

PM Modi To Chair 2-Day 'Chintan Shivir' With Cabinet Ministers From today

New Delhi: The Union Council of Ministers will hold a two-day "Chintan Shivir" on September 23 and 24 at Seva Tirath in Delhi, to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, government sources have told. Unlike earlier rounds of consultations, this particular session will bring together only cabinet ministers, making it one of the most focused deliberations at the highest level of the government so far. The timing is significant. The shivir comes right after PM Modi held a series of separate interactions with ministers of state and ministers of state with independent charge at his office, sources added. Taken together, the sequence points to a structured, tiered exercise moving through every rung of the Council of Ministers, with cabinet ministers now set for their own dedicated two-day sitting.

According to government sources, the meeting will be a formal sitting of the Council of Ministers built around three broad goals: taking stock of work already underway, planning the road ahead, and identifying the next set of reforms and priorities for Viksit Bharat



2047. The exercise itself is not new. It has been running since 2021, when 10 sectoral groups of secretaries were set up to draft the Vision@2047 document along with its short-term and long-term roadmap. That process included wide-ranging consultations with stakeholders across sectors, Sources said. Since then, the Council of Ministers has already sat through eight presentations and discussions covering different dimensions of Viksit Bharat@2047.

This week's shivir is being described as the next step in that continuing process, not a standalone event. Government sources told that the shivir will pull

together work done separately by the groups of secretaries, various ministries and departments, the cabinet secretariat, and NITI Aayog. The focus areas include reforms, ease of living, cutting down compliance burdens, and other governance priorities. Importantly, this is not meant to be a one-off. The sources indicated that after the two days of discussions on September 23 and 24, more rounds of the Chintan Shivir are expected to follow in the coming days.

Day one of the Chintan Shivir will begin around 4:30 pm and run late into the night at Seva Tirath, sources said.

"Make Deal Or Quickly Drive Iran Into Hell?" Trump At UN General Assembly

Washington: Days after US President Donald Trump told Axios that he is approaching crossroads in the Iran war about whether to restart massive attacks or not, he said that he has a "big decision" to make. While addressing the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Trump said, "I have a big decision to make. Will a deal be made with Iran that lets them rebuild and create a far greater country than it ever was before, maybe one of the greatest in the Middle East or even the world?" he

questioned. Then added, "Or do I annihilate the Islamic Republic and do it quickly, never giving them a chance to kill and destroy people and countries again?" President Trump: "Do I annihilate the Islamic Republic, and do it quickly? Do I drive them into hell?" p i c . t w i t t e r . c o m / G82ppe1q2v However, Trump soon answered his own question and said that the US would make a deal with Iran after the mid-term elections are held on November 3.

"I believe we'll make a deal right after the election because it doesn't make sense for them not to. They're waiting to see how I do in the midterm election," Trump said during his speech. When the 80-year-old leader started speaking about the last six months of military strikes against Tehran, the Iranian delegation walked out and only one person remained seated. Trump defended his ongoing conflict with Iran which has triggered widespread



economic disruption after Tehran blocked the Strait of Hormuz and emphasised his "unwaver- ing" commitment to ensure that the Islamic Republic never gets hold of a nuclear weapon.

Gandhis' "Extraneous Considerations" Charge In National Herald Case

New Delhi: They have alleged that the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) action was influenced by "extraneous considerations." They argued that this is the only case in the country where the ED has proceeded with a money laundering investigation based on a private complaint. In their response, the Gandhis said the ED registered an ECIR against them based on a private complaint filed by former Union Minister Subramanian Swamy, even

though such a course of action is not permitted under law. Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi contended that the ED itself has consistently maintained that a money laundering investigation cannot begin unless there is an FIR in a scheduled/predicate offence. According to their response, Swamy filed the private complaint in 2014, but the ED did not register an ECIR at that time. The ECIR was registered nearly seven years later, on June 30, 2021. The two leaders cited

this delay as supporting their case, arguing that it indicates the ED itself believed that action under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) could not be initiated solely on the basis of a private complaint. The response states that before both the trial court and the High Court, the ED has not explained why this case is being treated differently from other cases. They argued that the ED's conduct demonstrates that the National Herald case has been



singled out for separate treatment. They further stated that the ED's "calculated silence" on the issue raises questions about why a different approach has been adopted in this case, allegedly contrary to the law and international FATF standards.

Dasari Balavardhan Rao Takes Charge as Krishna Milk Union Chairman



From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, September 22: Former MLA Dasari Balavardhan Rao, who was selected as the Chairman of the Krishna Milk Union, officially assumed charge on Tuesday. On the occasion, he thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for giving him the opportunity. After taking charge, Balavardhan Rao said he had served as a director of the Krishna Milk Union in 2013 and expressed happiness at being selected as the chairman of the same union today. He assured that he would discharge his responsibilities without failing the trust placed in him by the union.

Balavardhan said everyone had a responsibility to safeguard the distinguished position of the Krishna Milk Union. He said the board members, Feed Committee and Trust Committee members would work together like one family and take decisions only after holding discussions. He said the milk price had been increased after discussions with the governing body with the aim of improving the financial condition of farmers. He urged farmers to bring other difficulties they were facing to their notice and assured that efforts would be made to resolve them as far as possible.

Attacks on Teachers by Ganja, Blade Gangs Unfortunate: Minister Nimmala

From Our Staff Reporter West Godavari, September 22: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu virtually inaugurated several development works in Palakollu in West Godavari district. Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu participated in the virtual programme. Speaking on the occasion, the minister strongly condemned the alleged attack on teachers in Vijayawada by the "Axe Party" goons. He criticised the party, alleging that the incident had once again exposed its "culture of violence." He said it was deplorable that teachers, who deserved respect,

were attacked by alleged ganja and blade gangs. He expressed anger that leaders of the "Axe Party" were insulting teachers who had secured their jobs through hard work and were hurting their self-respect. He alleged that the party's objective was to create destruction in the State and claimed that it was once again warning people that violence and attacks would be its political culture if it returned to power.

The minister alleged that the "Axe Party" had brought groups of rowdies from Prakasam district, Guntur and various parts of



Vijayawada to attack teachers in the city. He said it was distressing that even a person who had served the country as a soldier before securing a teaching job was

facing difficulties due to what he described as the YSRCP's "vindictive attitude." He said it was wrong to insult teachers who had demonstrated their talent in sports and secured teaching posts through the DSC recruitment process according to the rules by branding them as "fake." Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu alleged that former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was deliberately conducting a misinformation campaign against the Mega DSC to divert public attention from alleged irregularities in Group-I recruitment.

"No Compromise in Local Body Elections": Minister Lokesh

Anantapur District, September 22: Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh made key remarks on the upcoming local body elections, stating that the TDP would not compromise in the polls. He said Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan was like a member of their family and suggested that family issues should be discussed behind closed doors. He expressed confidence that the alliance would win more than 94% of the seats in the local body elections. Lokesh also urged TDP cadres to set aside arro-



gance and remain connected with the people. On the occasion, he conveyed birthday greetings to Paritala Sriram.

Paritala Ravindra Fought Against Faction-

alism

Lokesh visited Raptadu in Anantapur district on Tuesday and unveiled statues of N.T. Rama Rao and Paritala Ravindra. He later held a meeting with party leaders and addressed the gathering. Praising Paritala Ravindra, Lokesh said he had fought against factionalism and described him as a leader who had put an end to lawlessness. He alleged that YSRCP leaders had been reprimanded by the courts over the Mega DSC issue and criticised them for continuing to make allegations despite the court observations.

"Do You Even Know What DSC Means?": Minister Atchannaidu Hits Out at Jagan

From Our Staff Reporter Prakasam, September 22: Minister Atchannaidu strongly criticised former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over allegations concerning the DSC recruitment process. He accused Jagan of pursuing "criminal politics" under the guise of a political party. He described Monday's attack on teachers in Vijayawada as unfortunate and said YSRCP supporters had participated in the protest. He alleged that people previously involved in land-grabbing and mining cases had also taken part in the protest. The minister said the government was committed to providing democratic governance. Hitting out at Jagan, he said, "Jagan, do you have any shame? Do you have the right to speak about DSC? Do you even know what DSC means?" He maintained that DSC appointments had been made in a

systematic manner.

Atchannaidu alleged that unprecedented corruption had taken place in Andhra Pradesh during the YSRCP regime. He said TDP leader Nara Lokesh had gained significant recognition at the national level in a short period and alleged that the accusations against Lokesh were being made because his achievements were difficult for the YSRCP to accept. He said the government had proved that the allegations made by the YSRCP were false. Referring to Monday's incident, he warned that those responsible would not be spared and that action would be taken against the accused. Meanwhile, Atchannaidu, along with Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneyswamy, inaugurated the office of The Prakasam District Cooperative Central Bank Limited in Ongole on Tuesday. Atchannaidu said banks had been contribut-



ing to the economic strengthening of rural areas. He alleged that the previous YSRCP government had not conducted elections to cooperative banks for five years and had indulged in corruption and misappropriation of cooperative bank resources. He said the coalition government had taken steps to curb such practices after coming to power.

The minister said commercial banks followed systematic procedures for expenditure and that cooperative

banks had also been brought online on similar lines to improve transparency and curb corruption. He said a "Super El Niño" had occurred this year, resulting in drought-like conditions in several areas. He added that the drought-affected areas were likely to be announced on September 30. MLAs Damacharla Janardhan and Ugra Narasimha Reddy, Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary, Maritime Board Chairman Damacharla Satya and PDCC Bank Chairman Seetharamaiah attended the programme.

AP Government Gives Green Signal for Nandi Awards

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, September 22: The Andhra Pradesh government has given the green signal for the conduct of the Nandi Awards, bringing good news to the film and television industries. The government issued orders (G.O.Rt.No. 1843) approving the conduct of the Nandi Awards in Andhra Pradesh. The government has approved the presentation of pending Nandi Awards for the period from 2012 to 2024 along with the 2025 awards. The Nandi and National Film Awards presentation ceremony for the 2012-2016 period will be held in Vijayawada in November 2026. The government has directed that the jury committees for the 2017-2024 and 2025 Nandi Awards be constituted by September 2026. The list of winners for the 2017-2024 and 2025



awards is to be officially announced in November 2026.

According to the orders, for each year from 2017 to 2024, awards will be presented only for the first and second Best Feature Films and two Special Jury Awards. In the television category, awards will be given each year from 2017 to 2024 for the first and second Best Mega Serials, along with two Special Jury Awards.

The Nandi Film Awards ceremony for 2017-2024 and 2025 will be held in Amaravati/Vijayawada in December 2026. The Nandi Television Awards ceremony for 2017-2024 and 2025 will be held in Tirupati in December 2026, the Andhra Pradesh government said in its orders.

EDITORIAL

Women Voters Hold the Edge

Women voters continue to hold an edge in Telangana's electoral rolls. This is not a new development. In 2023 itself, the number of women voters in the state crossed that of men for the first time. The latest available data from the 2026 Special Intensive Revision (SIR) also indicates that women continue to maintain their lead. However, the current figures relate only to the draft electoral roll. The final list is scheduled to be published on November 9.

Before the 2023 Assembly elections, the Election Commission released the final electoral roll. It had a total of 3,26,18,205 voters. Of these, 1,62,98,418 were men and 1,63,01,705 were women. There were also 2,676 transgender voters. Women outnumbered men by 3,287. The number of women voters per 1,000 male voters was recorded at 1,000.2. Earlier, in January 2023, the ratio was 992 women for every 1,000 men. This means the female voter ratio improved significantly within a year. It was the first time in Telangana that women voters outnumbered men. By October 2023, the number of women per 1,000 male voters had reached 998, and it increased further to 1,000.2 in the final roll.

Before the 2026 SIR, Telangana had 3,38,26,448 voters. During the door-to-door survey, 2,64,87,213 voters submitted their enumeration forms. The names of the remaining 73,39,235 voters were provisionally placed in the ASD category. This includes deceased voters, those who could not be traced, people who had permanently shifted to other places and those whose names were registered at more than one location. However, these 73.39 lakh names have not been permanently deleted. Eligible persons among them will have an opportunity to get their names included again. During the SIR process, the details of another 92.87 lakh voters were identified as requiring verification. Of these, anomalies were found in the cases of 60,50,918 voters. The names of another 32,36,659 voters could not be linked with the 2002 electoral roll. Notices have been issued to them, and their details and supporting documents are being verified.

