardware — some on public view for the first time — will be displayed in a major parade on Wednesday in the nation's capital.

Troops will march in lockstep by President Xi Jinping, who leads the long-ruling Communist Party and heads the military as the chairman of the Central Military Commission. Xi will deliv-

er a speech at the event, which marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. The audience includes about two dozen foreign leaders from countries seeking to improve or maintain relations with the government in Beijing. Much of the weaponry and equipment in the parade is being shown to the public for the first time, Chinese military officials have said. They include land, sea and air-based strategic weapons, advanced precision

warfare equipment and drones. Warplanes and helicopters will fly in formation in the skies overhead. It's the first major military parade in China since 2019 on the 70th anniversary of the founding of communist China. This week's commemorates the end of WWII, a conflict that devastated China. The parade aims to instill pride in the populace and assure them that the country is strong enough to ward off any attack. AP

Judge rules Don violated law with Guard deployment

SAN FRANCISCO

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's administration violated federal law by sending National Guard troops to Southern California during immigration enforcement operations and accompanying protests, a federal judge ruled on Tuesday.

US District Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco did not

require the several hundred remaining troops to be withdrawn and set his order to go into effect September 12. The order comes after California sued, saying the troops sent to Los Angeles were violating a law that prohibits military enforcement of domestic laws. Lawyers for Trump's Republican administration have argued the Posse Comitatus Act doesn't apply. AP

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY YELAHANKA, BENGALURU - 560 064. Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in Tender Notice No. RWF/N/25-26/12 Dt. 01.09.2025

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TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD Invitation of bids- Two cover - Item war Tender system - Short Term (E-Submission)

गणितीय विज्ञान संस्थान, चेन्नई THE INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES, CHENNAI (Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India)

GST Council meet: India Inc, consumers eye relief

FinMin sources say 99% of goods in 12% slab will move to 5% slab

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

WITH the GST Council meeting beginning Wednesday, industries are hoping for a simplified structure and lower levies on goods and services. For consumers, particularly with the festive season around the corner, hopes are pinned on a reduction in prices of daily-use items.

The Centre has proposed a major restructuring of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework, with a proposal for a two-slab structure — 5% for essentials and 18% for standard goods — while retaining a 40% rate for luxury and sin products. As per the proposal, 12% and 28% tax slabs will be done away with. As per the finance ministry sources, 99% of goods in the 12% tax slab will move to the 5% slab. Under this, household items, medicines and healthcare supplies may move into the 5% bracket.

“We have suggested a 5% tax on all pharmacy products. If taxes come down across the value chain, there would be lower input tax credit (ITC) arrears,” said Ramesh C Juneja, chairman of Mankind Pharma. Aspirational items such as ACs, TVs and small cars could be shifted to the 18% slab from the current 28%, according to the Finance Ministry. The auto sector is also pushing for greater uniformity in taxation. The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) has urged to bring all auto components under one rate. “If duties



PROBABLE RATES

PHARMA PRODUCTS	5%	UNDER ₹40L	18%	ABOVE ₹40L	40%
APPARELS & TEXTILES	18%		40%		18%

SIN ITEMS tobacco products, pan masala
40%
WHITE GOODS Air conditioner, TV, washing machine
18%

Industry expects relief on inverted duty structure

NEW DELHI: As the GST Council convenes for a crucial meeting on Sept 3-4, where a major rate rationalisation is on agenda, a chorus of industry voices is calling for a resolution to the problem of the inverted duty structure (IDS). An IDS occurs when taxes paid on inputs (raw materials and services) are higher than tax levied on finished product.

are decreased, the price gap between genuine and spurious products would come down, making people buy genuine products,” ACMA said.

Meanwhile, high-end cars and tobacco are expected to attract a 40% tax. Media reports indicate the Group of Ministers (GoM) has proposed steep hikes on luxury electric vehicles priced above ₹40 lakh — a move that could weigh on sales for global carmakers like Tesla, Mercedes-Benz and BMW. For models between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 40 lakh, the GST rate is to be 18%. “The recent speculation about the change in GST rates has caused

uncertainty in the minds of consumers, who have adopted a wait-and-watch policy. This has delayed decision-making and is impacting new vehicle sales at a certain level,” said Hardeep Singh Brar, president and CEO, BMW Group India.

On essentials, the Centre has confirmed that most of the items including clothes, apparels and footwear earlier taxed at 12% are likely to shift to the 5% slab. The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has suggested a uniform 5% GST across cotton, man-made fibre and blend products.

SBI to raise \$1 billion via five-year dollar bonds from international market

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE country's largest lender State Bank of India is in the international debt market to raise up to \$1 billion through a dollar debt issue, following India's sovereign rating upgrade to BBB with a stable outlook by the global rating agency S&P after holding it for 18 years at 'BBB-', which also followed the bank's own rating upgrade.

The bank is issuing dollar-denominated bonds maturing in five years, and is looking at mopping up at least \$500 million and if the response and pricing is good, the issue, which is part of the bank's \$10 billion medium-term note programme, may touch \$1 billion, a merchant banker working on the issue told TNIE on Tuesday.

The debt fundraising comes even as the bank is sitting on lendable liquidity worth ₹12 lakh crore, a good portion of which is the excess holding in government securities, chairman CS Setty had told TNIE recently. He had said the bank has a board mandate to raise ₹20,000 crore in domestic debt this fiscal.

This fundraising assumes importance as the bank, with a ₹67 lakh crore balance-sheet, had already raised ₹25,000 crore in a qualified institutional



placement (QIP) issue in July, making it the single-largest fundraising through this mode, even as its corporate loan book has been seeing muted growth as corporates, which are sitting on a cash balance of ₹13.5 lakh crore, as they are not investing to add capacity, instead deleveraging and even paying back loans earlier than maturity.

In the June quarter, the bank's gross advances rose 11.61% to ₹42.55 lakh crore, driven by personal loans, which grew 12.56%, SME loans grew 19.10%, agricultural loans rose 12.67%, and corporate loans were muted at 5.70%. Setty had expressed confidence in retaining the credit growth target set in April at 12% for the fiscal as he expected more corporates to take disbursement of loan actions, which stood at ₹3.89 lakh crore and while disbursement in the quarter was at ₹3.41 lakh crore.

India-US trade talks continuing: Piyush Goyal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA is pressing ahead with its trade diplomacy, even as tariff tensions with the US continue to dominate the conversation. India is continuing discussions with the US, confirmed commerce minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday.

He further assured that India's trade talks with European Union, the UK and other countries are progressing and a couple of the free trade agreements (FTAs) are likely to be concluded soon. “We have already completed Mauritius, Australia's first tranche, the four nations, EFTA bloc, the UK, and UAE. Lots have happened, lots more to go. But with the US, we are in dialogue with them for a bilateral trade agreement,” said Goyal during his address at CII Global Sustainability Summit.

Goyal confirmed that negotiations with the EU are at an advanced stage and will be concluded soon. Thereafter, Indian exporters can have better access to the European market. The progress for the Eurasian FTA is on track. Talks are underway between India and the US on BTA, despite Washington's decision to double tariffs on a basket of Indian exports. The US move, came as a response to India's purchases of Russian crude, has triggered trade tension between the two countries.

