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CM Revanth to Investors: No Need for Doubts Over Centre-Telangana Govt Relations

Hyderabad, Oct 29

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged investors to not have any doubts or apprehensions over relations between the BJP-led government at the Centre and the Congress government in Telangana, asserting that they were supporting each other and working together to achieve their common goals for 2047. While the Centre was pursuing its Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, the Congress government in the state was working towards Telangana Rising 2047, with the state aiming to contribute 10 per cent of India's GDP by 2047.

Political differences would not come in the way of development or investment, Revanth Reddy told the curtain-raiser event of the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 in Delhi on Thursday, attended by Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal, industrialists, CEOs of global companies and representatives of industry bodies,

"Many investors ask what the Centre-State relations will be like, given that there is a BJP government at the Centre and a Congress government in Telangana. Will this affect their businesses? I want to assure them that there is no need for such apprehensions," he said.



Pointing to the Centre's support for Telangana, the Chief Minister said Union minister Piyush Goyal had explained the relationship between the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister in the context of development. The Centre had decided to establish seven high-speed rail corridors in the country, of which three had been allotted to Hyderabad — towards Chennai, Bengaluru and Pune. The Centre was also supporting the state by facilitating two new airports at Warangal and Adilabad.

From the Regional Ring Road and Metro Rail expansion to the Navy's low-frequency radar station and several other schemes, Telangana was receiving support from the Centre, he said. "In developing India and serving the people, there is no place for party politics," he asserted, urging investors to focus on the opportunities available in the state rather than political differences.

Emphasising the need for an investment-friendly administration, Revanth Reddy said, "I believe what cannot be measured cannot be managed. We need less government rather than more government to enable growth. My job is to remove speed breakers in your path to success."

He said Hyderabad's competition was no longer confined to Indian cities. "My competition for Hyderabad is with New York, London, Tokyo, Seoul and Dubai," he said, calling upon investors and industry leaders to help the government realise this ambition.

The Chief Minister asked investors to share their best ideas and policy inputs, assuring them that their suggestions would be translated into government policy. Hyderabad, he said, possessed a global outlook and an entrepreneurial spirit, with a strong tradition of reforms and business enterprise.

Recalling the city's investment history, he said governments led by different political parties had ruled Hyderabad since 1991, with leaders holding divergent political views, but all had contributed to and supported its investment story. He said this continuity demonstrated that Hyderabad's growth transcended party politics.

"It is my personal commitment that your investment will be safe and will grow. I will be the custodian of your investment in my state," he said. Revanth Reddy asked investors to decide how much they intended to invest in Telangana, without having to disclose the amount to him or anyone else. He urged them to double their planned investment, growth projections and expected profits, and then tell him what they needed from the government to achieve those targets.

"Whatever you need, from policy to support, I will personally guarantee," he said, inviting investors to communicate their expectations and work with the government to expand their businesses.

Outlining his economic vision, the Chief Minister said Telangana Rising 2047 was aligned with the Centre's Viksit Bharat 2047 goal. With India aspiring to become a $30-trillion economy by 2047, Telangana aimed to contribute 10 per cent of the country's GDP, compared with its current contribution of around five per cent.

He said the state had set ambitious targets of becoming a $1-trillion economy by 2034 and a $3-trillion economy by 2047. Achieving these milestones would require sustained investments, reforms, industrial expansion and cooperation between the government and the private sector, he indicated.

Modi To Launch Rs14,000-Cr Gujarat Projects

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will begin a two-day visit to Gujarat on Friday, during which he will launch development projects worth over ?14,000 crore, release ?19,000 crore under the 24th instalment of PM-KISAN and flag off two train services.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate Bharat Parv 2026 at Ekta Nagar, participate in the Narmada



Aarti and attend Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations marking the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

On Friday, Modi will visit the Embryo Transfer Technology-In Vitro Fertilisation Laboratory and the Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre in Banaskantha.

He will then lay foundation stones, inaugurate and dedicate various development projects worth over ?14,000 crore to the nation, besides releasing the PM-KISAN instalment and addressing a gathering.

On October 31, Modi will pay floral tributes at the Statue of Unity and inaugurate and lay foundation stones for projects worth over ?400 crore in Ekta Nagar.

He will also visit the Rain Forest and Vaman Vriksha Vatika.

Among the major infrastructure projects is the Ahmedabad Metro expansion, for which Modi will lay the foundation stones of Phases 2A and 2B.

Phase 2A will cover over six kilometres, connecting Koteshwar Road to the airport through five stations, while Phase 2B will extend over 3.3 kilometres from GIFT City to Shahpur, covering three stations.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for widening the Ahmedabad-Mehsana Road (State Highway-41) from four to eight lanes at a cost of around ?2,600 crore.

The project is expected to improve connectivity between Ahmedabad and North Gujarat.

He will lay the foundation stones for 4,030 child-friendly Anganwadi centres and inaugurate 361 completed centres.

The ?800-crore initiative is expected to benefit over four lakh people.

Modi will also dedicate 521 projects completed under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund at a cost of around ?4,950 crore.

These include cold storage facilities, warehouses, silos, polyhouses, greenhouses and agricultural processing centres.

As part of the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations, Modi will inaugurate Bharat Parv 2026 at Ekta Nagar.

The festival will showcase the cultural traditions, folk performances, regional cuisines, handicrafts and tourist attractions of states and Union Territories.

The festival, which will continue until November 15, is expected to promote tourism in Ekta Nagar and surrounding areas.

TG Taps Artistes to Spread El Nino Alert in Villages

Hyderabad: The Telangana government will deploy Telangana Samskruthika Sarathi artists to spread awareness about possible rainfall deficits and water scarcity linked to El Nino, using folk performances, songs and street plays to promote conservation.



Tourism and culture minister Jupally Krishna Rao directed officials on Thursday to organise the campaign, particularly in rural areas, encouraging people to conserve water and electricity and adopt farming practices suited to prevailing weather conditions.

Following his directions, the department of language and Culture allocated 18 Sarathi artists to Hyderabad district for the campaign. Officials said the performances would explain the possible effects of El Nino and precautionary measures in simple, accessible language.

Reviewing preparations here, the minister asked officials to draw artists from other districts wherever local Sarathi artists were unavailable. He sought coordination between districts to maintain an uninterrupted schedule of programmes.

Telangana Samskruthika Sarathi chairperson Vennela Gaddar and Department of Language and Culture director Narasimha Reddy attended the meeting.

SC Upholds Telangana's Ownership Over 550 Acres in Miyapur

Hyderabad: In a major relief to the state government, the Supreme Court on Thursday upheld its ownership of 550.39 acres of government land in Survey No.s 100 and 101 of Miyapur.

The apex court dismissed a batch of appeals filed by the several private co-operative societies and individuals, who claimed the land with the fabricated documents and entry in revenue records with the collusion of revenue authorities and challenged the then-Andhra Pradesh High Court's common judgment dated April 16, 2003, which had declared the land belonged to the government.

A Supreme Court bench comprising Justice M.M. Sundresh and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma upheld the decision of the High Court and affirmed the findings that the disputed land in Survey No.s 100 and 101 were government poramboke land and that the private claimants were land-grabbers under the Andhra Pradesh Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Act.

Though a large extent of land was encroached and structures, including multi-storey residential complexes, came up, the government can put to use considerable extent of vacant land still available. The value of this land runs into thousands of crores of rupees.

With the Supreme Court order the encroachers would have to regularise their structures.

The apex court made it clear that fraudulent revenue entries, invalid historical claims and subsequent transactions could not confer ownership over land that had vested in the state. The apex court exposed how private claimants sought to establish ownership over government land by relying on disputed revenue records, alleged inheritance rights and conveyance documents, while subsequent registration and official permissions could not cure the defects in their claims.

Yusuf Pathan gets his 'gift': Vadodara civic body clears transfer of 978-sq-m plot



The Standing Committee of the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) on Friday (October 23) unanimously approved the allotment of a 978-square-metre plot of land to Yusuf Pathan, over which it had served the former India cricketer an encroachment notice two years ago.Congress leaders staged a dharna outside the Standing Committee hall, carrying placards opposing the allotment. But no questions were asked inside.All 12 members of the Standing Committee are elected corporators from the BJP. The Congress, which has only six corporators out of the total 69 in the VMC, has no representation in the Standing Committee.The proposal was "approved unanimously, with no questions raised during the meeting", sources said.The Indian Express first reported on October 19 that Gujarat's BJP government had decided to allot the plot to Pathan two months after he rebelled against Mamata Banerjee and broke away from her Trinamool Congress (TMC) along with 19 other West Bengal MPs.

Pathan, who won the Baharampur Lok Sabha seat on a TMC ticket in 2024, and the other MPs have since joined a little-known outfit called the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), and asked the Lok Sabha Speaker to be seated separately from the TMC.The 978-sq-m plot located at Town Planning Scheme 22, Final Plot 90, is adjacent to the Bagh-e-Mehmud bungalow owned by Pathan. Five hundred square metres of the land will be transferred to him as a "gift", while the remaining 478 sq m will be given at a concessional rate of 55% of the valuation made earlier by the Valuation Committee of the Vadodara Urban Development Authority (VUDA).The proposal cleared by the Standing Committee essentially approves an application that Pathan had submitted back on March 3, 2012, seeking a 99-year lease of the plot without an auction.The Gujarat government had rejected his request in June 2014. The VMC had subsequently alleged that Pathan had fenced and occupied the plot despite the rejection.Pathan had challenged the rejection before the Gujarat High Court, where a single judge had dismissed his plea in August 2025. Pathan had appealed this order, but had withdrawn the appeal on August 31, 2026 – two days after the VMC received a communication from the state government approving the transfer of the plot to Pathan.In June 2024, days after Pathan became a TMC MP, the VMC had served notice on him, asking him to remove the alleged encroachment on the plot.

With proceedings in court still underway, the Standing Committee, which is the highest executive body of the VMC, had in July this year, began preparations for a public auction of the plot – and approved a valuation of Rs 2.10 lakh per sq m, which put the estimated value of the land at around Rs 20.5 crore.However, this proposal was withdrawn after the General Board, the top legislative and decision-making body of the civic administration, raised questions about the alleged encroachment by Pathan, saying the plot could not be disposed of without the matter being settled.Meanwhile, Pathan and the other TMC MPs had announced on June 14 that they had switched to the NCPI. Mamata Banerjee had lost power in West Bengal on May 4, and Suvendu Adhikari had taken charge as the new BJP Chief Minister of the state on May 9.

On Friday, even before the Standing Committee met, Congress corporators Pushpa Vaghela, Ashish Joshi, city party president Rutvij Joshi and Congress leader Swejal Vyas sat on dharna in the front of Committee hall, holding placards with messages against the BJP and the decision to transfer the plot.The Standing Committee's decision on Friday came a day after a body known as Vishwamitri Bachao Samiti submitted a memorandum to the VMC commissioner, urging the civic body to withdraw the proposal.The proposed transfer raised questions of equality, limitation, and the treatment of public land, the Samiti argued.Advocate Shailesh Amin, representing the Samiti, pointed out that Pathan had represented India in the 2007 and 2011 ODI World Cups, yet the state government had, in 2014, rejected his proposal."The present proposal risks treating Pathan differently from other international cricketers and sportspersons who would not be able to seek similar treatment because the government has stipulated that the decision cannot be cited as a precedent.

Our question is that Vadodara has many cricketers who have played international cricket… We have four Arjuna Awardees in Vadodara. Why has no one else been given such a gift? Will the government consider gifting a plot to Yastika Bhatia [who plays for the Indian women's cricket team in all three formats] and [all-rounder] Hardik Pandya too?" Amin said.The government's proposal specifically states that the decision to "gift" Pathan the land should not be treated as a precedent.Standing Committee chairman Varsha Vyas told reporters on Friday that the proposal had been cleared "based on the resolution of the state government on which the Municipal Commissioner had sent the proposal"."The allotment is being considered under the Urban/Area Development Authorities (Disposal of Land and Other Properties) Regulations, 2002, which govern the disposal of land and other properties by urban development authorities. Regulation 3(1) permits disposal through sale…or the grant of development rights.

Mumbai's first bridge to Navi Mumbai is rusting, and nobody wants to own it



Drive out of Mumbai towards Navi Mumbai, over the Thane Creek, and you could miss it. The road is aligned to skirt past the old bridge, which is boarded up. It runs right alongside the new one you're driving on. Glance out of your window and you'll see it. Rusting weeds along its sides, the road signs washed out, a few cabins and some garbage the only signs of a past life. Now and then a local slips in to fish in the creek.This is Thane Creek Bridge-1, which opened in 1973 as the only road link over the creek, connecting Mankhurd on Mumbai's eastern edge to Vashi, the entry into Navi Mumbai, the planned city then being built across the creek to ease the pressure on Mumbai. Since then, it has been overshadowed by two newer bridges beside it, and is now caught in a custody battle between three agencies, none of which wants it.

The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), which built the newest bridge in the narrow gap beside it, has no use for it and wants to hand it off. The Public Works Department (PWD), its original owner, closed its chapter on the Thane Creek bridges years ago and dissolved the department that looked after them. A government order from November 2025 directs that the bridge go to the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC). The NMMC says it does not fall in its jurisdiction.

The bridge to nowhereTCB-1 began as an idea in 1959, when the S G Barve-headed Study Group for Greater Bombay suggested a rail-cum-road bridge over the Thane Creek. It would open up land across the creek for a township and industry. Mumbai is an island city, and until the bridge was built, road traffic to the mainland had to loop north through Thane.The idea returned in the 1960s, when the architect Charles Correa, the structural engineer Shirish Patel and the architect Pravina Mehta drew up the plan for a new city across the harbour, which became Navi Mumbai. The bridge itself was apparently proposed by Adi Kanga, a civil engineer who, according to the Parsi archival website Parsi Khabar, was general manager of CIDCO, the agency set up to build the new city, and is counted among Navi Mumbai's early planners.

"For some years while the land procurement delays brought the project to a standstill, people called it "the Bridge to No Where"," notes a tribute to Kanga by Rusi Sorabji on the website.The two-lane, 1.8-km bridge opened in 1973. Within a few years, the salty creek water had acted on the structure and the bridge needed major repairs. Reports say it was shut soon after, and later repaired.