The key question now is whether the lead of women voters seen in 2023 will continue after the 2026 SIR. Final gender-wise figures for the state relating to the current draft roll have not yet been compiled. Once the process is completed, the exact number by which women outnumber men will become clear. The SIR process also provides an opportunity for newly eligible young people to register as voters. Those who have attained the age of 18 can apply for registration through Form-6. In 2023, as many as 9,99,667 voters in the 18–19 age group were registered. An increase in the registration of women in this age group is also one of the factors contributing to the improvement in the gender ratio.

The SIR process is still underway. Claims and objections can be submitted until October 7. Notices, hearings and disposal of objections will continue until November 5. The final electoral roll will then be published on November 9. Only then will the actual number of women and men voters in Telangana be known. However, the data available so far clearly establishes one fact: women voters in Telangana outnumbered men in 2023 itself. The extent to which that lead has continued after the latest SIR will become clear on November 9.

As UN Interviews Its Next Chief,
The Interviewers Have Some Explaining To Do

The race for the next UN chief is underway, with candidates facing a series of job interviews. On the panel sit governments whose wars, vetoes, and unpaid dues have helped make the organisation ineffective. When the General Assembly's annual debate opens on September 22, the interviewers should face some difficult questions too. External Affairs Minister Dr Jaishankar is leading the Indian delegation. India is not on the Security Council and has no vote in its recommendation for the next Secretary-General. It participates in the Assembly's formal appointment. Its concerns extend to how the UN works, who it serves, and whether powerful states will accept the restraints they demand of others. According to the UN Secretariat, 73 heads of state and 45 heads of government are expected. Governments continue to come to New York because the UN offers access to almost the entire international community. Attendance alone is not achievement. The gathering has become increasingly detached from many of the crises it discusses.

The Ever-Elusive Reforms

India and much of the Global South have strong reasons to seek reform. The existing order gave them too little say and allowed its strongest members considerable freedom to bend the rules. The most powerful members have too often cited the UN Charter when it suits them and ignored its obligations when it does not. The UN is weakened, cash-strapped, and used selectively by great

powers. Its agencies feed, shelter, and count the victims, even when its diplomacy cannot alter the war. Its institutions helped newly independent countries organise, advance some common demands, and at times challenge powerful states. India has an interest in preserving those gains and giving more countries a meaningful share in decisions. The UN's diplomacy has made little headway in Ukraine or in easing the crisis around Iran and the Gulf. Funding cuts have taken roughly one in five peacekeepers out of the field. Millions who depend on UN relief are getting less of it. Gaza shows how the Security Council's authority can be used without giving the UN a central role. Washington obtained Council backing for its peace plan and the Board of Peace, then largely excluded the UN from decision-making. Reconstruction has stalled while Palestinians have little control over their future. Some of the damage is self-inflicted. Too often, caution at the top and turf battles inside the system slow the UN down. Governments then turn elsewhere for help with difficult negotiations, even when UN agencies are involved. In some conflicts, however, the UN still has the presence and standing to make diplomacy possible where other intermediaries struggle.

Where Is Xi?

Multilateralism is not proved by speeches alone. Xi Jinping last attended the annual Assembly gathering in person in 2015. He is expected in Washington during this year's Assembly



week, without appearing at the UN. China's advocacy of the UN's centrality would carry greater conviction if its president also made time for the gathering where the rest of the world is converging to express its views. The 2026 budget cut spending and provided for the abolition of 2,900 posts. The danger is that economies made in New York will be felt most sharply in the field. Recent American payments have brought relief, though substantial arrears remain. Withholding money lets Washington restrict the UN's work without securing agreement to change what the organisation is meant to do. Although Trump directed US withdrawal from thirty-one UN entities in January, Washington remains engaged across much of the UN, with a preference for a narrower focus on peace and security. For many developing

countries, peace and security are inseparable from development. Food prices, energy costs, debt, climate stress, and access to technology, all matter. These pressures can weaken states and deepen inequalities within and between countries. A UN limited to responding after crises erupt would have fewer tools to prevent them in the first place.

A Concentrated Body

India is contesting a non-permanent Council seat for 2028–2029 against Tajikistan. Seeking support for that is likely to feature in Dr Jaishankar's meetings. The bid carries a bigger argument: council reform, fairer representation in global institutions, opposition to unilateral sanctions, and a voice in AI rule-making all rest on one claim. Countries affected by rules should help write them. Decisions about AI will help determine how power is distributed.

India should press for wider participation in decisions about its development, use, and risks. Two powers and a handful of companies cannot adequately represent those interests. Guterres leaves in December. Three rounds of informal Council polls have placed two women from Latin America and the Caribbean among the strongest contenders: Costa Rica's Rebeca Grynspan and Guyana's Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett. That creates an opening for the UN's first woman chief. No successor has been agreed upon, and any permanent member can still block a candidate. The candidates will be scrutinised closely. The tougher interview belongs to the governments choosing them. Will they pay what they owe, honour their obligations, and allow the next UN chief to act as more than a secretary to the powerful?

Trump-Xi Meet: What China Can
Give America, And What India Could Lose

When Donald Trump meets Xi Jinping in Washington on September 24, the important questions for India are what Trump wants from China, what Xi is prepared to offer, and how the outcome changes Washington's calculation of what it needs from India. India need not worry about a grand bargain; that is not happening.

The meeting follows months of negotiations over trade, rare earths, technology, and other economic issues. Financial links between China and Iran have also entered the discussions. The United States and China are trying to manage parts of their economic relationship while their strategic competition continues.

For India, this provides a useful test of an assumption that has shaped much of its thinking about Washington. India's importance to the United States has grown partly because of the economic and military challenge posed by China. If Trump can secure some of what he wants directly from Beijing, India's immediate value to Washington could change in particular areas. If negotiations produce little, India's importance could increase. But a frustrated Trump could also respond by increasing pressure on India.

What Washington Wants From Beijing

Trade remains central to the negotiations. Washington wants better access for American goods, greater balance in bilateral trade, and compliance with Chinese commitments. Beijing wants tariff relief and greater certainty for Chinese exporters. The two governments are also discussing mechanisms to manage trade in selected areas under the arrangements established during their May understanding. Rare earths and other critical minerals have become particularly important. China dominates their processing and has shown it can use export controls as an economic instru-

ment. Washington wants China to honour its commitments and provide greater reliability for American industry. This directly connects to India. Delhi has been developing its own critical-mineral capabilities and positioning India as part of the diversification of global supply chains. Greater reliability in the US-China mineral trade would not remove the American interest in alternative suppliers. Still, it could reduce the immediate pressure to develop them and alter their economic value. Technology presents a more difficult area. Washington continues to regard China as its principal technological competitor in several fields, particularly advanced semiconductors and artificial intelligence. At the same time, both governments have an interest in managing the risks created by intense technological competition. AI has consequently entered the wider US-China dialogue, although the underlying competition remains substantial. For India, the issue is access and relevance. India has benefited from expanding US technology partnerships and American efforts to build trusted supply chains outside China. If Washington and Beijing establish mechanisms to manage parts of their technology competition, India will need to show that its technological and industrial capabilities provide value that Washington cannot readily obtain elsewhere.

Enter Iran

Iran adds another dimension to the negotiations. The Trump administration has been using financial sanctions and other measures to constrain Tehran, while China remains an important economic partner for Iran. US Treasury officials have said China's financial links with Iran are part of discussions with Beijing. This matters directly to India. India's interests in Iran extend across energy, connectivity, and the security of the Gulf. Chabahar is an important

example, while the security of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has wider implications for India's economy and energy supplies. If Washington obtains Chinese cooperation on Iran, Beijing becomes useful to the United States on an issue in which India also has significant interests. Taiwan remains the strategic constraint on any wider agreement. The United States and China continue to have fundamentally different positions on Taiwan. And neither a trade understanding nor cooperation on individual issues changes the fundamental strategic competition.

If Trump Gets What He Wants...

A successful meeting would not end US-China strategic competition. It could, however, give Washington greater predictability in trade, more reliable access to critical minerals, and greater Chinese cooperation on issues such as Iran. It would also let Trump show that direct negotiation and economic pressure can produce results. For India, the consequences would be mixed. Greater stability in the US-China economic relationship could reduce global uncertainty. At the same time, China could become more useful to Washington on specific problems. That could affect the value the US assigns to particular Indian capabilities. India's importance to Washington will not disappear. Its geography, military capabilities, market, economic potential, and role in the Indo-Pacific remain significant. But the bargaining value of a particular Indian capability depends partly on whether Washington can obtain the same outcome elsewhere. For example, if China becomes a more reliable supplier of critical minerals, India's role in diversifying those supplies becomes less urgent, from Washington's perspective.

If The Talks Produce Little

A limited agreement would preserve much of the current

pattern. Washington and Beijing would continue to manage economic tensions while competing over technology, military power, and the future balance of Asia. For India, this would preserve opportunities in technology, manufacturing, defence, and supply-chain diversification. It would also mean that Washington would continue negotiating directly with Beijing whenever Chinese cooperation could serve an American objective. India has practised strategic autonomy for decades. It has maintained relationships with the US, Russia, Europe, Japan, Israel, the Gulf, and others, while managing competition with China. Maintaining multiple relationships is thus not a new Indian strategy. What is changing is the behaviour of the major powers themselves. Washington and Beijing now increasingly separate individual issues from the overall condition of their relationship. They can compete in technology, negotiate over trade, discuss Iran, and maintain military deterrence at the same time. India has operated this way for years. But the major powers now possess much greater economic and strategic capacity to use the same approach.

If Trump Doesn't Get What He Wants

Failing to secure Chinese concessions could increase India's importance to Washington. Continued US-China friction would strengthen American interest in alternative supply chains, technology partnerships, and security relationships in the Indo-Pacific.

But Trump's response to a difficult negotiation may not be straightforward. His approach relies heavily on tariffs, public pressure, and demands for concessions. A failure with Beijing could thus lead Washington to seek additional concessions from other countries.

India has already experienced this tension. The strategic relationship with Washington

has continued while disagreements over trade, market access, immigration, and India's relationship with Russia have produced significant friction. Strategic convergence has not eliminated transactional bargaining.

A failure in Washington thus does not automatically mean a more accommodating American policy towards Delhi. Trump could decide that India has become more valuable as China becomes harder to deal with. He could also decide that India's increased strategic importance gives Washington greater reason to demand more from it.

The Test For India

This makes the Trump-Xi meeting particularly important for India. The outcome will indicate how Washington values India after negotiating with its principal strategic competitor.

If Trump secures substantial concessions from Beijing, Washington may have greater room to manage China directly and less immediate need for some Indian capabilities. If he obtains only a limited understanding, the existing pattern of competition and selective cooperation will continue. If the talks fail, China will remain a more immediate strategic problem for Washington, potentially increasing India's value as a partner. Trump's response to the talks' failure would be especially crucial for India. If Trump turns to India for greater cooperation, it would reinforce the proposition that Chinese resistance increases India's importance to Washington.

Change of Name

I am a resident of SC Peta, Velicheru, Atreyapuram Mandal of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Konaseema Dist. With D.No.3-8, I have by Stated that my Name Change as Yellamelli Durga, D/o. Veriyya, insted of Baipe Kanakadurga, W/o Nagendra babu, This is the information for Change of my Name.

Baipe Kanakadurga, W/o Nagendra babu, Cell: 8790737085

Balrampur Class 2 Student Dies In Classroom; School Links Incident To Ganesh Visarjan's Loud DJ Noise



Balrampur: A Class 2 student died after suddenly collapsing inside her classroom at a private school in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday. The exact cause of her death has not been medically established, while police are examining CCTV footage of the incident. The incident took place at Divine Public School in the district headquarters at around 11 am. According to reports, the student, identified as Vaishnavi Tiwari, was sitting in her classroom and appeared normal shortly before she collapsed. The school management has linked the incident to the loud music from a DJ procession passing near the school during Ganesh Visarjan. However, doctors

said the exact cause of death cannot be determined without a post-mortem examination. According to the Dainik Bhaskar report, Vaishnavi was attending class at around 10:58 am and was seen laughing and talking with other students. CCTV footage reportedly shows a Ganesh Visarjan procession passing alongside the school, with people dancing to music played by a DJ. The children in the classroom also began dancing briefly after hearing the music. During this time, Vaishnavi stood up from her seat but sat down again. She then appeared to stumble and briefly steadied herself before sitting down. A few seconds later, she collapsed and became

unconscious. The class teacher reportedly rushed towards her and tried to lift her back onto the seat. When the girl did not respond, the teacher called other school staff for assistance. Staff members attempted to revive her before taking her to the District Memorial Hospital. Vaishnavi was taken to the hospital approximately two minutes after she lost consciousness, accompanied by school staff and family members. Dr Girdhar Chauhan, a senior doctor at District Memorial Hospital, said the girl was brought to the emergency ward already dead. He stated that the exact cause of death could not be established without a post-mortem examination. The family sub-

sequently took the body to Siddharthnagar, and no autopsy was conducted. The Balrampur police have also taken cognisance of reports circulating on social media that the student died because of the loud noise of a DJ procession passing near her classroom. In a video posted on X, the police said that a report was circulating on social media claiming that a female student from a school in Balrampur had died due to the loud DJ noise.

