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CM Opens Steel Flyover, Slams BRS, BJP For Opposing Musi



FROM OUR STFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD, SEPT 3

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday accused the opposition BRS and BJP of creating hurdles to the Musi rejuvenation project and said the government had taken up the initiative with the aim of creating a night-time economy and generating employment opportunities, particularly for the economically weaker sections of the Muslim community in Hyderabad.

Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the Nalgonda crossroads steel flyover, he criticised the previous BRS government for failing to allocate funds for infrastructure projects in the city and limiting itself to laying foundation stones during its 10-year rule.

“The previous government merely performed the groundbreaking ceremony and washed its hands. The KCR government did not spend a single penny on the bridge’s construction. However, the people’s government provided the funds and completed it,” Revanth Reddy said.

Recalling his association with Hyderabad’s Old City, which he described as the “Original City”, the Chief Minister announced that the Metro Rail project between Gowliguda and Chandrayanagutta would be completed before the next Assembly elections. “I will visit the Old City on Metro Rail and seek votes in the next elections,” he said.

He said the Metro network would be expanded

from Nagole to LB Nagar, Bandlaguda, Rajendranagar and Shamshabad.

Listing development works undertaken by the Congress government in the Old City, Revanth Reddy said a three-km cable bridge at Mir Alam Tank was under construction and would be a replica of the Durgam Cheruvu cable bridge, which has emerged as a major tourist attraction.

He directed officials to sanction development works requisitioned by AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi and announced Rs25 crore for works sought by Malakpet MLA Balala. He asked the MLA to complete the works within 18 months, assuring him that the government would provide the required funds, particularly for strengthening the education sector.

Revanth Reddy praised Owaisi for displaying patriotism during Operation Sindoor and said political differences should not come in the way of national unity. “Political ideologies may differ, but we are united when it comes to patriotism,” he said, asserting that Telangana would progress only when Hindus and Muslims worked together.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the government’s welfare initiatives, including the construction of one lakh Indiramma houses for the poor in Hyderabad, four per cent reservation for Muslims, up to 200 units of free electricity for poor families and cooking gas cylinders at Rs 500. He reiterated that his priority was development and that politics would be taken up only during elections.



After Surekha's caste charge, govt names 3 BC women in key posts

FROM OUR STFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD, SEPT 3

Soon after East Warangal MLA and former endowments minister Konda Surekha alleged she was sacked because she is a Backwards Classes (BC) woman, the government has made three new appointments from her same community, and all are women.

Former GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi is now the new vice-chairperson of the Telangana Planning Board. Nerella Sharada has been appointed as Chairperson of the Telangana Commission for Women and G Sudha Rani will now head the Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (KUDA).

After days of speculation, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy removed Konda Surekha from the Council of Ministers, following a disciplinary row over Surekha’s daughter, Konda Susmitha Patel’s remarks against him.

Shortly after her dismissal, Konda Surekha wrote to the All India Congress Committee and senior leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging she was targeted on caste grounds. He accused Revanth of obstructing her decisions and thereby limiting her powers as a minister.

“I have increasingly felt politically and administratively marginalised. I found this deeply hurtful. It created a strong impression that even a minimum recognition and dignity due to me in my official capacity were being deliberately denied,” the letter read.

The controversy with Konda Surekha started on August 19, when her daughter, Konda Susmitha Patel, made remarks against CM Revanth at an event in Geesugonda.

Sushmita announced she would contest the upcoming elections from Parakala and would even run as an independent if the party high command denied her a ticket.

The disciplinary committee then issued a notice to Surekha directing her to submit a reply within three days. In her reply, Surekha said it is not proper to seek her explanation for the personal comments made by her daughter. She said holding her responsible for her daughter’s comments was against the principles of natural justice.

A large number of Congress MLAs took exception to the remarks and said Surekha cannot distance herself from the comments of her daughter.

Another day, another government officer in Telangana ACB net

FROM OUR STFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD, SEPT 3

The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday, September 3, arrested Suryapet Town Planning Officer V Somaiah in connection with a disproportionate assets case worth Rs 3 crore.

Somaiah was arrested from his residence in Manasa Nagar during a raid based on multiple complaints against him. ACB teams searched nine locations in Suryapet and Hyderabad, including his house and office and premises linked to his relatives and associates.

The raids revealed Somaiah has three acre agricultural land worth Rs 2,94,000 in Suryapet, eight open plots and five residential properties in Suryapet and Hyderabad, residential properties comprising G+1, G+2, G+4 buildings with a penthouse and two flats, all worth Rs 2.75 crore.

Officials have seized several key documents from his house and are closely examining his bank accounts and property details. The government officer yielded Rs. 4.63 lakh in cash, bank balances of Rs 13 lakh, 709 grams of gold and 1.75 kg of silver ornaments with a combined value of Rs 20 lakh, two four-wheelers and three two-wheelers at around Rs 25.20 lakh and household articles and electronic gadgets were estimated at Rs 11 lakh.



The total value of assets unearthed during the searches was estimated at Rs. 3.54 crore. Further verification of additional assets is underway.

The officer is being produced before the Principal Special Judge for SPE and ACB Cases, Hyderabad, for judicial remand. The case is under investigation.

Governor approves CM's decision to sack Konda Surekha

FROM OUR STFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD, SEPT 3

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Thursday, Septmeber 3, approved Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy’s decision to sack Forest Minister Konda Surekha.

“On the advice of the Chief Minister of Telangana, the Governor of Telangana has dropped Konda Surekha, Minister from the Council of Ministers with immediate effect,” a Lok Bhavan Press Communique said.

Earlier in the day, CM Reddy decided to drop his Cabinet colleague, Konda Surekha from the Council of Ministers with immediate effect, amid a row over the remarks made against him and others by her daughter.

Surekha wrote to the Congress high command, accusing Revanth of targeting her on caste grounds. She alleged that he obstructed her decisions, issuing directions directly from the Chief Minister’s Office, limiting her powers as a minister.



Sriharikota: ISRO Roars Back into Action



Sriharikota, Sept 3

In a spectacular early-morning display of technical brilliance, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the GSLV-F17/EOS-05 mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR) Sriharikota at 2:55 AM on Friday.

Leaving a trail of orange flames that pierced the darkness, the 51.7-metre-tall GSLV lifted off majestically from the Second Launch Pad and zoomed into the night sky with textbook precision. The flawless execution sparked immediate celebration, bringing immense delight to scientists at the Mission Control Room and the crowds gathered at the visitors gallery, unmindful of the downpour, to witness the historic event.

Weighing 420.5 tonnes at lift-off, the three-stage Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)—equipped with an indigenous cryogenic upper stage and a 4-metre-diameter ogive composite payload fairing—perfectly deployed the Earth Observation Satellite-05

(EOS-05) into its targeted Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub-GTO).

Operating from an altitude of around 36,000 km, EOS-05 marks a monumental milestone as India’s first-ever imaging satellite stationed in a geosynchronous orbit.

The state-of-the-art spacecraft is engineered to provide advanced, real-time Earth observation data, vastly strengthening the country’s capabilities in land monitoring, environmental tracking, and disaster management.

Notably, EOS-05 serves as a highly anticipated replacement for the GISAT-1A satellite, which was lost during a launch failure in 2021.

The high-stakes mission was closely watched worldwide, carrying immense weight for India’s space program. Following an uncharacteristic seven-month pause triggered by anomalies in two successive PSLV missions—including the PSLV-C62 mission on January 12—ISRO had temporarily halted launches to conduct exhaustive technical reviews.

Why Panjab University poll results have pushed fresh political narrative in Punjab — for BJP and AAP



Panjab University students hold a protest regarding the student union electionsStudents raise slogans both inside and outside the Law Department area at Panjab University regarding the Panjab University Student Council (PUSU) Elections, in Chandigarh on Monday. On a day a senior BJP leader ruled out any alliance for 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, the Panjab University Campus Students Council (PUCSC) presidential election result on Monday evening added fresh fuel to the political speculations gaining ground in the poll-bound state.

RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) retained the PUCSC president's post for a second consecutive year, with its candidate Ankit Bidhan defeating Aam Aadmi Party student outfit ASAP's Adil Brar by 506 votes. The victory assumed added significance as the Students' Organisation of India (SOI), the student wing of Sukhbir Singh Badal-led Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), had extended support to the ABVP candidate just a day before polling.Bidhan polled 3,143 votes against Brar's 2,637, while Congress student organisation NSUI's Gurman Sidhu finished third with 2,263 votes.The ABVP-SOI victory revived discussion about whether the former allies BJP and SAD could eventually find common ground ahead of the 2027 electoral outing. The SAD had parted ways with the BJP in 2020 after remaining alliance partners for nearly two decades.Panjab University elections are closely watched in Punjab, particularly ahead of Assembly polls, and are often viewed as an indicator of political sentiment among young voters. The latest verdict has therefore provided the BJP with an opportunity to project the result as evidence of growing acceptance among the state's youth.Rajya Sabha MP Satnam Singh Sandhu described ABVP's second consecutive presidential victory as an "important political message", saying it reflected growing trust in the BJP among young

people.ABVP being elected to the post of President for the second consecutive time at Panjab University is, in itself, an important political message," Sandhu said. He linked the result to the BJP's broader narrative of development, employment and opportunities for young people under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.Punjab BJP chief Kewal Singh Dhillon, former state BJP president Sunil Jakhar and other party leaders congratulated Bidhan.Jakhar specifically acknowledged SOI's role in the victory. "The winds of change have begun to blow from Panjab University. For the second consecutive time, the ABVP has created history by securing victory in the student elections. SOI played an important role in this victory," he said, adding that the result reflected "the new thinking of the new generation". He also congratulated Bidhan and the ABVP team.Dhillon, in a post on X, said the second consecutive victory on the president's post showed that "Gen Z had once again made its choice loud and clear".For the AAP, however, the result presents an uncomfortable political signal. The party had put considerable organisational effort into the PU elections and appointed its youngest MP, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, as election in-charge for the ASAP campaign. Hayer was not available for comment.The defeat is particularly noteworthy because AAP came to power in Punjab in 2022 riding on an anti-establishment and youth-oriented campaign. The PU verdict could prompt the party to assess whether the enthusiasm among young voters that contributed to its landslide victory four years ago is showing signs of a shift.For the SAD, the outcome offers visibility at a university that attracts students from across Punjab. Its student wing's last-minute tie-up with ABVP, followed by a decisive victory, has inevitably added to the political conversation around the two parties' future relationship.The Congress, meanwhile, had little to cheer about, with NSUI finishing third. The result adds to the challenges confronting the party's student and state-level organisation.Kanchan Vasdev is a Senior Assistant Editor in The Indian Express' Punjab bureau. She is a highly experienced journalist with 22 years of expertise covering high-stakes politics, governance, and social issues in Northern India. Professional Background Role: Primary reporter covering the Punjab Chief Minister's Office (CMO), government policies, and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leadership in the state. Experience: She previously worked with The Tribune and has played a key role in launching various city editions. Special Projects: Abandoned Brides: Authored a monograph on brides abandoned by NRIs as part of the Prabha Dutt Memorial

900 fingerprint samples, 85 witnesses: Surat cops probe charging cable murder



Around 3:30 am on August 24, a farmer from a village in Surat district and his wife returned home from a pilgrimage and found the body of their youngest daughter, 25, on the terrace of their house with her hands tied and head covered in a polythene bag bound at the neck with a mobile charging cable.A week later, the Surat Rural Police still have no solid leads in the case – except that a couple was “questioned on suspicion”. By Monday, the police collected 900 fingerprint samples, trying to match them with prints found around the house with those of villagers, but in vain. The village sarpanch has announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh to anyone – underlining that their identity would be concealed – who provides leads on the accused.The farmer last spoke to his daughter around 9:30 pm on August 23, asking her to keep the doors and windows closed and her mobile phone ringer on. On August 21, he and his wife left on a pilgrimage and returned in the early hours on August 24. They rang the doorbell repeatedly. but got no response. The door was locked from inside and their daughter was not answering her phone.

