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Mayawati Links Akash Anand Return to “Sanyas”



Patna: Mayawati is ready to take her nephew Akash Anand back into the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), in a third U-turn on his political fate, and it's again tied to his father-in-law. But this time her condition is extreme: the father-in-law, Ashok Siddharth, a former Rajya Sabha MP of the party, has to take "sanyas" from politics. That would mean renouncing it altogether, not just retiring. She has told Akash Anand in the past not to be influenced by his father-in-law, whom she had expelled from the BSP in August. In a post on X on Wednesday, she said Akash Anand will be able to "work freely in the party" once Siddharth fulfils this condition, and then she would also consider restoring the responsibilities taken away from him. Akash Anand was

the BSP's chief national co-ordinator until Mayawati announced last week that she was withdrawing leadership responsibility from him as "he still needs to be more mature". Ashok Siddharth, a former Rajya Sabha MP of the party, was expelled by Mayawati on August 2 for alleged anti-party activities. Photo: RSTV Mayawati said Siddharth had placed "personal and familial interests and ambitions" above the party's mission, and that Akash Anand had to bear the consequences of this along with him. Akash Anand, Mayawati's brother Anand Kumar's son and once named her political successor, has been elevated and removed from party responsibilities several times since 2024, with his father-in-law facing a similar fate.

Siddharth was expelled altogether from the BSP in 2025 and later returned; as did Ashok Siddharth. Recently, Mayawati said Akash Anand could continue only as a party worker and not as a leader. "In such a situation, keeping in mind the interests of the party and movement, as well as his own family and the future of his son-in-law Akash Anand, Ashok Siddharth still has the opportunity to renounce his political ambitions, rise above personal interests, and completely retire from politics," Mayawati said in her post in Hindi. "Only then will Akash Anand be able to work freely in the party, and only then will the party sympathetically consider restoring his responsibilities so that he can play an active role in the party. This is the consensus in the party," she added. Mayawati said the party had given Siddharth several opportunities to "mend his ways". "He never truly cared for Akash Anand or the BSP Movement in his personal interests," she alleged. She told him he could now "set an example of greater sacrifice, penance and selflessness". The former UP chief

minister pointedly referred to the upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab. She described these states as "not only extremely important but also very special" for the BSP and the Dalit-Bahujan Movement started by Kanshi Ram. In her post, she said the Bahujan Movement is currently facing "tough challenges, especially regarding reservations and the like". She said people from the Dalit community should not act out of personal or familial interest in a way that creates obstacles "for which history may not forgive them".

Dissanayake Assures India on Security Concerns

New Delhi / Colombo: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake has assured India that Colombo will not allow its territory to be used for activities that could threaten New Delhi's security interests, reaffirming the island nation's commitment to maintaining close defence and security ties with India. Dissanayake made the assurance on Wednesday, September 9, during a meeting with Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Colombo. Singh is on a three-day official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral defence and maritime cooperation. According to India's Ministry of Defence, Dissanayake said Sri

Lanka "would never allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's security interests." He also recalled his earlier interactions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The assurance came as the two countries stepped up defence cooperation, with India and Sri Lanka signing or exchanging three agreements and MoUs. One of the agreements focuses on upgrading and modernising L70 air-defence guns previously supplied by India and currently operated by the Sri Lankan Air Force. The two sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation between their National Cadet Corps and National Defence Colleges. Singh and



Dissanayake also virtually inaugurated three Bailey bridges constructed by the Indian military in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan President thanked India for its assistance following Cyclone Ditwah under Operation Sagar Bandhu, as well as for a wider rehabilitation package extended to the island nation. Dissanayake's latest remarks are consistent with assurances he has given India since taking office. During External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Sri Lanka in October 2024, he conveyed similar commitments. He reiterated the position during his first foreign visit to India in December 2024, when he assured Prime Minister Modi that Sri Lanka would not allow its territory to be used in any manner detrimental to India's interests. The issue is particularly

significant for India because of Sri Lanka's strategic location in the Indian Ocean. New Delhi has closely watched the presence of foreign research and surveillance vessels in Sri Lankan waters, particularly those linked to China. The Chinese-operated Hambantota port has been a particular focus of India's security concerns due to its proximity to India. While Dissanayake's government has sought to maintain balanced relations with both India and China, it has also stressed Sri Lanka's sovereignty and its traditional policy of non-alignment. The latest assurance, coupled with the new defence agreements and infrastructure cooperation, underlines the continued importance both countries place on their strategic, maritime and security partnership.

100% Victory in Local Body Elections Is the Goal: Nadendla Manohar Guides Party Leaders



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, September 9: Minister Nadendla Manohar called upon party leaders to prepare for the upcoming local body elections. Speaking at the Jana Sena local body elections awareness programme on Wednesday, the Minister said the party would certainly contest in areas where it has a strong presence. He also revealed that municipal and corporation elections would be held directly this time, putting an end to the earlier system of collectively electing a single representative. He said the Jana Sena had reached its present position after waging several struggles. Whenever the opportunity arises, Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan recalls the hardships and struggles faced by party workers, he said.

gauge in unnecessary disputes or insist on individual preferences, but instead to identify areas where the Jana Sena is strong. He made it clear that priority would be given to those who played a key role in party membership drives and those who actively worked for the party. "You will become mayors, chairpersons and ward members in the future, but you must maintain discipline and follow the party's directions. If you have any objections, raise them internally. It is not possible to give positions to everyone at once. Make the most of the opportunities provided by the party," he instructed. **Jana Sena Has Strong Presence in Yelamanchili and Narsipatnam** The Minister said Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan would visit Mangalagiri on September 15 and review preparations for the local

body elections. He reminded party workers that the Jana Sena was part of the coalition government through its alliance with its partners. He said coordination committee meetings of the alliance partners would be held on September 12 and 15, and instructed party workers to take every programme to the people. The first phase of elections would be held in corporations and municipalities, he said, stressing that every vote was important and directing party workers to reach out to every household. He said only people with Jana Sena membership should be selected as candidates. He criticised YSRCP leaders for making statements that could provoke violence and alleged that former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy was threatening members of his own party over unanimous elections.

From Our Staff Reporter Nellore, September 9: Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu said that although he was born in a village, positions and responsibilities came looking for him on their own. He said that despite being born into a family with no formal education, he was able to hold both government and party positions at the national level. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was working with the resolve to transform India into a Viksit Bharat by 2047. He expressed his desire to see the country prosper in all sectors and said India was advancing rapidly as one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. **Rural Roads Are Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Legacy** Venkaiah Naidu said it was not appropriate for some present-day leaders to

criticise the country in a disparaging manner. He said criticism was justified if there were shortcomings in governance or if problems remained unresolved. However, he said making personal remarks or criticising family members and women was not appropriate. Recalling his political journey, Venkaiah Naidu said former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had once offered him the Union Power Ministry, which he declined. When he was offered the Rural Development Ministry, which was considered less financially significant, Vajpayee reportedly laughed, he recalled. He said it was his good fortune to be involved in connecting national highways across the country, attending a series of foundation-laying ceremonies and later inaugurating the projects.

He credited Vajpayee with the development of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana roads in villages. **Moral Classes Should Be Conducted in Schools** Venkaiah Naidu said that of everything he had done in his life, his association with the Swarn Bharat Trust had given him the greatest satisfaction. He said millions of houses had been provided to people in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, something he described as unprecedented in the country's history. He recalled that if a Mithani company had been established in Kovvur mandal with an investment of Rs.4,000 crore, it could have transformed the region. He said that while holding office, he had conducted meetings with 35 Union Ministers and held discussions with them to facilitate



several projects for Andhra Pradesh. "During our school days, we had moral classes. Social unity and harmony are declining. I request Minister Nara Lokesh to introduce moral classes in schools to teach human values," he said. Venkaiah Naidu also called for a strict ban on mobile phones in schools. He said social media had become an "anti-social element" and stressed that abuse, hatred and violence should have no place in

society. He urged people to maintain dignity in legislative bodies. Recalling his tenure as Rajya Sabha Chairman, he said he had suspended 12 members. He expressed concern over the growing influence of Western lifestyles in the country and said it was unfortunate that some parents even gave mobile phones to children while they were eating. He noted that several restrictions on mobile phone use had been introduced in 25 countries.

We Will Implement a Multi-Pronged Strategy to Prevent Suicides: Minister

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, September 9: Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav announced that the state government would implement a multi-pronged strategy to prevent suicides. He said tomorrow is World Suicide Prevention Day and that the government has decided to take measures to expand mental health and healthcare services across the state. The Minister said extensive awareness programmes would be conducted in schools and colleges. He made these remarks in a statement issued

on Wednesday. He said immediate counselling services would be made avail-

able through Tele-MANAS at 14416. ASHA workers and ANMs would be given specialised gatekeeper training, while teachers would be trained to identify signs of mental stress among students. **Counselling for Students** Minister Satya Kumar said awareness programmes had been conducted in 463 schools during 2023-25, benefiting 40,740 school students. Counselling was provided to 35,598 students across 308 colleges, he said. He added

that special programmes had been conducted in 307 welfare schools and hostels. A total of 3,086 teachers had received mental health training, he said. Measures had also been taken at IIIT Nuzvid with the aim of bringing suicide cases down to zero. **No Suicide Case Reported at IIIT Nuzvid** The Minister said that not a single suicide case had been reported at IIIT Nuzvid since 2024. He said people in the state had made 86,529 calls to Tele-MANAS so far, including 31,000 calls to the 14416 helpline in 2026 alone. Tele-

MANAS centres have been established in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, while a new centre has been proposed for Tirupati, he said. The Minister announced that rallies, human chains and IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities would be organised on September 10 as part of the awareness campaign. He unveiled the slogan "Talk... Listen... Stand by", emphasising the importance of supporting people facing mental distress. "A small conversation can save a life," Minister Satya Kumar said.

No Relief for Eshwar Kiran Kumar Reddy in Liquor Transport Scam

New Delhi, September 9: The Supreme Court has refused to grant relief to accused Eshwar Kiran Kumar Reddy in the Andhra Pradesh liquor transport scam case. On Wednesday, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant declined to entertain his anticipatory bail petition. However, the court advised him to file a regular bail petition. Eshwar Kiran Kumar Reddy has already been arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in connection with the liquor scam. Meanwhile, counsel appearing for Kiran Kumar Reddy brought to the Supreme Court's attention that two FIRs had been registered and investigations were being conducted in connection with the same matter. The Bench headed by CJI Justice Surya Kant clarified that there was nothing wrong with registering FIRs based on facts that emerged during the course of the investigation. As a result, Eshwar Kiran Kumar Reddy did not receive any relief from the Supreme Court in the case. He is listed as Accused No. 9 (A9) in the case.



EDITORIAL

Shadows Over ISRO's Future?

