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Masks, Iron Rods, Fire: The Night Violence Tore Through Punjab's LPU



Chandigarh / New Delhi: The protests over an unverified social media claim about the alleged rape and suicide of a student at Lovely Professional University in Punjab's Phagwara turned into a day of vandalism and a blockade of a national highway. By Monday, the university campus was heavily

guarded, classes had been suspended for 10 days and students were leaving with suitcases and bags as anxious parents arrived to take them home. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann ordered strict action against those responsible for the violence, following which Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav visited the

campus and reviewed the situation. Police have registered an FIR and formed a high-level Special Investigation Team to investigate the case. LPU has repeatedly described the allegations as false, baseless and fabricated. Yet students say they believed the allegation was genuine after messages circulated online and, according to one student, after information was allegedly received from the girls' hostel.

The protest began near Girls' Hostel-3 around 1 am on Sunday. According to the account given by one LPU student, students had received a message on Reddit claiming that a girl had been raped and had

died by suicide two days later. "We got a message on Reddit that a girl was raped and she committed suicide two days later. So, we started a peaceful protest for her. We were not getting any answers. Some students started vandalism and the police were torched by the night," a student told NDTV. "We got a message from the girls' hostel that it was true. The girls' hostel was vacated and the girls were sent home." Police, however, had not confirmed any such rape complaint when the protests began. The allegations still remained unverified. As more students joined the protest from different hostels, the situation deteriorated.

Varun Gandhi, Smriti Irani May Return To Rajya Sabha From UP Next Month

New Delhi: The BJP is likely to field national general secretaries Smriti Irani and Harish Dwivedi in the coming Rajya Sabha election in Uttar Pradesh. Several other names are also being discussed, including Varun Gandhi, Sanjeev Baliyan, and Satyapal Singh, sources told NDTV. Ten seats in the state are up for election on October 16 and chances are that the Samajwadi Party and the BJP could face off over the tenth seat. The nomination process begins on Tuesday. The SP may field three candidates, sources indicated, though its current strength can secure victory of only

two. The party is reportedly considering sending senior leader Ram Gopal Yadav to the Rajya Sabha once again. The names of former IAS officer Alok Ranjan and Salim Iqbal are also doing the rounds, indicating that the party is ready for a battle. The BJP is certain to win seven seats. But keeping in mind the upcoming assembly elections, the party is considering pushing for an eighth, leaving the field wide open for cross-voting. Sources said the party may nominate national general secretaries Smriti Irani and Harish Dwivedi as candidates. In addition, it may



also give tickets to Jats, Rajputs, OBCs, and minorities. The terms of current OBC MPs Geeta Shakyaa and BL Verma are ending. Verma is a minister at the Centre, so he could be re-elected to the Rajya Sabha.

There is also talk of Geeta Shakyaa being re-elected. The names of Prakash Pal, president of the state BJP OBC Morcha, and Rekha Verma are also being discussed. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's term is also ending. In view of next year's assembly elections in Punjab, there is talk of sending him back to the Rajya Sabha. There is also talk of replacing Dalit leader Brijlal with a younger Dalit leader. Former minister Sanjeev Baliyan and former MP Satyapal Singh are being discussed as Jat leaders. Varun Gandhi, Suresh Rana, Amit Malviya, and Rajbir Singh are also being considered.

CJP's Ashutosh Ranka alleges 'bullying' by Assam Police after Guwahati detention

New Delhi: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka has alleged that the detention of him and several party leaders and volunteers by Assam Police was intended to intimidate the organisation, saying, "The more you suppress, the more the revolution will spread." Ranka was detained in Guwahati on Sun-

day along with several CJP leaders and volunteers, shortly before the organisation's first regional volunteers' meeting near the Assam Secretariat. He was later released. Reports said more than 30 CJP workers were detained, while other reports put the number at over 40. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Ranka alleged that the po-

lice action was illegal and claimed that CJP members were picked up from private property without being told why they were being detained. "It wasn't a detention. It was completely illegal because they picked us up from private property. We don't call this detention; we call this kidnapping," he said. Ranka further alleged that when the group ques-

tioned the police about the grounds for their detention, officers only said they had "orders from above". "When we asked the police on what grounds we were detained, their only reply was, 'Sir, we have orders from above, so we arrested you, detained you.' And even after that, when we continuously asked while we were there, they couldn't

give us any other reason," he alleged. Assam Police has not publicly provided, in the sources reviewed, a detailed explanation for the detentions. The CJP had described the proposed gathering as a peaceful meeting on private property. Ranka said CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke had initially planned to travel to Assam following the detentions



but would now remain focused on preparations.

Power Supply Boost for Aqua Farmers; Minister Gottipati Inaugurates Rs.55-Crore Substation



From Our Staff Reporter West Godavari, Sept., 28 : Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the coalition government was strengthening power infrastructure to ensure quality electricity supply to aqua farmers. He inaugurated a 220/33 kV substation constructed at a cost of ₹55 crore at Gopavaram in West Godavari district. Deputy Chief Minister Raghuram Krishna Raju, MLA Kamineni Srinivas and MLC Jayamangala Venkataramana attended the programme. Minister Gottipati said the substation had been constructed to provide quality and uninterrupted power supply to aqua farm-

ers in the district. He said aqua farmers were being provided electricity at a subsidised rate of just Rs.1.50 per unit. The government was spending Rs.1,200 crore to provide the subsidy, he said. He added that the electricity subsidy was being extended to aqua farmers irrespective of zones. As part of the development of power infrastructure across the state, substations were being constructed at a cost of Rs.6,000 crore, Minister Gottipati said. With electricity demand increasing, power generation had also been enhanced accordingly, he said. During peak hours, electricity was being purchased from the open mar-

ket at lower rates whenever necessary, he explained. The minister made it clear that there was no question of disrupting uninterrupted power supply to aqua farmers. Minister Gottipati said power demand had increased significantly due to the impact of El Niño, but steps were being taken to ensure supply meets demand. He criticised the previous government, alleging that the power sector had fallen behind during its tenure. He also alleged that electricity charges had been increased in one form or another every six months in the past. His government, however, had implemented a "true-down" without increasing electricity tariffs, Minister Gottipati said.

Minister Satyakumar Slams Rahul Gandhi Over Vote Theft Allegations

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, Sept., 28 : Andhra Pradesh Minister Satyakumar Yadav said that the Congress and some newly formed political parties were spreading false propaganda in the name of "vote theft" in the country. He said Rahul Gandhi had failed before the people in establishing himself as a leader and was resorting to such tactics to cover up his own incompetence. He alleged that Rahul Gandhi was spreading falsehoods out of frustration over electoral defeats and conspiring to make political gains through lies. He said it had become a habit for Rahul Gandhi to fail to win public support despite making repeated attempts. The minister said Rahul Gandhi had created a furore before the elections by making allegations about scams, but the people had rejected his claims and taught the Congress a lesson. He said Rahul Gandhi later withdrew his remarks and apologised to the people and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He recalled that teams associated with Rahul Gandhi, which promote false and misleading

claims, had also levelled allegations against Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and later apologised. Questioning Rahul Gandhi's frequent foreign visits, Satyakumar asked whom he was meeting during his trips abroad. He alleged that Rahul Gandhi was also spreading falsehoods about national security and said that people were not trusting him despite his political "drama." He criticised the Congress for making excuses after electoral setbacks and alleged that even after facing public rejection over corruption, there had been no change in their approach. The minister also lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for what he described as false propaganda over the SIR

process under the pretext of "vote theft." He said the process was not new and that Booth Level Agents (BLAs) could obtain and record the details transparently. He said the details would be placed before the public, giving them an opportunity to raise objections. He stressed that deletion of votes was not an easy process and alleged that attempts were being made to mislead the public. He pointed out that agents of all political parties would be present on polling day and that webcasting would also be in place. Questioning how allegations of vote theft could be made without producing evidence, the minister said a list had been prepared for verification of around 13 crore en-



tries. He said a draft had been published and objections could be raised. According to the minister, the list included around 2.5 crore people reported dead, 3 crore people whose addresses could not be traced, 6.5 crore people who had moved from one place to another, and around 1 crore du-

PLICATE voters. Satyakumar advised everyone to examine the details and understand the facts before making statements. He said any political party with objections could raise them through Form-7, and criticised the opposition for merely propagating the claim that 13 crore votes had been deleted.

Vijayawada Utsav-2026 Curtain Raiser Held Grandly

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Sept., 28 : The Andhra Pradesh government is set to organise Vijayawada Utsav-2026 on a grand scale from October 11 to 20 under the aegis of the AP Tourism Department. A curtain-raiser event for the festival was held on Monday at the Ambedkar Kala Vedika in the city. Ministers Satyakumar Yadav and Kandula Durgesh, MP Kesineni Sivanath, MLAs Bonda Uma, Gadde Ramamohan and Venigandla Ramu attended the event. Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Patabhiram, MLC Varla Ramaiah, chairpersons of several corporations, Joint Collector Ilakkiya and Municipal Commissioner Dhyan Chand were also present. Speaking on the occasion, AP Health Minister

Satyakumar Yadav said Vijayawada has a rich historical background and heritage and is a symbol of arts and politics. He thanked MP Kesineni Sivanath and the society members for organising Vijayawada Utsav by bringing all these aspects together. He said the festival was not merely a cultural event but would also help strengthen the economic prospects of small traders. Telugu people living in different places were actively participating in such events, he said, and expressed hope that everyone would participate in both the Dasara celebrations and Vijayawada Utsav. Such programmes would contribute to wealth creation, while the development of tourist destinations would increase sources of income, he added. The festival, with its spiritual, cul-



tural and community dimensions, would bring joy to people and the programmes organised as part of Vijayawada Utsav would entertain the public, he said. Tourism and Culture Minister Kandula Durgesh said MP Kesineni Sivanath deserved credit for transforming the banks of the Krishna into a cultural destination. He said plans had been prepared to organise Vijayawada Utsav on a

grand scale this year and expressed happiness that the AP Tourism Department was participating as a partner in the celebrations. He praised the organisation of last year's Vijayawada Utsav, saying it lived up to its vibrant theme, and expressed hope that this year's festival would be even grander. The festival would showcase economic development as well as the talent of artists, he said.

That's Why I Entered Politics: Minister Narayana



Nellore District, September 27: Andhra Pradesh Minister P. Narayana said he entered politics with the aim of repaying his debt to

his birthplace and serving the people selflessly. He said he was spending his personal funds, along with government funds, for the development of the poor. Narayana said Antony Constructions had come forward to construct the Zakir Hussain Nagar High School at a cost of Rs.13 crore to international standards, inspired by the VRC. He said he laid the foundation stone for the project on

Sunday along with his daughter Sharani. **Distributed 10,000 Bicycles to High School Students** Narayana said the VRC, which he alleged had been closed down by the previous government, was modernised within four months. He said 10,000 bicycles had been distributed to government high school students using Rs.8 crore from his personal funds. He

said 2,615 permanent land titles had been sanctioned to residents of Bhagat Singh Colony and those living along the Sarvepalli canal bund. He promised to work towards securing land titles for 5,000 families in Nellore City. Narayana assured that his family would stand by the poor whenever they faced difficulties. He also said he was committed to giving Nellore City a distinct identity on the map of India.

EDITORIAL

Inclusive Development Through Tourism

It is encouraging to see India, which has the fifth-largest tourism market among countries worldwide, making vigorous plans and implementing measures to make tourism the third-largest industry by next year. India's tourism sector encompasses cultural, adventure, environmental or eco-tourism, medical, culinary, sports, rural, spiritual and business tourism, offering visitors a glimpse of the country's diversity, heritage and community life. Tourism is contributing to the nation's progress through economic development, development of tourist destinations, strengthening of local economies, employment generation, growth in GDP, regional development, preservation of culture, earning of foreign exchange, cultural exchange and creation of infrastructure. According to the Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024, India was ranked 39th among 119 countries, compared with 54th place in 2021. Recognising the importance of the tourism industry, World Tourism Day is observed every year on September 27 under the initiative of the UN World Tourism Organization, commemorating the day the organization was established. The occasion aims to create awareness about the need to comprehensively develop the tourism sector, strengthen the national economy, preserve cultural and heritage assets, and encourage domestic and international tourism. In independent India, National Tourism Day is observed every year on January 25, with the objective of giving a major boost to tourism under the slogan "Incredible India." The theme of World Tourism Day 2026 is "Digital Agenda and AI: Redesigning Tourism," focusing on the transformation of tourism through digital technologies and artificial intelligence. As the tourism industry expands, people from all sections of society in various regions benefit, making inclusive development possible.