The police said they immediately took cognisance of the information and, upon inquiry, found that the family had not reported the matter at the police station. The girl's last rites had also already been performed. The police further added that they are conducting a detailed investigation into the matter and examining CCTV footage and other evidence. They added that necessary legal action would be taken based on the facts that emerge from the investigation. As the medical cause of death remains undetermined, the alleged connection between the DJ noise and the student's death has not been established.

Lakhimpur Kheri Violence Case: Supreme Court Seeks Allahabad HC Report On Allegations Against Trial Judge

Lakhimpur Kheri: The Supreme Court asked the Allahabad High Court to examine allegations made by advocate Prashant Bhushan against the trial judge hearing the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case. The court also sought a report on the allegations in a sealed cover before the next hearing. A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana also directed the Uttar Pradesh government to appoint a senior and experienced public prosecutor for the trial. The directions came as the Supreme Court continued to monitor proceedings arising from the October 2021 violence, in which eight people were killed, Bar & Bench reports. The Supreme Court directed that Bhushan's application containing allegations against the trial judge be placed before Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Arun Bhansali for examination. "Let a copy of this IA also be placed before the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court to take note of, and let a report concerning the IA be submitted before us in a sealed cover before the next date," the court said.

Bhushan, appearing for the victims, alleged irregularities in the conduct of the trial judge and sought his removal from the case, arguing that his continued involvement could result in a "gross miscarriage of justice". The allegations are serious, but they remain allegations at this stage. The Supreme Court's decision to



seek a report from the High Court ensures that the claims will first be examined by the authority exercising administrative control over the trial judge. Bhushan alleged that the trial judge had taken up cases assigned to other courts and granted relief to accused persons. He specifically claimed that the judge had assigned several cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to himself and granted bail in them. "There are some very disturbing events which have taken place, which will shock Your Lordships' conscience as to how this judge, who is currently dealing with it. Apparently, what he has done is quite shocking, not just in this case but in so many other cases," Bhushan told the court. Justice Bagchi pointed out that administrative control over the trial judge rested with the Allahabad High Court and not the Supreme Court. The Bench consequently directed that Bhushan's application be placed before the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. During Tuesday's hear-

ing, Bhushan also questioned the trial judge's handling of eyewitness Sher Singh. The previous trial judge retired on April 15, and the present judge took over the case the following day. According to Bhushan, Singh could not appear before the court on April 17 because he was unwell. He had submitted a medical slip after being examined at a community health centre. Despite this, Bhushan alleged, the judge issued a non-bailable warrant against him. Chief Justice Kant noted that the Supreme Court itself had directed the trial court to expedite the proceedings and said the trial judge could act when witnesses failed to appear without a satisfactory explanation. Bhushan responded that Singh had already explained his absence. He further alleged that police later went to the witness's parents and intimidated them, after which Singh said he did not want to appear. The Supreme Court also questioned why the prosecution had decided not to examine three other witnesses who had been summoned. Bhushan told the court that the public prosecutor had recently been replaced and claimed

that the new prosecutor had only about four months' experience. The Bench then directed the Uttar Pradesh government to identify a senior and experienced public prosecutor for the case.

"Let the State government take instructions and place on record its affidavit within two weeks as to which senior, experienced public prosecutor can be allotted for the case," the court directed. The move is significant given the court's continuing focus on ensuring that the trial proceeds efficiently while witnesses and evidence are properly dealt with. Bhushan raised another concern, alleging that the site plan relating to the Lakhimpur Kheri violence had gone missing from the trial court record. He claimed that the trial judge had not followed the required procedure to deal with the document's absence. The Supreme Court has previously expressed concern over the pace of the trial and directed measures to secure the presence of witnesses. It had also directed that crucial witnesses be examined on priority and that the trial be expedited. Ashish Mishra, son of former Union Minister Ajay Mishra, is among the accused in the case. The latest proceedings place the allegations concerning the trial judge before the Allahabad High Court while also putting the Uttar Pradesh government on notice to strengthen the prosecution by appointing a senior and experienced public prosecutor.

'Bihar Is Being Shamed': Tejashwi Yadav Demands CM Samrat Choudhary's Resignation Over Jamui Incident



Patna: Bihar's Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav demanded the resignation of Chief



Minister Samrat Choudhary over the harassment of a boy and a girl in Jamui district, alleging that

law and order has completely collapsed in the state. Addressing a press conference in Patna, the RJD national working president claimed that "Bihar is being shamed", and the state was witnessing "gundaraaj". "Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary should immediately resign. It is shameful that some NDA leaders, includ-

ing ministers, are justifying the incident by saying that such small things happen," he said. A video went viral on Monday, showing a boy and a girl being harassed by a group of people on a roadside in Jamui. The incident triggered a nationwide outrage, following which some of the accused were arrested.

EAM S Jaishankar Holds Bilateral Talks With Foreign Ministers On UNGA Sidelines, Discusses Ukraine And Economic Cooperation

New York: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a series of bilateral meetings with foreign ministers in New York, discussing the Ukraine conflict, economic cooperation, multilateralism and other regional and global developments on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Jaishankar, who arrived in New York on Sunday to lead the Indian delegation, began his engagements on Monday with French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot. He said their regular meetings and telephone conversations had helped maintain momentum in the India-France Special Global Strategic Partnership. The two ministers discussed the Ukraine conflict, the Gulf crisis and reform of the UN Security Council. Jaishankar also met Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, weeks after his visit to Kyiv. "Welcomed the opportunity to meet FM @andrii_sybiha again, after my recent visit to Ukraine. Our conversation focused on developments over the past few weeks," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

Sybiha said the talks covered peace efforts, bilateral cooperation and international developments, including the situation in the Black Sea and its impact on global markets. He said restoring freedom of navigation in the Black Sea was

critical for global food security and added that Ukraine valued India's engagement. The two sides discussed preparations for the next meeting of the India-Ukraine Intergovernmental Commission. According to Sybiha, the meeting would have a strong business component focused on innovation. Ukraine is also interested in expanding cooperation with India in science, education, technology, agriculture, information technology and pharmaceuticals, The New Indian Express reports. The discussions underline how the Ukraine conflict continues to feature prominently in India's diplomatic engagements, while New Delhi and Kyiv are simultaneously looking at areas where their bilateral relationship can expand. Jaishankar met Moldova's Foreign Minister Mihai Pop'oi and noted progress in political, economic and educational ties between the two countries. They also exchanged views on the Ukraine conflict.

During talks with Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis, Jaishankar reviewed strengthening economic ties following the entry into force of the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement. The two ministers also discussed global issues and closer multilateral cooperation. Economic cooperation was also central



to Jaishankar's meeting with Ecuador's Foreign Minister Roberto Kury. They discussed strengthening ties in energy and pharmaceuticals, along with mobility, personnel training, development partnerships and cooperation in multilateral forums. Following his meeting with Slovak Foreign Minister Juraj Blunar, Jaishankar said the two sides discussed their bilateral agenda and ways to deepen multilateral cooperation. Jaishankar also held his first meeting with Hungary's Foreign Minister Anita Orban. He said the two countries had agreed to work together to deepen bilateral ties and advance their strategic partnership. Taken together, the meetings show that India's engagements at the UNGA are extending beyond immediate geopolitical crises to economic partnerships, technology, education and institutional cooperation. Jaishankar is scheduled to address the General Debate of the UN General Assembly on September 26. Later,

Jaishankar co-chaired the inaugural Partners for Multilateralism, International Law, Peace & Prosperity (P4M) Summit with European Council President Antonio Costa. Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Canada and Kenya co-sponsored the summit. Jaishankar stressed the importance of multilateralism in preserving international cooperation amid geopolitical tensions, strategic competition and conflicts. He called for greater attention to the specific dimensions of ongoing conflicts and for frameworks and safeguards to deal with emerging capabilities. He also emphasised efforts to de-risk and diversify supply chains to counter dominance and disruption. Jaishankar further stressed the importance of upholding international law, rules and norms. His remarks, alongside a packed schedule of bilateral meetings, placed multilateral cooperation and diversified international partnerships at the centre of India's engagements during the UNGA session.

Nimit Goyal IPS Profile: Meet The 2014-Batch Officer Leading Mumbai West Zone I With Technology-Driven Crime Policing

Mumbai: Nimit Goyal, a 2014-batch IPS officer, is currently serving as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), West Region-Zone I, Mumbai. His office is located at the BKC Police Station in Bandra-Kurla Complex (Bandra East). The Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Kherwadi, Nirmal Nagar, Vakola, Vile Parle, Airport and Sahar police stations, along with the newly approved Golibar Police Station, which is expected to become operational soon, fall under his jurisdiction. The zone comprises several key commercial hubs, Mumbai's international and domestic airports, and densely populated residential areas, making it one of the city's strategically important policing jurisdictions.

After completing his B.Tech in Chemical Engineering from the Institute of Engineering and Technology, Lucknow, Goyal cleared the UPSC Civil Services Examination. Before joining the IPS, he under-

went training with the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax), where he gained exposure to taxation, public finance and policy implementation. He later enhanced his administrative skills by completing the Advanced Management Programme in Financial Sciences and Capital Markets at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow. Throughout his career, Goyal has investigated a wide range of offences, including murder, rape, financial fraud, embezzlement, cases under the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (MPID) Act, NDPS offences, organised crime under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), and other complex criminal cases.

As Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch, Nagpur, Goyal led the detection of several major offences, intensified the crackdown on drug trafficking, introduced facial recognition technology into routine po-



licing, and deployed pilot forensic vans to strengthen scientific investigation and evidence collection at crime scenes. His leadership was equally evident during his tenure as Superintendent of Police in Aurangabad (Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar), a district known for its communal sensitivity. Through careful planning, intelligence gathering and proactive policing, the district witnessed no major communal law-and-order incidents during his tenure while maintaining firm control over criminal activities. Before taking charge of West Zone I in Mumbai, Goyal also served in key

positions, including Additional Superintendent of Police in Sindhudurg and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Economic Offences Wing, where he handled complex financial crimes requiring specialised investigative skills. Beyond crime detection, Goyal has also demonstrated strong administrative leadership. As Commandant of SRPF Group IV in Mumbai, he oversaw more than 1,000 personnel and introduced welfare initiatives, including a kindergarten for personnel's children, improved sports facilities, and a plantation drive that saw over 25,000 trees planted.

Greater Noida Accident: Audi Overturns After Collision With Toyota Glanza On 130-Metre Road

Noida: A dramatic road accident in Greater Noida's Bistrakh area left an Audi overturned on the middle of the road after it collided with a Toyota Glanza. The crash took place on the 130-Metre Road on Tuesday, September 22, and quickly attracted the attention of passing motorists and pedestrians. The impact was reportedly strong enough to flip the Audi over, leaving the luxury car lying overturned on the busy stretch. Videos and visuals from the accident site showed a number of people gathered around the damaged vehicle soon after the collision. Following the crash, onlookers and other motorists stopped to assist at the scene. A group of people came together and helped move the overturned Audi



back onto its wheels.

Despite the force of the collision and the extent to which the Audi overturned, police said that no injuries were reported in the accident. Details about the condition of the Toyota Glanza were not

immediately available. The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of Bistrakh police station. Authorities are examining the circumstances that led to the collision, including how the two vehicles approached each other before the crash.

The accident has also drawn attention to road safety on Greater Noida's wide roads, where vehicles can travel at considerable speeds. Police have not, so far, publicly assigned responsibility for the crash to either driver.

