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Rajnath unveils roadmap to make India global shipbuilding hub

Kolkata (TSIT) Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday called for an industrial resurgence in West Bengal while outlining a roadmap to position India as a global shipbuilding hub. Singh was speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony for five brownfield expansion projects of Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and Yantra India Ltd (YIL) in Kolkata. He also underlined the importance of Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence, citing the successful use of indigenous weapons and systems during Operation Sindoor.

"Atmanirbharta acts as a multiplier to battlefield capabilities," Singh said, referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for India to become fully self-reliant in defence by the time the country becomes Viksit Bharat.

Singh said both GRSE and YIL were playing important roles in strengthening India's defence self-reliance. The Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) being built by GRSE will have nearly 80 per cent indigenous content, he said. The Metal and Steel Factory of YIL is manufactur-



ing high-quality components for weapons systems, while its steel and aluminium products are critical to defence manufacturing. "The steel and aluminium that is manufactured at this factory are worth their weight in gold," Singh said.

The Defence Minister pointed out that shipbuilding involves long design-to-delivery timelines. While warships can take five to 10 years to build, large commercial vessels can take 15 to 20 years. By the time a vessel is delivered, technology may have advanced considerably, he said, stressing the need to incorporate future technological developments during the design and construction process. Singh said a global vacuum exists in shipbuilding and India must seize the opportunity by developing capabilities spanning ship

design, construction and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO). He described MRO as a "low-hanging fruit", noting that it requires relatively low investment while offering the potential for strong returns. Several countries are looking for facilities to service both naval and commercial vessels, he said, adding that GRSE had already begun exploring the opportunity.

Competitive pricing and aggressive bidding

Singh said Indian shipbuilders would have to deliver quality vessels at competitive prices and adopt aggressive bidding strategies to capture global markets. "The profits may look thin at first, but volumes will make up for that," he said. The Defence Minister also acknowledged challenges faced by shipbuilders such as GRSE in procuring quality spare parts and components. He said private-sector participation in the supply chain had not reached the desired level and urged industry leaders to come forward. Such participation, he said, could prove commercially profitable while strengthening the country's defence manufacturing ecosystem.

CM Revanth urges Telugu diaspora to promote Telangana Rising

Hyderabad (TSIT):

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has called upon the Telugu diaspora in London to become global ambassadors of the "Telangana Rising" vision, urging them to actively promote the State's development story and investment potential on international platforms.

On Sunday, Reddy, accompanied by IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, held an interactive session with members of the Telugu community in London. The meeting focused on Telangana's ongoing development initiatives, future plans, and the critical role that Non-Resident Telugus can play in the State's journey toward becoming a globally competitive destination.

Addressing the community, the Chief Minister emphasized that the participation of the diaspora would be crucial in strengthening Telangana's image as an attractive hub for investment, technology, education, and innovation. He urged the community members to highlight the State's progressive policies, robust innovation ecosystem, and abundant opportunities across key sectors on global forums. Revanth Reddy



and Sridhar Babu also held detailed discussions with community representatives, inviting them to become active partners in the State's development. The Ministers briefed the diaspora on the government's efforts to improve infrastructure, attract foreign investment, and create a business-friendly environment that fosters entrepreneurship and job creation.

"Our diaspora is our greatest strength. Your voices on international platforms can showcase the real potential of Telangana to the world," the Chief Minister reportedly told

the gathering. He expressed confidence that with the collective efforts of the government and the global Telugu community, the State would achieve its vision of becoming a leading economic powerhouse in India.

The interaction was part of the Chief Minister's ongoing overseas outreach to strengthen international partnerships and attract global investment into Telangana. Officials noted that the government is committed to facilitating seamless collaboration between the diaspora and the State's administrative machinery.

