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MEA Distances Itself From Eiffel Tower Row



New Delhi: India on Tuesday shared details on a range of issues, including reports concerning the Eiffel Tower in Paris, recent India-China military-level engagements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and India’s possible partici-

pation in the 2027 South Asian Federation (SAF) Games in Pakistan. Addressing a media briefing in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the government was aware of reports surrounding the

visit of a delegation from the BAPS organisation to Paris. The reports had alleged that women employees were not permitted to access certain areas of the Eiffel Tower during the delegation’s visit. Jaiswal said a temple associated with BAPS had recently been inaugurated in the Paris region. However, he described the specific matter concerning the Eiffel Tower as an issue between the organisations concerned and did not offer further comments.

On India-China border issues, Jaiswal provided details of recent military engagements along the LAC. He

said meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) had been held in Beijing and New Delhi following agreements reached between the two countries’ Special Representatives in August 2025 and August 2026. He said the first senior military commander-level flag meeting following those developments was held on September 6 at Vacha, on the Indian side in Arunachal Pradesh, followed by another meeting on September 7 at Damai on the Chinese side. Jaiswal added that a similar arrangement exists in the western sector as well.

Modi-Putin Bilateral Meet Ahead of BRICS Summit on Sept 11

New Delhi: With India set to host the BRICS Leaders’ Summit in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin for a bilateral meeting on Friday, September 11, ahead of the two-day summit. The meeting was confirmed by Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, who highlighted the importance Moscow attaches to its relationship with New Delhi. “India is our strategic partner. We consider it extremely important. The majority of our payment exchange is being done in national currencies,” he said, as reported by

News18. Peskov also said both leaders remain in close contact, highlighting the continued engagement between PM Modi and Putin. Peskov said the sale of Su-57 fighter aircraft to India is also on the agenda.

India is preparing to host the 18th BRICS Leaders’ Summit in New Delhi on September 12-13 at Bharat Mandapam. New Delhi is chairing BRICS in 2026 under the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”. India took over the BRICS presidency on January 1 this year, becoming the grouping’s chair for the fourth time. The ex-



panded grouping currently has 11 full members. The upcoming summit is expected to focus on key areas including trade, finance, technology, energy security and reforms in global gover-

nance. The Modi-Putin bilateral meeting will take place just a day before the BRICS summit begins, placing the India-Russia engagement ahead of discussions involving the wider grouping.

At Fintech Fest, PM Modi Pushes For Global Expansion Of UPI

New Delhi: He said the focus should be on countries that are home to a large diaspora, have high trade volumes with India, or are willing to partner with us while connecting the systems. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged the fintech ecosystem to expand the global reach of the Unified Pay-

ments Interface (UPI), connect it with local systems in other countries, and help the diaspora save on remittance costs.

In his address after the inauguration of the 7th edition of the Global Fintech Fest here, PM Modi said the UPI platform is now live in 11 countries and has also connected with

Singapore’s local system.

Urging the ecosystem not to rest on the laurels of the last decade when UPI became a ubiquitous platform for real-time payments across the country, the Prime Minister said the next aim should be to expand UPI’s reach. He said the focus should be on countries that are home

to a large diaspora, have high trade volumes with India, or are willing to partner with us while connecting the systems. “This is essential because Indians work in large numbers in foreign countries. They are the largest remitters of money. A part of the remittances goes away as transaction costs; UPI can help in sav-

ing on these costs and the money can also reach families faster,” he said. He said global card payments currently run on systems designed in other countries, but underlined that India now has the alternative on the same. “We can set our own rules and standards and connect them with the world,” PM Modi said. Reit-

erating French President Emmanuel Macron’s words, the Prime Minister said UPI is not only a tech story but also a civilizational one. He said that after the high number of successes on the payments front over the last many years, the next chapter for the Indian fintech industry should be non-payment transactions.



Leaders Should Effectively Use Social Media: Minister Lokesh

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, September 8: Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) National Working President Nara Lokesh directed party leaders to make effective use of social media. He warned them not to take social media lightly and instructed them to treat the issue seriously. On Tuesday, during the second day of the Leadership Conclave at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Lokesh spoke on the topic of Political Communication and Public Orientation. He asked how many leaders were

actively using social media. **“I posted selfie videos**



on DSC on social media” Lokesh said that AMC and corporation

chairpersons were also regularly informing people about the work they had undertaken through social media. He directed party leaders to inform the public about the development works being carried out by their government through social media and to speak openly with people. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi too conveys his messages through selfie videos on social media. Lokesh stated that he had also laid the foundation stones for Suzlon wind projects and had recorded and posted selfie videos on social media countering the misinformation being spread about the DSC. **“People should be informed of the facts”**

Lokesh advised leaders to inform the public of the facts, irrespective of whether an issue was small or big. He alleged that the YSRCP’s only job was to constantly malign their government. He directed party leaders to regularly counter the alleged misinformation being spread by Jagan and Co. through social media platforms. He instructed social media teams to respond promptly to party directives and programmes. Taking a dig at the YSRCP, Lokesh remarked that its leaders and workers blindly support whatever Jagan says. He directed party leaders to take the development of Amaravati at an international level to a wider section of the public and communicate the government’s initiatives more effectively.

YSRCP Spreading False Propaganda Over Mega DSC: TDP Women MLAs

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, September 8: TDP women MLAs criticised the YSRCP, alleging that the party was spreading false propaganda over the Mega DSC. MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy said the YSRCP had not conducted even a single DSC recruitment during its five-year rule and therefore had no moral right to speak about the Mega DSC now. She said the coalition government completed the Mega DSC within just 148 days of coming to power and provided jobs to more than 16,000 candidates. She termed it ridiculous to make allegations without evidence. Prashanthi Reddy said the government was reviving the Kisan SEZ in her constituency, which had remained closed for 30 years,



and bringing in new industries. She added that Chandrababu’s Vision-2047 was providing confidence and hope to the youth. **Jagan Resorting to Divisive Politics Over DSC: MLA Gauthu Sireesha** MLA Gauthu Sireesha

said it was ironic that Jagan, who did not conduct even a single DSC recruitment in five years, was now criticising Minister Nara Lokesh, who provided 16,000 DSC jobs within 150 days. She said Lokesh had fulfilled the promise made to the youth through the Yuva Galam programme. She stated that the DSC recruitments were conducted in a completely transparent manner and in accordance with the rules, with notifications, government orders and roster details made available online. She said the allegations being made by the YSRCP regarding the sports quota had no basis and pointed out that thousands of candidates had applied for 431 posts. She challenged the YSRCP to approach the court if it had evidence. She asserted that the youth could not be misled through false propaganda over the DSC. Sireesha criticised the YSRCP, saying that the party had no right to speak about teachers after making teachers stand guard outside liquor shops during the COVID-19 pandemic. She said the coalition government was focusing on jobs, welfare and development, and noted that Lokesh had

announced that three more DSC recruitments would be conducted. **Coalition Government’s First Signature Was on DSC: MLA Tangirala Sowmya** MLA Tangirala Sowmya criticised YSRCP leaders for speaking about the DSC now despite not issuing even a single DSC notification during their five-year rule. She said people across undivided Andhra Pradesh knew that “DSC means Chandrababu, and Chandrababu means DSC.” She said that immediately after the coalition government came to power, its first signature was on the DSC and that more than 16,000 people were provided jobs within just 150 days, bringing happiness to their lives. She strongly condemned the YSRCP for allegedly launching a malicious campaign against the DSC a year later. She said the 16,000 beneficiaries themselves would give a strong response to the YSRCP for spreading false information about their futures. Tangirala Sowmya said that people had already restricted the YSRCP to 11 seats and would completely wipe out the party in the coming days.

YouTuber Joseph Ravan Gets a Shock.. Gannavaram Court Extends Remand

From Our Staff Reporter



Krishna District: The Gannavaram court has once again extended the remand of YouTuber Bachalakuri Ravan, who was arrested in a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The court extended his remand until September 22. Ravan, who is currently lodged in Nellore Central Jail, was brought to the Gannavaram court by the police for the hearing. Following the proceedings, the court issued orders extending his judicial remand. Ravan was booked on July 5 on allegations of promoting Maoist ideology. He was produced before the court the following day, which initially remanded him to judicial custody for 14 days. He was subsequently shifted to Nellore jail. Since then, the court has extended his remand several times, and he has continued to remain in jail. After hearing the matter afresh, the court extended his remand once again, citing the seriousness of the case.

Sensational Details in Remand Report Several significant details have emerged from the remand report filed by the police in the Ravan case. During the investigation, police identified videos of speeches in which Ravan allegedly praised Maoist leader Hidma. According to the remand report, police alleged that Ravan used his YouTube channel to make statements that could encourage armed rebellion. They said he delivered speeches advocating the overthrow of government institutions. Police further alleged that, under the guise of freedom of speech, Ravan attempted to instill extremist ideas among the youth. The police submitted the videos related to these allegations before the court.

Onions at Just Rs. 32 per Kg.. From Next Week: Minister Nadendla

From Our Staff Reporter New Delhi, September 8: Minister Nadendla Manohar said the state government was taking measures to control the prices of essential commodities. He said the government would supply onions in Andhra Pradesh at just Rs. 32 per kg. Onions would be sold at 115 Rythu Bazaars across the state from next week, he said. He added that onions would also be supplied through mobile counters. The minister said the government would provide one kg of tur dal (pigeon peas) at a subsidised price along with ration supplies. Tur dal would be sold at 25–30 per cent below the market price, he said. He revealed that the

Centre would support the procurement of 1.20 lakh metric tonnes of tur. Nadendla said tur dal would be distributed for four to five months. He said discussions would also be held with the Centre to control palm oil prices. He announced that the proportion of broken rice in PDS rice would be reduced from 25 per cent to 10 per cent. He said the Centre would implement the Andhra Pradesh pilot programme across the country. The minister said 1,000 ‘Mee Mart’ stores would be opened by October 1 and that 870 stores were already ready. As many as 64 types of essential commodities would be sold at lower prices through Mee Mart



stores. He said commodities would also be made available in smaller packs of 100, 250 and 500 grams. Nadendla said payments for paddy procured from farmers would continue to be made within 24 hours. He said arrangements were in place to procure 37–38 lakh metric tonnes of paddy.

Distribution of sugar and green gram through the PDS would continue as usual, he said. He said the government’s aim was to soon supply palm oil along with ration commodities. He also said a 25-day gap for LPG rebooking would soon be implemented. The minister welcomed Vijayasai Reddy’s decision to launch a political party, saying anyone was free to form a political party. He also welcomed Vijayasai Reddy’s entry into politics. As part of his two-day Delhi visit, Minister Nadendla Manohar met the Managing Director of the National Cooperative Consumers’ Federation of India and Nidhi Khare, Secretary of the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

EDITORIAL

Judges' Experience More Valuable Than Retirement

The Supreme Court believes that increasing the retirement age of experienced judges has become extremely necessary under the present circumstances, as the judicial system is losing valuable legal experience when experienced judges retire. It has particularly suggested increasing the retirement age in the district judiciary. With the number of pending cases across the country having crossed five crore, the Supreme Court's proposal deserves serious consideration. The apex court has warned that otherwise, timely justice for people could remain an illusion. In this regard, the Supreme Court has begun efforts to increase the retirement age of judicial officers in the district judiciary from 60 to 62 years. It has also started seeking the views of all states across the country.

The main reason the Supreme Court is strongly advocating an increase in the retirement age is that judicial officers generally enter the judiciary at a later age than regular government employees, and therefore it would not be appropriate to directly compare them with other government employees. The court believes that retaining experienced judicial officers would help reduce the backlog of cases. On March 31 this year, a three-judge bench had made it clear that judicial officers who retired on or after that date should be given an opportunity to rejoin service, provided they had not taken up any other employment. Although recruitment to the judiciary has taken place in various states, not all sanctioned posts have been filled. As a result, there is a significant gap between the required number of judicial personnel and the number currently working.

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the states to take a decision within two weeks on increasing the retirement age of judicial officers. So far, only seven states have responded positively to the Supreme Court's suggestion. The remaining states are hesitant or have shown little interest in the matter. The Telangana High Court has recommended increasing the retirement age of judicial officers to 62, and the Telangana government is considering the proposal. The Tamil Nadu government has stated that it has no objection to the increase. The Madras High Court has also decided to raise the retirement age to 62, while suggesting that a process to assess competence/eligibility at the age of 60 should be put in place. The bench has urged states such as Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, as well as the Union Territories of Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, which have strongly opposed the increase in the retirement age of judicial officers, to reconsider their decisions.

