



Passage of Bill sends clear message to those stealing students' future: Lokesh

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SAUDI ARABIA'S DILEMMA AS IT TRIES TO STAY OUT OF US-IRAN WAR

WORLD PAGE



Dulquer Salmaan's I Am Game Trailer Out; Worldwide Release on August 20

CINEMA PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

28-07-2026
Total pilgrims - 78,709
Tonsures - 31,352
Mund kumbhali - 4,76 CR
Laddu sale - 3.97 Lac
Annaprashadam - 2.26 Lac
Medical treatment - 2,939
Waiting Compartments - 31

Approx. Darsan Time for Saralodharam (with out SSD Tonsure) 10:30 Hrs

RAILWAYS TOLD TO PAY RS 25,000 AFTER RAC PASSENGER MADE TO SHARE BLANKET

New Delhi (TSIT):
The Delhi State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed Indian Railways to pay Rs 25,000 in compensation to a passenger who was forced to share a blanket with a stranger during a train journey, holding the national transporter guilty of deficiency in service. In its order dated July 29, the commission awarded Rs 20,000 as compensation for mental harassment and physical inconvenience, along with Rs 5,000 towards litigation expenses. The bench, comprising commission president Monika Aggarwal Srivastava and members Rajender Dhar and Ritu Garodia, observed that the passenger, who travelled on a Reservation Against Cancellation (RAC) ticket, was entitled to separate linen despite sharing a berth with another passenger. The case relates to a journey from Prayagraj to Delhi in October 2022. The complainant alleged that the train attendant provided only one blanket, one pillow and two bedsheets for two unrelated passengers sharing an RAC berth. Despite requesting separate blankets and pillows.

ICRA LIMITED'S Q1 REVENUE SLIPS 6.6 PC SEQUENTIALLY; PAT RISES 32 PC

Mumbai (TSIT):
ICRA Limited on Thursday reported a 6.57 per cent sequential decline in consolidated revenue from operations for the June quarter (Q1 FY27) to Rs 163.4 crore in the June quarter of FY27 from Rs 174.85 crore in the preceding quarter (Q4 FY26). However, on a year-on-year (YoY) basis, revenue rose 31.2 per cent from Rs 124.5 crore, according to its stock exchange filing. The company's profit after tax (PAT) increased 32 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 56.5 crore during the quarter, compared with Rs 42.8 crore in the corresponding period last financial year. ICRA said the quarterly financial performance includes the impact of the consolidation of Fintelix, which it acquired in October 2025. As a result, the company noted that the current quarter's financials are not directly comparable with those of the year-ago period. "ICRA delivered a strong quarterly performance, supported by healthy growth in Ratings and sustained momentum in Risk & Analytics. Our Ratings business remained anchored in high-quality analytical delivery and market engagement, while Risk & Analytics benefited from robust demand across data, risk and technology-led solutions," Ramnath Krishnan, MD & Group CEO, ICRA Limited, said.

PM MODI ASSURES ARUNACHAL, NAGALAND MPS OF SUPPORT TO TACKLE FLOODS



New Delhi (TSIT):
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday assured five Members of Parliament from Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland that the Central government would extend all necessary support and continue working in close coordination with the con-

cerned state governments to effectively tackle the challenges posed by the ongoing heavy rainfall and floods. After meeting the MPs from the two Northeastern states, PM Modi posted on his official X account: "Had a meeting with MPs from Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to take coordinated steps with the Agriculture Department to promote vegetable cultivation across Telangana, with special focus on areas surrounding the newly proposed centralized kitchens that will supply breakfast and midday meals to government school students.

Reviewing the Expert Committee's report on the impact of El Niño conditions at the Bodhi Pavilion in MCR HRD Institute on Thursday, the Chief Minister said the government is ready to provide vegetable seeds on subsidy and stressed the need to create awareness among farmers on adopting organic farming practices. He also instructed



officials to facilitate direct procurement of produce from farmers and deploy Agriculture Department extension officers to guide cultivators.

The Expert Committee informed the Chief Minister that below-normal rainfall due to El Niño has adversely affected agriculture in the state and recommended encouraging farmers to shift towards alternative crops, including pulses,

oilseeds, millets and vegetables. It suggested preparing village-level contingency plans, supplying seeds with 75% subsidy, and extending fresh crop loans for alternative cultivation. According to the report, 74.56 lakh acres have been brought under cultivation this season compared to 79.49 lakh acres during the corresponding period last year. Cotton is being cultivated in 45 lakh acres, paddy in

14.92 lakh acres, and soybean in 3.62 lakh acres.

The committee also recommended promoting drip and sprinkler irrigation with 75-90% subsidy, supplying fodder seeds on subsidy, ensuring uninterrupted power supply for irrigation, and providing technical guidance to farmers through agricultural universities.

It further proposed encouraging vegetable cultivation around Hyderabad with improved transport facilities to Rythu Bazaars, extending financial assistance for dairy units in rural areas, and constituting village-level monitoring teams to oversee implementation of emergency agricultural measures. State Planning Board Vice-Chairman G. Chinna Reddy and members of the Expert Committee were present during the meeting.

PM MODI DIRECTS ALL-OUT EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD INTERESTS OF INDIAN CITIZENS AMID WEST ASIA CONFLICT

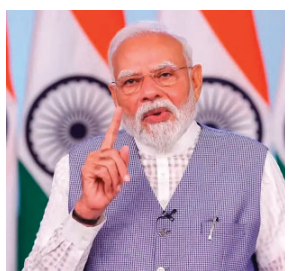
New Delhi (TSIT):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Thursday, issued directions for making all efforts to safeguard the interests of Indian citizens and the country's diaspora from the adverse impact of the West Asia conflict.

The CCS meeting was held to review the situation in the context of the ongoing West Asia conflict and measures taken by various Ministries and Departments to ensure adequate energy and fertiliser supplies and safety of Indian seafarers, according to an official statement issued after the meeting.

During the meeting, the fertiliser requirement for the ensuing Rabi season was assessed, and alternative sources of fertilisers were also discussed.

The Prime Minister said that all measures should



be taken for ensuring uninterrupted supply of fertilisers. The situation regarding seafarers serving on domestic as well as foreign-flagged vessels in conflict zones was also deliberated with the Prime Minister directing that a mechanism be established to provide timely information, emergency assistance and counselling to seafarers and their families. The discussion comes in the backdrop of commercial ships coming under attack in the Middle East region.

PM Modi also highlighted that in order to ensure energy independence, emphasis should be made on renewable energy

sources including solar energy and other non-fossil-fuel based sources.

The Prime Minister also said that a whole-of-government approach should continue to be adopted to tackle the challenges arising due to the crisis. He said that a unified coordinated mechanism be put in place for regular monitoring of all the developments to ensure expeditious implementation of appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of the citizens.

The Cabinet Secretary briefed the CCS about the present geo-political situation. He spoke about the initiatives taken to ensure adequate supply of petroleum products, including LNG, LPG and fertilisers. He said that sources for procurement of LPG have already been diversified and the overall stock and supply position of major petroleum products remain adequate.

CM Suvendu Adhikari praises Bengal Police for its work despite facing adversities

Kolkata (TSIT):

Despite the West Bengal government facing huge financial debt and lack of infrastructure, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday highly appreciated the work being done by the state police amid these adversities. At the same time, the Chief Minister conveyed that he will now directly listen to the grievances of the lower-level police personnel. Chief Minister Adhikari attended an event at the Barrackpore Police Training School in North 24 Parganas district where he also attended lunch with the police personnel.

While speaking before the lunch, the Chief Minister discussed the role of the state police in detail.

He highlighted the exact position of the West Bengal Police in terms of other



states. The Chief Minister admitted the poor financial condition of the state.

Chief Minister Adhikari said, "If there were some good things in the previous practices, there were many bad things. Then cut your coat according to your cloth. There is a lot of debt in this state."

The Chief Minister's speech spoke about the daily struggle of the police personnel.

He also mentioned that he knows what kind of



Ministry. "You're sitting inside a room, without being answerable to anything, but we will bring you out," Kharge said, insisting that the Home Minister could not evade responsibility. He demanded a statement from Amit Shah on the alleged police brutality in Delhi. Questioning the timing of the legislation, Kharge asked why a bill to prevent paper leaks had not been brought earlier.

He charged that the

Union government had remained busy with politics instead of securing the future of students. "You brought the Bill to stop the protests in Delhi. You did not bring in the bill for reforms," he alleged. "Because of the BJP's politics, the country had to witness paper leaks, protests and police brutality," Kharge said, adding that all of this could have been prevented had the ruling party not indulged in petty politics.

PLI scheme for food processing industries has created 3.35 lakh jobs: Govt

New Delhi, July 30 : The Centre's Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry has attracted investments to the tune of Rs 9,207 crore and generated around 3.35 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities, exceeding the target of 2.50 lakh jobs, the Parliament was informed on Thursday.

The sales of PLI-supported products increased from Rs 58,758 crore in FY 2019-20 to Rs 1,08,854 crore in FY 2025-26.