'CHHATRON KI GOONI': RAHUL CALLS OUT 'MANUSMRITI MINDSET', URGES WOMEN TO CHALLENGE PATRIARCHY

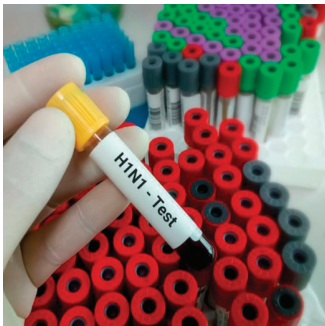


New Delhi (TSIT): Putting women's rights and empowerment at the centre of his fourth 'Chhatron Ki Gooni' address in Pune Saturday, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi called out what he described as the "Manusmriti mindset", which, he said, keeps women under the control of men. He also took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks on last month's Cockroach Janta Party-led protest. Referring to the PM's video post on social media after the protests, where he "forgave" the ones who abused him, Gandhi said, "My question to you is that at Jantar Mantar, boys also abused and girls also abused. But the prime minister is saying that he felt a 'cultural shock' because the girls were also abusing. If boys abuse, there is no problem. For them, it is allowed. But if a girl abuses, it is a cultural shock. It doesn't look good."

No new H1N1 strain identified, says ICMR as Delhi cases cross 1,777

New Delhi (TSIT) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has said no new strain of H1N1 has been identified, clarifying that the influenza strains currently circulating in the country have been in circulation since 2025. Delhi has reported more than 1,777 H1N1 cases so far, while Influenza-A cases have crossed 2,392 and Influenza-B infections have reached 210. Despite the substantial number of cases, the Delhi Health Department has reported no deaths.

In a note, the ICMR said seasonal influenza, including H1N1, was mostly self-limiting. Common symptoms include fever, cough, headache and body ache, with most people recovering with appropriate care and rest. According to ICMR scientists, the Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 viruses currently circulating in the country belong to the A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus strain. These viruses belong to clade 6B.1A.5a2a, subclade D.3.1.1, and have been in circulation since 2025.



The scientists clarified that no new H1N1 strain had been identified and there was no cause for panic. They added that the influenza strains currently circulating were well matched with the vaccine strains recommended for the Northern Hemisphere.

However, the ICMR cautioned that young children, elderly persons and individuals with underlying medical conditions could be at greater risk of complications. It advised people to consult a doctor if symptoms persisted, worsened or became severe. Health Ministry officials said the situation was being closely monitored through regular

surveillance and necessary public health measures were being undertaken.

The Delhi Health Department had earlier designated two referral laboratories at AIIMS and the National Centre for Disease Control.

Public health expert Dr Chandrakant Lahariya said H1N1 was not a new subtype and had been known for a long time. However, he noted that some of the current cases appeared to be more severe. "Flu viruses keep changing every year and their subtypes also change. So this time, the illness caused by the H1N1 subtype is becoming a bit severe and affecting more people," he said. A general health advisory issued by the Delhi Health Department amid the surge in influenza cases recommends covering the mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing, washing hands frequently with soap and water, avoiding close contact with people suffering from respiratory illnesses and refraining from touching the eyes, nose and mouth unnecessarily.

Iran warns countries against joining US 'economic pressure campaign'

Tehran (TSIT) : A senior Iranian security official on Saturday warned neighbouring countries and other states against joining the United States in its "economic pressure campaign" against his nation, saying Tehran would regard such countries as "enemies". Mohsen Rezaei, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said in an interview with state-run IRIB TV that Iran would first seek dialogue with countries involved and urge them not to participate in what he called the US "economic war" against Iran.

However, if those countries choose to continue, Iran would target their interests, he said, adding that Tehran would not allow oil exports through the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf if regional countries support the US "pressure campaign."

Rezaei also said the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed until the United States



fulfils its commitments under a peace memorandum of understanding signed between Tehran and Washington in June, Xinhua News Agency reported.

His remarks came after US President Donald Trump announced on Wednesday "the most crushing economic operation ever taken" against any country providing a lifeline to Iran. "This will be Economic Warfare and Isolation on an unprecedented scale," Trump posted on Truth Social.