She had been alone the whole of August 23, after her aunt, who visited on August 22 with her husband and 24-year-old son, from Surat, left. According to the FIR, she left because of “some health issues”.The farmer spoke to his daughter on the afternoon of August 23 after his sister left and then again on the night of August 24. A senior police officer said, “We are sure that the culprits behind the incident are known to the woman and her family members. After killing her on the ground floor, the accused lifted her body, took it to the terrace, tied both her hands and put a polythene bag over her face. We found some fingerprints in different places of the house. After the incident, we have taken statements from around 85 people known to the deceased's family, including her friends. We have also taken fingerprints from 900 people in the village to match them with those found at the scene, but none matched. It has been confirmed that there was no rape committed against the victim, but there are signs of sexual assault.”The officer said, “There are no CCTVs outside the house and those of neighbours. We have got details of the phones from the area through a nearby mobile tower. We are retrieving data from her mobile phone, which was found submerged in a water pit. We have questioned a couple who is under

suspicion.”According to the FIR, the farmer found the “rear door of the house ajar”. “I entered the room and found household items lying on the floor. After crossing the kitchen, I reached the front room and opened the main door of our house so that my wife, waiting outside, could enter. We both called our daughter's name, but there was no response from any of the rooms. We checked each and every corner of the house, but to no avail. The almirah doors were found open and several items were lying on the floor. Cash and jewellery worth around Rs 2.50 lakh were missing”, the FIR said.

The couple then went to a neighbour's house and woke them for help. The neighbour accompanied them and the trio went to the terrace of the house, which has a small cabin. Outside the cabin door, the couple found their daughter in her night dress, her hands tied with black string, her face covered with a polythene bag, a mobile charging wire, and another string wrapped around her neck. The parents informed the police.A police team, along with a dog squad and forensic officials reached the spot, and sent the body for postmortem examination. The farmer filed a complaint of murder and robbery against unidentified persons at the local police station. Surat District Superintendent of Police Rajesh Gadhiya also reached the spot after being informed.

'I have no enemies': Woman's fatherThe farmer, who is in his 50s, has two other daughters who are married and settled outside the state. The youngest daughter had completed her graduation and was planning to go abroad for further studies. “I have no enemies... I never put pressure on her over studies or anything else. She was given full freedom. We even gave her permission to select a suitable boy to get married. There were a couple of proposals from boys who expressed their wish to marry her. We left the decision to her,” he said.The sister of the deceased told The Indian Express, “My sister was good at studies. She wanted to do a masters' degree from abroad and her admission process was in progress, even as she started preparations for competitive exams. We have no enemies in the village and my father was tilling his own inherited land.”Three days after the incident, the police found the mobile phone of the deceased in the backyard of the house, submerged in water. The family members initially refused to accept the body, demanding arrest of the accused. Later, the village elders intervened and persuaded them.

On Sunday, members of the tribal community to which the woman and her family belong announced that if the culprits were not arrested, they would launch protests.Surat's Superintendent of Police Rajesh Gadhiya assured them that police were making all possible efforts to catch the culprits. The village sarpanch said, “We have seen her right from her younger days. She was a studious child. Our village population is around 4,000, and the major occupation of the people is agriculture and animal husbandry.”She added, “The announcement about the reward money has been posted on social media so that people from other villages can also know about it. We did so in coordination with the Surat Police.”



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Karnataka chain snatcher found dead after ambulance escape; murder suspected



Jayanth alias Battery Jayanth, an alleged chain snatcher from Tumakuru in Karnataka, was caught trying to steal a gold chain last month and assaulted by locals. He escaped from an ambulance transporting him—only to be found dead near a lake the next day. The investigation into the 35-year-old's death, initially thought to be accidental, has now taken a turn with the police suspecting murder.Jayanth and his associate, Yatheesh, were caught near Nalamangala in Bengaluru Rural district on August 23. According to the police, the duo was assaulted

Only fifth recorded sighting in 150 yrs: Rare Siberian visitor spotted at Najafgarh lake

It was the bold white supercilium — the stripe above the eye — and rusty-brown scalloped feathers fading into the underbelly that helped identify the puffy-bodied wader at Najafgarh Jheel as a sharp-tailed sandpiper, rather than the similar-looking pectoral sandpiper.The bird was spotted near Mankrola village on the Gurgaon side of the marshy lake on Sunday – a rare sighting that added to the very limited records of the species in Delhi-NCR and the country as a whole.Akshit Dua, an NCR-based conservationist and birder, documented the sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) as it moved in the fields, actively foraging amid a flock of common sandpipers and wood sandpipers.Crown features including the rufous-streaked cap, along with the distinctive eye-ring and rusty-brown scalloped feathers with diffused breast markings helped identify and distinguish the bird, Dua said.“It is hard to identify waders easily in the field, especially with the naked eye. Many species have similar bills and calls, making short viewings difficult,” he said. Dua's sighting of *Calidris acuminata* is significant because it was only the fifth recorded sighting of the species in India over a period of almost a century and a half.

A study published in Indian Birds, widely regarded as the bird journal of record in India, documents the sighting of a male in Gilgit in 1880, a female in Vandalur in Tamil Nadu in 1915, an unconfirmed record from Kurud Tank in Chhattisgarh in 2004, and a photographed individual at the Najafgarh marshland on September 24, 2019.The sharp-tailed sandpiper breeds in northern Siberia, in an area that extends from the Lena river delta on the eastern Arctic Ocean southeastward to the Kolyma region, and migrates south over East Asia to its main non-breeding grounds in Australia and New Zealand.Smaller numbers fly to Melanasia, a cluster of islands in the southwestern Pacific Ocean between New Guinea in the west to Fiji in the east.The species is, therefore, an exceptionally uncommon visitor to India. “The

Signs of burglaryAccording to the FIR, the farmer found the “rear door of the house ajar”. “I entered the room and found household items lying on the floor. After crossing the kitchen, I reached the front room and opened the main door of our house so that my wife, waiting outside, could enter. We both called our daughter's name, but there was no response from any of the rooms. We checked each and every corner of the house, but to no avail. The almirah doors were found open and several items were lying on the floor. Cash and jewellery worth around Rs 2.50 lakh were missing”, the FIR said.The couple then went to a neighbour's house and woke them for help. The neighbour accompanied them and the trio went to the terrace of the house, which has a small cabin. Outside the cabin door, the couple found their daughter in her night dress, her hands tied with black string, her face covered with a polythene bag, a mobile charging wire, and another string wrapped around her neck. The parents informed the police.A police team, along with a dog squad and forensic officials reached the spot, and sent the body for postmortem examination. The farmer filed a complaint of murder and robbery against unidentified persons at the local police station. Surat District Superintendent of Police Rajesh Gadhiya also reached the spot after being informed.

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before being handed over. They were being transported in an ambulance when they allegedly attacked the driver, Siddaraju, and a nurse, Sachin, and fled.

The police patrol vehicle accompanying them was allegedly diverted to attend another distress call at the time.On August 24, Jayanth's body was found near Govenahalli Lake. The post-mortem report ruled out drowning and suggested a slit wound on his throat. “We have registered a murder case and are investigating further,” Chandrakanth M V, Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru Rural, said on Monday.The police have lodged a First Information Report based on Jayanth's sister's complaint. Jayanth's lawyer Manjunath alleged that he was murdered and claimed the police had opened fire at him, an allegation the police denied.Lakshminarayana A V, Additional Superintendent of Police, who is monitoring the investigation, said that they are on the lookout for Yatheesh. “We have questioned the police and the hospital staff. Teams have been formed to nab Yatheesh,” he added.Jayanth had a long record of criminal cases at the Nalamangala Rural, Dabaspeth, and Thyamagondlu police stations, and was involved in more than 25 cases.

species never flies south over Kashmir, which makes it a very rare bird in India,” naturalist Ramkumar, who has previously worked with the Bombay Natural History Society, said.Ecologist Sohail Madan said, “The sighting of the sharp-tailed sandpiper at Najafgarh Lake is remarkable not just because it is an uncommon visitor to the Delhi-NCR region, but because it highlights the extraordinary biodiversity that persists in wetlands around our cities.”These places”, Madan said, “are often seen as wastelands or vacant land, but they are incredibly important habitats for migratory birds and a whole range of other species”.Overall, sharp-tailed sandpiper populations are in decline. A conservation assessment by the Australian government has estimated that population has declined by about 45 per cent over three generations, or roughly 15 years, and listed habitat loss and degradation among the major threats to the species, which is classified as ‘Vulnerable’ in the IUCN Red List.The sharp-tailed sandpiper forages in both coastal and inland wetlands, in freshwater and hypersaline habitats. It feeds on seeds, worms, molluscs, crustaceans, and insects after rainfall, and often forages in agricultural pastures and in the shallow-water edges of wetlands.Around the Yellow Sea between China and the Korean peninsula, an important stopover region on the annual migration route of the bird, coastal habitats have been lost to residential, industrial and aquaculture development. Pollution, altered sediment flows, and rise in sea levels have added to the pressure. In Australia, drought and reduced areas of inland wetlands are major concerns.The sharp-tailed sandpiper reported by Dua is not the only unusual migrant recorded at Najafgarh. A rustic bunting was spotted at the wetland a few days earlier, another rare sighting in the region, NCR birder Yatin Verma said.Dr Anil Kumar, a veterinarian with the Haryana government and a birder who has been visiting the Najafgarh lake for around 15 years, said the region sees active migration in August-September, and again in March.

CNG price up by Rs 2/kg in Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad from September 1

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) will cost Rs 2 more per kg in Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad and neighbouring areas from September 1, Maharashtra Natural Gas Limited (MNGL) said on Monday.

MNGL attributed the increase to renewed tensions in West Asia, which it said had disrupted the movement of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) cargo ships through the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global energy trade.According to the company, the disruption since July has pushed global LNG prices to nearly twice their levels before the crisis.Europe's efforts to build up gas stocks

ahead of winter have further added to pressure on international supplies.MNGL sources part of the gas used for CNG through imported spot LNG. The company said the Rs 2 per kg increase was only a part of the rise in its input costs.The price revision comes as CNG use continues to grow in Pune and across India, driven by its lower cost compared with petrol and diesel.MNGL said CNG would still be around 45 per cent cheaper than petrol and 23 per cent cheaper than diesel for private cars. For autorickshaw operators, it said, the savings compared with diesel would be around 25 per cent.

US and Iran having 'very good discussions', Trump says



DUBAI/WASHINGTON, 6U.S. President Donald Trump said his administration had "very good discussions" with Iran during all-day negotiations on Tuesday, fuelling expectations of an imminent end to the five-month conflict.Oil prices fell and stocks jumped in Asian trade on Wednesday after Wall Street hit record highs on hopes that a deal could soon be reached to restore traffic through the blockaded Strait of Hormuz.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here." They had an all-day negotiation," Trump told Fox News' "@ Night" show. The Strait of Hormuz "is going to be open very soon," Trump added. "If they back out again, they are going to get hit really hard."Trump has often threatened massive strikes if Tehran did not reach an agreement and then cited progress in talks that have so far failed to end hostilities.Axios, citing two regional sources and a U.S. official, reported the U.S. and Iran are closing in on an interim agreement to reopen the strait with the agreement of Oman, which controls part of the waterway. The report said Washington was aiming for an announcement on Wednesday.However, Iranian state media, citing an informed source, said an agreement with Oman on the strait, which normally carries about a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments, will be delayed "as long as the United States continues to threaten Iran."

PoK unrest leaves Lashkar, Jaish, Hizbul leaderships on backfoot; weakens Kashmir narrative



New Delhi: The ongoing confrontation between security forces and protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has left several terror outfits increasingly frustrated.Groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen, which have long kept their focus on Jammu and Kashmir, are understood to believe that the situation in PoK needs to be resolved so that their attention can shift back to their primary area of operation.The Pakistan establishment has attempted to use these terror groups to incite violence in the region and shift the blame onto the local population, which has largely been holding peaceful protests. However, Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin has appealed for restraint, urging both the protesters and the Pakistan establishment to step back and resolve the issue through dialogue.