'India to hold major share in chip mkt'

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

INDIA will hold a significant share in the \$1 trillion semiconductor industry, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the third edition of 'Semicon India - 2025', Modi also mentioned that a total of 10 semiconductor projects are currently underway, involving an investment of \$18 billion (₹1.5 lakh cr).

“Global semiconductor market has already reached \$600 billion, and in the coming years, it is expected to surpass \$1 trillion. India is advancing in the semiconductor sector, and it will hold a significant share in this \$1 trillion market,” said Modi.

At the event, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw presented the first test chips from four sanctioned projects to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Vikram chip, developed by ISRO's Semiconductor Laboratory, is India's first fully Made-in-India 32-bit microprocessor, engineered to perform reliably under the extreme conditions of launch vehicles.

Modi, comparing the chip to a digital diamond, emphasised that the power of the 21st century is now concentrated in the small chip. “Oil was black gold, but chips are digital diamonds”, the Prime Minister stated that oil shaped the previous century, and the fate of the world was determined by oil wells. The global economy fluctuated based on how much petroleum was extracted from these wells.

“Though tiny in size, these chips possess the potential to accelerate global progress significantly,” said Modi. He also highlighted the removal of red tape in approving semiconductor projects in the country. The Prime Minister said, “The shorter the time from file to factory, and the lesser the paperwork, the sooner wafer work can begin.” He stressed that the government is working with this very approach. The National Single Window System has been implemented, enabling all approvals from both the Centre and States to be accessed on a single platform. As a result, investors have been freed from extensive paperwork, he further added.

“The Semicon India programme was launched. He added that by 2023, India's first semiconductor plant had been approved, in 2024, several more plants received approval and in 2025, five additional projects were cleared.



Today construction of five semiconductor units is going on at a rapid pace. Pilot line of one unit is complete and we just presented the first Made in India chip to Hon'ble PM here

Ashwini Vaishnaw, IT and electronics minister

5 chip units progressing at rapid pace: Vaishnaw

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FIVE semiconductor units are currently progressing at a rapid pace in the country, said Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday. The minister, while speaking at Semicon India 2025, also mentioned that India's chips will be 15-30% cheaper than those from other countries.

He added that 10 projects have already been approved under the first phase of the India Semiconductor Mission, aimed at producing not just for India but also for global markets. In its next phase, the government plans to focus on developing the

entire semiconductor ecosystem, after having cleared proposals for fabs, OSAT units, and chip design in the initial phase.

“Here we are today, in a short span of 3.5 years we have the world looking at India with confidence. Today construction of 5 semiconductor units is going on at a rapid pace. Pilot line of one unit is complete and we just presented the first Made in India chip to Hon'ble PM here,” said Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Vaishnaw further noted that India will need more fabs to meet domestic demand as well as exports. At present, two fabs are already in place, with more expected in the coming years.

Games24x7 to fire 300 employees, shut Bengaluru office from Sept 6

SANAL SUDEVAN @ Chennai

ONLINE gaming platform Games24x7 will lay off nearly 300 employees and shut its Bengaluru office from September 6, following the Union government's recent ban on real money gaming platforms.

The ban was implemented through the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, passed in Parliament on August 22. A former employee, who had been working as an apprentice at the company, confirmed the closure and downsizing to TNIE. Games24x7 operates popular platforms such as RummyCircle and My11Circle.

“On Monday, we had a town hall meeting between 11 am and 12 pm, where the layoffs were confirmed. Nearly 20-25 apprentices were also told their contracts would be cancelled with immediate effect from September 1,” said the ex-



On Monday, we had a town hall meeting between 11 am and 12 pm, where layoffs were confirmed. About 20-25 apprentices were also told their contracts would be cancelled

Ex-employee, Games24x7

employee, who worked as a risk analyst. The employee added that while the company's Mumbai office will continue with skeletal staff, the Bengaluru office will be fully shut down. Games24x7 has an overall headcount of about 700. As per employees, senior managers with

5-10 years of experience will not be offered severance packages. The staff is currently serving a two-month notice period, but contracts will be terminated immediately if they secure jobs elsewhere.

A company spokesperson did not respond to calls or WhatsApp messages. Industry sources said companies such as Dream11, Dream Money and A23 are registered under the Responsible Gaming Play (RGP) framework. However, the government has accused illegal platforms such as Mahadev Books, Stake and Reddy Books of siphoning money from players, pushing some to suicide.

“Instead of targeting and regulating these illegal operators, the government is banning the entire industry. This is not right. Online gaming platforms pay GST and other taxes and generate employment in the country,” said an industry source.

Tesla receives 600 bookings, far below target

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

CONTRARY to expectations, US carmaker Tesla's India debut in the Indian market has been underwhelming. The Elon Musk-led car company has reportedly received orders for only 600 electric cars since it commenced sales on July 15. News agency Bloomberg reported that the number is much lower than Tesla's expectation as it was aiming to utilise its full quota of 2,500 cars this year.

The carmaker now plans to ship 350-500 cars to India this year. The first batch is likely to arrive from its Chinese factory in Shanghai in September. Tesla is likely to make initial deliveries in major metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, and Gurugram. After a long delay, Tesla entered Indian market in July by launching its popular model Model Y (RWD), at a starting price of ₹60 lakh.

TCS rolls out 4-7% salary increase for employees

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

INDIA'S largest IT services company, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), on Tuesday rolled out salary hikes of 4.5-7% for majority of its employees effective September 1. In early August, TCS had announced hikes for 80% of its workforce, just days after declaring plans to lay off 12,000 employees—about 2% of its global headcount.

In an email to employees, a copy of which was reviewed by TNIE, TCS chief HR officer Milind Lakkad shared details

of revised annual compensation and sought employees' support and commitment for the company's journey. Most increments have been awarded to junior and mid-level employees, while top performers received hikes of over 10%. Increment letters were sent on Monday.

Senior-level employees will not be eligible for the hikes, which will not be paid retrospectively. In July, TCS had announced plans to lay off 2% of its global workforce, about 12,260 employees, mainly from middle and senior grades.

Tata Capital completes overseas road-shows for \$2bn IPO

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

LEADING non-banking lender Tata Capital, which is under an RBI mandate to get listed before the end of this month, has completed road-shows in overseas markets to test investor interest for its public issue worth \$2 billion (₹17,500 cr) and is seeking a valuation of in the \$18-20 billion range.

The Tata group company is planning the issue in the third week of September, well within the regulatory mandate. “The company is set to launch its much-anticipated over \$2 billion (depending on the exchange rate) initial public offering in the week beginning September 22,” a source in the know of the plans told



TNIE on Tuesday.

“The company is looking at a valuation of \$18-20 billion post issue, depending on the rupee-dollar rate,” the source who sought not to be named, said, adding “the management and i-bankers are conducting road shows to test investor interest.” The proposed IPO of 47.58 crore shares comprises a fresh issue of 21 crore equity shares and

13 IPOs worth ₹16,000 crore get Sebi approval

MUMBAI: Between Monday and Tuesday, capital markets regulator Sebi gave approvals to as many as 13 mainboard initial public offers (IPOs), led by the headphones and smart watches brand Boat (owned by Imagine Marketing), which are collectively seeking to raise ₹16,000 crore from the primary market. The has cleared draft papers of Allchem Lifescience, Pace Digitek, Om Freight Forwarders, Priority Jewels, Mouri Tech, Ravi Infrabuild Projects, KSH International, and Omnitech Engineering, taking the count to as many as 13. ENS

an offer for sale (OFS) of 26.58 crore shares, according to the updated draft red herring prospectus filed late August.