Telangana-Specific Concerns

The reason for the hesitation among these states is their concern over the financial burden that an increase in the retirement age would place on state governments. The states fear that if the retirement age of judicial officers is raised to 62, employees in other departments of state governments may also demand an increase in their retirement age in the name of equality. The court has observed that these concerns expressed by the states are based on a complete misunderstanding of the issue. Increasing the retirement age of judges could require the government to pay them their maximum pay-scale salary for another two or five years. The expenditure on retirement benefits payable at the time of retirement could also increase.

Although this may impose some additional financial burden on the government exchequer, the benefits to the judiciary and society from retaining experienced judicial officers for a longer period would be far greater than the additional expenditure, the court said. If the retirement age remains 60, the government would have to pay retirement benefits to the outgoing judicial officers while also appointing new officers and paying their salaries. This would place a dual financial burden on the government. However, if the retirement age is increased to 62, experienced officers would continue working for another two years. The government could therefore defer the payments that would otherwise become due upon their retirement, thereby reducing the immediate financial burden, the court explained.

Recruiting judicial officers who can work independently and efficiently is a difficult task. Recruitment processes conducted in several states have failed to achieve the desired results. Some High Courts, including the Madras High Court, have prudently introduced certain rules and conditions to ensure that the increase in retirement age is not misused by ineligible or underperforming judicial officers. Recommendations have been made that High Courts should comprehensively assess the performance of judicial officers before increasing their retirement age. The Supreme Court has said that if experienced judicial officers are retained while those who are underperforming or no longer required are removed, talented young judicial officers will get opportunities, making the judiciary more dynamic and stronger.

India Faces A BRICS Challenge. Can It Find A Way Through?

India will be hosting the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12-13, 2026. This will be the fourth time that India will be hosting this summit, the earlier three occasions having been in 2012, 2016, and 2021. This is a momentous occasion for India because its next turn to host the summit will be after ten years, as the new cycle with members inducted recently in 2024 and 2025 will start from 2028. India has hence put in a great deal of effort and invested considerable political capital to ensure that it is a successful event, with a consensus New Delhi Declaration and substantive outcomes expected on issues of trade, commerce, development cooperation, climate change, alternative trade payment arrangements, etc. This is also a consequential moment for the BRICS as a nascent but ambitious grouping of EMDCs (Emerging Markets and Developing Countries), as it has never faced a challenge of the nature it is facing today. The expansion of the Organization from five to 11 members took place two years ago. Before the new members had the time to integrate themselves with the parent body, the grouping was confronted with a war in which three of its members were pitted on opposite sides. While the expansion has potentially increased the heft of the body in several ways, it has also presented a huge problem - of formulating a consensus on some of the most divisive geopolitical issues of today. The outcome of the Delhi Summit will thus have a huge impact on the credibility and future evolution of the organisation.

A Tough Time

The Delhi Summit is being held at a particularly challenging time. Such circumstances have not been encountered since the BRICS Summits started in 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russia. There are two ongoing conflicts the world faces. The first, between Russia and Ukraine, has been going on since February 2022. All the summits of the grouping since that year have debated and dealt with this conflict in their declarations. The task was simple as Russia's adversary(ies) in the conflict - Ukraine, the US, and Europe -

are not members of the grouping. The second conflict between Iran and US-Israel, which started in February this year, has three adversaries who are members of the BRICS grouping: Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. It would hence be particularly demanding for the BRICS membership to bridge the schism between them and arrive at a mutually acceptable formulation. It may be recalled that the meeting of BRICS foreign ministers, which took place in May 2026 in New Delhi, could not issue a consensus-based joint declaration because the expanded BRICS membership brought competing geopolitical alignments and divergent priorities, particularly the US-Iran conflict and the Palestine issue, to the negotiating table. While the political foreign policy track faced procedural and substantive obstacles on geopolitical consensus, functional and socio-economic tracks during India's BRICS presidency have successfully produced negotiated consensus documents.

How BRICS Has Changed

The most important objective of the grouping has been to reform the global economic architecture and get a greater voice and space for large emerging economies as their individual and combined economic heft and clout increased. Subsequently, it has subsumed the wider interests of the Global South. The New Development Bank (NDB) and a Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) were established in 2015. Because of the weaponisation of western financial institutions and to take advantage of the facilities under the NDB and CRA, a large number of developing countries sought to join this grouping. A major expansion took place at the Johannesburg Summit in 2023, when five members (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, and Ethiopia) were inducted in 2024. Indonesia joined in 2025. With this addition, the total population of the BRICS became 49% of the global population, oil output amounted to 40% of global production, and the GDP (in PPP terms) of these countries rose to 40% of the global value, as against 28% of the Western G7 grouping. In addition, these countries also



contain large quantities of mineral resources, including rare earths and critical minerals, thereby potentially significantly enhancing their economic and political leverage on the global platforms. But such leverage would accrue to the BRICS members only if they act together and work on the basis of consensus, especially when confronted with formidable obstacles like today's.

What Happened Under India's Chairship

India's Chairship is centered on the four pillars of resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability. Since assuming the Chairship, India has organised over 350 meetings, including the meeting of BRICS ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations, the meeting of BRICS National Security Advisers, ministerial meetings, and Sherpa and Head of Agency-level meetings. So far, twenty-two meetings of BRICS Ministers (Foreign Ministers, Finance, Industry, Trade, Energy, Agriculture, Communication, Environment, Health, Education, Disaster, Sports, Science, Technology & Innovation, Transport, Justice, Women, Labor & Employment, Culture, Youth, Tourism, National Security Advisors, Urbanization Forum) have been held, which have resulted in Ministerial Declarations and Outcome Documents representing consensus on several matters across the tracks. Additionally, eight meetings at the Head of Agency level have been concluded, in which operational and technical BRICS cooperation of the respective

tracks were deliberated. Moreover, several others, including the First-ever MSMEs Forum, a Friendship Cities Conclave, Culture Festival, Meetings of the BRICS Business Council, BRICS Think Tanks Council, Academic Forum, and Civil BRICS Council, have been held under India's Chairship. Some of the key outcomes emerging from the BRICS Ministerials and Meetings include BRICS Centers of Excellence on Agro-Ecology, BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle, Expert Working Group on Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine, Mainstreaming Traditional Knowledge, Advancing Sustainable Lifestyles, Skilling, Smart Grids and Energy Storage, Startup Innovation Fund, Cooperation on Global Value Chains, Technology Cooperation, and many more.

Will A Declaration Come About?

It stands to reason that none of the countries that have worked so assiduously over the last year would want their endeavours to fail and to allow the huge number of far-reaching, people-centric decisions, so diligently and painstakingly reached, be thrown by the wayside. The challenge is, however, to devise a language on the US-Iran conflict that would be acceptable to all the warring party members of BRICS, viz. Iran, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. India has considerable experience in dealing with such seemingly intractable and insurmountable hurdles. It was able to accomplish this in 2023 with the G20 Summit, producing a consensus Leaders'

Declaration on the first day when all the naysayers had written off the possibility of such an outcome. India was able to achieve this with the co-operation and support of all the G20 members, particularly Brazil, Indonesia, and South Africa, which wanted the G20 and India to succeed. In the BRICS forum, too, India enjoys a huge measure of support from all the member states with whom it has excellent relations, with the exception of perhaps China, though with it, too, India's relations are steadily normalising. All member states, including Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, Egypt, Russia, and others, can be expected to fully support India's efforts to work with Iran, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia to arrive at a mutually acceptable composition. In addition to supporting India in this exercise, all BRICS members would be keen to ensure that BRICS, as a recently expanded grouping, not only survives but continues to get stronger, more reliable, and credible as a platform. Even as far as China is concerned, while it would not have any desire to see India emerge successfully from this difficult and demanding situation, it would also be interested in ensuring that the BRICS-Plus format is able to demonstrate its viability by putting aside individual differences and accepting a language that would meet the most fundamental interests of the three powers that are pitted against each other. A consensus declaration, hence, is not only the need of the hour but an imperative.

Every Tech Bro Loves His Movable AGI Goalpost

On September 7, Jensen Huang, CEO of NVIDIA, announced that artificial general intelligence, or 'AGI', had arrived. The occasion was OpenAI's GPT-6 Astra, trained on a "modest" cluster of more than one lakh NVIDIA Grace Blackwell GPUs. Then came the real news: 4 lakh more NVIDIA GPUs, each with the computing power of hundreds of high-end computers, making compute the new infra of the AI age. This was not his first resurrection. In March, on Lex Fridman's podcast, Huang was asked if an AI that could launch, scale, and run a billion-dollar company autonomously would count as AGI. "I think it's now. I think we have achieved AGI," Huang said, with his signature calm. One catch. The question never said the company had to survive in the real world. So, within six months, AGI arrived twice. Once, as a short-lived founder. Once as Astra. OpenAI has been just as generous. After Astra launched, president Greg Brockman said it is "not unreasonable to feel that we are now in the AGI era". Then, with the humility of a man about to IPO: "For me personally, I do think we are there."

Sam Altman got there first. Late last year, he said AGI "kinda went whooshing by", then added, "Okay, fine, we built AGIs". All scientific breakthroughs in history shared one flaw: outsiders could verify them. The Wright brothers stayed aloft for twelve seconds at Kitty Hawk. Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon and left no disclaimer saying "Moon"

was a fluid term open to investor interpretation. AGI has a rare gift. It can arrive before anyone agrees what that arrival looks like. It is Silicon Valley's version of a Gurugram builder announcing 'possession open' on a tower with no occupancy certificate, no plumbing, no lifts, and a promise of electricity next quarter. The definition expands on Monday to fit whatever shipped on Sunday, then gets presented on social media as proof it was met.

None of this means Astra isn't awesome engineering, or that OpenAI, Anthropic, Google DeepMind, and NVIDIA haven't achieved monumental things. Somewhere along the way, AGI stopped being a question of what machines can do and became a question of what Silicon Valley is financially allowed to call it. That distinction matters because it is worth about two trillion dollars. AGI now has as many definitions as a political manifesto. Human-level cognition. Software that automates economically valuable work. An agent that books an IRCTC ticket without crashing. Topping a high-school maths benchmark.

Demis Hassabis, co-founder of Google DeepMind, keeps AGI's definition strict: a machine with the full range of human cognitive ability. He has also accepted that the definition is being "watered down", and that there is "a lot of hype for various reasons" - raising money among them. Francois Chollet, creator of the ARC benchmark, is more blunt: define AGI as automating routine tasks, and you have not de-



fined intelligence ... you have defined an assembly line. Computer scientist Yann LeCun describes scaling today's large language models into AGI as nonsense. So what makes the term so profitable? Build a better chatbot, you have a software product. Build a better coding assistant, you have an enterprise tool. Build a machine that claims to replace the majority of human talent: you have an invoice for the future of global GDP. In March, OpenAI closed \$122 billion in committed capital at an \$852 billion valuation. In May, Anthropic raised \$65 billion at \$965 billion. At those numbers, investors aren't buying a business. They are buying an option on future economic output.

AGI is the password that keeps that option open, driving Anthropic, OpenAI, and compute landlords like CoreWeave toward trillion-dollar IPOs. News reports say

Anthropic is projecting about \$200 billion in annual revenue by 2028. 'AGI is here' is the key that keeps such companies from being valued like normal software firms, bound by arithmetic. A software company reports revenue today. AGI only promises the world tomorrow, and tomorrow doesn't file regulatory disclosures. NVIDIA is not just selling shovels for the AI gold rush. It is financing the miners: a \$30 billion investment in OpenAI's February round, a residual-value guarantee capped at \$105 billion on the Ohio data-centre campus OpenAI is leasing, a stake in CoreWeave, and a promise to buy up to \$6.3 billion of CoreWeave's unused cloud capacity if no one else wants it. Money leaves NVIDIA, travels to multi-billion-dollar startups, turns briefly into "R&D expense", then parachutes back onto the titan's income statement as high-margin

cloud revenue. To keep that carousel spinning, demand for compute has to stay infinite. An autocompleter for customer support needs a server room. An artificial god managing humanity's economic output needs the sun. Hence, Jensen Huang's 400,000 more GPUs. AGI has apparently arrived, even as the physical world reopens decommissioned nuclear reactors, drains water tables for cooling towers, and requests enough power to make a national electricity grid faint, just to keep the racks from melting. None of this means the technology is not real. The internet was real in 1999, so was the dot-com crash. In 1954, Lewis Strauss, chairman of the US Atomic Energy Commission, promised nuclear power would make electricity "too cheap to meter." The physics was sound. The economics was a fairy tale.