An official said that these terror groups believe the prolonged protests and the repeated use of force by the security forces are undermining their broader agenda. "Today (Wednesday) marks seven years since the abrogation of Article 370, and there is a massive difference when it comes to Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," the official pointed out.The official said the terror groups were created by Pakistan with the primary objective of targeting Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Over the years, they allegedly sought to incite violence in the region and, through separatist networks, propagated the narrative that they were fighting for the interests of the people and that Jammu and Kashmir should be separated from India.Another official said that post the abrogation of Article 370, a lot has changed in J&K. "The people are happy that violence has

Gulf shipping traffic steady amid uncertainty of peace talks



SINGAPORE, Shipping traffic at the key Middle Eastern maritime chokepoints of the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb was little changed on Tuesday from the previous day, ship-tracking data showed.Eight vessels transited the Strait of Hormuz, including five tankers and three bulk carriers, shipping data from Kpler showed, the same as the previous day. Six of the vessels, three tankers and three bulk carriers, were entering the strait, while a gas carrier and a tanker were exiting.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

Roughly 130 to 140 ships would typically transit the waterway before the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran began on February 28 and Iran responded by closing the strait.Additionally, a liquefied natural gas tanker controlled by Abu Dhabi National Oil Co reappeared outside the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, carrying a cargo loaded from Das Island, according to LSEG and Kpler data.The tanker Mubaraz departed Das Island, United Arab Emir-

QATAR ALSO CITES PROGRESS IN TALKSTrump has yet to achieve the objectives he set out at the start of the war: dismantling Iran's nuclear programme, curbing its ability to attack regional rivals and creating conditions for Iranians to overthrow their clerical rulers.Item 1 of 4 People walk past an anti-U.S. billboard on a street in Tehran,Iran has halted most traffic through Hormuz while Washington maintains a blockade of Iran-related shipping and ports.Qatar had earlier said mediators were making progress in efforts to end the conflict, even after Tehran denied that talks were underway.Trump and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani discussed efforts to narrow differences between Washington and Tehran and improve the prospects for a lasting settlement during a phone call on Tuesday, Qatar's Emiri office said.Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmaeil Baghaei, said talks with Oman over transit through the strait were positive and continuing, and were focused on establishing safe shipping lanes, state media reported. He added the route being negotiated was aimed at ensuring the sovereign rights and national security of both Iran and Oman.Iran has long demanded control over the Strait of Hormuz, which it says it should share with Oman on the opposite shore. But Tehran rejected an Omani proposal last week that would have allowed shared oversight and the collection of voluntary fees from ships.Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis have also imposed a naval blockade on Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea, further restricting oil export routes. A projectile struck an Indian-flagged vessel near Yemen, causing it to capsize and sink, but all 14 seafarers on board were rescued, Indian officials said, in an attack Yemen blamed on the Houthis.The United Nations' International Maritime Organization has reported at least 17 deaths of seafarers from 64 incidents in the Strait of Hormuz since the war started on February 28.Those are in addition to the Iranian government's toll of 50 people killed and 500 wounded by U.S. strikes since hostilities renewed in late June, a figure reported before Iran said a U.S. strike on Qeshm in late July killed a husband and wife and their 2-year-old son.In all Iran has reported more than 3,400 deaths

come down and the tourism sector is thriving. If J&K remains peaceful and PoK is marred by violence, then these terror groups cannot push their agenda.If these terror groups try to push their agenda, the people of J&K could turn round and see the PoK situation as an example of what they do not want," the official said. The agenda that J&K would be better off if separated from India and aligned with Pakistan loses credibility in the face of the continuing violence in PoK, the official said.

An Intelligence Bureau official said the story today is one of two Kashmirs and the widening contrast between them. "This automatically punctures the agenda of the Inter Services Intelligence-backed terror groups. This explains their desperation and the appeals that are being made to restore peace in PoK," the official said. While the Hizbul Mujahideen chief has been vocal about the issue, the heads of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed are relatively quiet.The official said that although no public statements have been issued, there is growing disquiet within the leadership and cadres of these terror groups over the developments in PoK. Salahuddin in his appeal said that the loss of lives, damage to property and forced disappearance of people of the region is inflicting severe damage on the morals of the Kashmiris.He even said that due to the violence, the borders are becoming vulnerable to enemy infiltration.

The officials say that while the Hizbul Mujahideen chief may have appealed for peace, the borders are not vulnerable as India does not indulge in infiltrations of terrorists into Pakistan. That is what the Pakistanis do, the official said, adding that Salauddin is trying to drag the Kashmiris (of J&K) into this.Violence in PoK has been going on unabated for over the past two months. The Joint Action Awami Committee (JAAC), which has been leading the peaceful protests, has been demanding better infrastructure and also affordable living conditions. The security forces have, however, taken violent action by killing nearly 40 people and enforcing forced disappearances.Indian officials say that there are no signs of the situation calming down. Unless the Pakistani establishment sincerely addresses the grievances of the people of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and resolves them, the protesters are unlikely to return to their homes, the official said.

ates, on July 14 after picking up a cargo there, both LSEG and Kpler reported. It was last seen inside the strait on July 16, according to the ship-tracking data.The tanker is currently off the western coast of India, both companies' data showed. LSEG data shows a discharge location of India's Dahej terminal in Gujarat, with an arrival date of August 5.This is the third time the Mubaraz LNG tanker has exited the strait carrying cargoes from Das Island since the war began. The previous two cargoes were delivered to China and India.In response to a request for comment, ADNOC said the company does not comment on the position, movements, or routing of its vessels as a matter of policy.In the Bab el-Mandeb, 20 vessels crossed the strait on Tuesday, with 10 entering and 10 exiting the waterway, Kpler data showed, the same as the previous day.Six tankers, three dry bulk carriers and a gas carrier entered the Bab el-Mandeb, while seven tankers and three bulk carriers exited, the data showed.Some vessels may still be sailing with their transponders turned off, which are not considered in the counts.Qatar said on Tuesday that mediators were making progress

New Delhi: The ongoing confrontation between security forces and protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has left several terror outfits increasingly frustrated.Groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen, which have long kept their focus on Jammu and Kashmir, are understood

Yemen condemns Houthi attack on Indian cargo vessel in Red Sea



Aden: Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates on Wednesday strongly condemned the Houthi attack on the Indian commercial cargo vessel MSV Faize Noore Oliya in the Red Sea, describing it as a "terrorist attack" and a "flagrant violation of international law and the rules of international maritime law."In a statement shared on X, the ministry expressed Yemen's solidarity with India and its continued coordination with the relevant Indian authorities, while extending necessary support and facilitation to the vessel's crew members."The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Republic of Yemen strongly condemns the Houthi terrorist attack targeting the Indian commercial cargo vessel 'MSV Faize Noore Oliya' using an explosive laden boat while it was sailing in the Red Sea, resulting in the vessel's complete sinking.This constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and the rules of international maritime law, and poses a direct threat to the security and safety of navigation and the freedom of trade along international waterways," Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on X.

Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' statement comes after India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) condemned the attack on the MSV Faize Noore Oliya and said that 13 Indian nationals have been rescued.In the statement, Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs praised the swift rescue operation conducted by the Yemeni Coast Guard in the Red Sea, with the participation of the Yemeni Navy, which successfully rescued all 14 crew members, includ-

Turkey to unveil draft law that would bring PKK peace



ANKARA, Turkey's ruling alliance is expected to submit a draft law to parliament on Wednesday that would facilitate the disbandment of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) by allowing the return of thousands of former militants, aiming to end a decades-old conflict, according to state media and a party leader., is focused on managing the return of PKK fighters and civilians from hideouts in northern Iraq, setting out how they will be processed through the justice system and reintegrated into society.The Reuters Inside Track newsletter is your essential guide to global sports news. Sign up

Taiwan launches major war games to test command flexibility

TAIPEIGNS Taiwan began major military drills to test commanders' ability to fight on the fly when enemy movements defy expectations, while temporarily limiting internet access for the first time, senior Taiwan officials said.The 10-day annual Han Kuang exercise began early in the morning after an underground command centre in Taipei issued the drill order, triggering combat-readiness moves that will include fighter jet dispersals and emergency naval deployments, two senior Taiwan officials briefed on the matter told Reuters.Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here.

Taiwan will also incorporate for the first time a so-called "backbrief" approach modelled on U.S. military practice, in which junior officers receiving orders restate mission details to commanders — a move aimed at improving coordination, the officials added, requesting anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.The move, one of the officials said, is to "ensure commanders and subordinates are in sync on operational intent."The drill will also focus on a key wartime concern: that China, which claims Taiwan as its own despite the island's objections, would try to paralyse command centres, ports, logistics and defence industry sites early in an attack.China's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment. China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control.WARTIME RELOCATIONHeld annually since 1984, the drills will include for the first time the deliberate slowing of mobile internet speeds to test how civilians would communicate if bandwidth became scarce.The military will simulate the wartime relocation of a major arsenal, mobilise civilian factories and run escort drills off Taiwan's Pacific coast, as concern grows that Beijing may be rehearsing how to sever the island's Pacific supply lines from allies as Chinese military pressure intensifies."These are all part of a series of toughening exercises — this is no longer a laboratory-like exercise in a vacuum," said a third senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the

ing 13 Indian nationals, and safely transported them to the Port of Mocha."The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stresses that this attack is part of a continuing pattern of crimes and assaults perpetrated by the Houthi terrorist militia, ranging from targeting cities, bombing airports and oil facilities, disrupting exports, and depriving the Yemeni people of vital sources of income thereby exacerbating the humanitarian catastrophe resulting from the Houthi coup to threatening ports and maritime navigation in the Red Sea, the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the Gulf of Aden, as well as jeopardizing economic and commercial interests in a manner that undermines regional security and stability," Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on X.The ministry reiterated that the establishment of the multinational defensive maritime coalition, led by Saudi Arabia, represents a strategic initiative whose importance continues to grow amid escalating maritime threats.

It stated that the coalition is essential for securing international trade routes and global energy supply lines and for safeguarding freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the Gulf of Aden, in line with the provisions of international law.On Tuesday, the MEA condemned the attack on the Indian flagged commercial vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya, that sank in the Red Sea, off the coast of Yemen. The Ministry confirmed that all 13 Indian nationals have been rescued and the Indian Embassy in Riyadh is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Yemeni authorities for the safety and security of the crew."We condemn the attack on the Indian flagged commercial vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya, that sank in the Red Sea, off the coast of Yemen on August 4, 2026. All 13 Indian nationals have been rescued. Our Embassy in Riyadh is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Yemeni authorities for the safety and security of the crew. We thank the Yemeni authorities for their support," the MEA said."The continuing incidents of attacks on commercial shipping in the region are deeply worrisome. The targeting of commercial shipping in the region must end, and free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the international waterways in the region, in keeping with international law, must be restored at the earliest," it added.

here.Lawmakers are expected to approve the legal framework this week, marking a leap towards ending an insurgency that has killed more than 40,000 people since 1984, sown deep discord at home and fuelled violence across borders in Iraq and Syria.

The bill has broad support in parliament, even though polls show some scepticism that it will bring a lasting peace and sensitivities around the return to Turkey of former PKK members.President Tayyip Erdogan's ruling AK Party (AKP) and its nationalist MHP allies have signed the draft legislation, dubbed "national solidarity and social integration", while the pro-Kurdish DEM Party and most other parties, including the main opposition, have voiced support for it.Abdullah Guler, the AKP's parliamentary group head, told reporters the bill will be submitted on Wednesday.The peace process between Turkey, which has NATO's second-largest army, and the PKK began in late 2024, but earlier this year due to the Iran war and concerns about broader regional instability.The PKK decided in May last year to disarm and disband after an appeal from its jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan. It is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.It launched its insurgency in 1984 and initially sought an independent Kurdish state in southeast Turkey, but later refocused on seeking autonomy and Kurdish political rights.



operation."You are entering a real field environment, facing real bottom-line conditions. We hope the final phase of training reaches that state," the defence official said.That is part of Taiwan's ongoing effort to make its exercises more realistic, following past criticism that some drills were too highly staged.RESILIENCE DRILLS

The effort has included resilience drills testing how local officials would keep the government running during cascading crises, from earthquakes to a Chinese invasion."If the situation does not match the original enemy scenario, what should he do? How should he reassess, readjust, and quickly issue orders?" the defence official said, referring to field commanders who will be tested with "unexpected scenarios" during the drills, which end on August 14.The drills will also mobilise more than 20,000 reservists.On the sports field of a Taipei high school on Wednesday, dozens of reservists gathered to practise using mortars and taking up rifle positions.The military will also introduce an "embedded reporter" mechanism to assess wartime frontline news releases and efforts to counter enemy disinformation, the officials said."The emphasis will be on how our entire population, the Republic of China as a whole — especially our citizens — should face war," the defence official said, using Taiwan's official name.

Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin has appealed for restraint, urging both the protesters and the Pakistan establishment to step back and resolve the issue through dialogue.An official said that these terror groups believe the prolonged protests and the repeated use of force by the security forces are undermining their broader agenda.

EYE SECRETS Editorial

Stateless of the Earth— migration, humanity and the crisis of our conscience

The haunting image of thousands of desperate people risking their lives to cross a narrow stretch of sea into Spain’s North African enclave of Ceuta has once again exposed one of the greatest moral failures of our time. Within a matter of hours, over 60,000 migrants crossed into Ceuta from Morocco, while dozens lost their lives in the sea or were crushed in the chaos. Behind every statistic lay a shattered family, an unfinished dream, and a life driven to desperation by poverty, conflict, or hopelessness.