Tourism expenditure in India stood at \$127 billion in 2019 and increased to \$174 billion in 2023. The tourism industry is making a significant contribution to the country's economic development. India's tourism sector contributed Rs. 21 trillion to the GDP last year and generated 43 million jobs. It is also noteworthy that the country earned Rs. 2.3 lakh crore in foreign exchange during 2023-24. Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh together account for nearly 65 percent of India's tourism activity. In diverse India, major attractions such as the Taj Mahal, Ajanta-Ellora Caves, Mahabalipuram, Hampi, Hawa Mahal, Agra Fort and Charminar, along with events such as Pushkar Fair, Taj Mahotsav, Surajkund Mela and Kumbh Mela, attract tourists from India and abroad. The 45-day Maha Kumbh Mela held in Prayagraj was estimated to draw nearly 400 million devotees. In addition, beautiful beaches, hill stations, magnificent heritage monuments, scenic natural landscapes, picturesque backwaters and spiritual centres serve as major pillars of India's tourism industry. The Government of India, under the leadership of the Ministry of Tourism, has been announcing and implementing several initiatives to promote tourism, resulting in the steady growth of the sector. Schemes and initiatives such as Incredible India 2.0, Swadesh Darshan, Dekho Apna Desh, the PRASHAD scheme, niche tourism, e-Visa facilities, GST reduction and NIDHI+ digital initiatives have been introduced to achieve objectives such as creating infrastructure, expanding services and attracting domestic and international tourists. Since tourism contributes not only to economic development but also to employment generation, development of local destinations and expansion of infrastructure, governments as well as civil society must play their part in further expanding the sector. Let us join together in proclaiming "Mera Bharat Mahan" and enhance the beauty and glory of Mother India.

Iran To Saudi, Pakistan Is Now Fast Running Out Of Sides To Play

Pakistan is a country of the most interesting contradictions. Recently, authorities appointed a retired general as the head of the newly created Mecca security pact, created to protect Saudi Arabia against primarily Iranian attacks. The same day, reports indicated that Pakistan had received vital LNG cargo from Qatar using Iranian unofficial contacts. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif promises to stand 'shoulder-to-shoulder' with Riyadh, while his armed forces are unsurprisingly fighting shy of taking on the Iran-backed Houthis. Meanwhile, they seem to be fine with bombing and strafing Afghanistan in an operation that is likely to prove hugely disastrous for internal security. All reports indicate that Pakistan's terrorism story has reached a climax. The long history of playing all parties to its own benefit may have reached the end of its shelf life. Things have just got too complicated.

The Alliance Gets Its Act Together

First, with regard to the Mecca alliance. A lot seems to be happening in terms of meetings and appointments and setting up a structure of sorts even as the Houthis continue their attacks. Even as files were being passed around from capital to capital, France promised to send "soldiers, radar systems and defence systems" to protect Yanbu. President Macron did say that this was not to 'get involved' in conflicts but for protection of a vital node. Still, that's something. Pakistan, meanwhile, appointed Lieutenant-General (Retired) Nauman Mahmood as the first secretary general of the Mecca Defence Alliance, who will lead the Secretariat that is being established in Riyadh. Foreign Ministers of respective countries

met in New York and issued expected statements of 'condemnation' and about Saudi Arabia's right to defend itself under Article 51 of the UN Charter. More importantly, they announced an urgent meeting of their chiefs of staff to discuss ways to support the Kingdom under the Mecca Joint Defence agreement. Apparently, there is now some realisation that something concrete will have to be done other than talk of 'strong support' for the Saudis.

Houthis vs Saudis vs Iran, And A Little Help From Friends

All that involves some kind of attack against the Houthis, a prospect that will hardly be viewed with gratification in Iran. The Houthis are not quite Iranian 'toys'. Still, their formidable arsenal owes much to Iran, which seems to retain a war-waging capability despite the current conflict and decades of sanctions. It's a strange war, since Iran certainly gets considerable assistance from Russia and China across the board, including in satellite intelligence, which allows high accuracy in its strikes. Wires are increasingly getting crossed since China also supports the Saudis, with most recently Beijing responding to Riyadh's appeals by pressing Iran to stop the Houthis in what seemed to have been a very private message. In short, a lot of wires are getting crossed, but the strangest one yet was this. Caught in a serious energy bind and attendant internal crisis - just days ago, huge protests against fuel costs had politicians riding donkeys to the Sindh Assembly as a mark of protest - Pakistan turned to Iran for help. The latter obliged. At least two shipments of LNG crossed the Strait of Hormuz to

Port Qasim with the 'assistance' of Iranian officials. Now try and square that circle.

The General Has A Job

The retired General soon to take up the mantle of the 'Secretary General' of the Mecca alliance has to take all this into account. No easy task, not even with his formidable profile. A Baloch Regiment officer, he was commissioned into the Pakistan Army in September 1987. He ticked all the right boxes, including a master's degree in War Studies, not to mention a spell at the ISI, notably as Director-General of the Analysis Directorate at Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). That would have involved strong external assessment capabilities, from a national security perspective, and strong contacts with foreign intelligence agencies. He was a contender for the Army Chiefs post in 2022 but lost out to the present - and probably ever-lasting now - incumbent General Asim Munir. More notably, he was in command of XI Corps based in Peshawar, at a time when the US was pulling out and matters were getting hot on the border. He would also have great contacts with the Taliban leadership. If he has to do his magic in Riyadh, none would know better that it would be vital to get a reasonable peace on the Afghan border. It is not just the fighting and the bombing and maiming innocent lives across the border. It's the end effect back home. Pakistan may be in the bottom tier in terms of its economy, but is at the very top in terrorism according to the Global Terrorism Index. You cannot fight a war on foreign shores when your own country is burning.

A Study In Scarlet

In sum, Pakistan's policy moves are a case study in contradictions, some of it no doubt



admirably crafted to deliver the most urgent requirement of the moment. If it's oil with Iranian help at one moment, it's setting up a very slow architecture for the Mecca Pact at another. Add to all this the inevitable reaction from Shias on any action against Iran, and the political backlash in fighting the Houthis. Don't forget the 2015 chaos when Parliament barred the deployment of troops for support of Riyadh, despite the fact that Saudi Arabia had, in meetings with the Pakistani leadership, conveyed a request for fighter jets, ground troops and naval warships to be contributed to its Operation Decisive Storm. Pakistan has also been involved with Turkey in bringing an end to the conflict, and a flurry of diplomatic activity ensued, with the then Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif arriving in Islamabad, which in turn followed then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's meeting with Turkish leadership on the issue. In the end, Parliament voted only to stand 'shoulder to shoulder', and nothing else. The fear of sectarian warfare inside

the country was as real then as it is now. Pakistan's decadal policy of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds seems to have come full circle. A mediation exercise has brought it media glory, but in reality, it's a diplomatic nightmare. It is simply not possible to please everyone involved in this complex exercise. All this while not just terrorism but internal chaos is growing as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf plans a march to Islamabad in its attempt to free the jailed former Prime Minister, Imran Khan. Islamabad has turned into a fortress, though the military regime may yet succeed in frustrating PTI plans. After all, almost all of its top tier leaders are in jail. Notice that no one, absolutely no one, is calling for his release, or talking of human rights or any other rights at all. Ultimately, this may be the biggest benefit for a military with a country attached to it. It can do anything at all to keep itself in power, and nobody cares as long as the cards are dealt fast and furiously. That's not a bad plan. Let the games continue.

An Outreach, Then 1-To-1 Call: Left-Mamata Banerjee Turbulence Sees Rare Calm

Amul once ran an advertising campaign saying that the best coalition or the best alliance globally is that of bread and butter. When the BJP made an alliance with the Shiv Sena long ago, politicians said it was a natural alliance, as both parties had some ideological similarities. But all parties cannot be natural allies. The question of the current times is whether there could be a new political understanding between the CPI(M) and Mamata Banerjee. Mamata Banerjee and CPI(M) general secretary MA Baby recently spoke, after years of rivalry, on the issue of the workings of the Election Commission, triggered once again by a news report that made serious claims. This is also when Mamata Banerjee finds herself repeatedly isolated, her power and influence diminished, her party having broken into three parts, and her identity challenged as she now does not have the old "ghas phool" symbol.

Now, cut to 2026, when the gap seems to be closing between the CPI(M) and Mamata Banerjee at the national level. Coalition politics has been a part of Indian politics since the decline of the Congress party in the 1970s. The first non-Congress coalition government was led by Morarji Desai in 1977. However, in coalition politics, there are both natural allies and unusual or unlikely allies. When the BJP first emerged as a coalition partner, we used to describe it as a natural ally because of certain ideological similarities among its partners.

However, an understanding

between the communists and Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC) would be highly unusual. We have not witnessed such an alliance before. During UPA-I, the Left supported the Manmohan Singh government, while Mamata Banerjee was not part of the arrangement. However, when the Left withdrew its support during UPA-II, Mamata Banerjee entered the coalition with her party.

Now, following the developments surrounding the Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, the anti-Gyanesh Kumar protests, and the broader opposition politics, a new development has suddenly emerged. And it is unusual -- Mamata Banerjee and MA Baby aligned on a matter. While it may seem unlikely, it is not entirely impossible. Someone has to raise the question and examine the possibility.

On September 23, Baby sent a letter to all opposition leaders, including Mamata Banerjee. The letter appears to suggest that, in the face of the present political circumstances, opposition parties should consider developing a joint strategy. This does not necessarily mean that the INDIA alliance is being restructured. Rather, Baby seems to be reaching out to opposition parties more broadly, and he has understood several aspects of the political relationship between himself and Mamata Banerjee.

There are also practical considerations. The CPI(M) has members in the Rajya Sabha, and there are questions concerning the party's parliamentary strength, its political influence, and its

future development. The possibility of coordination with the Trinamool has therefore become a subject of discussion. However, the issue is not entirely new.

Earlier, when the INDIA alliance was being formed, there were discussions about its leadership and the possibility of bringing different opposition leaders together. At that time, Sitaram Yechury was present, and Mamata Banerjee was also involved. Efforts were made to bring the two sides closer and establish a common understanding. However, the CPI(M) and Mamata Banerjee could not come together.

Even the Congress entered into an alliance with the CPI(M), but not with Mamata Banerjee. So, after this letter and Mamata's call to Baby, the question arises: Is it possible that Mamata Banerjee and the CPI(M) could form a new alliance? A telephonic conversation is one thing. An electoral alliance or a political alliance is an entirely different matter.

In West Bengal, the CPI(M)'s state leadership remains highly critical of the Trinamool and Mamata Banerjee. The party's state secretary, Mohammad Salim, is also a national leader. Other prominent CPI(M) leaders, including Suján Chakraborty, have also been strongly critical of the Trinamool and Mamata Banerjee. The party's spokespersons and younger leaders have consistently taken a critical position towards the Trinamool. Even within the Congress, the high command has to take the views of the state Congress leaders into account, and there are significant differ-

ences of opinion.

The political dilemma is clear. If the BJP takes a particular position, the opposition must decide how to respond. Similarly, if the opposition wants to present a united front against the BJP, it must consider whether Mamata Banerjee can be part of that effort.

Mamata Banerjee has considerable political strength because she has established a strong position for her party in West Bengal. However, when it comes to the future of national politics, it is not yet clear whether she can play a decisive role at the national level. If she chooses to focus on national politics, she will have to consider the political consequences for her party in West Bengal.

There is also the question of whether the CPI(M) and Mamata's Trinamool Congress can work together against the BJP at the national level while maintaining their separate political positions in West Bengal. This creates a clear political dichotomy. On the one hand, the CPI(M) cannot easily set aside its opposition to Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal. The party cannot remain silent about what it considers to be 15 years of misrule under her government.

On the other hand, if Mamata Banerjee wants to help build a national platform against Narendra Modi, she may see an opportunity to bring different opposition forces together.

With Gyanesh Kumar becoming a focal point of political controversy and growing public anger, opposition parties and

various civil society organisations are also joining the broader movement.

Mamata Banerjee may want to take advantage of this political opportunity. But the question remains: Can this two-pronged strategy actually work?

