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WORLD | NEWS

Gael Monfils And Elina Svitolina, Only Married Couple In US Open Mixed Doubles Draw, On The Special Moment



CINEMA | NEWS

Dulquer Salmaan Sings 'Loser' Song for I'm Game; Film Releases Worldwide on September 3



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

27.08.2026
Total pilgrims : 66,437
Tonnages : 26,771
Bandi kankalis : 4,45 CR
Laddu sale : 3,79 Lac
Ammagaram : 2,43 Lac
Annapurna : 3,746
Present Situation on 28-08-2026:
Waiting Campments...Out side line at Shalibaram.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) : 20-24 H.

Short Takes

579 confirmed dead, 1924 still missing as Nepal waives trekking fee for Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims returnees

Kathmandu: Nepal has waived the trekking fee for foreign nationals returning from the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage through the western Hilsa border point in Humla district for one week, amid disruptions caused by the devastating floods in the Bhote Koshi River. The Department of Immigration said in a notice on Friday that the waiver applies to foreign pilgrims returning from the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage who had earlier obtained departure permits from the Immigration Office in Rasuwa.

TWO ARRESTED IN NEPAL FOR STEALING EARRINGS FROM DEAD WOMAN'S BODY AFTER VIRAL VIDEO

Kathmandu, Aug 28 : Nepal Police said they had arrested two men for allegedly stealing gold earrings from the body of a woman who was swept downstream into the Narayani River during devastating floods in the country. After a video showing the incident went viral on social media and sparked widespread outrage, police arrested the suspects after identifying them through an examination of the video. The footage showed two men pulling the woman's body from the river before allegedly removing earrings from both her ears.

Karnataka Police Hardship Allowance to Rise 50%



Bengaluru (TSIT): Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that the hardship allowance for state police personnel will be increased by 50%, following the model of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Speaking at the launch of comprehensive capacity-building training for Karnataka Police at Manekshaw Parade Ground, Shivakumar said the government would prioritize the financial and

welfare needs of police personnel and provide necessary facilities.

He praised the National Security Guard (NSG) for training Karnataka police and urged personnel to use their enhanced skills to protect the state and its people. He also highlighted growing cybercrime and the need for police to continuously upgrade their technological capabilities. The Chief Minister said the government would explore agreements

with military and Air Force authorities to facilitate helpads on high-rise buildings for emergency rescue operations. He appealed to builders and developers to cooperate.

Shivakumar also announced steps to establish separate anti-rowdy forces led by IPS officers in Bengaluru and every district to control criminal elements and maintain public safety without political interference.

CM Naidu Pushes Constituency Vision Plans

Amaravati: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials and public representatives to effectively implement Constituency Vision Action Plans to achieve the goal of making Andhra Pradesh a leading state in all sectors. Addressing a video conference with ministers, MPs, MLAs, collectors, Young Professionals, Knowledge Partners and officials, Naidu said Andhra Pradesh was the first state to prepare and implement vision plans at the constituency level, earning national recognition. He said MPs and MLAs have a key role in achieving targets based on identified Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Young



Professionals, Knowledge Partners and Swarna Office staff should support implementation through innovative approaches and improved public services. The Chief Minister called for development plans based on local resources and constituency-specific needs. He directed officials to make effective use of the Data

Lake and technology to analyse information and improve decision-making.

Naidu asked MLAs to regularly review implementation and ensure field-level monitoring is transparent and accountable. He stressed that government welfare programmes should focus not only on financial assistance but also on making beneficiaries economically self-reliant.

He directed officials to increase per capita income in every constituency and ensure industries receiving approvals are actually established in the concerned districts. He also called for greater support to entrepreneurs and the poor through initiatives such as P4.

Karnataka minister B Nagendra resigns over 'Valmiki Corporation scam', slams 'Manuwadis'

Bengaluru (TSIT) Karnataka Planning and Statistics Minister B Nagendra on Friday announced his resignation from the state Cabinet, 25 days after being re-inducted, amid allegations linked to the Valmiki Corporation scam.

His announcement came shortly after he said he would meet Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and announce his decision at a press



conference. "Today I am voluntarily tendering my resignation as the minister," an emotional Nagendra told reporters. He said he had sub-

mitted his resignation to Shivakumar.

The Opposition BJP and JD(S) had been protesting against his re-induction into the Cabinet, two years after he resigned over the same issue. They have alleged his involvement in the Rs 89-crore Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scam.

320 Indian nationals remain out of contact after Nepal floods, 400 on Chinese side safe: MEA

New Delhi, Aug 28 : The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday that 320 Indian nationals remained out of contact following the deadly floods in Nepal, while 400 Indian nationals on the Chinese side were safe.

Addressing a bi-weekly press briefing in New Delhi on Friday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that 84 Indian nationals, including 63 Indian nationals who were working at the Trishuli-1 hydropower project, have been rescued so far. He further stated that 96 Indian nationals who were stranded on the Chinese side have safely crossed into Nepal by land.

On the situation of



Indian nationals in Nepal, Jaiswal said, "First good news, 21 Indian nationals who had yesterday arrived in Kathmandu from the area that was affected by this flood, they have today landed in Delhi. They have just landed. These 21 Indian nationals, are from Tamil Nadu and they arrived by Indigo flight which just landed in Delhi. Yesterday our

Ambassador had met them in Kathmandu and inquired about their well-being. In addition to these 21 Indian nationals, yesterday I had informed you, we had given you an update about 63 Indian nationals who are working at Trishuli-1 hydropower project, they were also rescued yesterday."

"In addition to these 21 and 63, we have learnt that 96 Indian nationals who were stranded on the Chinese side have safely crossed into Nepal by land and efforts are underway to have them evacuated. We shall be sharing with you details about them as and when we have more information about the particulars etc," he added.

NTA overhaul after NEET row: Centre appoints 2 new directors, joint director

New Delhi, Aug 28 : Continuing the revamp of the National Testing Agency (NTA) following the NEET UG row, the Central government appointed two new directors and a joint director to the key examination agency, official documents showed on Friday.

According to official orders issued by the Department of Personnel and Training on August 27, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Prasanna Venkatesh V and IPS officer Ravi Kumar Singh have been appointed as directors in the National Testing Agency.

Prasanna Venkatesh, a 2012 batch IAS officer, has been posted in the NTA under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five



years. The IAS officer, a graduate from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, has served as Secretary, Social Welfare Department and AP Social Welfare Residential Education Institutions Society, Guntur.

Ravi Kumar Singh, a 2012 batch Andhra Pradesh cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officer recommended for

Central deputation by the Union Home Ministry, has also been appointed as director in NTA, said an official memorandum issued on Thursday.

He has also been shifted to the Department of Higher Education for a period of five years, the order said. Ravi Kumar Singh served as Deputy Commissioner of Police, Economic Offences Wing,

Delhi Police. The Department of Personnel and Training further informed that Amit Samdaryia, a 2016 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, will serve as joint director (deputy secretary level) in the NTA for a period of four years.

The Central government began an overhaul of the NTA soon after the students' protest at Jantar Mantar last month to highlight NEET UG-2026 irregularities.

As part of the revamp, the NTA sacked 47 of its officials, a measure aimed at initiating legal and criminal action may against some of them amidst the students' agitation led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) over NEET paper leak and other exam irregularities.

Telangana pushes for SCCL joint venture with Hutti gold mines

Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday, August 28, directed officials to explore a joint venture between SCCL and Karnataka's Hutti Gold Mines. Vikramarka, on the second day of his visit to Karnataka's gold mining areas, visited the Hutti and Uti gold mines in Raichur district. He inspected the various stages of gold production, from ore extraction to refining, a press release said. He said combining the technical expertise of state-owned Singareni Collieries Company Limited with Hutti Gold Mines' experience in gold mining could help increase domestic production.

He suggested combining this expertise with Singareni's capabilities in mineral exploration and



mining. He directed Singareni officials to prepare an action plan for collaboration between the two organisations in gold exploration, mining, extraction, processing and refining, as well as the adoption of modern technologies, deployment of technical experts and human-resource training.

He emphasised the need to reduce dependence on gold imports and increase domestic production. A

Hutti-Singareni partnership could help boost gold production, promote the use of advanced technologies, create local employment and contribute to economic development, he said. Vikramarka inspected the production unit, ore processing plant and electrowinning facility at Hutti Gold Mines. Officials informed him that the Hutti project produces an average of two to four kg of gold a day.

India likely to co-produce Javelin Anti-Tank Missile in future

New Delhi, Aug 28 : The United States is upbeat about India's decision to purchase the Javelin anti-tank guided missile system. Sergio Gor, the US Ambassador to India, has said that the system could be co-produced in India in the future.

"The United States welcomes the Indian Army's signing of a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) for the purchase of the Javelin anti-tank guided missile system through the US Foreign Military Sales process. The milestone reflects the enduring partnership between the US and Indian Armed Forces. It opens the door for future collaboration between the US and Indian defence industries," the US Embassy in India posted.