A total of 163 applications from 127 companies, including 69 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises



(MSMEs), are presently covered under the Scheme. The approved projects are spread across 212 locations in 22 states. Incentives amounting to Rs 3,271.44 crore have been disbursed up to June 2026. The Scheme has contributed to expansion of food processing capacity, growth in sales and exports, mobilisation of investment and generation of employment.

The investments undertaken under the Scheme have resulted in creation of food processing capacity of 34 lakh metric tons per annum, according to the information tabled in the Lok Sabha.

The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries with an approved outlay of Rs 10,900 crore for the period from FY 2021-22 to FY 2026-27. The scheme provides performance-linked incentives on achievement of eligible incremental sales and aims to promote domestic processing and value addition.

RG Kar rape & murder case: CBI changes investigating officer

Kolkata (TSIT):

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is undertaking a fresh probe in the ghastly rape & murder of a woman junior doctor of state-run R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital here in August 2024 on the Calcutta High Court's order, has replaced the investigating officer in the case, it was revealed.

The previous investigating officer, Seema Pahuja, whom the victim's parents alleged had conducted a lackadaisical probe and demanded her removal, has finally been relieved of the charge of investigation in the case.

Minister Vivekanand Urges
Vigilance Amid Heavy Rains

Mancherial (TSIT): State Minister for Labour, Employment, Training, Factories, Mines and Geology Gaddam Vivekanand on Thursday appealed to the public to remain vigilant as heavy rains continue to lash the district.

The Minister visited the Government General Hospital in Mancherial to enquire about the condition of two persons injured after a house wall collapsed in Alugam village of Kotapalli mandal. He was accompanied by District Collector Kumar Deepak, DCP A. Bhaskar, District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Narendra Rathod, RMOs Bhishma and Sridhar, and Kotapalli Tahsildar Raghavendra.



Vivekanand said the wall of the house belonging to Atram Manthaiah collapsed due to continuous rainfall, injuring Atram Lakshmi, who suffered a head injury, and Atram Anil, who sustained injuries to his hand. Both are undergoing treatment at the Government General Hospital. The Minister said the affected family had already been sanctioned an Indiramma house and assured that financial assistance would be provided in accordance with government norms.

An Educationist Dedicated to the Advancement of
Andhra University: Professor P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) With a history spanning more than a century, Andhra University has recorded remarkable progress over the past five years in academics, research, administration, and infrastructure development. The reforms introduced by Professor P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor from July 2019 to May 2024 enabled the University to earn recognition at both the national and international levels. On the occasion of his retirement, his services and achievements deserve special recognition.

Education, Career, Positions Held, and Achievements
Professor P.V.G.D.



Prasad Reddy is a distinguished educationist, researcher, and academic administrator who has rendered exceptional services to higher education in Andhra Pradesh. He joined the Department of Computer Science and Systems Engineering at Andhra University as an

Assistant Professor in 1987. Since then, he has served with distinction for more than three decades in the fields of teaching, research, and academic administration. At Andhra University, he efficiently handled several key positions, including Director of the Information Centre, Registrar, and Principal of the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Rector, and Director of the Yoga Centre. Subsequently, he served as the Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University from 2019 to 2024, providing visionary leadership to the institution. His research contributions span Software Engineering, Cyber Security, Data Science,

Internet of Things (IoT), Wireless Networks, and Image Processing. He has published more than 300 research papers in national and international journals and conferences and has secured over 35 patents and copyrights. Under his guidance, more than 65 research scholars were awarded Ph.D. degrees. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to education, he received the Andhra Pradesh Government Best Teacher Award in 2011 and earned distinction at several national and international academic conferences. He has established himself as an educationist who excelled equally in teaching, research, and academic administration.

KU NGO leaders
nominated to the State
Association

Hyderabad, City July 30 (TSIT): The executive committee meeting of the Telangana State Universities Non-Teaching Employees Association (TUNTEA) was held at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University on Thursday. TUNTEA President Abdul Khader Khan and Secretary General Kantham Premakumar handed over letters of nomination to Vallala Tirupati General Secretary of Kakatiya University NGO Employees Association as TUNTEA Working President, Boora Naveen Kumar as Vice President and Tati Damodar as Joint Secretary and they will serve in the State association for the next three years.



Speaking on the occasion, State President Abdul Khader Khan called for Health cards for all employees working in the universities, release of pending DA, implementation of PRC, immediate filling up of non-teaching staff vacancies, scrapping of the CPS system and implementation of the old pension scheme, and launching a membership enrollment drive in universities.

We will solve problems in double bedroom
colonies: Collector Adarsh Surabhi

Wanaparthy (TSIT): District Collector Adarsh Surabhi said that special measures will be taken to solve the problems of the people living in the colonies of double bedroom houses by providing necessary infrastructure and resolving them in a phased manner. On Thursday, he inspected Madanapur double bedroom housing colony along with Additional Collector (Local Institutions) Khemya Naik. The Collector inspected the infrastructure in the colony and inquired about the details from the concerned officials. After that, he directed the officials to directly talk to the residents of the colony and find out their problems and take immediate steps to solve the problems faced by the people. On this occasion, the Collector pointed out that



the locals should construct CC roads in the colony. When brought, they promised to discuss the problem with the officials of the concerned department and take necessary steps to solve it. Housing PD Vitobha, officials of various departments, local sarpanch, representatives of the colony and people participated in the visit.

CP Rashmi Perumal Inaugurates Traffic
Outpost in Husnabad

Husnabad (TSIT): Commissioner of Police Rashmi Perumal stressed the importance of strictly following road safety rules while inaugurating a new Traffic Outpost in Husnabad.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner said adherence to traffic regulations is essential to prevent road accidents and save lives. She urged motorists to wear helmets, use seat belts, avoid over-speeding, refrain from using mobile phones while



driving, and never drive under the influence of alcohol. Rashmi Perumal said the newly inaugurated Traffic Outpost would help strengthen traffic management, improve enforcement of road safety measures, and provide

quicker assistance to commuters in the region.

She appealed to the public to cooperate with the police by following traffic rules and promoting responsible driving habits. The Commissioner also called upon parents, educational institutions and community organisations to create greater awareness about road safety among youth. Police officials, local public representatives and residents attended the inauguration programme.

KIMS Saveera Treats Brain
Aneurysm Without Open Surgery



Anantapur (TSIT): Doctors at KIMS Saveera Hospital, Anantapur, have successfully treated a farmer suffering from a brain aneurysm without open brain surgery by using an advanced endovascular coiling procedure, offering a safer and minimally invasive treatment option. Consultant Neurologist Dr. Karthik Reddy and Interventional Radiologist Dr. Pritviraj said the patient, Rameshwar Reddy from Tadipatri, was admitted with severe headache, vomiting

and dizziness. A CT scan and CT angiogram revealed a brain aneurysm, a balloon-like swelling in a blood vessel that can become life-threatening if it ruptures. Instead of conventional open brain surgery, the medical team performed endovascular coiling. The procedure involves inserting a thin catheter through a small puncture in the groin and guiding it to the aneurysm, where platinum micro-coils are placed to block blood flow into the swollen vessel.

Aster, CARE Hospitals Launch ‘Pranaam’
for Senior Citizens

Hyderabad (TSIT): Aster Hospitals and CARE Hospitals have jointly launched ‘Pranaam’, a first-of-its-kind elder care initiative aimed at making healthcare more accessible, personalised and compassionate for senior citizens. The programme focuses on healthy ageing, continuity of care, caregiver support and community wellness.

The initiative was inaugurated at CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, by Dr. Priyanka Ala in the presence of Dr. Pawan Kumar, senior hospital officials, healthcare professionals and members of the senior citizen community. Launched across all Aster Hospitals and CARE Hospitals in Telangana, the programme makes the state



the first to implement the initiative under Aster DM Quality Care's India II network. The initiative will be expanded to other states in phases. Designed as a comprehensive elder-support ecosystem, Pranaam offers dedicated assistance for senior citizens, priority healthcare services, caregiver-inclusive

consultations, simplified communication, post-visit follow-up support and a dedicated helpline. Members will also receive benefits on preventive health check-ups, outpatient consultations, inpatient services and pharmacy services. The programme also promotes active ageing through chair yoga, walking

groups, reading circles, hobby clubs, health awareness sessions and community engagement activities aimed at improving physical and emotional well-being.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Pawan Kumar said senior citizens require not only quality medical treatment but also reassurance, guidance and continuity of care. Hyderabad Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala said initiatives like Pranaam complement government efforts by promoting dignity, accessibility and healthier ageing for the elderly. The hospitals said the initiative reflects their long-term commitment to creating age-friendly healthcare services by integrating personalised support, preventive care, caregiver participation and social engagement.

Cinépolis, Sony Launch
Exclusive Spider-Man
Merchandise Ahead of Film

Hyderabad (TSIT): Cinépolis India has partnered with Sony Pictures Entertainment India to launch an exclusive range of limited-edition Spider-Man collectibles ahead of the release of Spider-Man: Brand New Day, offering fans a chance to celebrate the superhero beyond the big screen.

The limited-edition merchandise has been made available across all Cinépolis cinemas in India from July 24, giving moviegoers an opportunity to own exclusive Spider-Man-themed collectibles ahead of the film's theatrical release.