The recent controversies surrounding the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which has served as the guiding force of India's space programme for decades, are a matter of concern. The issue suddenly came into the spotlight after nine employee unions expressed apprehension that attempts were being made to privatise ISRO. Although ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan has clarified that there is no proposal to privatise the organisation, the concerns among employees have not been completely put to rest. The issue is not merely whether ISRO is being privatised; the growing participation of the private sector in ISRO's activities is also a matter of concern. Following reforms in the space sector, private companies are now being given opportunities on a scale never seen before. At a time when the global space sector is expanding rapidly, there is nothing wrong with encouraging the private sector to tap commercial opportunities for India. However, it is crucial to ensure that ISRO's importance and autonomy are not compromised in the process. More than 400 space-tech startups have already emerged in the country. Companies such as Skyroot Aerospace and Agnikul Cosmos have demonstrated their capabilities in rocket manufacturing. Last July, the launch of Vikram-1, developed by Skyroot, marked the beginning of a new chapter in India's private space sector. Companies such as Bellatrix Aerospace and Manastu are also working in advanced areas, including propulsion and other cutting-edge technologies. These developments are clear indications that a strong private space industry is taking shape in India. The association between ISRO and private industries is not new. Private companies have been supplying components and equipment required by ISRO for a long time. Now, the scope of this collaboration is expanding further. The transfer of technologies developed by ISRO to industries is also part of this process. The transfer of technology for manufacturing the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is one such example. It is also noteworthy that the number of such technology-transfer agreements has reached around 100. This, however, raises the fundamental question: Will transferring technologies developed by ISRO to private industries benefit the country, or could it eventually lead to a situation where ISRO loses some of its technological capabilities? These questions require clear answers. From Aryabhata to Chandrayaan-3, and from Mangalyaan to Aditya-L1, ISRO has achieved numerous remarkable milestones. The organisation deserves credit for placing India alongside the world's leading space agencies despite operating with limited resources. ISRO's contributions extend far beyond space research, encompassing national security, weather forecasting, agriculture, disaster management, communications and several other fields. Therefore, it would be a mistake to view ISRO merely as an organisation that builds rockets. It is a symbol of India's scientific and technological capabilities. At a time when ISRO should be further strengthened, the emergence of fears of privatisation among its employees is not a positive development. The government should also take into consideration concerns that have emerged in recent years regarding employee strength and the migration of skilled human resources. The assurance given by the ISRO Chairman that there will be no privatisation should be backed by clear policy measures so that the concerns of employees can be put to rest.

This is the right time to announce a clear roadmap on questions such as: Which activities should continue within ISRO? Which responsibilities should be entrusted to the private sector? Who will have ultimate control over critical technologies? And how should ISRO strengthen its human resources in the years ahead? ISRO and the private sector are not competing organisations. While one should remain the backbone of research and national interests, the other should serve as a force for commercially expanding and deploying those technologies. If the two work together, India's space sector can rise to an even higher position globally. However, throughout this journey, no shadows should be allowed to fall over ISRO's autonomy. ISRO's strength is the foundation upon which India's flag flies proudly in space. Strengthening that foundation further should be the government's foremost responsibility.

Non-Veg Is Not A Treat During Durga Puja. In Bengal, It Is Bhog

In Bengal, Maa Durga does not come as a guest who must be wrapped in holiness. She comes as a daughter returning to her father's house. "I am a vegetarian Bengali," I told the priest.

Seeing my devotion and chanting of mantras during Sandhi Puja on Maha Ashtami, the priest at the Mudiali Puja pandal in South Kolkata asked me, "Are you a Bengali?"

"I am a vegetarian Bengali," I underlined again. That sentence took many by surprise. As if Bengal and fish are one word. As if Durga Puja cannot be Durga Puja unless there is a piece of mutton on the plate and a silver hilsa on the thali.

I grew up knowing both truths in the same location. In Bengal, Maa Durga does not come as a guest who must be wrapped in holiness.

She comes as a daughter returning to her father's house. You do not put a daughter on a nine-day fast. You cook what the house knows how to cook. You cook what the river gave you. You cook what the family has always offered when the Goddess is in the courtyard. Here the Goddess is the daughter.

In any Bengali home, "Maa" is a word used to call "Dear Daughter". That is why, in Bengal, fish and mutton during puja are not a "break from piety."

They are piety. In the Shakta way of seeing the world, the offering is not a snack. Once it is placed before the deity, it becomes prasad. The same goat that was once "bali" (sacrifice), the same fish that was once the day's catch, is no longer ordinary meat. It is what the house has given, and what the Goddess has returned.

Navami carries that meaning most clearly. Ashtami is often the quieter, more satvik day: anjali, khichuri, labra, the long wait in the heat of the pandal.

Navami is different. Traditionally, it was the day of the offering. In many "bonedi bari"



(traditional Bengali households), the memory of sacrifice still lives in the kitchen, even when the sacrifice itself has become symbolic.

The mutton cooked that day is niramish mangsho, no onion, no garlic. Yes, believe it or not. Mutton becomes a vegetarian meal for prasad when cooked without onion and garlic.

Ginger, yoghurt, garam masala, patience. "Vegetarian mutton," we joke, because the spices that make everyday cooking "amish" (non-vegetarian) are kept out of the Goddess's plate.

As Ashtami ends and Navami begins, that "muhurat" of 48 minutes, according to the "panchang" (Hindu almanack and calendar), is termed as Sandhi Puja. Sandhi does not mean evening but the combination of 24 minutes of Ashtami and 24 minutes of Navami. The exact time when Mahishasura was killed by Goddess Durga.

It is after this puja that meat is prepared and offered to Durga and then distributed as Mahaprasad to everyone. So,

my dear Babaji from Central India, mutton is a vegetarian bhog during Durga Puja.

Kali Puja carries the same logic, only sharper. On that Amavasya night, niramish mangsho is not a feast for the family first. It is offered to Maa Kali. Then it comes back as prasad. I have seen households where even those who keep a vegetarian kitchen the rest of the year will take a little of that prasad because it is no longer "meat" in the ordinary sense.

It has passed through the ritual. It has been accepted. I do not eat it. I never have. And still I have never felt that Durga Puja was happening in some other room, without me. Because the festival is larger than one plate.

For most Bengali families, yes, puja without fish feels unfinished. Hilsa, rui, the mustard gravy, the fried piece that disappears before anyone sits down properly. For many, Navami without mutton feels like a sentence without its last word. That is their inheritance.

I do not argue with it.

My inheritance is different, and it is also Bengali. I find the festival in the other bhog, the one that feeds the queue outside the pandal and the quiet plate at home. Khichuri that tastes of ghee and roasted moong and something you cannot recreate in a weekday kitchen at any other time of the year.

Labra in which pumpkin, brinjal, raw banana and beans forget they were separate vegetables. Luchi so light it almost argues with gravity. Chholar dal with coconut. Aloor dum without onion. Tomato-khejur chutney. Payesh. Mishti doi. The long afternoon when the dhaak is still sounding, and someone is already asking for a second helping of something that has no meat in it at all.

That meal is not a compromise. It is the public heart of puja. Community pandals feed thousands with it. Widows eat it. Children eat it.

Visiting cousins who "don't eat non-veg in Navratri" eat it and go quiet because that is the

flavour of the festival. I have stood in those lines not as a journalist but as a daughter of this culture. I have come back from shoots on highways and still timed my day around bhog. People sometimes want a fight: is puja vegetarian or not?

Bengal refuses the binary. The same week holds niramish mangsho and khichuri-labra-payesh. The same faith holds the river's fish and the widow's plate. The same daughter comes home to both kitchens.

Yes, I am a vegetarian Bengali. For me, the arrival of Durga Puja is symbolised by the smell of dhuno, the white of the dhaak's feathers, the crush of the crowd at anjali, the first spoon of bhoger khichuri.

There is a version of this thali with mutton on it, and a version without. Mine happens to be the second. Both are still the same feast. The mutton on that plate is bhog, offered and accepted, the same as the khichuri on mine. And that is why vegetarians continue to celebrate Durga Puja with non-veg on the table.

The Insider's Warning: Why Anthropic Researcher's Resignation Is Big

Every week is exciting with something new and possibly worrisome in the world of artificial intelligence. This week, Jacob Coxon, a 27-year-old researcher, resigned from Anthropic and skipped the polite goodbye, posting a warning instead. He had spent three years training AI models, first at OpenAI, then at Anthropic, joining the latter because he thought it was the careful one. This week, he decided careful wasn't the same as safe. Neither company, he wrote, is "acting responsibly". Both are "racing straight to self-improving superintelligence and gambling with our lives".

That an insider said it is the whole point. The striking part of his letter isn't the doom, as we have heard such talk before. But his account of why clever people keep building a thing they're frightened of is interesting.

Coxon anticipates the obvious retort: if you really believe this, why is anyone still doing it? His answer splits the two labs neatly. At OpenAI, he says, most people have simply not "deeply internalised the civilisational stakes". At Anthropic, they have, and that is worse. There, the danger is understood, but everyone is "locked in a race to get there first", each convinced that if they hesitate, someone less scrupulous grabs the wheel. So the knowledge sits right beside the accelerator and does nothing to slow it down.

Two years ago, Geoffrey Hinton, the "godfather of AI",

a Turing Award winner, walked out of Google to say much the same thing. He warned that machines might soon outsmart us, could one day slip out of our control, and might pose a threat even more urgent than climate change. And asked how he could have spent a whole career building the very thing he now feared, he gave an answer that ought to haunt this industry: "If I hadn't done it, somebody else would have."

That sentence is no longer a personal excuse; it has hardened into a business model. What Hinton offered as a confession, the labs now offer as a strategy. Coxon's resignation is the sound of that excuse being said out loud from the inside and somehow not picked up at its frequency and concern.

The specific fear is about thresholds. Coxon describes systems that will soon be able to "hack anything", rebuild entire fields overnight, and go out and gather power and money on their own. These aren't upgrades. They are lines, and once a self-improving system steps over one, there may be no stepping back, because each capability makes the next quicker to reach. Progress, he notes drily, is "not slowing". Colleagues inside the labs have started using words like "crunchtime" and "endgame". A recent scare involving AI agents and the platform Hugging Face, he calls a "warning shot". To the Wall Street Journal, he even put a date on it: by the end of next year, he thinks, "things could be out of control



already".

He may be wrong about the timing; plenty of respected researchers think he is. But the shape of his worry doesn't depend on the calendar. It is that the company doing the racing cannot also be the one holding the stopwatch, and that self-improving machines shrink the window for second thoughts to almost nothing.

So, what is the recourse? Is it regulation? Does it have to come quickly? By Coxon's own logic, yes. The danger of a threshold is precisely that it shuts the door on acting later, which makes any rule arriving after the fact worthless. He calls for the labs to coordinate, and even floats a temporary freeze on new capabilities.

The awkward truth is that fast and effective rarely travel together. Law written in a hurry aims at the wrong target, and rules built around this year's

models are stale by the time they are signed. A perfect American statute does nothing about a lab in Shenzhen, and the same "someone else will anyway" reflex that pushes companies pushes whole countries too. You cannot police a capability you cannot measure. And the firms being regulated have a long habit of quietly holding the pen. Fast regulation is necessary. It is nowhere near enough.

Two steps could still begin now. First, make safety testing mandatory and public: before any model above a set size or capability is trained or released, its makers should have to hand independent regulators their evaluations for self-replication, cyberattack, deception, and those regulators should have the power to hit pause. Second, build an international registry of large training runs, with compulsory incident reporting

and mutual inspection, on the model of nuclear or aviation safety. It is the only thing that answers the race at its root.

India has moved, but only at a layer. The IT Rules amendment that took effect in February 2026 is a serious piece of work: it defines "synthetically generated information", forces platforms to label AI content, including deepfakes, embeds traceable metadata, and demands takedowns within hours. All of that goes after the symptom with fake content already loose on our feeds. None of it touches the thing Coxon is shouting about, which is the model itself, before it ever ships. So here in India, the next move has to climb a level. It needs a statutory AI safety institute with the technical muscle to evaluate frontier models trained or deployed here, not merely the content they produce.

Will Virat Kohli & Anushka Sharma Make A Cameo In Hanuman Ansh 2? Producer Namrata Singh Reveals



Mumbai: Hanuman Ansh producer Namrata Singh has addressed the possibility of Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma making cameo appearances in the upcoming parts of the film. In a recent interview, she revealed that the project was always planned as a trilogy and opened up about the focus of each instalment. Namrata also shared that Part 3 will explore how Neem Karoli Baba's spiritual

energy reached a global audience. When asked in an interview with Bollywood Hungama whether celebrities like Virat and Anushka could make a cameo in the second part of the film, Namrata said, "I have reached out to some of them and they were aware of the film earlier (sic)." Virat and Anushka are known to share a spiritual connection with Neeb Karori Baba and have vis-

ited his Kainchi Dham on several occasions. She further explained that she wants to first focus on the Indian devotees before taking the story global. Namrata said, "There are thousands of devotees whose life he touched in India and they come first, without doubt. The Kainchi story is about the Indian devotees. The third film will focus on how he put India on the global map by spiri-

tual energy that he transferred to the foreigners, be it Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg, Twitter founder Jack Dorsey, Julia Roberts, etc." Namrata further explained that the movie was always intended to be a trilogy. The first part explored Maharaj Ji's early years up until Kainchi Dham, while the second part will focus on Kainchi Dham. The third instalment will delve into the international stories and his influence on devotees abroad. The producer added that the makers already "know the concept" and have a clear idea of how the second and third parts of the film will look. Hanuman Ansh has emerged as one of 2026's biggest surprise hits, turning its modest Rs. 2 crore budget into a box-office phenomenon. Released on August 7, the Vishal Chaturvedi directorial has collected Rs. 143.13 crore net in India and Rs. 169.20 crore gross after 33 days, according to Sacnilk.