The tragedy in Ceuta is not an isolated event. It is merely another chapter in an unfolding humanitarian crisis that stretches across continents. From the Mediterranean Sea to the Bay of Bengal, from the deserts separating Mexico and the United States to the forests between Belarus and Poland, migrants continue to perish while the world debates sovereignty, security and politics. Human suffering is increasingly becoming collateral damage in geopolitical conflicts.

The latest reports about hundreds of Rohingya refugees feared missing or dead after boats disappeared in the Bay of Bengal have again demonstrated how invisible some human tragedies become. While international humanitarian agencies expressed concern, the issue barely found sustained attention in many countries. Denied citizenship in Myanmar, persecuted for decades and forced into refugee camps in Bangladesh, the Rohingya belong nowhere. Every attempted journey towards a safer future carries the risk of trafficking, starvation, or drowning. Migration is as old as human civilisation itself. The earliest humans migrated from Africa to populate the world. Every civilisation has been built upon waves of migration. Trade routes, kingdoms, cultures, religions and languages flourished because people moved from one land to another in search of survival and opportunity. Human history is essentially the history of migration. Ironically, in an age celebrated as the era of globalisation, migration has become one of the world’s most contentious issues. Goods travel across borders with minimal restrictions. Capital flows across continents in seconds. Information travels instantly through satellites and fibre-optic cables. Yet human beings are increasingly trapped behind fences, walls and hostile immigration regimes. Markets have become global, but compassion has remained confined within national boundaries. Statelessness is among the deepest forms of human insecurity, stripping people not only of legal identity and basic rights, but also of hope, belonging, and dignity

For millions, migration is not a choice but a desperate act of survival. Wars destroy homes. Ethnic conflicts erase communities. Religious persecution forces families to flee. Climate change devastates agriculture. Rising sea levels swallow islands. Economic collapse leaves millions without employment or hope. Political oppression silences dissent. The Mediterranean Sea has become one of the world’s largest cemeteries. Thousands of migrants from Syria, Sudan, Libya, Eritrea and Afghanistan have drowned while attempting to reach Europe. Similarly, thousands attempting to cross the US-Mexico border have died in deserts, rivers and mountains. Others have suffocated inside trucks abandoned by traffickers.

Yogi, Vaishnaw inaugurate upgraded Nepalganj Road-Bahraich rail section

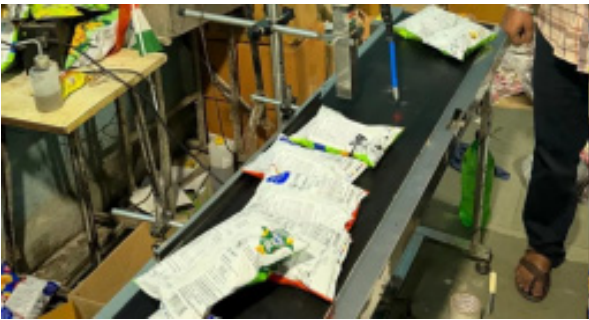


Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday inaugurated the broad-gauge upgradation and electrification of the Nepalganj Road-Nanpara-Bahraich rail section.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday inaugurated the broad-gauge upgradation and electrification of the Nepalganj Road-Nanpara-Bahraich rail section. The 56.15-km-long section has been converted to broad gauge and electrified at a cost of nearly Rs 730 crore.

Adityanath said the inauguration of the section and launch of four new train services marked the realisation of a decades-old dream for the people of the region. He said the new rail connectivity would strengthen links between Bahraich, Rupaidiha and Nepalganj and provide convenience to people on both sides of the border. Four existing train services were also extended up to Nepalganj Road. The programme began with a tribute to the victims of the recent floods in Nepal, with all those attending the programme observing two minutes of silence. The Nepalganj Road-Nanpara-Bahraich metre-gauge rail section was originally constructed in 1886. The section will provide improved connectivity to Bahraich, Risiya, Matera, Nanpara, Babaganj and Nepalganj Road stations, the government said. Vaishnaw, who joined the programme virtually, said the conversion of the Nepalganj Road-Nanpara-Bahraich section is now connected to the wider railway network across the country. The Railway Ministry has approved the extension of 14213/14214 Varanasi-Bahraich Express, 15132/15131 Varanasi City-Gorakhpur Express and 75109/75110 and 75111/75112 Gonda-Bahraich train services up to Nepalganj Road, an official press statement said.

What’s in your Maggi, Kurkure packets? FDA busts Rs 75-lakh racket



The Maharashtra food safety regulator, in a joint operation with the Central Crime Branch, Navi Mumbai, busted a racket allegedly altering manufacturing and expiry dates on packaged food products of several well-known brands, including Maggi, Lay’s and Kurkure, and seized stock worth over Rs 75 lakh from a warehouse in Turbhe. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) six-day operation, conducted between August 24 and 29, targeted Sadhna Enterprises, a unit in TTC Industrial Area, Turbhe, allegedly run by partners Jayprakash Sanchetiram Singh and Jaya Navrang Bahadur Singh.

According to the FDA, the establishment was being used to store food products belonging to multiple exporter companies, where the original Date of Manufacture and Expiry/Use By dates were erased using thinner and reprinted with fresh, extended dates using an inkjet printing machine. FDA busts lay’s maggi expiry date The six-day operation, conducted between August 24 and 29, targeted Sadhna Enterprises (Express photo) Items found at the premises included various variants of Lay’s, Kurkure, Bingo

and Fun Flips alongside Maggi’s masala and atta noodles, and ready-to-make brands like Rasoi and Knorr soup, and Thumbs Up and Limca tins, and Hellmann’s Mayonnaise. FDA also alleged that new stickers bearing altered Ingredients and Nutritional Information were also pasted over original labels on products like Wagh Bakri Tea and MDH’s Kitchen King, Kasuri Methi, and Deggi Mirch. In all, action was taken against 13 exporter entities whose stock was stored at the facility. Maggi FDA crackdown expiry dates At the establishment, the original Date of Manufacture and Expiry/Use By dates were erased using thinner and reprinted with fresh, extended dates using an inkjet printing machine. (Express photo) According to the FIR, exporters who could produce valid FSSAI licences, purchase bills, and export-related paperwork had their stock cleared as genuinely meant for export. However, three parties — Unique Fragrances, Pristine Worldwide, and Vipul Doshi — failed to produce valid documentation. Their samples have been taken for verification. Officials said the seized stock — approximately 4,942 cartons valued at Rs 75,21,269 — has been left in the safekeeping of the accused with strict instructions against their movement. FIR registered, licence suspended An FIR was registered based on a complaint filed by Food Safety Officer Prashant Shivram Pawar against the two partners, Sadhna Enterprises, and 10 exporter firms, including Span Impex, Novas Export. Lay’s FDA crackdown expiry dates Items found at the premises included various variants by Lay’s, Kurkure, Bingo and Fun Flips. The case invokes multiple sections of the FSS Act, 2006 (Sections 3, 23, 24, 26, 50, 52, 53, 58, 59 and 66) along with provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, including sections dealing with cheating and forgery.

AI can create original work but can’t be its author, Copyright Office holds



An Artificial Intelligence (AI) system cannot be named the author of something it creates. But the work itself can be protected by copyright law, according to the Copyright Office. The finding came in a case involving US AI researcher and Imagination Engines CEO Stephen Thaler, who sought copyright registration for an artwork — ‘A Recent Entrance to Paradise’ — generated by his AI system DABUS. Thaler has so far approached 16 jurisdictions worldwide seeking DABUS’s copyright over the artwork. In March 2025, a US court refused his application saying the US Copyright Act requires human authorship. On Monday, the Copyright Office, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, primarily emphasised that the provisions of the Copyright Act identifies an ‘author’ as a “person” — that is a human being — who causes the work to be created.

The law, it said, “distinguishes between the technological mechanism through which the output is generated and the legally recognised person to whom authorship is attributed”. The decision comes months after the Delhi High Court in April had directed the Office to decide on whether an AI system can claim sole authorship over a work created using the system. The case behind the ruling The artwork was generated by DABUS, short for Device for the Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentence, an AI system developed by Thaler. The authorship, in the application, was solely attributed to DABUS. Thaler, through his advocate Ankit Sahni, had argued that once DABUS was configured and trained through visual and linguistic inputs, the final artwork was generated through the AI’s internal operational process without real-time human intervention and any text prompt. He said the “final form, composition and expression of the artwork were created by DABUS itself”. Thaler argued that he wanted DABUS to be attributed as the sole author, not to give the AI system legal personality or independent enforceable rights, but to accurately record how the artwork was created. “Transparency requires the Register to reflect the actual mode of creation,” he said.

In an order deciding the issue, Registrar of Copyright, Prof (Dr) Unnat Pandit, held that the standalone artwork can be considered “original” as there is “no clear material on record to prove that the work was copied from some specific source or some other work”. He said it “possesses sufficient independently generated expressive character to cross the limited threshold”. The Copyright Office, however, drew a line on copyright protection available to the system generating the creative output. Rejecting Thaler’s application, it said, “The fact that a system operates autonomously after being configured does not alter the identity of the person responsible for bringing the work into existence. Autonomy in execution is not synonymous with conception of a work.” “A system may independently execute computational processes after activation, yet those processes continue to operate within the architecture, objectives, parameters, training methodology and

operational rules established by the person who conceived and configured the system..... DABUS performed the immediate computational process through which the expressive form emerged, but it did so within the architecture configured and the work-specific process caused by Dr. Thaler,” the Copyright Registrar reasoned. This is a first for the Copyright Office where it has dealt with an application where an AI system was seeking authorship over a work. It was assisted by Senior Advocate Rajeshwari Hariharan in the case, as amicus curiae.

Is there a departure in India’s stand on the issue from other countries?

While the Delhi High Court’s verdict in ANI vs OpenAI paved the way by holding that there is no copyright infringement as long as the output is distinct, the Indian Copyright Office’s decision now clarifies that the output side can be protected under law. In July, the HC had held that training large language models on copyrighted material is not copyright infringement as long as the output being delivered is distinct from the training material. News agency ANI Media Pvt Ltd had moved the HC in 2024 against Open AI Inc (OAI) and Open AI OpCo LLC, raising issues of infringement of its copyrighted material for LLM training by OpenAI. According to Sahni, the Indian Copyright Office’s stance has more clarity than other jurisdictions so far, since it is acknowledging that AI can create ‘original’ work. “It will have a huge impact on all creative sectors — media, entertainment, music, publishing, broadcasting, games etc., — as almost all large entities are using AI extensively to produce content,” he said. In other countries such as the United Kingdom and Ireland, authorship is clearly associated with the human persona, or with the person who made the necessary arrangements for a computer-generated work. In 2019, a Chinese court ruled in favour of Tencent’s ownership over content written by its AI-writing assistant Dreamwriter. In another case in 2023, another court in China held that “as long as the AI-generated images can reflect people’s original intellectual investment, they should be recognised as works and protected by the Copyright Law”. It, however, clarified that copyright belongs to the author, who is a “natural person who creates a work”, and “an artificial intelligence model cannot be deemed as an author under China’s copyright law”.

Banned Mangur fish farms found near Ujani Dam catchment

Illegal Mangur fish farms were found near the Ujani Dam catchment area and in Kalthan No. 1 village in Indapur taluka on Monday, with officials destroying the fish stocks and registering cases against those allegedly involved.

The operation was carried out by a joint team constituted by the Pune District Collector. Mangur, or African catfish (Clarias gariepinus), is a banned exotic fish species. Cases were registered under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which deals with the knowing disobedience of a lawful order issued by a public servant; Section 59 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which provides for punishment for unsafe food; and Sections 3, 5 and 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which empower the Centre to take measures to protect the environment and penalise violations.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture banned the cultivation of Mangur fish in December 1997. Officials said the species can threaten native fish and aquatic ecosystems. If Mangur enter rivers or reservoirs, they can prey on native species and compete with them for food and habitat. Species such as Catla, Rohu and Mrigal could be affected, officials said. Despite the ban, unauthorised cultivation of Mangur has continued in parts of Maharashtra, including Pune district. Archana Shinde, Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries,



Cases were registered under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which deals with the knowing disobedience of a lawful order issued by a public servant; Section 59 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which provides for punishment for unsafe food; and Sections 3, 5 and 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which empower the Centre to take measures to protect the environment and penalise violations.