Short Takes

Rs 4 lac bounty PLA militant arrested in Manipur

Imphal: Assam Rifles and Manipur Police have apprehended a senior militant of the outlawed People's Liberation Army (PLA), carrying a Rs 4 lakh bounty, in a joint counter-insurgency operation in Manipur, officials said on Sunday. A defence spokesperson said self-styled PLA Captain Thiyam Boycha Singh alias Balin, 28, was arrested from Ushoipokpi in Thoubal district on Saturday night. The operation was launched following intelligence developed by the Assam Rifles indicating the militant's presence in Bishnupur district. Security forces subsequently conducted a targeted search operation on Saturday evening and intercepted the suspected PLA cadre.

Eight militants held in Manipur joint operations; arms, documents seized

Imphal: Security forces in Manipur have arrested eight militants, including a declared absconder and an extremist leader, in separate joint operations across five districts during the past 24 hours, officials said on Sunday. The arrests were made in Thoubal, Kakching, Tengnoupal, Imphal East and Imphal West districts during coordinated operations by the Manipur Police, Assam Rifles and other Central forces, a police spokesman said. The arrested militants are affiliated with banned outfits, including the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and its political wing, the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) and Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP).

Four-member Hindu family found dead in locked Rangpur

Dhaka, Aug 23: A retired Hindu school teacher, his wife, daughter and 12-year-old son were found dead inside their locked home in Rangpur city, in circumstances that have prompted a police investigation. The bodies were recovered around 11.30 p.m. on Saturday from a house in the Daspara (Machhuapara) area. Rangpur Metropolitan Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nazmul Kader said police entered the locked house and recovered the bodies, according to The Daily Star.

Centre pushes faster shift from LPG to PNG

New Delhi (TSIT): The Centre has asked states and Union Territories to appoint district-level nodal officers to accelerate the shift of households from LPG to piped natural gas (PNG) in areas where piped gas networks are already available.

In an August 21 letter to state chief secretaries, Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal said district-level administrative support was necessary to coordinate between city gas distribution (CGD) companies, oil marketing companies (OMCs) and consumers and ensure that the transition takes place within the prescribed timelines.

"PNG brings a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, playing a critical role in advancing the country's energy transition objectives,"



Mittal said in the letter. He added that faster adoption of PNG would reduce the logistical burden associated with LPG distribution, improve consumer convenience and help make better use of CGD infrastructure created through significant public and private investment.

The move follows the government's notification of a regulatory framework aimed at preventing households from retaining both LPG and PNG connections in areas where piped natural gas is available.

Under the new orders, households that do not apply for a PNG connection despite receiving due notice could have their LPG supply discontinued. The government has also directed authorised CGD entities and public-sector oil marketing companies to establish PNG Coordination Committees, or PCCs, in every geographical area. These committees will identify eligible households and housing societies, issue notices and organise outreach camps to facilitate PNG connections.

According to the Petroleum Ministry, the PCC mechanism is already operational. However, its experience has shown that greater intervention from district administrations is required to complete the transition within the prescribed deadlines.

Will Address Media's Problems Within Legal Framework: Shivakumar

Bengaluru (TSIT): Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the government would examine the problems and demands of media professionals and take appropriate steps within the legal framework. Speaking after visiting the 'Frozen Memories' photo exhibition organised by the Photojournalists Association Bengaluru at Chitrakala Parishath to mark World Photography Day, Shivakumar highlighted the importance of photographs in preserving history. "A photograph is not just a picture; it is proof of history," he said, noting that images can document important events and remain valuable for generations. He said visual journalism has gained greater significance



with the growth of television and social media. Shivakumar praised photojournalists for their ability to identify and capture significant moments instantly and said

professional experience and creativity cannot be fully replaced by mobile-phone technology. He also stressed the need for better coordination between police and media personnel during protests and sensitive events, while urging photographers to take necessary safety precautions. Expressing concern over AI-generated and manipulated images, he said distinguishing genuine photographs from artificially created ones could become increasingly difficult and may require forensic verification. Shivakumar described the media as a parallel force to politics and said journalists have played an important role in documenting society and shaping public life.