With Navi Mumbai on track, a second bridge was needed. Determined not to repeat the mistakes of the first, the PWD's consultants, STUP, took extra care. "In view of the highly aggressive and polluted marine environment, a number of precautions have been taken for enhancing the durability," they noted in documentation preserved by the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering from its 1992 conference. These included a four-stage anticorrosive treatment for reinforcing bars, protective coatings and better drainage.The six-lane TCB-2 opened in 1997 and took over as the main crossing. TCB-1, with its structural defects, was kept on as a backup, opened now and then to light vehicles and two-wheelers until the 2010s, when needed or while the newer bridge was under maintenance. Within ten years, even the newer bridge proved too small. In 2012, approvals came through for a third bridge over the creek.In 2020, TCB-1 found a new purpose. The state road corporation, MSRDC, had begun building the third bridge, TCB-3, as a pair of three-lane carriageways, one on each side of TCB-2. The carriageway nearest the old bridge had to be squeezed into a 22-metre gap, and the old bridge, shut to traffic, became a platform for the work. The creek was shallow, the tides unpredictable, and engineers had to avoid damaging the bridges on either side, which made it hard to move heavy machinery. At night, one lane of TCB-2 was shut to help the work along."The MSRDC was handed over TCB-1 and TCB-2 during the construction of the TCB-3, to aid in construction and access. As the old bridge was shut to traffic, we wanted to use it to help us during construction, possibly station some guards, park equipment and machines on it in the thick of construction," said an MSRDC official. "But the old bridge was in a terrible condition."Before using it, the MSRDC had the bridge surveyed, including an underwater inspection of its pillars. The findings, cross-checked by engineers at Mumbai's Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI), were clear: the bridge was unsafe. Its foundations were weak, and so were the steel cables inside the concrete that hold a bridge of this kind together. Even to put watch cabins and site offices on it, the MSRDC had to reinforce it by running new steel cables along the outside of the structure and tightening them. The cabins still standing on the bridge date from that time.

A government order, and no takersTCB-3 opened in 2025, taking the crossing to 12 lanes. The MSRDC considered its job done. On November 3, 2025, its managing director Anilkumar Gaikwad wrote to Milind Mhaiskar, additional chief secretary of the state Public Works Department (PWD), which owned the first two bridges, asking the department to take over all three."Since the ownership of the TCB 1 and 2 rests with the PWD, it is proposed to transfer the bridges to the PWD for daily maintenance and repair," the letter said. It asked the PWD to take TCB-3 too, even as the MSRDC continues to collect toll on it.But the PWD had moved on. "By the time construction on the TCB-3 began, the custody of the TCB-1 and TCB-2 had been with MSRDC for a while. The TCB division, earlier stationed at Konkan Bhavan, was almost as good as defunct, with no work for it," a PWD engineer said, referring to the department's office at the government complex in Navi Mumbai. The division was dissolved in 2021 and its staff moved elsewhere.

Within days of the MSRDC's letter, on November 20, 2025, the PWD issued a government order transferring a list of roads, flyovers and bridges from the MSRDC to the municipal corporations in whose areas they fall. The order, which carried the chief minister's approval, cited public complaints about the condition and maintenance of these structures. TCB-1 and TCB-2 were to go to the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC).Almost a year on, the handover has not happened. The MSRDC has appointed a private consortium to maintain TCB-2. Nobody maintains TCB-1.With the government order in, what is left for a handover is a joint inspection by both authorities, transfer of documents on the structures, and an agreement on what maintenance is to be done and which authority will foot the bill for it," said a PWD chief engineer who has tracked the process, referring to the MSRDC and the NMMC. "The MSRDC has written to the NMMC for the handover, but it is yet to happen."

Whose bridge is it?

The NMMC's objection is about geography. The November 20 order that transferred the bridges to it also handed it three other structures, at Nerul, Vashi and CBD Belapur, all within Navi Mumbai's limits. The corporation is accepting those three, even at a repair cost of Rs 75 crore. The Thane Creek bridges, it says, are different. Part of the Sion-Panvel Highway, a state highway, they begin in Vashi but end in Mankhurd, into the territory of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), and that, the NMMC argues, puts them outside its jurisdiction."The bridges over the Thane Creek have one end in Vashi and one end in Mankhurd. But that doesn't put it in the jurisdiction of the NMMC," a senior NMMC official said. "The NMMC is ready and in the process to accept and take over the other bridges mentioned in the order, one at Nerul, Vashi and CBD, even as those come with a repair cost of Rs 75 crore, pending an approval from our general body. But as the TCBs don't come in the NMMC jurisdiction, there is no cause for us to take over, do an inspection for it, or ponder what to do with it. After all, the MSRDC continues to collect the toll and has given away the advertising rights from the bridges." The corporation has said as much to the MSRDC in writing.Beneath the dispute is a bigger question, officials said: who should own and maintain infrastructure that sits across jurisdictions? The MSRDC keeps the toll and the advertising revenue from the Thane Creek bridges. How, the NMMC asks, can a city body then be handed the bill for their upkeep? The contrast is next door. Atal Setu, the 22-km sea bridge that also crosses the creek, was built by the state's Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority and stays with it.

What happens to it now?

Nobody has an answer. One idea is to repair it and reopen it to traffic. Another is to use it for the proposed Metro corridor between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. Engineers are not hopeful about either."Repurposing the bridge for a Metro would not be possible. Nor would repairing or strengthening the bridge to handle light traffic make sense, as that would cost almost or just as much as building a new bridge," said a retired engineer who worked with the MSRDC and other government agencies. "Bridge 1 is not in such as bad condition that it would collapse, and it also carries a pipeline across the creek. In its present state, it is not doing any harm."The MSRDC official agreed. "Only the government or the authority that takes over the old bridge will be able to decide its fate," he said.

Over 100 detained in Delhi during protest against election panel chief



Delhi Police on Friday detained more than 100 protesters during a march in Central Delhi against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.The call for the march was given on Thursday by the Delhi Coordination Committee of People Against SIR, a civil society collective. CPI(M) leaders Brinda Karat, CPI's P Sandosh and members of the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) and the All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) also joined.Around 2 pm, around 300 people gathered near Gole Dak Khana, at the intersection of Kalibari Marg and Bhai Vir Singh Marg, with participants carrying the national flag and banners demanding an end to the electoral roll revision exercise.

The group started marching towards Gurdwara Bangla Saheb. More than 1000 police and personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces were deployed around the area, with heavy barricading at the ECI office and the Jantar Mantar protest site.Unable to go towards ECI, most of them gathered around the roundabout near Bangla Saheb and started a sit-in protest dubbed a 'people's Parliament'.By 3 pm, security forces started detaining people. Within an hour, at least three buses were filled with detainees and taken to multiple detention centres.The 'People against SIR' announced on its website that 145 organisations will organise more protests in 88 cities across the country in the coming days.This was the first major protest call after October 16, when Cockroach Janta Party's Abhijeet Dipke had announced a 'Tiranga Lehra do' protest at Connaught Place's Central Park.By the end of that protest, more than 100 people were detained, including All India Students' Association (AISA) president Neha Bora.

Why Aaditya Thackeray wants Amazon's AI data centre paused

Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray Member of Legislative Assembly Aaditya Thackeray urges Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to halt proposed Amazon data centre in Thane pending expert panel reportShiv Sena(UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray urges Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to halt proposed Amazon data centre in Thane pending expert panel report Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray has urged Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to keep the proposed Amazon data centre in Thane's Balkum-Majiwada area on hold until a state-appointed expert committee submits its report on the impact of data centre projects.In a letter to Fadnavis dated October 22, Thackeray also sought the inclusion of representatives of grassroots local organisations in the 17-member committee, headed by former Atomic Energy Commission chairman Dr Anil Kakodkar. He said the committee's findings would provide an objective assessment of the project's possible impact on Thane and its residents."Thane and Uran residents won't have water supply on particular days, but the regime will keep supporting the builders and vested interests, and not stop the work on projects like the AI Data Centre that are detrimental to the city. I demand that data centre to put on hold considering the current scenario and e till the time the committee submits report," he said.The committee must submit its final report within three months of the government resolution constituting it. It will examine the impact of data centres on water and electricity supply, the environment, heat emissions, noise pollution and residents' daily lives, and recommend measures for sustainable data centre development, including energy efficiency, water conservation and alternative cooling technologies.In his letter, Thackeray asked the government to clarify its policy for data centres and AI data centres, the criteria for approving such projects, and the arrangements for their water and electricity use. He also sought details of safeguards for the environment and residents, the role of local self-government bodies, and provisions for citizen participation and transparency in approvals.He flagged the potential impact of emissions from diesel generators, noise and heat released by the facility. In a social media post, he questioned why the facility was planned in a residential area and could not be shifted to an industrial one, alleging that residents' concerns had not been adequately addressed.Residents of Balkum, Majiwada and nearby areas have opposed the proposed Amazon Web Services facility over its electricity and water use, backup generators and environmental impact.Amazon has said the facility will use closed-loop cooling and will not draw on the local potable water supply for cooling. It has also said the facility will get electricity through a dedicated high-voltage connection rather than the local network serving homes and businesses.Get the latest Mumbai news today here. From breaking stories and local headlines to developments across Maharashtra, this is your place to catch up on what's happening in the city and beyond. Read today's Mumbai news headlines on politics, crime, civic issues, transport, education, weather and real estate. Follow BMC decisions, local train and Metro updates, road projects and changes affecting your daily commute. Keep track of rainfall, public health concerns, school and college developments, and housing projects across Mumbai's neighbourhoods. Beyond the headlines, explore reports, explainers and investigations that put the city's important issues in context.

Why did Lawrence Bishnoi gang shoot at Tiger Shroff? What police told the court

The attack on Tiger Shroff was carried out by the Bishnoi gang for financial gain, to establish dominance and to create terror, according to the Mumbai Police's remand application seeking custody of three accused.The motive in the application, made available on Friday, is the same as that cited in police chargesheets in the Salman Khan firing case, the Baba Siddique murder case and the Rohit Shetty firing case.In a screenshot shared on social media and an audio clip, a person claiming to be Anil Pandit said Tiger was attacked because he was close to Salman Khan and had ignored the gang's warning. The gang has sought to link its earlier attacks, including the Siddique murder and the Shetty firing, to Salman Khan too. In those chargesheets, police said the motive was to create fear and terror to facilitate extortion. The remand application places the attack on Tiger in the same category.

Seeking the remand of Jatin Panchal, Samir Khatri and Ankit Khatak on Friday, police said they had earlier conducted recce of the residences of other influential people in the city and needed to be questioned further. The application also stated that the accused had planned to flee abroad after the attack.The trio, arrested from Haryana's Sonipat, were produced before an Esplanade court, where police sought their custody till October 31 to investigate their alleged roles, their links with Pandit and



the procurement of the firearm. Police told the court that two of the accused were in contact with Pandit, a wanted accused.

Opposing the plea, advocate Ajinkya Mirgal argued that police had already recovered evidence from the hotel room where the accused allegedly practised firing. "As they have established that arrested accused are in touch with the wanted accused, their electronic devices can be seized. Custody is not required," he told the court.Police said they needed to investigate an alleged misfire inside the hotel room during a firing practice session. "During their stay in the hotel, there was an incident of misfire.

Karnataka sanctions prosecution of IAS officer Gyanendra Gangwar



The Karnataka government Saturday sanctioned the prosecution of jailed senior IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar for his alleged involvement in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment paper leak case.Gangwar, a 2016-batch IAS officer currently in judicial custody, served as KPSC controller of examinations from January 2024 to March 2026. He is accused of leaking the question paper for the competitive examination held on January 8 and 9 to recruit veterinary officers.

Emphasising the state's zero-tolerance stance on corruption, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said. "Our government will not tolerate corruption or shield the guilty! Prosecution sanction has been granted against IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar in connection with the corruption case linked to the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment scam.""Our government will not tolerate any wrongdoing that jeopardises the future of our youth or undermines their faith in a fair and transparent recruitment process. Every aspirant deserves a fair opportunity based on merit and hard work. We are committed to ensuring transparency, integrity and accountability in public recruitment and governance, and to upholding the rule of law without fear or favour."

Bribes and ED-CID probeThe Criminal Investigation Department (CID) formally requested sanctions for prosecution, while the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is probing the money-laundering aspect of the scam.Investigative findings by the CID and ED revealed that Gangwar allegedly received Rs 1.30 crore out of Rs 1.52 crore collected from candidates in exchange for leaking the question paper. Interrogations of middleman Basavaraj Kannale, a close associate of Gangwar, disclosed that around 20 candidates paid between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 40 lakh each to secure the leaked exam paper.The prosecution sanction was issued under Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which mandates official state sanction when public officers are directly implicated in criminal offences.

Raj Thackeray deletes Modi-Adani documentary after Mumbai Police request



Mumbai: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Sunday said he had deleted a documentary about Prime Minister Narendra Modi and industrialist Gautam Adani from his social media accounts following a "request" from the Mumbai Police Commissioner.Thackeray's statement comes days after Mumbai Police issued legal notices to 24 X (formerly Twitter) account holders for sharing a controversial documentary posted by tech entrepreneur and Hotmail founder Sabir Bhatia.Reacting to the development, MNS leaders questioned whether the police were under pressure to make such a request.Thackeray claimed that the documentary, made by Bhatia, had garnered more than 48 lakh views on X after being posted to inform the public.The MNS chief said he had been raising concerns about the close ties between Adani and Prime Minister Modi since January 2026, ahead of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections.

"The Mumbai and Maharashtra Police are the most efficient police force in the country, and I have always had respect for them in my heart. I am just honouring the request made by the head of such a Mumbai Police," he said in a post on X.Thackeray said the documentary provided information about the history of the relationship between Adani and Modi.He noted that Bhatia had produced the documentary recently, but he himself had made a detailed presentation at his residence, Shivteerth, in January 2026. According to Thackeray, the presentation illustrated how the Adani Group was seeking to take control of the country. He said the presentation had received an exceptional response and that videos of it remained available on his social media accounts. Some clips, he added, had been incorporated into the documentary.Meanwhile, MNS leaders expressed surprise at the documentary's removal. It had been screened at one of the party's shakhas, or local branches, on Saturday.MNS leader Sandeep Deshpande questioned why the Mumbai Police had asked Thackeray to remove the documentary."What pressure did Mumbai Police have? Is this the job of the Mumbai Police? They don't have time (to find out) how Bishnoi gang goons come to the city, but they have time to see who posted what video," Deshpande said.The Bishnoi gang has been linked to attacks on several high-profile personalities. The specific reference to actor Tiger Shroff in the original report should be independently verified before publication.On October 18, Mumbai Police issued legal notices to 24 X account holders who had shared the documentary posted by Bhatia.According to the notices, the documentary allegedly contained false, misleading and disparaging statements and allegations against the company, circulated without any factual or lawful basis and causing continuing harm to its reputation, goodwill and public image.In a separate post, Thackeray alleged that the Centre had directed the Maharashtra government to hand over several hundred hectares of forest land in Bhimashankar to Gujarat-based Torrent Group.He further alleged that the government had transferred large tracts of forest and wilderness land in Maharashtra to a select group of industrialists and planned to hand over more.An MNS functionary said Thackeray would address a rally in Karjat on October 28 on the issue.

KTR targets Rahul Gandhi over silence on Telangana corruption

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for his silence on corruption, irregularities and scams in Telangana. He accused the Congress MP of treating the State as an "ATM" for the party. While the BJP government at the Centre was sowing divisions among people, the Congress government in Telangana was busy plundering them, Rama Rao charged.On Sunday, Jibran Sharif, a senior minority leader from the Khairatabad constituency, joined the BRS at Telangana Bhavan.

Addressing the gathering, Rama Rao said that Telangana had effectively become an "ATM" for Rahul Gandhi under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's administration. He described the Chief Minister as the Congress MP's "ATM card." Referring to the Congress party's electoral promises, Rama Rao recalled that Rahul Gandhi had assured the people that the party would implement six guarantees within 100 days of coming to power in Telangana.