‘Derogatory’ remarks against Buta Singh: ‘Scheduled Caste panel seeks arrest within 5 days’



The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Monday recommended that authorities take immediate steps to arrest the accused persons in a case concerning alleged derogatory remarks against former Union Home Minister late Buta Singh during an election campaign in Punjab’s Tarn Taran district last year.

The Commission, headed by Kishor Makwana, expressed “serious concern” over the delay in the investigation, arrest of the accused and submission of an action taken report (ATR), despite directions issued at its previous hearing. It sought the status of action on the arrest within five days and recommended that the investigation be completed “expeditiously” and the chargesheet filed before the competent court without further “undue delay”. According to the Commission, the hearing was held in connection with alleged derogatory remarks made by Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring against Buta Singh in November last year. Warring was booked under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (promoting enmity on grounds including religion and race), following a complaint by Buta Singh’s son, Sarabjot Singh Sidhu, at the Cyber Crime Police Station in Kapurthala.

Punjab Police officials, including DSP Harpreet Singh and DSP Gulzar Singh, EO and Cyber Crime, appeared on behalf of the respondent authorities, while petitioner Sarabjot Singh was also present.

During the hearing held on May 5, the Commission had recommended that the investigation be completed within the stipulated period in accordance with the rules. It had also taken note of Sarabjot Singh’s complaint that he was receiving threatening calls from the alleged accused and directed that he and his dependents be provided necessary protection under Section 15A of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The Commission had also sought an ATR within 30 days. However, during Monday’s hearing, it noted that the requisite ATR on its earlier directions had not been received. “Taking serious note of the continuing delay, the Commission today recommended that the concerned authorities take immediate necessary steps, in accordance with law, for the arrest of the accused persons involved in the matter and furnish the status of such action to the Commission within five days,” the statement said.

It further recommended that the competent authority examine accountability for the delay in investigation and arrest. “In the event of any wilful neglect of duty” on the part of the concerned investigating officers is found, appropriate departmental action, including consideration under Section 4 of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, may be taken in accordance with law, the Commission said. An ATR on the Commission’s recommendations has been sought within 30 days, it said.

The Commission also viewed the issue of the petitioner’s safety with “particular seriousness” and, in view of the alleged continuing threats to Sarabjot Singh, recommended immediate and adequate police protection to him and his dependents, both in Delhi and Punjab, in accordance with Section 15A of the Act. The NCSC reiterated that the protection of victims, complainants, witnesses and their dependents is an “important statutory safeguard” and the concerned authorities must ensure that the petitioner is able to pursue the matter without “fear, intimidation or threat”. According to the hearing minutes, the complaint had also been taken up by the Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission and forwarded to the returning officer-cum-SDM, Tarn Taran, during the Assembly bypoll. Warring was issued a notice seeking his explanation.

Warring, in his reply, maintained that his speech had been “deliberately twisted” and that he had “never used any derogatory words against any caste or person”. He described the edited version of his speech as “completely misconceived”. Reacting to the NCSC recommendation on Monday, Warring termed it “political vendetta” and accused the BJP of attempting to divert attention from the controversy over a ‘shuddhikaran’ (purification) ceremony held at the venue of a Congress rally addressed by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge in Haldwani earlier this month. Warring said he had met the NCSC chairman twice and questioned why the Commission had sought action against him nearly 10 months after the incident. “Suddenly, the chairman of NCSC remembers to write for Raja’s arrest after 10 months. Basically, the BJP wants to divert the issue,” he said. Warring reiterated that he had not said anything in Tarn Taran that could hurt anyone and reiterated that Buta Singh was a father figure to him. He had earlier tendered an unconditional apology and clarified that he could never have intended to disrespect the veteran leader. The Congress leader also targeted the BJP over the Haldwani incident, saying that instead of registering a case against those who carried out the alleged purification ceremony, an FIR had been registered against Rahul Gandhi after he raised the issue.

Telangana speed skater Pranav Madav eyes 2030 Winter Olympics

Hyderabad: Telangana’s promising short-track speed skater and national gold medallist, Pranav Madav Surapaneni, met Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) Vice-Chairperson and Managing Director Dr A Sonibala Devi, IFS, and Chairman K Shiv Sena Reddy here on Monday.

Pranav recently put up an impressive performance at the Asian Short Track Championship 2026, winning one silver and two bronze medals and adding another major international achievement to his growing sporting career. He has also established himself as one of India’s leading short-track skaters by winning gold medals in multiple categories at the National Championships.

‘No place for double standards’: PM Modi at SCO Summit



Bishkek: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for dismantling the entire ecosystem of terrorism — financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens.Addressing the 26th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Kyrgyzstan’s Bishkek on Tuesday, PM Modi said, “We must speak with one voice that there can be no place for double standards on terrorism.”He highlighted the three main pillars of India’s vision for the SCO – Security, Connectivity and Opportunity. “For India, the SCO is a confluence of great civilisations, cultures and ideas,” he

said. Reiterating India’s stance that all wars and conflicts must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, PM Modi said, “There is no solution on the battlefield; all wars and conflicts must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.”He expressed India’s support for all efforts that connect markets, facilitate trade and open new pathways for development. He stated that these efforts for connectivity must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations. The Prime Minister urged SCO members to place people-to-people ties at the centre of their cooperation for the next 25 years.He highlighted the initiatives taken by India within the SCO like the Start-up Forum, Young Authors’ Conclave and Young Scientists’ Forum.“Last year, India proposed the SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum. I am pleased that its first session will be held in India this year,” PM Modi said.Earlier in the day, PM Modi posed for a group photograph with other leaders at the 26th SCO Summit in Bishkek. The SCO comprises 10 member states – Belarus, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It has two observer states – Azerbaijan and Armenia and 15 dialogue partners – Azerbaijan, Armenia, Egypt, Cambodia, Qatar, Kuwait, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Sri Lanka.

A look at Lionel Messi’s 21 years with Argentina

Buenos Aires: Lionel Messi has graced a soccer field with Argentina for the last time.Arguably the greatest player of all time, Messi announced his retirement from the international game on Monday to bring an end to 21 years of service for his country.Here’s a by-the-numbers look at his time at the Albiceleste:1: Messi won the World Cup once, in Qatar in 2022. He also reached the final two other times — in 2014 and 2026 when losing to Germany and Spain, respectively.6: The number of World Cups in which Messi played (2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022 and 2026), which is tied for the most with long-time rival Cristiano Ronaldo.21: Messi scored 21 goals across those six World Cups. That is second only to France’s Kylian Mbappé, who has 22 and has played in just three tournaments.39: Messi was aged 39 when he announced his international retirement — 21 years after making his debut for Argentina in a friendly against Hungary in August 2005. He barely lasted a minute of that game before getting sent off for elbowing an opponent.125: Messi scored 125 international goals and that’s more than double the amount netted by any other Argentina player. The



previous record was held by Gabriel Batistuta, who scored 54 in 78 appearances from 1991-2002. It is, though, second to Cristiano Ronaldo (146 goals) in the all-time scoring list in men’s international soccer.207: The total number of international appearances by Messi, which also is a national record but not an all-time record in men’s football. Once again, he’s No. 2 in the list behind Cristiano Ronaldo, who has played 233 games for Portugal.

Nepal issues advisory on identification of remains of foreign nationals killed in flash floods

Kathmandu: The Nepalese authorities have provided details of the procedures for identification and handing over of the mortal remains of foreign nationals who died in the recent devastating flash floods in Rasuwa, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu said on Monday.In a statement, the Embassy said the Government of Nepal has outlined a series of procedures that need to be completed before the mortal remains of foreign nationals can be handed over.

According to the Embassy, the process includes documentation of the mortal remains, recorded photographs and details, post-mortem examination, and verifying the cause of death.The authorities will also formally establish the identity of the deceased, collect fingerprints, DNA and other forensic samples, and verify the passport. The process also requires coordination with the Embassy or consular official, followed by completion of a handover or release memo and receipt.According to the official statement, if relatives and family are able to identify the mortal remains through photographs and descriptions of the deceased on Nepal Police’s website, then the Embassy officials in Kathmandu will assist in coordinating with local authorities for processes related to handing over and repatriation of mortal remains.It further mentioned that the Nepal authorities have carried out temporary interment of a large number of mortal remains to prevent health risks. “The identification of such remains would require DNA matching with first-degree relatives,” read a statement issued by the Embassy. This can be done by sending the DNA profiles through email to dnacodis@nepalpolice.gov.np or



eoikathmandufloodsupport@gmail.com; or by giving blood samples, along with some preliminary information required by Nepali authorities.In cases where identification is not possible, or the mortal remains have been temporarily interred, the Indian mission said that the Nepal Government will facilitate DNA matching. It noted that authorities in Nepal are collecting DNA samples from the mortal remains for creating their DNA profiles.The Embassy said that the relevant details regarding DNA profiling can be accessed at Nepal Police’s website and its helpline number: +977 9841 6160 95. Helpline numbers of the Embassy were also released — +977 985 131 6807, +977 970 910 7500, +977 981 032 6117.The massive flood that struck Nepal’s Rasuwa originated in the Tibetan region of China on August 26. It swept through the transboundary Bhote Koshi River, leaving hundreds dead, including foreign nationals, while causing massive destruction in the Himalayan nation.

US Army Secretary Dan Driscoll quits amid Iran war



US Army Secretary Dan Driscoll has resigned amid ongoing war with Iran, following clashes with Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth over Army modernisation, officer firings, and blocked promotions.

New York: In the midst of the lingering war with Iran, US Army Secretary Dan Driscoll has dramatically resigned over simmering differences with Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, according to media reports.Driscoll handed in his resignation after a meeting with President Donald Trump on Monday, local media reported, quoting officials.White House has not confirmed the resignation.He had clashed with Hegseth over the Army’s modernisation, the firings of several key officers and the blocking of promotions of others.Driscoll is the second senior civilian military official to leave during the Iran War; Navy Secretary John Phelan was fired in April.Under the US military hierarchy, the Navy, Army and Air Force have separate secretaries under the Defence Secretary.In the midst of a six-month confrontation with Iran, the Army is

without both its civilian head as well as a permanent military chief after the firing of Army Chief of Staff General Randy George.

Army Vice Chief of Staff General James Mingus was fired last October, and General Christopher LaNeve, who was nominated to succeed him, has not received the Senate’s approval — a requisite for senior military appointments.Like Trump, Hegseth said the Iran war would be over in weeks but is leading a military virtually stuck in the conflict, and he has fired three other generals who could have been successors to George, creating a vacuum.While troops have not entered a ground war with Iran, they provide crucial defence against Iranian missiles and drones, and some soldiers have died in attacks from Tehran on bases in the Gulf region.Driscoll had himself seen combat in Iraq as an Army Lieutenant and was seen as a possible successor to Hegseth, who has not been able to lead the military to the promised quick victory.

Driscoll later went to Yale Law School, where he was a classmate and friend of Vice President J.D. Vance, keeping up their close ties even afterwards.Under Hegseth, African American officers, starting with Joint Chiefs of Staff General C.Q. Brown, and women officers have been particular targets.However, Hegseth has also acted against other senior officers whom he thought were close to the leaders he was not fond of. Among them was Europe and Africa Commander General Christopher Donahue, who had an important role in helping Ukraine in the war with Russia.Driscoll opposed many of the firings and blocking of promotions, which became

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



Kathmandu, Sep 1 (PTI) Nepal is battling a deluge of misinformation, alongside rescue and relief operations as fake and AI-generated visuals inundated social media following the devastating flash floods, prompting the government to order 72 users to remove inappropriate content over the past few days.The Nepal Press Council, the country’s media regulatory body, has opened a dedicated portal, titled “Special Complaints on the Bhotekoshi Incident”, through which the public can report misinformation and graphic material related to the disaster, The Kathmandu Post reported on Monday.

The move comes as social media platforms have been inundated with dramatic videos and images purportedly showing the destruction caused by the flash floods in the Himalayan nation.While some of the footage is genuine, fact-checkers have found that several widely circulated videos and images are from disasters in other countries, recycled from earlier events or generated or manipulated using artificial intelligence, the report said.The rapid spread of misleading content has complicated an already chaotic information environment at a time when families are desperately searching for missing relatives and authorities are trying to establish the full extent of the disaster.For social media users chasing views and virality, the tragedy has also become a source of lucrative content, prompting concerns among authorities, journalists and fact-checkers.According to Nepal Press Council Chairman Umesh Shrestha, 72 social media users have been instructed to remove inappropriate content, most of it posted through personal accounts.The council’s dedicated portal had received 101 complaints by 5 pm on Saturday, including complaints against 67 personal accounts that had posted gruesome

Woman kills one, injured another in Times Square attack

New York: A woman randomly stabbed two people in New York City’s Times Square, killing one woman, and then was fatally shot by police, according to the New York Police Department.The shooting on Monday happened next to a New York Police Department substation, just outside One Times Square, the building that hosts the city’s annual New Year’s Eve ball drop celebration. It is one of the most heavily toured and policed spots in all of New York.The 49-year-old woman from Queens pulled out two knives from a shopping bag and stabbed a 68-year-old man in the abdomen before quickly turning and stabbing a 32-year-old woman also in the abdomen, police said at a news conference Monday evening.Both were taken to the hospital. The woman died and the man is in stable condition, according to police.