Solicitor General's 'Naxal' Jibe Fuels Tense Exchange Over Vande Mataram In Top Court



New Delhi: The use of the word "Naxalites" by the government's lawyer ignited a confrontation in the Supreme Court on Tuesday during the hearing of a challenge to the recent legal amendment that makes not singing Vande Mataram a penal offence. Senior advocate S Muralidhar, who was arguing the petition filed by singer TM Krishna, took strong offence to the use of the word, but Solicitor General Tushar Mehta refused to withdraw his comment. "Law-making should not be [as per] Naxalites," Mehta had remarked, after Muralidhar argued that a top-down approach to law-making was not appropriate. Muralidhar, who is a former high court judge, immediately said, "He should withdraw this. This is going live. Let him repeat! This was unnecessary. Some decorum is to be observed. We don't expect this from law officers." Mehta remained steadfast. "I can repeat what I said. One has to go by law. I am not sorry about what I

said," he told the bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana. The exchange aside, the court in its order sought the Centre's response to the petition. The words Naxalite and Naxal or Maoist, used for left-wing extremism, have been a major part of the government discourse, more so after Prime Minister Narendra Modi used the term "Dimagi Naxal" for those who allegedly further the ideas behind such extremism. The centre's ruling BJP has liberally deployed it to attack political adversaries via social media and speeches. TM Krishna's Core Argument As for the exchange in the SC, it came as Carnatic singer TM Krishna has challenged the amendment made earlier this year to Section 3 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971. The amended provision makes it punishable with imprisonment of up to three years to intentionally prevent the singing

of the National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana) "or the National Song" Vande Mataram. Since the National Song is understood as the first two stanzas, the government issued a separate order making all six stanzas mandatory. Krishna has also challenged the Ministry of Home Affairs' directions requiring all six stanzas to be sung at specified government, ceremonial and cultural occasions. Krishna's argument aligns with some contentions made during the Independence movement that the latter four stanzas of the song expressly invoke devotion to Hindu deities. He said mandating their singing violates the secular character of the nation, and thus the amendment furthers a "majoritarian religious message". In observations during the hearing, Justice Bagchi said the bench expected the 1986 judgment in 'Bijoe Emmanuel v State of Kerala' to govern the amended law. In that landmark case, the

SC protected schoolchildren who stood respectfully during the National Anthem but did not sing it because of their religious beliefs. Arguing for Krishna, Muralidhar argued that the amendment was brought in hastily, without any attempt to build broad national consensus, and said the original law did not mention "national song". At this, Justice Bagchi said, "National Song has always been understood as Vande Mataram... To the extent of penal consequences [we will examine], but declaration as national song, courts can't dictate." CJI Kant remarked, "If someone reads history, they will know what is National Song."

"He Is Again Repeating" After the order was dictated, S Muralidhar raised the remark again. Justice Bagchi said the bench was confining itself to the constitutional issue. Mehta then repeated the remark and said he was not sorry. Muralidhar reacted, "He is again repeating. Now I have to register strong protest!" He accused Mehta of playing to the gallery. While CJI Kant asked the counsels to save their arguments for the next date, Justice Bagchi further observed that calling someone a Naxalite did not strip them of their constitutional rights as such. Mehta later said he was referring to an ideology and was not labelling any individual. "My intention was that legislative decision-making is constitutional. It cannot be done by arms etc.," he said.

Uproar In J&K Assembly Over Maharaja Hari Singh, Sheikh Abdullah Holiday Row



Srinagar: A day before the public holiday marking the birth anniversary of Jammu and Kashmir's last monarch, Maharaja Hari Singh, the Assembly witnessed a heated face-off between BJP and ruling National Conference (NC) members over commemorating the birth anniversary of the Maharaja and J&K's first elected leader, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. After the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the Centre withdrew the public holiday on Sheikh Abdullah's birth anniversary and declared Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary a public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir. Soon after the House convened, NC legislator Abdul Majid Larmi raised the issue and demanded that the holiday on Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary be withdrawn if the holiday on Sheikh Abdullah's birth anniversary was not restored. The demand triggered uproar in the Assembly, with the BJP members raising slogans like "Maharaja Amar Rahay" in support of Maharaja Hari Singh and accusing the NC of insulting his legacy. NC legislators responded with slo-

gans like "Sher-i-Kashmir Zindabad" in support of Sheikh Abdullah, describing him as a symbol of democracy who fought against autocratic rule and secured political and democratic rights for the people. Members of the PDP also joined, demanding restoration of public holiday on July 13, observed as Martyrs' Day in the erstwhile state. Besides withdrawing the holiday on Sheikh Abdullah's birth anniversary, observed on December 5, the Centre also discontinued the public holiday on July 13 Martyrs' Day. September 23, Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary, is now observed as

a public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir. Amid the uproar, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather attempted to calm both sides, but shouting continued. The speaker said the power to declare or withdraw public holidays did not fall within his jurisdiction. Traditionally, July 13 was observed as a public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir, with official functions held at the Martyrs' Graveyard to pay tribute to the 22 people killed during the 1931 uprising against the Dogra monarchy under British rule. However, after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into

two Union Territories in 2019, July 13 was removed from the list of public holidays. Official commemorations and ceremonial police tributes were also discontinued. The 1931 killings and the unrest that followed led to the appointment of two separate commissions to examine the grievances of the Muslim community in Kashmir and eventually resulted in limited political reforms. The first Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held in 1934, marking the beginning of the electoral process in the region, although the Maharaja continued to retain sweeping powers on key matters.

'Why Was Delhi Realtor Cremated Without Identification?' Supreme Court Raps Cops



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Delhi Police commissioner and the Gurugram police to file affidavits explaining why the body of missing Delhi realtor Yuvraj Singh Manchanda was cremated despite lack of identification. Manchanda's body was found dumped in a Gurugram drain by Haryana Police on September 10, but the family was informed only on September 16. His family has alleged that they were not informed about the recovery of the body and that the unidentified body was cremated on September 14. Police have arrested Anya Vats and her husband Sanyam Sachdeva as accused in the case and the matter is currently under investigation. A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R Mahadevan also asked the Gurugram police to explain why details concerning the

recovery of the body were not uploaded on the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) portal. During the hearing, senior advocate Mukta Gupta, who is chairperson of the committee constituted in relation to human trafficking, informed the top court that pursuant to the observations made by it, she has taken instructions regarding an incident in which a person from Delhi had gone missing. "Three days later, he was identified as the person whose body had been found in Gurugram and cremated by the authorities due to lack of identification," she said. The top court has listed the matter for hearing on October 5. The top court had earlier clarified that its order directing states and Union territories to immediately register FIRs in cases of missing persons applies to every person, irrespective

of age or gender. Noting that 47,000 children remain untraced in India as on date, the top court on May 22 had directed police authorities across the country to immediately register FIRs in cases of missing persons and said the anti-human trafficking units should be made fully functional within four weeks. Issuing a slew of directions, it had expressed displeasure over the rise in the number of cases of missing children and said they are often victims of organised inter-state trafficking syndicates. "The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is directed to put in place an all-India grid connecting each and every police station in the country on one platform, which will have a special portal dedicated to human trafficking, including missing children and women. "The concerned police stations are directed to immediately institute FIR

the moment any information reaches them with regard to any person missing, without waiting for a preliminary inquiry or leaving it to the guardians of the missing persons... The said FIR shall mandatorily incorporate the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, relating to kidnapping/trafficking," the bench had said. The court had said whenever a child goes missing, authorities should proceed on the presumption of kidnapping or abduction from the outset. It had said registering such cases under the penal provisions for kidnapping would ensure seriousness in investigation and avoid delays.

The top court had also directed that the children who are traced should ordinarily be handed over to their families within 24 hours, unless there are indications that the family itself was involved in trafficking or exploitation. "The moment any person is recovered or rescued, he/she should be taken for Aadhaar verification or for the making of an Aadhaar card. This direction is issued in view of the fact that, for the purpose of procuring an Aadhaar card, fingerprints and other biometrics are taken," the bench said. The directions were passed on a petition filed by a man named G Ganesh before the Madras High Court after his daughter went missing from Chennai on September 19, 2011.

World Rhino Day 2026: Assam's Zero-Poaching Success Highlighted By Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma



World Rhino Day 2026: Dedicated to celebrating and raising awareness about one of the most majestic animals in the wild, World Rhino Day is celebrated on September 22 every year. The day serves as a reminder about the critical threats rhinos face, including poaching and habitat loss, while recognising the efforts of individuals and organizations dedicated to protecting these majestic animals. Rhinos play a key role in landscaping as they naturally manage the grasslands, ensuring that these ecosystems are well-balanced for other

species to thrive. However, rhinos are in danger. The horn of the rhino is wrongly believed by some to have medicinal properties, and this has led to rampant poaching. The official theme for World Rhino Day 2026 is 'Keep the Five Alive', with an associated focus on "building a future for rhinos" to raise awareness of the protection and survival of all five remaining rhinoceros species worldwide.

Assam Makes History With Assam home to 80 per cent of the world's one-horned rhinoceros population, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on

Tuesday (Sep 22) highlighted that zero poaching cases were registered in the last year. "This World Rhino Day, we let the numbers do the talking!" wrote Sarma on X (formerly Twitter). Assam's Environment and Forest Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah said that the government is committed to protecting the rhinoceros, one of the state's most cherished symbols of natural heritage. "The Greater One-Horned Rhino is our pride and a treasured part of Assam's rich biodiversity. Under the leadership of Hon'ble CM Dr

@himantabiswa dangoriya, the Assam Government has continued to strengthen rhino protection, habitat conservation and anti-poaching efforts," said Mallabaruah. This World Rhino Day, we let the numbers do the talking! [pic.twitter.com/HTXkDO7xiM](https://twitter.com/HTXkDO7xiM) This is a story that echoes far beyond the realm of mere conservation. Under Hon'ble CM @himantabiswa's leadership, every rhino protected is a profound testament to Assam reclaiming and safeguarding an insignia of our identity and pride.

World Rhino Day: History

World Rhino Day was first announced by WWF-South Africa in 2010. It was activist Lisa Jane Campbell from Zimbabwe and founder of Annamitici and Janice Brown who highlighted the plight of the rhino, which were in danger due to severe poaching at that time. There were only 30,000 rhinos alive at that time on the entire planet and hence WWF - South Africa announced World Rhino Day to create awareness about the crisis.

Man Arrested For Showing Obscene Videos To 10-Year-Old Girl In Karnataka



Old Hubballi, Karnataka: A 38-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly showing obscene content on his mobile phone to a 10-year-

old girl in Old Hubballi, Karnataka, officials said. The incident came to light after the girl informed her parents about the man's behaviour. The parents

subsequently approached the police and lodged a complaint at the Old Hubballi Police Station. According to police, the accused, identified as Mazhid Nadaf, a daily-wage labourer from Old Hubballi, had allegedly befriended the girl over the past few weeks. The girl would pass by his house while walking to school, during which he reportedly spoke to her regularly, gave her small amounts of money and asked her to purchase

items for him. Police allege that Nadaf, who is married, later attempted to behave inappropriately with the child and showed her obscene videos on his mobile phone with wrongful intentions. Following the complaint, police took the accused into custody and launched an investigation. Officials are also examining his background and gathering further information as part of the probe.

Rajasthan Doctor, Wife, 2 Children Killed As Truck Crashes Into Car On Highway

Kota: A government hospital doctor, his physician wife and their two young children were killed when a speeding truck crashed head-on with their car on the Kawai-Atru highway in Rajasthan's Baran district on Tuesday, police said. The victims were identified as Dr Suresh Gajraj (38), principal medical officer (PMO) at Mandal in Bhiwara district, his wife Dr Shalini Maurya (35), their 12-year-old son

Swapnil and daughter Nilisha (7). Originally from Surajgarh in Jhunjhunu district, the family was residing in Jaipur and was on its way to Chhabra when the accident occurred around 11 am under the Kawai police station area, Circle Inspector Rajpal Singh said. The collision reduced the car to a mangled heap of metal, killing all four family members on the spot, the officer said. The truck

driver fled the scene immediately after the crash, leaving the damaged vehicle behind. Locals rushed to the spot and informed the police, while also attempting to rescue the occupants trapped inside the crushed car, Singh said. A police team from Kawai police station reached the spot and cleared the wreckage. The bodies were removed from the vehicle and shifted to the mortuary at Atru Sub-District Hospital,

where doctors formally declared all four dead, he said. The bereaved family members were informed about the tragedy, and the post-mortem examination will be conducted after their arrival, the officer said.