"This agreement reflects a defence partnership that is growing deeper, more capable, and more consequential," Gor was quoted as saying by the embassy.



On X, Gor posted: "BIG news! India plans to buy the battle-tested Javelin anti-tank system. Just as @secwar highlighted at the May 2026 Shangri-La Dialogue, this is a great step forward in the US-India defence relationship and opens the door to co-production possibilities. The engagement between our two nations is

at record-high levels!"

"The Javelin agreement demonstrates the depth of US support for the Indian Army and creates new opportunities for our defence industries to work together. We see tremendous potential for future cooperation that strengthens the defence industrial bases of both countries," the embassy

quoted the ambassador as saying. With the signing of the LOA, India becomes a customer of the Javelin system, an advanced, medium-range, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile. The US Army, US Marine Corps and numerous international customers use the Javelin. It is designed for use against a wide array of targets, including armoured vehicles and fortified positions.

The Javelin is a man-portable anti-tank missile system jointly developed by Lockheed Martin and RTX for use against armoured targets. The US and allied forces have widely deployed the system.

The shoulder-fired system features an automatic guidance mechanism that allows the missile to track its target after launch, enabling the operator to take cover and avoid counterfire. Soldiers or Marines can also reposition after firing or reload to engage another threat.

APJAC Amaravati Announces Phased Agitation Over Employees’ Pending Demands

Vijayawada, August 28, 2026: The Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee (APJAC) Amaravati on Friday announced a phased agitation demanding the immediate resolution of 29 major issues concerning State government employees, including appointment of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC), announcement of Interim Relief (IR), release of pending Dearness Allowance (DA) dues and payment of other financial benefits. Addressing a State-level conference held at the Makinenni Basavapunniah Auditorium near Raghavayya Park in Vijayawada, APJAC Amaravati Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu said employees had been repeatedly approaching the government through representations, discussions and meetings, but there was considerable delay in resolving their issues.

He said the history of employees’ organisations showed that several rights had been secured only through democratic struggles. The 11th Pay Revision Commission, he recalled, was achieved after sustained agitations, including the “Chalo Vijayawada” programme. Bopparaju said the present agitation was not against the government but was aimed at securing the legitimate rights and financial benefits of employees. He appealed to the government not to test the patience of employees any further.

The APJAC leader said



the State-level conference discussed the future of employees and teachers in detail and decisions were taken democratically after obtaining the opinions of district-level leadership. He said the State leadership would implement the agitation programme based on the decisions taken by the districts, keeping in view the interests of nearly 13 lakh employees. APJAC State Secretary General Palishetti Damodara Rao said employees were only seeking financial benefits legally due to them and the implementation of assurances made to employees in the election manifesto of the coalition government.

He said employees were seeking payment of pending benefits relating to PRC, DA, surrender leave, gratuity, leave encashment and additional quantum of pension, among others. He urged Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to ensure that the money due to employees was paid without further delay.

Phased agitation announced

As part of the first phase, APJAC will submit an agitation notice to the Chief

Secretary on August 28. From August 31 to September 11, employees will undertake a series of programmes.

On August 31, district units will meet Collectors through the PGRS programme and submit notices regarding the agitation. They will also inform the Collectors about the proposed “Work to Rule” programme from September 15.

On September 1, employees will display the message “CM Sir, Give Us Our Money” as their mobile phone display picture. From September 1 to 5, employees will wear black badges while attending their duties.

From September 2 to 8, a “Hand to Hand” campaign will be conducted by visiting divisional and district offices and mobilising employees. Lunch-hour protests will be held from September 3 to 5.

On September 11, round-table meetings will be organised at all district headquarters with representatives of APJAC-affiliated organisations, AITUC and CITU to discuss the next phase of the agitation.

Work to Rule from

September 15

The second phase of the agitation will be held from September 15 to 26. Employees will observe “Work to Rule” during this period and discharge their duties strictly according to government rules and prescribed working hours, without taking on additional workload. From September 15 to 22, employees will use WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms to publicise the agitation through photographs and reels. Between September 15 and 25, APJAC leaders will meet MLAs, MPs, MLCs and other public representatives and submit memoranda explaining the employees’ demands.

On September 17, employees will organise protests wearing black scarves at major junctions at district and divisional levels and form human chains carrying the slogan “CM Sir, Give Us Our Money.” On September 23, dharnas will be organised at Collectorates and RDO offices with placards highlighting the major demands. On September 26, employees and their family members will hold

dharnas at Collectorate and RDO offices demanding payment of their pending dues.

The APJAC leadership said the third phase would include intensified programmes such as multi-zone conferences, non-cooperation programmes, relay hunger strikes, “Chalo Vijayawada” and an indefinite strike. A united agitation programme involving other organisations would be announced during the second phase.

AITUC, CITU extend support

AITUC State president R. Ravindranath, State general secretary S. Venkatasubbayya and CITU State general secretary A.V. Nageswara Rao extended their support to the APJAC agitation.

They said employees were not making unreasonable demands and were only seeking implementation of assurances made before the elections and payment of financial benefits due to them. They assured that AITUC and CITU would extend direct and indirect support to the employees’ struggles from the village level to the State level.

Representatives of electricity and RTC employees’ organisations also expressed solidarity with the agitation. AP State Electricity Employees Union-327 State senior working president Y.N.V. Suresh Kumar and RTC Employees Union State general secretary G.V. Narasayya announced their support.

Women Leaders Tie Rakhi to CM Chandrababu Naidu on Raksha Bandhan



Amaravati, August 28: On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, several women leaders and Brahma Kumaris tied rakhis to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu

Naidu at the Chief Minister’s Camp Office. The women leaders expressed their affection and goodwill towards the Chief Minister by tying rakhis and extending their

greetings on the auspicious occasion. CM Chandrababu Naidu reciprocated their wishes and conveyed his greetings to all the women on the occasion of Rakhi Purnima.

Tondamanpuram Temple Pavithrotsavams Conclude

Tondamanpuram: The three-day Pavithrotsavams at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tondamanpuram concluded on Friday with the traditional Chakrasnanam. On the final day, priests performed Maha Purnahuti and Pavitra Vitarana, followed by Snapan Tirumanjanam to Sri Venkateswara Swamy, along with Sridevi and Bhudevi, and Sri Chakrathalwar. The sacred Chakrasnanam was later performed for Chakrathalwar, marking the completion of the



rituals. A Gramotsavam was also organised in the evening, drawing a large number of devotees who participated and had darshan of the deity. AEO Smt.

Kumari Devi, Superintendent Sri Gnana Prakash, Temple Inspector Sri Sudheer, temple priests, staff and devotees participated in the celebrations.

M. Sivaprasad Appointed In-Charge Commissioner of APPTD and MD of APSRTC



TSIT, Visakhapatnam. The Andhra Pradesh Government has entrusted M. Sivaprasad with the additional charge of Commissioner of the

Andhra Pradesh Public Transport Department (APPTD) and Ex-Officio Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Andhra Pradesh

State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC). He is currently serving as Joint Managing Director of APSRTC.

Transport, Roads and Buildings Department Secretary Kona Sasidhar issued official orders on Friday, stating that Sivaprasad would continue to hold the additional responsibilities until further orders. Following the appointment, APPTD Karmika Parishad State President S.V. Seshagiri Rao, General Secretary Y. Srinivasa Rao and State Treasurer Kosuri Surendra, among others, met Sivaprasad and conveyed their greetings.

Nagababu Takes Charge as Chairman of AP Green Executive Committee

TSIT, Visakhapatnam. Jana Sena Party MLC Konidela Nagababu on Friday formally assumed charge as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Andhra Pradesh Society for Greening and Reforestation for Ecological Enrichment (AP Green) at Aranya Bhavan in Mangalagiri. Nagababu attended the programme along with his wife Padmaja. After performing special prayers in the presence of Vedic scholars, he assumed charge as Chairman. The priests later offered their blessings to him. The State Government has entrusted him with the key responsibility as part of its ambitious AP Green initiative, which aims to increase forest and tree cover to 50 per cent of Andhra Pradesh’s geographical area by 2047. The government has also accorded



Cabinet-rank status to the Chairman of the AP Green Executive Committee. Following his assumption of office, PCCF P.V. Chalapathi Rao, Additional PCCF Forest Rahul Pandey, Forest Department Advisor Mallikarjuna Rao, CCF Wildlife N. Nageswara Rao, CCF Guntur Y. Srinivasa Reddy, PCCF Vigilance Revathi, AP Green CEO B.N.N. Murthy, Panchayat Raj Commissioner Krishna Teja and other senior officials and public representatives met Nagababu and congratulated him by presenting bouquets.

Massive Rally on “Say No to Drugs – Embrace Sports”

Tirupati, August 28:** District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar stated that the primary objective of the Amaravati Championship is to identify talented students from rural areas, government schools and government educational institutions and take them to state, national and international levels.