Under the OFS component, Tata Sons, which owns nearly 88.6% in the company (down from 92.8% before the recent rights issue), will offload as much as 23 crore shares, while the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which is the

only external shareholder in the company, will divest 3.58 crore shares from its 1.8% holding.

Tata Investment Corporation is owned 68.51% by Tata Sons as of December 2024. The other shareholders include Tata Chemicals (0.09%), Tata Consumer Products (0.02%), Tata Motors (0.12%) and Tata Power (0.06%). This IPO will be the

first by a Tata group firm after the bumper listing of Tata Technologies in 2023, which was oversubscribed by close to 69.4 times, raising ₹3,042 crore. The issue got bids worth ₹1.57 trillion from 73.58 lakh applications, breaking the record set by LIC's issue in May 2022.

Proceeds from the issue will be used to strengthen the tier-1 capital, supporting future capital requirements, including on-lending, according to the Sebi filing.

The IPO is being done to meet the Reserve Bank's listing mandate for upper-layer NBFCs issued in October 2023 within three years or before the end of this month. Tata Capital was designated as an upper-layer NBFC in September 2022.

ASIANOMICS

JAPAN

BOJ MUST KEEP RAISING RATES: DY GUV

Bank of Japan Deputy Governor Ryoizo Himino on Tuesday said the central bank should keep raising interest rates but warned that global economic uncertainty remains high, suggesting it was in no rush to push up still-low borrowing costs. While Japan's trade deal with the US helps alleviate uncertainty over the economy, the exact impact of US tariffs remained unknown at this time, he said. Himino also said there were both upside and downside risks to the inflation outlook. While Japan's tight labour market may push up wages, slowing global growth and the hit to Japan's economy from higher US levies could weigh on prices, he said. Himino offered few hints on how soon the central bank could raise interest rates, saying only that it needs to ensure rate increases are neither premature nor too late. But it was hard to predict exactly when the BOJ would know how significant the tariff impact was, he added.

SINGAPORE

FACTORY ACTIVITY PICKS UP

Singapore's manufacturing output increased in August as concerns around the impact of US tariffs mellowed. The official purchasing managers' index (PMI) — a barometer of the industry's health — rose from 49.9 points in July to 50 points. The electronics sector, which accounts for around 40 per cent of overall manufacturing output, was a bright spot. It recorded a PMI of 50.4, up from 50.2 in July, marking its third straight month in expansion territory. A PMI reading above 50 indicates growth; one below suggests a contraction in output. The broader manufacturing reading was driven by a faster expansion rate in new exports, new orders and input purchases. Finished goods, imports and supplier deliveries also grew. Order backlogs continued to grow, although at a slower pace. Factory output and employment contracted at a slower rate.

SOUTH KOREA

CONSUMER PRICES UP 1.7% IN AUG, SLOWEST IN 9 MONTHS

The consumer prices in South Korea grew by 1.7% in August, the slowest pace of growth in nine months, largely due to a sharp fall in telecommunication fees, data showed on Tuesday. Consumer prices, a key gauge of inflation, rose 1.7% from a year earlier last month, as per the data from Statistics Korea. Inflation had remained above the Bank of Korea's 2% target for four consecutive months through April before slowing to 1.9 per cent in May. It then climbed again, staying above 2% in both June and July. It also marks the slowest growth since November 2024, when the comparative figure grew by 1.5 per cent on-year. The agency attributed last month's slowdown to a 21 per cent on-year drop in mobile phone fees. In response to a data breach in April, the country's largest wireless carrier SK Telecom provided a 50% discount on August bills for its over 20 million users. As a result, public service fees, including telecom charges, fell 3.6% YoY.



Australia's pacer Mitchell Starc has announced his retirement from T20Is in a strategic move to keep him battle-ready for events like the Ashes, IPL, Test series in India, and the 2027 ODI World Cup. Starc has 79 wickets in 65 matches, which makes him the 2nd most successful T20I Aussie bowler after Adam Zampa (130 wickets, 103 T20Is).

In search of lead sponsor, BCCI borrows from English football

Indian board introduces 'Fit and Proper Person' clause; deadline for submission Sept 16, which means India are unlikely to sport any lead brand logo in Asia Cup

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Rajgir

PROHIBITED BRAND CATEGORIES

- Alcohol products
- Betting or Gambling services
- Cryptocurrency
- Online Money Gaming or any such activity prohibited under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act
- Tobacco
- One which is likely to offend public morals such as, including but not limited, pornography

THE Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) have taken a leaf out of English football by inserting a new clause called the 'Fit and Proper Person' to be eligible to bid for lead sponsor rights of the national team. In 2004, English football pieced together a law to ensure that individuals wanting to own a club, pass that test. It became law to prevent persons who aren't 'fit' and 'proper' from running football clubs, institutions in their own right (it's since been renamed the Owners' and Directors' Test).

In Part C of Annexure B of the 'eligibility requirements', published today by the Board, 'each bidder must be a fit and proper person'. The world's richest cricket board 'may take into account any factor, as may be deemed fit by the BCCI, in-

cluding without limitations any one or more of the following criteria:

Some of those include no prior conviction involving "moral turpitude, economic offence or fraud", absence of conviction for any offence punishable with imprisonment for 2 (two) years or more in any jurisdiction, absence of categorisation as a



Financial eligibility

Average turnover for last three years is at least ₹300cr or Average net worth for the last three years is at least ₹300cr

FIT AND PROPER PERSON

Each bidder must be a 'Fit and Proper Person'. In order to determine whether a Person is a Fit and Proper Person, the BCCI may take into account any factor, as may be deemed fit by the BCCI, including without limitation any one or more of the following criteria: (i) not having been convicted by a court of a criminal offence or offences involving moral turpitude, economic offence or fraud; (ii) not having any conflict of interest as per the BCCI Conflict of Interest Rules; (iii) absence of conviction for any offence punishable with imprisonment for 2 (two) years or more in any jurisdiction; (iv) absence of categorisation as a wilful defaulter by the Reserve Bank of India; and/or (v) a Person having integrity and reputation; and the BCCI reserves the right to reject any bid from any bidder which in the BCCI's opinion and at its sole and absolute discretion does not satisfy this criteria.

wilful defaulter by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and or a Person having integrity and reputation." They should also not fall foul of BCCI's own Conflict of Interest rules.

They have also used strong language in terms of barring companies engaged in 'betting or gambling services'. "(a) Bidder, including any of its Group

companies: (i) should not be engaged in online money gaming, betting or gambling services or similar services in India or anywhere in the world; (ii) should not provide any online money gaming, betting or gambling services or similar services to any Person in India; and (iii) should not have any investment or ownership interest in any

Person engaged in betting or gambling services in India. To clarify, a bidder, including any of its Group companies, engaged in any activities/business that is prohibited under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 is not permitted to submit a bid."

tional team. To reflect the changing times, the Board have also barred certain sectors from the bidding process. "Bidder," one clause states, "should not be directly or indirectly engaged in the business of crypto trading or crypto exchange or crypto token or any business of similar nature." In the past, certain crypto companies enjoyed significant air time during the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Another clause states: "Bidders are prohibited from submitting bids through surrogate brands." The Board have also maintained their historical position in not welcoming tobacco or alcohol products as well. With the date of submission of bid documents set for September 16, it looks likely that the men's team may be without a lead sponsor during the Asia Cup in the Gulf later this month.