Devang Sampat said the collaboration reflects the company's commitment to enhancing the moviegoing experience by bringing fans closer to their favourite stories and characters through

exclusive experiences.

Shony Panjikanan said Spider-Man has inspired generations of fans worldwide, and the partnership with Cinépolis gives Indian audiences a unique way to celebrate the release of the new film with exclusive memorabilia.

Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, Spider-Man: Brand New Day stars Tom Holland as Peter Parker/Spider-Man, alongside Zendaya, Jacob Batalon, Jon Bernthal, and Sadie Sink.

The film is set for release in theatres on July 30, 2026, in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam, promising an action-packed new chapter in Spider-Man's journey as Peter Parker faces a mysterious new villain in a world that no longer remembers him.



Lions Club Distributes FA Notebooks to
Warangal Govt School Students



Warangal (TSIT): The Lions Club of Sports Warangal distributed Formative Assessment (FA) notebooks to Class X students of the Government High School at LB Nagar, Warangal, as part of its educational support initiative.

School Headmaster Thumma Jaya Bala Reddy, who presided over

the programme, appreciated the Lions Club for its continued service activities and thanked Lion Vangari Venugopal (MGF, PZC) for extending support to the students.

Speaking on the occasion, Venugopal, an alumnus of the school, said he remains committed to serving his alma mater through various welfare

initiatives. He also assured students that those who excel in sports at the district and state levels would receive encouragement and support from the club.

Lions Club of Sports Warangal Treasurer Balabhadra Vinod urged students to work hard in their studies and strive to achieve success in life.

Teachers Kaluvala Kamalakara, Adepu Bikshapathi, Thamyala Sridharacharyulu, Koosa Devender, Alloju Kishan, and R. Bhaskar, along with students, attended the programme. The initiative was appreciated by the school community as a valuable contribution towards promoting education and motivating students to excel academically and in sports.

Railways Sanctions Rs.220-Crore Traction
Upgrade for Wadi–Raichur Section

102 Route Kilometre Wadi-Raichur Section to be Upgraded with 2×25 kV
Electric Traction System on High Density Network

New Delhi (TSIT) In a significant step towards strengthening railway infrastructure and enhancing capacity on high-density routes, Indian Railways has approved a Rs.220 crore project for upgradation of the Electric Traction System from 1×25 kV to 2×25 kV on the Wadi-Raichur section of South Central Railway. The project covers a 102 Route Kilometre (204 Track Kilometre) double-line section and forms part of Indian Railways' ongoing efforts to modernise traction infrastructure on key



rail corridors.

The upgraded traction system will strengthen

traction infrastructure and support higher traffic requirements on one of the

important sections of the railway network. The Wadi-Raichur section is part of High Density Network (HDN) Route-7 connecting Mumbai-Pune-Wadi-Raichur-Guntakal-Kadapa-Renigunta-Chennai.

The adoption of the 2×25 kV Electric Traction System will strengthen the existing electric traction infrastructure and improve the capability of the section to handle increasing passenger and freight traffic. The upgraded system will enhance operational efficiency while supporting

reliable train operations on this strategically important corridor.

The project is aligned with Indian Railways' ongoing efforts to modernise core infrastructure and strengthen capacity on high-density routes across the network. The approval reflects Indian Railways' continued commitment to upgrading critical railway infrastructure, improving operational efficiency and developing a modern, reliable and future-ready railway network for passengers and freight customers alike.

EDITORIAL

*Social Justice, Electoral
Math And Battle For
UP's Upper Castes*

The Cockroach Janta Party's protests at Jantar Mantar have wound down. But the national conversation they reignited - over social justice, equity and merit - hasn't gone anywhere. And Uttar Pradesh, heading into its consequential 2027 assembly election, may be the only state where that conversation collides directly with hard electoral arithmetic. Three forces are converging here at once: the BJP's upper-caste base, the Samajwadi Party's expanding caste-outreach strategy, and a national debate on social justice. Few other states carry all three at this scale, or with these stakes.

The Numbers

Brahmins account for close to 10 per cent of Uttar Pradesh's population, with the community concentrated most heavily in the central and eastern parts of the state. Add Rajputs, Baniyas and other upper-caste groups, and the bloc becomes electorally significant well beyond its numeric share - a bloc that has voted overwhelmingly with the BJP through the last two election cycles. The data bears this out. In the 2022 Assembly election, CSDS-Loknit's post-poll survey found that 79 per cent of upper-caste (Brahmin, Rajput and Vaishya) voters backed the NDA, against just 16 per cent for the Opposition alliance. Two years later, in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, that loyalty held firm at the individual community level - the same survey found that the upper-caste voter bloc still largely favoured the BJP, with close to nine in 10 Rajput voters backing the party. Notably, though, the 2024 result also showed the coalition arithmetic shifting elsewhere - the Opposition INDIA alliance won 43 of UP's seats to the BJP's 33, powered by OBC, Dalit and Muslim consolidation, partly on the back of a narrative around constitutional and reservation change that the BJP struggled to counter. In other words: upper-caste loyalty to the BJP has not cracked yet. But the coalition around it has already shown it can be beaten. That loyalty had never really been tested until the UGC equity row early this year - a national controversy that landed with particular force in UP. A magistrate in Bareilly resigned in protest and close to a dozen BJP members in Lucknow left the party. Neither reads as manufactured Opposition noise; both point to a genuine, even if narrow, fracture within the base the BJP has relied on for a decade. In fact, eastern UP is where this will likely be decided most - the highest pockets of Brahmin presence, and also Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's home turf. Any erosion in Brahmin loyalty here cuts closest to the CM's own backyard. Two Brahmin Faces, Two Strategies - The Ticket Count The BJP's answer has a name: Manoj Pandey, once a close aide to Akhilesh Yadav and known in SP circles as the "Chanakya of Raebareli", now a minister in the Yogi cabinet and one of the party's key upper caste faces heading into 2027. The Samajwadi Party's counter has also taken shape. Akhilesh Yadav chose Mata Prasad Pandey, a seven-time MLA and a two-time Assembly Speaker, as Leader of Opposition - a visible signal that the party's post-2024 social engineering, built around the PDA formula (Pichhda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak), is now explicitly being widened to include a section of upper castes. Akhilesh has framed this shift as extending PDA's "A" to include Agada, or upper castes, alongside the backward classes and minorities the acronym was built for.

What The Rawalakot Bloodshed Says About
Pakistan And Its 'Azad Kashmir' Narrative

"India mein kaha jaata hai, 'Dar ke aage jeet hai'. Pakistan mein shayad kahani kuch aur hai: 'Ghar ke aage jeep hai'." (In India, it's said, 'There's victory beyond fear'. Pakistan's story is different: 'There's a jeep in front of the house'.") A young Pakistani woman's video on X captures, in a chilling sentence, the dark crisis unfolding in her country. The slightest dissent is crushed by security forces. Protesters simply disappear. The Balochs have paid the price of dissent with the disappearance of their young men. Prominent human rights activist Dr Mahrang Baloch, who spearheaded massive peaceful anti-disappearance marches across the country, was recently convicted by an anti-terrorism court in Quetta and sentenced to life imprisonment. While the world watches the political turmoil in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) from a distance, Pakistan's own citizens are confronting something far more immediate: the power of the state on their streets. The images emerging from PoK are difficult to ignore: streets stained with blood, protesters lying motionless, grieving families searching for loved ones, and heavily armed security personnel confronting civilians. They present a picture sharply at odds with Pakistan's long-standing claim on international platforms - that it is the defender of the democratic aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. The scale of the violence may be contested, but there is little doubt that the crack-down has been severe. At the heart of the unrest is a political and democratic question. The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), a prominent civil-society coalition leading the agitation, was banned by the authorities under anti-ter-



rism laws. The protests have continued for weeks, driven by grievances over political representation, governance, and the credibility of the electoral process. The elections themselves have been marred by allegations of rigging, boycotts, and violence. The most popular mass leader, Imran Khan, continues to be in jail, and his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has boycotted the elections. But the larger question goes beyond the elections. Can Pakistan's citizens protest without being treated as enemies of the state? And after Balochistan, can Pakistan afford to see another region slip into sustained unrest? The Pakistani youth is voicing another uncomfortable question: while the Pakistani television channels gleefully flashed visuals of the recent youth protests in India, the protests and the coverage of the bloodshed in Mirpur and Rawalakot were completely blacked out. The contrast has not gone unno-

ticed. When young people in India took to the streets over issues such as paper leaks, their protests became a major subject of public debate. In Pakistan, however, young people confronting what they describe as state high-handedness are facing bullets, arrests, and the branding of their civil-society movement as a security threat. And then came an extraordinary statement from Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif. Defending the state's response to the protesters, Asif said he viewed the protesters in Pakistan-administered Kashmir "the same way" he viewed India: enemies. His remarks have triggered further outrage because they expose the central contradiction at the heart of the crisis: what happens when a state begins to see its own protesting citizens through the lens of an external enemy? The violence in PoK is thus not merely about an election. It is about the shrinking space for dissent. If citizens demanding their

rights are treated as enemies, then who, exactly, is the state supposed to protect? What is unfolding in PoK did not happen overnight. The unrest has been building over political grievances, particularly the Pakistani government's decision to reserve 12 seats in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly for refugees who migrated from Jammu and Kashmir decades ago. The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), an alliance of civil-society and activist groups, opposed the arrangement and mobilised demonstrations, including a call to boycott the elections. The JAAC has maintained that it is not seeking to contest the polls itself but political representation based on the consent and interests of the people living in the area. Islamabad's response, however, has been one of criminalisation rather than conversation. The government banned JAAC under anti-terrorism laws and launched a sweeping crackdown on its lead-

ership and supporters. Reports from Rawalakot suggest that security forces used live ammunition to disperse demonstrators, leaving dozens dead and many more injured. According to available reports, at least 40 people, including 34 protesters and six police and paramilitary personnel, have lost their lives in the run-up to the elections. Whether every protest remained peaceful or every action by security forces was justified will ultimately be determined by credible investigations. But what is beyond dispute is that a political disagreement has spiralled into a deadly confrontation because dissent was treated as a security threat rather than a democratic right. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker, has called for prompt, thorough, and impartial investigations into all deaths arising from the unrest. His criticism extended beyond the violence itself to the government's decision to outlaw