Police have launched an investigation into the circumstances leading to the accident and a manhunt is underway to trace and apprehend the absconding truck driver, he added.

Xi Jinping Rolls Into Trump Summit With China's Trade Engine Roaring



Washington:In the four months since the leaders of the two global superpowers last met, Xi Jinping has overseen a surge in China's trade with the world while Donald Trump has struggled with falling approval ratings at home. That shift in fortunes has tempered expectations for their summit in Washington this week, analysts say, with Xi in no rush to make concessions and Trump constrained by a costly war with Iran that has hurt both his popularity and Americans' wallets. While thorny issues like Taiwan may surface, the main focus of the September 24 meeting is whether the leaders will signal an extension to a trade truce struck last year that averted a major shock to the global economy. "Xi is not really looking for anything tangible. He wants to extend the gentleman's agreement with Trump so that China has time to fortify itself," said Jon Czin, a foreign policy expert at the

Brookings Institution who formerly served as China director at the US National Security Council.

'Living In Xi's World'

White House officials have sought to downplay the potential for major breakthroughs. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng helmed preparatory talks in New York on Sunday aimed at teeing up some potential agreements on AI guardrails and trade in non-sensitive products. That is a far cry from Trump's vow when he returned to office in 2025 to use tariffs to address a trade imbalance with China that was "killing" the United States. But since agreeing the truce with Xi in October of that year, his attention has been divided among myriad other foreign policy battles, from the wars in Iran and Ukraine to disputes with Europe over free speech. China has faced its own challenges, such as slowing domestic demand

and a protracted property crisis, but the export juggernaut that Trump sought to tame has kept roaring in what economists are increasingly referring to as China Shock 2.0. China's global trade surplus is on pace to top \$1 trillion for a second straight year. While US efforts to curb the cheap parcels that online retailers such as Shein and Temu rely on have worked, more than half of the roughly 6,500 product categories China sold to the US so far this year have grown compared to 2025. A delegation of Chinese business leaders, potentially including some firms facing US regulatory scrutiny as they seek greater market access, is set to accompany Xi to Washington. The Trump administration "thought they could use massive unilateral pressure to force China to make concessions, and that did not occur," said Scott Kennedy, an expert on the US-China economic relationship at Washington-

based think tank CSIS. "Now this is Xi Jinping's world, and we're all living in it."

Taiwan And Trade Wins

If Xi is in the driver's seat as analysts suggest, that will further unnerve US allies in Asia who expect the Chinese leader to push Trump to soften Washington's support for Taiwan, the democratically governed island claimed by Beijing. Xi repeatedly asked him about Taiwan when they met in Beijing in May, including about arms sales and Washington's resolve to defend the island, Trump told reporters. The US president described a pending \$14 billion arms package for Taiwan as a "negotiating chip" with Beijing. Some officials in Taipei and Tokyo worry he may be tempted to cash in that chip for political wins ahead of November's midterm elections, which could prove challenging for his Republican Party. That could include Chinese purchases of Boeing jets or farm goods, or commitments to curb the flow of fentanyl precursor chemicals that have fuelled the US opioid crisis. "China-US ties have become more transactional," said Wu Xinbo, a professor at Shanghai's Fudan University who advises China's foreign ministry. While Washington may want to prioritise trade talks, for Beijing, the US approach to Taiwan could be key, he said. "If you accommodate our concern on the Taiwan issue, then we would be

willing to accommodate your concerns on other issues, be it law enforcement or on purchases of US agricultural products," Wu said.

Putting Pressure On Iran

Washington also sees Xi as uniquely able to exert pressure on Iran to bring an end to the war that has dragged Trump's approval rating to the lowest of his political career. However, Xi has shown little inclination to do so. Reuters earlier this month reported that Beijing is selling billions of dollars' worth of goods to Iran through a sanctions-evasion scheme. China's foreign ministry says it is not aware of such a scheme. US threats last month of secondary sanctions on countries doing business with Iran -- which Bessent called an "Economic D-Day" -- appear not to have yet been wielded against Tehran's largest trading partner. That is more evidence, analysts say, that Trump is eager to keep relations with Xi steady as he focuses his energies elsewhere -- an arrangement that also suits the Chinese leader. "Both Xi and Trump feel it's quite helpful to have stability in the relationship so that they can focus on more pressing things," said Ruby Osman, senior geopolitical researcher at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change. "For Trump, that is Iran. For Xi, that is building out China's domestic resilience for whatever comes after Trump."

Pakistan Taliban Rejects Islamabad's Afghan Territory Claim, India Links



Islamabad:Terror group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has rejected allegations by Islamabad that the militant group uses Afghan territory to launch attacks against Pakistani security forces, claiming that the organisation's military and administrative structures are based inside Pakistani territory. In a recent interview in Pashto, Mufti Ghafran, a senior member of TTP's leadership, said Pakistan's government and military have failed to provide "concrete evidence" that TTP fighters were crossing from Afghanistan to conduct attacks. He claimed the group maintains organisational structures across at least 39 districts of Pakistan, with only a limited number located close to the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

'Areas Of Ops Deep In Pak'

Ghafran argued that many areas where TTP claims to operate -- including parts of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - are hundreds of kilometres from the border. Referring to recent fighting in Hangu, he claimed that TTP operations had inflicted casualties on Pakistani soldiers and asserted that the area was not adjacent to Afghanistan. He also questioned how fighters could routinely cross the heavily fortified border, saying Pakistan had installed fencing, surveillance posts, alarms, lighting systems, and landmines along sections of the frontier. Islamabad has repeatedly accused TTP of maintaining sanctuaries in

Afghanistan and using them to plan or support attacks inside Pakistan.

'No Link To India'

Ghafran further denied allegations that India supports TTP, describing such accusations as part of a longstanding Pakistani narrative against its opponents. He insisted that the group's campaign was independently financed and organised. Asked why TTP activity has historically been concentrated in Pashtun-majority areas rather than Punjab, Ghafran said the organisation's operations had already extended to parts of Punjab, Sindh, Karachi, and Balochistan. He said TTP could expand its activities further if Pakistani military operations intensified. On attacks against economic infrastructure, Ghafran said TTP had so far refrained from systematically targeting gas pipelines and other economic institutions because of what he described as its interpretation of Sharia. However, he suggested that attacks on such targets could be considered in the future if the group concluded that Pakistan was using revenues from natural resources against it.

'Refugees Killed In Pak Strikes'

Ghafran also addressed the possibility of negotiations with Islamabad, accusing Pakistan of repeatedly abandoning talks when they no longer served its interests. He said TTP remained open to what he termed meaningful negotiations conducted according to Islamic principles. Re-

garding Pakistani claims that military strikes in Afghanistan target TTP members, Ghafran denied that members of the organisation had been killed in such strikes. He claimed victims included Afghan-based Pashtun refugees who had fled Pakistan during earlier military operations.

NDTV could not independently verify these claims.

'A Resistance'

On the disputed Durand Line, Ghafran said neither the Pashtun nor Baloch populations had accepted the frontier, describing it as an imposed arrangement. He also accused Pakistan's intelligence services of involvement in targeted killings—an allegation he offered without publicly presented evidence. Ghafran portrayed TTP's armed campaign as resistance against the Pakistani military and said the group would continue fighting. He rejected accusations that TTP members were motivated primarily by financial incentives, while repeating allegations concerning Pakistan's past cooperation with the United States. His remarks come amid continued tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan over cross-border militancy, with Islamabad repeatedly demanding action against TTP elements it says are operating from Afghan soil. Kabul has denied allowing Afghan territory to be used against Pakistan, while the security situation along the border remains a major source of friction between the two countries.

ICE Agent Shoots And Wounds Venezuelan Immigrant In Texas, US Officials Say

Washington:AUS Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer shot and wounded a man Sunday afternoon in Austin, Texas, local authorities said, and anti-ICE protesters quickly gathered at the scene. The man was in serious but stable condition at a hospital after being shot once in the torso on the capital city's north side, Austin officials said at a news conference. The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, did not participate in the news conference and didn't respond to repeated requests for details. City police officers were not involved in the operation or the shooting, which occurred after a traffic stop, Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis said while briefing reporters along with the city's mayor and other officials. Mayor Kirk Watson, a Democrat, said he wants the city's police department to have a role in the investigation so it can provide "clear, third-party eyes" in the process. Watson said he does not think it would be appropriate for ICE to conduct an investigation on its own. Austin residents have "a right to feel safe in their city," Watson said. A proper investigation will only enhance credibility, he added. The chief said there

were not many facts she could provide so soon after the incident but added that her department's special investigation unit was at the scene. An immigration attorney representing the man's family identified him as Wilber Rafael Garces Perez, a 28-year-old Venezuelan man. Attorney Kate Lincoln Goldfinch said in a video posted to her Instagram account that she believed he had no criminal history and no final order of removal from the U.S., but she later told The Associated Press that she did not know his current immigration status. The man's family has struggled to get any information from the hospital about his status or location, Lincoln-Goldfinch said. Just before 7 p.m., the man's wife was informed by the hospital's attorney that the man had been released into ICE custody a few hours earlier, Lincoln-Goldfinch wrote in a text to AP. "No one bothered to update her," she wrote. It wasn't immediately clear if the man remained hospitalized while in ICE custody or if he had been transferred elsewhere. A dark blue Toyota Corolla was parked under an overpass with damage to its passenger-side door and what appeared to be bullet holes. The car was towed away in



the early evening, and traffic began moving again. A large law enforcement presence was present along with a crowd of about a hundred protesters. Some demonstrators cursed at police officers holding riot shields, while others yelled out as passing cars honked in support of the protest. One man held a sign saying, "Nobody is safe" and, on the other side, "ICE Nazi." Asked if Austin authorities knew where the shooting is investigated, the mayor said: "We do not know that. But my hope would be that, an agent that's involved in an officer-involved shooting would not leave the city. Certainly not leave the state." The

office of Travis County District Attorney José Pompa Garza asked that local police and prosecutors be included in the investigation. "We further request cooperation from the federal government in giving us access to the evidence," the DA's office said in a statement Sunday evening. US Rep. Greg Casar, a Democrat representing parts of Austin, called for transparency as the shooting is investigated. "It is awful that this horror has come to our doorstep," Casar told reporters. "For Austin to be safe, ICE should end its surge here." The shooting comes as ICE surges enforcement across the country this summer, producing more than 50,000 arrests a month for the first

time in its history in July and August. In July, an ICE officer fatally shot 52-year-old Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, of Houston, after federal agents driving unmarked vehicles pursued him while he was taking his construction crew to a job site. Also in July, 25-year-old Johan Sebastián, a Colombian man, was shot by an ICE officer in Maine. The officer is an Army veteran who has struggled with serious mental health issues since early childhood and never should have been given a badge and gun to patrol American streets, several of his close relatives told AP. The administration's enforcement efforts were widely condemned last winter after the killings of Alex Pretti and Renee Good in Minnesota.

Converse Pulls Sneaker Ad That Critics Said Had Racist Ku Klux Klan Imagery

Washington:The sneaker company Converse has removed a social media ad that sparked outrage among critics who viewed it as evoking the Ku Klux Klan and lynching. The Instagram ad photo showed K-pop singer Karina wearing a skirt and holding a pair of Chuck 70 X sneakers. Critics lashed out online, saying that a white triangular image created by lighting on the skirt

resembled a KKK hood and that the way she held the sneakers made them look like the dangling feet of a lynching victim. Converse, owned by Nike, issued a statement apologizing and saying it removed the ad. "We're sorry," said the statement, first released on Friday. "We understand why this image is deeply upsetting and recognize that we got this wrong. We removed it from our chan-

nels and are working to remove it everywhere it appeared. This should not have happened and we will do better." Converse, based in Boston, declined on Sunday to answer questions seeking additional information, including how the company screens ads before they are posted and how the ad was approved. Karina and her management company, SM Entertainment Group, did not imme-

diately respond to messages through their Instagram accounts. Retailers and top fashion brands have issued a string of apologies over the years for products criticized as being racially insensitive. Last month, retailer Target pulled a children's Halloween costume from its shelves after widespread social media backlash, apologizing for selling a garment that critics said evoked racist min-

strel caricatures. The Converse photo sparked swift criticism, including calls for staff involved in the ad to be fired and for a boycott of the company. In a slew of comments on social media, posters questioned how the ad could have cleared the company's advertising vetting process. Other commenters defended Converse, saying they didn't believe it was intentional.