SATCHI RECALL 'TRULY SPECIAL' WORLDS RUN

ANMOL GURUNG @Chennai

WHEN the going gets tough, the tough gets going. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's journey in the last 12 months or so is an apt illustration of that maxim. Beginning with their heartbreaking defeat at the 2024 Summer Games, the shuttler duo had endured a great degree of inner turmoil for large parts of the said timeframe. However, they persevered and never lost sight of their dreams.

They gradually worked their way back before winning a bronze medal at the just-concluded BWF World Championships in Paris. In an email interview facilitated by the Badminton Association of India, the doubles pair recalled their long days, their World Championships run and also touched upon their goals for the near future. *Excerpts*

● Where do you guys stand at the moment?

Chirag: Last year's disappointment was fresh in our minds. This was the same place, same venue, same time — and going back, there were a lot of emotions. The moment the final point was served, I think that was when both of us felt very, very happy. It felt like redemption with the win. The way we went out last time in this very place — in a keenly-fought match during the Olympics — both of us really wanted to get that medal, but it wasn't meant to be. It felt like *deja vu* for us: the same stadium, same place, same round, the same quarterfinal clash, and the same opponents (Malaysian pair of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik). This time, we were able to beat them, and we are extremely happy.

● How satisfying was this run in the tournament?

Satwik: Before coming here, we were determined to beat them — especially the Chinese pair (Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang) and Aaron-Soh. It's never easy to defeat pairs we haven't had a comfortable record against at major events. So to come out here, beat them, and secure a medal was truly special. But deep down, we defi-

nately wanted to change the colour of that medal.

● Takeaways from event?

Chirag: Coming here with the draw we had... it was quite tough, to be honest, right from Day 1. Credit to them (Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi), they were serving really well and hitting surprising winners far more often than they usually do. They constantly kept us guessing. There's always something to look forward to, something to work towards. There are still plenty of areas we need to improve on.

● Your targets for the rest of the season...

Satwik: We're looking forward to the World Tour Finals — that's the aim. We wanted to perform well throughout the season, starting with the All England. But things didn't go well for us — I lost my father, and then Chirag had a back injury. Right now, we're focussed on ending the season on a strong note. We've only played one World Tour Finals so far, and this time, I really want to be there — I'll do everything I can to make it happen. Another key objective is to stay injury-free and keep working towards peak fitness, especially with an eye on the 2028 LA Olympics.

● Your thoughts while standing on podium?

Satwik: I was quite emotional. Seeing the flag... it brought back memories. Just last year, we had imagined ourselves standing here, in this very place. And to actually make it happen a year later felt surreal. I just hope my dad was watching, and that I made him proud. It was emotional, a mix of sadness, pride, and everything in between. But that's life. You have to take it as it comes, and keep moving forward. **Chirag:** It's a very special moment. It's been a while since we've stood on the podium. In fact, it had been just over a year. I wouldn't say we're entirely happy, as we could have changed the colour of the medal but when I look back at the kind of year we've had, I think this moment feels very special. **Full story: newindianexpress.com**

Asia Cup: Final race heats up

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Rajgir

AT some level, India's Asia Cup begins on Wednesday. They have done away with the business of the preliminary group stage fixtures. From Wednesday, the top four teams from the eight here will face each other before the summit clash over the weekend. The hosts know they ought to win the tournament and rubber-stamp their spot in next year's World Cup.

They have been the dominant force in Asian hockey for at least the last decade as the likes of Pakistan, South Korea and Malaysia have been left behind. Since the 2016 Olympics, they have been the only ever present Asian outfit at the quadrennial event. Needless to say, they are also the only Asian side to have medalled at the Summer Games since 2004. But they will do well to heed the lessons of the first stage. For a team whose mantra is 'defend to win', they have continued to be worryingly open at the back for over an extended duration. That has continued at Rajgir. China scored three, Japan scored two and the hosts could have easily drawn at least one of those games on another day.

Now, some teething problems were expected. It was just natural when a goalkeeper of the calibre of PR Sreejesh announced his retirement. But



India players in action during an Asian Cup match in Rajgir, Bihar | PTI

WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES

Classification: Japan vs Chinese Taipei 2.30 PM

Super 4s: Malaysia vs China 5.00 PM, India vs South Korea 7.30 PM

Krishan Pathak has been below his best, some of the senior defenders have made some big mistakes and they have had the propensity to lose the last quarter... these were some of the issues that plagued the Indian team during the European leg of the Pro League when they lost seven out of eight.

That trend has continued here. Against both China and Japan, they lost the last quarter, made some telling mistakes and couldn't regain control as

quickly as they would have liked. Even if the stifling conditions as well as the slowness of the turf has contributed to that, the Indian team will know that they cannot repeat the same pattern when the Super 4s stage of the tournament begins on Wednesday.

Coach Craig Fulton, feeling the pressure to win after a slightly indifferent Summer, said that the game against Kazakhstan on Monday (the hosts won 15-0) came at the right time. "We had enough training in the areas we wanted to improve; this game (against Kazakhstan) came at the right time because it gave us a lot more focus on the final third. Players are feeling a bit more confident, and have a bit more feel of working together. That was lacking, I think, in the other two games.

"It is nice to get through the pool phase without any injuries. Especially in a game like the one yesterday (against Kazakhstan) but two good games in the afternoon, in warm conditions, changes when we come back to play at night. The energy is really high in the team. Back-to-back wins, I think, was refreshing for everyone. Now we are on to the next challenge in the tournament. We will have a fresh approach for this phase," the coach explained. **Full story: newindianexpress.com**

SC tells AIFF to invite open tender, host ISL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE All India Football Federation has to maintain continuity with respect to the Super Cup, invite open and transparent tender and host the Indian Super League as early as possible. These were some of the highlights of the Supreme Court order on Tuesday. The apex court also appointed former judge L Nageswara Rao to overlook the tendering process.

The Supreme Court's double bench of P Narasimha and Joydalya Bagchi said that all parties have agreed to ensure timely commencement of the football calendar and to maintain competitive continuity. The SC has directed AIFF "to take such measures as may be necessary for timely commencement of the football calendar and to maintain competitive continuity for the 2025-2026 season with respect to Super Cup and other competitions under its control".

The SC also said that the AIFF will call for transparent and open tender and will be supervised by former judge L Nageswara Rao. "AIFF shall also issue necessary tenders inviting bids for open, competitive and transparent process for selection of its commercial partner to conduct Indian Super League," the order said. "For this purpose, we have requested and upon his agreement, appoint Justice L Nageswara Rao, former Judge of this Court to ensure that the selection process ensures in identifying a competent, reputed and an efficient firm as a commercial partner to conduct ISL, in line with global best practices." As for the AIFF constitution, the court said that it will take into account the to-be-implemented Sports Governance Act before finalizing its order.

US Open: Osaka, Sinner storm into last eight

AGENCIES @New York

NAOMI Osaka delivered a statement win at the US Open by thrashing home favourite Coco Gauff in the last 16 on Monday as Jannik Sinner charged into the quarter-finals. The Japanese star powered past third seed Gauff 6-3, 6-2 in a highly-anticipated but lopsided fourth-round showdown of former US Open champions on the Labor Day holiday in New York.