JAAC under anti-terrorism legislation, warning that criminalising a civil society organisation and curtailing peaceful assembly raise serious concerns about fundamental freedoms. Equally troubling is the prolonged communication blackout. Mobile phone and internet services have reportedly remained suspended across the region for weeks. Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari himself questioned the necessity of such an extended shutdown, warning that depriving an entire population of communication creates the impression of collective punishment rather than targeted security measures. Rawalakot is more than the site of a local protest. It has become a test of Pakistan's willingness to tolerate dissent within the territory it administers. Democracies are measured not by how they treat those who agree with the government, but by how they respond to those who challenge it peacefully.

Accountability should not only be of
the government but also of the society

-Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

In a democracy, accountability is most often demanded from those in power and positions of power. If corruption occurs in a minister's department, crime rises in an officer's jurisdiction, a teacher's school results are poor, or law and order deteriorates in a police officer's jurisdiction, the first person to be held accountable is that officer. This is appropriate, because authority carries responsibility. But the question is: can society absolve itself of its responsibilities? Is it enough to simply blame the government, administration, and system for every crime? Do we, as citizens, have no accountability? Democracy isn't just about government. It's a shared system of government and society. The Constitution has entrusted citizens with as many fundamental duties as it has rights. If we only talk about rights and forget about duties, the balance of democracy is disrupted. This is why many social problems today are rooted not only in administrative failure but also in a lack of civic responsibility. When someone steals, murders, rapes, engages in cyber fraud, drug trafficking, or participates in organized crime, they not only harm an individual but also impact the peace and order of society as a whole. To prevent such crimes, there are laws and courts that prescribe punishments according to the nature of the offense. But this also raises the question: should some of the benefits provided by the state after conviction be reconsidered? This topic has been debated

from time to time, especially in the context of heinous crimes. However, it is important to understand a crucial constitutional principle. Every citizen in India has the right to equality before the law, due process, and human dignity. Therefore, a person cannot be punished merely on the basis of accusation, but only after a proper judicial process. Furthermore, many basic services provided by the state—such as education, primary health care, and life-saving assistance—are also linked to humanitarian and constitutional obligations. Therefore, "depriving a person of all government benefits for life" due to a crime is neither practical nor consistent with the current constitutional system. Yes, it is certainly worth considering that some legal consequences may be more severe for individuals convicted by a court of serious crimes. For example, disqualification from contesting elections, restrictions on government employment, withholding of arms licenses, disqualification from certain types of government positions, or limitations on specific government schemes depending on the nature of the offense—such matters could be legislated. But all this must be done within the judicial process and constitutional limits. On the other hand, society must also recognize that crime isn't solely caused by police failure. The erosion of values in families, the declining focus on character development in schools, the proliferation of violent and hateful content on social media, the

growing influence of drug abuse, and a mindset that considers breaking the law "smart" also contribute to crime. If society remains silent on these causes, crime won't end simply by changing the government. Today, we often see that when road accidents occur, people don't wear helmets, but then blame the government. They themselves commit tax evasion, then complain about the lack of development work. Both bribe-givers and bribe-takers come from within society. Citizens commit illegal construction, but the administration is blamed. Students cheat in exams, but the entire education system is put on trial. This approach is incomplete. Accountability means not only punishment but also self-discipline. If citizens themselves obey the law, report crimes, are not afraid to testify, protect public property, and impart moral education to their children, the number of crimes can naturally decrease. An informed society can be a more effective security shield than any police force. In this context, the concept of rehabilitation cannot be overlooked. Not all crimes are the same, and neither are all criminals. Many people turn to crime due to circumstances, immaturity, or bad company, and yet they later reform. The modern justice system emphasizes not only punishment but also reform and rehabilitation. If society does not provide an individual with the opportunity to reform, the likelihood of their return to crime may increase. Therefore, a balance between severity and

sensitivity is essential. Equally important in a democracy is the principle that the state's purpose is not merely to punish, but to build a safe, just, and humane society. Therefore, policies should discourage crime, provide justice to victims, punish the guilty according to law, and, where possible, provide opportunities for reform. Similarly, the accountability of those in power cannot be diminished. If an official fails to discharge his or her duties, a minister encourages corruption, or a public representative neglects his or her constitutional duties, strict action should be taken against them. The relationship between authority and accountability applies equally to both parties—to power and society. If India is to truly become a crime-free, disciplined, and accountable nation, we must move beyond the extreme thinking of "only the government is responsible" and "only the public is to blame." Preventing crime is a shared responsibility of everyone—the government, the judiciary, the police, families, schools, the media, and citizens. The failure of one party does not absolve the other of responsibility. Ultimately, the success of democracy lies in ensuring that rights and duties go hand in hand. Those in power fulfill their responsibilities, the law is enforced impartially, and citizens are held accountable for their own conduct. Society will be empowered only when a mindset develops to apply justice not only to others but also to oneself equally.

How Everything That Could Go Wrong Has
Gone Wrong For The US In Iran

The US war on Iran has proved an all-round disaster. American and Israeli interests in West Asia do not define the interests of virtually the rest of the world in this region. The US has in the past succeeded in controlling or eliminating all regimes that opposed Israel. But the clerical regime in Iran has been the exception, and Trump made a major strategic miscalculation in seeking a regime change in Iran by force at Israel's urging. The US-Iran MoU raised some hope that the war may wind down, with the worst behind for all of us. The involvement of US Vice-President JD Vance also indicated seriousness on the part of the US to find a way out of the disaster. But realists remained sceptical of success. The interim agreement, on the face of it, conceded a lot to Iran. It included an immediate and permanent end to military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon. This meant that far from curbing Iran's regional role, the inclusion of Lebanon recognised Iran's interests. The agreement to respect Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs meant that the goal of regime change was abjured. The nuclear issue, hitherto central for the US, was left for discussion and finalisation later. The opening of the Strait of Hormuz took precedence, although that was not the reason to go to war, rather its inevitable consequence. In a major reversal of earlier positions, the US agreed to Iran's enriched uranium stockpile to be down-blended in Iran itself under IAEA supervi-



sion. Even with regard to the Strait, it was agreed that Iran would conduct a dialogue with Oman to define the future administration and maritime services on the route, recognising, in other words, that navigation of commercial ships will be subject to a new regime. The issue of reparations was addressed by the US, agreeing with regional partners to offer a USD 300 billion plan for the reconstruction and economic development of Iran. Sanctions on the export of Iranian oil were lifted for sixty days. The US undertook to make fully available for use the frozen or restricted funds and assets of Iran upon the implementation of the MoU. A complete removal of all sanctions was envisaged as part of the final deal. The US also agreed to the withdrawal of US forces from the proximity of Iran within 30 days of the final deal. In public statements, Trump made some astonishing statements that reversed long-held US positions, namely, that Iran cannot be denied enrichment rights and missiles, as other coun-

tries in the region have them. That this framework agreement and the ceasefire have collapsed so quickly and dramatically because Iran considered a ship using the southern Oman channel without consultation with it a violation of the MoU and attacked it, is telling. The US, in turn, saw Iranian action, too, as a violation of the MoU and retaliated with attacks on Iranian infrastructure over several days. This shows how fragile the US commitment to the MoU was and raises questions about policymaking in the current US administration. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says that they entered talks and agreed to the MoU to avoid being accused of refusing to negotiate and hence justifying US attacks, well knowing that the US could not be trusted to abide by the agreement and was essentially buying time and would resume military operations, for which Iran was prepared. The reasons why the US agreed to the MoU and seemingly made major concessions to roll back the conflict remain

pertinent. The Strait of Hormuz cannot be opened up by force. Trump acknowledged that the US was set to run out of oil reserves in four weeks, and hence the pressure to negotiate a ceasefire and let oil flow again through Hormuz. With the Strait not only closed again but Trump announcing that the US will charge a 20% fee for letting non-Iranian oil and gas flow through the Strait to compensate for the cost of war, an untenable financial situation was being created for oil carriers, which would have affected the flow of energy from the Gulf and caused a further spurt in global oil prices, something that Trump had sought to avoid. Trump has been compelled to revoke the announcement. Trump's attacks on Iran have continued, with Iran retaliating against US bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan, with threats to attack Dubai/UAE airport and ports. The assumption that Iran's stockpiles of missiles had depleted has proved wrong as Iran has apparently used even more advanced missiles- hypersonic- with greater accuracy, leading to US claims that China and Russia were providing technical support to it. The US has suffered casualties in Jordan, which puts pressure on Trump to retaliate further. His rhetoric has crossed all diplomatic norms, calling the Iranians "scum", "sick", and a "cancer". The MoU has been repudiated, though one can assume some channels of communication through Qatar are being kept open, especially with the IRGC leadership.