Police didn’t say disclose if the victims were tourists visiting the city or residents.Videos posted on social media show a group of at least 10 officers gathered around the woman, who was holding two large kitchen knives.Officers tried to convince the woman to drop the knives for several minutes before using a Taser, Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said. The woman told them: “I’m not dropping anything, I would rather kill both of you,” Tisch said.Two officers then shot the woman. In the video posted by bystanders, the woman fell to the ground, where an officer handcuffed her. Officers rolled her onto her back and rendered first aid.“This was an extraordinarily dangerous situation unfolding in the heart of Times



Square, the crossroads of the world,” Tisch said.The woman has a “documented mental health history with the NYPD” but no arrest history, Tisch said.Police are investigating. Tisch said there was no evidence suggesting it was a terrorist attack.The names of the victims have not been released until next of kin are notified, according to police.“We know that those families’ lives have been shattered by what took place today, and we will continue to hold them close as the hours and days and weeks continue from this moment,” said Mayor Zohran Mamdani.The NYPD closed part of 7th Avenue and warned the public to stay away from the area. Police tape cordoned off the area as a large group of law enforcement officers worked nearby.

Concerns grow as China resorts to censorship, AI images of Tibet flash floods



New York: Human Rights Watch (HRW), a US-based advocacy group, accused China of resorting to censorship and tighter controls on information amid deadly flash floods that have left people in Nepal and across the border in Tibet reeling from devastation.According to HRW, the Chinese social media platform Weibo, which operates under Beijing’s censorship demands, prominently pinned a memorial hashtag — ‘Mourning the victims of the Gyirong mudslide disaster’ — at the top of its trending topics, alongside eight other disaster-related hashtags.

The lead post featured a China Central Television (CCTV) news anchor essentially reading out a Politburo communique, in which Chinese President Xi Jinping reportedly called on China’s top leaders to observe a minute of silence for the victims.“The victims’ own voices are largely absent from the trending topics, which focus on the death toll, rescue operations, and the mechanics of the disaster,” the rights body noted. Citing reports, the HRW said that journalists in China have been barred from the disaster zone and from interviewing families, leaving them dependent on official information narratives.It alleged that Chinese authorities have also punished at least 10 people for “rumormongering” related to the disaster. The rights body further said that Chinese official media relied on AI-generated images

and videos purporting to show the likely origins of the mudslide.Referring to international media, it said the full original footage circulated globally — showing Gyirong Port on the Chinese side of the border being overwhelmed by floodwater as people run for their lives — was being censored.Highlighting the censorship surrounding the deadly floods in the Tibetan region, the HRW said, “Information controls can make it harder for families to locate loved ones, and hamper understanding of the disaster and any future response. Authorities also tightly control freedoms of association and assembly. As with previous disasters, the choreography is familiar: restrict information, control the narrative, and praise the leadership’s resolve and rescue efforts. AI may polish the performance, but the script remains unchanged.”The HRW said it has long documented pervasive censorship and self-censorship across China, particularly in Tibetan areas. It noted that people can be imprisoned for allegedly undermining national security simply by sharing information with the outside world, while foreigners, including journalists and independent investigators, are barred from entering Tibet without permission.The massive flood that struck Nepal’s Rasuwa originated in the Tibetan region of China on August 26. It swept through the transboundary Bhote Koshi River, leaving hundreds dead and causing massive destruction in the Himalayan nation.

Sitharaman meets UK Chancellor John Healey on G20 sidelines

Washington: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met UK Chancellor of the Exchequer John Healey in Asheville on Monday on the sidelines of the G20 meeting. Sitharaman is currently on a six-day visit to the US from August 29 to September 2, as part of a broader nine-day tour that began in Canada.

Takeaways from COP29

Two major global events took place last month: the G20 Summit in Brazil and the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, Azerbaijan. Catalysing finance to address climate change was a central theme at both events. The deal reached in Baku, though hard-won, falls short of expectations. To be fair, the expectations for climate finance were never easy to meet. Assessments had shown that developing countries need \$1.3 trillion per year through 2035 to build infrastructure for adapting to climate change; investing in clean energy, land use, and urban development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and recovering from disasters. This amount was to come from the 24 high-income countries listed in Annex I of the UNFCCC. Given the outlook of slow economic growth, green investments required in their own territories, and the likelihood of the U.S., which accounts for half of cumulative federal spending, pulling back, there was little appetite for a significant commitment.

The biggest disappointment, however, is that even the small commitment made — \$300 billion per year — does not come entirely from public finance, but from sources including Multilateral Development Banks, carbon markets, and private finance. It is recognised that private finance tends to flow to economies where returns are commercially attractive, and it can easily shift back to advanced economies when conditions change. This creates uncertainty about whether emerging economies will see much benefit. Even larger economies like India are unlikely to get adequate resources for priorities such as adaptation.

That said, there were significant victories as well. The set of agreements on carbon markets concluded a decade of negotiations. While bilateral carbon credit deals

between countries had been taking place under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, COP29 clarified the procedures for authorising these credits, their transferability between registries, and the standards needed to ensure their environmental integrity. This prevents credits from being revoked and investment getting stranded. A bigger win was the move towards implementing a global carbon market under Article 6.4, with several procedural rules agreed upon. The swift adoption of these rules by individual countries is crucial to launching this market, which will help direct capital towards the most efficient emission reduction projects worldwide. India is likely to be a major beneficiary in this regard. Other positive outcomes included new emission reduction pledges from the European Union, Canada, and other regions. Many nations committed to propose steeper 2035 targets in their revised Nationally Determined Contributions than their current commitments. The U.K. and Brazil have announced their updated targets, while Norway is consulting on its own. Mexico, under the leadership of climate scientist Claudia Sheinbaum, became the latest major economy to announce a goal to reach net zero by 2050.

At the G20 Summit, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto unveiled an ambitious plan to retire all coal and fossil fuel-fired plants by 2040. This is significant, as Indonesia is the largest exporter and third-largest consumer of coal globally. It also highlights that the focus on coal is back — a challenge that India staved off in previous COPs in order to ensure that the focus remained on all fossil fuels. The lack of progress on the “phase-out” of all fossil fuels at both COP29 and the G20 Summit is a cause for concern. Should we acknowledge that the battle to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C has likely been lost, and adopt a more realistic target? A study released before COP29 indicated that the world was already 1.49°C warmer than pre-industrial levels by the end of 2023.

Careers and courses in Healthcare Management: A booming sector with expansive opportunities



You can be a Commerce graduate, Physics student, or a Chemical Engineer. You can still aspire to manage hospitals, doctors and healthcare operations at starting salaries of \$20 lakh a year.

You can be a Commerce graduate, Physics student, or a Chemical Engineer. You can still aspire to manage hospitals, doctors and healthcare operations at starting salaries of \$20 lakh a year. Yes, healthcare management is a boom industry. Job portals are seeing a month-on-month increase in postings and the Indian government estimates the industry to be at \$50 billion this year. New job opportunities include the careers abroad and the government sector where a specialised management cadre are likely to be raised by state governments. While doctors and nurses play a crucial role in providing medical care, healthcare managers are equally important in ensuring seamless operations, policy implementation, and administrative efficiency. The scope of careers in Healthcare Management, therefore, is expanding.

The Hindu in a recent webinar discussed different courses students can take up to kick-start a career in Healthcare Management. The webinar also discussed global job opportunities, salaries and the impact of the push on analytics in job creation in the sector. In the future, opportunities are also to rise in the public health sector. The Hindu's webinar was titled 'Careers and Courses in Healthcare Management' on March 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. featured distinguished experts, including Dr. P.R. Sodani, President of IIHMR University, Jaipur, and Dr. Gaurav Thukral, Co-Founder and COO of HCAH India. The discussion was moderated by M. Kalyanaraman, Head, Education Vertical, The Hindu. With corporate and government hospitals expanding their operations, pharmaceutical companies diversifying, and public health programmes requiring better oversight, there is a growing need for competent healthcare managers. These professionals ensure that medical facilities run smoothly, patient care is optimised, and administrative challenges are efficiently addressed.

Why professionals are choosing Healthcare Management The field is attracting individuals from diverse educational backgrounds. Many doctors and healthcare professionals pursue an MBA in Healthcare Management to transition into leadership roles, allowing them to influence healthcare policies, administration, and patient care on a broader scale. At the same time, non-medical professionals, including business graduates and entrepreneurs, are entering the sector to improve service delivery and healthcare business operations. While all graduates start on a level playing upon starting a course, their basic undergraduate degree can potentially influence their specialisation. For instance, Chemistry graduates can consider pharma management while biological sciences graduates can eye hospital management.

Specialised courses and career prospects: Leading institutions in India offer specialised courses tailored to Healthcare Management. Some of the most sought-after programs include: MBA in Hospital and Health Management: Prepares students for leadership roles in hospitals and healthcare institutions. Pharmaceutical Management: Focuses on managing pharmaceutical companies, drug development, and regulatory policies. Healthcare Analytics: Trains professionals in data-driven decision-making, predictive analytics, and AI applications in

Giving roots to sustainable Indian agriculture with HAI



Moravec's paradox, which explains that Artificial Intelligence (AI) excels at complex tasks beyond human capability but struggles with tasks requiring direct interaction with the environment, offers scope for cross-linking human intelligence with AI for mutual improvement. This paradox could pave the way for developing Hybrid Agricultural Intelligence (HAI) by combining farmers' knowledge with AI, creating sustainable solutions that are tailored to the dynamic challenges confronting India's agricultural sector. Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. As seen in the Economic Survey's provisional estimate for 2023-24, the contribution of agriculture to the Indian GDP is pegged at 18.2 % at current prices while providing a livelihood to 42.3% of the 1.4 billion citizens. India's agriculture, done in 219.16 million hectares during 2021-22 (Land Use Statistics at a Glance-2018-19 to 2021-22, Government of India), has been shaped by the unique knowledge and adaptive strategies of farmers accumulated over thousands of years of ecological understanding. Indian farmers have developed deep knowledge to deal with diverse seed and planting material requirements, crop rotation and management, soil types, weather patterns and consumer preference. This traditional "farmers' intelligence" or the Indigenous Technology Knowledge (ITK) forms a vital foundation for smallholders (who constitute over 80% of the agricultural community), to sustain yields on small land holdings despite minimal resources and unpredictable monsoons. Complementing this, scientific research led by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has further enriched farmers' knowledge and capabilities, playing a key role in empowering them and contributing to India's rise as a leading agricultural nation.

The advent of technology in recent years, AI, machine learning, drone applications, cutting-edge sensors and remote sensing technologies well-suited to the large farming areas have helped agriculture rapidly advance in developed countries. Now, increasingly, these innovations have begun making an entry in Indian agriculture, with an aim to enhance productivity and efficiency and also sustain the environment. However, small land-holdings create unique challenges for Indian farmers to adopt AI technologies since they are designed for large farms. Hence, many still rely on traditional farming knowledge which has allowed Indian farmers to manage microclimates and optimise yields through century-long accrued insights through a combination of practical tactile observations, visual cues and oral folklore passed down through generations. Their ITK was refined over hundreds of years, including the Green Revolution period as well, allowing them to develop adaptive strategies in local agriculture that could align with natural resources constraints, ecological changes and enhanced resilience against different stresses. Innovative farmers have developed new crop varieties through long-term breeding. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPVFR) was established in 2001 to protect their contributions. Additionally, many farmers conserve wild cereal, millet varieties and horticultural crops with valuable traits, recognised through the PPVFR's Genome Saviour Awards. Farmers and village artisans have also created tools and equipment that are suited to Indian agriculture, such as the popular coconut climbing device by M.J. Joseph of Kerala, known as the 'Chemperi Joseph' device. Rural Indian women constitute 48% of self-employed farmers and 33% of agricultural labourers, mak-

Enabling a level playing field

As Harmanpreet Kaur went out to bat during the 2024 ICC Women's T20 World Cup at Sharjah, millions were glued to their screens, including Sanskriti's 86-year-old grandfather, a former player who once captained India's deaf cricket team. While he always marvels at the action on the field, something else caught his attention this time: a sign language interpreter at the corner of the screen, translating every nuance of the game. For the first time, he could follow the commentary and post-match speeches without relying on us. Earlier this year, on Global Accessibility Awareness Day, Star Sports and Disney+Hotstar incorporated features that made live cricket accessible to India's 63 million hearing impaired and five million visually impaired citizens. Finally, the sport Sanskriti's grandfather loved was truly within reach.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2026, we must strive for better implementation of the Convention at the national level, particularly through the recognition of the linguistic human rights of hearing-impaired people. This is crucial because, for most Indians, cricket is more than just a sport; it cultivates a sense of national belonging. Yet, this camaraderie unintentionally leaves many behind, especially the 90 million persons with disabilities.