Supreme Court Flags Delays In Corruption Cases Over Unnecessary Evidence, Acquits Former Government Store In-Charge



New Delhi: The Supreme Court has expressed concern over the long pendency of corruption cases, observing that courts are often burdened by voluminous evidence that is unnecessary and irrelevant. A bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Vinod K Chandran made the observation while acquitting a former government store in-charge who was convicted under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, in a 1993 case involving fake medicine supply bills. The court observed that corruption trials often involve a large amount of evidence, which can intimidate courts and distract from the actual allegations. "We cannot but notice that in corruption cases voluminous evidence is led, which is often intimidating to the Court, especially since many aspects attempted to be led in evidence are way off the mark, in providing a substantiation of the allegation, or to

bring home the guilt of the accused-public servant," the bench said. The court noted that in the present case, the prosecution examined 62 witnesses, most of whom were irrelevant to the issue before it. The case arose from a complaint filed by the Veterinary Department of Assam, alleging a loss of Rs 5,97,200 due to the submission of false medicine bills for supplies that were never made. Payments were allegedly released to a fictitious firm. Seven persons were chargesheeted in the case. The trial court convicted four and acquitted three. Later, the Gauhati High Court acquitted the accountant but upheld the conviction of the store in-charge and storekeeper under Section 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The appellant then approached the Supreme Court against the High Court's decision. The Supreme Court said the case depended on a nar-

row question: whether a conviction under Section 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act read with Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code could be sustained when there was a clear finding that the appellant had not obtained any pecuniary advantage. While examining Section 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, the bench observed that the provision requires a public servant to obtain a valuable thing or pecuniary advantage for himself or another through corrupt or illegal means, abuse of official position, or without public interest. "Without a pecuniary advantage, there could be no conviction under Section 13(1)(d), which the High Court has categorically found, does not exist in the present case," the court said. The bench noted that the evidence, if anything, could have supported charges under the Indian Penal Code, but the High Court had failed to consider this aspect. However, since the Central Bureau of Investigation had not challenged the appellant's acquittal under the IPC offences, the benefit of that lapse had to go to the appellant. The court also pointed out that while the prosecution examined 62 witnesses, the High Court's judgment referred to only

nine of them. "In this case the prosecution has examined 62 witnesses, obviously to no avail, since the High Court refers to only nine of such witnesses; eight being the in-charge of the Veterinary Dispensaries in the various parts of the State, at the relevant period to prove the supply of medicines having not been effected, as per the challans issued and bills passed. The one other witness referred to is the actual owner of the firm, who was the supplier, who appeared and denied receipt of any money or even the supply of medicines," the bench observed. The Supreme Court also highlighted that the investigation did not examine the money trail to find out how the disbursed funds were routed. The bench said corruption cases have a history of prolonged trials, often because of excessive evidence being presented without focusing on material aspects of the case. "We do not see any investigation having been taken to find out the money trail when the amounts were so disbursed from the department. Prosecution in corruption cases have a history of long pendency; especially because of the voluminous evidence led, which often is unnecessary and as we noticed, mostly irrelevant," the court said.

Noida-Based Engineer Returns Home Safely After Detention In Russia



Noida: Chandan Gupta, a Noida-based engineer who was detained in Russia last week, has been released and is now safely back home in Moscow, his wife, Sneha Gupta, said. The incident gained attention after Sneha shared an SOS video claiming that her husband had been arrested and was allegedly being pressured to enlist in the Russian military. In a fresh video, Sneha said her husband was able to return safely after his

employer, Noida-based UFlex Limited, provided legal support during the case. She expressed her gratitude to the company, adding that its employees remained in constant communication with her while the matter was being resolved. Sneha also thanked BJP MP Seema Dwivedi and members of the Sarv Vaishya Samaj for helping direct her appeal to the appropriate authorities within the Government of India and facilitating the required diplomatic

assistance. Gupta, who hails from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, lives in Moscow with his wife and their 10-year-old son on a work visa. Reports said he was taken into custody from the Red Square area of Moscow at around 11:40 pm on September 5 over "charges of drunkenness and breaking glasses of an ambulance nearby." However, there has been no official comment on the allegations that Russian authorities were attempting to recruit Gupta into the country's military. Following his detention, Sneha had appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, seeking their intervention to ensure her husband's safe release and return. Sneha said she initially

did not have complete information about what had happened to her husband. According to her, Chandan was detained on Saturday night, but she only learned about the incident the following morning. She said police had taken possession of his phone and passport, leaving him unable to contact her. She added that a friend who had been accompanying Chandan when he was detained later contacted her and informed her about his situation. "Soon after I got to know about his detention, I began contacting his company... The administration department here and the unit head were continuously in touch with me. They also hired a lawyer for my husband, with whose help he was released at night," she said.

Mumbai Traffic: Congestion Tax For Peak-Hour Driving May Be Considered Once Public Transport Improves, Says BMC Commissioner Ashwini Bhide

Mumbai: Motorists in Mumbai could likely have to pay a congestion charge to drive through some of the city's busiest areas during peak hours, with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Ashwini Bhide saying authorities could consider such a system once commuters have a reliable public transport alternative. Mumbai routinely witnesses heavy traffic congestion during peak hours, affecting thousands of daily commuters and increasing travel times across key stretches of the city. Speaking on the Sushasan podcast, Bhide said congestion pricing could emerge as one of the solutions to the city's traffic problem, if Mumbai develops a sufficiently robust public transport network. "Congestion charges could be a solution (to traffic) provided we have an alternative mechanism," Bhide said, according to News18. Bhide, speaking further, gave the examples of Singapore and London, saying both cities have successfully integrated congestion charges because they have robust and well-connected public transport networks. In the



podcast, she also highlighted Singapore's integrated public transport system, where commuters can use a common card across different modes of transport. Higher costs for private vehicle use, including parking charges, can further encourage people to opt for public transport. Bhide said a similar approach could be considered for Mumbai, but stressed that an efficient public transport network would first be essential. "I think we can also do it if our public transport is good and the bus fleet is robust. Then, in certain areas of the city, we can certainly think of that," Bhide said. Congestion pricing, also known as a

congestion charge, involves imposing a fee on vehicles entering or travelling through designated high-traffic areas, particularly during peak hours. The objective is to discourage unnecessary private vehicle trips into heavily congested zones and encourage greater use of public transport. However, Bhide's remarks indicate that the proposal remains an idea for consideration if the city has a good public transportation facility. However, the idea of congestion pricing in Mumbai has been raised previously. BJP corporator Makarand Narwekar had earlier urged the civic administration to design and pilot a congestion-pricing

system targeting single-occupant private vehicles entering some of South Mumbai's busiest areas during peak hours. The suggested zones included Fort, Nariman Point and Colaba. Under such a system, private vehicles entering designated high-traffic zones during specified periods could be required to pay a fee, with the aim of reducing the number of cars on already congested roads. Any implementation, however, would require detailed planning, including decisions on the areas covered, timings, charges, exemptions, enforcement mechanisms and the availability of adequate public transport alternatives.

Delhi Police Rescue 2 Minors Among 3 Girls Reported Missing From Uttarakhand

New Delhi: Delhi Police have traced and safely recovered three girls, including two minors aged 17 and 13, who had gone missing from Gangnahar in Haridwar, from a hotel in the national capital's Paharganj area. An FIR, numbered 349/2026 under Section 140(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), was registered at Police Station Gangnahar, Haridwar, on September 8 following a complaint regarding the disappearance of the three girls. The information was subsequently shared with the Station House Officer (SHO) of Police Station Nabi Karim in Delhi. Considering the seriousness of the matter, a dedicated team was constituted to trace the girls. The special team comprised SI Neeraj Rathi, HC Jagsoran, Constable Amit, and Woman Constable Supriya, working under the supervision of Inspector/SHO Nabi Karim and the overall supervision of the ACP, Paharganj. Based on location inputs and details shared by



Roorkee police, the team conducted an extensive search operation in the Arakashan Road and Paharganj areas. Photographs of the girls were shown to local residents and hotel staff, while several hotels in the area were checked. The police also analysed mobile tower locations and IP-based inputs to narrow down the possible location of the girls. Technical surveillance subsequently helped the team zero in on the search area. During the operation, all

three girls were traced to Hotel K.M. International on Arakashan Road in Paharganj and were safely recovered. According to preliminary interaction with the girls, they had allegedly left their home and travelled to Delhi due to family pressure regarding marriage. They told the police that they wanted to avoid marriage, explore employment opportunities in Delhi, and earn money independently. After reaching Delhi, they stayed at a hotel in the Paharganj area. The recov-

ered girls were identified as S, born on September 10, 2007, aged about 18 years; S, born on January 1, 2009, aged about 17 years; and N, born on January 1, 2013, aged about 13 years. After completion of the necessary formalities, all three girls were handed over to the officials of Police Station Gangnahar for further necessary legal action in accordance with the law. Further investigation and legal proceedings are being carried out by the Uttarakhand Police officials concerned.

Meta Officials Appear Before NCPCR Over Alleged child Sexual Abuse Materials

New Delhi: Senior executives of global social media giant Meta, which runs Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, appeared before the child rights body NCPCR on Wednesday in connection with its inquiry into alleged advertisements related to child sexual exploitative and abuse material (CSEAM) on the platform. Details about the questioning were not immediately available. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) had on July 3 taken suo motu cognisance of a media report by BBC Eye regarding alleged advertisements related to CSEAM and sought an explanation from Meta Platforms, Inc. Meta submitted its response to the commission a week later.

NCPCR subsequently decided to institute an inquiry to determine the facts of the matter and in continuation of the same, summoned the MD and Head of Meta India to appear before it on Wednesday, officials said. The commission's move comes amid concerns over the alleged availability and promotion of child sexual exploitation material through online platforms. In July, the government issued a stern notice to Meta on CSEAM in paid advertisements on Instagram. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had ordered Instagram to disable all ads and content promoting and facilitating access to CSEAM and also demanded a detailed explanation on it. The action came after IT Minis-



ter Ashwini Vaishnaw directed MeitY officials to summon Meta over Instagram ads allegedly promoting child sexual abuse material. The regulatory scrutiny from the ministry came amid a BBC report that alleged Meta's recommendation algorithm had been promoting videos containing child sexual abuse material, exposing serious gaps in the safeguards. The BBC investigation

had also allegedly found advertisements of this nature appearing on Facebook and Instagram, despite Meta's advertising policies explicitly prohibiting nudity and sexually explicit content. Instagram is alleged to have shown paid advertisements with terms like "rape video" and "child video", which directed users to Telegram channels where such content was reportedly on sale.