2 Arrested After Alleged Security Breach At NMACC In BKC; Police Say No Link To PM Modi's Visit

Mumbai: Three people detained by Mumbai Police following an alleged security breach at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) have no connection with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mumbai on Tuesday, police have clarified. According to an IANS report, the incident occurred on Monday when three individuals allegedly used a suspicious government identity card and forced their way past security into Jio World Plaza in BKC. One of the individuals was allegedly carrying a firearm. Following the incident, police detained three individuals and subsequently arrested two in connection with the alleged security breach. The firearm recovered from one of them was found to be licensed, according to reports.

FIR registered at BKC Police Station

Mumbai Crime Branch DCP Raj Tilak Roushan said an FIR had been registered at BKC Police Station under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including those pertaining to impersonating a public servant



and unlawful entry while carrying a weapon. One of those detained has been reportedly identified as 24-year-old Rohan Parekh, who allegedly claimed to be an official from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Parekh was reportedly carrying an identity card that purported to identify him as a PMO official. During security verification, personnel allegedly discovered that the document was forged, leading to his detention and questioning. Parekh was reportedly accompanied by a bodyguard, Dilip Kunde, who was carrying a firearm. The weapon was recovered by security personnel and was

subsequently found to be licensed, according to information cited by news agency ANI.

Police probe motive behind entry

Mumbai Police are questioning the two arrested men to ascertain their motive for allegedly entering the premises with a firearm and forged identification documents. Investigators are also examining the circumstances surrounding the alleged security breach and why the accused purportedly posed as government officials. Moreover, Parekh was produced before a Mumbai court, following which the court has sent him to police custody

till September 11. The Mumbai Crime Branch is conducting further investigation into the case. Police have clarified that the incident has no connection with Prime Minister Modi's visit to Mumbai.

PM Modi to attend Global Fintech Fest

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026 in Mumbai, one of the world's major annual fintech conferences. The four-day GFF 2026 is being held under the theme, "Potential to Impact: Agentic AI, Tokenisation, Quantum - Trusted, Connected, Global Systems for Inclusive Finance."

Palghar Hospital Vandalism: Bombay HC Summons SP Over Alleged Police Inaction, Seeks Complete Case Records

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court directed the Superintendent of Police, Palghar, to personally appear before it along with complete details and case papers concerning the alleged assault, intimidation and vandalism at a private hospital by Shiv Sena workers on September 5. A bench of Justices Ajey Gadkari and Kamal Khata sought the senior police officer's presence after concerns were raised over the manner in which the police were investigating the incident at Relief Hospital in Palghar. The issue arose during the hearing of a suo motu case concerning an earlier assault on doctors and hospital staff at a civic hospital in Thane, in which Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre is an accused.

Senior counsel Ashok Mundargi, who was appointed as amicus curiae (friend of the court), brought to the court's notice the alleged incident at the Palghar hospital, where Shiv Sena workers allegedly entered the premises, abused and threatened doctors and staff, damaged property and forcibly took away injured Govindas un-



dergoing treatment. Five injured Govindas, who had participated in the Dahi Handi celebrations on September 5, had been admitted to Relief Hospital. Three of them were in the intensive care unit, and doctors had advised that they undergo CT scans, Mundargi told the court. However, several Shiv Sena activists allegedly barged into the hospital, vandalised the premises, threatened doctors, assaulted members of the staff and forcibly removed the patients, he said. Mundargi further told the court that what was more "disturbing" was that there was pressure on the police to register a

case against the doctors under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Senior counsel S U Kamdar, appearing for the Indian Medical Association, submitted that while an FIR had been registered, the police had taken "no serious steps" in the investigation.

The bench then sought to know from the prosecution what action had been taken so far. Additional Public Prosecutor Shreekant Gavande said he had not received instructions from the police and sought time to obtain details. The court subsequently directed the Palghar SP to remain per-

sonally present on Wednesday with the complete case record. Police have registered an FIR against 17 persons in connection with the incident, including Shiv Sena district chief Kundan Sankhe, city chief Rahul Gharat and deputy taluka chief Rohit Gavit, who is the son of MLA Rajendra Gavit. Police arrested Gharat on Monday. He was produced before a local court, which remanded him to one day's police custody. Gharat allegedly slapped a hospital staff member, while Sankhe and others are accused of threatening and intimidating the doctors.

'Put Me At Medical Risk': Diabetic Passenger Slams SpiceJet Airlines Over Missing Services On Delhi-Dharamshala Flight; Seeks Refund

Delhi-Dharamshala : A passenger travelling from Delhi to Dharamshala on a SpiceJet flight has raised concerns after several services included in his SpiceMax booking were allegedly not provided during the journey. The passenger, who said he is diabetic and relies on timely meals alongside his medication, said the missing meal service was particularly worrying.

Sandeep Amar (@sancalls) shared his experience on X after travelling with two other passengers on SpiceJet flight SG2450. According to his post, the group had paid for SpiceMax services but received only one of the benefits they had booked. Amar said the SpiceMax package

cost Rs.4,500 per passenger per sector, taking the total amount paid for the two sectors to Rs.9,000. However, he claimed that five of the six services associated with the booking were not available.

The services he said were missing included priority services, meals and beverages, a welcome drink, a refreshing towel, and pillow and blanket facilities. Extra legroom was reportedly the only SpiceMax benefit the passengers received. The passenger said the cabin crew informed them that they would be eligible for a refund for services that were not delivered.

The absence of food was a particular concern for Amar because of his diabetes. He said he takes medi-

cation in the morning and evening and needs to maintain regular meal timings. He questioned why passengers were not informed in advance if a meal included in their booking could not be served. He also stressed that timely communication could be especially important for travellers with dietary or medical requirements. "Spicejet is the most unprofessional organisation, as money is taken, no services and no refund and no communication is there. @DGCAIndia pls take strict action, as they are putting Diabetic passengers like me at medical risk, they need to communicate to me, if a meal is booked, if it will be served or not!! @MoCA_Gol pls take action, they are cheats

and openly doing this, how can you allow them to fly in India?" he posted. According to Amar, he contacted SpiceJet by email on September 2 to request a refund for the services that were not provided. SpiceJet responded to his tweet saying, "We regret the trouble, Sandeep. We have replied to you via DM." He also claimed that a complaint raised through the airline's customer-care channel had not received a response. The passenger subsequently tagged SpiceJet, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol, asking them to examine the issue.

BJP's Gaurav Bhatia Takes CJP Leaders Saurav Das & Ashutosh Ranka To Delhi HC Over Controversial Post, Seeks Rs.2 Crore Damages

New Delhi: BJP leader Gaurav Bhatia has approached the Delhi High Court with a defamation suit against Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka. In a post on X on Tuesday, September 8, Bhatia said the suit seeks damages of Rs.2 crore. Bhatia said, "When allegations cross the line, the law draws its line. A defamation suit of Rs.2 crore. Tomorrow, this defamation case will be listed for hearing before the Honorable Delhi High Court. No social media trial. No war of words. Only facts, evidence, and the rule of law. The truth will be tested where it should be - in court." The dispute between Bhatia and Das dates back to September 5, when Das posted a graphic featuring the BJP leader. The graphic attributed the following statement to Bhatia: "A young man named Swatantrata Bhardwaj is a mentally challenged Naxalite, filled with casteist venom, and has nothing to do with the BJP government." Ranka also shared similar content.

Bhatia demands removal of posts, unconditional apology

Following the circulation of the graphics, Bhatia called the posts fake and sought their removal along with an apology. Addressing Das on X, he wrote,



"You have 24 hours to remove this and apologize unconditionally." Das subsequently acknowledged that the graphic may have been generated using AI, but challenged BJP leaders to repeat the allegation themselves. He said, "I've been told it was created using AI. Nevertheless, I challenge any BJP leader to re-

peat this. What's the problem with doing so? Ally Chirag Paswan has distanced himself from the thug and even filed an FIR. Why is no one in the BJP saying anything? Are they supporting the thugs?"

Das deletes post but does not apologise

Das later deleted the post, but did not issue an

apology. Bhatia then pointed to the removal and reiterated his demand, saying, "It took only 83 minutes for the post to be deleted. An unconditional apology has still not been issued. If an unconditional apology is not made, an FIR could be filed tomorrow. You can't spread propaganda and then simply delete the post and get away with it." The controversy centres on Swatantra Bhardwaj, who had allegedly assaulted Nishu Azad's father during a CJP protest. Bhardwaj's remarks subsequently triggered controversy and led to protests by the CJP. He was later arrested by the Delhi Police.

Caught On Camera: 31-Year-Old Man Attempts Suicide, Jumps Into Sea Near Khar; Rescued By Mumbai Police

Mumbai: A 31-year-old man was rescued by Mumbai Police after he allegedly jumped into the sea near Khar in an attempt to end his life. Dramatic visuals capturing police personnel entering the water and rescuing the man have surfaced on social media. According to reports, Khar Police received a wireless call alerting them that a man was standing on a rock in the water and refusing to return to the shore despite repeated appeals. Following the alert, a police team led by Head Constable Vikas Babar rushed to the spot and attempted to approach the man. However, as the personnel moved towards him, he reportedly jumped into the sea.

Seeing the man in the water, police personnel immediately entered the sea to rescue him. After considerable effort, the officers managed to reach the man, pull him out of the water and bring him safely back to the shore. Visuals purportedly capturing the rescue have since circulated on social media, showing the police operation near the coastline. According to reports, the 31-year-old is a resident of Jharkhand. The circumstances that led to the incident were not immediately known. Following the rescue, he was taken for a medical examination. In a separate incident reported in July, a video from Mumbai's iconic Gateway of India went viral after a man was seen performing a backflip from the protective wall into the sea despite rough tidal conditions. The footage showed the man struggling against powerful waves as he attempted to swim towards a ramp near the protective wall. After reaching a rope fixed near the ramp, he was repeatedly pushed back by strong waves before eventually managing to pull himself out of the water.

New UN World Map Shows Arunachal Pradesh, Aksai Chin As Separate Regions Amid India-China Territorial Claims

Aksai Chin: A recently released United Nations world map has sparked fresh discussion in India because of how it portrays Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin. The map, issued amid deliberations on the UN General Assembly's 'Correct the Map' resolution, places the two areas between competing Indian and Chinese territorial claims. The map was unveiled on July 1 during discussions linked to the UNGA resolution. In its depiction of Arunachal Pradesh, the map does not show a border between the northeastern state and Nagaland. Instead, it presents Arunachal Pradesh as a separate region, shown as sharing boundaries with Assam and China. Aksai Chin has similarly been represented as a distinct re-

gion. The map places India along its western side and China along its eastern side. The UN has not provided an explanation for these particular cartographic changes. The document also marks the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir with a dotted line. In its accompanying notes, the UN clarifies that the "dotted line represents approximately the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan." "The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties," it said. The UN General Assembly last week approved an African Union-supported resolution titled "Correct the Map". The measure seeks to encourage more accurate and balanced representations of different parts of the world

on maps, with particular emphasis on correcting the cartographic portrayal of Africa.

Although the resolution does not carry legal force, it is expected to influence how international and multilateral organisations standardise their maps in the future. Togo introduced the resolution on behalf of the African Group. India supported the measure, with the Ministry of External Affairs clarifying that New Delhi's vote was based on the "underlying principle of promoting equal-area cartographic representation." "We also highlighted that the resolution does not constitute endorsement of any specific map, projection, or depiction of national boundaries," the Ministry said. "India's sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and

Kashmir and Ladakh, must be depicted in accordance with India's official map. Any inaccurate or misleading depiction is unacceptable. Our position on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity is clear, consistent, and non-negotiable," it added. The Indian government has not yet issued a specific response to the way the UN map depicts Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin using competing Indian and Chinese claim lines. India has repeatedly asserted that the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including Aksai Chin, "has been, is and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India." New Delhi has also consistently stated that Arunachal Pradesh forms an integral part of Indian territory.

Supreme Court Eyes Pan-India Building Safety Scrutiny After Satya Niketan Collapse

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said it was considering examining building safety issues on a pan-India basis following the collapse of a building being used as a boys' paying guest (PG) accommodation in Delhi's Satya Niketan, which left seven people dead. A Bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R Mahadevan indicated that it may also transfer to itself a public interest litigation (PIL) pending before the Delhi High Court over the Satya Niketan collapse. The Supreme Court will take up the matter on Friday.

Court Signals Wider Scrutiny

"We already have something in mind. It has to be on a pan India basis. We may get it (petition before Delhi High Court) transferred here. We will take it day after tomorrow," the Court said. The development came after Senior Advocate Ajit Kumar Sinha, the court-appointed Amicus Curiae in a broader case concerning building violations, sought an early hearing and placed the September 6 incident before the Supreme Court through a status report. Sinha sought directions for a time-bound

inspection and safety audit of PG accommodations, private hostels and similar student housing facilities in and around colleges and universities across Delhi. "In view of the recent tragic incident, it is a very serious issue. We have inspected, completed and the last inspection is today at 2:30 pm," Sinha told the Court, Live Law and Bar & Bench report.