A sense of isolation Despite progressive endeavours, such as the Accessible India Campaign and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, glaring gaps remain in the lived experiences of people with disabilities. They feel isolated not because of their condition, but because of social barriers. The world is unfortunately designed for able-bodied people and the exclusion of persons with disabilities persists in the way buildings, sidewalks, stadiums, movie theatres, seating areas, and even washrooms are built. Legal mandates such as ramps and tactile paving are either absent or are merely tokenistic gestures.

The same inaccessibility can be seen in cricketing infrastructure too, whether in stadiums or on live broadcasts. While ongoing state efforts towards inclusivity in the education and health sectors are relevant, the private entertainment sector also requires attention. Persons with disabilities are not just citizens with capacity-building requirements; they are also individuals with the need to explore recreational avenues. That this has not been recognised by entertainment providers begs the ques-

in them integral to sustainable farming practices. They handle critical tasks such as seed selection and planting, polycropping, soil health, water management and pest control involving low-input, organic methods, and post-harvest processing suitable for local conditions. Their expertise in agriculture plays a vital role in enhancing the resilience of smallholder farms against environmental changes.

On indigenous knowledgeTo capture the indigenous agriculture technologies developed by the farmers, the ICAR, in the year 2000, under the National Agricultural Technology Programme, had initiated a Mission Mode Project on Collection, Documentation and Validation of the ITK. The information had been published as the Inventory of ITK in Agriculture as two part documents (Das et al., 2002). These remain an important repository of Indian farmers' knowledge which could be put to wider use.

Despite the robustness of Indian farmers' indigenous knowledge, which evolved alongside Green Revolution technologies to adapt to local conditions, the increasing pressures of soil degradation, climate change, market volatility, limited resources including labour now demand enhanced support systems. This is where the potential of AI and modern technology becomes particularly relevant.

The Global AI market is growing at a CAGR of 23.1% from 2023 to 2028, with a rise in investments from \$1.47 billion to \$4.7 billion during this period. It is estimated that the adoption of AI could reduce cost of cultivation by 22% as in an Ark-Investment report. Already, under the AI4AI programme (AI for Agriculture Innovation) started by the Indian government, an initiative called 'Saagu Baagu' in Khammam district of Telangana State had shown that from 2020 to 2023, the adoption of AI-enhanced chilli yield by 21% per acre, reduced pesticide application by 9%, a 5% decrease in fertilizer usage, and an 8% improvement in unit prices due to quality enhancements. Consequently, chilli farmers earned more than ₹66,000 per acre per crop cycle, enhancing their income substantially. This clearly indicates the scope of AI in transforming Indian agriculture.

To effectively develop hybrid agricultural intelligence (HAI), farmers need to recognise the value of their own agricultural knowledge as well as the potential of modern AI technologies. Training programmes should be implemented to educate them on using AI tools in conjunction with their farming practices. Need for collaborative platforms Collaborative platforms should be developed where farmers can share their farming knowledge with AI developers while integrating agricultural technologies generated by research organisations. This will not only refine AI tools for agriculture but also provide farmers with advanced insights and innovative solutions to enhance their practices. This ongoing data integration will create a symbiosis of farmers' wisdom and modern technology, resulting in continuous adaptive solutions modified to changing farming needs. AI platforms such as 'Kisan-e-mitra', 'Bhashini' and 'Sarvam' can facilitate this exchange through multilingual support. Pilot projects must be launched across regions to test this hybrid approach, evaluating its impact on efficiency, yields, income, and overall sustainability and refined further. Partnerships among the government, ICAR, tech companies, and farmers' cooperatives are crucial for developing HAI. However, such partnerships should be equitable, ethical, inclusive and ensure safeguarding national data, the interests of the farming community, and farm labour and the food security of the nation. Guaranteeing affordable and accessible AI tools for smallholder farmers is of paramount importance too. Despite challenges such as data integration, privacy concerns, financial constraints, and social resistance, if successfully implemented, HAI has the potential to transform Indian agriculture. By combining farmers' knowledge with AI, HAI can make farming more resilient, sustainable, and adaptable to future challenges, leading to a more prosperous and resource-efficient agricultural sector in India.

tion of whether our collective idea of leisure is inherently ableist. In theatres, where cricket matches are increasingly being screened, we rarely pause to wonder about access for wheelchair users or assistive devices for visually impaired people. This highlights the need to integrate accessibility into popular culture so that every person can reclaim their right to leisure. However, enabling people to exercise their right to leisure does not end with making infrastructure accessible; it also demands showcasing inclusive stories in popular entertainment. Films such as *Margarita with a Straw* (2014) and *Srikanth* (2024) lent great depth and sensitivity to the representation of disability in cinema. Such films challenge the public's unidimensional perspective on disability, while also making persons with disabilities feel seen and heard. They help shed light on the state of accessibility, prompting slow but steady public shifts towards making future entertainment infrastructure more inclusive.

Steps in the right directionThe government is also increasingly aware of the intersection between entertainment and inclusivity. A recent ruling by a Supreme Court bench, headed by former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, stated that stereotyping differently abled persons in visual media and films perpetuates discrimination. The Court said that creators ought to provide an accurate representation of disabilities rather than mocking them. This is a step in the right direction.Private players are also widening the scope for accessibility in subtle ways. We now have subtitles and audio descriptions on OTT platforms. These measures are convenient for everyone, including able-bodied persons, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. As technology continues to permeate our society, especially with the rise of Artificial Intelligence, we may soon see many more such measures.Building disability friendly ecosystems is no longer about philanthropic leanings. Globally, the total spending power of 1 billion persons with disabilities, including their family and friends who are likely to make accessibility-based choices, is estimated at \$13 trillion, an untapped opportunity. Investing in one's business to serve potential consumers and to build million-dollar revenues in the process is a strategic decision. These endeavours signal the recognition of individuals with disabilities as valued consumers and as crucial contributors to our economy

Child star who challenged Shashi Kapoor, earned Rs 3,500 daily as ‘Junior Amitabh’



Sometimes life chooses a path for you. Sometimes, while walking down one path, you take a turn that leads you somewhere entirely different. And very rarely does a person find success in everything they choose to pursue. Such has been the extraordinary journey of Ravi Valecha, popularly known as Master Ravi and arguably one of India’s first child stars. After becoming one of the highest-paid child actors of his time, Ravi went on to pursue his passion for cooking. He graduated from IIH Mumbai, worked as a professional chef with the Taj and eventually built a career in the hospitality industry. Today, he heads the administration department of a leading company, while also working towards setting up a film institute that would teach acting at an affordable cost. But his journey began with an unlikely exchange between a four-year-old Ravi and veteran actor Shashi Kapoor.

A four-year-old Ravi Valecha challenged Shashi Kapoor—and landed his first film“My brother was working on the film Fakira when I accompanied him on the set. On set, every actor and director had dedicated chairs for them. I was four and outspoken. I was sitting on this chair when this man, after his shot, walked up to me. He told me, ‘You are sitting on my chair.’ I said, ‘But I am sitting and I am not going to get up.’

“He then asked, ‘Can we do some compromise here?’ I was like, ‘Okay, we can do that. How about you sit on the chair and I sit on your lap?’ This man was nobody else but Shashi Kapoor. He liked my confidence. He then told the director to cast me in this film,” Ravi told Explore 1.That is how Ravi Valecha made his debut in Fakira, where he played Shabana Azmi’s four-year-old son. The journey that began in 1976 continued for the next 14 years. During this period, Ravi worked in more than 300 films across nine languages and several film industries, including Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.Ravi Valecha once had a lioness’s milkAt just six, Ravi starred in Cheetah Mera Yaar, a film directed by K Parvez and featuring Vinod Khanna, Amjad Khan and Neetu Singh. Ravi played the role of a prince who is kidnapped, escapes and eventually finds himself in the jungle.Unfortunately, the film never saw a release. But one scene from the movie remains etched in Ravi’s memory.“Filmmaker K Parvez was directing a film starring Vinod Khanna, Amjad Khan and Neetu Singh. I too was part of the film, where I played the role of a prince. The kid gets kidnapped and then escapes and goes to the jungle. Unfortunately, the film didn’t release. There was a scene in the film where a lioness was feeding her cubs. The kid crawls in and also gets fed. This was a true scene, with a real lioness and her cubs. I have had a lioness milk for real,” he told The Hillary Times.Ravi Valecha eventually became particularly famous for portraying a young version of Amitabh Bachchan in several of the superstar’s films, earning himself the nickname “Junior Amitabh Bachchan.”His popularity trans-

Ram Kapoor says he was ‘happy, super thrilled’ about father’s death: ‘His pain was over’



Ram Kapoor, last seen on Netflix’s captive reality series, Lock Upp, by Ektaa Kapoor, opened up about one of the most difficult phases of his life and how caring for his father during his final days changed his perspective on death. The actor revealed that while he was helping his father through his battle with cancer, he did not have the time to process what he was doing. It was only after his father passed away that the Bade Acche Lagte Hain fame realised how the experience had a much deeper impact on him. ‘I didn’t know that I could do it’: Ram Kapoor

Recalling the time he spent with his father, Ram told Nayandeep Rakshit, “When I was going through that, being with Dad at that time, I didn’t know that I could do it. I didn’t know that I could actually do what he wanted me to do. He somewhere thought that Ram will be able to do this. I think he saw my strength in this matter. I did not know at that point.”He further went on to describe how difficult it was to watch his father suffer from cancer. “I had my hands full with this dying man. It was not easy. Cancer is a very bad way to go. It’s a very bad disease. Sometimes he’s in severe pain, sometimes he’s hallucinating, sometimes he’s... So I had to deal with all of that.”

Ram Kapoor said he was focused entirely on doing what his father needed until his death. “I didn’t have time to actually think about it. I was just there doing what I needed to do for my father till he passed. Later on, it started sinking in, and I realised later on the amount I’ve learned from that experience. And that’s one of the best things that’s happened to me because I helped my father do something that he really wanted.”The Kasamh Se actor added, “Everybody lives like a king or tries to live like a king. He died like a king. He died on his terms and I helped him do that. So, that was fantastic.”

His father’s demise also changed the way Ram viewed death. “Everybody lives as if they are never going to die. They don’t even talk about their deaths with their family members. Plan it. Discuss it. Plan your will, your

lated into a lucrative career. At the peak of his child-acting years, he was reportedly earning Rs 3,000-3,500 per day in the 1980s—roughly equivalent to Rs 75,000-90,000 today when adjusted for inflation.

But Ravi believes his biggest advantage was his ability to deliver a scene in a single take.“I was the one and only child star. Like how they say Rajesh Khanna was the first superstar, similarly, Master Ravi was the first child star. I used to do at least four shifts in a day. Things were very expensive back then. They had rolls back then, so they had to be very precise. I had a record that I never used to give a retake. Maybe this was one of the reasons why directors, actors and producers favoured me. All they had to do was just explain the scene to me once.”