On Friday, a massive rally was organised under the slogans “Drugs Vaddoy Bro... Drugs Vaddhu – Kreedalu Muddu” from the local Taraka Rama Stadium to the NTR statue. The rally was flagged off by District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar along with SAAP Chairman Animinni Ravi Naidu and District SP L. Subbarayudu. SAAP MD Bharani, Additional SPs, hockey player Rajani, a large number of Amaravati Championship sportspersons, students, officials and others participated. Later, they took a pledge against drugs.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that over the past four days, competitions were held at the constituency and district levels in 12 sports disciplines for Under-17 and Under-23 age groups. The best performers were brought to Tirupati for further competitions. Approximately 15,000 sportspersons, PDs, PETs and office-bearers participated in these competitions organised under the aegis of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP). Better bus and food facilities were provided to the participants, and the district administration coordinated with SAAP officials to successfully complete all the events. The competitions were conducted in a safe and pleasant atmosphere without any difficulties, untoward incidents or injuries.

Among those who participated in the Amaravati Championship, about 65%

were students from government schools and government educational institutions, while more than 80% of the sportspersons came from rural areas. The Collector said the championship has emerged as a unique platform to unearth hidden sporting talent in rural areas and to identify students studying in government educational institutions and provide them opportunities at higher levels. Sportspersons who performed well here will be encouraged and sent to state, national and international level competitions in the future.

He noted that sports play a key role in keeping youth away from drugs. Especially Under-17 and Under-23 sportspersons should take up programmes to create awareness among their fellow students and youth about the harmful effects of drugs. In this background, the district administration, district police and SAAP organised a massive awareness rally with Amaravati Championship sportspersons and students under the slogans “Drugs Vaddoy Bro”, “Drugs Vaddhu – Kreedalu Muddu” and “Drug-Free Andhra Pradesh”. He called for the participation of youth in building a drug-free Andhra Pradesh. Strict cases are being registered against illegal use and sale of drugs, and PD Act cases are also being booked when neces-

sary. Comprehensive action is being taken on these three fronts to make Tirupati a drug-free district, he added.

The Collector informed that a state-level programme will be organised in Tirupati on August 29 on the occasion of National Sports Day. Assembly Speaker Ayyannapatrudu will attend as the chief guest. Medal winners of the Amaravati Championship will be felicitated on this occasion. He said steps will be taken under SAAP to organise these sporting celebrations on a larger scale in the coming years, with Tirupati as the venue. SAAP Chairman said it is commendable that the sportspersons who participated enthusiastically for four days in the Amaravati Championship not only competed but also became partners in the socially responsible anti-drug awareness programme. Sportspersons, as symbols of discipline and fitness, can serve as role models for youth and play a key role in bringing positive change in society. In the context of awareness programmes and legal measures being taken under the state government and police for drug control, sportspersons have extended their support. He called upon everyone to become partners in achieving the goals of “Drugs Vaddhu – Kreedalu Muddu” and a “Drug-Free Andhra Pradesh”.

GARUDA SEVA TRIAL RUN HELD IN TIRUMALA ON SRAVANA POURNAMI

Tirumala, 28 August 2026: In view of the Srivari Salakatra Brahmotsavams scheduled to be held from September 15 to 23 this year, TTD observed a trial run of Garuda Seva on Friday evening on the occasion of the full moon.

As part of its annual practice of reviewing the arrangements for the ensuing Brahmotsavams, TTD conducts this mock Garuda Seva every year.

The Garuda Seva was held from 7 pm to 9 pm. TTD EO Sri Ravichandra, Additional EO Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary and Tirupati SP Sri



Subbarayudu jointly inspected the arrangements along the four Mada Streets, including security, drinking water distribution, Annaprasadam distribution, services of Srivari Sevaks, entry and exit routes, and other engineering arrangements.

TTD Board members Sri Nannapaneni Sadashiva Rao and Sri Shantaram, SVBC Chairman Sri Sridhar Varma, Chief Engineer Sri Manoharam, Dy EO of Srivari Temple Sri Lokanatham, VGO Sri Surendra, and senior officials from various departments participated in the Vahana Seva.

understood the one language every Congress legislature party speaks fluently: ambition. In 2009, for instance, Antony and Digvijaya were among the senior observers sent to Maharashtra after the Assembly election, while Prithviraj Chavan was sent to Haryana. There was logic to this. Someone who has himself negotiated the Chief Minister's chair knows how to recognise a rebellion before the rebel has drafted his press statement. The present Congress, by contrast, sometimes seems eager to demonstrate that nobody is indispensable. It is an understandable impulse given the many cases of regional barons often holding the organisation hostage. Rahul Gandhi wants a younger, more ideological, less transactional party. The trouble is that elections remain stubbornly transactional affairs. The BJP understands this better than its rhetoric suggests. It may retire veterans, but it carefully harvests their networks before doing so. The Congress, on the other hand, often retires the network with the individual. Reservoirs of Political Capital Take Digvijaya Singh. He can be an exasperating presence for his own party, occasionally giving the BJP a quotation it could never have written as effectively itself. Yet, few Congress leaders know the political geography of Madhya Pradesh better. In the run-up to the 2023 election, he was entrusted with difficult BJP-dominated constituencies and spent months meeting cadres and placating disgruntled workers.

Indel Money’s 500 Crore NCD Issue (250 Cr Base issue + 250 Cr Greenshoe) Oversubscribed by 704%, Rs. 1,759 Crore in Subscriptions

Mumbai, August 2026: Indel Money Limited’s public issue of Secured, Rated, Listed and Redeemable Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) drew strong response from investors, with the entire issue of up to Rs 500 crore, including the Rs 250 crore Green Shoe Option, fully subscribed within four hours of opening on August 18, 2026. The issue, with a base size of Rs 250 crore and an option to retain oversubscription of up to Rs 250 crore, was pre-closed on August 20, 2026, ahead of its scheduled closing date. The company received bids worth Rs 1,759 crore, equivalent to 704% of the base issue size. The NCDs, with a face value of Rs 1,000 each, carry an effective yield of up to 12.25% per annum and are proposed to be listed on BSE Limited. The NCDs have been rated ‘IND A-/Stable’ by India Ratings and Research Pvt. Ltd. Mr Umesh Mohanan, Whole Time Director, Indel Money,

said: “The overwhelming response to the issue reflects the confidence investors have placed in Indel Money and our growth strategy. The fact that the entire Rs 500 crore issue was subscribed within four hours, followed by total subscription of Rs 1,759 crore, is particularly encouraging. As we expand our lending franchise, this strong investor response enhances our ability to access diversified sources of capital to serve the evolving credit needs of individuals and businesses mainly across rural parts of India. The proceeds from the Issue will augment Indel’s capital position and support our onward lending activities, refinancing and debt servicing requirements, while enabling us to pursue our long-term growth objectives.” The Net Proceeds of the Issue will be utilised for onward lending, financing or refinancing of existing debt and/or debt servicing, including payment of inter-

est and/or repayment or prepayment of interest and principal of existing borrowings of the Company, and for general corporate purposes, in accordance with applicable regulations. During FY26, Indel Money’s Assets Under Management (AUM) stood at ₹4,103.90 crore. Indel Money reported total income of ₹605.96 crore, net worth of ₹631.77 and profit after tax of ₹123.97 crore. The Company maintained a strong focus on asset quality and capital strength, with GNPA at 1.65% and NNPA at 1.29% as of March 31, 2026, and a Tier I Capital Adequacy Ratio of 20.47%. As of June 30, 2026, Indel Money’s Assets Under Management (AUM) stood at ₹4,376.51 crore, net worth of ₹659.03 Cr. The Company maintained a focus on asset quality and capital strength, with Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) at 1.54%, Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA) at 1.24%, and a Tier I Capital Adequacy Ratio of 22.47%.