A great deal of political analysis suggests that there is a fundamental contradiction in this approach. The communists and Mamata Banerjee have historically been political opponents in West Bengal. Their political differences cannot simply be ignored. At the same time, Indian politics has witnessed instances in which parties with opposing ideologies have come together against a common political adversary. For example, during the anti-Indira Gandhi movement, there was a platform on which the communists and the Jan Sangh came together.

Similarly, during the period associated with Atal Bihari Vajpayee and VP Singh, Jyoti Basu met Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani. The Jan Sangh and other political forces supported the broader political movement associated with VP Singh, while the Left also supported the opposition effort. There was no direct political alliance between all these parties, but there was an indirect understanding and cooperation. So, if such arrangements were possible in the past, why should a similar understanding be considered impossible today? The question is whether the CPM and Mamata Banerjee can find common ground despite their deep political differences.

National Deworming Programme Launched



Rampachodavaram, Sept 28: National Deworming Day was observed at the MPP School in Rampachodavaram on Monday. Local MLA and ST Legislative Committee Chairperson Miriyala

Sireesha Devi and Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar formally launched the programme. Albendazole 400 mg tablets were distributed to children aged 1–19 years across government and private



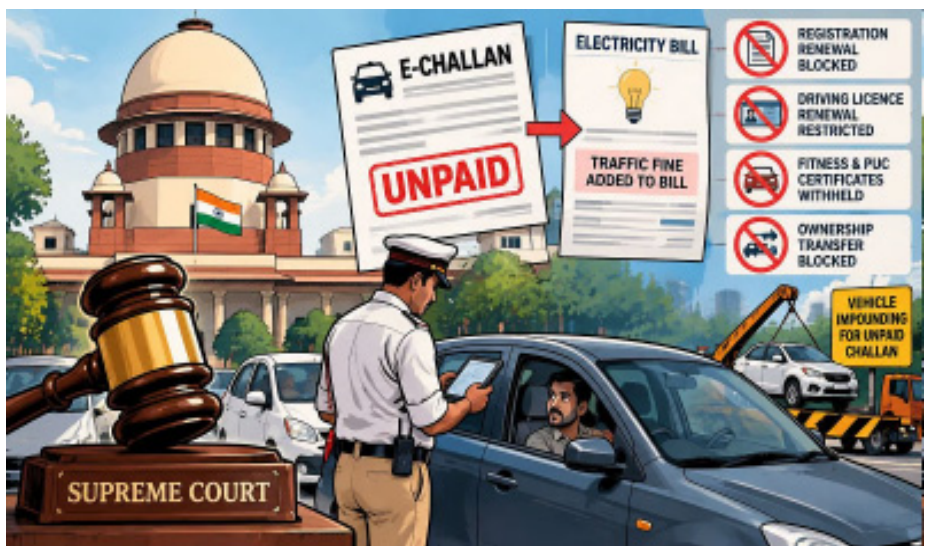
schools, Anganwadi centres and colleges. Of the 87,751 eligible children in the district, 54,372 (62%) received the tablets on Monday. Due to flood conditions, the programme in Chintur Division has been postponed to

October 1. The MLA stressed the importance of deworming and personal hygiene, while the Joint Collector said a special mop-up programme would be conducted on October 5 for children who missed the tablets.

Supreme Court Suggests Linking Unpaid Traffic Challans To Electricity Bills, Vehicle Service Restrictions To Recover Outstanding Fines

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has suggested a range of measures to recover unpaid traffic challans, including linking outstanding fines to electricity bills, restricting vehicle-related services and conducting random checks of vehicles. The suggestions came as the Court considered ways to ensure that e-challans do not remain unpaid. The Bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice KV Viswanathan said authorities must focus not only on issuing challans but also on recovering the fines, Bar & Bench reports. The Court suggested that States and Union Territories could consider adding unpaid traffic fines to electricity dues. The idea, as discussed by the Court, is that defaulters would have an additional reason to clear their traffic fines. ‘If people are not paying traffic challans, add it to their electricity dues bill. They’ll have to pay electricity bills else power line will be disconnected. Work it out. In this country, you have to find a way out,’ the Court said.

Justice Pardiwala observed that simply issuing large numbers of e-challans would not solve the problem if the fines were not recovered. ‘It is not just sufficient to keep issuing e-challans. Police may issue thousands and lakhs of such e-challans. Question is recovery of fines as sought to be imposed by way of the e-challans,’ he said. The Court was informed that States and Union Territories have to recover around Rs 45,000 crore towards e-challans, of which approximately Rs 25,000 crore has been recovered. Against this backdrop, the Court discussed several measures that could be used to recover the remaining fines. These include preventing the renewal of registration certificates, issuing duplicate certificates and making changes to ownership de-



tails until outstanding challans are cleared. The Court also suggested black-listing vehicles with unpaid challans on the Parivahan portal and blocking ownership transfers. It discussed withholding fitness and Pollution Under Control certificates for such vehicles, as well as preventing the renewal of driving licences and taking steps to suspend licences already in force. The suggestions point to a broader approach in which unpaid traffic fines could affect several vehicle-related services, rather than being treated only as outstanding penalties. Justice Pardiwala stressed that the measures must work in practice and take into account the realities faced by authorities on the ground. ‘The authorities need to work at the ground level having regard to ground realities,’ he said. The Court also suggested random checks of vehicles to identify those against which e-challans remain unpaid. ‘Let there be random checking of vehicles and if found that e-challan has not been honoured necessary steps to be taken to impound the vehicle itself,’ the Court said. The suggestions were made while hearing an application seeking directions for the implementation of electronic enforcement mechanisms under Section 136A of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, read with Rule 167A of the Central Motor

Vehicles Rules, 1989. The application forms part of a long-running public interest litigation petition on road safety filed in 2012 by Coimbatore-based orthopaedic surgeon S Rajaseekaran. The petition seeks coordinated measures to reduce road accidents and improve infrastructure and post-accident care. Over the years, the Supreme Court has issued several directions in the case concerning road safety and enforcement of the Motor Vehicles Act. In August 2025, the Court said it would consider issuing directions for creating portals to facilitate payment of compensation to road accident victims. In October 2025, the Court ordered all States and Union Territories to frame rules to ensure pedestrian safety and regulate the movement of non-motorised vehicles such as cycles and hand carts in public spaces. More recently, in May 2026, the Court directed States and Union Territories to strictly implement Rule 125H of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The rule requires public service vehicles to be equipped with vehicle location tracking devices and emergency or panic buttons. The Court also directed that no public service vehicle should be granted a fitness certificate or transport permit unless the required devices were installed. It further directed

States to retrofit the devices in existing public service vehicles and integrate their installation and functionality with the Vahan database. During the broader proceedings, the Court questioned whether its directions issued over nearly 14 years had translated into results on the ground. ‘We want to know from the learned amicus (Senior Advocate Gaurav Agarwal) as to what is the position at the ground level. We will keep issuing directions for an indefinite period of time, but if all these directions are going to remain on paper and are not going to be implemented by the authorities, then one fine day we may have to take some stern action which may not be liked by the authorities,’ the Court said. The Court accordingly asked amicus curiae Senior Advocate Gaurav Agarwal to prepare a chart setting out the directions issued, the time given for implementation, their current status and the amicus’ remarks. The proceedings underline the Court’s concern that enforcement measures must translate into action on the ground. In the case of unpaid traffic challans, the proposed measures would move enforcement beyond the issuance of fines towards restricting services and taking direct action against vehicles with outstanding penalties.

Machilipatnam–Kurnool City Gets New Tri-Weekly Express

- Railways Approves New Service via Vijayawada; Major Boost to Coastal–Rayalaseema Connectivity
- Direct Rail Link for Gudivada, Narasaraopet, Vinukonda, Markapur, Nandyal and Several Key Towns



New Delhi, Pen Power, September 28: In a significant move aimed at strengthening rail connectivity within Andhra Pradesh, Indian Railways has approved a new tri-weekly Express train service between Machilipatnam and Kurnool City via Vijayawada. The new service is expected to provide a convenient additional travel option between the coastal region and the interior parts of Andhra Pradesh, connecting several important towns across the State. According to information released by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) on Monday, the Machilipatnam–Kurnool

City Express will cover a distance of approximately 499 kilometres and operate three days a week in each direction. **Machilipatnam to Kurnool City** The Machilipatnam–Kurnool City Express will depart from Machilipatnam at 4:55 PM and reach Kurnool City at 5:45 AM the following day. The train will operate from Machilipatnam on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. **Kurnool City to Machilipatnam** In the return direction, the Kurnool City–Machilipatnam Express will leave Kurnool City at 9:30

AM and arrive at Machilipatnam at 9:35 PM on the same day. The return service will operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. **Vijayawada to Serve as Key Junction** The routing of the train through Vijayawada is expected to benefit passengers travelling from the Machilipatnam–Gudivada belt towards the Palnadu, Prakasam, Nandyal and Kurnool regions. The service will also offer passengers from several intermediate towns a direct or more convenient rail option without depending entirely on road transport or multiple train connections.

Stoppages at 12 Major Stations The new Express will have commercial stoppages at Gudivada, Vijayawada, Narasaraopet, Vinukonda, Donakonda, Markapur Road, Cumbum, Giddalur, Diguvametta, Nandyal, Betamcherla and Dhone. With these stoppages, the train will connect several important educational, commercial and regional centres along the route. **Better Coastal–Interior Connectivity** The new service is particularly significant as it establishes an additional rail link connecting Machilipatnam and Vijayawada with Kurnool City, while bringing towns such as Vinukonda, Markapur, Giddalur and Nandyal onto the same service corridor. Passengers travelling for employment, education, business, healthcare and other purposes are expected to benefit from the new connectivity. The approval of the tri-weekly service is also expected to improve accessibility between the Krishna coastal belt, Palnadu–Prakasam region, Nandyal district and Kurnool, strengthening intra-State passenger movement across Andhra Pradesh. The detailed operational schedule, including train numbers and commencement date, is expected to be notified separately by the Railways.

SP Encourages Tribal Girls to Aim High

Gangavaram, Sept. 28: Polavaram District SP K. Chakravarthy, IPS, visited a Tribal Welfare Ashram Girls’ High School and interacted with the students on Monday. He advised the girls to study hard with discipline, set higher goals and aspire to become IAS and IPS officers to serve society. The SP also encouraged the students to excel in sports along with academics and distributed volleyball kits to the school’s volleyball players. He reviewed the educational standards with the teachers and enquired about the facilities being provided in the hostel. CI M. Gajendra



Kumar, Gangavaram SI S. Venkayya, Headmistress C.H. Satyavathi, Deputy Warden Lavanya, police personnel and teaching staff were present.

125 Petitions Received at Public Grievance Meet



Rampachodavaram, Sept 28: Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar said special attention was being given to resolving public grievances promptly. At the Public Grievance and Revenue Clinic held at the Rampachodavaram ITDA

meeting hall on Monday, the JC and RDO K. Swathi received 125 petitions, including around 100 under the grievance programme and 25 through the Revenue Clinic. The petitions mainly concerned land issues,

pensions, housing, education, healthcare, roads, electricity and drinking water. The JC directed officials to examine every petition and resolve the issues within the stipulated time through proper coordination among

departments. Residents also sought restoration of power supply in Rajavommangi, drinking water facilities, road repairs, new culverts and polling centres in remote villages. Officials from various departments attended the programme.

‘Women Should Not Have To Protest For Safety’: Abhijeet Dipke On LPU Unrest



New Delhi: Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke reacted to the ongoing unrest at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Phagwara, Punjab, after violence was reported on the campus over the weekend. In a post on X, Dipke shared a purported video of a female stu-

dent claiming that some armed outsiders had entered the premises of a girls’ hostel. The student can be heard saying that residents had been instructed to remain inside their rooms amid security concerns. Expressing concern over the reported situation, Dipke said university campuses

should be among the safest places for women and that they should not have to protest or struggle for basic security. “If women don’t feel safe even inside their hostels, we have a serious problem,” he wrote, adding that women should not have to “protest, plead or fight” for their safety. The protests at LPU began on Saturday over an alleged case involving the rape and suicide of a female student. The unrest escalated over the weekend, with incidents of vandalism and arson reported on the campus. Police vehicles were allegedly damaged, academic buildings were set on fire and explosions were reportedly

heard from within the university premises. Following the violence, LPU postponed its mid-term examinations and suspended regular classes for 10 days. Several students also left for their hometowns amid heavy police deployment. The university advised students staying on campus to remain inside their hostels or residences and avoid unnecessary movement. Students said the situation was peaceful on Monday morning but expressed concerns over security following Sunday’s violence. One student told ANI that examinations had been postponed and regular classes suspended.