Consolidated				Standalone			
Performance Highlights Q3 FY2027 vs. Q3 FY2026 Consolidated (in ₹ Mn.)				Performance Highlights Q3 FY2027 vs. Q3 FY2026 Standalone (in ₹ Mn.)			
Particulars	30.06.2026	30.06.2025	Growth %	Particulars	30.06.2026	30.06.2025	Growth %
Revenue	12,548	11,506	9.1%	Revenue	11,116	10,338	7.5%
EBITDA	1,599	1,520	5.2%	EBITDA	1,655	1,639	1.6%
PAT	1,066	1,072	(0.6%)	PAT	1,198	1,242	(3.5%)

ethanol blends without verified evidence of widespread failures. The government also rejected allegations that automobile manufacturers were privately opposed to E20 or were being pressured to support it. It is cited that on July 4, 2026, a joint press conference was held attended by senior executives from Toyota Kirloskar, Maruti Suzuki, Hero MotorCorp, Hyundai Motor India, TVS Motor Company and Bajaj Auto, who reaffirmed confidence in the programme after extensive testing. According to the PIB, manufacturers said any reduction in fuel efficiency for certain older E10-designed vehicles is generally limited to 3%-5%, while E20 offers benefits such as a higher octane rating, cleaner combustion and improved anti-knock performance. The government added that oil marketing companies continue to conduct fuel quality checks at more than 30,000 retail outlets, while manufacturers continue to honour warranties for vehicles using specification-compliant E20 fuel.

and crop-related risks. Enrolment can be completed through banks, Common Service Centres (CSCs), or directly via the official PMFBY website. Farmers can also check their applicable premium and complete the enrolment process before the notified cut-off dates.

This initiative underscores TATA AIG's continued commitment to supporting India's agricultural community through innovative risk solutions and insurance awareness. By partnering in the implementation of PMFBY, the company aims to help strengthen rural resilience and promote greater awareness of crop insurance among farmers across Andhra Pradesh.

FY' 25-26, for instance: · Empowering Growth & Continuous Learning: Ujjivan SFB continues to invest in employee development through structured learning, leadership programmes and digital learning, delivering 48+ learning hours per employee with 99% LMS adoption. · Inclusive Opportunities & Diversity: The Bank fosters an inclusive workplace with 56% women representation on the Board and 20% women in top management, creating opportunities for diverse talent to thrive. · Employee Listening & Meaningful Engagement: A strong culture of listening is enabled through AI-powered feedback platforms, leadership town halls and employee forums, contributing to a 93% GPTW Trust Index. · Recognition & Career Development: Employees are empowered to grow through internal career opportunities, leadership development programmes and a culture of continuous recognition.

Missile that left crater deep inside Poland was probably Russian - Polish PM



Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk has said an object that crashed into a field in eastern Poland in the early hours of Thursday was probably a Russian missile. The unidentified object caused a 10m-wide (33ft) crater a short distance from the village of Tarnawa Kolonia, 92km (57 miles) from the border with Ukraine during a large-scale Russian attack on the cities of Lviv, Kyiv and near Kryvyh Rih. Tusk said initially that "all the indications" were that the missile that violated Polish airspace was a Russian Kh-101 cruise missile, during a specially convened meeting in the eastern city of Lublin. He then went to the site of the incident and said that according to military experts the majority of "recovered fragments point to it being a Russian Kh-101 missile". Although no casualties had been reported in Thursday's incident near Tarnawa Kolonia, the Polish prime

minister made clear it was being taken very seriously. There was no immediate threat as it had not landed in a built-up area, he said, adding that "we were prepared to shoot it down if had continued its flight". Nato said it was in close contact with Polish authorities and the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, Gen Alexus G Grynkewich, said the Western defensive alliance would "continue to take all necessary measures to defend Nato territory". Polish Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said about 20 objects were seen close to Polish airspace overnight and pyrotechnical analysis was being carried out. Ukraine's acting Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha had earlier declared definitively that a Russian Kh-101 cruise missile had "crossed into Poland as part of Russia's massive strike against Ukraine, violating Nato airspace".



■ US launches 'heavy' strikes on Iran after attempted attack on American troops

SAUDI ARABIA'S DILEMMA AS IT TRIES TO STAY OUT OF US-IRAN WAR

Saudi Arabia is facing a difficult dilemma. Ever since the US and Israel launched their war on Iran on 28 February, the Saudis have largely tried to stay out of it. But now, after being attacked from three sides, the Saudis have had enough. This week, they carried out joint strikes with the US on Iranian proxy militias in Iraq who they believe have been launching drones at the Kingdom. For Saudi Arabia the dilemma now is whether to keep on hitting back as a deterrent, or whether to try to de-escalate the situation, perhaps by paying off some of their adversaries. So who is attacking who and why? First, a bit of context. There are broadly two sides in the conflict that has been consuming the Gulf and other parts of the Middle



East for five months now. On one side there is Iran and its Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). Allied to them are the Houthis in Yemen, a tribal group who took over much of the country in 2014. Also backed by Iran are the Popular Mobilisation Forces in Iraq, the paramilitary group that has allegedly carried out 30 drone strikes on Saudi Arabia and has now been

attacked in return. Then there is Hezbollah in Lebanon, still a potent force but one that is currently lying low. On the opposite side of this conflict is the US with its immensely powerful Central Command (Centcom) forces plus - to varying degrees - the Gulf Arab states and Jordan. Israel remains a close US ally but is currently not an active participant in this war. Iran

has most recently been concentrating its drone and missile attacks on Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain, as well as targeting any commercial shipping that tries to slip through the Strait of Hormuz while avoiding Iran's new rules and routing. The addition of Iraqi militias and the Houthis in Yemen is a relatively new phenomenon and it shows how - without a lasting peace deal between the US and Iran - the region risks becoming ever more embroiled in a widening conflict. There are a number of reasons why Saudi Arabia is trying not to get sucked into a full-scale conflict. Its de facto ruler, the relatively young Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, has embarked the country on a course known as "Vision 2030".

NICARAGUAN LEADER PROPOSES EXTENDING PRESIDENTIAL TERM BY ANOTHER YEAR



Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who has been in power since 2007, has proposed extending the presidential term by another year. The government-controlled National Assembly is expected to approve the extension in September. It is part of a proposed constitutional reform which also includes plans to bar members of the opposition deemed by the government to be "traitors" or "coup plotters" from running for office. The 80-year-old's rule has become increasingly authoritarian, with political opponents jailed, sent into exile and stripped of their citizenship. During Ortega's 19 years in power, there have been several changes to the presidential term already. In 2014, the country's National Assembly scrapped presidential term limits and in 2024 it extended the term from five to six years. The legislative body also approved Ortega's plan to name his wife, Rosario Murillo, as "co-president". It thereby paved the way for her to assume as president should Ortega, who is believed to be in frail health, be declared "permanently absent". Presidential elections were last held in Nicaragua in November 2021. The one-sided contest was won by Ortega following a brutal crackdown on the opposition. Any rival potential candidates with a chance

Highlights

■ Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who has been in power since 2007, has proposed extending the presidential term by another year.

to garner a significant number of votes were detained and disqualified from standing for office or forced into exile. Dozens of other opposition members were also arrested. Only a small handful of little-known candidates, who were unlikely to get much support, were allowed to stand. United Nations human rights chief Volker Türk has warned that government repression has deepened further since then, with the rule of law steadily eroded and the persecution of political dissidents escalating. Few Nicaraguans have dared to speak out in public against Ortega and Murillo since more than 300 people were killed when the security forces quashed anti-government protests in 2018. Dissidents living in exile have also been targeted with many stripped of their citizenship by the Ortega government, their homes they left behind in Nicaragua seized and sold.