JIO GETS SEBI NOD FOR IPO, SET TO BE INDIA’S BIGGEST LISTING

New Delhi: Jio Platforms Ltd, the digital services arm of billionaire Mukesh Ambani’s Reliance Industries Ltd, has received approval from markets regulator Sebi to proceed with an initial public offering (IPO) that could raise about USD 3.8 billion, paving the way for what would be the country’s largest stock-market listing. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) issued its final observations on Friday, August 28, according to an update on the regulator’s website. Jio Platforms had filed its draft IPO papers in June. 27 crore shares up for grab The company plans to issue up to 27 crore fresh equity shares, equivalent to about 2.9 per cent of its post-issue equity base, according to its draft prospectus. The offering could value Jio Platforms at about USD 137 billion, people familiar with the matter said. At the estimated issue size of about Rs 37,700 crore (USD 3.8 billion), the offering would surpass Hyundai Motor India’s USD 3.3 billion-equivalent list-



ing in 2024 and become the largest IPO in India. A proposed IPO by the National Stock Exchange (NSE), estimated at about Rs 30,000 crore, would also be smaller. The proceeds will be used primarily to repay or prepay, in whole or in part, about Rs 27,500 crore of outstanding borrowings of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, Jio Platforms’ material subsidiary, according to the draft

prospectus. The remainder is earmarked for general corporate purposes. The public offering comes as India’s primary market has remained active, with strong participation from retail investors and domestic institutions. More than two dozen IPOs have been announced or launched since July 1, nearly matching the 28 recorded in the first half of 2026. Jio telecom is world’s sec-

ond-largest mobile operator Jio Platforms houses Reliance’s digital businesses, including its telecommunications operations. Reliance Jio Infocomm had more than 53.3 crore subscribers as of June-end, making it the world’s second-largest mobile operator by subscriber count after China Mobile, according to company data. The business has also expanded into other areas,

including cloud, artificial intelligence (AI) and enterprise network services. Jio Platforms has previously attracted major global technology and financial investors. In 2020, Meta invested Rs 43,574 crore for a 9.99 per cent stake, while Google invested Rs 33,737 crore for a 7.73 per cent holding. Other investors, including Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, TPG, L Catterton, the Public Investment Fund, Intel Capital and Qualcomm Ventures collectively invested about Rs 74,745 crore for roughly a 15.2 per cent stake. Reliance Industries owns about 66.4 per cent of Jio Platforms, while Meta and Google together hold about 17.7 per cent, according to the draft prospectus. First offering from Reliance since 2008 The IPO would be the first public offering from the Reliance group since 2008 and the first IPO of a consumer-focused business within the conglomerate.

WACKER ESTABLISHES GLOBAL CAPABILITY CENTER IN INDIA WITH HCLTECH

NOIDA, India, Aug 28, 2026 — HCLTech, a leading global technology company, announced that Wacker Chemie AG, a global chemicals and biotechnology company, has recently established a Global Capability Center in Pune, India in collaboration with HCLTech. The GCC will support WACKER’s engineering, IT and digital transformation initiatives, and provide a flexible, resilient and future-ready delivery foundation. “The Global Capability Center is an important step in strengthening our global delivery and digital execution capabilities,” said Fabian Seibold, Director WACKER Excellence Hub Pune. “HCLTech’s experience in building and scaling such centers allows us to move forward with a model that supports agility, governance and long-term growth.” “This expanded engagement builds on the strategic partnership between WACKER and HCLTech and marks an important milestone in WACKER’s digital transformation. We are proud to support WACKER’s long-term digital and engineering

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transformation journey as a trusted partner,” said Dr. Frank Fehler, Executive Vice President and Country Head - Germany, HCLTech. “Through a phased customer-centric operating model, we are establishing a flexible, resilient, and future-ready GCC for WACKER in Pune. Leveraging our expertise in DevSecOps and automation, HCLTech will help build a high-performing team, strengthen governance, enhance operational efficiency, and accelerate digital modernization,” said Kiran Cherukuri, EVP and Global GCC Practice Head, HCLTech.

Strike One: Jawa All Stars debuts with new expressions of award-winning 42 FJ

Mumbai, 25 August 2026: Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles announces the beginning of Jawa All Stars, a new expression of the values that have long defined Jawa riders. The first strike in this new chapter comes through the Jawa 42 FJ, bringing a fresh and contemporary interpretation of the brand’s neo-classic design language. Over the years, Jawa’s pioneering spirit has resonated with a particular kind of rider, one who values individuality over conformity and confidence over attention. These riders have always shared an unspoken code, expressed not through what they say, but through the choices they make and the way they carry themselves. Jawa All Stars gives this code a name. Inspired by the enduring symbolism of the star as a mark of identity, recognition and belonging, All Stars is not a badge of achievement or superiority, but an insignia for a way of being. A visible mark for an invisible code that connects riders through a shared outlook, regardless of where their individual journeys may take them. Different journeys. Different personalities. One shared spirit. That is the Jawa All Stars code - character, conduct, and courage. The Jawa 42 FJ brings this philosophy

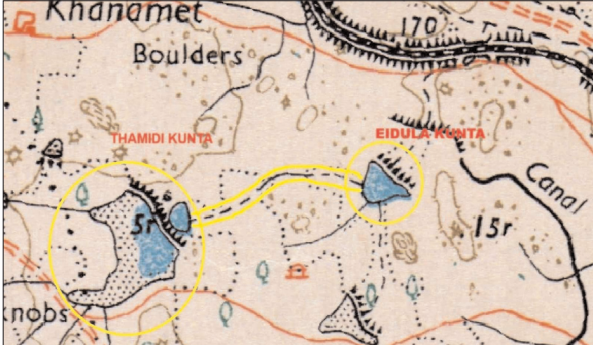


to life through a sportier and more contemporary interpretation of the brand’s neo-classic design language. Since its introduction, the Jawa 42 FJ has earned widespread appreciation for its distinctive neo-classic design, strong road presence and engaging performance. The Jawa 42 FJ was awarded the Viewer’s Choice Bike of the Year (2024) and the Viewer’s Choice Motorcycle of the Year (2025), underscoring its widespread appeal among enthusiasts and reinforcing its stature as one of India’s most admired neo-classic motorcycles. Anupam Thareja, Co-founder, Classic Legends, said, “Jawa has always

attracted riders who know exactly who they are. They have never followed trends for the sake of it, nor sought attention for making different choices. Over time, we realised there was a shared spirit that connected these riders. Jawa All Stars is our way of recognising and celebrating that spirit. It is a tribute to character, conduct, and courage, the values that have always felt inherently Jawa. The Jawa 42 FJ is the first expression of that philosophy, bringing it to life through contemporary design, performance, and a personality that is unmistakably its own.” The Jawa 42 FJ builds on that approach with segment-first

brushed aluminium tank panels, a sporty stance, and a detailed finish, while its 334-cc liquid-cooled DOHC single-cylinder engine produces 29.17 PS at 7,500 rpm and 29.62 Nm at 5,500 rpm, delivering up to 42 percent more power than most 350cc motorcycles in the segment. Modern features include a fully digital instrument cluster and all-LED lighting, blending contemporary functionality with Jawa’s neo-classic character. Its six-speed gearbox, double-cradle frame, 41 mm telescopic front forks and gas-filled twin rear shock absorbers with five-step adjustable preload allow for a balance of stability, control.

NGT PANEL FINDS NVN CONSTRUCTION ENCROACHING ON EDULAKUNTA



Hyderabad: A National Green Tribunal (NGT)-appointed joint committee has found that Edulakunta, located in Survey no 7 of Khanamet, is a government water body and that NVN Constructions has been carrying out construction activity in it. The Telangana High Court had earlier passed a conflicting order saying that NVN Construction’s 13.17-acre property in Kukatapally does not overlap with the lake. According to a Times of India report, the NGT committee has stated that revenue records classify the entire six acre and five guntas in Survey no 7 of Khanamet in Serilingampally mandal as “Edulakunta Shikam Sarkari.” The land is also included in the Section 22A prohibited list. NVN Constructions’ activities fall under Survey no 7, according to a demarcation done by a Mandal surveyor using the Khanamet village map and

ground references and a May 25 inspection by Serilingampally revenue officials. After the inspection, the tahsildar had sought assistance from Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA), which fenced the land on May 26 and 27. Lake activists file petition The NGT had taken up the case after lake activists, such as Thakur Raj Singh, filed a petition alleging lake bed filling, debris dumping and unauthorised construction on the lake. The applicants had also alleged that water was being pumped out of the lake to facilitate construction. This allegation was not independently established by the NGT committee. High Court observation On July 31, the Telangana High Court had held that NVN Construction’s 13.17-acre property in survey numbers 1003 and 1006 of Kukatapally was a private patta land and did not overlap with Survey no 7.

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Expands Presence in Tamil Nadu with New Branch in Theni Allinagaram

Theni Allinagaram, August 2026: Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (“ABHFL”), a leading housing finance company and a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, has expanded its footprint in Tamil Nadu with the launch of a new branch in Theni Allinagaram as part of its broader plan to expand its pan-India distribution network. With this addition, ABHFL’s total network in Tamil Nadu has increased to 19 branches, strengthening its presence in high-growth markets and improving customer accessibility. Theni-Allinagaram is a prominent commercial hub in Tamil Nadu, with its economy supported by cotton and textile trade, agriculture, horticulture, small businesses and services. The presence of textile industries and a strong trading ecosystem supports a diverse customer base of salaried professionals, traders, business owners and self-employed individuals. Growing economic activity and housing aspirations across the town and surrounding areas make Theni-Allinagaram a prom-



ising market for housing finance. Through its new branch, ABHFL aims to bring tailored financing solutions closer to customers in the region, supporting their homeownership journey. ABHFL offers a comprehensive suite of housing finance solutions tailored to diverse customer segments, including afford-

able housing, prime housing, construction finance, and loans against property, catering to salaried individuals, self-employed professionals, self-employed non-professionals, and emerging income groups. Backed by a robust digital ecosystem, ABHFL enables a seamless onboarding. Faster Approvals, and enhanced

transparency, ensuring a superior customer experience. To mark the launch, ABHFL is offering zero login fees along with spot loan sanctions of up to ₹50 lakh, valid from August 25 to August 31, 2026, enabling faster and more affordable access to credit for customers at these new branches. Speaking on the expansion, Mr. Pankaj Gadgil, MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, said, “Tamil Nadu is a key growth market for us. With strong demand and rising aspirations, we are scaling our regional presence to deepen customer engagement. By combining our growing distribution footprint with robust digital capabilities, we aim to make the homeownership journey simpler, faster, and hassle-free for customers.” Aligned with its promise of delivering a ‘Happy Home Loan Journey’, this expansion underscores ABHFL’s continued focus on customer-centricity, responsible lending, and driving financial inclusion through a diversified and granular retail portfolio.