"It Is Like Living In Jail": Students Flag Delhi's Unsafe, Squalid Hostels



New Delhi: The collapse of Delhi's Satya Niketan - a PG accommodation where seven people died and five were injured last week - has placed sharp focus on the living condition of students who come to the national capital to have a fair chance for a better future. But the years they should spend studying become the time they fight squalor, bad food and contaminated water, landlords and brokers who tend to take

advantage of their helplessness. At the worst - they risk their lives every day at the urban slums they live in, however temporarily. Six of those who died and all who were injured at Satya Niketan were students. Away from the comforts and protection of home, these students, taking engineering, NEET and civil services exams, end up struggling to stay afloat at a crucial time when they deserve all possible help to

focus on their chosen career. NDTV visited Old Rajinder Nagar in West Delhi - an area that had made headlines two years ago for another tragedy -- to check if ground realities have changed. In the monsoon of 2024, Three UPSC aspirants had drowned inside a flooded coaching basement. Today, while most coaching centres have rectified errors and closed unsafe basements, a dangerous new crisis has emerged:

Degraded, high-risk student accommodations. At a local paying guest facility in nearby Karol Bagh, NDTV found conditions that are shocking: Rows and rows of dilapidated houses, often unpainted and wet with seepage, stand amid a snarl of electric wires poking out of lamp-posts and old air conditioners - presenting a ready-made fire hazard. Inside, the conditions are worse. One is greeted by narrow, broken stairways that have garbage piled on landings. The rooms are small, the makeshift kitchens bereft of even the most basic of cupboards, the toilets dirty and water-logged. There is no clean drinking water even, said Vikas Mishra. "As an aspirant, living here is like living in jail. The owners will harass you. The brokers will harass you. If all goes well, then there is the water issue. Sometimes there is no water for five-six days," he said. When the water is available, it turns out to be like sewage. "It is grey, meaning at some point it gets contaminated... this is how we live," he added. "Those who come from the government, check only the roads. Checking the roads is not enough. They

should also look inside the buildings. The stairs are so narrow. And we have to climb to the fourth floor... And see how the owners live. They have beautiful, well-furnished homes," said Sakshi Singh, another aspirant who lives in the locality. The Satya Niketan collapse put sharp focus on the living condition of students who come to the national capital. The Satya Niketan tragedy has brought the Delhi High Court's attention on the plight of students. The court has ordered the civic authorities to check the condition and legal situation of these PG accommodations, ordering that a report be submitted within two weeks. "A large number of students come to Delhi from outside for their studies. They are the future of the country," the court said, pointing out that the condition of the places they are forced to live in is "pathetic". "You (the government) cannot evade your responsibility," the judges added. The government has been asked to increase hostel facilities for students. Investing in student hostels is essentially an investment in the students' future, the court added.

No Work, No Pay": Punjab Cracks Down On Unauthorised Absence Of State Staff

"The Punjab Government has issued strict directions to departments against employees who remain absent from duty despite marking their attendance in their respective offices. The Personnel Department has warned that such employees could face salary cuts under the "No Work, No Pay" principle along with disciplinary action. In an order issued by the Government of Punjab's Department of Personnel, Personnel Policies-II Branch, dated September 8, 2026, all Special Chief Secretaries, Additional Chief Secretaries, Financial Commissioners, Principal Secretaries and Administrative Secretaries have been directed to ensure strict compliance with the instructions. The government said it had received information from various quarters that several employees were marking their attendance at their respective offices and

subsequently leaving their workplaces. According to the order, such unauthorised absence, particularly during working hours, was causing inconvenience to the general public. The Personnel Department has reiterated that existing government instructions regarding misconduct and unauthorised absence would be strictly enforced. Employees found absent from duty after marking their attendance would be treated as being on unauthorised absence. The government has specifically stated that such employees would not be entitled to salary for the period of unauthorised absence, in accordance with the established principle of "No Work, No Pay." The order also makes it clear that financial consequences will not be the only action against erring employees. Appropriate disciplinary proceedings will also be initiated against employees



found absent from their offices without authorisation. The latest directions are aimed at ensuring accountability and improving the functioning of government offices, particularly during official working hours. The government has stressed that employees are expected to remain available at their designated workplaces and perform their duties in ac-

cordance with service rules. The department has instructed senior administrative officers to bring the directions to the notice of all concerned employees and ensure strict compliance. The move comes as the government focuses on maintaining discipline and ensuring that public services are not affected because of employees leav-

ing their workplaces during duty hours. The order was issued with the approval of the competent authority and is expected to put government employees and department heads on notice that unauthorised absence during working hours could invite both salary-related action and formal disciplinary proceedings.

Rights Body Intervenes On Suicide Of Punjab Man Who Flagged Drugs Menace

Chandigarh: The police and the administration in Punjab have been asked to inquire into the allegations of harassment and intimidation by 50-year-old Gulzar Singh of Sangrur, who died by suicide on September 7. The National Human Rights Commission or NHRC took note of a complaint filed in the case by former Punjab State Commission for Scheduled Castes chairman Rajesh Bagha. Singh, 50, had died late in the night of September 7 after raising concern recently over the unchecked sale of drugs in the state. The rights organisation has issued notice to the Chief Secretary of Punjab, Director General of Police, Punjab, District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police, Sangrur. It has directed the authorities to look into the allegations and submit an Action Taken Report within two weeks. The Commission has sought a copy of Gulzar Singh's dying declaration, along with

the inquest report, postmortem report and all other relevant records. There are claims opposition leaders of various political parties that Singh had recorded a video message before his death in which he allegedly held Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema and a local village sarpanch responsible for the circumstances leading to the extreme step. The complaint to the NHRC said Singh had publicly confronted Cheema at an official event, claiming that his son had fallen victim to drug addiction and that his family had been financially devastated. The complaint alleges that he subsequently faced harassment and intimidation. Stating that Singh had died by suicide, the complainant sought NHRC intervention, alleging state apathy, intimidation and violation of the victim's right to life. In its notice, the NHRC observed that the allegations made in the complaint "prima facie seem to be violations of the human rights of the victim"

and directed the Punjab authorities to investigate the matter. The NHRC intervention came as the case triggered a massive political row in Punjab. Opposition leaders have questioned why Singh's allegations should not be examined as part of the investigation, particularly the contents of

the alleged dying declaration. The case has also revived the wider political debate over Punjab's drug menace and allegations that people raising their voices against the drug trade are not receiving adequate protection. The allegations against Harpal Singh Cheema and others remain

subject to investigation. Davinder Singh Attari, a senior police officer of Sangrur said they are examining the video. The written complaint given by Singh's family has no mention of Harpal Cheema. The Special Investigation Team formed by the government will now look into the matter.

Two Shooters Injured In Gunfight With Himanshu Bhau Gang In Delhi

Two alleged shooters linked to gangster Himanshu Bhau's gang were injured in a gunfight with Delhi Police in Rohini, while three suspects, including a juvenile, were arrested on Tuesday night, police sources said. The sources said that the accused were allegedly involved in the murder of a property dealer named Pramod in Narela when he was going to gym. The encounter took place when a team of the Rohini district police's Special Staff intercepted

the suspects in connection with the murder, they said. According to sources, over 10 bullet rounds were fired from both sides during the exchange of fire. "The two accused, identified as Deepak Pahalwan and Nitik, sustained bullet injuries in their legs and were taken to a hospital for treatment. A juvenile allegedly associated with the gang was also apprehended," the source told PTI. Police said the killing was suspected to have been carried out after the victim allegedly

failed to pay an extortion demand. Following the murder, police teams were working to trace the suspects. Acting on specific information about their whereabouts, the Special Staff team laid a trap in Rohini, the source said. When the suspects allegedly opened fire at the police team, the personnel retaliated, resulting in the encounter. Further investigation is underway to establish the motive and identify others involved in the murder and its alleged links to Bhau.

Death Penalty For 1, Jail For 2 In 2022 Tamil Nadu Minor Gang-Rape Case



A special POCSCO court in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district has sentenced a man to death and awarded 13 and 20 years in prison to two others for the gang rape of a 16-year-old Class 12 student in 2022. The court found all three accused, Chinnakutty, 27, Muneeswaran, 27, and Murugesan, 27, guilty in the case. Judge Sureshkumar pronounced the sentences on Tuesday. According to the prosecution case, the girl, who was studying in Class 12 in Tirunelveli, had become acquainted with Muneeswaran from Vilathikulam in neighbouring Thoothukudi district. The two had reportedly been speaking over the phone for around two weeks. On the day of the incident in 2022, Muneeswaran allegedly told the girl that he would

marry her and took her on his motorcycle, telling her that they were going to his sister's house. Instead, he allegedly took her to an isolated area and sexually assaulted her. His friends Chinnakutty and Murugesan were allegedly present there and subsequently sexually assaulted the girl. The Palayamkottai All Women Police registered a case and arrested all three accused. The court had recently held Muneeswaran, Chinnakutty and Murugesan guilty. They were remanded in custody following the conviction to prevent them from fleeing and to ensure that the survivor and witnesses were not threatened. The court has now sentenced Chinnakutty to death, while Muneeswaran has been awarded 13 years' im-

prisonment and Murugesan 20 years' imprisonment. Chinnakutty was also facing earlier murder cases, according to the prosecution. The conviction comes amid the Opposition turning up the heat on the ruling TVK government, alleging a rise in crimes against women and a deterioration in law and order in the state. Speaking in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday, Chief Minister Vijay attributed the increase in crime to what he described as a "drug abuse culture" allegedly allowed to flourish during the earlier DMK regime. Vijay said his government was working not merely to ensure that perpetrators were brought to justice, but also to prevent crimes from taking place in the first place.

Students Thank Ex-Lovers Whose Breakup Exposed Maharashtra Paper Leak

Nagpur: Thanks Rituja, Thanks Gaurav. Posters at a protest over the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) Drug Inspector paper leak in Nagpur thanked the ex-lovers, whose breakup brought the alleged exam scam to the fore. Aspirants across Maharashtra have taken to the streets, demanding strict action against those behind the paper leak and calling for the resignation of MPSC Chairman Vivek Bhimanwar and Secretary Mahendra Harpalkar. The students are also seeking an independent inquiry into all examinations held since 2022. During a protest at Nagpur's Samvidhan Chowk, what stood out were some of the posters thanking Rituja and Gaurav, the former couple whose breakup is said to have exposed MPSC drug inspector paper leak. Protesting students claim that the full truth behind exam irregularities might never have come to light had a couple named 'Rituja' and 'Gaurav' not

broken up. **How Paper Leak Was Exposed** Candidate Rituja Patil's father, Amrit Patil, had bought the question paper from Praveen Patil - a coaching institute operator from Nandurbar - for his daughter. Investigators found that an initial transaction of Rs 5 lakh took place between Praveen Patil and certain MPSC officials, while the total amount involved was estimated at around Rs 12 lakh. Rituja then shared the question paper with her now-former boyfriend, Gaurav Patil. While Rituja cleared the March 22 examination, Gaurav failed. This led to tension between the couple, and they eventually broke up. Fearing that Rituja would move on after securing a government job, Gaurav filed a complaint about the paper leak with the MPSC via email. He later attempted to withdraw his complaint, but an investigation had already begun. According to the

protesters, several chats, call recordings and crucial details linked to the leak were released, courtesy of the break-up. That is why they are thanking the couple in a sarcastic way. **Drug Inspector Recruitment Process Suspended** The offline screening examination was conducted on March 22 at six divisional headquarters across Maharashtra. The results were declared on June 12, with 506 candidates qualifying for interviews. Of these, 488 candidates reportedly appeared for interviews conducted between July 1 and July 22. Between July 22 and July 26, MPSC received complaints alleging that the question paper had been obtained by some candidates two days before the test and circulated through social media and electronic platforms. Following this, the MPSC cancelled the recruitment process for Drug Inspector, Group-B posts under the Food and Drug Administration Department.