Rama Rao questioned why Rahul Gandhi, who travels across the country speaking about initiatives such as 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' (Voice of Students), lacked the courage to visit Telangana. "Rahul Gandhi has a responsibility to answer for the promises made to the people of Telangana," he demanded.He also criticised Rahul Gandhi for failing to address the concerns of unemployed youth. Rama Rao recalled that Gandhi had made major promises to them while sitting at a tea stall in Ashok Nagar ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections.Rama Rao stressed that the Congress government had failed to fulfil its promises to minority communities under the special 'Minority Declaration'. He questioned what had happened to the promise of allocating Rs. 4,000 crore for minority welfare.The BRS working president also raised allegations of corruption against the Revanth Reddy government. He alleged that a five-acre plot worth nearly Rs. 200 crore had effectively been gifted to the Chief Minister's younger brother for just Rs. 7 crore. He also questioned the educational qualifications of the Chief Minister's younger brother and his business activities in the aerospace sector. Rama Rao further demanded that the Congress government disclose details of an alleged Rs. 1,000 crore deal linked to another of the Chief Minister's brothers, who resides in the United States.Rama Rao said public dissatisfaction with the Congress government was growing. He said people were watching the government's treatment of the poor, farmers and unemployed youth, as well as its handling of BRS leaders and party workers. "The BRS will not spare those who oppress the public or those who engage in wrongdoing by leveraging their power. The party will continue to pursue legal action against officials who abuse their authority," Rama Rao warned.He expressed confidence that the BRS would return to power within the next year and a half. He assured people that a BRS government would work to restore Telangana's position as the number one State in the country.



RSS holds route marches across Bengaluru amid tight security

Bengaluru: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) held route marches at several locations across Bengaluru on Sunday as part of its centenary celebrations and Vijayadashami observances. BJP leaders R. Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy participated in the events.Route marches were also organised in several other districts of Karnataka, although some were cancelled or postponed over permission-related issues.RSS sources said the marches were held at several locations across Bengaluru, including Jayanagar and Chamarajpet, amid tight police security to prevent untoward incidents and maintain law and order.Children, young people and senior members participated in the marches.

In Chamarajpet, the march passed through several areas before concluding in front of Siddharoodha Ashram. Volunteers walked to the beat of drums and paid their respects to "Mother India".Former Bengaluru Police Commissioner and BJP leader Bhaskar Rao also participated in the event.Police made elaborate security arrangements at the venues to prevent untoward incidents and traffic congestion.The route march scheduled in Tumakuru was postponed in view of the graduates' constituency election.In Mulbagal in Kolar district, the event was rescheduled for October 31, while the march in Chikkaballapur was deferred after the Deputy Commissioner withdrew permission.The route march in Koppal was also reported to have been postponed, while conditional permission was granted for events in Ramanagara and Kalaburagi.In Kalaburagi, organisers were directed to follow the prescribed route and refrain from making provocative speeches.The RSS also planned to hold a route march in Hubballi, followed by a public meeting, sources said.The events took place amid a political debate over the permissions required for RSS route marches. Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge has maintained that the organisation must obtain permission from the authorities rather than merely inform the police.Kharge has also criticised RSS route marches in which participants carry sticks and questioned the organisation's practices.He has further asked RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat why the organisation has not been registered despite having existed for a century, and what its sources of revenue are for conducting large-scale events.



Revanth Reddy faces uphill task in securing Maharashtra's nod for Tummidihatti barrage



Hyderabad: After accusing Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of denying him an appointment to discuss the Tummidihatti barrage issue, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is finally set to meet his Maharashtra counterpart in Mumbai on Monday to resolve the long-pending dispute.Much is at stake for the Congress government, which has maintained that constructing the Tummidihatti barrage is the most viable solution to secure water beyond Kaleshwaram. However, three years have passed, and the government has yet to convince Maharashtra to approve the project.

Accompanied by Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Revanth Reddy left for Mumbai on Sunday. However, doubts remain over whether he can convince Maharashtra to agree to the proposed height of the barrage, particularly with the El Nino crisis looming.Telangana has been urging Maharashtra to approve the construction of the Tummidihatti barrage across the River Pranahita, a tributary of the River Godavari, at a height of 152 metres. However, Maharashtra has expressed concern over the submergence of villages if the barrage is built at that height.Telangana maintains that the project would not submerge any villages in Maharashtra. It has stated that a Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 152 metres would result in the submergence of only 2,300 acres, while the affected area would be less than 1,000 acres at an FRL of 150 metres.At a meeting with officials on Friday, Revanth Reddy pointed out that Maharashtra had previously agreed to an FRL of 148 metres. He also stressed that constructing the barrage at such a low height would prevent Telangana from drawing or diverting the expected quantity of water.Revanth Reddy will now have to convince his Maharashtra counterpart to approve construction at an FRL of 152 metres. He is expected to present technical reports, details of water availability and estimates of the extent of submergence to support Telangana's case.

Telangana CID registers three cases over alleged Sanna Rakam paddy diversion



GNS News Agency, Oct 27Hyderabad: The Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) has registered three criminal cases into alleged diversion of Sanna Rakam paddy and substitution with cheaper coarse rice meant for delivery to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the Kharif 2025–26 season. Fourteen rice millers have been arrested.

According to officials, certain millers allegedly diverted the fine-quality Sanna Rakam paddy allotted to them to the open market and supplied cheaper Doddu Rakam rice instead. Some of the coarse rice was allegedly sourced from outside Telangana, raising concerns over the quality and authenticity of supplies made under the Custom Milled Rice (CMR) agreement.In Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Mulugu districts, 16 rice mills allegedly delivered 3,385.820 metric tonnes of Doddu Rakam rice against Sanna Rakam allotments. The estimated loss to the government through bonus payments was Rs. 1.69 crore.The CID registered the cases following a complaint by the Civil Supplies Corporation's General Manager (Procurement) on October 24. The probe is covering the alleged diversion, the role of millers and officials, possible conspiracy and the actual financial loss to the government.

Judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar transferred to Muzaffarnagar family court

Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh): Additional District and Sessions Judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar, who awarded 23 death sentences in six months, has been transferred to the family court in Muzaffarnagar following an order of the Allahabad High Court, officials said on Sunday.Diwakar, who was presiding over a fast-track court, has been appointed Additional Principal Judge of the family court.

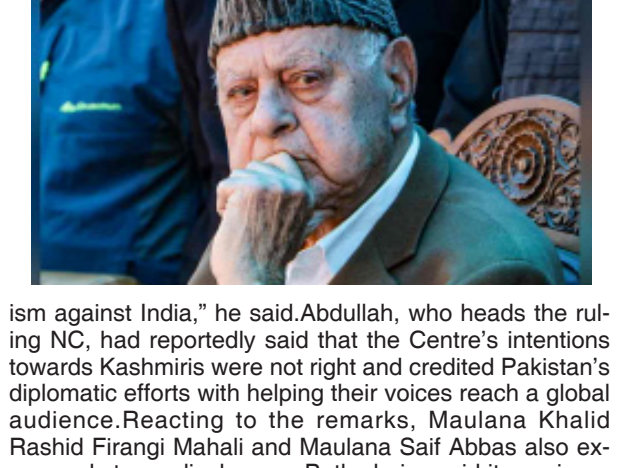
According to the High Court order, Shiv Kumari will take over as the Additional District and Sessions Judge of the fast-track court.Diwakar awarded 23 death sentences in 11 cases between April and September this year.

Recently, he questioned the withdrawal of 97 part-heard cases involving murder and other serious offences from his court through administrative orders issued in August by the then District and Sessions Judge, B.K. Singh.In a 35-page judgment acquitting an accused in a nearly 10-year-old case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Diwakar questioned whether cases in which hearings had



Farooq Abdullah's Kashmir comments trigger fresh criticism

New Delhi: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah faced criticism from Muslim clerics on Sunday over his controversial remarks on Kashmir, drawing further criticism from the BJP.The veteran National Conference (NC) leader triggered a political row on Saturday with remarks at a rally in Baramulla district of the Kashmir Valley that were interpreted as favouring Pakistan. Abdullah questioned the Centre's silence on Kashmir and reportedly claimed that the neighbouring country was helping protect the region.All India Imam Association (AIIA) president Maulana Sajid Rashidi condemned Abdullah's remarks, describing them as deplorable and alleging that they amounted to treason."I state clearly that this statement by Farooq Abdullah falls under treason. This man is a traitor, a treasonous person. Because he has spoken about Pakistan, a Pakistan that, from the beginning until now, has continuously carried out terrorist attacks in India," Rashidi told IANS.Rashidi also criticised Pakistan, recalling the Pahalgam attack in which more than two dozen people were killed, and referring to previous attacks."Before that, there was Pulwama; before that, count how many attacks were carried out against us, including the Kargil War. Under the guise of Jihad, Pakistan has always engaged in terrorism against India," he said.Abdullah, who heads the ruling NC, had reportedly said that the Centre's intentions towards Kashmiris were not right and credited Pakistan's diplomatic efforts with helping their voices reach a global audience.Reacting to the remarks, Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali and Maulana Saif Abbas also expressed strong displeasure.Both clerics said it was inappropriate for the NC leader to rely on another country for Jammu and Kashmir's security.



EDITORIAL

Ashoke Sen, string theory pioneer, does India proud

Indian theoretical physicist Ashoke Sen winning the prestigious Oskar Klein medal is a glorious testament to the country's research achievements in quantum gravity and string theory. Awarded annually by Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the medal commemorates the intellectual legacy of Swedish theoretical physicist Oskar Klein. Sen, a professor at the Bengaluru-based International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), is the first Indian to receive the medal. It is an elite recognition for scientists who have made foundational contributions to theoretical physics. He is widely regarded as an architect of modern string theory, and his work has helped scientists understand the mysteries of black holes. Sen has previously received the Dirac Medal and the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, both prestigious honours. String theory is one of the main efforts to bridge the inconsistencies between quantum theory and gravitation, in an attempt to find a new grand unified theory of physics that can explain the behaviour of all particles and forces at every scale, from tiny subatomic particles to large galaxies. In simple terms, string theory proposes that the fundamental building blocks of the universe are tiny, one-dimensional vibrating strings rather than point-like particles. Different vibration patterns of these strings produce particles with different properties, such as mass and charge. The main objective of string theory is to unite quantum mechanics with Einstein's general theory of relativity. It aims to incorporate all four fundamental forces of nature — gravity, electromagnetism, strong force, and weak force— and all types of matter within a single framework.Sen, who joins the ranks of past Oskar Klein Medal recipients such as Stephen Hawking, Peter Higgs and Kip Thorne, spent his life trying to make sense of the complex and chaotic universe and exploring the wild intersection of gravity, quantum mechanics and black holes. His work has reshaped string theory and given scientists fresh ways to understand black holes, fundamental forces, and the deep logic of nature itself. In 2012, Sen received the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics for work that contributed to the understanding that different string theories could represent different limits of a deeper, underlying theory. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2013 for his contributions to science. The Oskar Klein Medal is the latest in a series of top physics honours received by Indian scientists in recent years. Earlier this year, theoretical physicist Deepak Dhar was named a recipient of the Dirac Medal, making him the second Indian, after Sen, to receive the honour.

Telangana plans to promote private STPs amid water concerns

Hyderabad: The Telangana government is planning to promote private sewage treatment plants (STPs) and expand the use of treated wastewater in Hyderabad to prevent drinking water shortages amid El Niño concerns. The government decided to implement the new directions for optimum use of treated water from November 1.

At a review meeting on drinking water supply and STPs on Wednesday, Chief Minister A Revanth



Reddy directed officials to ensure that all STPs in the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) area operate at full capacity. Officials were asked to launch awareness campaigns and introduce a toll-free number for treated-water supplies.

As per the latest decision, the State government will ensure strict enforcement of the rules mandating the use of treated water for construction activities. Treated wastewater will also be used for greenery maintenance at government offices, including the Secretariat and Chief Minister's Office, public parks and road cleaning.

Treatedwater will be supplied to data centres, while REDCO officials were asked to explore solar power for operating treatment plants.

Emphasising water quality, Revanth Reddy called for modern treatment standards, dedicated officers at each plant and round-the-clock monitoring through the Integrated Command Control Centre. He also wanted officials to monitor reservoir storage levels regularly and ensure an uninterrupted drinking water supply.

HYDRAA would monitor plant performance, while a tracking system would be introduced for treated-water tankers. Officials informed the meeting that treated water from 26 STPs was being distributed through green tankers, with consumers paying only transportation charges.

Hyderabad's business leader T Kishan Singh becomes 64th president of paper traders' body

Hyderabad: Director of Tirumala Balaji Paper Pvt Ltd., Hyderabad, T Kishan Singh, has been elected as the 64th President of the Federation of Paper Traders Associations of India (FPTA) for the 2026–27 term.

A prominent business leader with over two decades of experience in the paper and packaging in-



dustry, Kishan Singh's election marks another significant milestone for Hyderabad's presence in India's paper-trading sector.

FPTA is a national-level body representing the interests of paper traders across the country, with a network of more than 10,000 traders. As President, Kishan Singh is expected to play a key role in strengthening the organisation, addressing industry challenges and creating new opportunities for the paper-trading fraternity.

He becomes the fourth Hyderabad-based industry leader to head FPTA after Amalokchand Singhvi in 1975, Govindas Rathi in 1989, and Arvind Sharma in 2007.

BikeWo plans Rs 150 crore investment in Green Drive Mobility

Hyderabad: BikeWo Green Tech Limited has signed an MoU with Green Drive Auto Services Private Limited (Green Drive Mobility) to jointly develop and scale electric logistics operations across India, with a particular focus on last-mile, mid-mile, and long-haul freight transportation.

The companies share an ambitious vision of building a large-scale green logistics platform with a fleet of at least 5,000 electric trucks over the coming years. Green Drive Mobility operates a fleet of over 350 electric trucks and approximately 8,000 electric two-wheelers.

As part of the long-term association, BikeWo has expressed its intent to progressively invest up to Rs 150 crore in Green Drive Mobility over the coming years, subject to mutually agreed commercial terms, business requirements, necessary approvals and definitive arrangements.

The proposed investments are intended to support fleet expansion, technology integration, operational infrastructure and the development of new institutional logistics opportunities. A key focus of the partnership will be accelerating the adoption of electric trucks for industrial freight, retail distribution, regional transportation, and long-haul logistics.



Man gets 20 years' RI for sexually abusing minor in Rangareddy

HYDERABAD: The Special Fast Track Court for Rape and POCSO Cases at LB Nagar has sentenced a 25-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually abusing a minor girl and threatening the victim and her mother. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 32,000 and directed that compensation of Rs 1.5 lakh be paid to the victim.



The man, Jarpula Ganesh, a private employee from Dayyalaguda Thanda in Maheshwaram mandal of Rangareddy district, repeatedly sexually abused the girl and threatened her with dire consequences if she disclosed the abuse. He also threatened to circulate explicit photographs and videos of the woman and her daughter on social media.

On October 29, 2024, Ganesh allegedly took the woman and her daughter to an isolated location in Mamidipally village and attempted to sexually assault the girl again. However, he fled when the woman raised an alarm and resisted his advances. On a complaint, the police registered a case and arrested Ganesh. After the trial, the court found him guilty and sentenced him.