Cygnnet. One launches AI-First GST Classification and ITC Eligibility Engine to automate enterprise tax compliance at scale

Hyderabad, August 28, 2026: Tax technology provider Cygnnet.One today announced its AI-powered GST Classification and Input Tax Credit (ITC) Eligibility Engine, a solution built to validate and automate the posting of enterprise purchase invoices at scale. Combining GST-aligned rule logic with artificial intelligence, the engine analyzes invoice data, interprets transaction context, and determines ITC eligibility at an invoice level, classifying each transaction into the correct GSTR-3B treatment with an explainable reasoning trail. It automatically flags reverse charge, imports, and blocked credits, cutting manual review while building audit readiness into the process by design.

ADDRESSING A PERSISTENT COMPLIANCE GAP Large enterprises process lakhs of purchase invoices every month across multiple Goods and Services Tax Identification Numbers (GSTINs), business units, and geographies, sourced from Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems,

scanned documents, PDFs, and vendor emails. Critical GST indicators such as reverse charge, imports, Input Service Distributor (ISD) credits, mixed-use transactions, and blocked credits are often not clearly flagged at source. As a result, tax teams spend disproportionate time reviewing invoices manually, reconciling discrepancies late in the cycle, and defending positions during audits. Despite mature ERP landscapes and years of GST implementation, ITC eligibility and classification decisions at most enterprises are still made invoice by invoice through manual interpretation, an approach that does not scale with volume and exposes organizations to inconsistency, delayed risk discovery, and audit pressure.

HOW THE ENGINE WORKS The workflow begins with the ingestion of raw invoice data into Cygnnet.One’s AI engine. Inside this central processing hub, an AI component performs description and context analysis while working alongside a rule

engine module, and the two exchange information iteratively to ensure invoice data is interpreted correctly and in line with GST law and organizational policy. Once processing is complete, the system delivers three outputs built for tax and audit efficiency: accurate ITC eligibility at an invoice level, structured GSTR-3B data ready for regulatory filing, and an audit-ready reasoning trail that gives tax and audit teams a transparent record of how each classification was reached.

KEY CAPABILITIES Invoice-level ITC eligibility: Determines Input Tax Credit eligibility for each invoice rather than applying blanket rules, using a hybrid of GST-aligned logic and AI-driven context analysis.

Automatic risk flagging: Identifies reverse charge, import transactions, and blocked credits without manual intervention. Structured GSTR-3B classification: Converts invoice-level decisions into structured data mapped to the correct GSTR-3B treatment. Explainable reasoning

trail: Documents the basis for every classification decision, giving tax and audit teams a transparent, defensible record.

Policy control retained: Rule-based logic ensures alignment with GST law and organizational policy, while enterprises retain full control over policy overrides and risk thresholds.

DRIVING THE NEXT PHASE OF TAX TRANSFORMATION The launch reflects Cygnnet.One’s positioning as an AI-first compliance provider. Manual review effort is significantly reduced, ITC decisions become consistent across entities and periods, and GSTR-3B disclosures are driven by structured, invoice-level data rather than spreadsheets. Most importantly, audit readiness is built into the process by design rather than addressed retrospectively. Through this solution, Cygnnet.One is enabling enterprises to move from judgment-driven GST operations to intelligent, scalable, and governance-ready tax processes.



Chinese officials say rescue operations reach 'critical stage' after deadly flash floods in Nepal



PREZ DONALD TRUMP SIGNS ORDER TO RENAME LAKE ONTARIO AS LAKE AMERICA

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order seeking to change the name of Lake Ontario to Lake America. The move comes after trade talks between the US and Canada collapsed last week, and the US imposed new 50% tariffs on \$ 2 0 b n

(C\$28bn) worth of Canadian goods. Canada will implement "dollar for dollar" counter-tariffs next month. Trump said the renaming of the lake, which straddles both countries, was effective immediately. He has broad discretion over how the US recognises landmarks but other countries do not have to follow. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said in response that "things must be called by their name, and this lake is called Lake Ontario - today and forever".

The executive order gives the US Department of the Interior 30 days to update the name change with the Geographic Names Information Service - the official repository of domestic geographic names in the US. Carney noted that the name Lake Ontario could be traced back more than 400 years, adding that it preceded the formation of the Canadian Confederation and the US Declaration of Independence. "We know that the United States is changing," he said. "Their

trade relations, their foreign policy, their national monuments, their hydronyms. "Canadian women and men also know that things must be called by their name, and this lake is called Lake Ontario - today and forever." There is no universally recognised international body setting the names of international waters. When Trump took to the White House in 2025, he signed a similar order that changed the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

King Haakon VIII takes the throne in Norway following death of Harald V

Flocks of mourners have gathered outside the Royal Palace in Oslo, where the piles of bouquets and Norwegian flags are growing. Multiple politicians have been seen there, including foreign minister Espen Barth Eide and finance minister Jens Stoltenberg of the Labour Party, as well as leader of the Conservative Party Ine Marie Eriksen Soreide. With King Haakon VIII now the head of state, his daughter Ingrid Alexandra, 22, now becomes the crown princess and heir to the Norwegian throne. It's only in recent decades - since the constitution changed in 1990 - that women have been given the right to inherit the Norwegian throne. It means that Ingrid Alexandra could be Norway's first female monarch since the 15th Century. Born and raised in Oslo, the princess completed her military service in 2025, having spent 15 months as an engineer soldier and rifleman. In May 2025, it was announced that she was to move to Australia to study international relations and political economy at the University of Sydney. Environmental protection and climate change have previously been given as her key interests on the royal family's website - although the biographies are currently unavailable while the site is updated. The Union flag is flying at half-mast over Buckingham Palace, in tribute to King Harald V. The flag placement is a symbol of mourning and respect in many countries, including in the



UK. Harald has ties to the British Royal Family, and was the second cousin of late monarch Queen Elizabeth II. King Harald's coffin will be moved from hospital to the Royal Palace in Oslo this evening, the Norwegian Royal Family has confirmed. His son King Haakon, the new Queen Mette-Marit, Crown Princess Ingrid Alexandra, Harald's wife Queen Sonja, Prince Sverre Magnus, and Princess Mårtha Louise will

accompany the coffin. A procession will leave the chapel at Rikshospitalet at 18:30 local time (17:30 BST) and will work its way towards the palace. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre has joined the crowd of mourners gathered outside the Royal Palace in Oslo. Støre, who has led the country since 2021, added his own bouquet to the growing number of tributes.

WORLD'S YOUNGEST REIGNING TRADITIONAL MONARCH DIES AGED 34



A traditional Ugandan ruler named as the world's youngest monarch has died aged 34, his prime minister announced. Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV became king of Tooro in western Uganda at just three years old in 1995 after the death of his father. The Toroo kingdom did not disclose the cause of King Oyo's death, but a Ugandan government minister was quoted in local media saying that he had been critically ill and was seeking treatment in the US. Though Uganda is governed by an elected president and parliament, it has several traditional kingdoms which continue to have significant

cultural influence despite not having political power. Oyo, who Guinness World Records listed as the world's youngest reigning monarch, ruled over more than two million people. He was the 13th monarch of a kingdom that was founded in the early 19th Century. Announcing his death, Tooro's Prime Minister Calvin Armstrong Rwomire Akiiki called his passing on Thursday an "immeasurable loss" to the royal family and the people of Tooro. "I call upon all the people of Tooro to remain united, calm and prayerful during this profoundly difficult time," Akiiki said on Friday.