Harsimrat Badal Files Complaint With Women's Body Against Bhagwant Mann, Wife

Chandigarh: Shiromani Akali Dal leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal filed a complaint with the National Commission for Women in Delhi against Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and his wife, accusing them of protecting a rape accused and demanding a CBI probe. There was no immediate reaction from Mann and his wife Gurpreet Kaur to the allegation. "Today, I approached the National Commission for Women, apprised them about this 'Saktar Nahin Balatkaar' regime, submitted all evidence and sought an independent CBI probe into the matter. "I have been assured of all help from the NCW. I hope and pray that this grave matter reaches its rightful solution and together, all of us do our bit to give justice to our 'Maavan'-Dheeyan'," Badal said in a post on X. Badal claimed that a woman's dignity is "being sold for Rs 5 crore", while levelling allegations against Mann and



his wife. She claimed that five women pleaded for justice against a rape accused. "Instead of protecting them, the Punjab government threatened and harassed the victims, forcing them to take back their complaints, and then went on to give a 'free passage' to the rapist to escape!" she alleged. "Punjab is angry, and yet forget a probe, even an FIR has not been registered..." she said. Harsimrat Badal claimed that Punjab's situation under the Aam Aadmi Party government has deteriorated over the past five years. "After piling up debt of Rs 5 lakh crore, there is no visible asset anywhere,

nor has any section of society received any relief. This money has only been looted, and the extent of the loot is such that it was already known that the Chief Minister's residence had become a hub of drugs. "The ED has repeatedly sent notices alleging that the Chief Minister's OSD and his close associates were taking money for transfers, postings, CLU and everything else. When raids are conducted at their homes, bags of cash are thrown down from the ninth floor. When raids are conducted at the homes of their favourite DIGs, Rs 8 crore each are recovered from their residences..." she alleged

Philippines Leader Gets China's 'Bullying' Note On Stage. What He Did Next



Seoul: In what's being seen as a masterclass in standing up to intimidation, the Philippines Defence Secretary publicly bashed China after he was handed a note outlining Beijing's position on the South China Sea while speaking during the Seoul Defence Dialogue in South Korea. Gilberto C Teodoro was in the middle of his speech when a man in a white coat -- likely an event volunteer -- walked up to him and placed a sheet of paper on the table in front of him. "I have a note here, I think this is from China," Teodoro said, stopping in the middle of his remarks. He asked the crowd if he should read it before proceeding to narrate the content of the note -- a reminder of Beijing's official position on the South China

Sea. "China's position on the South China Sea arbitration is clear, consistent and firm. They have no position. The arbitration violates fundamental principles of international law. The so-called award (in favour of the Philippines) was illegal, null and void and has no binding force. China neither accepts nor recognises the award and opposes it and will never accept any claim arising from it," he read from the paper. The note likely referred to the Philippines' 2016 legal case against China, filed under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The ruling in the case was overwhelmingly in favour of the Philippines, determining that major elements of China's claim --including its nine-

dash line, recent land reclamation activities, and other activities in Philippine waters -- were unlawful. Beijing has long contested the ruling while accusing the Philippines of infringing on China's sovereignty in the disputed waters, leading to several standoffs between the two countries' navies. After reading the part of the note, the Philippines turned to the crowd and asked, "How can you deal with a country in an international forum -- beyond the question asked to me -- disrespecting the organisers of this forum, how do you expect to deal with it civilly?" "I ask you the question, is this the right paper to post to me when I'm being asked a question on the floor? And how will you treat this kind

of behavior?" he continued. The Philippines leader noted that the act not only disrespects international law, "throwing UNCLOS to the floor and trampling upon it, but it also disrespects the basic decency that should be accorded to our most gracious host, the Republic of Korea, and the rest of the audience here. So, perhaps basic decency and behaviour is what China needs to do." Labeling the passing of the note as "actual coercion, bullying, and aggression", he said, "perhaps basic decency and behaviour is what China needs to do." Directing a remark towards the individual who delivered the paper, he added, "I will keep this paper as a memento of how desperate China is and how ineffective its position is in the face of a free audience. Thank you very much for being the person who gave me this piece of paper. You have just done your country a great service." Teodoro leveraged the episode to spotlight Manila's wider territorial contentions with Beijing in the contested waterway. "I think it is well known to the public, to everyone here, about the Philippine situation where we face challenges daily from the People's Republic of China, which

tries to occupy and illegally assert its presence over our territory and especially our exclusive economic zone," he stated. He noted that Manila has been compelled to forge stronger security partnerships and alliances to counter these pressures. "We live in a very interconnected world, and there is no right for any state of that matter to appropriate an international common for its exclusive use or right, contrary to what the international norms clearly state," Teodoro added. The Philippines Department of National Defense later shared the video of the interaction on its official X account, with the caption, "Secretary of National Defense Gilberto C Teodoro, Jr responded to a note from the Chinese side during the Seoul Defense Dialogue (SDD) 2026 in Seoul, Republic of Korea." The South China Sea continues to serve as a primary geopolitical flashpoint between Manila and Beijing, with both governments frequently accusing each other of violating sovereign rights across disputed maritime expanses. While Manila anchors its legal strategy on the 2016 arbitration outcome, Beijing continues to invalidate the ruling.

India Reacts After New UN Map Shows Arunachal, Aksai Chin As Separate Regions



New Delhi: India has flagged the "anomalies" in the new world map issued by the United Nations after it depicted Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin -- two integral parts of the country-- as separate regions positioned between the Indian and Chinese border claims. The move came days after India backed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution calling for more accurate and equitable cartographic representation of the world's regions. The foreign ministry said India has backed the resolution focused on promoting equal-area maps, but its support should not be interpreted as approval of any specific map. "On your question about the UNGA resolution, when this resolution was adopted, we favoured the resolution and voted in favour of the resolution. When the resolution was adopted in the UN General Assembly, we also made a statement where we clarified our position," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, reiterating India's position. He stressed the resolution is focused on the principle of equal-area maps and does not endorse any map of any private party or any particular entity. "The resolution is focused on the principle of having, giving weightage or giving credence to equal-area maps, so that, as we have said, the equal-area

maps project or preserve the relative sizes of continental landmarks," he added. Jaiswal noted that there may be maps for consultation. "We have taken up the anomalies with the concerned persons," he said. India has consistently maintained 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 also maintains that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of Indian territory.

Anomalies in Map
The clarification came after a map, first published by the UN on July 1 and extensively used during discussions regarding the United Nations UNGA resolution, depicted Arunachal Pradesh as an independent state bordering Assam and China, while eliminating the state's border with Nagaland. Similarly, the map showed Aksai Chin as an independent region with its western side bordering India and its eastern side bordering China. The United Nations did not explain the reason behind the changes. The map also shows a dotted line indicating the Line of Control (LoC) dividing Jammu and Kashmir between India and Pakistan. However, the United Nations, in the footnotes of the map, mentioned 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 Resolution
The United Nations General Assembly adopted an African Union-backed resolution titled "Correct the Map" on September 4. The resolution, also backed by India, calls for more accurate and equitable cartographic representation of the world's regions, particularly Africa. The map is non-binding, but it is understood that it will be adapted to the standard depiction of the world by multilateral institutions worldwide. The push for equal-area maps stems from concerns over distortions created by traditional geographical charts based on the Mercator projection. Developed in 1569, the Mercator projection was created to help sailors navigate the oceans. It's a flat map of the Earth that turns compass lines (rhumb lines) into straight lines. But it makes areas far from the equator look much bigger than their actual relative size. The Equal Earth projection, introduced in 2018, makes the opposite trade-off, preserving true area so continents can be compared honestly, at the cost of slightly bending their outlines.

"Handcuffs Await": US Suspends Tech Giant Cognizant's Green Card Filings Over Alleged Visa Abuse

Washington: The Trump administration in the United States has suspended India-founded and US-listed tech giant Cognizant's ability to apply for new green card sponsorship, labelling it as a "threat to American workers." The US Department of Labour suspended permanent labour certification filings by Cognizant over alleged fraud. The move will impact the company's filings under the Permanent Labour Certification programme (PERM), a key step for employers seeking employment-based green cards for foreign workers. "Cognizant's PERM filings are suspended," Labour Department Inspector General Anthony D'Esposito said in a post on X. "Threats to American workers will NOT be tolerated. Alongside the White House Task Force to eliminate fraud, we're following facts, fraud, and finances. Handcuffs await," he said. Under the PERM programme, the Labour Department must certify that qualified US workers are not available for a position and

that hiring a foreign worker will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed American workers. PERM certification is associated with permanent employment and employment-based green cards. It is separate from the H-1B programme, which permits eligible US employers to hire foreign professionals temporarily for speciality occupations. Suspension of PERM filings does not, by itself, establish that a company's H-1B petitions have also been suspended. D'Esposito separately announced that PERM filings by US-based software giant Cloudera had also been suspended. "One more. @cloudera: PERM filings SUSPENDED," he said. The material released by the inspector general did not identify any criminal charges against either company. Team Trump official did not disclose the specific allegations or criminal charges against either Cognizant or Cloudera, the number of applications affected or how long the sus-



pension would remain in force. It also did not include a response from either of the two companies. **About Cognizant**
Founded in Chennai, India, in 1994, Cognizant is a US-based multinational company headquartered in Teaneck, New Jersey, and listed on Nasdaq under the ticker CTSH and retains a major workforce and operational presence in America. The action came a day after Cognizant announced plans to expand its American workforce. The com-

pany said it planned to hire 1,500 US college graduates and increase its Frontier Certified Engineer and Frontier Business Operator workforce to 15,000 people. "We are hiring American graduates, standing up new American job categories for the AI era, and putting Cognizant's capital and leadership behind a national coalition built to make sure this transition works for workers," Cognizant Chief Executive Officer Ravi Kumar S said. "We

believe AI will create significantly more jobs than it displaces and shift greater value, wages and accountability to the frontlines of America's workforce," Kumar said. Cognizant also said it had joined RAISE US, a bipartisan coalition focused on helping American workers move into the artificial intelligence economy. The company's Synapse programme has trained more than one million people and now aims to reach two million by 2030.

'Matter Between Them': India On Row Over Hindu Group's Eiffel Tower Visit



The Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday said that it was aware of the opening of the temple by the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha in Paris and the row that followed because of the BAPS delegation's visit to the Eiffel Tower. However, it distanced itself from the dispute and said that it was a matter "between the entities concerned". "We are aware of the opening of a temple by the BAPS Sanstha in the Paris area. As to the particular issue pertaining to the Tower, this is a matter purely between the entities concerned", Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. Jaiswal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at the inaugura-

tion of the temple was part of the government's practice of conveying "good wishes" on such occasions. "It is a common practice for the Prime Minister to convey his good wishes on such occasions. In this case, it was done virtually. There is no cause for any comment in this regard," he said. Jaiswal was responding to questions regarding reports that the female employees were 'removed' from the Eiffel Tower premises during a visit by the Hindu religious group. The staff at the Eiffel Tower later went on a strike over it. 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. "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." 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.