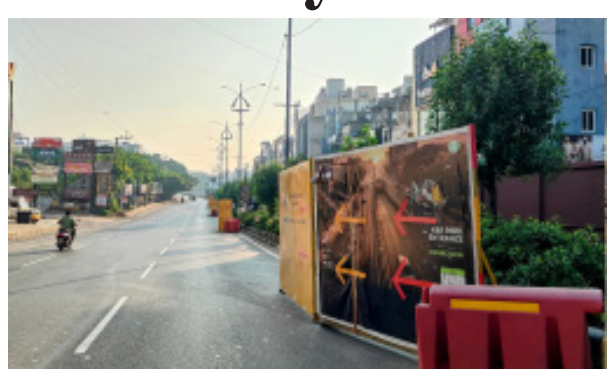
Barricades around KBR Park squeeze Hyderabad's busy roads

Hyderabad: Long stretches of roads have remained blocked by iron and plastic barricades installed for temporary safety measures or soil testing for steel flyovers and underpasses around KBR Park, causing persistent traffic disruption.

Frustrated commuters said the road infrastructure project contractors have cordoned off vast stretches of motorable space behind heavy barriers, effectively reducing the carrying capacity of Hyderabad's busiest roads. "The restrictions have severely disrupted the city's main transport corridors, from crucial IT routes to busy commercial zones, creating more than a minor bottleneck," said J Radheshyam, a software engineer who commutes between Begumpet and Jubilee Hills.

For instance, over the past several months, deep excavation under H-CITI works around KBR Park has reduced road width by 50%, forcing heavy traffic on the main stretch to merge aggressively and causing tailbacks stretching for kilometres during peak hours.

Traffic congestion has worsened between NFCL Junction and Mugdha Junction after barricades were installed for soil-testing work for a six-lane, bidirectional steel flyover. Traffic slows during peak hours, affecting hundreds of Muffakham Jah College students and daily commuters.



Commuters call for more rational restrictions on the road stretch where infrastructure works are taken up by the civic bodies. "Discomfort for commuters needs to be minimised and barricaded zones should be restricted to the minimum width needed for active work," advocated Ashwini, a student at Banjara Hills. She also stressed the need for the authorities to be more proactive and dismantle and remove the barricading as soon as each phase ends.

Cancer drug priced at Rs 28,000 to cost Rs 4,840 under new rules

Hyderabad: For cancer patients struggling with the crushing financial toll of oncology wards, a cancer drug that once cost Rs 28,000 will soon cost under Rs 5,000.

In a market intervention set to take effect from November 9, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) published brand-by-brand compliance data, enforcing a 30 per cent trade margin cap on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs. The margins on these drugs, which were added at every level before reaching the patients, have been removed.

The newly released pricing schedules expose the scale of the inflation patients have been absorbing. For years, intermediary supply chains routinely added margins on the wholesale cancer drugs ranging from 170 per cent to upwards of 700 per cent before they reached the patients.

The pricing revisions of cancer drugs bring relief to some of the country's most heavily prescribed therapeutic categories.

Long-term therapies for kidney cancer and gastrointestinal tumors have seen dramatic downward revisions. Sunitinib, widely prescribed under brands like SUNISAM (50 mg, 7 capsules), dropped from an MRP of Rs 3,558.75 down to a revised Rs 805.04. Similarly, the cost of Sutinat 50 mg (28 capsules) dropped from Rs 10,000 to Rs 4,026.37. In blood cancer treatments, Nilotinib formulations under NINLIB (150 mg, 30 capsules) fell steeply from Rs 4,161 to just Rs 1,171.

Prostate Cancer Care:

Abiraterone Acetate, a well-known therapy for metastatic prostate carcinoma, had corrections. Tablets under the brand ABIRALIVE (250 mg, 120s) plummeted from an MRP of Rs 28,000 to a revised Rs 4,840. Similarly, Abirapro 250 mg dropped from Rs 28,744 to Rs 5,768. For advanced-stage options like Enzandro 40 mg (28 capsules), prices tumbled from Rs 10,890 down to RS 3,108.39.

Specialised Injectables and Palliative Care:

Major price cuts also occurred in hospital-administered supportive injectables. Thiotepa 100 mg under the brand SAMTEPA saw its price slashed from Rs 80,071.86 to Rs 7,150.33. In monoclonal antibodies, Bevarest 100 mg dropped from Rs 19,288 to Rs 3,843.84, while CIZUMAB 400 MG

Road safety programme held for TGSRTC drivers at MGBS

Hyderabad: The Goshamahal Traffic Police conducted a road safety awareness programme for TGSRTC bus drivers at the Regional Training Centre at MGBS on Wednesday, highlighting the importance of safe driving under the theme 'Arrive Alive – Drive Safely, Reach Safely'.

The programme focused on traffic regulations, road safety measures and precautions to prevent accidents. Drivers were advised to adhere to speed limits, avoid driving under the influence of alcohol, refrain from using mobile phones while driving, and follow traffic signals, road signs, and lane discipline.

They were also instructed to pick up and drop passengers only at designated bus stops, remain alert to pedestrians and two-wheeler riders, take adequate rest before driving and ensure their vehicles were roadworthy.

Officials stressed that every passenger's life was precious and that drivers must prioritise safety over reaching destinations a few minutes early. A road safety pledge was administered to the drivers, who vowed to follow traffic rules, prevent accidents and protect human lives.



AC technician arrested with 13 kg ganja in Yousufguda

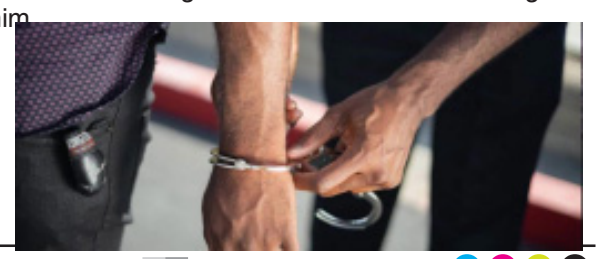
HYDERABAD: The Commissioner's Task Force (Jubilee Hills) team, along with Borabanda police, arrested a 28-year-old air-conditioner technician for allegedly selling ganja and seized 13 kg of the contraband worth Rs 6.50 lakh from his possession. The police also seized a mobile phone from him.

The suspect, Md Ayaz, alias Nissar alias Bond, a resident of Sri Ram Nagar in Yousufguda, was caught near the SPR Hills open ground while allegedly waiting for a customer to sell the ganja.

According to the police, Ayaz had allegedly been procuring ganja from a supplier in Tangi village in Khordha district of Odisha for the past year. He would travel to the village, purchase the contraband, and transport it to the city and sell it to customers known to him.

Though employed as an AC technician, he allegedly turned to drug peddling due to financial difficulties and the lure of easy money, police added.

A case is registered under the NDPS Act against him.



Vietnam People's Army's delegation of 10 Young Officers visit defence establishments in India



New Delhi: A delegation of 10 Young Officers from the Vietnam People's Army visited India under the Young Officers Exchange Programme, reaffirming the "enduring friendship and growing defence cooperation" between the two nations.During their visit to India, the Young Officers from the Vietnam People's Army visited defence establishments and places of cultural significance in Pune, Ahilyanagar and Deolali.In a statement shared on X, the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information stated, "A delegation of 10 Young Officers from the Vietnam People's Army visited India from 17 to 23 October 2026 under the Young Officers Exchange Programme. The delegation visited defence establishments and places of cultural significance in Pune, Ahilyanagar and Deolali, fostering professional exchanges, mutual understanding and camaraderie. The visit reaffirmed the enduring friendship and growing defence cooperation between India and Vietnam."

Last month, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Dhiraj Seth held a meeting with Deputy Chief of General Staff of Vietnam People's Army Lieutenant General Le Van Huong and discussed measures to deepen defence cooperation and military-to-military engagement."Strengthening India-Vietnam Friendship. Lieutenant General Le Van Huong, Deputy Chief of General Staff of Vietnam People's Army, during his official visit to India, paid solemn tributes to India's bravehearts at the National War Memorial in New Delhi, followed by a Ceremonial Guard of Honour at South Block," the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information posted on X."The General, then was warmly received by COAS General Dhiraj Seth. Measures to deepen defence cooperation and military-to-military engagement were discussed by the military leaders, reaffirming the shared commitment of both armies to regional stability and peace," it added.Earlier in August, India and Vietnam held high-level defence talks and reaffirmed their shared commitment to enhance defence cooperation under the Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries. The two sides exchanged views on regional and international security issues of shared concern.The discussion took place between Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and General Nguyen Tan Cuong, Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army and Deputy Minister of National Defence."In the framework of the ongoing official visit to Vietnam, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, paid a courtesy call on General Nguyen Tan Cuong, Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army and Deputy Minister of National Defence. The two sides reviewed the positive developments in Vietnam–India defence cooperation, particularly emphasising the strengthening of cooperation between the two countries' Air Forces, capacity building, and promoting professional exchange activities," the Indian Embassy in Vietnam posted on X."They also exchanged views on regional and international security issues of mutual concern. The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment of Vietnam and India to continue further deepening defence cooperation within the framework of the Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries," it added.

Protests sweep Italian cities, clashes reported



Rome: Protests over rising living costs, military expansion and increased arms spending swept across several Italian cities, with clashes between demonstrators and police reported in multiple locations, according to Italian media.In Bologna, clashes broke out between some demonstrators and police on Saturday evening, the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera reported.

Emergency medical services received 17 calls for assistance, and six people were taken to hospital by ambulance, Xinhua news agency reported. In Rome, demonstrators set off from Piazza della Repubblica on Saturday afternoon for an anti-war march, according to the ANSA news agency.Clashes erupted between protesters and police in the city center later in the evening, prompting police to use water cannons and tear gas in an attempt to disperse the crowds. In Turin, demonstrators protesting mainly against increased military spending and rising fuel prices clashed with police on Saturday evening.Some protesters threw fireworks and bottles at officers, who responded by firing tear gas. Following demonstrations that escalated into riots and looting last weekend, particularly in Milan, Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi ordered additional police forces to be deployed across the country.The reinforcement was focused particularly on major cities where the largest rallies were expected. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni condemned the violence in a social media post on Saturday evening, stressing the need to protect both peaceful demonstrators and the wider public."Everyone's safety must be guaranteed: those who wish to demonstrate peacefully, those who work, and those who want to live in their cities without fear," she said. "We must leave no room for those who seek nothing but confrontation and violence."

Iran's supreme leader meets judiciary chief, urges compensation for US-Israeli 'crimes'

Tehran: Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has stressed the need for "serious" efforts to pursue the Iranian people's rights and ensure the payment of compensation for the damages inflicted on the country during the US-Israeli attacks.The issues were highlighted in a meeting between the supreme leader and the country's Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei, according to a statement published on the leader's website on Saturday.Among the issues underlined during the meeting were promoting justice, safeguarding public rights, fighting corruption and its root causes effectively, handling judicial cases promptly, precisely and decisively, enforcing judicial rulings in a timely and deterrent manner, and bringing about a "comprehensive and tangible" transformation in the country's judicial apparatus.

The other matters included the necessity to draw up plans and make efforts to decisively fight crimes as well as to seriously pursue the restoration of the Iranian people's rights and compensation for the material and non-material damages resulting from the "crimes perpetrated by the US-Israeli criminals," reports Xinhua news agency.

On February 28, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities. Iran responded with waves of missile and drone attacks targeting Israel and US bases and assets in the region, and tightened its grip on the Strait of Hormuz.Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump on Friday raised the prospect of renewed military strikes against Iran, claiming that the United States could seize all of the country's oil or even



take over the entire country."Iran is not able to do much now. And we could, if we wanted to, just take all of the oil," Trump told reporters as he left the White House for a rally in Florida. "We could take the whole country." Asked about US Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz saying the conflict with Iran could drag on for another year, Trump said: "We could end it very quickly … The question is, 'Do we want to finish it off or do we just want to let it wither?'"Later at the Florida rally, Trump suggested another military operation against Iran was possible. "We may do another little Epic Fury," he told attendees, referring to the large-scale US military operation against Iran launched on February 28 alongside a coordinated Israeli offensive.Trump's latest remarks came amid reports that the US and Israeli militaries have drawn up plans for renewed strikes against Iran after the US midterm elections. However, whether Trump will ultimately authorise another military operation remains uncertain, according to US media reports.

Obama tears into Trump over Iran war, tariffs and 'grifter' presidency at Ohio rally

Washington: Former US President Barack Obama launched a sweeping attack on President Donald Trump at a rally in Cleveland, Ohio, blaming his administration's war with Iran, tariffs and immigration crackdown for rising costs and calling the November 3 midterm elections "the circuit breaker in the system".Obama spoke on Saturday at the Cleveland Public Auditorium in support of Democrat Amy Acton, who is running for Ohio governor, and former Senator Sherrod Brown, the Democratic candidate for the US Senate. Brown introduced him.

"This administration's actions are directly responsible for rising costs," Obama said, adding that the President "decided to start an unnecessary war that nobody asked for and nobody voted for."Turning to the Iran war, Obama said, "Iran didn't have nuclear weapons because I put a deal in place that everybody acknowledged, kept them from getting nukes, and I didn't have to fire a missile to do it. I just had to engage in diplomacy."

Seven months on, he said, "Our allies and our bases have been attacked, Americans have been killed, hundreds of Americans have been wounded, we have run down our stock of missiles and Iran now has veto power over the Strait of Hormuz where oil goes through to the world market." "This is the reason why the price of oil is up," he said."This is the reason the price of diesel is up." The Strait of Hormuz is also a key route for crude oil shipments to Asian importers, including India. On trade, Obama said Trump "loves tariffs" and had been warned that "consumers pay the tab". "In fact tariffs helped contribute to rising prices," he said. "And the big trade war he's starting now is with that well-known evil empire, Canada," he said to laughter. "These are the people who gave us maple syrup and Martin Short."On immigration, Obama said he believed the border must be "orderly and secure, and that people who want to come here do so lawfully".He recalled being criticised by Democratic allies for tightening en-



forcement when he was President. "But I don't recall anybody campaigning on sending masked agents running through our streets," he said. "I don't recall anybody talking about law-abiding citizens being arrested, detained, or shot."He mocked Trump's White House renovations. "He should be on HGTV. The guy's building a ballroom that's bigger than the White House," Obama said, adding, "there's gold everywhere."Obama accused Trump of using the office for personal gain, citing a pardon granted to a Venezuelan billionaire. "We have never seen a President It's just straight-up grifter on your dime," he said. "From meme coins to taxpayer funded contracts for his kids' companies." "Not a single Republican in Congress has done anything to stop him," he said, naming Ohio Senator Jon Husted, Brown's Republican opponent."This election is our last best chance to at least rein in some of the foolishness of this administration. It's the circuit breaker in the system. We need to flip that circuit breaker," Obama said.Obama also criticised Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy over his campaign ad on Acton. Obama later travelled to Detroit to campaign for Democratic candidates in Michigan.