Osaka broke in the very first game in front of an expectant Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd and was untouchable on serve in a ruthless display against a misfiring Gauff, who hit 33 unforced errors.



Naomi Osaka of Japan reacts against Coco Gauff of the United States | AFP

Reigning men's champion Sinner obliterated the unpredictable Alexander Bublik 6-1, 6-1 in just 81 minutes to start the night session. He advances to an all-Italian matchup with 10th seed Lorenzo Musetti.

EXPRESS READ

Pranav wins with a record performance

FUJAIRAH: World Junior Champion Pranav Venkatesh scored a crushing victory over GM Alan Pichot of Spain to win the Fujairah Global Superstars chess tournament here. Pranav scored seven points out of a possible nine and finished a full point lead over nearest rivals Brandon Jacobson of US, Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara of Mexico and Amin Tabatabai of Iran who all tied for the second spot scoring six points apiece.

Cummins ruled out of India, NZ white-ball series

MELBOURNE: Australia's pacer and Test skipper Pat Cummins was on Tuesday ruled out of the upcoming white-ball series against India and New Zealand due to a lower-back issue, with Cricket Australia saying that his "rehabilitation" is being managed keeping the Ashes in mind. Australia face New Zealand in three T20Is from Oct 1 before hosting India for three ODIs (Oct 19-25) and five T20Is (Oct 29-Nov 8).

Ashu guides Delhi to win over Bengaluru

VISAKHAPATNAM: A dominant Dabang Delhi KC secured an impressive 41-34 win over Bengaluru Bulls in the Pro Kabaddi League here on Tuesday. A late fightback from the Bulls wasn't enough, as Ashu Malik (15 points), Neeraj Narwal (7), and strong defensive efforts from Surjeet Singh, Fazel Atrachali and Saurabh Nandal sealed the win for Delhi.

BUCHI BABU

Consistent Goud continues to deliver for Hyderabad

CHANDRA PRABHU @Chennai

ALL-ROUNDER Varun Goud of Hyderabad has consistently impressed in the ongoing Buchi Babu tournament here. On a hot, less humid day at the Guru Nanak College grounds here, he showed patience, grit in his 221-ball 91-run knock in Hyderabad's second innings against Haryana on Tuesday. Coming in at 66-4, Goud helped his team post 254 runs on the board on what he describes as 'happening pitch.' His inning added to his good outing in this performance, which includes three fifties and a ton.

"The innings was satisfying. I thoroughly battled for the team. Regarding my hundred, I felt I could have got it and stay unbeaten for the day," he told the media after the day's play.

Semifinals: At CSK-HPC: TNCA President's XI 567/9 decl. in 203 ovs (R Vimal Khumar 112, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 91, Andre Siddarth 57, G Ajitesh 101, RS Ambrish 83, P Vidyuth 37, Abid Mushtaq 3/137) vs Jammu & Kashmir 212/4 in 65 ovs (Yawar Hassan 72 batting, Musafir Ajjaz 36, Abdul Samad 75, P Vidyuth 3/63). At Guru Nanak: Hyderabad 225 & 254 in 99.4 ovs (Aman Rao 35, Hima Teja 41, Varun Goud 91, Nikhil Kashyap 5/80, Parth Vats 3/49) vs Haryana 208 & 6/2 in 4 ovs.

The 25-year-old all-rounder stuck to his ground and appeared to keep it simple. "There is no X-factor in my game. Yes, there are skills needed but it is about practice and this is what I learnt from Tamil Nadu batter B Sai Sudharsan — whatever it is, you will learn only by practice. Only if we experience those situations constantly at practice, that would be just

another situation in the match, then it will help you deliver. I believe that any skill set can be achieved by good, mindful practice," he said.

His responsibility as a middle-order batter according to him is to 'build strong partnerships' rather than milestones. "Whenever I come, we may have lost two or three wickets on the trot or put in a comfortable position. Most of the time it is the former. There, I



would like to take my time. Getting partnerships for the team remains more important than making fifties and centuries to me," he added.

While switching from white-ball cricket to red-ball, Goud wants to retain his shot making. "The red-ball game tests your character and your temperament. In white-ball cricket, phases keep changing frequently. But in red-ball, the situation would be similar for every game. It is about how you go through things patiently, by not making decisions out of pressure," he explained.

He made his Ranji Trophy debut for Hyderabad earlier this year, on the back of good performances in the Vijay Hazare Trophy (List-A tournament) on the fag end of 2024.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Isak moves to Liverpool, EPL clubs spend \$4 bn

AGENCIES @London

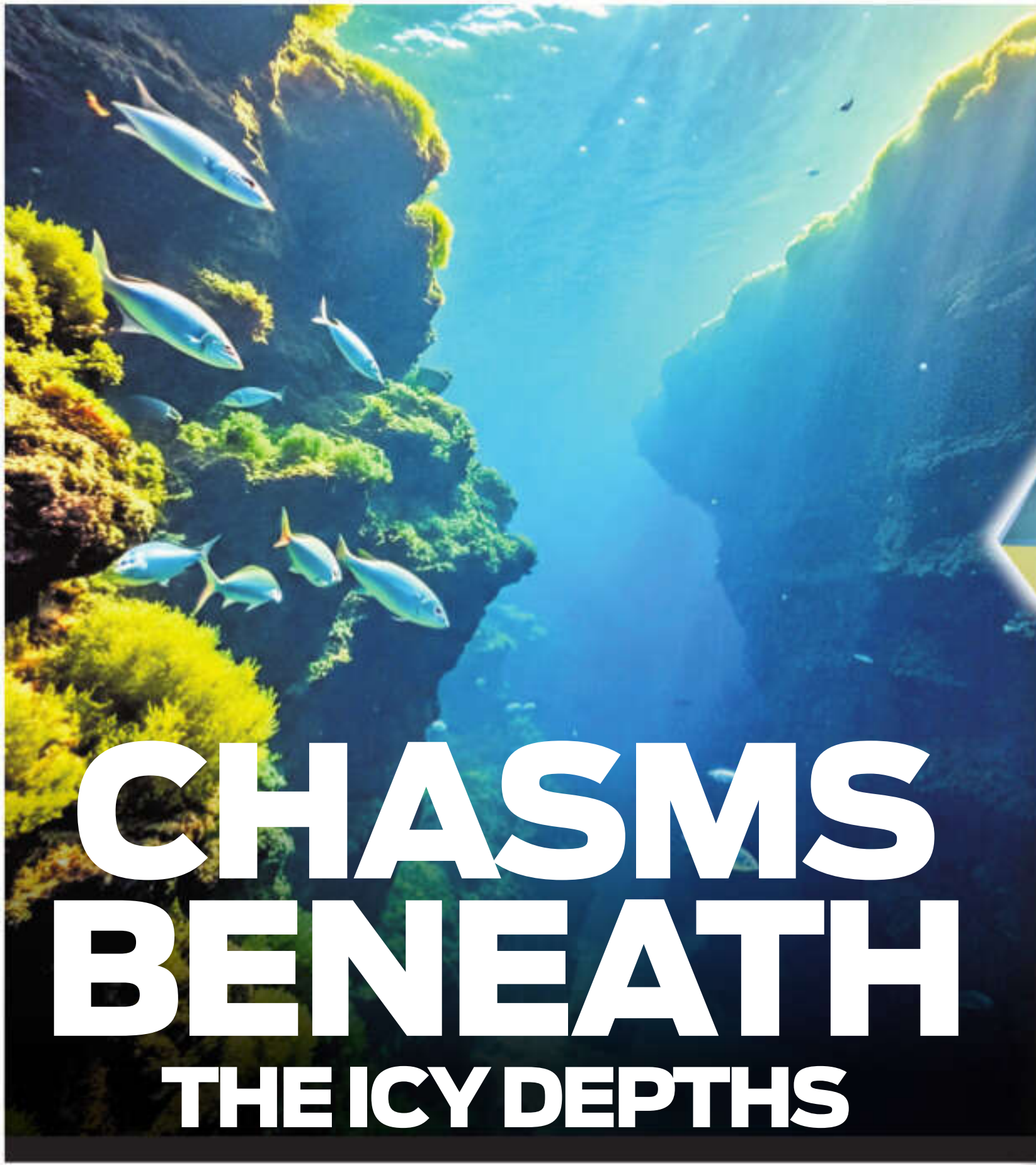
LIVERPOOL saved the biggest transfer until last in its remarkable \$570 million summer spree, finally signing Alexander Isak from Newcastle for a British-record fee as the window closed on Monday with spending by Premier League clubs soaring beyond \$4 billion. The biggest saga of Europe's summer transfer window ended with Isak completing his dream move to the English champion for 125 million pounds, with the deal announced in the final throes of a chaotic deadline day.