US Says It Destroyed 5 Iranian Tankers After Attacks On American Warship

The US military has destroyed five Iranian crude oil tankers following attacks on a US warship by Iran's Revolutionary Guard, US Central Command said in a social media post on Tuesday. The US strikes were in response to two Iranian efforts to hit the warship with ballistic missiles over the past two days, the statement added. Iranian state television also reported the strikes, saying US forces attacked at least three Iranian oil tankers near the southern port of Jask and near Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf. It said the crews were evacuated. The latest tit-for-tat strikes come as Washington and Tehran lurch back toward fighting during more than six months of war. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the US will not allow Iran's at-

tacks to go unanswered. "Iran continues to try to hit US naval ships. And for every time they do that or try to do that, they're going to lose tankers. And I think you'll see that again today," Rubio told reporters Tuesday when asked about the latest attacks in Iran while on a trip to Colombia. Danny Citrinowicz, an Iran expert at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies, warned that such back-and-forth strikes can only risk more retaliation and further impact to the global economy. "There is no kinetic solution to the Strait of Hormuz problem," he said on social media. "Every attempt to impose one only brings Washington and Tehran closer to an escalation that may become increasingly difficult to control." An Iranian state

TV reporter in Jask said an Iranian tanker was struck near the coast of Yekbeni, while another explosion was heard in the area whose source and location were not immediately clear. State TV later reported that the US military attacked a second tanker near waters off Jask. It said the crews of both vessels were being evacuated by lifeboat toward the Jask coast. Separately, state television reported that another Iranian tanker was attacked in Kharg Island anchorage area. It said the crew was safely evacuated shortly after the strike. Iran's Revolutionary Guard Navy on Tuesday warned crews of oil tankers near ports in Kuwait and Bahrain to immediately leave their vessels, saying the ships could be targeted in retaliation for

US attacks on Iranian tankers. It accused Kuwait and Bahrain of hosting US forces and assisting in the attacks. On Saturday, the US military said it had struck three Iranian oil tankers after Navy warships were targeted with ballistic missiles, warning that it would, "if necessary, destroy Iran's limited and exposed oil fleet." Iran later said it planned to announce a new "exclusion zone" near the Strait of Hormuz aimed at vessels intending to transit. The latest strikes are part of a dual economic and military approach by President Donald Trump as he struggles to bring an end to a more than six-month-old war with Tehran. The Trump administration on Tuesday also imposed sanctions on additional elements of Iran's aviation industry, targeting

more than two dozen commercial and private airlines as well as foreign cargo service providers in its new push to isolate Tehran from its remaining trading partners. Both the US and Iran are seeking to exert control over the Strait of Hormuz, where about one-fifth of the world's oil passed before the war began. Rising energy prices are posing political problems for Trump and his Republican Party ahead of the November midterm elections. A barrel of international standard Brent crude briefly climbed as high as \$99.46 on Tuesday. A US blockade of Iranian ports has squeezed the country's economy by limiting its oil exports, while the American military has been helping a limited number of ships transit on a route through the Strait of Hormuz off Oman.

AU Small Finance Bank gets RBI nod for ICICI Prudential AMC to acquire up to 9.95% stake



AU Small Finance Bank on Wednesday said it has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd to acquire an aggregate holding of up to 9.95 per cent of the bank's paid-up share capital or voting rights. The approval, conveyed through an RBI letter dated September 8, covers ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company, along with schemes of ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, funds under alternative investment funds managed by the asset manager and clients of its portfolio man-

agement services. The bank said the approval is subject to compliance with applicable provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, RBI directions, the Foreign Exchange Management Act, SEBI regulations and other applicable laws and guidelines.

RBI approval for up to 9.95% holding

The RBI's approval allows the ICICI Prudential entities covered under the application to acquire an aggregate stake of up to 9.95 per cent in AU Small Finance Bank. However, the approval itself does not mean that the entire stake

has been acquired. Any acquisition will remain subject to the applicable regulatory requirements and conditions attached to the RBI's approval. The development is significant as it allows one of the country's established asset management platforms to potentially increase its exposure to the small finance banking space through AU Small Finance Bank.

AU Small Finance Bank shares

Shares of AU Small Finance Bank closed at Rs 1,061.60 on Wednesday, according to the market data provided. The stock

opened at Rs 1,070.90 and touched an intraday high of Rs 1,077.90 before ending near its day's low of Rs 1,060.50. The stock has traded between a 52-week high of Rs 1,144.10 and a low of Rs 694.85. At the latest market price, the bank had a market capitalisation of around Rs 78,990 crore, while its price-to-earnings ratio stood at about 28.30, based on the data provided.

What the approval means

The RBI's decision provides regulatory clearance for ICICI Prudential Asset Management and the other specified entities to build a significant holding in the bank. For AU Small Finance Bank, the development also brings the possibility of greater institutional participation in its equity. The actual level and timing of any acquisition, however, will depend on the investment decisions of the approved entities and applicable regulatory requirements. The approval comes as the banking sector continues to see growing participation from mutual funds and other institutional investors, with large asset managers looking for opportunities across

financial services.

Prudential Corp sold stakes

Prudential Corp Holdings is likely to sell stakes in ICICI Prudential AMC via a block deal. According to the filing, a total of 89.85 lakh shares could be exchanged in the block deal. "Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited, one of the promoters of the Company, has conveyed to us its intention to sell certain Equity Shares held by it for compliance with the requirements of minimum public shareholding applicable to the Company, ICICI Prudential AMC informed in the filing." The aggregate shareholding of the promoters and members of the promoter group in the Company as on August 21, 2026 is 87.60% of the total issued and paid-up equity share capital of the Company. Upon completion of the abovementioned sale, the aggregate shareholding of the promoters and promoter group in the Company would be reduced from 87.60% to 85.60% of the total issued and paid-up equity share capital of the Company," it added.

ATMs may soon offer personalised RuPay cards, loans, UPI QR codes and more banking services



Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) will soon dispense debit cards, including personalised RuPay cards and UPI QR codes, as banks look beyond their traditional role of dispensing cash. This will help banks to offer banking services faster and more accessible, especially those in semi-urban and rural areas. Banks often face difficulty to rural and semi-rural areas to offer services to customers where branches are limited. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, September 8, inaugurated the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026 in Mumbai and addressed the gathering, highlighting India's economic growth, improved sovereign rating, and the expanding reach of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Personalised RuPay cards in minutes

One of the proposed services will allow customers to get a personalised RuPay debit card through an ATM within minutes. This could reduce the need to visit a branch or wait for a card to be delivered by courier. The service is expected to make card issuance more convenient for customers and could be particularly useful in areas where access to branches is limited.

UPI QR generation at ATMs

ATMs could also allow merchants to obtain a UPI QR code instantly. Instead of going through a lengthy process to set up digital payment acceptance, merchants could use an ATM to get the QR and start accepting UPI payments. The integration of UPI-related services with ATMs would further expand the role of these machines in India's digital payments ecosystem.

More than cash withdrawal

The proposed transformation could see ATMs offer several banking services that traditionally required a visit to a branch. These include account opening, cheque deposits and loan applications. Such services could make ATMs a more comprehensive point of access for customers, particularly outside major urban centres.

ATMs as Digital Banking Units

The broader plan is to use ATMs as Digital Banking Units (DBUs), turning them into technology-enabled points where customers can access multiple banking services without depending entirely on physical branches. The shift reflects the changing role of bank-

ing infrastructure, with digital services increasingly being delivered through self-service channels.

Focus on semi-urban, rural banking access

A key objective of the ATM transformation is to improve banking access in semi-urban and rural areas. By adding more services to existing ATM infrastructure, banks can potentially provide customers with access to a wider range of products and services closer to where they live. The evolution of ATMs from simple cash dispensers to multi-service digital banking points could therefore help bridge gaps in financial access while making routine banking transactions quicker and more convenient.

PM Modi on GFF 2026

PM Modi noted that UPI completed 10 years on 25 August. "Ten years ago, when I used to say that your bank would be at your fingertips, a few people used to find it impossible. I am talking about well-informed people; recall their faces," he said. PM added, "India's UPI now live in 11 countries; our next aim should be to connect with other countries' payment systems." "Right about the time we sat in this venue, around 50,000 UPI transactions must've happened," he added. PM Modi further said that every year, more young people are seen participating in the Fintech Festival than before. "I believe India's risk-taking capacity is increasing and people are beginning to dream bigger and bolder," he said. Calling UPI a civilisational story, PM Modi stressed the need for India to expand its UPI footprint to countries it does business with. He cited the example of the India-Singapore UPI network, saying transactions between the two countries had become as easy as making UPI payments between two Indian cities. "Transactions between India and Singapore now happen almost as easily as transactions between two neighbourhoods. The next goal is to create similar connectivity with other countries as well," PM Modi said.

"Several countries around the world are ready to work with India, and we need to bring them together and move ahead," PM Modi added.

Fintech and UPI make financial services accessible

"In places where traditional banks or bank branches could not reach, fintech and UPI have made financial services accessible.

EPFO new advance rules: How many times can you withdraw PF money? Check limits, eligibility and step-by-step guide

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has made the process of accessing PF funds easier for the account holder. Unlike the restrictive and complicated measures, PF holders can now withdraw up to 75 per cent of their amount for varied reasons, depending on the terms and conditions. The guidelines divide EPF advances into three broad categories — essential needs, housing-related needs and special circumstances. The rules specify how many times a member can take an advance for different purposes. The Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 2026 has replaced the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952, bringing changes to EPF contributions and withdrawal rules. The Ministry of Labour and Employment notified the new scheme on 29 June 2026. It came into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette. Here is a simple guide to the new EPF advance rules and the limits applicable to members.

1. For illness: No limit

EPF members can seek an advance for illness of themselves or family members. According to the guidelines, there is no limit on the number of times an advance can be taken under this category. This makes illness different from other specified purposes such as education and marriage, where a member can make withdrawals only a certain number of times during membership.

2. For education: Up to 10 times

Members can take an EPF advance for education of themselves or their family members. The withdrawal is allowed up to 10 times during the period of EPF membership.

3. For marriage: Up to 5 times

An EPF advance can also be taken for marriage of the member or family members. The limit under this category is up to five times during membership.

4. For housing-related needs: Up to 5 times

EPF advances for housing-related requirements cover four purposes:

- Purchase of a flat/house or site
- Construction of a house
- Repayment of a home loan
- Renovation, alteration or improvement of a house

The guidelines specify that these housing-related advances can be taken up to five times during membership.

5. Special circumstances: Up to twice a year

The guidelines also provide for advances in special circumstances as notified by the Central Board, EPFO. Under this category, members can avail themselves of an advance up to two times in a financial year.

How much of your EPF balance can be withdrawn?

A uniform guideline applies to the amount that can be withdrawn. Members can withdraw up to 75 per cent of their EPF balance, including the employee's and employer's shares, after completing 12 months of EPF membership.

What EPF members should remember

Before applying for an advance, members should first identify the purpose of the withdrawal, as the permitted frequency depends on the category.

India endorses global call to action for 6G leadership and security, joins over 20 nations

India 6G News: India has endorsed the global Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security, joining more than 20 like-minded governments in a shared effort to develop open, interoperable, secure and resilient next-generation wireless networks. The announcement was made on the sidelines of the G20 Innovation Ministerial held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, United States, on September 1-2, 2026, under the US G20 Presidency. Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M Scindia welcomed the development in an X post (formerly Twitter), saying the initiative would help accelerate the development of secure 6G wireless networks and strengthen coordination among participating countries well ahead of the technology's expected rollout in the 2030s. The development comes after a social media post, the US Department of Commerce said, "Secretary Lutnick met with Indian Minister of State for Commerce Jitin Prasada on the sidelines of the G20 Innovation Ministerial to discuss the future of 6G. Today, we are pleased to announce that India has joined the U.S. and 24 other countries in the effort to ensure that next generation networks reflect our shared security interests, strengthen our competitiveness, and drive innovation in 6G."

India aims to contribute 10% of global 6G stan-

dards

India's participation in the initiative complements the country's ongoing work in international standardisation and spectrum forums. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India aims to contribute 10 per cent of global 6G standards and patents, as the country seeks to move from being a technology adopter to becoming a global technology standard-setter. Scindia said India remains committed to taking a leadership position in the development of 6G technologies.

The Union Minister also thanked the Minister of State for Commerce Jitin Prasada, who represented India at the G20 Innovation Ministerial.

India joins over 20 countries in 6G initiative

India has joined governments including Canada, Costa Rica, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Norway, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States in affirming the Call to Action. The initiative focuses on developing next-generation telecommunications networks based on principles including openness, interoperability, security, resilience, resource efficiency and innovation-led competition. The announcement was marked by a handshake between Jitin Prasada, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Electronics and



Information Technology, and Howard Lutnick, United States Secretary of Commerce.

DoT to coordinate India's 6G engagement

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will take forward India's engagement under the Call to Action and coordinate follow-up activities with government agencies, industry, academia and other stakeholders. The initiative lays out a phased roadmap for participating governments. Within the first month, governments are expected to identify expert 6G points of contact, designate agencies responsible for coordination and prepare preliminary lists of relevant industry and academic stakeholders. Within three months, participants will engage with the telecommunications sector to map the emerging landscape for secure and interoperable 6G networks and identify barriers to leadership and competitiveness. Within six months, participating governments are ex-

pected to develop strategies for supporting secure, resilient, sustainable and innovative 6G supply chains and consider how 6G leadership and security can be incorporated into national and regional strategies. Within 12 months, the participating countries are expected to convene in person in 2027 to review progress, exchange lessons and set priorities for the following year.