Delhi HC Case May Move To SC

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the Bench that the Delhi High Court had already taken up a PIL concerning the incident and passed directions. "It is a horrific incident. Our hearts go for children and parents. A PIL has been filed in the Delhi High Court. We can file a transfer petition but I am pointing out the order that was passed," Mehta said. Mehta also submitted that the matter had been taken up "in right earnest" and pointed out that officials found responsible had been suspended. Justice Amanullah, however, noted that the issues raised before the High Court overlapped with the Supreme Court's ongoing proceedings on building violations. "This has been taken in right ear-

nest but it is overlapping. We will take it day after tomorrow and then probably we may make the transfer here. We already have something in mind. It will have to be pan India basis," Justice Amanullah said. The possibility of bringing the proceedings under one court could give the issue a wider focus, particularly as the Supreme Court is already examining violations of building and land-use regulations beyond the Satya Niketan incident.

Seven Dead, 12 Rescued

The building at Property No P-14, Satya Niketan, South-West Delhi, collapsed at around 1.30 pm on September 6. According to the Amicus Curiae's status report, the property measured approximately 55 square yards and comprised a basement and four floors above the ground floor. It was being used as a boys' PG accommodation under the name Hostel Daze. Seven people died, while at least 12 were rescued and taken to hospitals, including the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Trauma Centre and Safdarjung Hospital. The precise cause of the collapse remains under investigation. Preliminary mate-

rial before the Amicus Curiae indicates that construction-related work was being carried out in or around the basement. There were also reports of waterlogging in the basement immediately before the collapse. Delhi Police registered a first information report (FIR) at South Campus Police Station under Sections 105, 290 and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The building owner, identified as Hari Om Bansal, was reportedly arrested in Rajasthan on September 7.

Safety Audit Sought For Student Housing

Sinha pointed out that Satya Niketan was not covered by an inspection exercise previously ordered by the Supreme Court. In July, the Court had expressed concern over civic authorities' failure to act against unauthorised and potentially dangerous structures following the Saket building collapse and the Malviya Nagar hotel fire. Through its July 9 order, the Court constituted a committee to inspect buildings in Lajpat Nagar, Saket and Malviya Nagar. The team included Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi professors, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) officials and the Amicus Curiae.

Betul-Khandwa Four-Lane Highway To Cut Indore-Nagpur Travel Time To Just 6 Hours



Approval has been granted for the Betul-Khandwa four-lane highway project, which is expected to significantly improve regional connectivity. Once completed, the highway will reduce travel time between Indore and Nagpur to around six hours, making travel faster and more convenient. As part of the broader Betul-Khandwa-Vadodara corridor, the project will strengthen Madhya Pradesh's road links with Gujarat and Maharashtra. The four-lane highway will improve connectivity to key cities, including Nagpur, Jalgaon, Bhusawal, Akola, Washim, Hingoli and Nanded, while also providing direct access to major Gujarat cities such as Ahmedabad and Vadodara. The project is expected to boost trade, transport and economic

activity across the region, making it an important infrastructure initiative and a potential game-changer for Madhya Pradesh.

Indore To Nagpur In 6 Hours: New Four-Lane Highway Gets Green Signal

The Betul-Khandwa four-lane highway is expected to bring the biggest benefit to travellers on the Indore-Nagpur route. According to central government project documents, the corridor will serve as a key link connecting the airports in Indore and Nagpur, Indore's Multi-Modal Logistics Park, and major railway stations in Betul and Khandwa. The route will connect Indore to Betul and onward to Nagpur, significantly improving travel efficiency. At present, the journey between Indore and Nagpur takes around 13 to 14 hours, as much of the route consists of two-lane roads. The

new corridor will directly connect major highways, including NH-47, NH-753 and NH-52, benefiting traffic travelling between Indore and Nagpur via Harda and Betul. Once completed, the four-lane highway will upgrade the route to near-expressway standards, reducing travel time to just six hours. The project is also expected to improve connectivity between Indore, Nagpur and South India, making long-distance travel faster, smoother and more convenient.

Connectivity Across Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra And Gujarat

Madhya Pradesh: The Betul-Khandwa four-lane highway will improve connectivity between key cities, including Indore, Betul, Khandwa, Burhanpur and Barwani, enabling faster and smoother travel across the

state. Maharashtra: The corridor will improve access to major cities such as Nagpur, Jalgaon, Bhusawal, Akola, Washim, Hingoli and Nanded, strengthening regional connectivity. Gujarat: The project will provide direct road connectivity from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh to major commercial centres in Gujarat, including Ahmedabad and Vadodara, strengthening interstate trade and transport links.

Benefits For Ujjain Simhashta 2028

The Betul-Khandwa-Julwania four-lane highway is expected to significantly improve connectivity across Madhya Pradesh's Malwa and Nimar regions. The project is likely to play a key role during Ujjain Simhashta 2028 by helping manage the large number of pilgrims expected to attend the religious gathering. The highway will strengthen the road link between Mahakaleswar Jyotirlinga in Ujjain and Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga in Khandwa district, making travel easier for devotees. Pilgrims coming from Maharashtra and Gujarat are also expected to benefit from faster and more efficient access to the two sacred sites. Beyond religious tourism, the corridor is expected to boost trade, transport and economic activity, further strengthening ties between Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Delhi Building Collapse: 'Greedy' For Rental Income, Owners Built Extra Floors

New Delhi: The collapse of a PG hostel in Delhi's Satya Niketan is a grim tale of alleged greed, with the owners accused of adding floors to a decades-old building despite knowing that its foundation was too weak to bear the additional load. The FIR registered in the case states that the owners, Hariram Bansal alias Gupta and his brother, allegedly constructed four additional floors on top of the old structure, driven by the desire to earn more through rental income. The building, named 'HostelDaze' PG, was a ground-plus-four-storey structure when it came crashing down on Sunday, killing seven people and injuring several others. The building was 50 years old. The Gupta family recently had it repaired and turned it into a paying-guest facility to leverage the area's proximity to Delhi University. According to the FIR, the owners were aware that the building's old foundation was not capable of bearing the additional weight. Despite this, construction of the additional floors was allegedly allowed to proceed. The FIR states that the additional floors and construction placed immense stress on the building's structural integ-



ity and load-bearing capacity, pushing the decades-old structure beyond its limits. The result was catastrophic. The building suddenly collapsed, trapping several people under the debris. The building collapsed as construction work was underway in the basement. Rainwater also flooded the basement. At least 12 people were pulled out of the rubble between Sunday and Monday evening. Seven of them died.

Five Students Among 7 Dead

Five of those killed were students:

Abhishek, 20
Yuvraj Soni, 20
Pawan, 17
Arpit Jajaj, 19
Akshat Singh Yadav, 18

A 75-year-old labourer, Surinder Singh, also died. The identity of the seventh victim has not yet been established. Seven died and 5 were injured in the building collapse

Five Injured Still Under Treatment

Five people injured in the collapse-Asgar Ali, 30; Neeraj Bawan, 19; Aditya Kumar, 19; Nitish Chib, 19; and Mohammad Ayan, 18-are undergoing treatment at the AIIMS Trauma Centre and Safdarjung Hospital. Three of the injured are reported to be in critical condition.

FIR And Charges

FIR No. 153/2026 was registered at the South Campus Police Station on Sunday night. Police have

invoked Sections 105, 290 and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The sections relate to culpable homicide not amounting to murder, negligence in the demolition, repair or construction of buildings, and acts endangering the life or personal safety of others. The Delhi Police have arrested 81-year-old Hariram Gupta, along with his wife and son, in connection with the case. Gupta is reportedly a retired Sergeant of the Indian Air Force. The allegations in the FIR now raise a larger question: how did a building whose foundation was allegedly known to be weak continue to be expanded, seemingly at the cost of basic safety, to maximise rental income?

Punjab Man Dies By Suicide Days After Raising Drug Issue, Blames AAP Minister

Chandigarh: The death by suicide of a 50-year-old man in Punjab over the government allegedly not doing enough to stop the drug menace has become a huge controversy, with Opposition party leaders demanding an investigation into the matter and accountability. Gulzar Singh, who lived in Sangrur district, struggled with intense pain after he consumed pesticide but managed to speak to people before he died. "Cheema is also responsible for my death," he said, referring to Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, whom he had questioned over the border state's drugs problem during the minister's visit to a village. Thereafter, Gulzar Singh alleged, the police took him aside and put a lot of pressure on him to apologise after he questioned the leader of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. "The sarpanch is also responsible for my death. I had questioned Cheema about drugs. My son takes drugs. My house was sold. I don't have anything and finally now I have consumed poison. The problem of drugs has not been solved anywhere in Punjab," the man said before he died. Singh's



son said the sarpanch became angry after his father alleged drugs were sold openly in their village. "The sarpanch got furious and scolded my father," the son said. The incident comes just days after a man was allegedly subjected to custodial torture by the police for raising the issue of drug abuse by carrying a black flag at an event that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had attended. Opposition party leaders have sought a thorough investigation into the death by suicide of the 50-year-old man and also demanded the resignation of the Punjab finance minister. "His death is a stern reminder of the rampant drug menace across the state, which the AAP Punjab government tries to hide

through its multi-crore advertisements. But the truth cannot be hidden for long. You have this innocent man's blood on your hands," the Congress party said. Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Dal questioned the AAP government over the drugs issue. "Why hasn't the AAP government done anything about it?" BJP leader Ravneet Singh Bittu said the Sangrur man had held Cheema responsible for the tragedy. "Gulzar Singh questioned Cheema about the drug menace in an effort to save his son. He was allegedly driven to suicide and, before his death, held the minister responsible. Under the Bhagwant Mann government, the situation in

Punjab has deteriorated to such an extent that ordinary citizens demanding answers and their rights are allegedly being pushed to the brink of losing their lives. Cheema must be immediately removed from the Council of Ministers and a case should be filed against him," Bittu said. The latest government data shows a sharp increase in the number of people seeking treatment at state-run deaddiction and rehabilitation centres. Admissions at government deaddiction centres jumped from 9,577 in 2024 to 25,290 in 2025, an increase of over 164 per cent. More than 14,000 patients had already been admitted till July, indicating that the surge has continued this year.



Guwahati: "After I serve my jail term, I will kill the sugar daddy." The statement came from Ramanuj Goswami on Tuesday as he was being taken to a court in Guwahati, a day after he was remanded to seven days of police custody in connection with the killing of his wife, 25-year-old Riya Talukdar. Speaking to reporters in Assamese, Goswami said he had killed his wife and would make sure to kill the person he referred to as the "sugar daddy" after his release

from jail. When journalists repeatedly asked him to identify the individual, he became angry and behaved rudely with members of the media. He later told reporters: "I have no regrets, no apologies." Goswami was produced before a court on Tuesday, a day after he was sent to seven days of police custody. He had surrendered before police late on Sunday night after remaining away from the residence for nearly two days. Police are questioning him to establish the motive behind

the crime and reconstruct the sequence of events that followed. Investigators suspect Goswami attacked Talukdar with a sharp weapon following an altercation. The identity of the person he referred to as the "sugar daddy" and the circumstances behind the remark are now likely to form part of the investigation. The case came to light on September 6 after neighbours complained of a foul smell coming from the couple's apartment in Guwahati. Residents also

told police they had not seen the newly married couple for two days and that both their mobile phones were switched off. Police then broke open the lock of the apartment and discovered the woman's body inside. According to investigators, her fingers had been partially chopped, the body had begun decomposing and her head was missing. The victim was later identified as Riya Talukdar, who had married Goswami only a few months ago. During a search of the apartment, police recovered her severed head from a refrigerator, where it had been kept inside a polythene bag. Following the discovery, police launched a search for Goswami, who was not found inside the apartment. Neighbours told investigators they had last seen him on Friday. Talukdar's body and the severed head were sent for an autopsy. On Sunday night, Goswami surrendered before the police. A court subsequently remanded him to seven days of police custody.

Seen What Happened In Tamil Nadu': Kangana Ranaut Amid Actor Trisha Row

New Delhi: It is an old trope to discredit women by "attacking her character", BJP MP Kangana Ranaut said Monday, noting that the practice is not limited to India and urged society to look within to understand how women are treated. The actor-turned-politician also referenced the Tamil Nadu Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin's alleged tacit derogatory remarks on actor Trisha. "You have seen what happened in Tamil Nadu, where a very respected artist and actress was involved in a matter where the relationship was between both parties. However, when it comes to abuses and character assassination, it is always the woman who is targeted," Ranaut told reporters after chairing the District Development Coordination and Monitoring meeting at Kullu. Yesterday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister,



speaking in the state Assembly, said. "There can be harsh political criticism, but there should not be any defamatory remarks against women." In a warning apparently aimed at the opposition DMK, Vijay said personal attacks, double-meaning insults, or using derogatory language targeting women will draw immediate, uncompromising legal consequences.