English clubs have smashed the previous single-window record spend of 2.36 billion pounds (now \$3.2 billion) in 2023 by splashing out around 3 billion pounds (\$4.15 billion) over the past few months.



DID YOU KNOW?

The "three holes" on a coconut are germination pores, which are key to the fruit's ability to grow a new plant



CHASMS BENEATH THE ICY DEPTHS

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE

BENEATH the rolling rhythm of waves and the vast blue canopy of ocean surface lies a hidden world, etched not by sunlight or wind, but by gravity, pressure, and time. Submarine canyons, often deeper than the Grand Canyon itself, wind their way through the seafloor like veins beneath the skin of the Earth. These majestic underwater valleys, carved into the edges of continents, tell stories of ancient glacial flows, epic sediment slides, and the powerful currents that shape not only marine landscapes, but also the climate we live in above.

Unlike river canyons formed by flowing water over land, submarine canyons are sculpted by underwater landslides, turbidity currents, and sediment gravity flows — dense, sediment-rich currents that tumble down the continental slope, carving deep V-shaped scars into the seabed. These canyons act as highways of energy and matter, transporting organic materials, sediments, and nutrients from coastal shelves into the deep ocean. In doing so, they play a key role in sustaining life at extreme depths, feeding unique ecosystems, and circulating carbon and nutrients throughout the Earth's largest carbon sink — the ocean.

Globally, nearly 10,000 submarine canyons have been identified, yet most remain poorly understood. Only around 27% of the seafloor has been mapped at high resolution, meaning vast stretches of these geological wonders are still out of sight. And until recently, some of the largest and most significant networks had eluded even the most detailed marine maps.

4,000 metres and counting...
In a groundbreaking discovery in 2025, researchers from the University of Barcelona, Spain, and University College Cork, Ireland, unveiled an enormous network of submarine canyons lurking beneath Antarctica's icy fringe. Using cutting-edge

A fluid journey through nature's underwater gorges, exploring the ancient artistry of submarine canyons and Antarctica's astonishing reveal of 332 colossal networks shaping the oceans and climate

data from the International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO v2), they identified 332 previously uncharted canyon systems surrounding the frozen continent — a staggering fivefold increase over what was previously known. Some of these formations descend more than 4,000 metres, making them among the deepest canyon structures ever recorded.

This revelation is more than just a cartographic triumph — it's a window into Earth's deep past and a lens through which we can peer into its climate future. The newly discovered Antarctic canyons are not uniform in shape or scale. East Antarctica, with its older, more stable ice sheets, features sprawling canyon systems with wide, U-shaped valleys and multiple tributaries. These suggest a long history of sedimentary buildup and glacial shaping. In contrast, the canyon systems in West Antarctica are more abrupt, narrower, and steep-sided, shaped by younger, more dynamic glacial activity. These variations hint at different evolutionary timelines for ice flow, sediment transport, and even tectonic influence.

Beyond their dramatic structure, submarine canyons are fundamental to oceanic processes. In the Southern Ocean, they act as natural channels for water mass exchange. Cold, dense Antarctic Bottom Water forms in the polar regions and sinks, flowing into the abyssal plains through these canyons, helping drive the global thermohaline circulation — a planetary

conveyor belt of heat and salinity that affects weather patterns, sea level, and marine life across the globe.

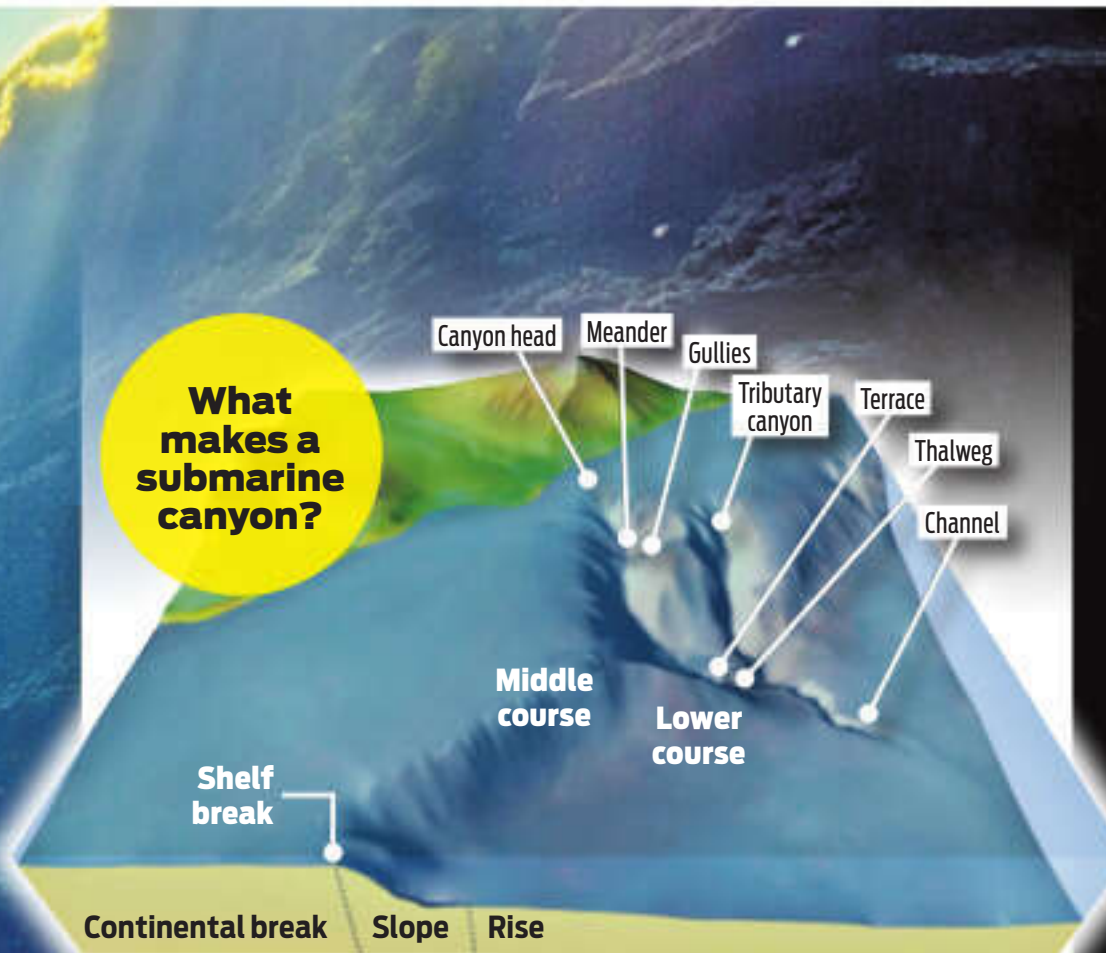
But these canyons don't just carry cold water outward; they also act as avenues for warm water to flow in. Circumpolar Deep Water, relatively warm and salty, can creep up these submarine canyons and make direct contact with the undersides of ice shelves, accelerating melt from below. This "under-ice attack" has been observed in glaciers such as Thwaites and Pine Island, and the newly mapped canyon networks suggest that this phenomenon could be far more widespread than previously thought. The implication is stark: submarine canyons may be playing a much larger role in ice shelf destabilisation and sea-level rise than our current climate models account for.