Tate brothers blast US jail conditions as they seek bail in UK extradition fight

Andrew and Tristan Tate have told a Florida court they should be released from jail so they can fight extradition to the UK on charges of rape and trafficking. Wearing tan jail uniforms, the brothers maintained they did not commit the alleged crimes as they hit out at conditions in US custody. Government lawyers argued that the two were a flight risk and had bragged about having multiple passports, while defence attorneys said the two social media influencers' high profile would make it almost impossible for them to flee. US Magistrate Judge Lauren Louis will issue a written ruling at a later date on whether to grant bail to the dual British-US citizens. The two were arrested in Miami on 19 July. During Thursday's hearing, defence lawyers said the pair had complied with the terms of their release while they battled the UK charges and another case in Romania. US authorities took the men into custody last month



after the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) unveiled dozens of new charges against them. The British authorities have until 16 September to submit a full extradition request. The brothers, who arrived in court in shackles, were questioned in turn by their defence attorneys and government lawyers as they took the stand. Andrew Tate, 39, declared he has "never committed the crimes I'm accused of". Tristan Tate, 38, described his detention conditions as small and hot, with little sunlight and exercise. "It's

beginning to grate on me because I can't partake in helping with my defence," he told the court, according to CBS News, the BBC's US partner. "It's death by scurvy," he said, adding that he had lost 14lb (6.3kg). The British Embassy filed court documents asking the judge to keep the Tates in custody as the UK pursues extradition. US government lawyers pushed back against the brothers' claims that they had exaggerated their wealth to massage their online personas. The federal attorneys said the Tates had access to

resources that could help fund an escape and they had bragged about having multiple passports. But Andrew Tate, a former professional kickboxer, testified that to support himself financially, he "had to go back to the boxing ring against heavier, younger opponents", according to CBS News. "I've said some stupid things, but sometimes you have to shake the internet to get noticed," he testified about his online statements, according to CBS. "This is the reality of the internet. "I'm being treated like El Chapo," he added, referring to the Mexican drug kingpin, "but I have a perfect record in the court system". Under questioning from his attorney, Joseph McBride, Andrew Tate denied he was a human trafficker. The defence also called Natasha Sesay, from England, to testify in support of releasing Andrew Tate. She described a five-year romantic relationship, saying she had had one child with him and was expecting a second.

Dutch court sentences man to life over Rwanda genocide



A court in the Netherlands has sentenced a Dutch-Rwandan man to life for his involvement in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The 66-year-old, named only as Eugene N, was accused, among other things, of throwing a hand grenade into a crowd of Tutsis who were seeking shelter in a stadium. He was convicted of war crimes and the crime of genocide, having acted with "genocidal intent", the judge said. Rwanda had sought his extradition in 2014 but the authorities in the Netherlands then launched their own investigation into N, who had become a Dutch citizen. In 100 days in April 1994, an estimated 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and

politically moderate Hutu people were killed by Hutu extremists. The court in The Hague heard N held an authoritative position in the community at the time of the massacre, overseeing around 1,000 people in Mbazi in southern Rwanda. "The suspect was a man who was held in high regard and must have been aware of his role and the influence he had as a local administrator," the court explained, adding that he "committed multiple severe crimes". At a football stadium, he instructed Hutus not to let any of the Tutsis escape. Trapped inside, they were pelted with stones, shot at and had hand grenades thrown at them.



Damage being assessed after 'significant' Killarney flash floods

OPTIMUS PRIME AND EEEYORE VOICE ACTOR PETER CULLEN DIES

Actor Peter Cullen, who voiced popular characters including Optimus Prime in Transformers and Eeyore in Disney's Winnie the Pooh franchise, has died at the age of 85. The Canadian actor began his most famous role - as the heroic deep-voiced Optimus Prime - for the Transformers TV series in 1984, then returned for seven Hollywood films from 2007 to 2023 and other spin-offs. He voiced depressive donkey Eeyore in TV animation The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh from the late 1980s as well as numerous related shows, films and games. His other memorable voice parts included KARR, the evil counterpart to KITT in TV show Knight Rider; the clicking vocalisations of The Predator in Arnold Schwarzenegger's



1987 film; and the roars of King Kong in 1976. He died on Wednesday at his home in Los Angeles, a statement said. "Peter Cullen passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family - and held in the hearts of his many friends and countless fans worldwide. "His family asks that you honour his remarkable legacy by



serving your communities and leading others with compassion, integrity, and loyalty and always remember 'be strong enough to be gentle.' Cullen started his career on Canadian TV and radio and was then a regular on programmes like The Sonny & Cher Show before deciding to concentrate on voice acting.

Brother's advice His Optimus Prime voice was inspired by his older brother, a decorated US Marine and Vietnam War veteran, who suggested he should play the character as "a real hero, don't be a Hollywood hero". "He said, 'Don't go yelling and screaming. He's strong enough to be gentle.' "And that resonated with me, and I could hear his voice all the way to the audition. When he drops down, when he gets serious, is where I found Optimus Prime." Cullen gave his brother a cut of the wages he received for playing Optimus Prime until his death. The actor's performance as the character earned him a Daytime Emmy nomination for outstanding performer in an animated programme in 2011.

DRESSING ROOM IN TENTS, WASHROOM 500M FAR: BCCI SLAMS ASIAN GAMES CONDITIONS: REPORT

The Asian Games will start from September 19 onwards in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The men's cricket tournament is scheduled from September 24 to October 3, while the women's tournament is scheduled from September 17 to 22. A source from BCCI told ANI that the board and ACC are not satisfied with the facilities and arrangements for cricketers in Japan, and an observer from BCCI could be sent there. The source told ANI, "BCCI and ACC are not happy with the facilities and arrangements in Japan, and the board will send an observer there. The observer will submit its report to us. We told Japan Olympics officials during the ACC in a meeting that the dressing rooms were set up in tents and washrooms were just 500 m away from those tents, which has created an unsatisfying situation for the players. Also, the hotel rooms are really

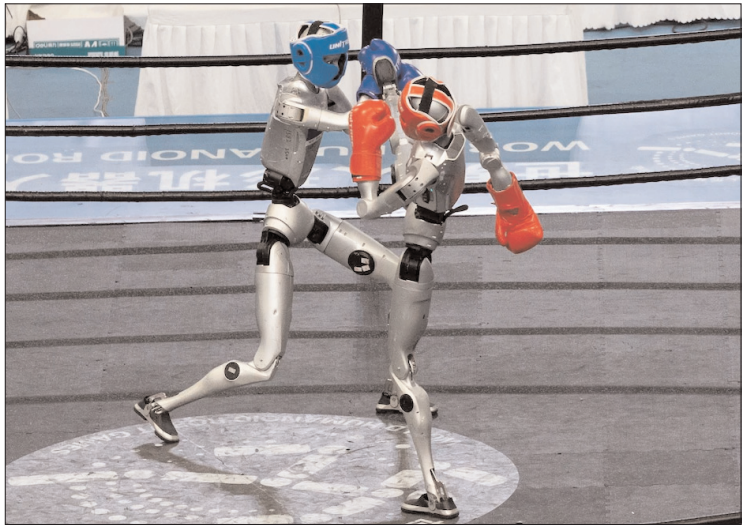


small, and it is a big concern." Team India secured a gold medal in the previous edition at Hangzhou, China, back in 2023, adjudged winners on the basis of a higher seeding over Afghanistan after the final was washed out. They have named a full-strength line-up for the competition, including skipper Shreyas Iyer, the left-handed batting quartet of Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma and star pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh. India

men's T20I squad for Asian Games Shreyas Iyer (capt), Sanju Samson (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan (wk), Shivam Dube, Tilak Varma (vice-capt), Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Varun Chakravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Jasprit Bumrah. The Indian women's squad is led by Harmanpreet Kaur and features several big names who are regulars at the senior level.

China's World Humanoid Robot Games Offer A Glimpse Into The Future Of Robotics

In 1997, when a computer defeated the reigning chess world champion for the first time in history, many wondered how long it would take for machines to be able to match, or even surpass, humans in competitive sports that involve a high level of physical exertion. Watching the 2nd World Humanoid Robot Games held in Beijing from August 22 to 26, one couldn't help but return to that thought. The annual event brought together 666 teams from 16 countries across six continents, with over 2,000 robots in action. Over the course of the five days, quite a few humanoid robots ran faster than Usain Bolt's 100m world record times, with a few jumping higher than Javier Sotomayor's world record jump of 2.45 metres. These came just months after a humanoid robot beat the human half-marathon world record in Beijing in April. The significance of these feats couldn't be overstated. That robots can already outrun humans when the robotics sector is still at the beginning of an unprecedented boom makes one wonder what possibilities lie a few years down the road. Not all robots, needless to say, displayed the same



level of athleticism or finesse. There were a few erratic ones who malfunctioned or collapsed in the middle of their performances. Yet, the rate of improvement from the first edition of the Robot Games in 2025 was quite stunning. In football, for instance, the robots, albeit still much slower than their human counterparts, showcase improved shooting and passing abilities compared to last year. The underlying aim of the event was to show-

case the advances in capabilities of robots. From a practical viewpoint, it did a good job highlighting the progress robots have achieved in supporting humans in everyday life. The Robot Games featured multiple competitions centred on real-life scenarios. Beyond the headlines about robots outrunning humans, these scenario-based events offered a realistic preview of where robotics is headed. These competitions ranged from

mundane chores like packing, gardening and electric vehicle charging to more serious activities like retail services and industrial assembling. There was also a fire rescue competition that highlighted how robots could be used in emergency response roles that involve high risks for humans. Strolling around the venue of the Robot Games, the National Speed Skating Oval, yours truly had the chance to explore some of the latest offerings in booths set up by some of China's well-known robotics firms. At a robot-run kitchen, one robot sliced through cucumbers while another baked nuggets. They were slow but steady and precise. At another outlet, a robot served orange juice within a couple of minutes, and at yet another one, a robot seamlessly performed the role of a shopkeeper. At one stall, a semi-autonomous wheelchair wowed visitors with its ability to slowly, but steadily, help occupants down a flight of stairs without outside support. There were exoskeletons, brain-computer interface wearables and many other products that highlighted how robotics is gradually entering the medical field, particularly in eldercare.