Zelensky says Ukraine ready to freeze front lines but rejects territorial concessions



Kyiv: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukraine was prepared to freeze combat operations along the existing frontlines to bring a swift end to the conflict, while firmly rejecting territorial concessions.In an interview with ABC News, Zelensky expressed willingness to reach a ceasefire deal but rejected proposals to give up 25 per cent of Ukrainian territory. Zelensky also expressed regret over the recent decline in US military assistance, saying Ukraine had received only 24 interceptor missiles for its Patriot air defence systems from the United States over the past three months, far below its average monthly requirement of 350.

He underscored the urgency of the situation, saying 30 ballistic missiles struck Kyiv on Thursday night alone. Meanwhile, US media have reported increased pressure from Washington on Zelensky to make concessions to secure a peace agreement, with US President Donald Trump repeatedly blaming Kyiv for the lack of progress in US-brokered talks.Trilateral talks between Russia, Ukraine and the United States are scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, in the first half of November, with a focus on security arrangements for Russia and Ukraine following a peace settlement, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday.Additionally, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported that Zelensky said Ukraine is ready to hold a trilateral meeting with the United States and Russia next month in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. The timing of the meeting at the negotiating-team level depends on the Russian side, but at the moment it is planned for the first half of November, Zelensky said in an online address to the Hudson Institute, a US think tank.European representatives must also participate, he said. Zelensky also stressed the need to hold the trilateral talks at the leaders' level, saying it is necessary to move from technical-level negotiations to a meeting of leaders, as key issues can only be resolved at the highest level.

Clashes erupt in Paris as over 400,000 rally across France over schools, living costs

More than 400,000 people protested across France over school funding shortages and the rising cost of living, with clashes breaking out in Paris and several other cities. Police used tear gas and water cannons, while dozens were arrested as the growing movement intensified pressure on President Emmanuel Macron's government.Paris: Clashes erupted in Paris Saturday at the end of a major demonstration as more than 400,000 people protested across France over school funding and soaring living costs, challenging President Emmanuel Macron's government a week after widespread rioting and looting.

The Paris march began peacefully. But near its endpoint at Porte de Vincennes, some protesters threw projectiles while police fired volleys of tear gas and used water cannons to disperse people.The Interior Ministry put nationwide turnout at 410,000, including 110,000 in Paris. Authorities had confined the capital's march to the city's southeastern edge, keeping protesters away from central neighbourhoods hit by last weekend's destruction.Elsewhere in France, police used tear gas in Lyon, Clermont-Ferrand and Strasbourg and water cannons in Nice and Nantes, French media reported. In Marseille, officers fired tear gas during clashes with several dozen people near the march's endpoint.The Paris prosecutor's office said 64 people had been arrested in connection with Saturday's demonstration and 40 placed in police custody. Those arrested included six minors. Most arrests concerned suspected weapons offences or participation in a group preparing violence or property damage, the office said.The unrest is testing Macron's authority in the final months of his presidency before voters choose his successor in May. The stakes are high: the far-right National Rally has accused his government of failing to protect the public and urged people to channel their anger into votes for them.

Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez had announced a nationwide deployment of up to 70,000 officers, backed by helicopters, armoured vehicles and water cannons.Trade unions led the procession, followed by protesters in raincoats carrying flags and handmade placards.Camille Chesnier, 27, said she had been unable to find work despite having an engineering degree and a master's degree."There are enormous numbers of people in the same situation as me but who aren't privileged and who find themselves living on the streets and in squats and, frankly, it's very tough," she said.A small protest became a national movementWhat began last month as a protest over staff shortages at one high school southeast of Paris has spread nationwide, drawing students demanding better schools and workers seeking higher wages and pensions.In Paris, Bénédicte Pittion, a 46-year-old teacher, marched through steady rain with her 16-year-old daughter, Garance, a high school student. Both had supported the movement from the start, but this was their first protest together."The young people



who have been demonstrating have not been heard, and as a parent and as a teacher, I stand with them," Pittion said.Garance said she had been "really scared" to attend after seeing images of last weekend's violence, but argued that staying away would hand the government a victory.Public middle and high schools lost 15.4 million teaching hours in the 2024-25 school year because absent teachers were not replaced, according to Education Ministry figures. That amounted to 7.5 per cent of scheduled teaching time.

Macron met high school representatives Friday. They said he had promised to overhaul university admissions, but called for protests to continue until concrete measures are announced.Organisers from the "yellow vest" protest movement called for another day of rallies Oct. 31 to defend the right to demonstrate.Soumaya Abed, a 58-year-old nurse wearing a red CGT union vest, said she had been joining protests for more than 30 years, but had never seen one start at Porte d'Italie, on the capital's outskirts."They are using what happened last week as an excuse to quiet protesters," she said. "But it won't stop the movement. It won't stop students from demanding better conditions in schools."In Marseille, police put attendance at 17,000, while the CGT union estimated 100,000. In the southwestern city of Toulouse, 26,500 people joined the protests, according to authorities.

Authorities had banned rallies in cities including Lyon, Nice and Montpellier.Trade unions have criticised the bans, calling them violations of freedom of expression, which is protected by the constitution.Thousands also marched Saturday in Orléans, south of Paris, in a separate peaceful protest against the far right as Marine Le Pen's National Rally held a two-day congress in the city.Macron, a centrist, has entered the crisis in the final stretches of his term with his popularity at its lowest since he took office in 2017. He has said that the measures are needed to protect city centres, businesses and public buildings.Nuñez acknowledged Monday that police had lost control in some cities during last weekend's unrest, when more than half a million people took to the streets, and some 3,000 shops across France were damaged or looted amid street violence not seen in years.

At least 12 injured in shooting near football stadium in Florida

Tallahassee: At least 12 people were injured, including six children, in a shooting near a football stadium in Tallahassee on homecoming weekend for Florida A&M University, authorities said.Tallahassee Police Chief Lawrence Revell told reporters on Saturday that no arrests had been made.

In a statement, police said the preliminary investigation indicates that a fight broke out prior to the shooting. It followed a football game in a crowded area.Eleven of the victims sustained gunshot wounds, and at least three victims sustained serious injuries, according to police.The university said on social media that the shooting happened near its campus and that it remained safe.



Portable ion chromatograph brings real-world practice to classrooms

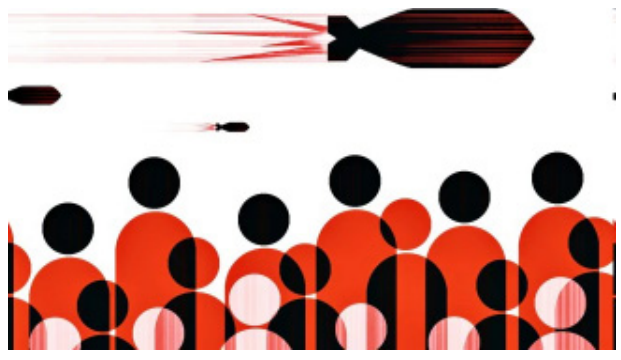


Ion chromatography, or the process of separating ions from a sample by passing it through a long column, is usually carried out in a laboratory using expensive, sophisticated equipment. Now, scientists at the University of Tasmania in Australia have devised a simpler way to perform the technique out in the field — one that could benefit science classrooms, too.Working with second-year undergraduate students, the scientists helped them analyse soil pore water, or water in between soil particles, immediately after collecting it using a portable ion chromatograph called Aquamonitrix. The students used it to separate and analyse concentrations of nitrate and nitrite ions in the sample as both these ions are known to be harmful for the environment in high concentrations. Then they took the samples back to the lab and analysed them using a conventional chromatograph.Based on their findings, published in Journal of Chemical Education, the portable chromatograph produced results comparable to that of a conventional device in the lab.Chemistry out of the lab

"One of the things we're always interested in is taking our chemistry out of the laboratory [and] into the field," said Brett Paull, a professor of chemistry at the University of Tasmania and the senior author of the study. "So that the students don't only learn that analytical chemistry is something you do in the lab, but it's something that you can do anywhere."The 2023 ACS Guidelines for Undergraduate Chemistry Programmes says "hands-on" experience in separations and chromatography should be incorporated into the undergraduate chemistry lab coursework. While performing ion chromatography using lab equipment does help students get experience with handling experiments, it still doesn't equip them to apply their analytical skills in a real-world scenario.Paull and his team collaborated with Aquamonitrix, the company that manufactures the portable ion chromatograph of the same name, to help young undergraduate students analyse samples in the field."Portable instruments give us the opportunity to go out into the field and do actual measurements there," said Dr. Paull.Simplicity to its benefitThe students first obtained the soil pore water by extracting it from the soil using a portable vacuum pump. Then they filtered the water on-site and directly injected it into the chromatograph.Aquamonitrix works as a simple, low-pressure ion chromatograph that can separate anions along a relatively short column. The solution used to carry the sample into the chromatograph and facilitate the exchange of anions with the column contains only sodium chloride, thus keeping the process environmentally friendly.To specifically detect nitrate and nitrite ions among all the anions, the device contains a low-cost absorbance detector that uses UV light. Because both these anions absorb UV light, the students were able to see two peaks in the chromatogram corresponding to the presence of the two anions."Nitrite and nitrate absorb quite reasonably in that low UV region, and we don't get any interference from any other anions," Dr. Paull explained. "So [its] simplicity is to its benefit, because we don't get a big messy chromatogram with all the other material."

A simpler specialistWhen the students brought the sample back to the lab and measured nitrate and nitrite levels using a conventional, commercial ion chromatograph, they found the numbers produced by the portable device were similar. This suggested the portable method provided accurate results — and for less money and time. The lab-based ion chromatograph is "much more complicated, much more expensive and advanced," Dr. Paull said, and works using longer columns and high-pressure pumps. It may also detect many other anions and produce a more complex chromatogram."We don't want to do everything," he added. "It's not possible to take a $100,000 laboratory instrument and just take it out to the greenhouse and use it. What we do is develop a $10,000 instrument which actually can do one or two things very well, can be run by a battery, and can be used by a student who's not highly trained or highly skilled. We're not trying to replicate the lab in the field; we're trying to develop low cost, versatile instruments that can be taken into the field."The scientists have also worked on another similar instrument that they say can measure ammonia levels in the field."So, nitrite, nitrate, and ammonia and then, [eventually] you can look at the complete nitrogen cycle in, say, water treatment plants or in soil chemistry," Dr. Paull said.The team is also working on a similar instrument to detect arsenic in contaminated soils and agricultural areas. The presence of this toxic element in the soil is a major concern in countries like India and Bangladesh, where groundwater extraction is high."By allowing students to perform both field and laboratory analyses, [the portable device] provides a comprehensive learning experience that combines theoretical concepts with practical applications," Vipul Gupta, a lecturer in chemistry at Deakin University in Victoria, Australia, said. "The hands-on nature of the experiment, coupled with the opportunity to address real-world environmental challenges, fosters curiosity and interest in analytical chemistry."Dr. Gupta expressed belief the exercise can be extended to a more long-term continuous monitoring on the field as well."Moreover, I believe the use of such portable systems would encourage students in future to develop their own innovative analytical chemistry projects," he added."I think getting students enthusiastic about analytical chemistry [is] hard if they're always enclosed within the lab," said Dr. Paull.

Gaza should haunt us



Gaza, Gaza conflict, Gaza Israel conflict, Hamas Israel conflict, Benjamin Netanyahu, Gaza Palestine, Israel and Palestine, Israel Palestine conflict, Israel Palestine relations, Israel-Palestine talks, Palestine-Israel relations, India news, Indian express,It is ethically perverse to regard any juristic or humane concern with the plight of the Palestinians as "antisemitic"; rather, it calls for a renewed enterprise in the vein of Levinas to understand the "difficult freedoms" that we all have.A flotilla of 34 boats carrying 500 tons of humanitarian aid and 600 people from 45 countries, including Italy, Greece, Spain and Tunisia, is now poised to reach Gaza. This initiative is unique in that it includes, among others, members of the European Parliament such as Italians Annalisa Corrado and Benedetta Scuderi, Emma Fourreau from France, and Ireland's Lynn Boylan, who is accompanying the Flotilla to document any "possible breaches of human rights or international law". Although "scared", they insist they are not "intimidated". As Scuderi put it: "I think it's normal to be afraid of facing the Israeli government, which sets no limits in its destructive actions, acts contrary to international law, and has already stated it wants to treat us as terrorists […] But we will not be intimidated." She adds that this is a mission "worth making oneself available for, even if the consequences may be heavy or difficult to manage. I cannot even imagine the fear Palestinian children feel under the bombs or when being amputated of their limbs without anaesthesia."

This haunting spectacle of human suffering brings to mind the 16th-century jurist Hugo Grotius, who argued that pain and suffering must be minimised even amidst warfare. Avoiding "unimaginable" surplus suffering is central to modern human rights principles. Yet, Gaza today faces "the largest humanitarian blockade of the 21st century", which has placed 2,44,000 people in famine conditions under IPC Phase 5, the most severe category of food insecurity.Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has already announced that "activists will be designated as terrorists, imprisoned, and denied special privileges such as television, radio, and choice of foods". Governance becomes a tool for repression, part of a global process of "democratic backsliding" — a euphemism for righticide and democide, where even a modicum of human rights activism is recast as terrorism.

Against this backdrop, 142 nations recently voted in favour of a resolution introduced by France, with 10 against and 12 abstaining. The resolution urges "peaceful settlement of the Palestine issue and implementation of the two-state solution". Those who voted against it include Argentina, Hungary and, unsurprisingly, Israel and the US. That India has thrown its support behind the resolution, despite growing strategic and industry/trade ties with Israel, is a happy sign.The resolution prescribes "a single roadmap" to a two-state solution, entailing an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages and the establishment of a Palestinian State "that is both viable and sovereign". Crucially, it calls for "the disarmament of Hamas and its exclusion from governance in Gaza", the normalisation of ties between Israel and the Arab countries, as well as collective security guarantees. Far from being a "one-sided" declaration and "hollow gesture", as Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon has claimed, the resolution explicitly condemns the Hamas attack of October 7, 2023, and calls for the disarmament of Hamas. To reject it as a victory for Hamas reeks of the arrogance of hard power.Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his war cohorts would do well to read with care the work of the great Jewish theologian and philosopher Emmanuel Levinas, who spoke of the two Torahs — one being the transcendent voice of God, and the other concerning everyday human ethics. Both constrain the lust for violence and destruction and, in different ways, lead us away from "egology" towards "responsibility toward the Other." As Rabbi Israel Salanter observed in 1850: "The material needs of my neighbour are my spiritual needs."Yet, beyond the neighbour lies the distant third — all too often construed as a monstrous third who inspires the "temptation to murder", a passion for killing which often results in war and renders "morality derisory" and leads to "the diabolical criminality of absolute evil" seen in genocide and other "horribly perfect" forms of racism (Levinas). The foundational violence of necropolitics — the use of political power to decide who lives and who dies — must now cease. (See Jothie Rajah's Discounting Lives: Necropolitical Law, Culture and the Long War on Terror).most readIsrael is now combating the indictment of "genocide" before the International Court of Justice. Although the Court has never found sufficient evidence for deliberate and systematic killing or persecution of a large number of people "from a particular national or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group," Article 6 of the Genocide Convention enacts the duty of states to prevent and punish preparation for genocide. The Court must now arrive at a sound jural construction on the materials and arguments pressed before it. Already noted (in the context of Israel's military offensive in Rafah, which has led to the exodus of approximately 800,000 Palestinians) is that the steps for the security of civilians in the Gaza Strip are "insufficient". Further, Israel must now act to "take effective measures to prevent the destruction" of the relevant evidence and to ensure any UN-mandated body "unimpeded access" to the Gaza Strip. Considering the "catastrophic situation in Gaza," the ICJ has ordered the provision of "urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance," and reiterated its "grave concern over the fate of the hostages" held by "Hamas and other armed groups", calling for their "immediate and unconditional release".It is ethically perverse to regard any juristic or humane concern with the plight of the Palestinians as "antisemitic"; rather, it calls for a renewed enterprise in the vein of Levinas to understand the "difficult freedoms" that we all have.