Imran Khan's 3 Sisters Arrested In Pakistan Before PTI's Mega Protest



Islamabad:Authorities in Pakistan have arrested former prime minister Imran Khan's three sisters, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has alleged. Aleema Khan, Dr Uzma Khan, and Noreen Khan, who have been calling for Khan's release, have been sent to Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore, the party said. "Punjab police have raided Aleem Khan's home and have abducted Imran Khan's other two sisters, his nephews, and their children," PTI spokesperson Zulfi Bukhari said on his social media platform X. PTI's information secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram told AFP that 73-year-old Khan's sisters and their children were taken into custody, but the children

were released. "All three sisters have been sent to Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore," he added. The law enforcement agencies arrested Khan's sisters in Lahore, the capital city of Punjab province. While Aleena Khan was taken into custody on Sunday, Dr Uzma Khan and Noreen Khan were arrested on Monday. The arrests came after Lahore's deputy commissioner Muhammad Ali Ijaz passed two separate orders for the three sisters' 30-day detention under the Maintenance of Public Order law of Punjab province.

The Protest Call

So far, Pakistani authorities have not released any statement on the matter, but arrests

followed PTI's call for a mega protest on September 27, seeking his release from jail. Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has termed PTI's protest call illegal. He said, "We will not allow them to block roads and disrupt people's lives." The cricketer-turned-politician has been in jail since 2023 and was sentenced late last year, along with his wife, to 17 years in jail on corruption charges they both deny. Khan, who was also a former Pakistan cricket captain, was prime minister from 2018 to 2022 before being removed in a no-confidence vote during a political crisis over tensions between his government and Pakistan's powerful military establishment.

Critical minerals recycling concerns to be taken up through inter-ministerial meetings: G Kishan Reddy



New Delhi: Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy said the Centre will hold separate meetings with different ministries to address industry concerns linked to critical minerals and recycling. Speaking on the sidelines of the National Seminar on Indian Critical Minerals Recycling Ecosystem and Circular Economy, Reddy said several of the issues raised by industry involve more than one department. He added that the government will therefore follow a coordinated, inter-ministerial approach to examine the concerns and work towards resolving them. "For the first time, a meeting was called to listen to their grievances," Reddy said. "And various well-established organizations attended today in large numbers. They explained their issues. This doesn't pertain to just the Ministry of Mines alone."

"Through a whole-of-government approach, we heard issues involving multiple ministries," he said. "I have held discussions with them. The Commerce Ministry, Finance Ministry, Environment Ministry, Ministry of Electronics, and our own ministry are involved. We will hold separate meetings for different issues to work toward resolving them." On the Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate (PSIC) issue, Reddy said the matter would be taken up through a separate inter-ministerial meeting rather than being limited to informal discussions. He said the next round of talks would involve the Finance Ministry, Commerce Ministry, and Ministry of Mines and Industry representatives so that specific concerns can be examined and responsibilities can be clearly assigned. Reddy said seminars are useful for raising issues, but actual solutions

require all concerned ministries and stakeholders to sit together and decide what needs to be done. He added that the government would work out the next steps in the coming days. On rising freight costs and global disruptions, Reddy said geopolitical tensions are affecting several sectors, not just minerals. He said the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of External Affairs are also examining these issues through a whole-of-government approach and engaging through diplomatic channels where required.

Referring to reforms under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, Reddy said discussions are underway with state governments. He added that he has personally spoken with ministers and Chief Ministers and that the Centre is collecting their inputs before moving

ahead with implementation. During the seminar, Reddy also stressed the importance of building a stronger critical-minerals recycling ecosystem. He highlighted the role of new technologies, entrepreneurship, e-waste management and environmental sustainability. He also called for wider public participation, urging people to view e-waste and end-of-life products as potential sources of valuable minerals. Companies, researchers and other stakeholders were encouraged to share ideas and proposals for creating a technology-driven recycling framework.

Sitharaman calls India-Canada ties 'wonderful'

Last month, Sitharaman said the relationship between India and Canada had entered a positive phase following renewed engagement between the two countries. Sitharaman identified food security, energy security and critical minerals as key areas where India and Canada could deepen cooperation. She said stronger ties in these areas could help both countries deal with disruptions in global supply chains and reduce concentration risks in the sourcing of important commodities. The Finance Minister also said cooperation in these sectors could support people's purchasing power and strengthen the ability of both economies to respond to supply-chain disruptions.

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India climbs to 8th globally in medicine safety reporting to WHO: Anupriya Patel

New Delhi: Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilisers Anupriya Patel on Monday (September 21) launched the 7th edition of the National Formulary of India (NFI), a guidance document for hospitals on monitoring and reporting adverse events linked to medical devices, and the ADR-PvPI 2.0 mobile app for iOS users. The launches took place at the 6th National Pharmacovigilance Week programme organised by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

According to the official release, the 7th Edition of the NFI has also been made available digitally through NFI Online. The 6th National Pharmacovigilance Week, being observed from 17-23 September, carries the theme "Promoting Rational Use of Medicines through Pharma Covigilance: A Step Towards Safer Healthcare." The programme brought together senior government officials, regulators, healthcare professionals, academicians, researchers and other stakeholders working to strengthen medicine safety and patient care.

Patel said the safe and proper use of medicines is an important part of public health and stressed the need for continuous monitoring. She said patients should receive the right medicine, of assured quality, and use it in the safest possible way.



India's progress in pharmacovigilance

She also highlighted India's progress in pharmacovigilance, saying the country has developed a strong domestic system to collect, process and analyse medicine-safety data from across India.

According to Patel, this has helped India build its own scientific evidence on the safe and effective use of medicines and has strengthened the country's healthcare capabilities.

India moves to 8th position from 23rd

She added that India's contribution to the WHO patient safety database has improved significantly, with the country moving from 123rd position during 2009-2014 to 8th globally. The Minister highlighted the role of the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI), coordinated by the National Coordination Centre at IPC, in systematically collecting, assessing and analysing adverse drug reaction information. She also acknowledged the contribution of the Materiovigilance Programme of India (MvPI) in monitoring adverse events associated with medical

devices. In a significant expansion of India's patient-safety framework, Patel announced that the Biovigilance Programme of India has been approved by the Government of India.

Referring to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, Patel said patient safety must remain a key national priority. She called for India to build on its position as the "pharmacy of the world" and aspire to become a global leader in pharmacovigilance sciences and patient safety. V Kalaiselvan, Secretary-cum-Scientific Director, Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, highlighted the role of the National Formulary of India in promoting rational use of medicines and safer prescribing practices. He also outlined IPC's efforts to expand NFI adoption nationwide and strengthen digitally enabled pharmacovigilance covering medicines, medical devices, blood and blood products and other medical products. Yvan JF Hutin, WHO Representative to India, underscored the importance of sustained collaboration among national and international stake-

holders for strengthening medicine-safety and pharmacovigilance systems. Dr YK Gupta, President, AIIMS Kalyani; VM Katoch, former Director General, ICMR and Secretary, DHR; Senior officers from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission; and other stakeholders were also present. The National Formulary of India, published periodically by IPC since 2009, is a guidance document for healthcare professionals aimed at promoting the rational and safe use of medicines. The NFI 2026 comprises 34 chapters, 20 appendices and 653 drugs, including 42 fixed-dose combinations and 30 immunologicals. Drug monographs have been revised to align with the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) and National Health Programmes. In addition to the print edition, the NFI is available digitally and provides access to important links relating to National Health Programmes, immunisation schedules, Jan Aushadhi, safe disposal of unused or expired pharmaceutical products, and other authoritative regulatory resources.

FD rates in September 2026: SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, PNB, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda compared; check latest interest rates



New Delhi: FD interest rates in September 2026 vary across banks and deposit tenures. SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, PNB, Axis Bank and Bank of Baroda are offering rates in the 6 per cent range, while some private and small finance banks are offering rates of 7 per cent and above. The rates, sourced from the respective bank websites, are as of September 16, 2026. The applicable interest rate depends on the FD tenure, so depositors should check the rate for their chosen period before booking.

State Bank of India
State Bank of India offers a maximum FD interest rate of 6.45 per cent. The highest rate is available on its 444-day Amrit Vrishti deposit. SBI offers 6.25 per cent for one year, 6.30 per cent for three years and 6.05 per cent for five years.

HDFC Bank
HDFC Bank offers a maximum FD interest rate of 6.50 per cent. The highest rate applies to deposits with a tenure of three years and one day to less than four years and seven months. The one-year rate is 6.25 per cent, while the three-year rate is 6.45 per cent.

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank offers up to 6.50 per cent interest on FDs. The highest rate is available on deposits with a tenure of three years and one day to 10 years. The one-year rate is 6.25 per cent, while the three-year and five-year rates are 6.45 per cent and 6.50 per cent, respectively.

Punjab National Bank
Punjab National Bank offers a maximum FD interest rate of 6.60 per cent on a 444-day deposit. Its one-year rate is 6.25 per cent, while the three-year rate is 6.30 per cent and the five-year rate is 6 per cent.

Axis Bank
Axis Bank offers a maximum FD interest rate of 6.50

per cent. The rate applies to deposits with tenures ranging from 18 months to 10 years. Its one-year, three-year and five-year rates are all 6.50 per cent.

Bank of Baroda
Bank of Baroda offers up to 6.75 per cent interest on its 555-day BoB Golden Goal Deposit Scheme. Its one-year rate is 6.25 per cent, while the three-year and five-year rates are 6.25 per cent and 6.30 per cent, respectively.

Bank of India
Bank of India offers a maximum FD interest rate of 6.85 per cent on its 999-day deposit. The bank offers 6.50 per cent for one year and 6.70 per cent for three years, while the five-year rate is 6 per cent.

Bandhan Bank
Bandhan Bank offers a maximum FD interest rate of 7.45 per cent on deposits with a tenure of two years to less than three years. Its one-year rate is 7 per cent, while the three-year rate is 7.25 per cent.

DCB Bank
DCB Bank offers up to 7.50 per cent interest on select tenures, including 24 months to less than 25 months, 34 months to less than 35 months, and 60 months to 61 months. Its one-year rate is 6.90 per cent, while the three-year and five-year rates are 7 per cent and 7.50 per cent, respectively.

Equitas Small Finance Bank
Equitas Small Finance Bank offers a maximum FD interest rate of 8 per cent on its three-year-and-one-day Maxima FD.

ESAF Small Finance Bank
ESAF Small Finance Bank offers up to 8 per cent on an 800-day FD. Its one-year and three-year rates are 6 per cent, while the five-year rate is 5.75 per cent.

Suryoday Small Finance Bank

Suryoday Small Finance Bank offers a maximum FD interest rate of 8.25 per cent on a five-year deposit. Its one-year and three-year rates are 7.25 per cent.

How FD rates compare
Among the major banks covered, Bank of India offers up to 6.85 per cent, while Bank of Baroda offers up to 6.75 per cent. SBI's maximum rate is 6.45 per cent, while HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank offer up to 6.50 per cent. Among the private banks covered, DCB Bank offers up to 7.50 per cent, while Bandhan Bank offers up to 7.45 per cent. Small finance banks offer higher peak rates in the supplied data. Equitas and ESAF Small Finance Bank offer up to 8 per cent, while Suryoday Small Finance Bank offers up to 8.25 per cent on the specified tenure.

Check the FD tenure before booking

The highest FD rate does not apply across all tenures. For example, Suryoday Small Finance Bank's 8.25 per cent rate is available for five years, while its one-year and three-year rates are 7.25 per cent. Similarly, Bank of India offers 6.85 per cent on a 999-day deposit, compared with 6.70 per cent for three years and 6 per cent for five years. Depositors should therefore compare the rate applicable to their preferred tenure rather than looking only at a bank's highest advertised rate.

Check premature withdrawal rules

Before booking an FD, depositors should also check premature withdrawal rules, applicable penalties, taxation and other terms. The conditions can vary depending on the bank and deposit product. Disclaimer: This is not investment advice. Do your own due diligence or consult an expert for financial planning.