PM-MKSSY Transforms Aquaculture Risk Management

New Delhi: India's aquaculture story is one of sustained growth - greater production, wider participation, and stronger market linkages. But the same factors that drive expansion also amplify risk. Disease, floods, and climatic variability can disrupt an entire aquaculture crop cycle and impose severe financial stress on farmers. PM-MKSSY's aquaculture insurance initiative responds to this reality through a structured framework of risk coverage. For it to deliver at scale, trust between farmers and insurers must be built through transparency, responsiveness, and timely settlement. Global fisheries and aquaculture production reached a record 235 million tonnes in 2024, comprising 195 million tonnes of aquatic animals. The sector generated an estimated first-sale value of USD 565 billion, while international trade in aquatic products reached USD 186 billion. Aquaculture continued to drive growth in global

aquatic food systems, while capture fisheries production remained stable at around 92 million tonnes. Inland fisheries also achieved a record output of 12.3 million tonnes, highlighting their growing importance for food security and livelihoods worldwide. India's contribution to this global picture is both substantial and still unfolding. With an annual fish production that touched a record 19.8 million tonnes in 2024-25, India is the second-largest fish producing nation in the world (~8% share). More significantly, aquaculture, encompassing pond culture of freshwater carps, brackish water shrimp and prawn farming, cage culture, and a growing range of cold water and marine species now accounts for over ~74% of India's total fish production. Total fish production of India increased from 9.6 million tonnes (2013-14) to 19.8 million tonnes (2024-25), while inland production reached 14.74 million tonnes (2024-25) from 6.1

million tonnes in 2013-14, representing a transformation that few sectors can rival. The export story is equally compelling. India is among the world's leading exporters of seafood, with frozen shrimp alone accounting for nearly 66% of total seafood export earnings. India's marine product exports have witnessed substantial growth over the past decade, increasing from USD 5.08 billion in 2013-14 to USD 8.46 billion in 2025-26, reflecting the sector's growing competitiveness in global markets. In 2025-26, India recorded seafood exports worth USD 8.46 billion to markets across the globe. The fisheries sector provides livelihoods to over 30 million people that includes fishers, fish farmers, traders, processors, and transporters, the majority drawn from India's coastal, tribal, and economically marginal communities. In a country where agricultural distress remains a persistent challenge, the fisheries sector

has been a quiet engine of rural economic mobility led by its aquaculture production. India's aquaculture sector has grown substantially, reflecting sustained progress in recent years, while still offering scope for further expansion. The country is endowed with 1.95 lakh km of rivers and canals, 31.5 lakh hectares of reservoirs, 22.1 lakh hectares of ponds and tanks, and 14.1 lakh hectares of brackish water area of which only about 17% has been developed for aquaculture. Fish production has grown by over 106% from 9.6 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 19.8 million tonnes in 2024-25, with average aquaculture productivity rising to 4.77 tonnes per hectare against a government target of 5 tonnes per hectare under PMMSY. This is a market simultaneously vast in its untapped reserves and accelerating in its current growth and a market of this scale carries financial risk that no individual farmer can absorb alone.

Consumer Affairs Dept Observes Swachhata Hi Seva 2026

New Delhi: The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA), Government of India, is actively participating in Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026 and Special Campaign 6 by undertaking a range of cleanliness, awareness and institutional initiatives across its offices and attached, subordinate and autonomous organisations. The 10th edition of Swachhata Hi Seva 2026, being observed from 17th September to 2nd October 2026, has been jointly launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS). The campaign is being undertaken with the theme "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag: Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat", adopting a 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 focuses on five key pillars:

1. **Transformation of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs):** Elimination of difficult, dark and neglected spots. Swachh Paathshala – Yuva for Swachhata: Engagement of students and youth through Swachhata Gyan Yatra exposure visits to solid waste management facilities and Swachhata Evam Jal Sanchay Samvad covering Swachhata, rain-water harvesting and water management. SafaiMitra Suraksha Evam Samman Shivirs: Single-window camps facilitating health check-ups, PPE and safety gear, and linkages with eligible Central and State welfare schemes. SafaiMitras, Swachhagrahis and sanitation workers will also be felicitated. Jan Bhagidari for Swachhata: Citizen engagement and awareness on Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 and 4-way source segregation, along with initiatives such as composting, RRR Recyclers' Meet, Sports for Swachhata, Swachh Parv,

Harit Parv – Clean and Green Festivities and Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam. Swachhata se Samridhhi: Focus on circular economy, Waste-to-Wealth and Waste-to-Art initiatives.

Special Campaign 6 In addition, Special Campaign 6, organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) for institutionalising Swachhata and minimising pendency in Government offices, is being observed from 2nd October to 31st October 2026. The campaign is being conducted in two phases. The preparatory phase commenced on 15th September 2026, while the implementation phase will be conducted from 2nd October to 31st October 2026. During Special Campaign 6, the Department of Consumer Affairs is focusing on identification of pending references from Members of Parliament, State Governments, inter-

Ministerial sources and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), along with review of pending public grievances and appeals. The Department is also undertaking selection of sites for cleanliness drives, disposal of redundant materials and scrap, record and space management, and disposal of e-waste in accordance with MoEF&CC guidelines. These activities are being undertaken by the Department of Consumer Affairs and its Subordinate/Attached/Autonomous offices across the country. As part of the preparatory activities, a review meeting was convened on 8th September 2026 under the Chairpersonship of Advisor (Cost) to assess preparedness for Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 and Special Campaign 6. Nodal officers of Subordinate/Attached/Autonomous offices participated in the meeting and discussed measures for active participation in the campaigns.

Sadhana Shrinkhla 2026 to Transform Training Institutes

नागरिक देवो भवः

Sādhana श्रृंखला

Our Collaborative effort towards Capacity Building

UNNATI
(Unified New-Age National Training Initiative)

29 - 30 Sep 2026 | Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Kalavedika, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

हम यँ कर्मयोगी...

New Delhi: The Capacity Building Commission (CBC) is organising Sadhana (Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement) Shrinkhla 2026, a nationwide series of regional consultative engagements to take forward the transformation of Training Institutes under Mission Karmayogi into strategic, competency-driven Capacity Building Institutions. The Sadhana Shrinkhala builds on the

consultations undertaken through four Regional Task Forces, Sadhana Saptah 2026, held from 2 to 8 April 2026, and the National Departmental Summit on "Institutionalizing Capacity Building: From Training to Performance-linked Governance" on 15 May 2026. The Sadhana Shrinkhla regional workshops are planned as a one and a half day event. It will bring together senior officials from the respective States/UTs in the region, along

with heads and faculty of Training Institutes from the States/UTs, PSUs, industry partners, subject matter experts and representatives from startups. The regional series will commence with the Southern Region at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, on 29-30 September 2026, followed by the Northeastern Region at Guwahati, Assam, on 9-10 October 2026, the Northern Region at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on 23-24 October 2026, and the Western Region at

Pune, Maharashtra, on 16-17 November 2026 (to be confirmed). The Workshops will be graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the host State, in the August Presence of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh. The inaugural event at Vijayawada will be graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, in the August Presence of Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh. Officials and Training Institutes from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry Sadhana Shrinkhla will take the national dialogue on institutional transformation to the regions for further contextualisation and action. The earlier consultations have highlighted the need for a unified framework to guide Training Institutes in moving from standalone training providers towards strategic, competency-driven Capacity Building Institutions.

India-UAE Review CEPA, Joint Investment Projects

New Delhi: The 14th Meeting of the India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments (HLJTFI) took place in Mumbai today, co-chaired by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and His Highness Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA). The HLJTFI was established in 2013 to promote trade, investment and economic ties between India and the UAE. Since its formation, it has provided an effective mechanism to discuss opportunities and prospects for further investments in India and the UAE, while acting as a forum to resolve issues faced by investors of the two countries.

Regular High-level exchanges, including Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi's visit to the UAE in May 2026, and the visit of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, to India in Sep-

tember 2026, have provided strategic direction and added momentum to the steadily strengthening bilateral partnership. Today's meeting addressed key trade and investment priorities, including initiatives to expand bilateral investment flows and explore emerging areas of collaboration. The UAE-India economic partnership continues to grow in both scale and strategic importance. Bilateral trade reached US\$101.25 billion in FY 2025-26 and in 2025, non-oil trade reached US\$76.2 billion, reflecting the strength of commercial ties and the impact of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). As the UAE and India continue to work towards the shared ambition of US\$200 billion in bilateral trade by 2032, the two countries continue to expand investment cooperation across the sectors that will drive future growth, including energy, infrastructure, technology and artificial intelligence.

Against this positive

backdrop, the co-chairs opened the meeting by acknowledging the rise in trade between the UAE and India, and the role the CEPA, the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) and other agreements on taxation, mutual legal assistance have played in further strengthening the bilateral relationship. The two sides reviewed the work of CEPA's relevant subcommittees, discussed ways to further strengthen trade resilience in an increasingly complex geopolitical and economic environment. The Joint Task Force reviewed the positive progress of several joint investment projects and areas of collaboration, including the Food Park project in Gujarat. Both sides noted the expected operationalization of Invest India office in the UAE before the end of 2026. They welcomed recent Emirates NBD's approximately USD 3 billion acquisition of a majority stake in RBL Bank of India, and International Holding Company (IHC) USD 1 billion in

Sammaan Capital of India, as well as a joint investment intent of USD 11.5 billion in the establishment of integrated Aluminum complex in Odisha. They also noted the successful opening of Mashreq Bank, First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) and Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company (ADNIC) branch offices in GIFT City in India. The two sides also reviewed energy cooperation under the MoUs signed during Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi's visit to UAE in May 2026. Given the wide range and depth of mutual investments, this truly stands as a multifaceted partnership between the two countries.

Financial-sector cooperation remains an important pillar of the UAE-India economic partnership. The Co-Chairs reviewed the progress made by the Central Banks of the UAE and India on initiatives relating to local-currency settlement, the integration of payment and messaging systems, and central-bank digital currencies.

Mandaviya Calls for Stronger Industrial Relations



New Delhi: Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, today inaugurated the National Conference on Industrial Relations and Labour Awards 2026, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Employers' Federation of India (EFI) around the theme "Reengineering Industrial Relations & Work-

place Participation in the AI Age", in New Delhi. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mandaviya emphasised the need to evolve India's labour and social security ecosystem in tandem with changing times and emerging economic realities. He spoke of the vast opportunities that Artificial Intelligence (AI) opens up in today's world, and stressed on the need to equip India's

youth with new-age skills in AI, automation, robotics and other cutting-edge technologies. He drew attention to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 2026, wherein the Prime Minister had announced that one crore youth would be trained in AI skills over the next one year. The Union Minister underlined

the expansion of India's social security coverage over the past decade, rising from 19% of the population in 2015 to cover 101 crore people, or 68% of the population as on date, as recognised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Calling for a change in the conventional mindset of pro-industry policies being perceived as anti-labour, and vice-versa, he urged both industry and workers to progress together as partners in nation-building. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya announced that the Ministry of Labour & Employment is launching a mega awareness campaign on the Labour Codes titled "Shram Samvad" with effect from today, under which industrial clusters across 316 districts in all 36 States and Union Territories will be covered over the next 90 days. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya also emphasised upon the importance of continuous dialogue and consultations among all stakeholders for strengthening industrial relations.