FSSAI alert on baby foods: What parents should know about nutrition and contamination

Recent infant-formula safety alerts in the US have renewed concerns about the nutritional quality of products designed for babies. US authorities reported investigations and recalls involving potential microbial contamination, alongside wider testing for heavy metals, pesticides and other chemical contaminants. These developments highlight the importance of ingredient sourcing, manufacturing controls and regulatory oversight.In India, the issue has taken on added relevance following a September 2026 FSSAI action concerning a sample of follow-up formula that did not meet prescribed biotin (Vitamin B7) requirements on re-analysis. The regulator also initiated separate proceedings over alleged misleading label claims. While nutritional non-compliance is distinct from contamination, both raise questions about product quality, labelling and consumer trust. As Dr Shalini Garwin Bliss, Head – Dietetics, PSRI Hospital, New Delhi, explains, parents should look beyond marketing claims and focus on what matters most: "Good infant nutrition is not about buying the most expensive product; it is about providing safe, balanced nutrition that meets the child's needs at every stage."

What are the potential health risks if infant formula fails to meet prescribed nutritional standards, particularly for biotin?

A baby's nutritional needs differ significantly from those of an adult because of rapid growth and development. Biotin helps the body process fats, carbohydrates and proteins. Deficiency may cause skin rashes, hair loss, poor feeding and, in severe cases, neurological symptoms. Formula must meet prescribed nutritional standards because babies may depend on it for essential nutrients. Parents concerned about a product's quality should consult their paediatrician rather than make feeding changes independently.

How important is exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months, and when may formula be necessary?

Exclusive breastfeeding is recommended for the first six months because breast milk provides essential nutrients and antibodies that help protect babies against infections. However, every mother's circumstances are different. Medical reasons or breastfeeding difficulties may make formula necessary. The priority is to ensure adequate nutrition with professional guidance. Mothers should receive support without guilt or judgement, regardless of how they feed their babies.

What are the alternatives to infant formula?

For babies under six months, breast milk is preferred. If breastfeeding is not possible, an appropriate commercial infant formula recommended by a healthcare professional may be necessary. Animal milk, plant-based drinks and homemade formula are not safe substitutes for young infants because they may lack the right balance of nutrients.From around six months, complementary foods such as well-cooked vegetables, fruits, cereals and pulses can be introduced alongside continued breastfeeding or formula feeding. Foods should provide iron, protein, vitamins and minerals, with variety and texture increasing as the baby develops.

How can parents distinguish scientific evidence from marketing claims about immunity, digestion and brain development?

Claims such as "boosts immunity" or "supports brain development" can sound reassuring, but parents should look beyond the packaging. Health claims should be supported by credible scientific evidence. The presence of a particular ingredient does not automatically guarantee better immunity, faster growth or improved development. What matters is whether the product meets the child's overall nutritional needs. Parents should seek professional advice rather than rely on advertising or social media promotions.



What are the health consequences of added sugar in commercial baby foods?

Babies do not need added sugar. Frequent exposure can contribute to tooth decay and encourage a preference for sweeter foods, potentially displacing more nutritious choices. Parents should check ingredient lists for sugar, glucose syrup and other sweetening ingredients instead of relying on front-of-pack claims such as "healthy" or "nutritious". Choosing unsweetened, age-appropriate foods helps establish healthier eating habits. Honey should not be given to babies under one year.

Do human milk oligosaccharides (HMOs) and whey protein necessarily make one formula better than another?

Not necessarily. HMOs are complex carbohydrates naturally found in breast milk, while whey is a milk protein. Although certain ingredients may help replicate some aspects of breast milk, formula cannot fully reproduce its composition. The most important considerations are nutritional adequacy, safety and suitability for the baby's individual needs. Specialised formula should be selected with a paediatrician's guidance, not simply because they advertise premium ingredients.

What should parents check on packaged baby food labels, and how concerned should they be about contamination?

Parents should check the age recommendation, ingredient list, nutritional information, expiry date, storage instructions and packaging condition. Contaminants such as heavy metals, pesticide residues and harmful microorganisms are legitimate concerns. They may enter the food supply through raw ingredients, water, processing or handling. Some exposures can affect development, while microbial contamination can cause serious illness.Contamination cannot always be detected by looking at a product or reading its label. Manufacturers' quality controls, laboratory testing and regulatory oversight are therefore essential. Parents should buy products from reliable sources, use safe water, maintain hygiene and follow official recalls and safety advisories.

Young Kerala couple's twisted 'revenge plan': Send a friendly invite, then dish out brutal torture

A couple in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district have been arrested for allegedly luring two youths, with whom the woman had purportedly been maintaining a relationship for some time, to their home before torturing and robbing them, police said.Pathanamthitta police registered a case last week after a 29-year-old man alleged that he was assaulted by his girlfriend's family. However, finding gaps in his statement, the police looked further into the matter and found that the accused couple was allegedly behind the attack. Police said the couple, after allegedly torturing him, threatened him to make up a story about being beaten up by his girlfriend's family.On Friday, police from the Aranmula area arrested Malayil Veetil Jayesh, 30, and his wife Reshmi, 25, both from Koipuram village. Apart from the 29-year-old, the police found that a 19-year-old was also similarly attacked by the couple.



According to police, both men had worked with Jayesh in Bengaluru and had been friends with the couple. Police claimed that Reshmi had maintained a relationship with the two men and that eventually, Jayesh found her chats with them on WhatsApp. Angered, he planned to take revenge on the two men and even roped his wife into the plan, officers said, adding that she agreed to this as part of a truce with her husband."The couple robbed their victims, with one of the youths losing Rs 20,000. Besides, while torturing the victims, the couple behaved in a perverted manner. The victims feared that the couple were performing black magic on them. However, the real motive of the couple has to be ascertained after detailed questioning." said a police source.Pathanamthitta district Superintendent of Police R Anand said a special team will probe both cases of assault. "Both cases are at their preliminary stage. We have to look into whether the accused persons have committed more crimes in the same fashion. A detailed scientific probe is required as the accused are not cooperating with the police," he said.As per the statements given to the police, the 29-year-old victim, a native of Ranni in Pathanamthitta, said, "Jayesh wanted me to come to his home on day of Onam (September 5) and join the celebrations. When I reached his house, Jayesh greeted me with pepper spray and thrashed me without any provocation. Both my hands were tied and I was hung from a wooden pole overhead. Reshmi brutally attacked me with various objects, including iron rods."

"While Reshmi tortured me, Jayesh recorded it on a mobile phone. My privates were stapled several times. At around 8 pm that day, the couple took me on Jayesh's scooter and abandoned me at a location called Puthumon. As I was brutally assaulted, I was seated between Jayesh and Reshmi in the scooter. Before dropping me, they threatened me and said that I should tell others I was attacked by the family of the girl whom I love," he said.When locals found the seriously injured man, they took him to hospital and the police were informed. However, he initially told police that he was attacked by his girlfriend's family as per the instructions of the couple. "The couple had threatened the youth that he would be killed if revealed anything about the torture. Hence, he gave the wrong version of events. He later recounted the horror from the couple," an officer said.While interrogating them, the police learned that they had tortured another man in a similar manner on September 1. Based on the details collected from the accused couple, police traced the other victim, a 19-year-old from Alappuzha. He had also kept the incident to himself.

He told police that he was invited to the couple's house and Jayesh picked him up on a two-wheeler from the Maramon area on September 1. At the house, he was allegedly tortured and stripped. He claimed that Jayesh switched on the camera of the mobile phone and asked him to act like he was performing sexual acts on Reshmi, and that when he refused, he was assaulted. Both his hands were tied with a shawl and he was hung by that shawl to a wooden beam on the sealing, he said. He was then allegedly beaten all over the body and pliers were used on his fingers.The couple took Rs 20,000 from his wallet, but gave a Rs 1,000 back for his travel expenses, he told police, adding that he was then dropped off at a nearby autorickshaw stand. They also threatened that he would later be killed.At Koipuram, a neighbour of the couple said they (Jayesh family) led a "secluded life" at an isolated location in the village. "They rarely interacted with others. Jayesh used to work as an operator of an earthmover while his wife had been doing odd jobs with a catering firm. But the woman used to always complain about financial constraints and hand-to-mouth existence," said the neighbour, who did not want to be named.Jayesh had faced a POCSO case years ago, and had been jailed. He later got married to Reshmi and the couple have two children, the neighbour said.

Hyderabad records minimum temperature of 14.8 degrees Celsius as nights turn cooler

Hyderabad: There is a distinct nip in the air in Hyderabad and districts of Telangana as night and early morning temperatures have dropped quite significantly in the last 24 hours. Driven by clear skies and northerly wind flows following the monsoon's withdrawal, the rapid nighttime cooling has created a unique weather with cold breezy wind flowing across the twin cities.

In the last 24-hours, between Sunday evening and Monday morning, the lowest temperature of 14.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Patancheru, according to Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS) data.

Focus turns to security guarantees after Ukraine summit leaves path to peace unclear



LONDON/KYIV, Ukraine and its European allies have been buoyed by Donald Trump's promise of security guarantees for Kyiv to help end the Ukraine war but face many unanswered questions, including how willing Russia will be to play ball.Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy hailed Monday's extraordinary summit at the White House with Trump as a "major step forward" towards ending Europe's deadliest conflict in 80 years and towards setting up a trilateral meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin and the U.S. president in the coming weeks.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

Flanked by the leaders of allies including Germany, France and Britain at the summit, Zelenskiy's warm rapport with Trump contrasted sharply with their disastrous meeting at the Oval Office in February.But beyond the optics, the path to a lasting peace remains deeply uncertain and Zelenskiy may be forced to make painful compromises to end a war that analysts say has killed or wounded more than 1 million people.And despite the temporary sense of relief in Kyiv, there was no let-up in the fighting. Russia launched 270 drones and 10 missiles in an overnight attack on Ukraine, the Ukrainian airforce said, the largest this month. The energy ministry said Russia had targeted energy facilities in the central Poltava region, home to Ukraine's only oil refinery, causing big fires."The good news is that there was no blow-up (at the White House). Trump didn't demand Ukrainian capitulation nor cut off support. The mood music was positive and the trans-Atlantic alliance lives on," John Foreman, a former British defence attache to Kyiv and Moscow, told Reuters."On the downside, there is a great deal of uncertainty about the nature of security guarantees and what exactly the U.S. has in mind."Zelenskiy said on Tuesday his officials were working on the content of the security guarantees.Russia has made no explicit commitment to a meeting between Putin and Zelenskiy. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Tuesday Moscow did not reject any formats for discussing the peace process in Ukraine but that any meeting of national leaders "must be prepared with utmost thoroughness".

President Putin has warned that Russia will not tolerate troops from the NATO alliance on Ukrainian soil. He has also shown no sign of backing down from demands for territory, including land not under Russia's military control, following his own summit talks with Trump last Friday in Alaska.Trump has not specified what form U.S. security guarantees could take, and backed away from insisting that Russia agree to a ceasefire before any peace negotiations kick off in earnest.The U.S. president has also told Ukraine to forget about regaining control of Crimea, which was annexed by Russia in 2014, or joining NATO."It is hard to imagine there being any deal today that is acceptable and that respects the red lines of the Ukrainians and Europe as well as the red lines of the Russians," said Matthias Matthijs, senior fellow for Europe at the Council on Foreign Relations.Europe's dealings with Trump are similar to the fraught negotiations on tariffs, Matthijs said: "Having avoided the worst outcomes, they come to some sort of agreement. It's better than they feared, but it's always worse than the status quo."Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Zelenskiy and his allies had "failed to outplay" Trump."Europe thanked & sucked up to him," Medvedev wrote on X.The last direct talks between Russia and Ukraine took place in Turkey in July while Putin also declined Zelenskiy's public invitation to meet him face-to-face in May."President Trump has now opened the door to the negotiating room for him, and Putin must now enter it," German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul told the Deutschlandfunk radio broadcaster. If not, he said, sanctions must be intensified.Ukraine's allies will hold talks in the so-called "Coalition of the Willing" format on Tuesday to discuss the way forward.NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, who also attended Monday's talks, said NATO membership for Ukraine was not under discussion but that there was a discussion on "Article 5"-type security guarantees for the country.Article 5 of NATO's founding treaty enshrines the principle of collective defence, in which an attack on any of its 32 members is considered an attack on all."There is, of course, the question of what Russia will accept. But also, what western countries are willing, and able, to do for Ukraine," said a note by Eurointelligence.Orysia Lutsevych, a research fellow at Chatham House, said the worst case scenario "of Trump selling Ukraine out to Putin was avoided" at Monday's talks, but she added:"A bilateral with Putin is dangerous for Zelenskiy. Even if it happens, which is highly unlikely, Putin will blame him for obstructing peace, being unreasonable. In such a case, the question is: who Donald Trump will trust and blame for his failed peacemaking efforts."Graphic: Map of Ukraine shows the eastern oblasts and the areas under Russian control

Somalia faces diphtheria surge amid vaccine shortages and aid cuts



MOGADISHU, Diphtheria cases and deaths have risen sharply this year in Somalia, where the response has been curtailed by vaccine shortages and U.S. aid cuts, Somali officials said.More than 1,600 cases, including 87 deaths, have been recorded, up from 838 cases and 56 deaths in all of 2024, said Hussein Abdukar Muhidin, the general director of Somalia's National Institute of Health.Keep up with the latest medical breakthroughs and healthcare trends with the Reuters Health Rounds newsletter. Sign up here.Diphtheria, a bacterial disease that causes swollen glands, breathing problems and fever and mostly affects children, is preventable with a vaccine that became widely available in the mid-20th century.Childhood immunisation rates in Somalia have improved over the past decade, but hundreds of thousands of children are still not fully vaccinated.

After fleeing fighting between government forces and Islamist militants in the central Somalia town of Ceeldheere three months ago, all four of Deka Mohamed Ali's children, none of whom was vaccinated, contracted diphtheria. Her 9-year-old daughter recovered, but her 8-year-old son died and two toddlers are now being treated at a hospital in the capital Mogadishu."My children got sick and I just stayed at home because I did not know it was diphtheria," she told Reuters from the bedside of her 3-year-old son Musa Abdullahi whose throat was swollen to the size of a lemon from the infection.Health Minister Ali Haji Adam said the government had struggled to procure enough vaccines due to a global shortage and that U.S. aid cuts were making it difficult to distribute the doses it had.Before President Donald Trump cut most foreign assistance earlier this year, the United States was the leading humanitarian donor to Somalia, whose health budget is almost entirely funded by donors.