ASHISH SHELAR ELECTED PRESIDENT OF E-SPORTS GAMES FEDERATION

Ashish Shelar, Minister of Electronics, IT, AI and Cultural affairs in the Government of Maharashtra and Board member Asian Cricket Council, will head the E Sports Games Federation (ESGF). Shelar was elected president at the ESGF Board Meeting of ESGF held in New Delhi on August 28, 2026. His name was proposed by ESGF Founder and Acting President Adv. Nandan Jha and Honorary Chairperson Ashok Dhyanchand. The proposal was seconded by ESGF Secretary General Gursharan Singh. The proposal received unanimous support from all the members and State Representatives present at the meeting. The meeting also discussed important measures for the growth of



the Esports ecosystem in India, ESGF's upcoming initiatives and giving a new direction to the development of esports in India. After being elected as President, Adv. Ashish Shelar expressed his gratitude to the

Board members and State Representatives of the Federation. He said the position was not merely a responsibility but an opportunity to give a new direction to the growth of esports in India. "Esports is developing rapid-

ly in India and our youth possess immense talent. Around 600 million people in our country are engaged with esports. Next month, in September, the Indian esports team will travel to Japan to participate in the

Asian Games. Our endeavour will be to provide players with better platforms, training, competitions and opportunities for growth," he said. Congratulating Ashish Shelar on his election, ESGF Founder and Acting President Adv. Nandan Jha said, "Under your guidance, India will see the new era of esports. We will work together with players, organisers, coaches and other stakeholders to build a strong esports ecosystem in India. Not only nationally but with your vision and support the Indian esports will lead the global charge as well." On the occasion, Ashok Dhyanchand congratulated Ashish Shelar and said, "Your association with the emerging esports sector in India reflects your commitment to the world of sports.

Pakistan Refused To Take Field In 2nd Test Over Imran Khan's Sons' Interview: Report

A bizarre report has emerged from England, where the hosts are engaged in a Test series with Pakistan. On Day 1 of the second Test at Lord's, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) reportedly asked the hosts' broadcaster Sky Sports not to air the interview with former captain Imran Khan's sons during the lunch break. Pakistan reportedly threatened a walkout too if their demands were not met. However, Sky Sports went ahead with the scheduled broadcast and aired the interview. A fuming PCB reportedly asked its players to not take the field, prompting the England board to intervene. The 18-minute interview was done by former England cricketer Michael Atherton - one of the 21 captains to sign the letter to Pakistan Prime



Minister - over the worsening health of Imran Khan, who has been behind bars since August 2023. Multiple media outlets, including Cricinfo and The Guardian, claimed that the PCB wasn't happy to see Imran Khan's sons being in the spotlight during the Test. The board even said that Babar Azam's men wouldn't take the field if the interview was shown on TV. Sky Sports continued with the broadcast despite the threats. But Pakistan

still took the field in the post-lunch session, thanks to ECB's timely intervention. A total of two letters have been sent by cricket captains all across the world to the Pakistan Prime Minister over Imran Khan's situation in jail. The first of these letters was drafted in February but it failed to trigger the desired change. The second was sent earlier this week, when Imran was returned to the Adiala jail after a brief medical check-up.

'Hope They Educate Themselves': Anaya Bangar Replies To Critics Of WBBL Push

Anaya Bangar's inclusion in the community shield, which is quite literally an entry level competition Down Under, has evoked reactions on both ends of the spectrum. There has been empathy but criticism too like South Africa great Marizanne Kapp's comment on Friday calling Anaya's push for Women's Big Bash League "absolutely ridiculous". Anaya is hoping to play WBBL in March next year provided her testosterone levels remain within prescribed limits. She is also yet to sign up for a local club team. "I think people who want to raise their voice against it should actually educate themselves on this topic.



R ASHWIN TEARS INTO RISHABH PANT:

"DON'T GIVE ME ONCE IN A GENERATION ARGUMENT"

Rishabh Pant, backed by the Indian team management for the wicket-keeper's role for the 2-match Test assignment against Sri Lanka, ended the assignment with 168 runs, including two half-centuries. While statistically, one would say that Pant had a promising outing, former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin isn't happy with what he has delivered. In a video on his YouTube channel, Ashwin dropped some critical comments on Pant's performances in the Sri Lanka tour, saying his expectations haven't been fulfilled yet. "My expectation from Rishabh Pant hasn't been fulfilled till now. I am very sorry. Sonal Dinusha had his strike rate up there. But the difference is high-risk options. When you have the game in your hand, these are all statements: 'That's how



Rishabh plays.' It is about what your team needs," Ashwin said in a video on 'Ash Ki Baat'. When it comes to Pant's Test career, his contributions on the tour of Australia during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2020-21. While not taking away anything from Pant, Ashwin said that the knocks from Shardul Thakur and Washington

Sundar were also quite important in India's wins. But, the nature of backing Pant has received from the team management despite consistently inconsistent show, baffles Ashwin. "Rishabh played a class knock in Sydney and Brisbane, but you couldn't have won that match without Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur.

Garry Kasparov Reacts As R Praggnanandhaa Scripts History With Grand Chess Tour Triumph



Russian chess legend Garry Kasparov and Indian grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi congratulated R Praggnanandhaa after his Grand Chess Tour (GCT) title win. R Praggnanandhaa staged a stunning comeback against GM Fabiano Caruana to win the final match and claim his maiden Grand Chess Tour Finals title, along with the \$200,000 first prize on Thursday (local time) in St. Louis. With this win, Praggnanandhaa scripted history, becoming the first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour, as per Chess.com. Following the win, Kasparov, a former world champion and world number one, congratulated the Indian grandmaster, posting clapping emojis on

his X handle to a post announcing him as the winner. Vidit also posted on X, saying that he "could sense Pragg changing his style over the past two years." "Incredible achievement! Amazing performance for the last couple of months. But the seeds were sown much earlier, I could sense Pragg changing his style over the past 2 years. Initially it wasn't easy, but now we can see the results!" posted Vidit. He beat USA's Fabiano Caruana in the title clash 15-13, despite trailing 3-9 by the end of two classical games. In the first rapid game, the Indian won 0-4 and then followed it with a win in the second rapid game as well by 4-0, making it 11-9 in his favour.

Gael Monfils And Elina Svitolina, Only Married Couple In US Open Mixed Doubles Draw, On The Special Moment

The 2026 edition of the most electric Grand Slam, the US Open, has been a starry affair even before the start of the main draw, but Gael Monfils and Elina Svitolina, the only married couple in the mixed-doubles draw, have drawn the spotlight towards them, making it into a memorable family affair. What began as a wild-card entry into the draw, with the couple teaming up in mixed doubles for the first time, turned into a memorable run at the US Open 2026 before ending in the semi-finals, made all the more special by the fact that it came in

Monfils' final year of professional tennis. Svitolina credited the couple's understanding and support for helping them come through the contest against the World No.1 doubles players, Henry Patten and Katerina Siniakova, in their quarter-final victory. "We had lots of nice moments, and I think we understand each other and what we're going through during this moment after the win. So, yeah, it's amazing to have my husband next to me and supporting me. I think this is what got us through." With Monfils in the final year of

his professional career, Svitolina knows their run is about more than results. "It would be the most special year for Gael, as the last one, and of course, playing together. It's amazing, and yeah, just looking forward to more memories," she said. For Monfils, however, the significance runs even deeper. The 39-year-old sees their unexpected US Open adventure as a memory their daughter will cherish long after his playing days are over. "It's a great honour, to be honest, in the last year, playing together for the first and last time.