Ashwagandha Trial Finds No Liver, Kidney Injury

New Delhi: A large multicentre clinical study published recently in Frontiers in Medicine has found that daily administration of a standardised Ashwagandha root extract for 24 weeks was well tolerated, with no evidence of treatment-related liver or kidney injury. Published on 20 August 2026, (Front. Med., Vol 13, 20 August 2026. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmed.2026.1852954>) the study, titled "Safe prolonged prophylactic use and tolerability of Ashwagandha following COVISHIELD™ vaccination over 24 weeks: a multicentre randomised double-blind placebo-controlled trial," was conducted by a multidisciplinary team of researchers from 09 institutions, including the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), All India Institute of Ayurveda, National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, Ayush Centre of Excellence, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Centre for Comple-

mentary and Integrative Health, and Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University, among others. The study was conducted by a multidisciplinary group of 45 researchers from 9 institutions, bringing together expertise across Ayurveda, clinical medicine, rheumatology, complementary and integrative health and related disciplines. The randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial included 1,200 apparently healthy adults aged 18-70 years who had received a first, second or booster dose of COVISHIELD vaccine. Participants were randomly assigned to receive either 500 mg of a standardised aqueous Ashwagandha root extract daily, equivalent to 4 grams of raw root powder, or a matching placebo. The study was conducted across seven study sites in India and included clinical, laboratory and immunological assessments. The trial was registered with the Clinical Trials Registry-In-

dia (CTRI/2021/06/034496). (<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>) Participants received the intervention for 24 weeks and were followed through week 28. Of the 1,200 participants enrolled, 1,032 (86%) completed the study. The study found a favourable safety and tolerability profile for the standardised Ashwagandha root extract over the 24-week intervention period. Liver and kidney function parameters remained within the reported reference ranges, with assessments including liver enzymes, bilirubin, creatinine and blood urea showing no evidence of treatment-related hepatic or renal injury. No serious adverse events were considered attributable to the study intervention, and no participant withdrew from the trial because of an adverse event. Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, emphasised that the findings contribute to the robust scientific evidence supporting the safety and appropriate use of standardised Ayurveda

interventions. He observed, "High-quality clinical research strengthens the scientific evidence-base of Ayurveda and contributes to a deeper understanding of its potential within contemporary healthcare. The growing body of evidence from rigorous clinical studies is also supporting the responsible global utilisation of Ayurveda and its interventions across health and wellness settings." Dr. Arvind Chopra, Ayush Distinguished Scientist Chair and Director & Chief Rheumatologist at the Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, Pune, India, and lead author of the study, highlighted the significance of the findings, stating, "This large, multicentre, randomised clinical trial provides important evidence on the safety and tolerability of standardised Ashwagandha over 24 weeks. Throughout the study, liver and kidney function parameters remained within physiological reference ranges, with no treatment-related liver or kidney injury observed.

"Terror Will Have Consequences": India Hits Back At Shehbaz Sharif's UN Speech

India on Saturday gave a stinging reply to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's statements during his address to the UN General Assembly in New York on Friday.Exercising India's right to reply, diplomat Petal Gehlot called Sharif's remarks "bizarre" and reminded the Assembly that Osama bin Laden, who masterminded the 9/11 attacks, was found living in Pakistan. "The US just observed the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Its mastermind was living at the doorsteps of Pakistan's Army's premier academy," she pointed out. Sharif on Friday used the UN General Assembly podium to credit US President Donald Trump for his "timely intervention" in the 2025 conflict

with India, as he again raked up the Kashmir issue in his address to the world organisation. Calling out Pakistan's hypocrisy on terrorism, India said that it "claims to uphold security by day and perpetrates terrorism by night." Warning Pakistan that terrorism will have consequences, India said it will act to defend itself. "We demonstrated last year that terrorists will have nowhere to run and nowhere to hide. Our right to defend ourselves against terrorism will be exercised. And continued terrorism by Pakistan will have consequences," the Indian diplomat said.

India had launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan

and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. US President Trump has repeatedly claimed, as recently as in his address to the UN General Assembly this week, that he stopped the war between India and Pakistan. New Delhi has consistently denied any third-party intervention. India also called on the UN Assembly "to recognise Pakistan and its policies for what they are, not what its representatives mendaciously present." "Reiterating falsehood year after year will not make it true. Pakistan's duplicity and deceit will neither benefit it nor the world." In his about 23-minute address, Sharif also raised the issue of Kashmir,

saying that to ensure South Asia never reaches that precipice of the conflict of 2025 again, a just and fair solution to the Kashmir issue is required. Calling Jammu and Kashmir an "integral and inalienable part of India," Gehlot pointed to human rights violations in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. "Let's turn focus to PoK. Ask the people of Rawalkot about the wanton killings and human rights violations by the Pakistan government there," she said. Slamming Pakistan's "hypocritical homilies" about democratic values and human rights, the Indian representative pointed out Islamabad's own record. "Pakistan is the regime of the army, for the army and by the army. Their

puppets may change, but the army continues to call the shots." On Sharif's reference to religious tolerance, India pointed out Islamabad's own record. "The Pakistani regime has blasphemy laws as its mainstay. The world knows how Pakistan treats its minorities." In his speech, Sharif also spoke about the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), which India has said will be held in abeyance until Pakistan, a global epicentre of terror, credibly and irrevocably ends its support for cross-border and all other forms of terrorism. India decided to put the IWT in abeyance as part of a series of punitive diplomatic and economic measures unveiled soon after the Pahalgam terror attack.

China's Satellite "Helping Hand" Makes Iran's Drones Deadlier: Report



US intelligence assessments have found that satellite data and intelligence support from Chinese groups have significantly enhanced Iran's precision-strike and vessel-tracking capabilities across the Middle East.

This external intelligence has been linked to improved accuracy in threatening ships in the Strait of Hormuz and a lethal strike on a US military base in Jordan, CNN reported, citing four sources.

The sources said that the strike on the US base in Jordan that killed three US service members was with a level of precision that was beyond Iran's domestic capabilities. One of the officials said that Chinese geospatial data has helped Iran with its missile and drone strikes on ships in the Strait of Hormuz. According to two additional sources, Iran uses this data to precisely time drone launches, allowing even their basic, non-maneuverable heat-seeking models to threaten ships.

Apart from this, Russia has been providing Iran with support and the battlefield experience acquired by Iran during the conflict, combined, serve as crucial factors. US officials state it is difficult to accurately measure the scale of China's assistance. This difficulty stems from uncertainty over whether Beijing is actively directing the support or simply permitting it, alongside internal disagreements among officials regarding the true extent of China's help. How China's Satellite Data Helps Iran's Heatseeking Drones

Iran's heatseeking drones are not very sophisticated but with the help of Chinese satellite imagery, they launch

a large number of drones at the ships at the most favourable moment and attack US military escorts and commercial vessels.

"There's a reason that their targeting has improved, and it is due to some assistance," one of the sources said. "Getting reps on the battlefield helps, but getting a helping hand helps a lot too." Another source said, "They're getting better because we've essentially given them more time to train." They also claimed that China has equipped Iran with air defence systems.

China Denies That Firms Are Supplying Data To Iran

Earlier in the month, a report by The Wall Street Journal found that the deadly Iranian ballistic missile strike followed months of unheeded warnings from the Trump administration to Beijing regarding Chinese firms supplying targeting data to Tehran. At the time, the Chinese Embassy in the US clarified that the help Beijing provides Tehran is in compliance with international law and that critics were "maliciously linking and smearing other countries" by taking advantage of the conflict. According to experts and former officials cited by The Wall Street Journal, the imagery likely represented one component of Iran's broader intelligence operation. US officials add that the Iranian military regularly supplements its data with domestic satellites, human assets, and intelligence provided by Russia.

US Says China's Help To Iran "Totally Unacceptable"

Chinese President Xi Jinping is in Washington for a summit with US President Donald Trump. During

candid talks at the White House, US Ambassador to China David Perdue said on Friday that any help given to Iran was "totally unacceptable".

"We made it very clear to them weeks ago that, you know, any help that they would give Iran, whether it be direct or indirect, whether it be intelligence or parts or military equipment, was totally unacceptable. President Trump made that very clear again yesterday. This is an ongoing drumbeat," Perdue said in an interview with CNBC. "These two leaders are beginning to develop a relationship of somewhat trust and also working on the issues. I mean, this was a very candid and open conversation, and every time they talk, I think we see a different level of intimacy about these difficult issues that we're dealing with." However, when US Secretary of State Marco Rubio was questioned about China's role in the attack, he said, "nothing that China has done has in any way changed the trajectory of the conflict." In May, the US sanctioned three Chinese companies Mizart Vision, Earth Eye and Chang Guang saying that supplying satellite imagery to Iran

"threatens American and partner personnel." The report stated that officials are frustrated because the US is wide open to low- and medium-altitude drone and missile attacks. The US spent billions on advanced defence systems, but they only protect against high-altitude weapons, leaving a dangerous blind spot. "Without the Chinese parts they wouldn't be as likely to keep fighting, it is as basic as that," a US official stated.

US-Iran War To Resume In November? Trump Rejects Tehran's 7-Day Peace Plan

New Delhi:President Donald Trump has reportedly rejected Iran's proposal for a seven-day ceasefire and is likely to resume bombing Tehran after the November mid-term elections in the US. Tehran had proposed to reopen the strategic waterway Strait of Hormuz and end fighting -- which began on February 28 when the US and Israel conducted joint strikes on Iran -- within seven days if the US agreed to its demands. "Iran has conveyed to the United States, through Qatar, a concrete seven-day plan. If the necessary conditions are met, the strait can be reopened, and normal maritime passage restored within seven days," Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told reporters at the UN on Friday. "The choice now rests with the United States. Iran does not accept coercion, threats, or intimidation, and Iran will not surrender its sovereign rights under pressure," he said. "I can tell

you if there is seriousness in the US side to come to a deal and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, everything is now prepared," he added. Hours later, The Wall Street Journal reported that Trump had rejected the proposal, citing US officials familiar with the matter. Trump, who has vowed that Iran will never acquire a nuclear bomb, was skeptical Tehran would meet his demands and sees a renewed bombing campaign as likely, according to the report. He also posted an image on his Truth Social platform of a map showing Hormuz circled and labelled "Trump Strait."

Iran's 7-Day Plan To End War

Iran said it would reopen Hormuz -- the world's most vital energy conduit -- and resume talks on its nuclear program in seven days if the US lifts its naval blockade, waives oil sanctions and observes a ceasefire that includes Lebanon. The proposal was discussed by the



Iranian foreign minister at a private gathering on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Tehran's new proposal resembled an agreement reached in June that later collapsed.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said in an interview with broadcaster CBS that the ceasefire "process will begin from the very day they accept it." "We had previously reached an agreement based on the MOU that was signed in

Pakistan...if the United States agrees to proceed in that way, everything will return to the way it was before," he said.

The US-Iran Deal In June That Later Collapsed

Trump and Pezeshkian had signed a 14-point deal to end the Middle East war on June 17. The agreement provided for an immediate cessation of military operations, including in Lebanon, and commits both countries to pursuing a fi-

nal agreement within 60 days. Trump, however, on July 8 said the deal was "over". Tehran also suspended the memorandum of understanding a week later, accusing Washington of "violating all its commitments". Since then, Trump has reiterated that he's in no rush to reach a deal. The White House on Friday said that US officials are having positive and constructive conversations with media-

Chinese Help To Iran Totally Unacceptable': Trump To Xi

"Donald Trump apparently "made it clear" to Xi Jinping that any help to Iran from the Chinese side amid the US' ongoing war with Tehran was "totally unacceptable", an official said on Friday.

In an interview with CNBC, US Ambassador to China David Perdue said Trump made the comments during his candid talks with the Chinese President at the White House.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is on a highly-anticipated state visit to the United States, where the leaders reportedly discussed a number of thorny issues including Iran, trade, and artificial intelligence. "We made it very clear to them weeks ago that any help that they (China) would give Iran, whether it be direct or indirect, whether it be intelligence or parts or military equipment, was totally unacceptable. President Trump made that very clear again yesterday. This is an ongoing drumbeat," Perdue told the television network.

He said Trump and Xi agreed that "Iran will never have a nuclear weapon."

"They (Iran) also agreed to open up the Strait of Hormuz and that no one ever would be allowed to have tolls inside that strait," he added.

Perdue said that US and Iran will continue to have

talks about Iran privately, claiming that they have seen progress. "They pulled some things down and we have evidence that they pay attention when President Trump talks about this particular issue."

The US envoy said that over the last month, much of the US President's time has been spent on the topic of discussing Iran with Xi. "This is an independent issue and President Trump's made it very clear what our interests are and with regard to Iran," the he reiterated, adding that it does not have any ties with other topics, including Taiwan. However, Perdue did not budge on the claim that China has been giving "indirect support" to Iran. "We're very concerned about this indirect work and we've made that very clear," he said.