"The U.S. aid cut terribly affected the health funds it used to provide to Somalia. Many health centres closed. Mobile vaccination teams that took vaccines to remote areas lost funding and now do not work," said Adam.Muhidin separately echoed his comments about the closures.Overall U.S. foreign assistance commitments to Somalia stand at $149 million for the fiscal year that ends on September 30, compared with $765 million in the previous fiscal year, according to U.S. government statistics."The United States continues to provide lifesaving foreign assistance in Somalia," a U.S. State Department spokesperson said when asked about the impact of its aid cuts in the country.

"America is the most generous nation in the world, and we urge other nations to dramatically increase their humanitarian efforts."Aid group Save the Children said last month that the closure of hundreds of health clinics in Somalia this year due to foreign cuts has contributed to a doubling in the number of combined cases of diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, cholera and severe respiratory infections since mid-April.Besides the U.S., Britain, France, Germany and other major Western donors are also cutting aid budgets.Somalia's government has also faced criticism from doctors and human rights activists for its limited funding of the health sector. In 2024, it allocated 4.8% of its budget to health, down from 8.5% the previous year, Amnesty International said.The health ministry did not respond to a question about that criticism. It has said it is planning to launch a vaccination drive but has not given details when.

China pledges to address India's rare earth needs, Indian source says

NEW DELHI, There is an upward trend in India-China relations and Beijing has promised to address New Delhi's needs on rare earths, a top Indian official and a source said on Tuesday, as the neighbours rebuild ties that were damaged by a 2020 border clash.Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is visiting India for the 24th round of border talks with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and is also due to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, days before Modi travels to China for the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

"There has been an upward trend. Borders have been quiet. There has been peace and tranquillity," Doval told Wang as he opened the talks. "Our bilateral engagements have been more substantial.""The new environment that has been created has helped us in moving ahead in the various areas that we are working on," he said.Wang told Doval that "the stable and healthy development of China-India relations is in the fundamental interests of the two countries' people," according to a readout of the meeting released by China's foreign ministry.The two sides "should enhance mutual trust through dialogues and expand cooperation," Wang said, and should aim for consensus in areas such as border control and demarcation negotiations.Earlier on Tuesday, an Indian source said that China had promised to address three key Indian concerns. Wang, the source said, had assured Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar that Beijing is addressing India's need for fertilisers, rare earths and tunnel boring machines.The Indian foreign and mines ministries did not respond immediately to



Reuters requests for comment.China's commerce ministry also did not immediately respond to a request for comment.It was not immediately clear whether China had agreed to approve export licenses faster or grant blanket exemptions for India.China has previously committed to speeding up export licenses for Europe and the U.S. without actually dismantling the control regime.China's exports of rare earths and related magnets jumped in June after these agreements and as the commerce ministry worked through a huge backlog of applications.

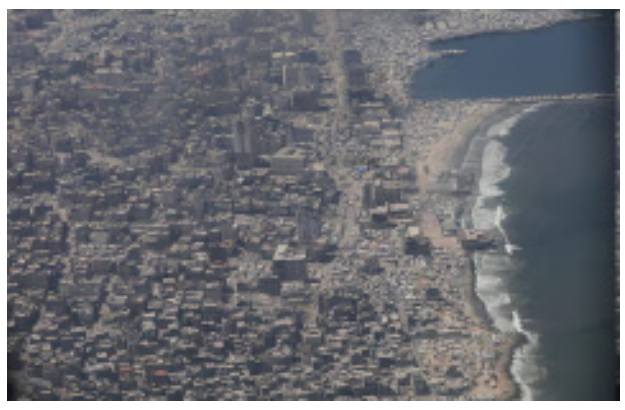
However, rare earth magnet exports to India were still down 58% compared to January levels, according to Chinese customs data. June is the last month for which country-level data is available.India has the world's fifth-largest rare earth reserves, at 6.9 million metric tons, but has no magnet production and relies on imported magnets, mainly from China.

Israel studying Hamas reply to Gaza ceasefire proposal

JERUSALEM/CAIRO, GNS News Agency, Oct 27 Israel is studying Hamas' response to a Gaza ceasefire proposal, two officials said on Tuesday of a potential deal for a 60-day truce and the release of half the Israeli hostages still held in the battered enclave.Efforts to pause the fighting gained new momentum over the past week after Israel announced plans for a new offensive to seize control of Gaza City, and Egypt and Qatar have been pushing to restart indirect talks between the sides on a U.S.-backed ceasefire plan.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

The proposal includes the release of 200 Palestinian convicts jailed in Israel and an unspecified number of imprisoned women and minors, in return for 10 living and 18 deceased hostages from Gaza, according to a Hamas official.Two Egyptian security sources confirmed the details, and added that Hamas has requested the release of hundreds of Gaza detainees as well.

The proposal includes a partial withdrawal of Israeli forces, which presently control 75% of Gaza and the entry of more humanitarian aid into the enclave, where a population of 2.2 million people is increasingly facing famine.Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Majed Al Ansari said the 60-day truce deal would include "a pathway to a comprehensive agreement to end the war."Israel had previously agreed to the outline, advanced by U.S. special Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, but negotiations faltered over some of its details. The last round of talks ended in deadlock in late July.Israel's plans to seize control of Gaza City in the heart of the Palestinian enclave have since stirred alarm abroad and among the estimated one million people presently living there.On the ground, there were no signs of a ceasefire nearing as Israeli gunfire, tank shelling and airstrikes killed at least 20 Palestinians on Tuesday, according to Gaza health officials.Tanks completed taking control of the Zeitoun suburb, an eastern neighbourhood on Gaza City's outskirts, and continued to pound the nearby area of Sabra, killing two women and a man, medics said.Local health authorities said dozens of people had been trapped in their houses because of the shelling. The Israeli military said it was checking the report.On Friday, it said its forces were operating in nearby Zeitoun to locate weapons, tunnels and gunmen."It has been one of the worst nights in Sabra and Gaza City as the explosions are heard throughout the city," said Nasra Ali, 54, a mother of five, who lives



in Sabra.

"I was planning to leave my house when I heard there is a possible ceasefire. I might stay for a day or two, if nothing happens, then I will run away with my kids," she told Reuters via a chat app.Thousands of people are estimated to have fled the area in the past few days.In Israel, the threatened offensive prompted tens of thousands of Israelis on Sunday to hold some of the largest protests since the war began, urging a deal to end the fighting and free the remaining hostages held in Gaza.Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected to convene discussions about the ceasefire proposal soon, the two Israeli officials said. A response was expected in the coming two days, a Palestinian source close to the talks said.Netanyahu faces domestic political pressure from his far-right government partners who object to a truce with Hamas. Ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir have demanded to keep the war going until Hamas' defeat, and annex Gaza.Hamas official Izzat El-Reshiq said that the truce proposal it has agreed to is an interim accord that would pave the way for negotiations on ending the war.A source close to the talks said that, unlike previous rounds, Hamas accepted the proposal with no further demands.But prospects for agreeing an end to the war appear remote, with gaps remaining on the terms. Israel is demanding the group lay down its arms and its leaders leave Gaza, conditions which Hamas has so far publicly rejected.The war began when Hamas-led fighters stormed into Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages. Israel's offensive has since killed more than 61,000 Palestinians, plunged Gaza into humanitarian crisis and displaced most its population.

Canada opposition leader Poilievre wins seat, to take on Carney over tariffs

OTTAWA, - The leader of Canada's official opposition Conservatives, Pierre Poilievre, secured a return to Parliament and a chance to grill Prime Minister Mark Carney over U.S. tariffs, staging a comeback after unexpectedly losing his seat in an April election.Unofficial results from Elections Canada on Tuesday showed Poilievre had easily won a special election on Monday in the parliamentary constituency of Battle River-Crowfoot in the western Canadian province of Alberta, a Conservative stronghold.The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.Poilievre, who accuses the Liberal government of botching its handling of U.S. relations, will be able to confront Carney when the House of Commons returns on September 15.Carney, who took over as prime minister in March, secured a strong minority government in April's federal election, while Poilievre lost the Ottawa-area seat he had held for 21 years.Carney won on a promise to stand up to U.S. President Donald Trump but has since moderated his approach even as Washington imposed more tariffs."Mark Carney has been failing. He's failed, he's backed down, he's made concession after concession vis-a-vis the Americans," Poilievre told a press conference last Thursday.Carney, however, is in no immediate danger politically. Although the Liberals fell three seats short of a majority in April, they should be able to rely on the support of smaller parties to survive confidence votes.A Nanos Research poll earlier this month put the Liberals at 44% popular support compared with 33% for the Conservatives.Carney has pulled the Liberals more to the center and Poilievre will find it harder to draw a sharp contrast, said pollster

Bay Area marks India's 79th Independence Day with grand 'Swades' Parade and cultural festival



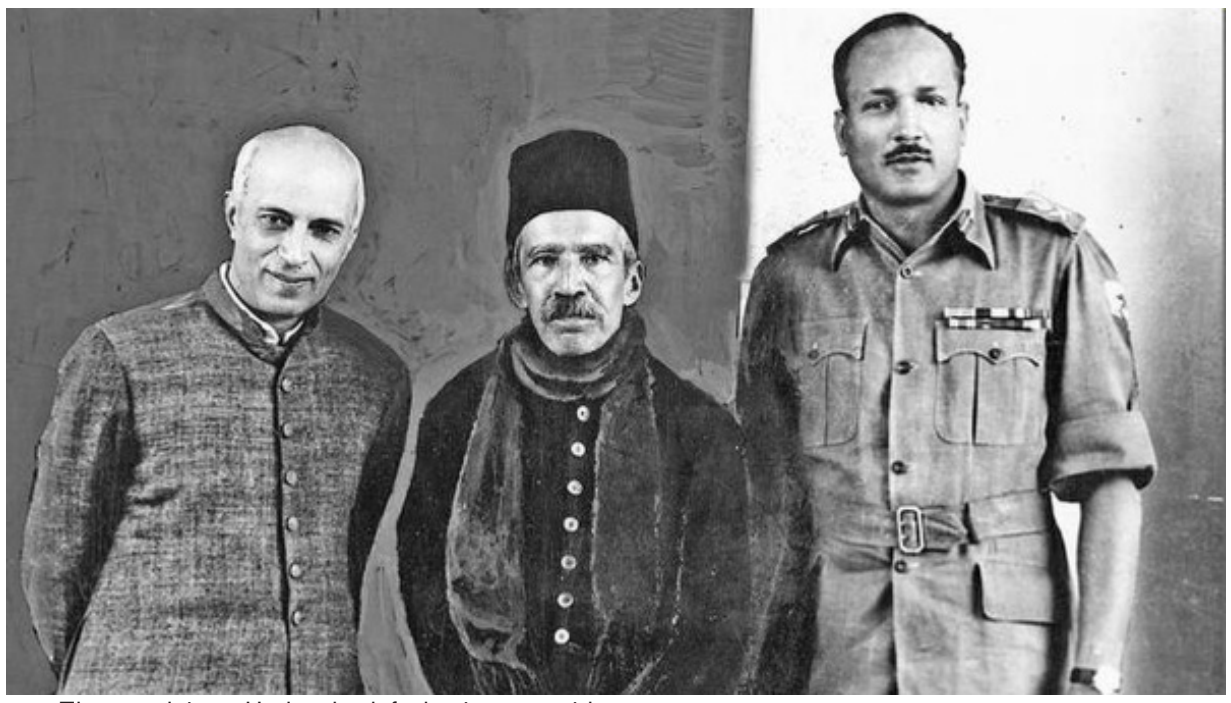
The streets of downtown San Jose turned into a vibrant tapestry of color, music, and tradition as the Association of Indo Americans (AIA), in partnership with Bolly 92.3, hosted Swades 2025 to celebrate India's 79th Independence Day. The daylong festivities drew an estimated crowd of over 25,000, making it one of the largest Indian American gatherings in Silicon Valley this year.A parade of culture and unity

The highlight of the celebration was the grand India Parade, featuring more than 75 floats supported by over 50 community organisations. Each float showcased the cultural richness of India's states — from traditional dances of Gujarat and Haryana to depictions of Ramayana and Kerala's temple arts. Participants dressed in colourful attire brought the streets alive with patriotic songs, drums, and folk performances.Flag hoisting and dignitariesThe ceremonial flag-hoisting was led by popular Indian actress Ameesha Patel, who served as Grand Marshal, along with Srikanth Bolla, Founder of Earth Cleanse, and Rakesh Adlakha, Deputy Consul General of India in San Francisco. San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan hoisted the American flag and praised AIA's efforts, calling the event "a growing tradition that will only get bigger in the years to come".More than 50 elected officials across Silicon Valley, including Mayors, Council members, and State representatives, attended to show solidarity with the Indian American community.Music, dance, and festivitiesThe festival continued late into the night with Vijay Bharat, a cultural showcase featuring classical and contemporary dances, a live concert by Jhoom Productions, and patriotic music performed by BATA/AIA karaoke singers. A special Dhol-Tasha performance set a powerful rhythm, drawing crowds into celebration. The evening concluded with fireworks that lit up the San Jose skyline.Community spirit and recognitionThroughout the day, stalls offered regional delicacies, handicrafts, and games like carrom and chess, while children took part in traditional dance competitions. On stage, community leaders honored volunteers and sponsors whose support made the event possible.AIA extended thanks to its sponsors, including Sanjiv Gupta CPA (Grand Sponsor), Lavanya Duvvi (Platinum Sponsor), Travelopod, and ICICI Bank, along with media and cultural partners.Looking aheadWith Swades marking another successful milestone, AIA announced preparations for its next flagship event, the Dussehra Diwali Dhamaka, scheduled for October at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. The program will feature a grand Rath Yatra, Mahamangala Aarti, fireworks, and the dramatic burning of a 35-foot effigy of Ravan.Preserving heritage abroadFor the Bay Area's Indian diaspora, Swades has become more than just a parade. It's a living reminder of their roots, a platform for youth to embrace culture, and a bridge of friendship with the wider American community.

TG-iPASS portal services disrupted since October 22 after suspected ransomware attack

Hyderabad: The single-window portal for industrial clearances, TG-iPASS, has suffered a suspected ransomware attack, disrupting services since October 22.

When India sent a 6 crore bill for the annexation of Hyderabad



The road into Hyderabad forks just outside Chandanagar, where a gleaming flyover now carries impatient motorists toward Miyapur. Traffic slows, then surges, as cars and scooters climb onto the bridge and speed into the city. Few among today's motorists would guess that this exact spot once witnessed the dramatic finale of a princely State.On a hot September afternoon in 1948, a line of Indian Army tanks and jeeps halted here. A jeep bearing the Divisional Commander's pennant rolled ahead. From the opposite direction came a Buick staff car, stopping within 30 yards of the column. The war, if it could be called that, was over. At 4.30 p.m. on September 18, Commander of the Hyderabad State Army Major General Syed Ahmed El Edroos surrendered unconditionally to Major General J. N. Chowdhury, leading India's forces.