Focus on security, supply chains and global standards

The Call to Action recognises secure digital infrastructure as critical for technological competitiveness, economic prosperity and national security. It notes that advanced telecommunications networks will play a central role in economic activity, critical services and digital infrastructure, while globally interconnected communications systems could also create cyber, economic and national security risks. The initiative will also explore cooperation in areas including 6G research and

development, cybersecurity, supply chain resilience, deployment of secure 5G and 6G technologies and global standards development. Participating governments will work with industry and other stakeholders to shape future global 6G standards, including stronger security standards. The framework, however, does not limit the ability of participating countries to maintain independent positions in industry-led standards bodies or pursue their own national priorities.

Builds on Bharat 6G Vision and indigenous technology

India's participation builds on the country's existing domestic 6G ecosystem, including the Bharat 6G Vision, Bharat 6G Alliance and India's indigenous 4G and 5G technology stack. The government said the engagement aligns with the broader vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047 and will complement India's independent work in global standardisation and spectrum forums.

Vodafone Idea share price hits 2-year high near Rs 16: Should investors exit now?

Vodafone Idea shares climbed to a fresh two-year high on Wednesday, September 9, moving closer to the Rs 16 mark as the telecom stock extended its recent rally. The stock touched an intraday high of Rs 15.79, surpassing its August 30, 2024 level of Rs 15.64 and marking its highest level in two years. At 3:07 pm, Vodafone Idea shares were trading at Rs 15.51. The stock has gained 20.05 per cent over the past month, while its six-month gain stands at 56.51 per cent. On a year-to-date basis, the

counter is up 33.71 per cent, while it has more than doubled over the past year, gaining 113.34 per cent.

Vodafone Idea stock nears Rs 16

The sharp move has brought Vodafone Idea back into focus after a prolonged period of investor uncertainty around the company and the broader telecom sector.

Market expert and Zee Business managing editor Anil Singhvi said the stock has reached a two-year high and is now very close to the Rs 16 level. He said

his preferred level for being relieved of his responsibility would be above Rs 18. However, with Vodafone Idea now back around levels seen two years ago, Singhvi advised investors whose positions have recovered to consider reducing their exposure rather than continuing to hold solely in the hope of a further rally.

"Vodafone Idea has reached a two-year high and is very close to Rs 16," Singhvi said, adding that investors who have regained their cost price

should consider lightening or exiting their positions.

What did Anil Singhvi say?

Singhvi pointed out that the stock's return to levels seen two years ago could offer an opportunity for investors who had previously remained worried about Vodafone Idea, the telecom sector, the market or the broader economy.

He also recalled that Vodafone Idea had been strongly recommended around Rs 11 when the company had raised funds

through an offer for sale. At the same time, he clarified that an exit call had not been given when the stock was around Rs 17. His latest comments, therefore, were framed around investors managing their own positions once their cost price has been recovered.

Singhvi said investors who had experienced prolonged anxiety while holding the stock should consider exiting if they remain uncomfortable with the possibility of the price falling again after reaching their cost.

Crackdown on Fake Seeds: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan to Hold Nationwide Consultation with Farmer Leaders on September 10

The Government of India is preparing to introduce a new and stringent Seed Act aimed at protecting the country's farmers from the losses caused by fake and substandard seeds. The proposed legislation is part of the Modi government's efforts to realise Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a prosperous and self-reliant farming community. Before finalising the proposed legislation, Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan will hold a high-level consultation with senior leaders of major farmer organisations from across the country on September 10 at 4:00 PM at

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. The consultation, convened by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, is aimed at incorporating farmers' ground-level experiences, suggestions and concerns directly into the draft seed legislation. The government intends to build a robust and effective regulatory framework to curb the activities of seed mafias and protect farmers from fraudulent and poor-quality seeds. The proposed new Seed Act is expected to provide for stringent legal action against companies and traders involved in the sale of fake, adulterated or substandard seeds, including heavy penalties and imprisonment. Poor-quality seeds

can wipe out months of a farmer's hard-earned income and years of effort and labour. The government's stated position is that the new law must ensure the highest standards of seed quality and a transparent, end-to-end traceability system, while also safeguarding farmers' rights over traditional seeds. The consultation on September 10 will bring farmer representatives together from across the country. Senior leadership of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, various factions of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), All India Kisan Coordination Committee (AIKCC),

Kisan Mahapanchayat, Bharatiya Krishak Samaj, Gaon Kisan Unnayan and the Society for Independent Farmers Association (SIFA) will participate in the meeting. Ground-level farmer representatives from several states will also put forward their views before the Union Agriculture Minister. These include representatives of the Karnataka Raitha Sangha, Telangana Raitha Sangha, Maharashtra's Shetkari Organisation, Gujarat's Khedut Samaj, the National Kisan Progressive Association from Rajasthan and Bihar, Tamil Nadu's Vivasayigal Sangam, Jharkhand's

Pragatisheel Krishi Manch, and a farmers' organisation from Kottayam in Kerala, among others. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has emphasised that, under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government is committed to framing policies through dialogue and consensus with farmers. The consultation, being held ahead of the upcoming Parliament session, is expected to mark a significant step towards creating a stronger regulatory framework and protecting Indian agriculture from the persistent threat of fake and substandard seeds.

Raksha Mantri pays a courtesy call on Sri Lankan President in Colombo



Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh called on the President of Sri Lanka Mr Anura Kumara Disanayake in Colombo on September 09, 2026. The two leaders held substantive discussions on issues covering the entire spectrum of the multi-faceted partnership between the two nations, characterised by traditionally warm relations and mutual trust. The two sides reaffirmed that as civilisational twins, close neighbours & maritime partners, India and Sri Lanka would continue to work together for their development & welfare of the people while working jointly to en-

sure the safety, security, peace and prosperity of the region. Raksha Mantri conveyed greetings on behalf of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and underlined that the citizens of the two countries share deep friendship based on strong historical & civilisational links and people-to-people exchanges. Extending a warm welcome to Raksha Mantri, President Disanayake recalled his interactions with PM Modi and reiterated that Sri Lanka would never allow its territory to be used for any activities inimical to India's security interests. President Disanayake



expressed his gratitude for the relief assistance provided by India as part of Operation Sagar Bandhu during Cyclone Ditwah and the comprehensive rehabilitation package extended by New Delhi to facilitate reconstruction and rehabilitation work across different parts of the island. Raksha Mantri emphasised that as a closest friend and neighbour of Sri Lanka, India considered it not a favour, but a responsibility to provide assistance as the first responder and would continue to do so in the future as well. Both leaders virtually inaugurated three Bailey

Bridges constructed by the Indian Defence Forces. The two sides also exchanged MoUs on upgradation of L70 Guns for the Sri Lankan Air Force, and co-operation between National Cadet Corps (NCC) & National Defence Colleges (NDC) of both the countries. The MoU on Upgradation of six L70 guns for the Sri Lankan Air Force falls under a Government of India grant. The upgradation of these air defence guns will significantly strengthen the air defence architecture of critical assets in Sri Lanka. These air defence guns were earlier provided to the

Sri Lanka Air Force by India. The MoU on academic cooperation between NDC, India and NDC, Sri Lanka will facilitate knowledge sharing which will be a significant step in further strengthening the academic bonds between both the sister institutes. The MoU on NCC cooperation will formalise the NCC youth exchange programme between India and Sri Lanka. This exchange programme provides a valuable opportunity for NCC cadets from multiple countries across the world to come to New Delhi every year and participate in NCC events.

India endorses the Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security; Department of Telecommunications to take the initiative forward



India has endorsed the Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security, joining a group of like-minded governments that have committed to shaping the sixth generation of wireless communications on the principles of openness, interoperability, security, resilience, resource efficiency and innovation-led competition. The initiative will advance the vision of Union Minister of Communications and DoNER Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, who has always emphasised that India is committed to leading the

world in 6G. This also highlights the significance laid by Minister of State for Communications Dr Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani on the country's transformation from a technology adopter to a standard-setter. Emphasising the significance of the announcement, the Union Minister for Communications took to social media to share his views on the development. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will take forward India's engagement under the Call to Action

and coordinate the relevant follow-up activities with concerned government agencies, industry, academia and other stakeholders. India joins other governments that have affirmed the Call to Action, including Canada, Costa Rica, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Norway, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. The endorsement was announced on the sidelines of the G20 Innovation Ministerial, held in North Carolina, United States, on 1-2 September 2026 under the United States' G20 Presidency. The announcement was marked by a handshake between Shri Jitin Prasada, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, and Electronics and Information Technology in the Government of India, and Mr. Howard Lutnick, United States Secretary of Commerce. Under the Call to Action, participating

governments affirm that secure digital infrastructure is essential to technological competitiveness, economic prosperity and national security, and that advanced telecommunications networks are both the gateway to and the heart of that infrastructure. The initiative recognises that next-generation networks will underpin major economic and societal activity and the delivery of critical services; that globally interconnected communications systems can introduce cyber, economic and national security risks, making strong baselines for network security and resilience a shared responsibility; and that shaping the future of 6G calls for concerted action in collaboration with industry, academia and other stakeholders. The Call to Action sets out a graduated set of steps for participating governments. Within one month, each government is to identify and designate expert 6G points of contact, designate the

agency responsible for managing communications with the contact group, and prepare a preliminary list of relevant industry and academic stakeholders. Within three months, governments are to engage the telecommunications sector to map the emerging landscape for secure and interoperable 6G, identify barriers to leadership, convene to examine their findings, and begin identifying the economic, political and financial resources that could support 6G competitiveness. Within six months, they are to strategise at expert level on supporting secure, resilient, sustainable and innovative 6G supply chains over the long term, and to consider how 6G leadership and security may be reflected in national and regional strategies. Within twelve months, participants are to convene in person in 2027 to review progress, exchange lessons learned and best practices, and set priorities for the following year alongside relevant industry stakeholders.

NICDC Showcases India's Next-Generation Industrial Ecosystems at First-Ever INNOPROM India 2026

National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited (NICDC), under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, participated in the first-ever INNOPROM India 2026, being held from 9-11 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The inaugural edition of INNOPROM in India provides an important platform for advancing the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, bringing together Government representatives, manufacturers, technology companies, investors and industry organisations from both countries.

India and Russia have set a bilateral trade target of approximately ₹9.45 lakh crore (US\$100 billion) by 2030, with the wider economic partnership increasingly focusing on manufacturing, investments, technology cooperation, logistics, localisation and industrial clusters.

Supported by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, the event focuses on strengthening cooperation in manufacturing, industrial technology, localisation, investment and business partnerships.

NICDC's participation provided an opportunity to engage directly with Russian companies, regional Governments, technology providers, investors and business delegations and showcase India's industrial corridors as attractive destinations for long-term manufacturing investment.

The NICDC exhibition stall received an encouraging response and significant footfall, with delegates showing interest in NICDC's industrial smart cities, investment-ready infrastructure, BHAVYA, PM MITRA Parks, ICLP and digital logistics initiatives.

NICDC representatives also participated in B2B meetings and focused interactions with prospective investors, manufacturers, technology companies and Government representatives during which views were exchanged on industrial development, manufacturing cooperation and potential areas of collaboration. The NICDC team also visited participating stalls and interacted with exhibitors to gain insights into emerging industrial technologies, manufacturing solutions and sectoral capabilities. These engagements facilitated exchange of knowledge and industry perspectives while identifying potential areas for deeper India-Russia industrial and technology cooperation.

At INNOPROM India 2026, NICDC showcased opportunities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP), one of India's largest planned industrial infrastructure initiatives.