And that's part of the problem! These features have, until now, largely been excluded from global climate simulations. The complexity and inaccessibility of the ocean floor have meant that most models treat seabeds as relatively flat, missing the profound influence these canyons have on water movement, heat exchange, and ice-ocean interaction. The Antarctic discovery is a wake-up call for oceanographers and climate scientists alike, underscoring the need to integrate fine-scale topography into predictive models to better anticipate changes in ice sheet dynamics and future sea-level trajectories.

Where life thrives

More than geological curiosities, submarine canyons also support vibrant ecosystems, offering refuge and food for deep-sea life. Their steep walls and chaotic topography trap organic matter, attract bottom-dwelling creatures, and provide shelter from predators and currents. Many of these habitats remain unexplored, but in known canyons, scientists have found rich assemblages of corals, sponges, and mysterious life forms that survive in the black depths without sunlight, entire ecosystems clinging to the walls of an unseen world.

The new Antarctic mapping effort is a testament to human



What makes a submarine canyon?

What is IBCSO?

The International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO) is a collaborative, high-resolution, digital bathymetric model map of the Southern Ocean's seafloor, aiming to improve scientific understanding of this remote region.

Compiled from data contributed by dozens of international institutions, it provides the most detailed view of the ocean's topography south of 50°S, supporting various scientific investigations and the broader goal of mapping the world's oceans. The digital bathymetric models and associated data are publicly available through the IBCSO website and platforms like PANGAEA.



KEY ASPECTS

- **Purpose:** To map the detailed topography of the Southern Ocean to support scientific research, geomorphology, and oceanography
- **Data Collection:** It compiles vast amounts of bathymetric data, including multibeam and single-beam echo soundings, from numerous countries and institutions
- **Global Collaboration:** The project relies heavily on international collaboration due to the Southern Ocean's size and harsh conditions
- **Regional Mapping Project:** IBCSO is a regional component of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) project

VERSIONS

- IBCSO v1.0 was published in 2013, covering the Southern Ocean south of 60°S
- IBCSO v2 was released in 2022, extending coverage to 50°S, mapping a wider seafloor. IBCSO 2024 Annual Release is the latest update to Version 2, with data available through the project's website.

Prominent submarine canyons

NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

- Amazon Canyon, off the coast of Brazil, it extends from the Amazon River
- Baltimore Canyon, found off the coast of Maryland
- Hatteras Canyon, situated off the coast of North Carolina
- Hudson Canyon, extending from the Hudson River
- La Jolla, Scripps, and Monterey Canyons, which are off the coast of Southern and Central California
- Mona Canyon, located off the coast of western Puerto Rico

EUROPE

- Avilés Canyon, located off the coast of Asturias, Spain
- Blanes Canyon,

found on the coast of Catalonia, in the Mediterranean Sea

- Nazaré Canyon, located off the coast of Portugal, known for producing large waves for surfing
- Whittard Canyon, situated in the Atlantic Ocean, off the southwest coast of Ireland

ASIA AND AFRICA

- Congo Canyon, the largest river canyon, extends from the Congo River in Africa
- Ganges Canyon, extending from the River Ganga in India and Bangladesh

- Indus Canyon, extends from the River Indus in India and Pakistan
- Chilung, Mienhua, and North Mienhua Canyons, found on the continental margin off the coast of Taiwan
- Bering Canyon (top), Pribilof Canyon, Zhemchug, and Navarin Canyons, which are some of the largest canyons incising the eastern Bering Sea shelf break

OCEANIA

- Kaikōura Canyon, located off the coast of the Kaikōura Peninsula in New Zealand, it is known for its high biomass of deep-sea organisms
- Perth Canyon, found off the coast of Perth, Western Australia

curiosity and technological progress. Advances in sonar mapping, satellite altimetry, and collaborative ocean data sharing are revealing a richer, more dynamic picture of Earth's underwater landscapes. But much remains unknown. As climate change accelerates and ocean temperatures rise, the behaviour of these canyon systems, and the ice sheets they interact with, will become increasingly vital to understanding the glo-

bal picture. In a time of rising seas, melting glaciers, and shifting climates, the world beneath the ice has never mattered more. Submarine canyons — those quiet, dark chasms snaking beneath continents — are not just scars of the past, but key actors in the Earth's living drama. They are arteries of movement, cradles of biodiversity, and hidden engines in the vast machinery of planetary change.

BRAINY MACHINES

AI TO THE RESCUE OF PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

THANKS to artificial intelligence (AI), something wonderful is round the corner to make life easier for immobilised persons, like those with paralysis or physically challenged. It is almost like a thought-powered mechanism that could help them in moving limbs precisely the way they want to. University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) engineers have developed a wearable, non-invasive brain-computer (BCI) interface system using artificial intelligence as a co-pilot to help