Cement, electricity drive 4.8% growth in India's core industries in August

New Delhi: India's core industries expanded 4.8 per cent year-on-year in August 2026, supported mainly by strong growth in cement and electricity output, provisional data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed on Monday, September 21. The growth rate was slightly below the 5 per cent recorded in July 2026, according to the Provisional Index of Core Industries data for August.

"The Index of Core Industries (ICI) grew by 4.8 per cent in August 2026 (Provisional Estimate) on a year-on-year basis, compared with August 2025. This is slightly less than the growth rate of 5.0 per cent recorded in July 2026 (Final Index)," the Commerce Ministry said in its release.

Cement posts strongest YoY growth

Cement posted the strongest year-on-year growth among the core sectors in August, rising 12.5 per cent. Electricity followed with an 11.6 per cent increase. Iron ore output grew 5.5 per cent, while steel

production rose 3.4 per cent and refinery products increased 2.6 per cent during the month.

On the other hand, coal, natural gas, crude oil and fertilisers recorded negative growth in August. The government said cement, electricity and iron ore have been among the main contributors to core sector growth in recent months.

The overall performance of the core industries also improved during the first five months of the current financial year, indicating stronger cumulative growth compared with the same period last year. "Cumulative growth rate of ICI during April-August 2026 was 4.3 per cent (Provisional Estimate) compared to 2.4 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year," the ministry said. The August figures are provisional, while the Index of Core Industries for July 2026 has been finalised, according to the Commerce Ministry release. Last week, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said,

India's 7.8 per cent economic growth in the first quarter of the current financial year was driven by the efforts of the country's industry, MSMEs and people. She also pointed to policy certainty as an important factor supporting the economy amid global challenges. Speaking after addressing the International Tax Research and Analysis Foundation's 8th International Tax Conference in Bengaluru, Sitharaman said the strong growth number was not accidental and reflected the contribution of businesses and citizens across the country. "7.8% Q1 growth is not a random number. I don't take the credit for my side or the government's side; I give the entire credit to the people of India—the hardworking industry, small MSMEs, and everyone else. It is their sheer dint of hard work that is working out," Sitharaman said. She added that government policies provide the framework within which businesses and the wider economy operate.

Samsung One UI 9 rollout: Android 17 update reaches Galaxy S26, check new AI features and eligible phones



New Delhi: Samsung One UI 9 update: Samsung has started rolling out One UI 9 based on Android 17, bringing new Galaxy AI features, improved privacy tools and other upgrades to supported Galaxy smartphones and tablets.

Samsung has started the official rollout of One UI 9, its latest software update based on Android 17. The rollout began with the Galaxy S26, Galaxy S26+ and Galaxy S26 Ultra and is now expanding to more Galaxy devices in phases. Availability can vary depending on the market, device and carrier.

One UI 9 focuses on Galaxy AI, personalisation, camera features, translation, device care, privacy and security. Samsung has also introduced new tools designed to make everyday tasks easier across supported Galaxy devices.

Which Samsung phones are getting One UI 9?

Samsung has confirmed that One UI 9 will expand to additional Galaxy smartphones and tablets following its initial rollout on the Galaxy S26 series. The company has not published one complete worldwide release schedule for every eligible device.

The update is also available on the Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra, Galaxy Z Fold8 and Galaxy Z Flip8, which debuted with One UI 9. The Galaxy S26 FE launched in India with One UI 9 pre-installed.

Samsung's Thailand newsroom has provided a regional rollout schedule for some older models. According to the schedule, the Galaxy S25 series and Galaxy Z7 series are due to receive One UI 9 from September 28, while the Galaxy S23 FE is scheduled to receive the update by October. These dates apply to Thailand and should not be treated as fixed worldwide release dates.

My FanCam gets AI-powered video tracking

One of the key new features in One UI 9 is My FanCam, which uses AI to track a selected person in a recorded video.

The feature automatically keeps the selected person centred and intelligently reframes the footage as the scene changes. This can be useful when recording performances, sporting events and other situations where the subject moves around the frame.

Now Brief and Now Nudge get new AI features

Samsung is also adding new AI capabilities to Now Brief and Now Nudge.

Now Brief gets new generative and editable cards, allowing users to customise the information shown in their daily summaries. The cards can provide information based on users' needs and preferences. Now Nudge provides contextual suggestions while users interact with supported apps. For example, it can help users save reservation details or locations shared in conversations without requiring them to leave the current screen.

DISHA 2.0 Regional Workshop Held in Goa



New Delhi, Sept., 22 (PIB): The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, organised a Regional Workshop under the DISHA 2.0 Scheme on 21 September 2026 in India International University of Legal Education and Research (IULER) Goa. The workshop brought together key stakeholders associated with access to justice, legal awareness, legal aid and technology-enabled legal services, with a focus on strengthening citizen-centric justice delivery and enhancing awareness of legal rights and remedies. The Regional Workshop highlighted the initiatives being undertaken by the Department of Justice under DISHA 2.0 Scheme, includ-

ing the use of technology and community-based mechanisms to facilitate access to legal information, advice and assistance. The programme also provided a platform for interaction among beneficiaries, Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), and Panel Lawyers, showcasing their experiences and role in taking legal services closer to citizens. The programme was graced by the Governor of Goa, Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju as the Chief Guest, along with Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice, Government of India Arjun Ram Meghwal, and Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao, Vice-Chancellor, India International University of Legal

Education and Research, Goa. The event brought together officials from the Central Government and Government of Goa, representatives of Common Service Centres (CSCs), law institutions of Goa State and other stakeholders working towards ensuring accessible and inclusive justice delivery. In his welcome address, Shri Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice welcomed the dignitaries and participants. He highlighted the Department of Justice's commitment to strengthening access to justice through DISHA 2.0 Scheme, with its focus on Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu, Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme, and VIDHI-

Sanjeevani. He also highlighted the "Nyaya Prabodh" initiatives, including "Know Your Rights in 90 Seconds" and the Slogan Competition, along with the documentary and interactions showcasing the implementation of DISHA 2.0 Scheme in Goa. He appreciated the pro bono legal work undertaken by law colleges under Nyaya Bandhu and emphasized that legal awareness, technology-enabled justice delivery and community participation are central to ensuring inclusive and citizen-centric access to justice. A major highlight of the workshop was the showcase of the best five reels received and shortlisted under the "Know Your Rights in 90 Seconds" campaign, being undertaken as part of "Nyaya Prabodh – Awakening to Justice". The event also marked the launch of a Slogan Competition under the Nyaya Prabodh campaign, with the aim to deepen citizens' understanding of their constitutional and legal rights, promote legal literacy, and foster greater public engagement and participation in the Justice delivery ecosystem. Participants are invited to submit their slogans till 31st December 2026 on Department of Justice's website <https://www.doj.gov.in>.

A documentary highlighting the implementation and outreach of DISHA Scheme in Goa was screened during the programme. The programme was followed by a live interaction with beneficiaries of the Scheme, VLEs, and Panel Lawyers, providing an opportunity to share experiences relating to the delivery of legal advice and assistance through DISHA 2.0 initiatives. The workshop also featured an interaction with student and faculty of the Law School under Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal services) in Goa, highlighting the role of the legal fraternity and educational institutions in promoting pro bono legal services and contributing to the objective of access to justice for all.

Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, India International University of Legal Education and Research, Goa, in his address stated that it was a momentous day for IULER, Goa, as the institution was collaborating with the Pro Bono Club Scheme under the DISHA 2.0 Scheme of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice. He appreciated DISHA Scheme for providing effective tools and platforms to advance access to justice and emphasised that pro bono lawyering is an essential responsibility for young lawyers.

Union Environment Minister inaugurates WWF Global Conservation Conference at Jaipur (Rajasthan)



New Delhi, Sept., 22 (PIB): Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhopender Yadav, today inaugurated the Global Conservation Conference of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) at Jaipur. Dignitaries present during the inauguration ceremony included Additional Director General (Wildlife),

MoEFCC, Shri Ramesh Pandey; Head of Forest Force and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Government of Rajasthan, Shri Arijit Banerjee; Chief Conservation Officer at WWF-International, Shri Daudi Samba; and, CEO of WWF-India, Ravi Singh. Addressing representatives from more than 100 countries, the Minister

emphasised the need to act on conservation and coexistence, reconnect as a community, take confidence from the progress being made, and build a shared sense of hope and direction. Shri Yadav shared the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the field of wildlife conservation and mentioned how the number of protected areas have

gone up from around 750 to more than 1000 in the last decade. Similarly, the number of tiger reserves rose from 47 to 58 and elephant reserves from 30 to 33, while the number of Ramsar sites has gone up from 24 to 101 in the same period. He further narrated the success of Cheetah reintroduction in India, under the visionary leadership of the

Prime Minister. Shri Yadav informed the gathering that India's commitment to species conservation is both constitutional and cultural, rooted in a worldview that long predates modern protected-area law. India has built a substantial framework in its Constitution that makes protecting wildlife both a State directive and a citizen's duty, yet this formal architecture rests on a deeper ethos. India is also a party to CITES, CMS, CBD and the Ramsar Convention, and its recovery of tigers, elephants, rhinos and Asiatic lions shows what sustained political will can achieve. The Minister also mentioned how scientific research and monitoring mechanisms in the country have led to conservation successes. He underlined the pan-India population estimation of species such as tiger, elephant, dolphin, lion and snow leopard have provided insights for habitat improve-

ment, securing corridors and taking landscape approach in megafaunal species. He also narrated the success of conservation breeding of Great Indian Bustard (GIB) in Rajasthan and community led protection and conservation of sacred groves called Oran, helping in land degradation neutrality. Shri Yadav emphasized the need of conservation of grasslands along with woodlands and wetlands. He shared India's approach towards conservation of grassland-based mega herbivores and informed the gathering about the ongoing conservation programmes on one-horned rhinoceros and the wild water buffalo. He concluded his address by giving a call to the wildlife conservationists to come together not only to reflect, but to move forward, learn from what works, and turn it into action.

Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah to inaugurate 3rd National Conference of Heads of ANTF of States/UTs in New Delhi on 22nd September

New Delhi, Sept., 22 (PIB): Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah will inaugurate 3rd National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Heads of States/UTs in New Delhi on Tuesday, 22 September 2026. On the occasion, Shri Amit Shah will also release TVCs to spread awareness against drugs and lay the foundation stones for the new complexes of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Zones in Lucknow and Dehradun. The best-performing ANTF among the States/UTs will also be felicitated during the event, alongside the launch of the revamped NCB website. The two-day conference, being organised by the NCB, will be attended by the Heads of ANTFs from 36 States and Union Territories, along with representatives from other concerned government departments and stakeholders. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, the Government

of India is working in 'mission mode' to protect the nation's youth from the adverse effects of drug abuse. Prime Minister Modi has set the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, and realizing this vision is not possible without building a drug-free India. This conference will serve as a powerful platform to safeguard future generations from the menace of drugs. Based on the theme of the "United Resolve, Shared Responsibility", the conference will focus on progress of targets assigned to State/UTs ANTFs in recently released Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026-29) and initiatives and efforts undertaken by the concerned stakeholders in combating the menace of drug trafficking and substance abuse across the country. The issues pertaining to identification and adoption of appropriate strategies to further strengthen the supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction mea-

sures of the Government of India will also be deliberated upon. Aligned with the four strategic pillars of the Vision Document- (I) Enforcement, Intelligence and Operations, (II) Precursors and Synthetic Drugs Control, (III) Demand and Harm Reduction and (IV) Capacity Building and Coordination - eight Technical Sessions have been lined up for the event, which will be as follows: Vision Document for Narcotics Control (2026-2029)-Part-I: Institutional Mechanisms Dismantling Network Linkages & Cartels - Part: I Vision Document for Narcotics Control (2026-2029)-Part-II: Demand Reduction, Prevention & Rehabilitation Dismantling Network Linkages & Cartels- Part: II Improving Effectiveness of Enforcement Precursors, Synthetic Drugs & Clan Labs Destruction of Illicit Cultivation & Alternate Cropping Darknet & Crypto Investigation

Preparations Underway for Special Campaign 6 for Institutionalizing Swachhata and Disposal of Pending Matters over Indian Railways