Udhayanidhi allegedly made a double-meaning remark during a Cauvery protest meeting in August, a comment the DMK claims has been maliciously "edited" and "misrepresented", saying he never uttered the actor's name. "We all know that this is not limited to India. It exists across the world. Whether a woman is working, successful, a leader, or

in a position of power or authority, she is always brought down by attacking her character," Ranaut, who has faced personal attacks, said. "So, when will this kind of character assassination of women stop? Somewhere, we need to look within ourselves as a society and ask how we view women and whether we truly respect them or not," she added.

Gang Used Fevikwik In ATMs To Cheat People, Arrested From Patna Express

Imagine you visit an ATM to withdraw some cash. You insert your card into the card slot and choose your preferred language, followed by your 4-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) and the amount of cash you need. You collect the cash and move to complete the transaction by pulling out your debit card, but the card refuses to come out. It is stuck. What do you do? Gangsters in Kolsewadi in Maharashtra's Thane district used this helplessness to cheat people. The catch

is, they created this helplessness. The Kolsewadi Police of Kalyan, Thane, have arrested a gang that allegedly cheated people by applying Fevikwik, an adhesive to ATM machines. The investigation has revealed that the gang would wait for people at ATM centres. They would apply Fevikwik to the card slot to get hold of the customers' ATM cards. Once the card was stuck and a user felt helpless, 'help' would arrive. A member of the gang would approach the user pretending to help and ask them to enter their ATM PIN three

times. Even after entering the PIN, the money would not be dispensed. Meanwhile, the user would be asked to call a particular mobile number. The number provided would belong to another member of the gang. The user would be asked to come to a particular location. During the investigation, the police found that the gang allegedly obtained the ATM PIN from customers or collected their banking information through other means and then withdrew money from their accounts. The police action came after a complaint about an attempt to cheat a

citizen at an ATM centre in the Kolsewadi area of Kalyan East. In this case, police arrested Rajesh Kumar Yadav. During questioning, Rajesh told the police that three more people were involved in the operation and were in the Kongao area of Bhiwandi. It was learnt that the three accused were travelling to Bihar on the Patna Express. The police chased them in a dramatic, cinematic-style pursuit and arrested them aboard the Patna Express. The investigation has revealed that the gang had allegedly cheated several people using the same method.

UAE Warned Netanyahu Of Hamas Plans Days Before October 2023 Attack: Report



Tel Aviv:Days before the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, assault on Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Mohammed bin Zayed directly warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that former Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in Gaza was planning something major -- a 'Zilzal', or an earthquake-- against the Jewish state, according to an investigation by Israeli publication Haaretz. Citing sources, both in the UAE and Shin Bet, the Israeli security agency, the report claimed that Netanyahu did not act in a timely manner on the information and failed to disclose his 45-minute direct phone call with the UAE leader even to his most senior security officials.

An Early Warning
According to the Haaretz report, bin Zayed's warning to Netanyahu came about a week and a half before the massacre, in which he conveyed that "something there is about to explode". During a 45-minute call, the Emirati ruler reportedly asked Netanyahu to take the threat seriously, expressing concern that any such attack could not only lead to bloodshed but also destabilise the entire region and undermine the

Abraham Accords. Also present during the call was a Palestinian adviser to bin Zayed, who told the Israeli publication that, to everyone's surprise, Netanyahu reacted with relative calm to the warning. He told the Emirati leader that, in his assessment, Hamas intended to operate in the West Bank area, and he reassured bin Zayed that Israel was prepared for any scenario. The Emirati ruler reportedly later recounted his conversation with Netanyahu to CIA Director William J Burns. "The emir hoped that despite his reserved response, Netanyahu would take the message seriously and take action," the adviser said. However, the Israeli leader repeatedly briefed none of the heads of the defence establishment, including Shin Bet, Mossad, and the Israel Defence Forces chief of staff, about bin Zayed's warning.

How the Threat Originated
The investigation found that in early 2023, Israel's Shin Bet and Hamas established a secret direct channel of talks and almost agreed to a historic prisoner exchange deal. However, the deal was delayed on Tel Aviv's end pending a min-

isterial committee's permission to release the prisoners. The report said that Netanyahu repeatedly postponed convening the committee, perhaps "out of fear of reaching an agreement with Hamas, or perhaps out of fear of the reaction from his extremist partners in his new government." Shin Bet representatives, who managed the channel with Hamas, told the publication that Netanyahu used to say he feared the story leaking to the media. "And so it got stuck week after week," the source said. At the same time, Israel was also dealing with internal rebellion. In September 2023, Sinwar, who was tired of waiting, warned through the intermediary that he was preparing a "zilzal," or earthquake, and later described what he was planning as "the mother of all surprises" and "a terrifying operation." At the same time, the direct channel established between Shin Bet and Hamas was severed. This channel, incidentally, would resume full activity a year after the October 7 massacre, in September 2024, when an urgent need emerged to extract the stalled hostage deal from the mire, the report said. Sinwar's message

ultimately reached Shin Bet on September 15. Following this, then-Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar briefed Netanyahu about the warning. Two days later, senior defence officials held a security meeting where Bar reportedly warned that Israel was "on a collision course" and recommended either a powerful offensive step or stronger defensive measures in Gaza and the West Bank ahead of the Jewish holidays, but no decisions were made at the end of the discussion. It was only after the UAE leadership concluded that Israel had not adequately responded to the information that bin Zayed decided to contact Netanyahu directly, according to the report.

The report said later Egyptian intelligence chief Abbas Kamel laos got the intel and contacted Netanyahu to warn of "something unusual, a terrifying operation" being planned by Hamas. Netanyahu reportedly told him that Israel was in control of the situation in Gaza and was concentrating its attention and troop deployments on the West Bank. Netanyahu did not mention either of the warning calls during a subsequence security meeting on October 1, the report said. A senior Shin Bet official quoted in the investigation said knowledge of such high-profile warnings could potentially have changed how security officials interpreted Sinwar's earlier statements and withdrawal from negotiations. At 6:29 am on October 7, 2023, the promised "zilzal" arrived. By noon, social media across the world was flooded with horrific footage of the massacre --live-streamed killings and destruction. Hamas abducted approximately 251

people -- including civilians, soldiers, and foreign nationals -- during their cross-border attack.

Netanyahu Denies Charges

The Israeli prime minister's office called the investigation an "absolute lie." "Prime Minister Netanyahu didn't speak to the president of the UAE during the period in question and received no warning from him," the Prime Minister's Office said in response to Haaretz. The Emirati leader did not respond to a request for comment from Haaretz.

Anger in Israel

The report has sparked anger in Israel, with former prime minister and head of B'Yachad Naftali Bennett accusing Netanyahu of leading Israel "blindly straight into this terrible disaster." "Mohammed bin Zayed of the Emirates warned Netanyahu that Sinwar was planning an operation. Abbas Kamel, the head of Egyptian General Intelligence, also warned Netanyahu days before the massacre that a major operation was being planned," Bennett said while talking to the Jerusalem Post. "I don't want to talk about my relationship with anyone. I'm telling you that I know this fact is true." "Netanyahu led us blindly straight into this terrible disaster. He was so deeply immersed in his conception that Hamas was an asset, and despite receiving explicit warnings, he did nothing," the former prime minister claimed. "Netanyahu bears direct responsibility for this disaster, not only ministerial responsibility by virtue of being prime minister, but direct responsibility because he built up Hamas for 15 years and did nothing."

US Warns EB-1 Green Cards May Run Out For Indians Before September Ends



Washington:The United States has warned that employment-based first-preference (EB-1) US green cards could become unavailable for Indian professionals before the fiscal year ends on September 30 because of high demand, adding fresh pressure to an already severe backlog that has limited permanent residency for Indian applicants. The EB-1 category is used by priority workers, including people with extraordinary ability, outstanding professors and researchers, and certain multinational executives and managers. The US State Department's warning appeared in its September Visa Bulletin, highlighting fresh uncertainty for Indian green card applicants who already face lengthy queues in multiple categories. "High demand and number use by aliens chargeable to India in the EB-1 visa category may necessitate making the category unavailable in the coming weeks if India's prorated limit in the EB-1 category is reached before the

fiscal year ends," the update read. "This situation will be continually monitored, and any necessary adjustments will be made accordingly." The warning is particularly significant for Indians because several other employment-based green-card queues are already severely constrained. For September, the EB-1 India final action date is October 15, 2022. That means an Indian applicant generally must have a priority date earlier than the listed cutoff for a visa number to be available for final action, subject to other eligibility requirements.The Extent of Visa ConstraintsThe pressure on Indian applicants extends beyond the EB-1 category. India's EB-2 category, which covers professionals holding advanced degrees and people of exceptional ability, is listed as "U" -- unavailable -- in the September bulletin. The State Department defines "U" as meaning visa numbers are not authorised for issuance in that category during the period concerned.The backlog is

also stark in the employment-based third-preference (EB-3) category, where the queue stretches back 12 years. India's unreserved EB-5 investor category is also unavailable for final action in September, although the EB-5 set-aside categories for rural projects, high-unemployment areas, and infrastructure remain current for all countries. The filing dates offer somewhat more room than the final-action dates. For India, the September dates-for-filing chart lists December 1, 2023, for EB-1 and January 15, 2015, for EB-2 and EB-3 categories. Applicants seeking adjustment of status inside the United States, however, must check which chart US Citizenship and Immigration Services authorises for use in a particular month. The pressure on Indian employment-based applicants stems in large part from the combination of heavy demand and statutory limits on the number of employment-based immigrant visas available each year.

Houthis Lay Waste To Saudi Weapons Trucks, Riyadh Vows Response



Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis attacked Saudi Arabia-linked trucks that contained military equipment with ballistic missiles at a border crossing near Al-Wadiah, on the Saudi-Yemen border on Monday, Houthi Media reported.According to the Yemen News Agency, the missiles were "locally manufactured" and that the Houthis surveilled Saudi camps and troops at Al-Wadiah camp and found a large number of vehicles with ammunition and weapons. Footage captures the moment a fragmentation missile strikes trucks laden with military equipment, setting off a chain reaction of violent detonations and sending heavy plumes of smoke into the sky. The video also showed the soldiers fleeing the camp amid massive explosions. The flare-up in violence between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis after a four-year truce collapsed in July, came as tensions mounted between the United States and Iran and the wider Middle East conflict sent oil prices soaring as diplomatic negotiations stall.

Saudi Threatens Retaliation

Saudi Arabia on Tuesday threatened to hit back after a wave of missiles from Yemen's Houthis set oil facilities ablaze and wounded dozens, the rebels' heaviest attack in years. The overnight attacks caused "temporary" shutdowns at oil sites and left 73 injured, Saudi authorities said, a reminder of the danger posed by the group across the

southern Saudi border. The Gulf Kingdom's Energy Ministry said multiple energy facilities and installations located within its southern province came under Houthi fire. The accusation came as fighting intensified in Yemen, where the Saudi-backed, internationally recognised government has launched a counteroffensive to retake territory from the Iran-backed Houthis rebels. Houthis accused Riyadh of carrying out strikes, including the deadly bombardment of a prison in which 11 people were killed. Saudi Arabia will "take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty", a foreign ministry statement said, demanding a halt to the Houthi strikes and their attacks on Red Sea shipping.

73 Injured In Houthi Attack On Saudi Arabia's Airports, Aramco Oil Sites



Riyadh: At least 73 people have been injured in a series of attacks by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis on Saudi Arabia's civilian and economic sites. The Gulf Kingdom's Energy Ministry said multiple energy facilities and installations located within its southern province came under Houthi fire. The accusation came as fighting intensified in Yemen, where the Saudi-backed, internationally recognised government has launched a counteroffensive to retake territory from the Iran-backed Houthis rebels. Houthis accused Riyadh of carrying out strikes, including the deadly bombardment of a prison in which 11 people were killed.

Houthis Claim Attack

The Houthis, who control the most populous parts of Yemen and much of the north, have claimed the missile and drone attacks. The Iran-backed rebels said they hit Abha International Airport, King Khalid air

base and facilities belonging to state-owned oil giant Aramco in Abha and Jizan, near their shared border.

Saudi's Response

Riyadh, meanwhile, vowed to respond firmly to the latest outbreak of hostilities. Saudi authorities and official media said the strikes caused fires and temporary shutdowns. Videos posted on social media showed oil facilities in Saudi Arabia under fire after being targeted by Houthi drones and missiles. It was

the worst attack by the Houthis since a four-year truce in Yemen's long-running civil war unravelled in July.Saudi Arabia will "take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty", a foreign ministry statement said, demanding a halt to the Houthi strikes and their attacks on Red Sea shipping.