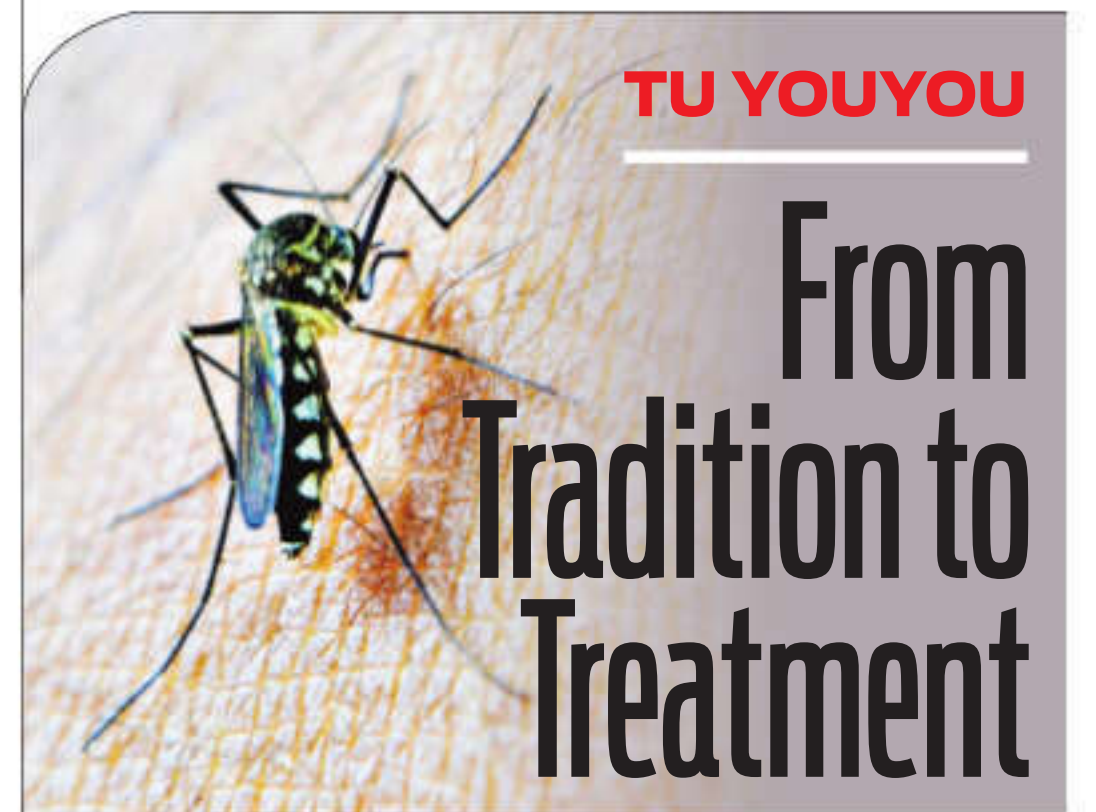
infer user intent and complete tasks by moving a robotic arm or a computer cursor. They developed custom algorithms to decode electroencephalography, or EEG, which records the brain's electrical activity. The algorithms then extract signals linked to movement intentions. The engineers then paired the decoded signals with a camera-based artificial intelligence platform, which interprets user direction and intent in real time. When tried out, they found that the BCI system allowed individuals to complete tasks faster than those without AI assistance. The currently prevailing systems in this domain are surgically implanted BCI devices, unlike the non-invasive improvement brought in by the UCLA and highlighted in a study in Nature Machine Intelligence. The surgically implanted ones do translate the brain signals into commands, but cannot be done without neurosurgery to implant them — risky apart from being much more expensive. This has inhibited it from becoming popular despite these having come on to the scene more than two decades ago. Moreover, the wearable external BCI systems, which are also non-invasive, but without AI, are poorer performers in reliably detecting the brain signals. It was to overcome these limitations



Science is a world in itself. Here are some interesting facts that connect with you

Nirad Mudur

that the UCLA team tested their AI-assisted non-invasive BCI system on four participants — one of who was paralyzed waist down — and they were able to complete limb movement tasks successfully. Next: developing more advanced co-pilots that move robotic arms/legs with higher speed and more precision for better user control.



AARATI KRISHNA

IN the realm of global health breakthroughs, few stories are as remarkable as that of Tu Youyou — a modest Chinese scientist whose work reshaped the fight against malaria. Her discovery of artemisinin, a life-saving antimalarial drug, has saved millions of lives and continues to do so today. Born in 1930 in Ningbo, China, Tu grew up during wartime hardship and political upheaval. A bout of tuberculosis in her youth inspired her to pursue medical science, leading her to study pharmacology at Beijing Medical College.

By the late 1960s, malaria had become resistant to standard treatments like chloroquine, posing a major health crisis, especially in Southeast Asia. In response, the Chinese government launched a secret research programme in 1967, 'Project 523', to find a new antimalarial cure. Tu, then a researcher at the China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, was appointed to lead one of its key teams.

While others pursued synthetic chemicals, Tu turned to traditional Chinese medicine. Her team sifted through over 2,000 ancient remedies and tested more than 200 herbal extracts on infected animals. A crucial breakthrough came when she reexamined A Handbook of Prescriptions for Emergencies, a 4th-century medical text that recommended using Artemisia annua (sweet wormwood) for fever. Unlike earlier researchers, Tu carefully followed the original preparation method — soaking the plant in cool water rather than boiling it — and successfully extracted a powerful antimalarial compound: Artemisinin.

Human trials in 1972 showed dramatic success, and Tu even volunteered to be one of the first human test subjects. Despite the discovery's impact, her work remained unrecognised for decades due to the classified nature of Project 523.

Today, artemisinin-based therapies are the global standard for malaria treatment. Tu Youyou was awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, becoming the first Chinese woman to win a Nobel. She also received the Lasker Award, China's top science honours, and the Medal of the Republic. Tu continues to advocate for vigilance, warning of emerging resistance and urging continued innovation in malaria research. Her legacy stands as a testament to the power of blending ancient wisdom with modern science.



BEHIND THE SCIENCE

HOW IT WORKS

NATURE'S HIDDEN CODE: THE FIBONACCI SEQUENCE

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE

In the gentle spiral of a seashell, the branching of trees, or the mesmerising arrangement of sunflower seeds, there exists a quiet mathematical order — a rhythm hidden beneath organic beauty. This order is often described by the Fibonacci Sequence, a simple yet profound numerical pattern that begins with 0 and 1, with each subsequent number the sum of the two before it.

Though rooted in mathematics, the sequence finds stunning expression in nature, suggesting a mysterious, elegant blueprint underlying the world around us.

The Fibonacci Sequence — 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, and so on — was introduced to Western mathematics by Leonardo of Pisa, known as Fibonacci, in the 13th century. While he originally used it to model rabbit populations, its real wonder lies in how frequently and beautifully

it appears in the natural world.

One of the most striking examples of this pattern is the arrangement of leaves on a stem or petals in flowers, a phenomenon known as phyllotaxis. Many plants grow new leaves at angles that follow the Fibonacci ratio, ensuring that each leaf gets maximum sunlight with minimal overlap. This optimally efficient design is not coincidental, it's an evolutionary solution encoded in plant genetics



and shaped by natural selection. The Fibonacci sequence also governs the growth of pi-

necones, pineapples, and sunflowers. In these structures, seeds or scales often form spirals that curve both left and right, and the number of spirals in each direction typically corresponds to adjacent Fibonacci numbers. This spiral pattern allows the plant to pack seeds densely, using space with astonishing efficiency.

Spiral shells, like those of the nautilus or snail, also echo the Fibonacci sequence through a related mathematical form

known as the golden spiral. While not every spiral in nature strictly adheres to Fibonacci numbers, the general growth principle follows a logarithmic pattern, where each new part grows proportionally to the previous ones, mirroring the additive logic of the sequence.

Even beyond flora and shells, Fibonacci numbers can appear in unexpected places, such as the family trees of honeybees or the structure of hurricanes

and galaxies. Though not universal, the sequence recurs with such frequency that it has inspired centuries of curiosity, blending science, aesthetics, and even philosophy.

In essence, the Fibonacci sequence is more than a mathematical curiosity — it's a bridge between numbers and nature, order and chaos, science and art. It reminds us that beneath the apparent randomness of life lies a subtle structure, waiting to be seen.