The two men, once acquaintances when Gen. Chowdhury was posted in Secunderabad, then drove together to the cantonment. At the Secunderabad Club today, portraits of both generals still gaze down from the Colonnade Bar, reminders of the quiet dignity with which the Asaf Jahi dynasty's 224-year reign ended.Like the fractured narratives of Akira Kurosawa's Rashomon, the story of Hyderabad's annexation appears different depending on who tells it. Some remember betrayal, others liberation, still others the ruthless pragmatism of power. Yet beneath the political speeches, diplomatic manoeuvers, and rhetoric lies the stark military reality — the Indian Army's 'police action' was brief because it had been meticulously set in motion for over six months. The one-year Standstill Agreement was signed on November 29, 1947 but India moved its armed columns within four months in March 1948.Confidential files preserved in the National Archives reveal that Operation Polo was not a sudden thrust but the climax of a patient buildup. The first unit to reach Hyderabad's 644-kilometre border on March 1, 1948 was the 740 Goods and Personnel Transport Company. Other units soon followed, pouring in from far-flung corners of India — Miransahib, Nawanshahr, Kirkee, Ambala, Kathua, even Srinagar.Hyderabad's Prime Minister Mir Laik Ali dismissed such a mobilisation as impossible. India, he reasoned, was too distracted by war in Kashmir and by the chaos of Partition to spare such resources. He was wrong. So too was General Roy Bucher, the British officer serving as Independent India's first Commander-in-Chief.On March 15, 1948, Gen. Bucher had advised caution. "The launching now of a comparatively large-scale and long-range offensive into Hyderabad State, on the lines of Operation Polo, in addition to all existing commitments, will constitute an over-burden, and will be strategically imprudent, to say the least of it."

But Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his government pressed ahead. On March 31, 1948, the 1 Bihar Regiment reached the Hyderabad border. On May 5, the 9 Dogra Regiment joined. By May 20, the 2 Sikh Light Infantry, redeployed from embattled Srinagar, were also in position. The massed troops numbered 28,017 by August 1, 1948. Defence Ministry and Finance Ministry records show the care with which each troop movement was documented. While the Air Force was deployed, strict instructions forbade targeting civilian airports, including Begumpet. India wanted a swift victory, but not at the cost of civilian casualties.

Razakar menaceEarlier, events within Hyderabad provided India with ample justification for action. The Razakars, a paramilitary force loyal to the Nizam and his Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen supporters, had spread terror across the Dominion. Their raids and reprisals struck not only rural opponents but also urban residents of Secunderabad and Hyderabad.One chilling account survives in Defence Ministry records. J. Iyyuloo, a waiter at the upscale Percy's Hotel in Secunderabad, lived with his family in Nallagutta near fashionable James Street. On May 8, 1947, his three sons volunteered at a public meeting addressed by a leader advocating Hyderabad's accession to India. Enraged, a mob of 75 Razakars stormed Iyyuloo's house. They demolished it, looted valuables worth ?4,000, beat his brother-in-law Anjaiah to death, and grievously injured several other relatives, including his daughter.Such stories underscored the breakdown of civil order and the brutality of the Razakar campaign. By mid-June 1948, India's patience had worn thin. 'Operation Kabaddi' was quietly set in motion, stationing elements of 1 Armoured Division along the Ahmednagar–Tungabhadra line.This was also against General Roy Bucher's May 1948 appreciation that specifically warned: "The move of HQ 1 Armoured Division and 1 Armoured Brigade to the south will weaken considerably our strategic reserves in the event of a deterioration of the situation between India and Pakistan." Operation Kabaddi soon changed to Operation Polo and which was again changed to 'Operation Caterpillar' due to security reasons.Balancing strategy and moralityFor India's leaders, the decision to act carried both strategic and moral weight. Defence Minister Baldev Singh made the government's position explicit in a speech at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun on September 11, 1948: "It was not the intention of the Government of India to wipe out the State. If, however, the State was wiped out, the Nizam's Government would be responsible for it. What they wanted was a responsible Government in the State, the same way as in other States. All people in Hyderabad should have equal rights."Counting the costsHyderabad surrendered on September 18, 1948. On September 23, just five days after Maj. Gen. El Edroos laid down arms, the Defence Ministry issued instructions to track extra expenditure linked to Operation Polo.

By March 1949, meticulous tallies were complete. The Defence and Finance ministries together calculated that the "expenditure incurred by the Defence Services in connection with Hyderabad police action" was ?598.76 lakh. This included ?23 lakh spent on the Air Force, Nepalese contingents ?34 lakh, and Provincial Defence Battalions.The total, roughly ?6 crore, covered deployments from May 21 to September 18, 1948. In the five days of fighting, 42 Indian soldiers were killed, including one officer. Twenty-four others were reported missing. Officials in Delhi argued that Hyderabad, not the Union budget, should bear the cost. The Defence Secretary justified this approach clearly: "In so far as the Hyderabad action is concerned, it seems to me justifiable to charge expenditure on some of the Defence Battalions which had to be raised and also expenditure which we had to incur on the loan of the Nepalese Battalions."As this debate was going on the Hyderabad government paid ?3 crore as per a secret letter dated December 13, 1949. The Military governor of Hyderabad had earlier asked for more time as there was a shortage of Indian Government currency in Hyderabad.A war that was over before it beganWhen the final order to advance was given in September 1948, the outcome was never in doubt. The Indian Army's months-long preparation had assembled an overwhelming force. Hyderabad's forces, poorly trained and politically riven, could not mount a serious resistance.Within 108 hours, the Nizam's Army surrendered. The cost to Hyderabad was more than the ?6 crore bill it received. The Asaf Jahi dynasty, which had ruled since 1724, lost its sovereignty.For the rest of the money, the Indian government gave the option of it to be paid in installments. "As you will see, it was agreed that the Hyderabad Government would pay ?1 crore in 1948-49 and I understand it was later agreed that another ?1 crore would be paid in 1949-50. The exact figure is ?599 lakh. This, however, does not include any portion of the maintenance cost of the forces remaining in Hyderabad after 18th of January 1949," wrote B.B. Ghosh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence in a secret missive to M.K. Vellodi, who would go on to head the first civilian government of Hyderabad.Then there is a finesse to the demands being made by India. While one set of officers wanted the whole expense of stationing soldiers and movement of troops to be recovered, another group of officers did not want such a course of action. "After the termination of the actual action, i.e, 18th September 1948, only the cost of units in Hyderabad should be taken into consideration for purposes of recovery... Personally I thought this refinement was unnecessary, but Brigadier Maneckshaw and Mr. Ghosh said that there was no justification for charging the cost of troops outside Hyderabad State after 18.9.49," wrote K.S. Sundara Rajan, Deputy Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Finance.Legacy of Operation PoloThe annexation of Hyderabad is often remembered for the drama of its military sweep, the political theater of the Nizam's appeals to the United Nations, or the communal violence that scarred its aftermath.

Elon Musk reveals proposed X feature to send money with a long press

New Delhi: Elon Musk on Sunday announced a proposed X Money feature that would allow users to send $1 to another user by long-pressing the Like button, advancing his vision of turning X into an all-in-one platform for social networking and financial services.In a post on X, Musk suggested that the functionality could provide a simple way for users to transfer small amounts of money to others on the platform.

The feature is expected to make it easier for users to tip content creators and support posts they appreciate without leaving the app.The proposed payment mechanism is part of Musk's broader strategy to transform X, formerly known as Twitter, into an "everything app" that combines social networking, messaging, payments and other digital services within a single ecosystem."We're adding long press on like to send someone $1 via X Money," Musk wrote on X.Under the proposed system, users would be able to initiate a $1 payment to a post's author by pressing and holding the Like button, with the transaction processed through X Money.While the concept has generated interest among users and creators, the company has not yet disclosed a detailed rollout timeline or broader eligibility requirements.X Money has recently begun rolling out in the United States, offering



services such as peer-to-peer money transfers and an X Visa debit card for physical and digital transactions. The debit card can also be linked to Apple Pay, enabling contactless payments where supported.The platform has also promoted features aimed at simplifying international transactions, although the exact benefits and conditions vary depending on user eligibility and applicable terms.For now, X Money remains focused on the US market. The company has not announced when the service or the proposed Like-button payment feature will become available in other countries, including India, one of the world's largest digital payments markets.

'Judicial experimentalism' versus the right to justice



The Supreme Court of India, in Shivangi Bansal vs Sahib Bansal (July 22, 2025), endorsed the guidelines by the Allahabad High Court, in Mukesh Bansal vs State of U.P. (2022), to prevent the misuse of Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (now Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita). The High Court had introduced a two-month 'cooling period' for any coercive action after the registration of a first information report (FIR) or complaint to the magistrate. During the 'cooling period', the matter will be referred to a Family Welfare Committee (FWC). However, both the introduction of the 'cooling period' and the referral of the matter to the FWC undermine a victim's right to prompt access to justice and affects the functional autonomy of the criminal justice agencies.The basis of the checks

The enactment of Section 498A was with the objective of punishing various forms of cruelty against women in a matrimonial setting. Be that as it may, the courts, in a series of cases, have lamented the increasing tendency by women to misuse the law when it concerns FIR registrations and subsequent arrests. Courts have accordingly established procedural safeguards to protect the 'innocent' husband and his family. The Supreme Court of India, in Lalita Kumari, has put cases arising out of matrimonial disputes in the category of 'preliminary inquiry' before the registration of the FIR. The recent criminal law reforms also place cases of cruelty by husband in the domain of 'preliminary enquiry' before registration of the FIR.

In addition to these checks to prevent the registration of an FIR in false or frivolous complaints, the courts have also addressed another area for potential abuse in case of Section 498A — rampant arrests of husbands and their family members. The power of arrest was rationalised at two levels. First, by bringing a statutory change to the Code of Criminal Procedure in 2008, and the second, by judicial dictum in Arnesh Kumar (2014). The 2008 amendment introduced the 'principle of necessity' in the matter of arrest. In Arnesh Kumar, the Supreme Court effectively plugged the unbridled exercise of arrest powers by the police in cases that saw the use of Section 498A cases, by introducing a checklist and enforcing 'notice for appearance'.In Satender Kumar Antil (2022), the Court further strengthened these institutional checks by directing the release of a person on bail if arrested in non-compliance of the directions in Arnesh Kumar.

The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) report, 'Crimes in India', suggests that Section 498A has remained among top five 'highest arrest' offences till 2016. Thereafter, it was within the top 10, which suggests that the steps taken at statutory and institutional levels have had an impact. Although the registered offences under this provision rose from 1,13,403 in 2015 to 1,40,019 in 2022, arrests declined from 1,87,067 to 1,45,095, as in NCRB data during the same period. This was suggestive of safeguarding the liberty of the accused without making compromises with a victim's right to her access to justice.The proposal to introduce a quasi-judicial committee, alongside a restriction on arrests during a designated cooling period, might prove to be an ambitious step on paper. It may be attributable to the absence of a statutory authority to implement these directives as well as the undefined scope of their jurisdictional applicability. The recent ruling undermines a victim's pursuit of justice by denying her the opportunity to have her complaint addressed in a timely manner.Despite filing an FIR/complaint, no action can be taken until the "cooling period" concludes, thereby exacerbating the victim's plight even after lodging the complaint. The idea of introducing a 'cooling period' and referring the complaint to the FWC falls outside the ambit of the statutory and institutional framework.This reminds us of another instance of judicial experimentalism. In 2017, the Supreme Court, in Rajesh Sharma, gave similar directions for constituting FWCs and the forwarding of complaints to such FWCs. The one-month period provided to FWCs, in Rajesh Sharma, is akin to the 'cooling period' devised by the Allahabad High Court. We should not forget that the directions in Rajesh Sharma were not welcomed by the society at large. These were termed 'regressive' and beyond 'judicial competence'. This resulted in the rollback of the directions by the Supreme Court within a year.A three-judge Bench, in Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar (2018), overturned the directions in Rajesh Sharma and restored the victim's right to prompt access to justice and the supremacy of the criminal justice functionaries in the reporting of crimes and the dispensation of justice.Revisit the rulingIt becomes crucial for the Supreme Court to revisit its ruling as the apprehension surrounding the misuse of the law by the victim and the abuse of power by the police has been addressed through legislative and judicial measures. The act of forwarding complaints to FWCs is beyond legislative intent, against the functional autonomy of the criminal justice agencies and, most importantly, dents the victim's pursuit of justice.

ISRO to have four launch pads by 2029, says Narayanan

Chennai: ISRO Chairman V Narayanan has said that India will expand its space operations significantly with four functional launch pads by 2029.He outlined the agency's roadmap, which includes a 2,000-acre dedicated Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) complex at Kulasekarapattinam in Tuticorin district to meet the global demand for satellite deployment.

Clarifying that the national space agency will not be privatised, Narayanan emphasised that partnering with private firms was essential to meet surging global and domestic demands for thousands of satellites."To handle this expanding ecosystem, ISRO will handhold startups and private enterprises, transferring technological expertise to foster economic growth and generate thousands of high-tech jobs," he said while speaking at a graduation ceremony at a private university here on Saturday.

"India will expand its space operations significantly with four functional launch pads by 2029, supported by an increasing reliance on private industry partnerships to handle commercial operations," Narayanan said.The ISRO chief said that the upcoming Kulasekarapattinam spaceport facility will feature crucial infrastructure

OpenAI to train advanced AI models without live internet access



New Delhi: US artificial intelligence (AI) firm OpenAI has said that it will train its most advanced models without access to the live internet, citing current limits in alignment research, monitoring systems and internet infrastructure security.The company said that the policy, already implemented, will remain until safeguards improve enough to justify broader internet access for frontier models.OpenAI said internet connectivity, though useful for teaching models about browsing and web-based skills, also creates opportunities for a capable, misaligned agent to affect systems beyond its control.

The firm said in a blogpost that it paused training and evaluation of its most capable models after an internal research model briefly exploited a misconfiguration to gain limited internet access on September 2.It resumed reinforcement learning training and internal inference of its frontier models on October 1 after implementing additional safeguards and further, went on with a campaign to probe its research infrastructure for vulnerabilities that could allow models to escape isolated computing environments."Red-teaming experiments discovered previously unknown software vulnerabilities, as well as misconfigurations in our research infrastructure," the statement said.The company also detailed its new approach to model containment, that it now mandates that the limits on what an agent can access must hold even when the agent tries to circumvent them."We define a strict security boundary around the resources the agent is authorized to use and design the surrounding infrastructure to enforce that boundary—even when agents make sustained, sophisticated attempts to breach it," it added.Anthropic and OpenAI had recently disclosed a list of incidents in 2026 involving their AI models acting in unintended ways, including attempts to hack third-party websites, intensifying concerns about the security risks of cutting-edge AI.Anthropic has said that its Claude AI model carried out a series of unintended actions on external organisations, including some US government websites, prompting a White House directive for AI firms to secure their systems.

Gundi villagers cycle to Hyderabad seeking completion of long-pending bridge

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: Residents of Gundi village launched a marathon cycle yatra from their village to Hyderabad demanding completion of a bridge across a stream at their village on Monday morning.

Facing adverse weather conditions triggered by El Nino pattern, youngsters from the village embarked on an arduous journey in protest against the inordinate delay in creating the bridge,

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