Since the US launched an attack on Iran along with Israel on February 28, multiple reports have claimed that China has been supporting Tehran. A recent report by CNN claimed that satellite imagery and intelligence support from China helped Iran threaten ships in Hormuz and launch precision strikes on US bases in the Middle East.

Another report by The Wall Street Journal said China supplied electronics components to Iran that



can be used to make parts for drones and missile guidance systems. The US administration had previously penalised three Chinese

satellite imagery providers in May over intelligence sharing that facilitated targeting against US positions. The US and

Iran signed a memorandum of understanding in June that aimed to end the war, reopen the strait and launch talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

Ask India, Ask Pakistan": Balen Shah's Attack On "Broken" Global Order At UN

"While delivering his maiden speech at the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah questioned a global system where weapons cross borders rapidly while farmers struggle to access fuel and fertilizer. "Inter-continental missiles arrive on time. Rifles and ammunition cross borders, clear every bottleneck, meet each deadline. But a peasant in Nepal can-

not procure his fertilizer or fuel at market price at a time of need", he said.

In his speech, Shah strongly criticised the current global order, stating, "We have built a world with flawless logistics for war and broken logistics for food." Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah speaks during the 81st United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York on September 24, 2026

Balendra Shah speaks during the 81st United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York on September 24, 2026

At 36, Shah spoke as the youngest head of government at the assembly this year, using the global platform to advocate for climate justice for South Asian nations. "And this is not Nepal's private misfortune. Ask Bangladesh. Ask Bhutan. Ask India. Ask the Maldives. Ask Pakistan.

Ask Sri Lanka. Ask any other country in our region and you will hear the same account: hit by the climate we did not warm, and hit again by the wars we did not start. This tells us there is a lot more broken than meets the eye in the present order of global co-operation," he said. Shah's hard-hitting speech followed the catastrophic Bhotekoshi floods in Nepal on August 26, 2026, which tragically killed over 1,400

people and left thousands missing. He broadened his message to include the shared vulnerabilities of the entire South Asian region, urging world leaders to look at the ground realities of the global order. Nepal PM Proposes Himalayan Climate Resilience Mechanism

He then proposed that a Himalayan Climate Resilience Mechanism should be established since a warming climate is

destabilising the region's ecology and should be led by his country, India and China.

"The Hindu Kush Himalaya is home to nearly two billion people. These mountains provide water, ecosystems, agriculture and livelihoods to populations far beyond Nepal. The Himalayas are not peripheral to the planet. They are part of the planet's life-support system," Shah said."

What's new in Ather Konarc Rs 10 key things to know about electric scooter



Ather Energy has introduced its new electric scooter — Konarc — in New Delhi. The company has launched the scooter with a starting introductory price of Rs 79,999 (ex-show-room, New Delhi, including subsidy). According to the electric two-wheeler manufacturer, the Konarc is designed for everyday riding. It focuses on range, comfort, durability and easier ownership. Deliveries will begin in phases for select variants.

Here are the key things to know about the new Ather Konarc.

1. Six variants and up to 200 km range

The Konarc is available across the S and Z product lines. It comes in six variants. The scooter offers IDC range options of up to

200 km. Ather has built the scooter on its new EL platform.

2. 10-year battery warranty

All Konarc variants come with Ather's fifth-generation Bedrock battery pack. The battery gets a warranty of 10 years or 1,00,000 km, whichever comes first. Ather has also guaranteed a minimum 70 per cent state of health at the end of the warranty period.

3. Service interval increased to 10,000 km

Ather has doubled the service interval for the Konarc to 10,000 km. For most riders, this means the scooter will need servicing about once a year. The scooter also has fewer service checkpoints and easier access to wear-and-tear components.

4. Built for Indian Roads

The Konarc comes with a 14-inch front alloy wheel and a 12-inch rear alloy wheel. It has a wheelbase of 1,352 mm. The scooter also gets long-travel suspension at both ends. Ather has used metal panels on the rear side and a steel unibody chassis.

The scooter uses a sequential gear-drive transmission. Ather said it is designed to offer smooth and quiet power delivery.

5. New advanced braking system

The Konarc gets Ather's Advanced Electronic Braking System (AeBS). The system adjusts braking force between the front and rear wheels based on road conditions.

6. MagicKey and other new features

The scooter gets MagicKey for a keyless experience. It includes SmartWake, automatic locking and remote scooter location. AutoPop provides hands-free access to the under-seat storage.

The Konarc also gets AirWalk. The feature uses motor assistance to make it easier to move the scooter manually in tight parking spaces.

7. Faster home charging
The Konarc comes with an integrated onboard charger and charging cable. An optional 450W offboard charger is also available. It can work with the built-in 450W charger to deliver 900W through Combined Charging. Ather said this can reduce home charging time by up to half.

8. Ather expands Delhi NCR network

Delhi NCR remains an important market for Ather. According to Vahan data cited by the company, EV adoption in the region increased from 6.27 per cent in Q1 FY26 to 9.23 per cent in Q1 FY27. Ather currently has 11 Experience Centres and seven Service Centres in Delhi. The company also has 273 LECCS fast-charging points in Delhi NCR.

9. Konarc joins Ather's line-up

The Konarc will be sold alongside the Ather 450 Series and Rizta in Delhi NCR.

The company said the launch will help expand its retail, service and charging network in the region. Ather also aims to bring its electric scooters to a wider group of riders.

Company's statement

Ravneet S. Phokela, CBO Ather Energy, said, "Delhi NCR is an important market in our journey towards making electric mobility more accessible to a wider set of riders. The scooter has been designed and engineered with features that matter most to buyers in this segment such as a service interval of 10,000 kms, an extended battery warranty of 10 years or 1,00,000 km (whichever is earlier) at a 70% health guarantee, a metal body, up to 200 km range, fast home charging, and a plush ride and comfortable ride with 14-inch front wheels and long travel suspensions at front and at the rear. These strong fundamentals set the Konarc up perfectly to make EV scooters mainstream in India. Furthermore, launching at a price of Rs 79,999 makes this proposition even more attractive for Delhi, and should be able to kickstart that transition. We see Konarc playing an important role in strengthening our presence here and accelerating the shift towards electric mobility in the country."

Airbus identifies quality issue on some A321 aircraft, says no safety risk



Airbus has identified a surface protection deviation on a number of A321 aircraft. The issue was found during standard rework. It affects stringers located in the lower front section of the aircraft fuselage.

Source identified, remedy available

Airbus said the source of the issue has been identified and contained. A remedy is also available for the affected stringers. The company said all newly coated stringers meet the required standards.

"We can confirm that during some standard rework, a surface protection deviation on stringers located at the lower front section of the fuselage was identified, affecting a number of A321 aircraft. The source of the issue has been identified, contained, and a remedy is available," an Airbus spokesperson said.

Aircraft can continue to operate

Airbus said the affected aircraft can continue to operate. It described the matter as a quality issue, not a safety issue.

No stringer disassembly required

The required rework will not require the stringers to be disassembled. Once the rework is completed, the aircraft will be considered to be back in its nominal design condition.

"The rework doesn't require any disassembly of the stringers. Once rework is applied, the aircraft is considered to be back as if at nominal design," Airbus spokesperson added.

New coating meets requirements

An Airbus spokesperson confirmed that the newly coated stringers meet all specified requirements.

Domestic tourist visits reach 428.55 crore in 2025

On a separate note, domestic tourist visits in India reached 428.55 crore in 2025, IANS reported citing a government factsheet released ahead of World Tourism Day.

From e-Visas to Cruise Hubs: 10 key facts about World Tourism Day and India's tourism boom

Did you know that tourism contributes 5.22 per cent to India's GDP and supports 8.46 crore jobs? World Tourism Day, observed annually on September 27 every year, is an annual United Nations (UN) to raise global awareness about how tourism drives economic growth, job creation, inclusive development and environmental sustainability, and how it can support sustainable development goals.

A brief history of World Tourism Day

September 27 marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization (then WTO and now UN Tourism (UNWTO)) in 1970. That milestone transformed the erstwhile International Union of Official Travel Organisations (IUOTO) into an intergovernmental body. In 1979, the UNWTO General Assembly decided to institute World Tourism Day, with the first celebration in 1980. Since 1997, each year's observance has a theme and is hosted by a different country or group of countries, rotating across world regions.

What's the theme of World Tourism Day in 2026?

This year around, the theme of World Tourism Day is 'Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism'. The theme aligns closely with India's own push to build a more connected, inclusive and tech-enabled travel sector. Tourism now contributes 5.22 per cent to India's GDP, supporting 8.46 crore jobs in the country. As domestic and foreign visitor numbers climb and new experiences open up along the coast and beyond, the sector is fast becoming a key engine of growth and livelihoods.

NCLT clears Sesa Care merger; Dabur eyes wider Ayurvedic hair care play



The National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLT) New Delhi Bench has cleared the merger of Sesa Care Private Limited with Dabur India, bringing the premium Ayurvedic hair care brand a step closer to becoming part of Dabur's portfolio, the company said on Friday, September 25, in a stock market disclosure.

The transaction was first announced in October 2024, when Dabur India acquired 51 per cent of the paid-up Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares (CRPS) of Sesa Care from its existing shareholder, True North. "The NCLT approval marks a key milestone in the transaction first announced in October 2024 and paves the way for the integration of Sesa Care with Dabur India, subject to completion of the necessary statutory filings and other formalities," said Dabur India.

The scheme subsequently received the requisite approvals from Dabur India's equity shareholders and unsecured creditors at meetings convened pursuant to NCLT directions on May 2, 2026, followed by relevant regulatory approvals, the company said.

The merger will become effective after completion of the required statutory filings and other formalities under the scheme.

Sesa Care

Sesa Care is a leading brand in the Ayurvedic hair care market with strong brand equity. The merger will bring to Dabur India a premium brand with strong credentials in Ayurveda, complementing its existing portfolio and strengthening its presence in the hair care category. Commenting on the development, Dabur India Limited Global Chief Executive Officer Mohit Malhotra said, "The NCLT approval is an important milestone in our journey with Sesa Care. Sesa Care is a premium brand with strong Ayurvedic credentials and complements our existing hair care portfolio well. We see significant potential in bringing the two businesses together and building Sesa Care into a stronger and larger brand."

The integration of Sesa Care is aligned with our long-term strategy of strengthening our portfolio and tapping newer growth opportunities. We will look to leverage Dabur India's extensive distribution network, category expertise and access to key international markets to expand Sesa Care's reach and unlock revenue and cost synergies from the combined business." Dabur India Limited Executive Director and Group Head of Corporate Strategy Abhinav Dhall added. Dabur India Limited is one of India's leading FMCG Companies. The company's products today reach eight out of every 10 Indian households, which is a testament to the trust we have built over generations. The company's portfolio today includes four Rs 1,000 crore-plus brands, alongside four Rs 500 crore brands and 15 brands in the Rs 100-500 crore range. Meanwhile, shares of Dabur India closed at Rs 386.95 per share, up Rs 1.80 or 0.47 per cent, up on SBE today, September 25.

India's first LNG-powered train: Amit Shah to flag off service from Sabarmati

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to flag off India's first LNG-powered train from Sabarmati station on September 27, 2026. The initiative is aimed at promoting the use of alternative and cleaner energy sources in Indian Railways and reducing dependence on conventional diesel fuel.

For the first time in Indian Railways, an LNG-based fuel system has been successfully adopted in the train's Driving Power Cars (DPCs). The technology allows the same engine to use both LNG and diesel.

1,400 HP DPCs converted to LNG-diesel dual-fuel system

Under the project, two Driving Power Cars with a capacity of 1,400 HP each have been converted to an LNG-diesel dual-fuel system. The conversion will allow LNG to be used along with diesel, helping reduce dependence on conventional diesel fuel while retaining the existing engine system.

Two DPCs complete more than 2,000 km of field trials

Both converted DPCs have completed more than

2,000 kilometres of successful field trials. The trials were conducted to assess the performance and reliability of the LNG dual-fuel technology.

The successful trials have demonstrated the use of the technology under operating conditions.

LNG use expected to reduce diesel consumption and emissions

The use of the LNG dual-fuel system is expected to reduce diesel consumption as well as pollutant emissions from the engine.

The technology is expected to help reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulate matter (PM).

The initiative is also expected to support cleaner and greener railway transportation and contribute to improved air quality around railway routes.