The programme spans 11 Industrial Corridors, 20 Greenfield Industrial Smart Cities and 13 States. Four industrial smart cities have already been developed, while another 16 projects are at various stages of implementation.

Together, these projects cover approximately 19,878 hectares, with an estimated investment potential of around ₹56.6 billion (US\$56.6 billion) and employment potential of nearly 1.4 million jobs.

Across completed and upcoming projects, 469 industrial plots covering approximately 2,109 hectares

have been allotted, representing associated investment potential of around ₹2.21 lakh crore (US\$23.4 billion) and employment potential of approximately 129,000 persons.

The four developed industrial smart cities are:

- Dholera Special Investment Region, Gujarat
- Shendra-Bidkin Industrial Area (AURIC), Maharashtra
- Integrated Industrial Township Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- Integrated Industrial Township Vikram Udyogpuri, Madhya Pradesh

These cities are being developed as investment-ready, plug-and-play manufacturing ecosystems, with serviced industrial land, reliable power, water and wastewater systems, ICT infrastructure and multimodal connectivity to highways, railways, ports and airports.

The programme is also aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, enabling industrial development to be integrated with major transport and logistics networks.

Potential areas of India-Russia manufacturing cooperation include advanced engineering and machinery, railway and transport equipment, metals, energy and renewable energy, automobiles, aerospace & defence, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles and advanced manufacturing technologies.

Reputed International companies including from Russia have presence in the NICDC cities and are running their operations smoothly.

NICDC has also maintained sustained engagement with Russian Government institutions, diplomatic stakeholders, industry organisations and business delegations through bilateral platforms, industrial visits and discussions relating to investment, manufacturing, logistics and industrial development. Earlier engagements with Russian stakeholders have identified NICDC Cities at Krishnapatnam Industrial Area in Andhra Pradesh and Tumakuru Industrial Area in Karnataka among locations that could potentially be explored for such cooperation. NICDC's engagement with the Government of Moscow has also covered identification of Moscow-based companies interested in investing in India, B2B matchmaking, business missions, exchange of experience in industrial clusters and Special

Economic Zones, and the possibility of establishing a Russian industrial cluster within a NICDC city.

Such a cluster could bring together Russian anchor manufacturers, component suppliers, technology companies and Indian partners, supporting localisation, technology partnerships and resilient supply chains.

Beyond industrial corridors, NICDC is serving as the Project Management Agency for seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks under the Ministry of Textiles. These parks are envisioned as integrated textile manufacturing ecosystems with modern infrastructure and improved logistics connectivity. NICDC is also supporting the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) as Project Management Agency for development of 100 investment-ready, plug-and-play industrial parks across India from FY 2026-27 to FY 2031-32. The scheme has an overall outlay of approximately ₹33,660 crore (US\$3.56 billion). NICDC also showcased the Industrial Corridor Land Platform (ICLP), a GIS-enabled national platform providing investors information on more than 4,000 industrial parks, including land availability, infrastructure and connectivity, enabling informed site-selection decisions. Complementing physical infrastructure, NICDC Logistics Data Services Limited (NLDSL) is strengthening India's digital logistics ecosystem through the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) and Logistics Data Bank (LDB). LDB provides end-to-end visibility of EXIM container movement and has tracked over 10 crore containers. NLDSL has also developed solutions including Koyla Shakti - Smart Coal Analytics Dashboard, along with Track Your Transport (TYT), Transport Management System (TMS) and Logistics e-Marketplace (LeMP) to improve logistics visibility, efficiency and data-driven decision-making. Through its industrial smart cities, PM MITRA Parks, BHAVYA, ICLP and digital logistics ecosystem, NICDC is positioning India as a competitive manufacturing, localisation and investment destination, helping translate India-Russia economic cooperation into industrial investments, technology partnerships, jobs and resilient supply chains.

National Consumer Helpline facilitates refunds of over ₹105 crore to consumers in 15 months

The National Consumer Helpline (NCH), by the Department of Consumer Affairs, has facilitated refunds of more than ₹105 crore to consumers across 35 sectors by addressing 1,66,189 refund-related grievances during the fifteen-month period from 25 April 2025 to 31 July 2026.

The refunds were facilitated at the pre-litigation stage, enabling consumers to obtain timely relief without having to approach the Consumer Commissions. The National Consumer Helpline has emerged as a single-point access platform for consumers across the country to register grievances and seek resolution.

The e-commerce sector accounted for the largest share of refund-related grievances, with 1,00,466 complaints resulting in refunds of more than ₹74 crore. The Travel & Tourism sector followed, with refunds exceeding ₹10 crore. During May 2026 to July 2026, refunds facilitated in the e-commerce sector ranged from ₹1 to ₹35,83,790, covering consumer grievances of varying nature and value.

Key highlights:

- ₹105 crore+ refunds facilitated
- 1,66,189 refund-related grievances addressed
- 35 sectors covered
- 1,00,466 e-commerce refund grievances addressed
- ₹74 crore+ refunds facilitated in the e-commerce sector
- ₹10 crore+ refunds facilitated in Travel & Tourism
- ₹1 to ₹35,83,790 - range of refunds facilitated in e-commerce during May-July 2026

The NCH operates through a convergence-based mechanism under which consumer grievances are digitally forwarded to the concerned companies for resolution within defined timelines.

Ranabaali Teaser Unleashes Wild Vijay Deverakonda

Star hero Vijay Deverakonda and blockbuster Filmmaker Rahul Sankrityan collaborated once again after Taxi waala under Mythri Movie Makers banner. The film titled Ranabaali raising expectations with every update. The excitement surrounding has reached the next level. Ranabaali is coming for Dusshera.

The film is all set for grand release on October 16th in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi and Malayalam languages. The teaser of Ranabaali released today and it has exceeded expectations with its gritty storytelling and breathtaking visuals. It begins on an emotional note, remembering the 8 million Indian lives lost under British rule before revealing the horrifying famine that devastated the Madras Presidency.

The opening visuals are hauntingly realistic, showing hunger, death, and unimaginable suffering. Sir Theodore Hector's character is presented as a menacing symbol of British oppression, with one horrifying sequence capturing his merciless violence against starving Indians. After building immense tension, Vijay



Deverakonda finally appears as Singanamala Bobbili Ranabaali in a goosebumps-worthy entry. His savage chief avatar is fierce, blood-soaked, and driven by revenge as he wages an unforgiving war against the British. Every frame showcases unmatched in-

tensity and raw emotion. Rahul Sankrityan impresses with a bold cinematic vision that feels grand yet grounded in realism. Ajay-Atul's rousing background score reaches its peak during the action blocks. The teaser closes with a mysterious giant-handed creature

that adds a fascinating mythic twist to this epic spectacle. The brief glimpses of Rashmika Mandanna as Jayamma creates curiosity. The stunning production values, solid visuals and peak performances, Ranabaali is going to be a epic.

Lust Stories 3 Trailer: Love, Lust & Everything

Lust Stories is one of the most anticipated anthologies on Netflix. The award-winning blockbuster series is in its third edition, and ahead of its release, the team dropped the trailer today, ramping up the spicy hype. The series follows multiple couples as they navigate relationships, love, lust, and, most importantly, desire.

Through conversations, the trailer builds curiosity about how these couples satisfy their burning desire for love, lust, and more. Balancing humor and chemistry, these characters also undergo moments of vulnerability, making it an emotional ride with an abundant dose of entertainment.

Siddharth and Aditi are seen as a couple. Ali Fazal and Radhika Madan are a couple. Radhika Apte's presence, along with Konkona Sen Sharma, adds value to the anthology as their segment is already generating interest. Like the earlier seasons, the female characters have the upper hand in taking



the theme forward. Vikramaditya Motwane, Kiran Rao, Shakun Batra & Vishal Bhardwaj directed four differ-

ent segments in this third season. Radhika Apte, Konkona Sen Sharma, Aditi Rao Hydari, Radhika Madan, Sana Thampi,

Vijay Varma, Abhishek Banerjee, Siddharth, Ali Fazal and Gurfateh Pirzada will be a part of the third season.

Three Proposals About The Paradise Ticket Prices!



Nani's The Paradise is already going great guns at the North American Box Office. The movie had registered the fastest \$150K ever and that too all of it is coming from a Single Theater Chain. It looks like 1.5 Million Dollar Premiere is guaranteed and 2 Million Dollars is also likely. On the other hand, the makers are still deliberating the ticket prices. Audiences are coming to theatres more fre-

quently now and many feel reasonable ticket prices in all areas of the key reasons. So the makers are thinking if they should avoid the Price Hike.

But then, the movie is sold for massive prices in all areas on par with some Tier-1 Hero films. Buyers are of the opinion that a small hike of at least 50 Rupees in Single Screens and 75 Rupees in Multiplexes may help easing the recovery.

Also there is a third proposal. The Multiplex rates are currently 295. The proposal is to increase that to 350 Rupees while keeping Single Screen rates untouched. But then, the 55 Rupees Hike means the producer will get barely 25-30 Rupees after GST and Multiplex cut. At the same time, the Producer should pay One Crore to the Government for Hikes. So they are thinking if that is worth.

Sandeep's Sekhar Kammula Heroes Remark Triggers Negativity

Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's movies are bold, intense and hard-hitting. His lead characters have that eccentricity. Their dialogues in his movies have that attitude tone. Looks like Sandeep also has it, at least to some extent. Sandeep Reddy Vanga's fresh comments at the pre-release event of Epic landed him into a minor controversy. When anchor Suma asked Sandeep about his first reaction to the Epic trailer and the team's statement that it would be a love story between a Sekhar Kammula hero and a Sandeep Reddy Vanga heroine, describing it as "Sekhar Kammula cinema lo hero lanti Abbayi and Sandeep Reddy Vanga cinema lo hero lanti Ammayi." Sandeep Reddy Vanga responded impulsively, saying, "Naku Sekhar Kammula Herolu Nacharu."

These off-the-cuff comments of Sandeep Reddy Vanga did not go well with many. Everyone is questioning Sandeep, how can he dislike the way Sekhar Kammula portrayed Rana Daggubati-type characters in Leader? But Sandeep may have been speaking strictly from his own perspective. In fact, he has said that he likes Sekhar Kammula's heroines and the way the filmmaker presents them in a sensual, visually appealing manner.

Rashi Singh Looks Like A Breath Of Spring



Rashi Singh has had a busy year on the big screen, featuring in three releases, Transfer Trimurthulu, Gossip, and Rambha Urvasi Menaka. While the films may not have set the box office alight, the actress has continued to stay in the news for other reasons. Amid this phase, Rashi took a break to share a candid, joy-filled moment that has caught her fans' attention. In the pictures, Rashi is seen twirling freely on a tree-lined street, her hair flying loose and her smile lighting up the frame. She wore a flowy sage green gown with a delicate embroidered bodice, its hem trimmed with a contrasting floral print. The candid energy of the shot made the moment feel more like a joyful memory than a styled photoshoot.

Yash's First Reaction To Toxic's Result



The failure of Toxic has clearly affected everyone involved with the film, but Yash's latest response to the debacle shows a mature side of the actor. Dubbing artist Jaidev Mohan recently spoke about a conversation he had with Yash after the film's release. Going into detail, Jaidev reveals that Yash personally called him and discussed the film's outcome. Instead of getting angry or blaming someone to blame, Yash told him not to worry about the failure and said that they should focus on what comes next. Jaidev further reveals that Yash accepted that the audience did not connect with the film and has the final say. What makes the conversation interesting is the emotion behind Yash's words. There appears to be genuine disappointment, but at the same time, he seems determined to move forward. The response also stands out at a time when some Yash fans have questioned the intelligence of the audience for rejecting the film. Yash, however, appears to have taken a completely different route and accepted the failure. Failures are part of every actor's career, especially when expectations are high. Accepting the result, learning from it, and concentrating on the next project is the best quality of a star, and Yash stands tall amidst such heavy criticism.