Yemen's Warning to Rebels

A Saudi-led coalition, which has been fighting the Houthis on the government's behalf since 2015, said it would respond to the latest attacks. "The Terrorist Houthi Militia's senseless attacks, the latest of which targeted civilian and economic sites", resulted in injuries to 73 civilians, said the coalition's Joint Forces Command. "The Command will also take all necessary measures and actions to respond to the sources of the threat and neutralise its danger." According to an energy ministry source quoted by the Saudi Press Agency,

"several energy sector facilities and installations in the southern region of the kingdom were targeted this morning". "The attacks caused fires at several locations, leading to a temporary halt in some operations" as well as several injuries, the source was quoted as saying.

The Saudi-Houthi Hostilities

The rebel group has been launching attacks towards Saudi Arabia since it declared a naval blockade against Riyadh in July, with strikes targeting its vessels in the Red Sea. The latest escalation was "dangerous", as the Houthis attacked civilian and economic entities in the world's largest oil exporter and de facto OPEC leader, the spokesperson of the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said on Tuesday. "The coalition will take all necessary operational measures to deter this terrorist militia and resolutely confront its hostile approach," Colonel Turki al-Malki said in a statement on X.

Eiffel Tower Shuts After Women Staff "Sidelined" For Hindu Group's Visit

Paris: Staff at the Eiffel Tower in Paris went on strike over allegations that female employees were 'removed' from the premises during a visit by a Hindu religious group days earlier, workers and management said. The dispute stems from a private visit last week by a delegation of about 100 people linked to BAPS (Bochasanwasi Akshar P u r u s h o t t a m Swaminarayan Sanstha), a religious group whose representatives were in France for festivities related to the inauguration of a temple in the Paris suburbs. In a statement, Eiffel Tower staff condemned "professional instructions that led to female employees being sidelined, replaced, and rendered invisible based on their gender" during the visit by the delegation. "Instructions were given to female employees of the Eiffel Tower and to female employees of contractors to

make themselves invisible in order to welcome this delegation," the staff said in their statement, adding they were shocked to have been put in such a situation. "Some were asked to leave their posts and withdraw to other areas. In some posts they were replaced by men. And all female employees were instructed not to go through or cross certain areas while the delegation was present."

'Hindu Group's Request'

SETE, the operating company that runs the Paris landmark, acknowledged that the Hindu delegation had requested the visit be organised to limit "interactions with women" and said that "these conditions should not have been accepted." The conditions "were not in line with SETE's values, nor with the principles of equality between men and women," the company said, promising to accept the "conse-

quences." "It is clearly not an acceptable practice. I restate the Eiffel Tower's commitment to republican values and to the equality of men and women," SETE president Ariel Weil, who is also a socialist elected official in Paris, told news agency AFP.

What's BAPS

According to its website, BAPS is a spiritual, volunteer-driven fellowship "dedicated to improving society through individual

growth by fostering the Hindu values of faith, service, and global harmony." It's a registered charitable trust in India and an NGO in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. As a socio-spiritual organisation, the group engages in a broad array of activities, like humanitarian services and building temples across different countries, among

other things.

BAPS' Response

The Hindu group, which consecrated its first major temple in France on Sunday, near Paris, issued a statement after the protest, saying it respects the concerns raised and takes them seriously. "Given the size of our delegation, the visit was organised in coordination with the Eiffel Tower teams at the start of normal opening hours in order to limit as

much as possible any disruption for other visitors. To our knowledge, at no time was access to the Eiffel Tower denied to anyone," the statement read. "Nevertheless, we wish to offer our sincere apologies to anyone who may have been hurt or inconvenienced by this situation. We are deeply committed to the universal values of mutual respect and service to others," it added.

NSE IPO Alert: India's biggest IPO may open on this date, check details



NSE IPO: The much-awaited initial public offering (IPO) of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) is likely to open for public subscription on September 18 and could list on September 25, according to a report by Zee Business, quoting Press Trust of India (PTI). The nearly Rs 30,000-crore IPO is expected to be India's

largest-ever public issue if the reported timeline and issue size materialise. It would surpass Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,870-crore IPO launched in 2024.

NSE IPO: Key dates

According to sources cited in the PTI report, the price band for the issue is expected to be announced on September 15, followed

by the anchor book on September 17. The IPO is likely to remain open on September 18, September 21 and September 22, with listing expected on September 25. However, the exchange has not yet made an official announcement on the issue calendar.

NSE IPO to be an offer for sale

The proposed IPO is expected to comprise an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 148.9 million equity shares, representing nearly 6 per cent of NSE's paid-up equity capital. Since the issue is structured as an OFS, NSE itself will not receive any proceeds from the share sale. Existing shareholders will sell their holdings through the public issue. The IPO follows the Securities and Exchange Board of India's approval for NSE's long-awaited listing plan. The exchange's IPO process had been delayed for years amid regulatory and legal issues. The reported September timeline now puts the focus on the price band announcement and the final issue schedule, which will determine the valuation at which NSE enters the listed market.

Xiaomi launches 5000mAh, 10000mAh and 20000mAh power banks in India

Xiaomi has expanded its power bank range in India, unveiling three new models. According to the company, all three models are aimed at users with different charging requirements. The new line-up includes the Xiaomi UltraThin Magnetic Power Bank 5000 15W, Xiaomi Magnetic Power Bank 10000 45W, and Xiaomi Power Bank 20000 165W. All three models bring magnetic wireless charging, high speed wired charging, and bigger battery capacities. Talking about the UltraThin model, it focuses on portability; however, the other two models are designed for users who need higher capacity along with faster charging for multiple devices.

Xiaomi UltraThin Magnetic Power Bank 5000 features

The Xiaomi UltraThin Magnetic Power Bank 5000 is one of the most compact options in the new range. It weighs 98g and measures just 6mm in thickness. Hence, this makes it suitable for carrying in a pocket or small bag. It is powered by the 5,000mAH battery and supports up to 15W magnetic wireless charging. For wired charging, it offers up to 22.5W output through USB-C. As per Xiaomi, the device can charge two devices simultaneously. It is available in Radiant Orange, Graphite Black, and



Glacier Silver finishes.

Xiaomi Magnetic Power Bank 10000 features

If you are someone who is looking for greater battery capacity, then Xiaomi has introduced the Magnetic Power Bank 10,000 45W. As the name suggests, it comes with a 10,000mAh battery and supports up to 45W wired charging. In addition, it also features Qi 2.2 wireless charging with up to 25W output, allowing users to experience a faster wireless charging option. Another useful addition is the inclusion of built-in USB-C cable. It means users do not need to carry a separate cable for wired charging. The power bank supports charging standards including QC 2.0, USB Power Delivery (PD) and PPS. It will be available in Black and White colour options.

Xiaomi Power Bank

20000 165W

The most powerful option in the line-up is Xiaomi's Power Bank 20000 165W. It is equipped with a 20,000mAh battery and supports a combined output of up to 165W. It comes with an integrated USB-C cable, two USB-C ports, and a USB-A port, so that users can charge multiple devices. This makes it compatible for users who regularly carry a laptop, smartphone, tablets, and other gadgets. Besides this, the company has also included a color smart display on the power bank. It will showcase information, including charging details, battery status, estimated runtime, and more. This will provide users a quick way to check the device's charging condition.

Price in India and availability

The Xiaomi UltraThin Magnetic Power Bank 5000 is priced at Rs 5,599 and will go on sale from September 11. The Xiaomi Magnetic Power Bank 10000 45W costs Rs 3,699. It will be available from September 15. Meanwhile, the Xiaomi Power Bank 20000 165W carries an MRP of Rs 5,499 and will be available at a launch price of Rs 4,999 from September 11.

Where to buy

The three models will be sold in India via various channels online and offline. They will be available for sale at Amazon, Flipkart, Xiaomi's official website and Xiaomi Stores.

The new power banks will also be made available on a quick commerce apps like Swiggy Instamart, Zepto and Blinkit.

Mahanadi Coalfields sustains over 200 MT annual coal production and dispatch: Govt



Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has sustained annual coal production and dispatch of more than 200 million tonnes (MT) for three consecutive years, according to a government factsheet issued on Monday.

The development comes as India's coal sector has undergone a series of reforms since 2014 aimed at improving transparency, operational efficiency, technology adoption, infrastructure and energy security, the factsheet said. MCL's coal production has increased from 23 MT in 1992-93, with the company becoming India's largest coal-producing company. Its production growth stood at around 9 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) between FY22 and FY26, compared with 6.7 per cent between FY93 and FY21. The government attributed the increase to policy reforms, mine planning, technology adoption, infrastructure development and operational efficiency.

Technology and infrastructure

More than 99 per cent of

MCL's coal production is carried out using Surface Miner technology, according to the factsheet. The technology reduces the requirement for drilling, blasting and crushing and is also aimed at reducing dust and other environmental disturbances. MCL is investing around Rs 10,000 crore in 19 First Mile Connectivity projects, approximately Rs 6,500 crore in rail infrastructure and around Rs 2,150 crore in concrete internal transportation roads and coal corridors. Nearly 70 per cent of the company's coal dispatch is undertaken through rail, the government said. MCL also operates a Rail-Sea-Rail multimodal logistics system for transporting coal to consumers across coastal regions.

Profitability and employment

The company has reported its highest-ever profitability and remains among the principal contributors to the profits of Coal India Limited, according to the factsheet. MCL has more than 22,000 regular employees and over 27,000 con-

tractual workers. Its operations also support employment in transportation and allied activities. The company supplies coal across 16 States to power utilities, captive and independent power plants, cement, sponge iron and other industries.

CSR initiatives

MCL is among the largest CSR contributors in Odisha and among Coal India subsidiaries, according to the government. Its CSR activities include healthcare, education, drinking water, nutrition, sports, skill development and rural infrastructure. The company is investing around Rs 500 crore in the construction of a Medical College and Hospital at Talcher and provides annual financial support of around Rs 60-80 crore for the project, the factsheet said. MCL has also undertaken tourism and heritage-related initiatives involving Hirakud, mine museums, waterfront development, ropeways and mine tourism at Orient Mine in the IB Valley.

IndiGo to start direct Guwahati -Bangkok flights from October 27 in Northeast international debut



IndiGo Guwahati-Bangkok Flights: IndiGo will launch non-stop flights between Guwahati and Bangkok from October 27, 2026, marking the beginning of the airline's international operations from Guwahati and direct international connectivity from Northeast India. The airline said the new service will initially operate as a special inaugural flight on October 27 before regular bi-weekly operations begin from October 31, subject to regulatory approvals. Under the schedule announced by IndiGo, flight 6E 1085 will depart Guwahati at 6:15 pm and arrive in Bangkok at 10:45 pm. The return flight, 6E 1086, will leave Bangkok at 8:50 am and reach Guwahati at 10:25 am. All timings are in local time zones.

Guwahati-Bangkok flights to operate twice a week from October 31

The inaugural flights on October 27 will operate on Tuesday. From October 31, the Guwahati-Bangkok and Bangkok-Guwahati services will operate every Wednesday and Saturday.

IndiGo said the launch represents a significant milestone for the airline, as Guwahati has been part of its network since its early years. The carrier recalled

that its inaugural Delhi-Guwahati-Imphal flight was operated in 2006. The direct Guwahati-Bangkok connection is expected to create new opportunities for leisure and business travellers while supporting tourism, trade and cultural exchanges between Northeast India and Thailand. IndiGo said the service would also strengthen Guwahati's position as an emerging international gateway and improve the region's access to Southeast Asia.

IndiGo's direct flights to Bangkok and other Thailand destinations

Thailand remains a popular international destination among Indian travellers. IndiGo currently connects Bangkok with Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. The airline also operates direct flights to Phuket from Bengaluru, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai, and to Krabi from Delhi.

IndiGo Gaya-Bangkok direct flights to start from October 26

Separately, IndiGo will commence direct flights between Gaya and Bangkok from October 26, 2026, creating direct connectivity between the Buddhist pilgrimage destination and Thailand.