I lost my childhood and teenage yearsThe success came at a cost. Ravi Valecha began working at the age of four and continued until he was 18, missing out on much of a conventional childhood.“I lost too many things. In life, you cannot achieve anything without sacrificing something. I earned name, fame and wealth. But I lost my childhood as I was working from age 4 to age 18,” Ravi told Explore 1. Being constantly exposed to film sets and adult situations also meant that he had to mature much earlier than most children. “I used to think like a 24-year-old at 8. I lost my childhood and teenage.”After 14 years in the industry, Ravi eventually stepped away from acting. But according to him, it wasn’t an impulsive decision—it was a planned break.“It was a planned break. I had worked in several of Manmohan Desai films, the last being Girftaar (1985). He loved me a lot. So after this film, he asked me to go out of the limelight, work on my personality and said that he would launch me as the lead star. Unfortunately, he died during this time and I was never launched after that.”Having missed school because of his demanding shooting schedule, Ravi Valecha enrolled at IIH Mumbai. “I was very interested in cooking.”He graduated as a professional chef and worked with the Taj for a couple of years. He eventually expanded his experience across different aspects of the hospitality business, including room service, before establishing himself in the industry.Today, Ravi heads the administration department of a leading company. On the side, he is also working towards his dream of starting a film institute where aspiring actors can learn acting at an affordable cost.There was another childhood dream that Ravi never gave up on: flying.“I always wanted to become a pilot. But during those times, you had to study science and the courses were extremely expensive, and we had our limitations. Now, I have applied to the Bombay Flying Club to learn hobby flying. There is no age limit to anything,” he told Diksha Deo.

While Ravi Valecha’s journey may sound extraordinary, his childhood also had a deeply painful side. Despite having supportive parents, he has spoken about being abused as a child. Speaking to The Indian Express, Ravi said, “It happened with me three times.”He recalled one such incident involving a young secretary who had been hired to accompany him to shoots. “A young secretary who had been hired to accompany me to shoots every day would touch me inappropriately in taxis and cars,” he said.Looking back at those incidents, Ravi said the most difficult part was that he had nobody to confide in. “There was nobody I could talk to.”He believes these experiences also contributed to his struggles with anger and a short temper later in life. Recently, Ravi began therapy, where he has been working on himself and anger management through various exercises.From a four-year-old child who found himself on a film set to one of the most successful child actors of his generation, followed by a career as a chef and a successful stint in hospitality, Ravi Valecha’s journey has taken several unexpected turns. And even at this stage of his life, he continues to pursue the dreams he once had to put aside.

assets. I mean, it’s going to happen, right? So, why the are you guys ignoring it?” exasperated Ram.Talking about his father’s final moments, Ram said he was relieved that his suffering had ended. “I was super thrilled that his pain was over. So, in that process, I was happy about the death. I was smiling at the death. So, when you start smiling at death, how can you fear it? So, now it’s a joke to me,” shared the actor.Ram acknowledged that his decision to be there for his father had emotional consequences for his family. However, he maintained that he does not regret it. “I don’t think that I did anything wrong because I helped a dying man. So, I have no regrets with this,” stated the actor.Ram Kapoor made headlines during his stint on Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa Season 2, where he emerged as one of the five finalists. He made several candid revelations on the show about his personal life, including his struggles with depression, alcohol and his behaviour during his show, Bade Acche Lagte Hain. He gradually became a controversial character on the show, where his kiss with inmate Shreya became the biggest talk of the town. Despite the controversies surrounding his conduct, Ram made it to the finale week before finishing in fifth place.

Anshuman Jha on ‘Hari-Om’ becoming ‘Om Ka Hari’: ‘We didn’t get the title rights’

Mumbai: Actor Anshuman Jha has opened up about the title change of his upcoming father-son drama comedy, which was originally titled “Hari-Om” and is now called “Om Ka Hari.”The film, starring Jha alongside veteran actor Raghubir Yadav and Soni Razdan, underwent the change after the makers could not secure the rights to the original title.Explaining the decision, Anshuman said, “We didn’t get the title rights,” adding that Om Ka Hari eventually became the most appropriate title for the story.The film’s makers, First Ray Films, initially hoped to retain the title Hari-Om. However, the title rights were with Tips, which had used the name for a film more than two decades ago and did not agree to relinquish it.Speaking about the same, Anshuman Jha said, “Yes, the film was originally going to be called Hari-Om but because we didn’t get the title rights, we did the next best thing.

Rashmika Mandanna’s ‘Mysaa’ to hit screens on November 27 this year!



Chennai: The makers of director Rawindra Pulle’s eagerly awaited action thriller ‘Mysaa’, featuring actress Rashmika Mandanna in the lead, on Tuesday announced that the film would hit screens worldwide on November 27 this year.Unformula Films, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to make the announcement. It wrote, “Resilient by nature. Fearless by choice. Unbreakable by spirit. Get ready to experience the world of #MYSAA with #RashmikaMandanna like never before. IN CINEMAS WORLDWIDE ON 27.11.26.” It may be recalled that the film was recently in

Annu Kapoor can’t tell Ranbir, Ranveer, Sidharth Malhotra apart: ‘Main nahi janta inhe’

Actors Ranbir Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, and Sidharth Malhotra may be beloved by their fans and famous among today’s younger generation, but for senior actor Annu Kapoor, they are all the same. Admitting that he hasn’t seen any of their movies, Annu recently claimed he can’t even tell the three apart if they stood before him.“Naa shakal se jaanta hu, naa personally jaanta hu; woh mere samne aajaye toh mujhe pata bhi nahi hai. Woh kaun hai mujhe maalum bhi nahi hai (I can’t recognise them by face, nor do I know them personally; if they were to stand before me, I wouldn’t even know),” he said during a conversation with Bhanu Pathak.

He continued, “Ranbir toh Rishi Kapoor ka ladka hai na, isiliye main jaanta hu. Aur baaki... maine unka kaam kabhi dekha nahi hai. Toh kaise bolte hai, kaise khade hote hai, mujhe kya pata ki kya baat karte hai (Ranbir is Rishi Kapoor’s son, right? That’s why I know him. As for the rest... I have never watched any of their work. So, how would I know how they speak, stand, or talk?)”As the interview progressed, Annu also weighed in on legendary actor Naseeruddin Shah’s criticism of Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan’s acting skills. “Jab bhi bologe, nakaratmak hi bologe. Iss country mein tumhe bhi aham bolne wale bahut log hain, ki tum aham actor ho. Unke drishtikon se satya kuch nahi ho jata. Janta ne toh unko (Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan) superstars banaya hai. Woh inn successful star ke baare mein hi kyun bolte hain? (Whenever you speak, you only speak negatively. In this country, there are many people who call you ‘important’ too, saying that you are an important actor. But nothing becomes the truth from their perspective. The public has made them superstars. Why do they only talk about these successful stars?)”For the unversed, Naseeruddin Shah has often criticised Amitabh Bachchan and had once called him a businessman rather than an actor. In a 2024 interview with SCREEN, he had also said, “If you ask Mr Bachchan to play a character like Bhola (the

the news when its unit completed shooting a crucial underwater sequence featuring Rashmika.

Taking to his Instagram stories section, producer Ajay Saipureddy had said, “It’s a wrap for the exciting underwater sequence with Rashmika Mandanna.”The film has generated excitement among fans ever since it was first announced. In fact, in May this year, the film was in the news when actress Rashmika Mandanna disclosed that the unit had successfully wrapped up a long schedule in Kerala.Taking to her Instagram page to share pictures of the unit that worked in Kerala, Rashmika wrote, “Guys, a little update is that we successfully wrapped up a long schedule for #Mysaa in Kerala!”She went on to say, “And these were some of the darlings who worked so so hard and made it all possible. Thank you guys and I’ll see you soon again on set.”

Sources close to the unit had told IANS earlier that stunt master Kecha Khampakdi had choreographed some high voltage action sequences for this film which were shot in this schedule. Rashmika is believed to have performed some high intensity action sequences during this schedule along with key actors in the film.The actress had been training hard at an intensive stunt and combat bootcamp in Bangkok, Thailand to perform in the sequences that were to be filmed during this action schedule. Sources in the unit had disclosed that the actress had trained for over eight hours everyday for ‘Mysaa’ in Bangkok.For the unaware, Rashmika plays a tribal Gond girl- a character that demands emotional vulnerability as much as physical ferocity — in the film. The film, apart from Rashmika, also features Eshwari Rao, Guru Somasundaram, and Rao Ramesh in pivotal roles.On the technical front, cinematography for the film is by Shreyaas P Krishna while music is by Jakes Bejoy. International stunt choreographer Andy Long is overseeing the action for this ambitious entertainer.



part that he plays in Manthan), I don’t think he would be able to do it. Similarly, I wouldn’t be able to do his kind of roles.”In a 2010 interview with NewsX, Naseeruddin claimed that director Ramesh Sippy’s Sholay, widely regarded as one of the most influential Indian movies of all time, is “not a great film.” He added, “He (Big B) hasn’t made any great film. Sholay is not a great film; it’s entertaining for sure, but not great.”Similarly, the acting legend also took a swipe at Shah Rukh Khan once, although he lauded him for achieving superstardom without any godfathers in the industry. “For that, I have great admiration for Shah Rukh. But as an actor, he is becoming boring.”

Badshah-Isha Rikhi announce divorce: Secret marriage, no acknowledgement from singer

Rapper Badshah and Isha Rikhi announced their divorce on Monday, August 31, five months after getting married. Speculation about trouble in their marriage had been doing the rounds for some time, but nothing was confirmed until Monday. From keeping their relationship under wraps and away from the spotlight to their hush-hush wedding and eventual separation, here’s a look at Badshah and Isha Rikhi’s relationship timeline.According to several reports, the two met at a mutual friend’s party, where sparks flew and love blossomed. They dated for several years but never made their relationship public, leaving fans guessing about their equation.A strong rumour about Badshah potentially marrying Isha Rikhi surfaced across social media in 2023. However, the Indian Idol judge quashed the reports by taking to his Instagram account. He wrote, “Dear media, I respect you but this is super lame. Im not getting married. Whoever’s feeding you this bullshit needs to find better masala (sic).”In March 2026, Isha Rikhi’s mother, Poonam Rikhi, shared photos of Badshah and her daughter participating in traditional Punjabi wedding ceremonies, hinting that the two had tied the knot. The wedding reportedly took place in the presence of a few close family members.The wedding photos quickly spread across social media, but Badshah never acknowledged the reports. He remained tight-lipped about the matter until Monday, when he announced his divorce from Isha.When Isha Rikhi confirmed their marriageIsha later hosted an AMA (Ask Me Anything) session on Instagram, where she was flooded with questions about her marriage to Badshah. To put an end to the speculation, Isha shared a question from a fan who asked about their marriage and why they did not follow each other on Instagram. In response, Isha wrote, “I’m officially being flooded with questions like, ‘Are you married?’, ‘Are you married to Badshah?’, ‘Why don’t you follow each other?’ and ‘Why don’t you post pictures together?’”

She also addressed the much-asked question about them not following each other on Instagram and asked Badshah to address it. She wrote, “Now, coming to the

most asked question: Why don’t you follow each other? Honestly, I think my husband owes all of you an explanation. Pati Dev (Badshah), the audience has questions. Please address them as soon as possible (sic),” along with a laughing-out-loud emoji.However, Badshah never addressed the questions surrounding his marriage, nor did he share any photos of the two together.Earlier this week, Isha Rikhi shared a video featuring photos of herself with Badshah from their holidays, festivals, family celebrations and gatherings. However, it was the caption overlaid on the video that grabbed attention. It read, “Every storm is a lesson. Every prayer is a hope (sic).”Soon after, Isha shared another emotional post in which she spoke about choosing “courage over fear” after staying silent for long. In the post, she wrote, “There are battles that leave no visible scars. For a long time, I remained silent because I was afraid. I felt overwhelmed by the influence, power, and resources I believed my husband had, and I convinced myself that staying quiet was the safest thing to do (sic).”Isha Rikhi Isha Rikhi’s emotional post that drew support from her industry friends.Isha Rikhi’s industry friends like Suyyash Rai, Jasmine Bhasin, and a few others comforted her by asking her to stay strong. “Stay strong. Truth shall prevail (sic),” read Wamiqa Gabbi’s message.Amid Isha’s posts, it was Poonam Rikhi’s cryptic Instagram stories that also attracted attention. Her posts spoke about karma and justice, prompting netizens to wonder whether they were linked to the separation rumours surrounding Isha and Badshah. One of the images showed a woman kneeling and praying to Lord Shiva, accompanied by the caption, “Karma comes back around. If you make life difficult for someone, God will make your death difficult.”Another Instagram story by Poonam read, “Karma never forgives; if you have made someone cry, tears are inevitable for you too. There is no judge greater than Karma; the ledger of Karma never lies. When the time comes, Karma delivers justice without bias. God might forgive you, but your Karma will never forgive you.”Isha Rikhi is a Punjabi actor who made her debut with the film Boys Putt Jattan De in 2013. She went on to feature in films including Happy Go Lucky, Mere Yaar Kaminey, What the Jatt and Ardaas. Apart from these Punjabi films, Rikhi also starred in the Hindi film Nawabzaade.