Japan earthquake death toll rises to 34 as evacuees battle sweltering heat

The number of people who have died after a powerful earthquake hit southwestern Japan has risen to 34, authorities in Kumamoto prefecture said on Thursday. Rescuers are still working to find survivors after the magnitude 6.8 earthquake hit Kumamoto prefecture on Kyushu island on Tuesday, causing widespread damage to houses and power lines. Several people died after part of a shopping centre collapsed and an explosion ripped through the mall about an hour later. Thousands of displaced residents are now staying in evacuation centres - though the challenge is to keep them cool and hydrated as the region battles sweltering heat. Temperatures could reach 39C in the prefecture in the coming days, according to forecasts, with officials urging survivors and rescuers to take precautions against heatstroke. On Wednesday, Japan's defence minister Shinjiro Koizumi announced the delivery of 300 air conditioners to



Kumamoto, with 150 of the units bound for evacuation centres. Around 9,000 displaced residents have been put up in evacuation centres, and more than 30,000 households were out of power as of Wednesday. Yukiya Sanoue, who works at one of the centres, told the BBC that heat stroke was the biggest concern at his facility, which hosts about 1,000 people. About 30% of the people at his evacuation centre are senior citizens. He said their electricity and water supplies had stopped since the earthquake, and the centre had been without air conditioning until Wednesday

afternoon when they received a generator. Quite a few people are suffering from conditions similar to heatstroke, and several have been taken to hospital, he said. More than 100 aftershocks have been recorded since the initial quake, and many have taken to sleeping in their cars for fear of further tremors. Thousands of personnel have been deployed for search-and-rescue operations. Many are digging through rubble at Kashima's Aeon shopping centre, one of the worst-hit buildings where a portion of the second floor collapsed. The mall was also rocked by an explosion about an hour

after the initial quake. The president of Aeon said it was "very likely" a gas explosion, though the cause of the blast remains under investigation. A cat cafe inside the mall said on Wednesday that its 25 cats, which had been left behind during the chaos of the quake, had all since been safely rescued. The quake-hit Aeon mall in Kumamoto had just reopened last month as a revamped shopping complex. It had previously been damaged during a series of strong earthquakes in April 2016, which killed 278 people in the region. Rescuers were also combing a Nippon Paper factory in Yatsushiro city, where at least five people have died after the factory partially collapsed during the quake. Eleven people were trapped in the building, seven of whom have been rescued so far, Nippon Paper said in a statement on Wednesday. The quake, which had a shallow depth of 10km (six miles), shocked residents across Kumamoto.

Veteran Ugandan opposition leader collapses in court and in ICU, his wife says



Ugandan opposition leader Kizza Besigye has been admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) in the capital, Kampala, after collapsing and losing consciousness during his treason trial, his wife has said. The 70-year-old has been in detention since November 2024. His lead lawyer was arrested last month and charged with allegedly failing to report acts of treason. The visibly frail politician was objecting to state lawyers being appointed to represent him when he fell, prompting prison guards to rush him to hospital. "He is unconscious,

unable to speak, and unresponsive even to a pain stimulus," his wife, Winnie Byanyima, who heads the UN's agency tackling HIV and Aids (UNAids), wrote on X. Besigye, who has run for president against long-serving leader Yoweri Museveni four times, was dramatically abducted in Kenya in 2024 and taken back to Uganda. He has since been held along with his aide, Obeid Lutale, and both have been charged with treason, which they deny. Prosecutors allege that Besigye and his co-accused plotted to overthrow President Museveni's government. Treason is a capital offence in Uganda and if found guilty the veteran politician could be sentenced to death. During Wednesday's hearing at the High Court in Kampala witnesses in court said Besigye repeatedly shouted "stop" about his legal representation before collapsing.

Three children among eight dead in Russian strikes on Ukraine, officials say

Eight people, including two boys and a girl, have died during a Russian missile and drone attack on Ukraine, according to local officials. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia had launched more than 70 missiles and over 280 drones at the country overnight. The worst attack was near Zelensky's hometown of Kryvyi Rih. Dozens of "ordinary homes, civilian businesses and infrastructure facilities" were destroyed or damaged in the attack, he added. The attack comes after Zelensky met US President Donald Trump in Washington DC this week to urge the US to grant Ukraine a licence to produce Patriot interceptor missiles, which he says are crucial to the country's



defence. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said an object that crashed into a field in eastern Poland in the early hours of Thursday was probably a Russian missile. Ukraine's acting Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha had earlier said a Russian Kh-101 cruise missile had "crossed into Poland as part of Russia's

massive strike against Ukraine, violating Nato airspace". A six-year-old girl and two boys, aged 11 and 17, were among six killed when a Russian ballistic missile hit the Ukrainian village of Radushne, a few kilometres from Kryvyi Rih, local defence council chief Oleksandr Vilkul said. The missile had hit a home

where a large family lived, according to Vilkul, and Zelensky said the house had been "blown into smithereens". Two private homes were completely destroyed, the defence council chief said. Another eight people were wounded in the attack, including an 84-year-old woman who was taken to hospital, and two children who were pulled from the rubble alive, officials added. Ukraine had been expecting a Russian offensive, with Zelensky warning just hours before the strikes that Moscow was preparing for a "massive attack". In Kyiv, one person died and fires broke out in three non-residential buildings overnight, the capital's mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on Telegram.

Thousands evacuated in Crete as Europe battles wildfires

UNNATI HOODA, TANVI SHARMA, DEVIKA SIHAG, KIRAN GEORGE ENTER QUARTERFINALS OF TAIPEI OPEN

Rising stars Unnati Hooda, Tanvi Sharma and Devika Sihag, along with seasoned campaigner Kiran George, advanced to the quarterfinals of the Taipei Open Super 300 badminton tournament with impressive victories on Thursday. The experienced Kiran outclassed compatriot Tharun Mannepalli 21-15 21-16 in just 32 minutes to book his place in the last eight. The 25-year-old, who won the 2022 Odisha Open, 2023 Indonesia Masters and the 2023 Odisha Masters, will next face fourth seed Yudai Okimoto of Japan. In women's singles, third seed Unnati, the former Odisha Masters champion, defeated compatriot Tanya Hemanth 21-19 21-12 in an all-Indian contest. Teenager Tanvi, one of India's brightest emerging talents, edged past Indonesia's Thalita Ramadhani Wiryawan 21-17 22-20, while eighth seed Devika beat Indonesia's Ni



Kadek Dhinda Amartya Pratiwi 21-16 21-15. Unnati and Devika are now set for an all-Indian quarterfinal, ensuring India at least one semifinalist in the women's singles, while Tanvi will take on fourth seed Supanida Katethong of Thailand. However, it was

the end of the road for senior pro HS Prannoy and promising youngster Anmol Kharb. Seventh seed Prannoy suffered a 9-21 19-21 defeat to Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan in 39 minutes, while Anmol lost 10-21 20-21 to local second seed Lin Hsiang-Ti.

Praveen Chithravel, Selva Prabhu Qualify For Triple Jump Final At CWG 2026



National record holder Praveen Chithravel and Selva Prabhu advanced to the men's triple jump final round in the Commonwealth Games after finishing second and third respectively in the qualification round on Thursday. Chithravel jumped 16.41m in his first and only attempt to take the second spot. With none of the 14 competitors breaching the automatic final qualification mark of 16.60m under cold and windy conditions, Chithravel did not take his second and third attempts. His national record stands at 17.37m. His season best is

17.08m. Prabhu, however, spent some anxious moments as he fouled his first two attempts but came up with 16.26m in his final effort to end at third. The top 12 performers qualify for the final round to be held on Saturday. Jordan Scott of Jamaica, who has a season best of 17.69m, topped the qualification round with a second round jump of 16.56m. In the men's 400m race, however, national record holder Vishal TK failed to make it to the final round after finishing sixth in his semifinal heat with a below par time of 46.33 seconds.

Hockey India Clarifies Jersey Colour Change To 'Saffron' Amid Backlash

Hockey India, the governing body for the sport in the country, has clarified the reasons behind changing the jersey colour for the men's and women's national teams ahead of the 2026 World Cup. On 27 July, Hockey India released a video on social media confirming that both teams would wear saffron jerseys instead of their traditional blue kits at next month's FIH World Cup in the Netherlands and Belgium. The move away from the traditional blue sparked a backlash on social media and was questioned by former men's team captain Viren Rasquinha. Issuing a clarification on Thursday (30 July), Hockey India stated that the decision to change the primary uniform colour was made because the previous blue kits merged visually with the blue synthetic playing surface. "We wish to inform you that the decision to change the uniform colour was based on recommendations from, and detailed consultations with, the support staff and players. The primary consideration was technical. It was observed that the blue



playing uniform tended to blend with the blue synthetic playing surface, which is now the standard colour for international hockey pitches. This visual similarity affected on-field clarity and visibility for the players," Hockey India said in a statement. The row over jersey colour change intensified after Rasquinha's post questioning Hockey India went viral. On Thursday, the former India captain also called out unnecessary politicisation of his post. "I'm seeing many unnecessary political comments on this. I don't want to get into any of that. My simple & humble point is on pride, identity & legacy. India is to hockey what Argentina is to Football.

Will we ever see Argentina wearing Orange and White stripes as their 1st jersey?" he wrote on X. The governing body added that suggestions were sought regarding potential alternative colours. Ultimately, saffron was selected as the base colour because it features on the country's national flag. "In light of the above, the coaches and players suggested alternative colours, such as yellow or saffron. After careful consideration, saffron was finalised. Apart from addressing the technical requirement, saffron holds deep significance as one of the colours of our National Flag, symbolising courage, sacrifice, and national pride.