MEGASTAR CHIRANJEEVI PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ACTOR AND PRODUCER G.V. NARAYANA RAO



Megastar Chiranjeevi paid his last respects to the late actor and producer G.V. Narayana Rao. Chiranjeevi, who attended the funeral held at Jubilee Hills Mahaprashtanam, recalled his connection and fond memories with Narayana Rao. On this occasion, Megastar Chiranjeevi said.. Our acquaintance dates back to the days of the Film Institute. He was already a senior in the institute. When we were training, he would come and share his experi-

ences. That's how we became close. When we grew up in the industry, when I got a star image, he asked, "I want to become a producer. Do you want to make films?" That's how he produced two films. He also gave me opportunities as an actor in my films. That's how our relationship continued. Coincidentally, about ten days ago, he said, "I have made a film. Inspired by Manchu Palki, I have made a film about five boys... what they will be like when they grow up. The trailer should be

launched. It would be good for everyone if you cooperate." I said I would definitely do it. At that moment, he asked me to come and take a photo together. Maybe that was his last film. We talked for a long time at that time. I told him to take care of his health. At that moment, I told him all the best. But I didn't think that that would be a permanent goodbye. May Narayana Rao's soul rest in peace wherever he is, his family members are also my family members. I express my deepest condolences to them.

Dil Raju Attends Sri Pattabhiramachandra Swamy Temple Consecration Ceremony as Chief Guest



Popular Telugu film producer Dil Raju, along with his wife, attended the grand consecration ceremony of Sri Pattabhiramachandra Swamy Temple at J.S.R. Nagar in Porumamilla Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, as the chief guest. In the presence of temple committee members, village elders, temple donor Sri Ramulu, and actor Vamsi Krishna, Dil Raju received a warm and grand welcome. He later visited the temple and participated in the special abhishekam and puja rituals. A media interaction was also held on the occasion. Speaking to the media, producer Dil Raju said that he had come with his family at the invitation of temple committee chairman Sri Ramulu on the occasion of the idol consecration ceremony in Porumamilla. He said that Lord Venkateswara is their family's revered deity and explained that Lord Venkateswara is Lord Vishnu, and Lord Vishnu is none other than Lord Sri Rama. Dil Raju said he was extremely happy to be part of such a spiritually significant occasion. He also recalled that around 20 years ago, he had conducted business in areas including Proddatur, Kadapa and Porumamilla. He appreciated the Sri Ramulu family for constructing the temple and said that while the family had taken the responsibility of building the temple, it was now the responsibility of the villagers to carry forward the

service and devotion towards Lord Rama. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Sri Ramulu family for undertaking such a great and noble initiative.

ACTOR VAMSI KRISHNA

Actor Vamsi Krishna expressed his special gratitude to Dil Raju for travelling from Hyderabad to Porumamilla immediately upon receiving the invitation. He said that constructing a temple in one's native village is a great blessing and wished that the villagers would continue to extend their support and encouragement for such noble initiatives. He urged everyone to follow the path of devotion, live with love and affection towards others, and thanked everyone who contributed to the temple consecration ceremony.

TEMPLE DONOR SRI RAMULU

Temple donor Sri Ramulu described Dil Raju as a "kind-hearted and generous person" and expressed his special gratitude for attending the temple consecration despite his busy schedule and other commitments, including a planned trip to the United States. He also conveyed his heartfelt thanks to Chennakrishna, Ramachandra and others who guided and supported him throughout this noble initiative. Recalling Dil Raju's words, Sri Ramulu said that constructing the temple alone is not

AYEZA KHAN SUBTLY SHUTS DOWN DIVORCE RUMOURS



Pakistani actress Ayeza Khan has revealed the secret behind her picture-perfect solo photographs, and her husband Danish Taimoor deserves some of the credit. Sharing a stunning new picture on Instagram, Ayeza told her followers that Danish had stepped behind the camera while their children remained close by. "Living my best life, Alhamdulillah. Danish took the picture and kids are behind the camera, so don't ask 'where is Danish bhai and kids!'" she wrote. Ayeza's post came as speculation about trouble in her marriage to Danish Taimoor continued to cir-

culate online. By sharing a family update that included Danish, she appeared to clarify that the couple are still together. Her playful clarification also offered fans a glimpse into how the family spends time together while keeping the children away from the spotlight. Ayeza and Danish, who tied the knot in 2014, are among Pakistan's most-loved celebrity couples. They are parents to two children, daughter Hoorain and son Rayan. Ayeza and Danish, who tied the knot in 2014, are among Pakistan's most-loved celebrity couples. They are parents to two children, daughter Hoorain and son Rayan.

SOBHITA MIXES NIZAMI GLAM WITH GENZ EDGE



ONAM BEAUTIES IN TRADITIONAL SAREE LOOKS

Onam celebrations have brought a festive glow to social media, with several actresses sharing stunning pictures in beautiful sarees. Dressed in traditional Kerala style, the actresses looked elegant and graceful in their festive outfits. From classic white and golden sarees to colourful traditional looks, their Onam pictures are winning hearts online. Here are some of the beautiful Onam saree looks shared by actresses. Onam, the vibrant and culturally rich festival of Kerala, is a time of joy, unity, and celebration. One of the most anti-

ciated aspects of this festival is the traditional attire, especially the elegant Onam sarees worn by women. While the classic white and gold Kasavu saree continues to be a cherished choice, modern fashion trends have paved the way for creative twists on this timeless drape. If you are looking for some modern Onam saree styles that blend tradition with contemporary flair then you are at the right place! The Loom is going to reflect on the evolving tastes and preferences of today's fashion-conscious women with the traditional celebration of Onam.



Sriwass, Mahankali Nagaraju, Madhavi Creations' Phoenix Raja: First Poster And 2D Motion Teaser Unveiled, Promising A Gripping Battle Of Truth, Power And Politics

The prodigious and hard-hitting filmmaker Sriwass has announced his next big and ambitious project. Produced by Mahankali Nagaraju under Madhavi Creations and co-produced by Arigapudi Sumit Kumar, Shailesh Bhambure and Shyam Bodapati, the film is titled Phoenix Raja. The film's first poster along with a powerful two-minute 2D motion teaser, were unveiled at Novotel Hotel, Juhu, Mumbai. The promotional material, which brings to the fore a gripping battle involving truth, power and politics, was presented in a refreshingly unique manner- probably for the first time in Indian film history- as the media representatives present at the event unveiled it themselves, as wished by the makers. To be made in different languages, including English, and mounted on a grand scale across various shooting locations in India and abroad, the multilingual movie Phoenix Raja, as director Sriwass, already an acclaimed name in Telugu cinema, says, "will strive to set a benchmark in storytelling by presenting real incidents in a lucid yet impactful manner."

At the heart of Phoenix Raja is an honest businessman who chooses to build his life through hard work, principles and integrity rather than political connections or influence. When powerful forces turn against him, his personal struggle transforms into a larger fight for truth, dignity and the future of the next generation. One



of the film's significant themes is the growing influence of the drug mafia on Gen Z, raising a disturbing yet relevant question: "If the future of Gen Z can be controlled, who controls tomorrow?" While the film is being mounted on a lavish scale and planned to be shot across India and abroad, it presents a world dominated by power and manipulation, alongside a strong counterforce in the form of an honest officer, a powerful judiciary and individuals who refuse to remain silent in the face of injustice. They do not stand behind one individual. They stand behind the truth.

Salman Khan celebrates Raksha Bandhan, sports a tilak

Salman Khan and his family are known for celebrating festivals with the same warmth and enthusiasm every year. On Raksha Bandhan, the actor was spotted at his sister Alvira Khan's residence as the family came together for the festive celebrations. Sporting a tilak on his forehead, Salman stepped out of Alvira's house in his signature swag. The actor kept his look casual in a T-shirt paired with a hat as he made his way out of the residence. Salman Khan also happily posed for the paparazzi and showed off his hand covered with rakhis, giving fans a glimpse of his Raksha Bandhan celebrations. His cheerful appearance quickly caught the attention of those waiting outside. The actor's festive appearance comes at a busy time professionally. Salman is gearing up to return as the host of Bigg Boss 20.



Dulquer Salmaan Sings 'Loser' Song for I'm Game; Film Releases Worldwide on September 3

The second single from Dulquer Salmaan-starrer big-budget fantasy thriller I'm Game, titled 'Loser', has been released. Composed by Jakes Bejoy, the song has been sung by Dulquer Salmaan himself in Malayalam, with lyrics penned by Suhail Koya. K. Balasarangan and Jakes Bejoy have also contributed vocals to the Malayalam version. The song has been released in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and Kannada, with Benny Dayal lending his voice to the Tamil and Telugu versions,

which feature lyrics by Vignesh Ramakrishna and Sanare, respectively. The Hindi version has been sung by Benny Dayal, with lyrics by Numan Khoker, while the Kannada version features vocals by Sai Madhav Rella, with lyrics by Hrudaya Siva. The film is slated for a mega worldwide release on September 3, 2026. Produced by Dulquer Salmaan and Jom Varghese under the Wayfarer Films banner, the screenplay has been written by Sajeer Baba, Ismail Abubaker and Bilal Moidu.