New Delhi, Sept., 22 (PIB): Special Campaign 6 for institutionalizing Swachhata and minimizing pendency in Government offices has been launched by the Government of India. The campaign is structured into two phases: the Preparatory Phase from 15th to 30th September 2026 for setting targets, followed by the main Implementation Phase from 2nd to 31 October 2026. During the previous Campaign 5.0, the Ministry of Railways demonstrated significant progress by achieving 100% of the identified targets pertaining to disposal of public grievances, VIP references, and other pending matters. Remarkable achievements included the release of 6.06 lakh square feet of space and the generation of revenue amounting to ₹570 Crore. The Ministry of Railways is fully prepared for the successful implementation of the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters 6 (SCDPM 6) across all its field units, attached and subordinate offices, PSUs, and autonomous bodies. The Railway Board is closely monitor-

ing the preparations to accord highest priority to the campaign. Detailed guidelines from the Department of Administrative Reforms And Public Grievances (DARPG) have been communicated to all field units to mobilize ground functionaries, identify campaign sites, and plan for space management. A.D.O. letter from the Secretary, Railway Board, to all General Managers and Heads of other Units has also been issued in this regard. Detailed instructions have been issued to all Zonal Railways, Divisional Offices, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Production Units (PUs), and Central Training Institutes to ensure saturation-level participation. More than 150 nodal officers have been designated across Indian Railways to coordinate the effort and will collect progress information on a daily basis and will send it to the Railway Board enabling it to feed directly into DARPG's central SCDPM monitoring portal, facilitating real-time tracking and weekly high-level reviews. As the preparatory phase is now under-

way, targets are being finalized with respect to key campaign parameters. In line with this year's focus, special emphasis is placed on "Effective Collection, Segregation, and Disposal of E-Waste" as per E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, scrap disposal under General Financial Rules (GFR), office space beautification, process/rule simplification and including clearance of pending references. Following the successful organisation of Rail Chaupal (SCDPM 4.0) and Amrit Samvaad (SCDPM 5.0), the Ministry will organise "Rail Jan Samvaad" during SCDPM 6 to further strengthen public engagement and foster meaningful dialogue with citizens. Reaffirming its commitment to embedding cleanliness as a routine operational standard, the Ministry of Railways continues to prioritize seamless public engagement and the prompt disposal of pending references. With coordinated planning and dedicated participation across all units, the Ministry aims to make Special Campaign 6 a resounding success.

Nationwide Public Participation Gathers Momentum Ahead of 11th Ayurveda Day

New Delhi, Sept., 22 (PIB): As the country prepares to observe the 11th Ayurveda Day on September 23, nationwide public participation has gathered momentum under the theme "Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow". More than 9,700 activities have been reported across 30 States and Union Territories, with over 3.6 lakh participants registered through the official Ayurveda Day website. Nearly 89.3 lakh citizens have also pledged their support for Ayurveda through the Ayurveda Day 2026 microsite. The Ayurveda Day 2026 microsite, available at ayurvedaday.org.in, serves as a digital platform for citizen participation, registration and reporting of activities being organised as part of the nationwide celebrations. States including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have recorded substantial participation, reflecting the extensive engagement of States and Union Territories in the nationwide observance. A wide range of activities is being organised to promote awareness about Ayurveda and encourage community participation. Ayurveda awareness programmes, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, public outreach programmes and Ayurveda health and wellness camps are among the prominent activities being reported. Other activities include medicinal plant plantation and conservation drives, Ayurveda awareness programmes in schools and colleges, youth engagement initiatives, campaigns promoting Ayurveda Ahara and healthy dietary practices, citizen pledge campaigns and Ayurveda quizzes. These initiatives are bringing together citizens, educational institutions, communities and various organisations through awareness, wellness and engagement activities, providing opportunities for wider public participation in the Ayurveda Day celebrations. The 11th Ayurveda Day 2026 has also witnessed participation beyond India, with activities reported from 10 countries and territories and involving more than 1,900 participants. The participating countries and territories include the British Indian Ocean Territory, the United Kingdom, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Spain, Algeria, Australia, Denmark, Iceland and the United States of America. The international participation reflects the growing outreach of Ayurveda Day and the involvement of communities, institutions and organisations beyond India in activities centred on Ayurveda awareness, wellness and public engagement.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Takes Strong Action, Suspends Officer Over Bribery Complaint

New Delhi, Sept., 22 (PIB): Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has ordered the immediate suspension of Anurag, a Marketing Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, following a complaint alleging that he sought bribes from two warehouses in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district. According to the complaint, the officer allegedly demanded money during an inspection in Sehore district in exchange for releasing subsidy amounts. A demand of Rs.1 lakh was allegedly made from Shivay Warehouse in Bhairunda tehsil, while Rs.60,000 was allegedly sought from Shri Krishna Warehouse in Beherakhedi village in the Rehti area. The complaint was brought to the attention of Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Taking serious note of the allegations, the Minister directed immediate action in the matter. Following the directions, Marketing Officer Anurag was suspended with immediate effect. The action also underlines the Ministry's position that complaints of irregularities or bribery in government processes concerning farmers and warehouse operators will be taken seriously and acted upon.

Sowa-Rigpa Working Group Holds First Meeting Under PCIM&H



New Delhi, Sept., 22 (PIB): The first meeting of the Sowa-Rigpa Working Group, constituted under the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H), was held on September 18, at PCIM&H, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The meeting marks an important step towards the development of Sowa-Rigpa Pharmacopoeias and Formularies in India. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Kousthubha Upadhyaya, Director, PCIM&H. Sowa-Rigpa was represented by four experts from various Sowa-Rigpa institutions, including Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director, National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh. Dr. Padma Gurmet expressed gratitude to the Government of India for formally initiating the work on Sowa-Rigpa Pharmacopoeias and Formularies. The Working Group will undertake a step-wise action plan for the development of Formularies, Pharmacopoeias and other statutory and non-statutory documents required to support the implementation of regulatory provisions and quality assurance of Sowa-Rigpa drugs. The work will be undertaken within the ambit of PCIM&H and in accordance with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules thereunder. The initiative is aimed at further development and standardisation of the Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine within the Government of India's regulatory framework for traditional medicines. The development of Pharmacopoeias and Formularies will provide a structured basis for quality standards and regulatory requirements for Sowa-Rigpa drugs. The Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy is a subordinate office under the Ministry of Ayush, responsible for the development of Pharmacopoeias and Formularies and functioning as the Central Drug Testing-cum-Appellate Laboratory for Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

Nandi Awards Are Finally Making A Comeback!

The much awaited Nandi Awards are finally set to return in Andhra Pradesh. The state government has given the green signal to conduct the pending awards from 2012 to 2024 along with the 2025 awards. This comes after a long gap, bringing back one of the most prestigious recognitions in Telugu cinema.

The pending 2012 to 2016 Nandi and National Film Awards will be presented in Vijayawada in November. For 2017 to 2024, selected awards will be given every year, while the 2025 awards will also be included in the process.

The government has planned a separate grand event for the Nandi Film Awards in Amaravati or Vijayawada. The Nandi TV Awards will be presented in Tirupati. The ceremo-



nies are expected to take place in December 2026.

The jury committees for the pending awards are being formed, with the selection process scheduled for November. The winners list for the 2017 to 2024 and 2025 awards is also expected to be announced in November.

As per the latest details, 46 awards will be presented in the film category. The awards will cover various sections including Best Film, Best Actor, Best Actress, supporting categories and other special recognitions.

After years of waiting, the return of the Nandi Awards is definitely a notable development for the Telugu film industry. Now, all eyes are on the jury selections, the awardees and the grand comeback event later this year.

Mrunal Glows Like A Painting In Pink

Mrunal Thakur is finally set to end her four-year wait as her Bollywood thriller Pooja Meri Jaan, co-starring Huma Qureshi, gets a home on ZEE5 after being stuck in release limbo since it wrapped shooting back in 2022. The psychological thriller, revolving around stalking and cyber-surveillance, is now part of ZEE5's upcoming Hindi content slate, though an official premiere date is still awaited.

Coming to her latest pictures, Mrunal is pure old-world elegance in these new stills, draped in a shimmering peach-pink saree with a metallic silver-tissue border and matching drape. She's kept it classic with a sweetheart-neck blouse, a statement oxidised silver necklace, jhumka earrings, and a low bun styled with fresh flowers tucked in. And while the ZEE5 release keeps fans waiting, there's already buzz about what's next for her, rumour has it Mrunal might be joining the cast of Raaka, though there's no official confirmation on this yet. Fingers crossed for an announcement soon!



Kalki Makers Receive National Award, Promise Bigger Sequel

Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan starrer Kalki 2898 AD, directed by Nag Ashwin, received National Awards from the hands of President Draupadi Murmu. Nag Ashwin, Swapna Dutt and esteemed producer Ashwini Dutt attended the event to receive the awards. The epic sci-fi drama won in the Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment category, while Nitin Zihani bagged the Best Production Designer.

Prestigious production house Vyjayanthi Movies expressed their immense happiness about this remarkable achievement. He shared that winning the National Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment for Kalki 2898 AD is an immensely proud moment for everyone. They noted that seeing a film that began with a bold and ambitious vision receive this recognition is deeply gratifying.

The production house highlighted the massive collective effort behind the cinematic marvel. They further mentioned that bringing this



uniquely imaginative vision to life was a wonderful journey. They credited the achievement to the dedication, conviction, and creativity of the entire cast and crew, which made it possible to

build a world that audiences could completely experience and embrace.

Calling it a significant milestone, Vyjayanthi added that this is another cherished chapter in their journey of dreaming

big. Thanking the National Awards jury and the fans, they confirmed that they look forward to dreaming fearlessly and pushing the boundaries of storytelling as the next chapter of Kalki takes shape.

Silly Discussion On Actress' Age On Social Media



Vaishnavi Chaitanya is a talented artist who rose from YouTube to the silver screen. She rose to fame with Baby and recently made headlines for her performance in Epic. The film opened to mixed

reviews, with some praising Vaishnavi's performance and some finding faults. Regardless, Vaishnavi's age has become a topic of discussion on X.

In an interview, Vaishnavi was asked about

her age, as it has been widely discussed. The Wikipedia page says she was born in 1994 and is 32, while other sources say the opposite. For once and for all, Vaishnavi cleared the air, saying she is 25

and even providing her Aadhaar card to the host as proof. Now, this has become a point of discussion for many, who claim that she is lying.

When Vaishnavi was doing small-time roles in movies, she also did a web series on YouTube five years ago. A few are commenting that she was 25 back then and is lying about her age. Some claim that Vaishnavi has shown a fake Aadhaar card and point out that the photo on the card is clear and proper, like a passport photograph, whereas in reality no one gets their photo on the card right.

Ever since Vaishnavi did the film Baby, she has faced a wave of criticism, especially on social media. There were instances when she received scripts similar to Baby, and the comments she got after the release were harsh. She stayed strong, kept a smile, and dodged the negativity with the confidence she showed during Epic's pre-release event.

Time and again, it's been proven that some people on social media trigger unnecessary discussions for reach or just to make fun of it, instead of appreciating the talent at a time when strong voices are emerging for Telugu girls to become heroines. At the end of the day, age is just a number as long as someone is talented and can entertain on the screen.

I Too Faced Many Insults In Life: Chiranjeevi



Megastar Chiranjeevi celebrated 48 years in the film industry with the Mega Youth Force, marking the occasion by meeting his fans and sharing an emotional message about their enduring bond.

He credited his fans for continuing to encourage him and supporting his recent films. Speaking about his youthful appearance and energy, he said that while he follows exercise and a diet, his real motivation comes from gratitude. "I exercise and follow a diet to look young, but the real reason is gratitude towards our parents and everyone who has been responsible for our growth. Being grateful to everyone who has contributed to our journey

is what keeps me moving forward," he explained.

He recalled the support extended by his fans to his blood bank and various service activities, saying they have always stood beside him whenever he gave a call for a cause. The actor then delivered a strong message to the youth and fans of all stars saying time is money. Money can be earned again if we lose it, but time will never come back. Don't just love Chiranjeevi. Think about how he achieved what he did through discipline and hard work. Use every second wisely and move towards progress."

Addressing some of the criticism and insults he has faced over the years,

Chiranjeevi said he has always relied on hard work rather than luck. "I have faced many insults in life. Some people even say that I sold blood. Considering the remuneration I receive, I don't need to earn money through a blood bank. I don't believe in luck; I believe in my hard work," he stated.

He expressed his desire to see the same camaraderie among the fans of different heroes that exists between the actors themselves. "All of us heroes are doing well and are on good terms with each other. The same friendship should exist among our fans. I feel extremely proud to say that I was the one who started this," he said.