IndiGo Q1 financial earnings

IndiGo's parent company, InterGlobe Aviation, reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 238 crore for the April-June quarter (Q1 FY27), compared with a net profit of Rs 2,176.3 crore in the corresponding period last year. The airline attributed the decline in profitability to higher fuel costs, adverse foreign exchange movements, and disruptions linked to the Middle East conflict, despite reporting an 18.9 per cent year-on-year (YoY) rise in total income to Rs 25,614.1 crore. The airline's profitability was impacted by higher costs, with fuel cost per available seat kilometre (Fuel CASK) rising 80.4 per cent to Rs 2.49 during the quarter. Cost per available seat kilometre excluding fuel and foreign exchange (CASK ex fuel ex fx) increased 10.7 per cent to Rs 3.20. EBITDAR declined to Rs 3,832.5 crore from Rs 5,738.6 crore in the year-ago quarter, while the EBITDAR margin fell to 15.6 per cent from 28 per cent. During the quarter, IndiGo carried 3.13 crore passengers, while maintaining a technical dispatch reliability of 99.9 per cent, an on-time performance of 86.9 per cent at 10 major airports, and a flight cancellation rate of 0.3 per cent.

WhatsApp ends support for Android 5.0 and 5.1: Check your device

WhatsApp in its latest update has officially ended support for older Android devices from today, September 8, 2026. The instant messaging platform announced the end of support through its Help Center, stating that it is no longer compatible with smartphones running Android 5.0 Lollipop or Android 5.1 Lollipop. Affected users will need to update their smartphone's operating system or move to a newer device to continue using WhatsApp. WhatsApp to end support for Android 5.0 and 5.1.

To recall, WhatsApp announced in April this year that its minimum Android requirement would be raised from Android 5.0 to Android 6.0 Marshmallow in the coming months. The Meta-owned messaging app also notified affected users via an in-app message, allowing them to have several months to prepare for the change.

The deadline for the end has now arrived, and hence, from September 8, WhatsApp Messenger and WhatsApp Business will require Android 6.0 or a newer version to operate.

This clearly indicates that users whose smartphones are permanently stuck on Android 5.0 or Android 5.1 will no longer be able to use WhatsApp on their devices.

List of Android smartphones impacted by the WhatsApp update?

The change or ending support for Android 5.0 and Android 5.1 will affect older smartphones that didn't receive newer Android versions from their manufacturers. If your device is released several years ago and is no longer eligible for operating system upgrades, then it will leave you with no option but to update the software. However, before purchasing a new phone, it is essential that you check whether your existing device is eligible for a software update. If Android 6.0 or a newer version is available, then installing it should allow your WhatsApp to continue working.

But, if the phone cannot be upgraded beyond Android 5.0 or 5.1, then you will need a newer compatible smartphone to continue using the messaging service.

Here's how to check your Android version

If you are unsure whether your smartphone is affected or not, you can check the Android version through your phone's Settings menu. The exact location might vary depending on the manufacturer, but mostly it is available under 'About phone' or 'Software information'

How to keep WhatsApp chat intact when changing phone?

If you are planning to purchase a new device then it does not necessarily mean that you will lose existing WhatsApp conversations. You can back up your chats before switching devices. Depending on the settings, you might have a recent backup stored on Google Drive or locally on your phone. Once you move to a compatible Android device, you can install WhatsApp and sign in using the same phone number. During the setup process, the app can detect an available backup and provide an option to restore the chat history. However, you need to make sure that you have access to the relevant Google account and using the same phone number associated with your WhatsApp account.

Rs 2 Lakh Investment in 1-year FD: SBI, BoB, HDFC Bank, Canara Bank, ICICI Bank- which gives better returns?



Short-term FDs can be a good investment option for people who want to keep their money aside for a short period, and without any market risk. The amount stays locked for a fixed tenure, and the bank tells you in advance how much interest you will earn. But the return is not the same everywhere. Banks revise their FD rates from time to time, and the difference may look small at first. On an investment of Rs two lakh, however, even a slight change in the interest rate can affect how much money you finally receive at maturity. This is why it helps to compare rates before opening an

FD rather than simply choosing the bank where you already have an account. The same Rs 2 lakh, invested for the same one-year period, can give a different maturity amount depending on the bank. Here, we look at the one-year FD rates offered by SBI (State Bank of India), Bank of Baroda (BoB), HDFC Bank, Canara Bank and ICICI Bank and calculate how much Rs 2 lakh can grow in each of them.

SBI 1-year FD rates

The State Bank of India (SBI) offers an interest rate of 6.75 per cent to senior citizens and 6.25 per cent to other customers on its one-

year FD Scheme.

Maturity on Rs 2 lakh one-time investment

On a one-time investment of Rs 2 lakh in the one-year FD scheme, senior citizens will receive around Rs 2,13,846 at maturity, while other customers will receive around Rs 2,12,796, as per the calculations.

BoB 1-year FD rates

The Bank of Baroda (BoB) provides an interest rate of 6.75 per cent to senior citizens and 6.25 per cent to other customers on its one-year FD Scheme.

Maturity on Rs 2 lakh one-time investment

On a one-time investment of Rs 2 lakh in the one-year FD scheme, senior citizens will get around Rs 2,13,846 at maturity, while other customers will receive around Rs 2,12,796, as per the calculations.

Canara Bank 1-year FD rates

Canara Bank offers an interest rate of 6.75 per cent to senior citizens and 6.25 per cent to other customers on its one-

year FD Scheme.

Maturity on Rs 2 lakh one-time investment

On a one-time investment of Rs 2 lakh in the one-year FD scheme, senior citizens will receive around Rs 2,13,846 at maturity, while other customers will get around Rs 2,12,796, as per the calculations.

HDFC Bank 1-year FD rates

HDFC Bank offers an interest rate of 6.75 per cent to senior citizens and 6.25 per cent to other customers on its one-year FD Scheme.

Maturity on Rs 2 lakh one-time investment

On a one-time investment of Rs 2 lakh in the one-year FD scheme, senior citizens will receive around Rs 2,13,846 at maturity, while other customers will receive around Rs 2,12,796, as per the calculations.

ICICI Bank 1-year FD rates

ICICI Bank offers an interest rate of 6.75 per cent to senior citizens and 6.25 per cent to other customers on its one-year FD Scheme.

'Disrespected' Jason Gillespie, Ex Pakistan Coach, Exposes Board: "Still Owe Me Thousands"



Jason Gillespie, one of the most respected bowlers of his era, had a short stint coaching the Pakistan Test team. However, his association with the national team came during a time when the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was at its most destructive. From changes in the support staff and selection committee to the playing XI, the PCB seemed hell-bent on throwing in the towel at every single hiccup. Gillespie, who was determined to bring Pakistan cricket back to its glory days, said that everything changed for him once Aaqib Javed was named the chief selector by PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi. "The appointment of Javed fundamentally altered the landscape," Gillespie told The Telegraph in an interview. "From that moment, my relationship with Pakistan cricket completely changed. Aaqib came in and took over. It appeared to me that he was in charge of absolutely

everything." Even for Gillespie, his roles and responsibilities with the Pakistan team continued to change right up until his departure. He said that the experience was such that it affected him personally: "I went from looking after the Test side, managing that, looking after the players and the staff, and having a role in selection, to having absolutely no role in anything." "The whole experience just deflated me and put me off coaching. It affected me mentally, making me doubt myself and leaving me thinking whether I still wanted to be involved in the sport," he revealed. The former Australian pacer even revealed that the Pakistan board is yet to settle his compensation, saying he is still owed "thousands of dollars": "The PCB still owes me thousands of dollars, but I was never going to be a yes-man," Gillespie said. "I wasn't going to compromise on my principles-I never have throughout

my career, and I certainly wasn't going to change. "I could have stayed quiet, agreed to everything, and taken home my salary, but that's not me. Part of me knew I was probably going to be sacked in a couple of months anyway." "I knew Aaqib was sniping around behind the scenes," he added. "That's just who he is and the way he works. People in Pakistan cricket told me that Aaqib was sniping at me behind my back. I'm sick of him talking negatively about me. If he continues to do it, then I'll start looking at taking legal action about that."

Disrespected And Undermined: Jason Gillespie

Gillespie refused to mince words, saying he was "disrespected and undermined" by Javed, who is now the Director of High Performance in the PCB. "I was totally disrespected and undermined, and I direct that towards Aaqib Javed. At our first meeting, he

came in with bravado, bluff, and bluster, wanting to show he was the man in charge. He said: 'This is what we need to do.' I listened and said OK. "But this kept happening, and I pushed back on a couple of his comments. I just felt from that moment on that it wasn't going to work because he'd already decided what he was going to do. There was going to be no collaboration whatsoever." "Aaqib had the support of the chairman and the board, and that's why he felt he was untouchable-as a coach, you feel compromised," Gillespie revealed."He was not a collaborative chairman of selectors. He doesn't take on other people's ideas, thoughts, or opinions. He might think he does, but he doesn't. It was his way or the highway. He just does what he wants because he is allowed to [because of] his close relationship with the chairman. That's not an environment that I wanted to work in or be a part of." "It's heartbreaking for me to see what's going on now; it's a mess. I know the crux of it. It's Aaqib Javed. He is the problem, and as long as he is there, Pakistan cricket will continue to go backwards." "You get chairmen and people at the board sitting at desks picking the captain; it's nonsense," Gillespie revealed. "Get the right coach in, allow him time to let the dust settle, and then allow him to pick the captain and go from there to rebuild Pakistan cricket and take it forward, because at the moment it's going nowhere."

Wasim Akram Breaks Silence On Imran Khan: "Haven't Spoken To Him For 3 Years"

Wasim Akram has become another high-profile cricketer to voice his concerns over the health of his friend and former Pakistan captain Imran Khan, saying "there can be no compromise" on that front. Not many Pakistan legends have spoken in support of the 1992 World Cup-winning captain who has been in jail since 2022 after being convicted in multiple corruption cases. Imran denies any wrongdoing. "I haven't spoken to him for three years. It's so unfortunate, politically, what's happening with him. The court of law is the court of law. But as far as his health is concerned, there can be no compromise on that," Akram told the Athletic. Last week, legendary West Indies batter Brian Lara joined a host of former international captains in seeking proper medical treatment for the 73-year-old Imran. As many as 22 international cap-



tains wrote an open letter to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, demanding proper medical care and humane treatment for Imran.

"There's a movement in England and elsewhere (to improve Imran's conditions) but here (in Pakistan)? I'm not so

sure," said Wasim.

"I'm speaking from the heart as someone who is worried about him as a person. Convicted or not convicted. Jail or no jail. We need to safeguard his health. We don't know what's happening, the government are saying his

health apparently is fine. But I'm worried. I miss him a lot." Among the former Pakistan cricketers, Imran's longtime teammate Javed Miandad too has expressed his concerns for the cricketing leader's well being.

It's Inevitable': Ricky Ponting Reacts To ODI Cricket's Future Amid T20 Expansion



"As the months go by and the years go by and more and more T20 cricket is being played and more franchises and franchise tournaments are starting around the world, it's more and more likely that 50-over cricket is probably going to be played less. It's inevitable, which I'm not a huge fan of, to be

honest," Ponting told PTI in an exclusive interaction.

Ponting, who scored 13,704 runs in ODIs, feels 'Big Four' including South Africa, India, Australia and England will keep Test cricket in a healthy state.

"I love playing that format of the game, but something's got to give

somewhere. Test cricket is still going to remain strong as long as India, Australia, England and probably South Africa want Test cricket to remain strong. It will. So something's got to give. And the obvious one is 50-over cricket," he said.

Asked about the proliferation of T20

leagues and whether there could eventually be too much cricket for players, Ponting acknowledged that the calendar will inevitably have to make room for the growing number of franchise competitions.

Legendary Ricky Ponting is worried that the One day cricket could slowly lose its place in an increasingly choc-a-bloc calendar, with T20 Internationals and franchise leagues continuing their expansion across the globe. Ponting fears ODI cricket will be played "less and less" in the coming years as more T20 leagues emerge, even though he remains convinced that Test cricket will continue to thrive as long as major cricketing nations remain invested in it.