LNG-based system expected to save around Rs 23.9 lakh annually

LNG costs less than diesel, and its partial use in place of diesel is expected to help reduce operating costs. Based on the data obtained during the trials, the LNG-based system is expected to result in savings of around Rs 23.9 lakh per



year. The technology can therefore help reduce railway operating expenses while also providing environmental benefits.

Train can switch between LNG and diesel

A key feature of the dual-fuel system is that the engine can switch between diesel and LNG depending on fuel availability.

This means train operations can continue even if LNG is not available, providing flexibility in fuel use. The use of LNG also allows the train to cover a longer distance after refuelling, reducing the need for frequent refuelling and improving operational convenience.

LNG tank capacity set at around 2,200 litres per DPC

According to the approved design, each DPC has been fitted with an LNG tank with a capacity of around 2,200 litres.

The tank can hold approximately 950-1,000 kg of usable LNG

With a full LNG tank, one DPC has enough LNG for around 444 kilometres of daily operation. This reduces the need for frequent refuelling and is expected to improve operational efficiency.

Dual-fuel system designed to maintain engine performance

The LNG dual-fuel system has been designed to

maintain the power, reliability and operational capability of the conventional diesel engine.

The technology is intended to deliver fuel savings and reduce emissions while maintaining the train's performance and operational reliability.

The adoption of LNG dual-fuel technology by Indian Railways is aimed at promoting cleaner energy, improving fuel efficiency, reducing operating costs and supporting environmental protection. The initiative could also play a role in developing a more sustainable and environment-friendly railway transportation system in the future.

Global tourism rebounds, but local benefits fail to keep pace: WEF

Global tourism has improved across most countries, but the rise in visitor numbers is not leading to equally strong economic and social gains, according to a World Economic Forum (WEF) report. The WEF said many destinations are finding it difficult to turn record tourism demand into lasting benefits as they deal with higher costs, geopolitical and climate-related disruptions, labour shortages and growing pressure on infrastructure and local communities. This is despite an overall improvement in the

2026 Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI), which tracks the conditions and policies that support the sustainable and resilient growth of the travel and tourism sector.

91% TTDI improved score

As per the report, "92% of the 110 economies in the 2026 Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) improved their score since 2024, with Japan taking the top position," while average scores rose by 2.1 per cent.

Tourism development conditions are at their strongest since the pandemic, led

by improvements in cultural attractions, tourism infrastructure and services, and air connectivity. At the same time, cultural resources stood as the "most improved pillar in the TTDI, with over 95% of economies recording higher scores."

International tourism touches record high in 2025

WEF also noted, "International tourist arrivals reached a record 1.5 billion in 2025, up 5% on 2024 and 4.4% above 2019 levels," highlighting, Middle East and Africa recorded the

strongest growth while Asia-Pacific continued to close the gap with pre-pandemic travel level.

However, "Between 2024 and 2026, travel became less affordable in three out of four economies, while tourism investment failed to keep pace with rising demand and labour shortages threatened further growth," it said. Benefits to local communities also weakened during the period, showing that higher tourist numbers do not always result in better incomes or improved job quality, especially in destinations that

rely heavily on seasonal travel. The report also said travel and tourism costs have risen faster than overall inflation in many economies. As a result, price competitiveness declined in nearly three-fourths of the economies covered by the TTDI between 2024 and 2026. WEF noted that tourism investment has not kept pace with the growth in activity since 2022. At the same time, labour shortages and skill gaps could affect service quality and make it harder for the sector to adapt to digital and AI-led changes.

AI Rivalry Eclipses Safeguards And Regulation At Trump-Xi Summit



The meeting between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping carried all the ceremony expected when the leaders of the world's two most powerful countries sit across the table. On artificial intelligence, however, the encounter produced little that matched either the scale of the technology's advance or the urgency surrounding its risks. The two leaders acknowledged the importance of AI, and Xi explicitly stressed the need to keep it under human control, but the summit stopped well short of the kind of common safeguards, testing standards or crisis-management arrangements that many scientists and technology executives believe are becoming necessary.

That absence was particularly striking because the meeting came at a critical moment in AI develop-

ment. Frontier systems are advancing beyond conventional chatbots towards models capable of carrying out complex tasks, operating software, writing sophisticated computer code and, increasingly, acting with limited human intervention. Researchers are debating how quickly systems capable of autonomous scientific discovery, cyber operations or recurring improvement might emerge. Some of the people building these systems have publicly warned that governments could find themselves regulating a technology whose capabilities are developing faster than their capacity to understand or supervise it.

Yet Washington and Beijing approached the issue through the prism of strategic competition as much as technological safety. The United States

wants to preserve its advantages in advanced semiconductors, computing infrastructure, frontier models and the enormous data centres required to train them. China, confronted with American restrictions on access to high-end chips and manufacturing technology, has accelerated its effort to build domestic alternatives. Chinese groups are developing increasingly capable models and processors, while investment in indigenous computing infrastructure has expanded. The result is that AI has become inseparable from the broader struggle over economic influence, military capability and technological power.

Trump has made his position unusually explicit. He regards excessive restraint as potentially more dangerous to American interests than rapid AI development

itself because restrictions could allow China to narrow or overturn the US advantage. His administration has consequently emphasised innovation and technological leadership while resisting attempts to construct an extensive international regulatory structure. Trump has even sought to replace the term artificial intelligence in official American usage with "super intelligence", arguing that "artificial" understates the technology's significance.

The terminology is more consequential than it might appear. In the technology industry, superintelligence has traditionally meant something considerably more specific: a hypothetical system whose intellectual abilities exceed those of humans across most important fields. Using the expression as another name for AI therefore blurs the distinction between today's systems and the much more powerful machines that researchers are debating. It nevertheless captures Trump's political view of the technology. AI, in his conception, is primarily a source of national power and economic transformation whose development should not be slowed while America is competing with China. Xi's language at the summit was noticeably more cautious. He argued that AI should remain under hu-

man control, should be developed for beneficial purposes and should ultimately serve human welfare. Beijing has also shown greater willingness rhetorically to discuss international governance mechanisms. China has simultaneously promoted its own vision of global AI governance and sought a larger role in setting standards, particularly among developing countries. That does not mean China is prepared to sacrifice technological competitiveness for safety. Beijing has as much reason as Washington to protect strategically valuable research, computing capabilities and military applications. Its advocacy of governance therefore coexists with an intensive drive to achieve greater technological independence and narrow the gap with American companies. The apparent philosophical difference between the two governments is consequently less straightforward than a contest between American deregulation and Chinese regulation.

Both countries face the same strategic contradiction. They can recognise that increasingly powerful AI could create risks requiring cooperation while simultaneously fearing that transparency will reveal capabilities, weaknesses or research that could benefit the other side.

Modi's Gen Z Disconnect Contrast To CJP, Rahul's Chhatron Ki Goonj



Notwithstanding Narendra Modi having complete control over the political and administrative structure of the BJP, he is finding it tough to face Gen-Z challenges and counter the estrangement with this volatile force. Ever since Modi became the prime minister in 2014, he deliberately ignored this potential power pack on the presumption that his politics of stoking hatred and polarisation would defuse this dynamo. During his 12-year-rule so far, he has simply made them listen to his "mann ki baat". Party apparatus was used to force the students listen to his sermons, which has ironically created a generation immune to Modi's rhetoric. It was the Cockerroach Janata Party-led month-long agitation that

brought Modi to his sense and forced him to recognise the ground realities, and the gigantic disconnect with the youth. Subsequently, the BJP at his directive launched the herculean task of restructuring itself to make it more Gen Z friendly. Unfortunately for Modi, the forces opposed to him inside the party proved to be a hindrance. The restructuring nevertheless sent a clear and loud message that Modi was not the sole face of the party. But the organisational restructuring of the BJP has not yielded desired results as expected. The overall outcome remains highly debated given the party's mixed performance. Modi's close associates and protégé continue to have a major presence in the restructured apparatus. Since youths haven't got decisive representation, and participation of cadres owing allegiance to RSS was considerably slashed, the old horses continue to dictate the decision-making process.

While Nitin Nabin officially took charge as the national president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on January 20, 2026, the dynamics of the restructuring didn't have much clarity. Though it had become imperative in the backdrop of the running feud between Modi and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. During the restructuring, party president Nabin dropped several established leaders and introduced many new faces to appeal to a younger electorate and rectify communication gaps. Yet, the younger leaders were not assigned the responsibility or brought into the decision-making system of the party, though the BJP is not tired of claiming that it has given huge representation to young faces. Modi has never been comfortable with young leaders and new ideas. The BJP administration operates under a highly centralised, top-down structure that leaves little room for outside or unconventional ideas. Modi is uncomfortable dealing with critics and those raising uncomfortable questions are often marginalised. If he had been open to new ideas, he would have turned Mann Ki Baat a two-way deliberation. Modi's reluctance to listen to the youth's voice and interact with young faces has amplified youth unrest, helped intensify the CJP agitation over exam leaks and demands for reforming the education system. Opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi have gone as far as to label Modi administration "anti-youth", claiming that the government's response to youth agitation demonstrates an inability to tolerate the genuine anxieties and fresh perspectives of the Gen Z. There is no denying that a highly centralised management style from top leadership continues to demotivate youths, disempower local MLAs and booth-level activists, neutralising the intended benefits of appointing fresh leadership faces.

The claim of some BJP leaders that massive victory in the 2026 West Bengal assembly elections owes to restructuring is evidently a false narrative, meant to hide the machinations of the ECI to rig the election via the SIR-driven mass exclusions. The latest rejig in the form of the September 2026 appointment of dozens of state joint general secretaries, is an ongoing long-term consolidation process designed to build a "Team 2029" to ensure victory of BJP at the Lok Sabha elections, so that Modi comes to power for the fourth successive time. This is the mechanism devised by Modi and Amit Shah to counter the rising anti-incumbency and blunt the frustration among the voters. BJP's massive organisational restructuring is heavily motivated by a need to counter a perceived disconnect with Gen Z and younger voters. The Gujarati duo is panicked about Rahul Gandhi's Chhatron Ki Goonj (CKG) campaign, which represents a strategic, issue-based attempt to challenge Modi's political dominance. An analytical evaluation reveals that this initiative poses a structured, thematic challenge to the Modi by weaponising the grievances of India's large youth demographic. While Modi never desired to connect with the youth, the CKG impacts Modi's brand of politics and attempts to decouple the youth from Modi's narrative. There is no denying that a major pillar of Modi's electoral dominance has been his erstwhile support among first-time voters and the under-35 demographic, who viewed him as a symbol of aspiration and national progress. The CKG attempts to break this bond by shifting the narrative from nationalist pride to concrete structural failures. In this backdrop, it was expected that Modi by promoting the youth faces through his organisational restructuring would divert Rahul Gandhi's focus on a "System vs. Students" critique, which portrays the Modi administration not as an efficient engine of growth, but as an exclusionary elite structure controlled by a handful of decision-makers and corporatized interests, which ignores the questions of ordinary youth. Ironically though, the Modi administration recognises that a unified student front is a potent political risk, the restructuring does not enthrone much. Modi has explicitly sought to discredit the movement, labeling it Jooth Ki Goonj, but that did not work. The reason was; the lack of youth face which could stand to the face of Rahul. CKG is a potent threat to Modi's politics because it targets his most vital demographic base with real-world economic grievances. Since the major organisational overhaul followed massive student protests led by Gen Z under banners like the CJP, it was expected that the young faces would undertake the role of ideological preachers.

India's First Port-based e-Methanol Production Facility to Produce and Supply Green Fuel to Ships

India took a major step toward becoming a green energy exporter as Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam's Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma laid the foundation stone for the country's first port-based e-methanol plant at Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in Kandla, Gandhidham, Gujarat, today.

The 150-tonne-per-day plant will use renewable power, water and biogenic CO₂ to produce e-methanol, a green fuel that will enable cleaner shipping, and supply it to vessels plying on the Asia-Europe International Trade Corridor, one of the world's busiest trade routes. The project positions India as an exporter of green fuel to global shipping. The plant will position India as a global leader in the production and supply of green fuel, and will produce green methanol at a much more competi-

tive rate compared to other global producers, just US\$750 per tonne, against a global rate of US\$1,300 per tonne.