Boxer's Commonwealth Games racism claim rejected

Claims made by boxer Aziz Abdul - the grandson of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin - that racism was behind his disqualification at the Commonwealth Games have been rejected by the president of the event organisers. Abdul was ruled to have headbutted England boxer Damar Thomas as the pair grappled during the third round of their fight. The 25-year-old claimed the judges were against him because he is a "black African" and, answering questions from BBC Sport, referred to Thomas by using a racial slur. "When you watch the previous fights of England their boxers create a lot of fouls," said Abdul. "I land a heavy punch on him, they never count. Instead of counting they deduct me. I am black African. He is in homeland." Commonwealth Sport president Donald Rukare, who is also from Uganda, said: "We at Commonwealth Sport believe every athlete is treated fairly and in a non-discriminatory manner. "We are inclusive. That is a field-of-play decision and that is something that was said in the heat of the moment." Before the super-heavyweight bout, Abdul told the BBC he wanted to



become the new 'King of Scotland' - in reference to Amin giving himself that name in 1976. After taking power in a coup in 1971, Amin ran a brutal regime during which an estimated half a million people were killed. He was also known as the Butcher of Uganda. Abdul, who never met his grandfather, was chasing Uganda's first Commonwealth boxing medal since Auckland in 1990 - something which would have been guaranteed had he beaten Thomas. Instead, he was given warnings in the previous two rounds and was trailing on all of

the judges' scorecards. "All I can say about this is the decision is not right, I am not happy," he said. "He elbowed me. He caught me with the elbow. It [the head movement] was not intentional. I was trying to come back. How can I headbutt someone? I would not. "He was the person they wanted to win. He was the winner before. I knew if I did not get knockout I could not win the fight." Rukare raised the prospect of Abdul facing punishment from the Ugandan team. "We have a team manager and chef de mission and I am sure the appropriate chan-

nels will be followed," he said. "We have a code of conduct. I don't represent Uganda here. I am sure that matter will be handled appropriately with our own code of conduct." Thomas, who is now guaranteed at least a bronze medal, said it was "not the way" he wanted to win. "I can't change what happened today but I can control how I box on Friday," he said. Amin - himself a boxer - harboured a fascination with Scotland after serving in the King's African Rifles in his 20s. At the height of the regime, he was fond of wearing a kilt and playing the bagpipes - and even declared himself "King of Scotland" in 1976. Some years later, those predilections even spawned an Oscar-winning film, The Last King of Scotland, starring Forest Whitaker and James McAvoy. In a previous interview, Abdul said he was "inspired" by Amin, although it was not entirely clear whether he was talking about his boxing feats or not. Speaking to the BBC, he refused to answer when asked if he was proud to be the dictator's grandson, but he did address the question of how he feels when he is linked to someone with such a sinister reputation.

Ajinkya Rahane, Veteran Of 85 Tests And 90 ODIs, Announces Shock Retirement

Ajinkya Rahane officially announced his shock retirement from all forms of cricket on Thursday, drawing the curtain on a distinguished career that spanned over a decade for Team India.

Known for his solid technique, calm demeanour, and exceptional record in tough overseas conditions, Rahane scored over 8,000 international runs across formats, featuring in 85 Tests, 90 ODIs, and 20 T20Is. His defining moment as a leader arrived during the famous 2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, where he captained an injury-depleted Indian side to a historical 2-1 Test series victory in Australia following a century at Melbourne. Ajinkya Rahane, Veteran Of 85 Tests And 90 ODIs, Announces Shock RetirementAjinkya Rahane, a veteran of 85 Tests, 90 ODIs and 20 T20Is for India, announces his retirement from cricket. While his days as an international cricketer had come to an end, the fact that he quit IPL and domestic cricket too took the cricket world by surprise.



Selector Reveals Big Reason Behind Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's Vice-Captain Appointment

Indian cricket team young sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was appointed East Zone vice-captain for Duleep Trophy 2026 with Ishan Kishan as the captain. The decision to make the 15-year-old sensation a vice-captain of the side caught a lot of people by surprise with some believing that it was not the right move to burden him with responsibility. However, former Ranji Trophy player Pravanjan Mullick, one of the East Zone selectors, revealed the reason behind the decision. He said that the selectors wanted to give the youngster more responsibility in order to help him develop as a leader. "He has not been made the captain. He has only been made the vice-captain. The captain is Ishan Kishan. Besides, Ishan is a wicket-keeper, so he will be actively involved throughout the day.



It is not as though Vaibhav will be captaining the team all day. As he grows, he is maturing day by day. Giving him more responsibility will help him mature even further," Pravanjan Mullick, a former Odisha Ranji player, told Cricbuzz. Mullick also pointed out that Sooryavanshi was already the vice-captain of Bihar in first-class cricket and he even served as Ayush Mhatre's deputy during the U-19 World

Cup. The selector also expressed his hope that Sooryavanshi one day will captain the Indian cricket team. "He has been doing very well for the country and also had an excellent IPL season with Rajasthan Royals. He is also the vice-captain of Bihar in first-class cricket," Mullick said. "This is a great opportunity for him to take on the responsibility of being vice-captain in the Duleep Trophy.

Ex-CSK Star Named Coach Of Super Kings Franchise, Set To Replace Stephen Fleming



Former South Africa all-rounder Albie Morkel has been appointed as the new head coach of Joburg Super Kings ahead of the upcoming season of the SA20. He steps into the top role after Stephen Fleming left the Super Kings franchise earlier this month and will take charge as England's Test cricket coach. Morkel represented South Africa in one Test, 58 ODIs, and 50 T20Is from 2004 to 2015. Over a prolific T20 career spanning 319 matches, he

scored more than 4,000 runs and claimed nearly 250 wickets. Apart from representing the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the Indian Premier League (IPL), Morkel has been an integral part of the Joburg Super Kings coaching setup since the franchise's inception in the SA20. "It is an incredible honour to be appointed Head Coach of the Joburg Super Kings. From wearing the Super Kings jersey as a player to now leading one of its franchises as Head Coach, this

journey is truly special. I look forward to building on the strong foundations we've created together and helping this group achieve its full potential," Morkel said in a statement by the franchise on Thursday. The JSK team is yet to make it to the SA20 final in four seasons, and Morkel's first task will be to lead the team towards that goal. Morkel had been a consultant coach with the South African team in this year's T20 World Cup, where they reached the semi-finals. "Albie Morkel has been an invaluable member of our coaching group over the years. He understands what the Super Kings stand for, has built strong relationships with our players and staff, and has played an important role behind the scenes in player development. We are excited to see him take on this new role and lead the team into the next chapter.

DISCUS THROWER SEEMA KALIRAMNA RETURNS TO CWG AFTER EMBRACING MOTHERHOOD



Over the past few seasons, Seema Kaliramna has emerged as one of India's most consistent discus throwers, overcoming personal and professional challenges to establish herself among the country's leading athletes. After making a successful return to competition following motherhood, winning gold at the 2025 National Games and claiming the national title, the 27-year-old Seema now heads into the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in the best form of her career. With a personal best of 59.73m, achieved earlier this season, and a string of consistent performances that secured her Commonwealth Games qualification, Seema believes progress in discus is built on patience and repetition rather than chasing one big throw. "Discus is an event where consistency matters just as much as distance. Every training session is about improving a little, trusting the process

and making sure you can reproduce your best throws when it matters. I am happy with the work I have put in this season, and Glasgow is another opportunity to test myself against a strong field," she said as per a press release by the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS). Balancing her sport with motherhood and pursuing a PhD has made Seema's journey one of resilience, and she credits the support system around her for helping her compete at the highest level. "Returning to competition after becoming a mother taught me to be more patient with myself. There were days when balancing training, my PhD and family responsibilities felt overwhelming, but every challenge made me mentally stronger. Having the support of my family and the team at the Inspire Institute of Sport has helped me stay focused on my goal and continue improving as an athlete," she added.

Neeraj Chopra Finishes Ahead Of Arshad Nadeem In CWG Javelin Qualification But This Star Takes Top Spot



India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who is a gold medallist at the Tokyo Olympics as well as the 2018 Commonwealth Games, qualified for the CWG 2026 final in Glasgow on Thursday. A total of three Indian players made it to the main event with Yashvir Singh and Rohit Yadav being the other two athletes. The final will take place in the early hours of August 1. Neeraj recorded a best throw of 79.61m, comfortably finishing ahead of his Pakistani opponent Arshad Nadeem, whose best effort was 78.63m which

came in the first attempt. Neeraj began with a throw of 76.28m before registering a distance of 79.61m, which comfortably took him to the final. He ended the qualification round in fifth spot, while Arshad finished at seventh position. Rumesh Tharanga of Sri Lanka grabbed the pole position with his only throw of 82.84m. Grenada's Anderson Peters (81.29m) came second while Douw Smit (80.64m) of South Africa stood third. India's Rohit recorded a best throw of 78.37m, while Yashvir registered a distance of 78.36m. They

grabbed the ninth and 10th spots, respectively. Neeraj won the gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast but missed the Birmingham 2022 edition due to an injury. The Olympic medallist has now returned to the Games in Glasgow with an eye on securing his second Commonwealth Games title. Earlier, the former world champion competed at the Doha Diamond League, marking his first competition of the 2026 season after recovering from a back injury. In Doha, the former Olympic gold medallist

dusted off the rust and soon found his groove on the third attempt, registering a throw of 85.69 metres to move up to third in the standings at the end of round three. The former World No. 1 followed it up with a throw of 83.45 metres in the fourth round and needed a throw in excess of 86 metres in the fifth round to remain in the top three and qualify for the final shootout. Unfortunately, as things panned out, Neeraj recorded another foul throw and dropped to fourth, bringing an end to his participation.