BCCI Forced To Make 2 Changes In Under-19 Squad Over 'Age Fraud' Case



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has reiterated its zero-tolerance policy against document manipulation in junior cricket with an immediate crackdown on age-group players. After reports emerged stating that over 60 players in Bengal have been suspended due to alleged age discrepancies, the BCCI issued a release on Tuesday, confirming that two changes have been made to the Under-19 one-day team over age fraud involving a player named Rohit Yadav. In its statement, the BCCI said: "The Junior Cricket Committee has named Saurashtra Cricket Association's Aryan Savsani as Rohit Yadav's replacement in India U19's One-Day squad, while Haryana Cricket Association's Tanmay Baloda has been named as his replacement in the Multi-Day squad." "Rohit, who was named in

India's U19 squads for the upcoming fixtures against Australia U19 at Rajkot and Ahmedabad, has been withdrawn from the squad due to age discrepancies," the press statement from the board further read. The strict measure follows an extensive documentation review conducted by the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) and the BCCI's age-verification cell. Investigators flagged major inconsistencies across multiple official documents, including contrasting birth certificates and repeated updates to Aadhaar records that displayed varying birth years ranging from 2006 to 2010. Rohit, a leg-spinner who recently claimed six wickets during India U19's tour of Sri Lanka, was formally handed a two-year ban from all BCCI-sanctioned domestic and age-group competitions. India U19's updated squad for One-

Day matches: Lakshya Raichandani (C), Yashbardhan Chauhan (VC), Rajat Baghel (WK), Aaryavir Sehwal, V.K. Vineet, Kushagra Ojha, Arjun Rajput, Manal Chauhan, Anvay Dravid (WK), V. Yashveer, Shavin Vinodh, Mohit Ulva, Chigurupati Venkata, Kavya Patel, Aryan Savsani India U19's updated squad for Multi-Day fixtures: Yashbardhan Chauhan (C), Lakshya Raichandani (VC), Sagar Virk, Kushagra Ojha, Manal Chauhan, Kush Patel, Manav Krishna (WK), Abhipray Biswas (WK), Ishan Om, Ayaan Akram, Pranav Ragavendra, Priyanshu Singh, Mohit Ulva, Aryan Yadav, Tanmay Baloda BCCI's crackdown serves as a stern reminder to state units that it will take strict disciplinary action if anyone attempts to compromise the integrity of the sport.

I'll Get The Divorce": Ashish Nehra Breaks Silence On India Head Coach 'Ambitions', Reveals Issues



"With India's current head coach Gautam Gambhir often coming under scrutiny, a number of different candidates have been floated around by experts for the job. Legendary India batter VVS Laxman is one of them. Another name is former India cricketer and 2011 World Cup-winner Ashish Nehra, who has enjoyed a successful stint as Gujarat Titans' (GT) head coach in the IPL. Speaking on the possibility of coaching India one day, Nehra said that he does not hold any specific ambition of doing so, but did not shut the door for the future. "First things first, I will not use the word ambition. I

never plan. Yes, it will be a great honour and a privilege, but I never plan things like that. We'll see in the future. No, no ambition. I'm very happy where I am," Nehra said, speaking at the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB) annual awards ceremony. "When it comes to GT, lots of people say, 'you have done well in coaching'. It's not me; it's about the team. Yes, when your captain, when your coach is always associated, that's the way it goes, especially in India, but I'm dead against it," Nehra said. Nehra elaborated that he would have to consider a number of factors if he were to be approached for the role of becom-

ing India's head coach. "It's very difficult to answer right now. First things first, I'll have to check with the High Commission, which is my wife. Otherwise I'll get the divorce. It's a travelling thing, which comes to eight or nine months. Not easy," he stated. "When it comes to international cricket, not too many people have done more than 3-4 years... the kinds of demands, the kinds of travelling," he pointed out. As head coach of GT, Nehra led the franchise to IPL glory in its very first year in 2022. GT have also finished as runners-up on two other occasions (2023, 2026), and reached

It's Inevitable': Ricky Ponting Reacts To ODI Cricket's Future Amid T20 Expansion

Legendary Ricky Ponting is worried that the One day cricket could slowly lose its place in an increasingly choc-a-bloc calendar, with T20 Internationals and franchise leagues continuing their expansion across the globe. Ponting fears ODI cricket will be played "less and less" in the coming years as more T20 leagues emerge, even though he remains convinced that Test cricket will continue to thrive as long as major cricketing nations remain invested in it. "As the months go by and the years go by and more and more T20 cricket is being played and more franchises and franchise tournaments are starting around the world, it's more and more likely that 50-over cricket is probably going to be played less. It's inevitable, which I'm not a huge fan of, to be honest," Ponting told PTI in an exclusive interaction.

Ponting, who scored 13,704 runs in ODIs, feels 'Big Four' including South Africa, India, Australia and England will keep Test cricket in a healthy state.

"I love playing that format of the game, but something's got to give somewhere. Test cricket is still going to remain strong as long as India, Australia, England and probably South Africa want Test cricket to remain strong. It will. So something's got to give. And the obvious one is 50-over cricket," he said.

Asked about the proliferation of T20 leagues and whether there could eventually be too much cricket for players, Ponting acknowledged that the calendar will inevitably have to make room for the growing number of franchise competitions.

Will Epic Pass ‘A’ Certificate Test?

Anand Deverakonda has had his share of setbacks, but Baby changed the game for him. The film gave him the much-needed breakthrough, while Vaishnavi Chaitanya emerged as a bankable heroine. Now, the successful Baby pair is back together with Epic. But this time, things are quite different. Unlike Baby, the intense and emotionally charged love story, Epic seems to be a matured romantic entertainer, set against a London backdrop. The film is directed by Aditya Hasan, who impressed audiences with the 90s series. But picking the Baby pair again and attempting a bold, mature love story comes with its own set of challenges. And now, there is the tougher challenge, Epic got an A certificate from the Censor Board. Since the film features a mid-range hero and heroine attempting a full on entertainer and targeting the youth audience, could find the A certificate a tougher challenge at the box office. An A certificate might be common for films for star heroes and they may pull it off with ease despite having scenes of violence or bold scenes. Star heroes and star directors have managed to overcome the certification and deliver strong box-office results. Interestingly, Baby also featured intimate and bold moments but received a U/A certificate and went on to become a sensational success, giving both Anand and Vaishnavi a major career boost. This time, however, the same youth combination faces the A-certificate test. That puts the spotlight on director Aditya Hasan. Sandeep Reddy Vanga had made the magic with Arjun Reddy which was a A certificate film. That turned the game changer for Vijay Deverakonda and Sandeep Reddy. The film made Vijay Deverakonda a star. Can Epic overcome the A certificate tag, connect with its target audience and recreate the magic of Baby? With the film arriving on September 11, the big question is simple, Will Epic pass the test at the box office with its A-certificate?



Sumanth Aims Comeback With Mahendragiri Varahi

Sumanth’s last film, Newton’s Third Law, impressed a section of the audience, but it didn’t receive a wholly positive response. But the actor seems to be confident about his next release, titled Mahendr agiri Varahi. Directed by Santhosh Jagarlapudi, the film marks his reunion with Sumanth after Subrahman yapuram. The pre-release buzz seems to be holding, and we have to see how it unfolds. With the film scheduled for a grand release this coming Friday, trade expectations are decent. Director Santhosh can ace genres like mysterious thrillers with divine elements. The trailer looks good, and the film’s concept has sparked curiosity.

The film also features many noted faces, including Siddhu Jonnalagadda. His presence could also draw some crowds to theatres. The film’s logline is that Siddharth, an atheist skeptical of the supernatural, investigates a series of mysterious deaths in Mahendragiri attributed to the goddess Vaaraahi. Sumanth is con-



stantly finding new scripts with interesting premises. All he needs is a big box-office push, so his game grows in revenue. The presence of Siddhu could help that this time, provided the film gets positive word of

mouth. Meenakshi Goswami, Aishwarya Rajesh, Malvika Nair, Manju Bhargavi, Brahmanandam, Rajeev Kanakala, Vennela Kishore, Vamsee Chaganti, Kamal Kamaraju, Srinivas Vadamani

& others are a part of the film’s cast. Produced by Madhu Kalipu and Laxman under the banners Rajashyamala Entertainments and Bridge Films, the film’s music is composed by Anup Rubens.

Karthi’s Sardar 2 Is A Fun Spy Masala Entertainer: Adivi Sesh



Karthi’s Sardar 2 is gearing up to take the franchise forward with a bigger scale, more action, and a fresh social message. At the film’s Hyderabad pre-release event, the team spoke extensively about what audiences can expect from the sequel. SJ Suryah believes the sequel will surpass the entertainment quotient of its predecessor. “Sardar was already a massive blockbuster in Telugu, and it received an excellent response on OTT as well. Sardar 2 will surely give double the excitement. The sequel

indeed combines all the ingredients of a commercial entertainer with meaningful content. Compared to Sardar, Sardar 2 has extraordinary entertainment, fights, and strong content.”

He was particularly appreciative of director PS Mithran’s approach to storytelling. “Mithran is a fantastic director. The stories he thinks about, the short divisions he gives, the look, and the content he shoots—it is very entertaining, and it also carries a message. Global warming is one of the central concerns addressed

in Sardar 2.”

Adivi Sesh stated that he likes Karthi a lot. He described Sardar as one of the most fun spy masala entertainers and recalled how enthusiastically he reacted while watching it in theatres. Sesh is particularly excited about the sequel’s emotional component. “I love seeing the whole father angle; I think it is going to be extraordinary,” he said, adding, “I know this movie is going to rock.”

Karthi echoed the importance of the franchise while describing Sardar 2 as a significant milestone in his

career. “Sardar has got a big fan base here. Sardar 2 is definitely a very important movie in my career. Getting a spy character like this is my good fortune. Such characters are rarely recognised despite performing highly specialised and precise work.”

The actor also acknowledged the exceptional reception the first film received in the Telugu market. “Whenever I come to Hyderabad, Telugu people have a huge following for that movie because it’s on Aha, and people have re-watched it so many times,” he said.

Karthi believes the sequel has achieved the scale he and his team wanted to see in Indian cinema. “When we watch so many English movies, we get a feeling: ‘Can’t we make such action, such stylish movies?’ All of that is fulfilled in this film,” he said.

He credited Mithran, George Williams, and Sam CS for elevating the project and also thanked the producers for making such an ambitious film possible.

The pre-release event was also graced by Boyapati Sreenu, Sailesh Kolam, and Kalyan Shankar.

How Much Will Ravi Teja Make From Irumudi?

Ravi Teja has taken 8 Crore plus Nizam rights of Irumudi as his remuneration. Before the release, the Nizam rights were valued at around 7 crore, but then the movie became a sensational blockbuster. The movie has collected around 53.76 Crore Share (including GST) until yesterday, and in the full run, it is estimated to touch 60 Crore Share. If at all the movie touches those numbers, without GST, the movie share will end up around 50.95 Crore.

The movie will have around 1.1 Crore expenses, and there will be 5% commission (2.55 Crore) to the distributor. If we subtract that, the actor will take home around 47.5 Crore from Nizam. Let us take it as 45 Crore as a conservative number. Even if Mythri offered full remuneration for Ravi Teja, the deal for him would be 25 Crore. But now, he will be making upwards of 53 Crore now, and that is a jackpot for him.



Chiranjeevi’s Contribution Is Beyond Andhra Telangana Politics

Some people seem to be a problem with anything and everything related to Megastar Chiranjeevi. A few days ago, Revanth Reddy Government appointed Chiranjeevi’s wife, Surekha as a member of Yadagirigutta Temple Board. Hell broke loose and some people were questioning how an Andhra woman is appointed to Telangana Temple Board. Leaders like Kavitha even said Yadagirigutta is a Temple of Telangana people and wronged with the appointment. And today, Chandrababu Naidu Government appointed Konidela Sushmita, daughter of the Megastar as the Special Invitee to Vijayawada Kanaka Durga Temple. Again a section of people were complaining how someone residing and paying taxes in Telangana is being given plum posts in Andhra Pradesh. Basically, these people seems to have a problem with Chiranjeevi. The Megastar’s film career spans for about 48 years in Telugu Cinema. He has made over 150 films generating revenue and employment in both the Telugu States. He also brought recog-



nition to the Telugu people with his contribution to Telugu Cinema. These posts whatever do not come with any monetary benefits. They are just honorary positions. People should stop screaming as if the Governments are giving away something to Chiranjeevi’s family. At

best they only visit the Temple a few times during their tenure and get special darshans which they will anyway get. Icons like Chiranjeevi, who have contributed so much to Telugu people and cinema, should be respected, not insulted over every small issue.

Big Production Saves Small Film



Romanchakam has turned out to be a good example of how a strong production house can help a small film succeed. Despite receiving mixed to moderate reviews and average word of mouth, the Sumanth Prabhas film has managed to post a decent performance at the box office. One of the biggest reasons behind the film’s run is the support from Sandeep Reddy Vanga and Pranay Reddy Vanga, who produced the film. The brothers backed Romanchakam with full confidence and used their influence to promote it aggressively. Their support created strong awareness among audiences and helped the movie attract attention during its theatrical release. The makers also made a smart business move by securing a Netflix OTT deal before release. Thanks to the digital rights, the film had already recovered its investment. On the other hand, the makers released the movie on their own, increasing potential profits. The film has performed particularly well in the Nizam region, and as a result, all parties involved are in the profitable zone. This success story highlights the importance of established production houses like Bhadrakali Pictures supporting smaller films. While the Vanga camp is busy producing a massive project like Spirit, it is also encouraging young filmmakers by backing content-driven movies. Tollywood needs such banners, as their support can create opportunities and help many aspiring filmmakers bring their stories to the big screen. One needs to see which hero they will back next in the days to come.