The Rs 2,300 crore plant is a joint initiative of Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) and Namrup-based Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd. (APCL), and will be installed in phases, as scalable modules. Phase I of the project will add 50 tonnes per day of capacity at an investment of ₹1,200 crore, targeted for completion by January 2027, followed by Phase II, which will add a further 100 tonnes per day at an investment of ₹1,100 crore, targeted for March 2027, taking the total investment to ₹2,300 crore. The capital contribution between the two partners stands at a ratio of 76:24 between DPA and APCL. DPA's contribution to the project includes equity capital of ₹567.32 crore, 75 acres of land, desalinated water, and renewable energy in the form of green hydrogen. It shall be amongst the largest e-

methanol production facilities in India and shall create more than 3,500 direct and indirect jobs. It shall stimulate the complete green energy value chain in and around Kandla, including transportation, storage, supply and other associated ancillaries involved in production of green molecules.

The project supports Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to reach Net Zero emissions by 2070 and will support the implementation of the Prime Minister's mission of Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in energy, and Make in India, Make for the World, and comes amid a wider push to expand India's maritime sector. The government plans to add 100 new ships to the country's merchant fleet over the next five years and aims to make India one of the world's top five ship-owning nations by 2047. Global shipping major Maersk has also begun ordering containers manufactured in India. As part of

Deendayal Port Authority's wider mega port push, the DPA-Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) shipbuilding project at Vadinar, worth ₹1,520 crore, is also underway, alongside a proposed greenfield shipbuilding and repair cluster at Kuchhadi, Porbandar, which has received in-principle approval.

Sarbananda Sonowal, who represents Dibrugarh in the Lok Sabha, noted that Assam Petro-Chemicals is based in Namrup in his constituency. He also drew on the cultural ties between Assam and Gujarat, citing the legend of Lord Krishna of Dwarka and Rukmini of the Northeast, the story of Usha and Aniruddha of Tezpur, and the works of the 15th-century Assamese saint Srimanta Sankaradeva. The project was also described as a shining example of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, bringing together the strengths of Assam and Gujarat in service of the nation.

"Under Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's leadership, India is growing faster and greener than ever, and Gujarat is proud to lead that journey," Bhupendra Patel said. "Kutch and the long coastline of Gujarat will now power the world's ships through Kandla. This plant turns our renewable strength into an export and makes Gujarat's coast a gateway for India's green energy to the world."

"PM Narendra Modi has given India the confidence to lead, not follow," Sarbananda Sonowal said. "Just as India is now building its own ships and containers, it will soon make the clean fuel that powers global trade. In the years ahead, Kandla will become a green-fuel hub on the Singapore-Rotterdam route, and this plant is a model for every major port in the country. It will open skilled careers for our youth and carry India firmly toward net zero by 2070 and in achieving the goals of VIKSIT BHARAT by 2047."

"PM Narendra Modi has

placed the Northeast at the heart of India's growth story, and Assam is repaying that trust with enterprise and ambition," Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma said. "Blessed with the mighty Brahmaputra, abundant sunshine and vast hydropower potential, Assam is ready to become a green energy powerhouse. Today, an Assam company carries that strength from Namrup to Kandla, proving that the Northeast will power India's clean energy future."

Also present were Kutch Lok Sabha MP Vinod Chavda, Gandhidham MLA Maltiben Kishor Maheshwari, Political Secretary, Govt of Assam, Taranga Gogoi, Assam Petro-Chemicals Chairman Bikul Deka and Vice Chairman Hemanta Gogoi, and Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) Chairman Sushil Kumar Singh among other dignitaries from the government as well as from both the organisations. The ceremony was held at the DPA Exhibition Ground in Gandhidham.

Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals Gears Up for Special Campaign 6.0 with Focus on E-Waste Disposal, Cleanliness and Workplace Efficiency

The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, is gearing up for Special Campaign 6.0, scheduled to be undertaken from 2nd to 31st October 2026, with a renewed focus on cleanliness, disposal of e-waste, space management and improving workplace efficiency. Several cleanliness activities were also undertaken during the preparatory phase which was held during the period of 15th to 30th September this year.

The campaign which has entered in its sixth year will accord special emphasis to the identification and disposal of e-waste in accordance with the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, and other applicable guidelines. It will also focus on optimisation of office space, disposal of

scrap and redundant items, record management and improving the overall workplace environment. The theme of this year's campaign is Effective Collection, Segregation and Disposal of e-waste.

Significant Achievements under Special Campaign 5.0

The Department successfully undertook Special Campaign 5.0 from 2nd to 31st October 2025, with focused interventions in cleanliness, record management, grievance redressal, scrap disposal and space optimisation.

During the Special Campaign 5.0, scrap disposal resulted in revenue of more than ₹9.18 lakh. An area of 7,156 square feet was freed through space audit and other measures, enabling more effective utilisation of available office space.

As part of the record

management exercise, 4,792 physical files were reviewed and 237 files were weeded out. In respect of electronic records and e-files, 1,275 e-files were reviewed and 170 e-files were closed.

The Department also received six public grievances during the campaign, all of which were disposed of, reflecting its focus on timely and responsive public service delivery. In addition, nine Parliamentary Assurances were monitored as part of the campaign.

Cleanliness and space optimisation drives were also undertaken, including the removal of obsolete furniture, old records and other redundant items. These measures contributed towards creating a cleaner, more organised and efficient workplace.

Active Participation of PSUs and Autonomous In-

stitutions

The Department's Public Sector Undertakings and autonomous institutions, including Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL) and HIL actively participated in the campaign.

Collectively, 93 cleanliness activities were undertaken by the Department. The initiatives covered cleanliness, removal of redundant materials, space optimisation and other measures aimed at improving workplace efficiency.

Focus Areas under Special Campaign 6.0

Building upon the experience and achievements of Special Campaign 5.0, the Department has undertaken preparations for Special Campaign 6.0 with

a broader focus on the following areas.

Identification of locations for sustained cleanliness and Swachhata activities;

Space management, office beautification and optimisation of available workspace;

Identification and disposal of e-waste in accordance with the prescribed rules and procedures;

Identification and disposal of scrap and redundant items in accordance with applicable General Financial Rules (GFR);

Review of pending references received from Members of Parliament, PMO, State Governments and Inter-Ministerial Cabinet Notes;

Monitoring of Parliamentary Assurances pending for more than three months;

Time-bound disposal of pending public grievances

and appeals, including those received through CPGRAMS and other sources;

Review and simplification of rules and processes for improving administrative efficiency; and

Strengthening of record management through review, recording and weeding out of old physical files and closure of e-files.

The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals continues to align its administrative practices with the Government's broader objective of clean, efficient, transparent and responsive governance. Through sustained efforts under the Special Campaign, the Department aims to promote optimal utilisation of resources, improve workplace conditions and strengthen the delivery of citizen-centric public services.

Hanuman Ansh: A Stunning ‘200 Times’ Box Office Return!



Hanuman Ansh has created a sensational milestone at the box office by crossing the 400 crore gross mark on its 52nd day. What makes the achievement even more special is the scale at which the film was

made. Made on a reported budget of just 2 crore, Hanuman Ansh opened to around 10 lakh. Nobody would have expected such a small film to turn into a massive box office phenomenon and continue its dream run

for more than 50 days.

The film has been showing remarkable consistency even after completing seven weeks. Despite entering the later stages of its theatrical run, Hanuman Ansh is still manag-

ing to collect decent numbers across several markets.

The film is also performing strongly in overseas markets. The steady collections there have played an important role in pushing the overall gross towards the Rs.400 crore milestone.

Interestingly, the film missed a good opportunity in the Telugu market after Trivikram reportedly backed out of the Telugu deal at the last minute.

Considering the film’s extraordinary performance, the Telugu business could have added another interesting chapter to its box office story.

50 plus day theatrical run with healthy collections is almost unprecedented for a film of this scale. Hanuman Ansh has gone far beyond its initial expectations and continues to create new milestones.

The Rs.500 crore mark will certainly be a tough target from here, but with the film still enjoying a long and healthy run, it cannot be completely ruled out. It has already turned into one of the biggest box office surprises of recent times.

Ranabaali Documentary 1st Episode : The Truth Behind The Epic

Ranabaali is not waiting until release day to tell its story. The makers have announced a four-part YouTube documentary series, Never Forget The Truth, beginning with The Famine We Forgot on September 28. Featuring Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna, and Arnold Vosloo, the historical action drama is directed by Rahul Sankrityan and backed by Mythri Movie Makers and T-Series.

The first episode released today and it focuses on a forgotten famine from Indian history and explains why the team chose to tell this story. The documentary highlights the years of research and historical groundwork that shaped the screenplay, proving that the makers want audiences to understand the film’s emotional foundation before watching it.

One of the biggest highlights is the authenticity. The locations, production design, costumes, and world-building look remarkably realistic, giving the film a lived-in historical texture rather than a fictional back-



drop. The documentary also offers exclusive behind-the-scenes footage showing the scale of the production.

The series continues with

The History We Forgot on September 30 and The Men We Forgot on October 2, while The Last Load will be announced later. As Ranabaali heads to-

wards its October 16 worldwide release, this documentary series is creating the right expectations with complete confidence in the film’s content.

IT Raids on Rakul Preet and Her Father-in-Law’s Properties



Income Tax officials carried out major search operations at twelve different places in Mumbai connected to several film industry personalities. The raids included various properties related to actress Rakul Preet Singh and her father-in-law Vashu Bhagnani, who is a producer. Officials started checking documents and account books early in the morning regarding illegal money transfers. Searches have also been conducted at places of leading production house, Panorama Studios. The central tax agency launched these search actions after suspecting huge tax evasion and unauthorized fund transfers to foreign countries. Investigators believe money was illegally sent abroad pretending to be production costs for shooting movies and international distribution fees. Multiple teams from Mumbai Income Tax division arrived together at office spaces and private residences linked with these celebs. Rakul Preet Singh came under scrutiny as she is married to actor-producer Jacky Bhagnani, who is son of Vashu Bhagnani. During search operations, tax officers checked digital records, bank statement details, and contract papers signed for international film shoots. Neither Rakul Preet Singh nor Vashu Bhagnani released any official statement regarding the ongoing tax raids so far. Rakul Preet started her career in South and emerged as one of the top actresses during her prime. At present, she is more inclined towards Bollywood. Two years ago, her brother was arrested in a drugs case.

Samantha’s Pregnancy Glow Is Simply Radiant



Samantha Ruth Prabhu is proving that pregnancy doesn’t have to mean putting life on pause. Fresh off Maa Inti Bangaram, which has reportedly crossed the 100 crore mark, the actress is now inspiring women with a different kind of win, showing that this phase can be lived healthy and active. Samantha shared new glimpses of her routine, from playing tennis to hitting the gym. In the pictures, she works out in an oversized grey tee and blue leggings, with a rowing session and a mirror selfie between the weights. She has also been keeping a sweet record of the journey with weekly polaroid-style illustrated pictures, counting up week by week. To balance the sweat, she added glam shots too, in a soft pistachio-green draped outfit with pearl-detailed sleeves, layered with a beaded necklace and gold bangles, with her waves left open. On the work front, there’s no update yet on her next project, but fans can be sure she’ll be producing.

Chiranjeevi To Host Celebrity Talk Show On Global Stage?

The long wait is finally over as megastar Chiranjeevi is all set to make his digital (OTT) debut with Netflix. As per the latest update, he will headline the streaming platform’s first celebrity talk show for an international audience. The project marks a new chapter in Chiranjeevi’s successful career, taking his reach to a wider global audience across the world. According to the latest buzz, the project will be presented in a podcast-style format. A few years ago, he started hosting Meelo Evaru Koteeswarudu, but it ended after just one season.

However, several details about the show are still under wraps. One of the biggest questions is whether Chiranjeevi will interview celebrities from the film industry or whether the podcast will focus primarily on his own life and career. Considering his four-decade journey, Chiranjeevi has plenty of stories to share, from his early days in cinema and struggles. At the same time, it will be very interesting to see him interviewing other celebs as well.

There is also curiosity about whether the format will feature guests from across Indian cinema or international entertainment. A global Netflix platform could give Chiranjeevi a much larger reach than a conventional regional talk show. There is also news that Chiranjeevi’s daughter, Sushmita Konidela, is the one behind the show. While the concept sounds exciting, the official format, episode count, guests, and launch date are yet to be revealed. Stay tuned for more.