Hero Anand Deverakonda Launches the First Single 'Nanne Nanne' from Sriram's (Srikanth) Outstanding Psychological Thriller "The Maze"

Actor Sriram (Srikanth), who has earned a strong fan base among both Tamil and Telugu audiences, is starring in the upcoming film "The Maze." Priyanka, Hrithika Srinivas, and Kamal Kamaraju play other prominent roles in the movie. Presented by Dr. Naimisha Reddy Kasireddy, the film is being produced under the Srousha Kamala Arts and UR Creations banners by Dr. Uday K. Reddy Palvai, Dr. KSR (Kareddy Sridhar Reddy), Dr. Bharat Reddy Gopu, and Dr. Anirudh Reddy Soma. Directed by Dr. Ravikiran Gadalay, "The Maze" is being crafted as a unique

■ Actor Sriram (Srikanth), who has earned a strong fan base among both Tamil and Telugu audiences, is starring in the upcoming film "The Maze."

psychological thriller. The film is currently progressing with its regular shooting schedule. The makers have now unveiled the film's first single, "Nanne Nanne," which was officially launched by actor Anand Deverakonda. The song has been beautifully composed by Shravan

Bharadwaj, with pleasant and heartfelt lyrics penned by Vijay Kumar. Kapil Kapilan has delivered a soulful rendition that makes the track instantly memorable and worthy of repeated listening. The song expresses the hero's deep love and admiration for the heroine through touching lyrics. Blurring the boundaries between reality and illusion, "The Maze" promises to be an edge-of-the-seat psychological thriller that challenges the audience's perceptions at every moment, offering a gripping experience comparable to an exhilarating ride on a giant wheel.



ROCKING STAR YASH STEALS THE SHOW IN RAMAYANA TRAILER



The much-awaited trailer of Ramayana has finally arrived, and while Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi play the iconic roles of Lord Ram and Sita, it is Yash who has grabbed most of the attention in the role of Raavan. From the moment he appears, Yash brings an intense energy that is hard to ignore. His commanding screen presence, powerful body language, and fierce expressions make things work in favor of the trailer. Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi look convincing in their respective roles, but the trailer appears to be heavily centered around Yash's character, making him the biggest talking point after the trailer

launch. His larger-than-life presence has impressed fans despite the trailer getting mixed opinions online. While the visual effects are impressive, some feel that the focus on VFX overshadows the emotional depth of the characters. On the other hand, if Yash delivers the same level of impact throughout the film, this buzz will definitely help his other film, Toxic, in North belt as it is already struggling to find a strong buzz. For now, the trailer has made audiences eager to see more of Yash on the big screen. With the film carrying massive expectations, all eyes are now on how the story and other major characters unfold on the big screen.

'POLICE COMPLAINT' TO STREAM ON AMAZON PRIME VIDEO FROM JULY 31

The horror-action thriller 'Police Complaint', which received an impressive response during its theatrical release, is now set to entertain audiences on OTT. After earning positive reviews and strong word-of-mouth in cinemas, the film will begin streaming on Amazon Prime Video in Telugu and Kannada from Friday, July 31. Released across nearly 300 theatres in both Telugu and Kannada, Police Complaint emerged as a successful box-office entertainer. From its opening day, the film impressed audiences with its engaging blend of horror, action, mystery, and suspense. It also garnered positive reviews from critics and earned encouraging ratings on IMDb and other leading movie platforms. Featuring Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Naveen Chandra, Krishna



Sai, and Ragini Dwivedi in pivotal roles, the film is produced by Balakrishna Maharana under the MSK Pramidha Shree Films banner and directed by creative director Sanjeev Megoti.

One of the film's major highlights is Varalaxmi Sarathkumar's entertaining performance, considered one of the most engaging roles of her career. Naveen Chandra's powerful perform-

ance has also won appreciation from audiences. Director Sanjeev Megoti presents the intriguing concept of the "Chain Reaction of Karma" through a gripping horror-thriller narrative. The film successfully blends horror, mystery, and action while keeping viewers engaged throughout. A special tribute song featuring Krishna Sai, dedicated to legendary actor Superstar Krishna, has emerged as another major attraction for fans. Set against the backdrop of superstition and the philosophy of karma, Police Complaint offers an intense cinematic experience for lovers of horror, action, and thriller genres. Audiences can now enjoy the same thrilling experience from the comfort of their homes as the film premieres on Amazon Prime Video in Telugu and Kannada on July 31.

"Amma..... Naaku Aa Abbayi Kaavali" is all set for a grand theatrical release on August 7

Produced under the GSR Movie Makers banner by noted businesswoman G. Sailaja Reddy, the film introduces Pawan Mahaveer as the lead hero. Interestingly, Pawan Mahaveer is currently pursuing his medical studies in London. Directed by Shivala Prabhakar, this unique romantic entertainer features Varshika and Suhana as the female leads. The film also stars Suman, Rao Ramesh, Rajeev Kanakala, Satya Krishna, Sujatha, and several other prominent actors in pivotal roles. Ahead of the film's release on August 7, senior actor Suman, who plays a key role in the movie, addressed a special media interaction and shared his thoughts. Senior Hero Suman said: "I have played an important role in 'Amma... Naaku Aa Abbayi Kaavali'. The film has shaped up wonderfully. I couldn't



believe this is Pawan Mahaveer's debut film because of the confidence and maturity he displayed in his performance. Likewise, producer

Sailaja Reddy handled the project with the expertise of someone who has produced many successful films. Director Shivala Prabhakar, who earlier worked as a co-director on several of my films directed by Kodi Ramakrishna, has made this film exceptionally well.

Dulquer Salmaan's I Am Game Trailer Out; Worldwide Release on August 20

The trailer of Dulquer Salmaan's much-awaited film I Am Game has been unveiled. One of the most anticipated films among Malayalam audiences and Dulquer Salmaan fans, the film is all set for a worldwide theatrical release as an Onam release on August 20, 2026. Produced by Dulquer Salmaan's Wayfarer Films, this big-budget fantasy thriller is touted to be the biggest film of the actor's career. The film is directed by Nahas Hidayath. Produced by Dulquer Salmaan and Jom Varghese under the Wayfarer Films banner, the screenplay has been written by Sajir Baba, Ismail Aboobacker, and Bilal Moidu, while the dialogues are penned by Sajir Baba, Adarsh Sukumaran, and Shabas Rasheed. The trailer promises an edge-of-the-seat entertainer that will keep audiences thrilled from start to finish. Packed with stunning visuals, breathtaking action, and high-octane chase sequences, I Am Game appears to be a stylish fantasy thriller unlike anything Malayalam cinema has witnessed before. The trailer also showcases Dulquer Salmaan in an ultra-stylish and mass avatar that fans and movie lovers have never seen him in



before. Shot across more than 100 locations in South India, I Am Game is among the most eagerly awaited Malayalam films of the year. The film is gearing up for one of the biggest releases in Malayalam cinema.

PRAGYA JAISWAL OWNS THE CHILLY RAINY VIBE IN SHORTS

It's been a quiet year on the film front for Pragya Jaiswal, with Tyson Naidu, co-starring Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas and Nabha Natesh, remaining her only upcoming project. But away from the screen, her style game continues to shine bright. In her latest pictures, Pragya is spotted lounging in a chic egg chair, dressed in a breezy blue-and-white striped co-ord set layered with a matching oversized shirt.



Disha Patani Drips In Liquid Gold Glam

Disha Patani continues to prove why she's one of the most sizzling stars in the industry, and her latest pictures are no exception. Serving pure glamour, she stuns in a shimmering gold sequined dress with a plunging halter neckline, striking sultry poses in a lavish, dimly lit room. These captivating stills are from her song "Kyun" from

Welcome to the Jungle, where Disha brings undeniable oomph and screen presence to the frame. On the box office front, Welcome to the Jungle has wrapped up its theatrical run with a lifetime worldwide collection of ₹193 crore, making it a commercial success and landing as an average-to-hit earner. With her sizzling looks and steady work, Disha continues to keep fans hooked. Fans of Disha Patani are mighty eager to see her sharing the screen space with Emraan Hashmi in the much-awaited film, Awarapan 2. The power-packed teaser of the film was recently unveiled, showcasing Patani in a subtle yet enticing frame. Fans are also particularly excited about her entic-

ing chemistry with Hashmi. The film releases in theatres on August 14. A video of the incident showed Ramanivas lying on the ground with folded hands after the encounter. He was seen limping with a leg injury as police assisted him, telling them, "Dubara UP mein kabhi nahi aayenge sir. Kabhi nahi aayenge baba ji police ke aage" ("I will never come to UP again, sir. I will never come in front of Baba ji's police"). He reportedly referred to chief minister Yogi Adityanath as 'Baba.' Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anurag Arya said Ramanivas sustained a bullet injury in his leg during the encounter, while his associate, Anil, was also taken into custody.