Supreme Court gives power to local bodies to cut water, power supply over waste rule violations

New Delhi (TSIT) As solid waste management continues to be a daunting task in cities across India, the Supreme Court has directed local bodies to order water and power disconnection of bulk waste generators over violation of Solid Waste Management Rules. “It is regrettable that across society, the general feeling is ‘I am entitled to generate (waste) but not to cooperate and control the impact of solid waste management at the threshold’,” a Bench of Justices SVN Bhatti and NV Anjaria said.

The disconnection would be ordered by a special cell of the jurisdictional district collector and the supply would be restored once the bulk waste generator submitted a compliance certificate, the Bench said. “Every local body shall, through its Chairman/Commissioner/Secretary, as directed by the jurisdictional District Collector, communicate in writing to every BWG within its limits the obligations viz, (i) segregation, storage and handover of solid waste generated; and (ii) the consequence of non-compliance resulting in the temporary disconnection of water and electricity supply by order of the District Collector’s Special Cell, restorable upon submission of a compliance certificate by the BWG,” it said.

Directing the departments of school and higher education to immediately incorporate theoretical and practical lessons on solid waste management in school curriculum, the top court said students should be trained to educate their family members, while teachers should be trained as trainers. Trained students would function as “house-



hold-level supervisors”, it said, posting the matter for further hearing on November 17.

“The prevailing assumption that solid waste is a problem for sanitary workers alone, while the rest of the population remains passive generators, is neither legally correct nor practically sustainable, and is constitutionally unethical,” it said, reminding citizens of their fundamental duty to protect the environment. “Law can secure cooperation only by prescribing rules and consequences. It cannot, by itself, generate civic behaviour. Compliance is achieved only when the individual and institutional generators internalize the obligation,” it noted. The Bench ordered periodic audits by district education departments and the submission of reports to the jurisdictional district collectors.

It also asked the authorities to consider using the existing online portal to upload geo-tagged photographs of accumulated waste and monthly compliance reports which would move through the administrative chain – from district collectors to State Secretaries and Union ministries.

The order came on appeals filed by the Bhopal Municipal Corporation challenging the National Green Tribunal’s (NGT) orders regarding compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 after the Bench perused an interim report filed by the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee (SCMC) on the implementation of the Rules. The top court

directed the SCMC to focus on water pollution from Municipal Solid Wastes/Materials to Rivers and place before it the data for further directions.

The Bench laid down an enforcement mechanism under which the SCMC, acting through State Chief Secretaries, would direct district collectors to identify all bulk waste generators within their respective jurisdictions in coordination with local bodies within six weeks. The district collectors must inform bulk waste generators about the consequences of non-compliance with the Rules, it said. The top court clarified that the communication was intended to give bulk waste generators an opportunity to establish the required facilities and report their compliance online to local bodies. The local bodies would inspect the facilities and forward their reports to the district collectors, the Court said. It ordered local bodies to notify the amount of waste generated, accounted for and unaccounted for, along with the steps taken to secure full basic participation by stakeholders. “To wit, India’s population exceeds 1.4 billion, with varying levels of literacy, education and civic infrastructure. Every person, household and institution (without exception) generates solid waste as an inevitable by-product of life and activity. The volume and complexity of such waste, i.e., biodegradable, non-biodegradable, hazardous, electronic and construction, have outgrown what any single class of workers can be expected to absorb or handle. The infrastructure needs a complete audit and upgradation to meet the extant standards of the SWM Rules, 2026.

Pakistan sending Hafiz Saeed to India is an 'imaginary proposition': Manish Tewari



New Delhi, Aug 23: Congress MP Manish Tewari on Sunday said expecting Pakistan to send Pahalgalam terror attack mastermind and Pakistan-based terrorist Hafiz Saeed to India for trial is an “imaginary proposition”. Tewari said Pakistan had failed to take meaningful action against the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks even after admitting that its nationals were involved.

His remarks came amid reports that India is set to summon Hafiz Saeed through diplomatic channels. Last month, a Jammu court issued a non-bailable warrant against the UN-designated terrorist on an application filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), stating that his arrest and custodial interrogation were necessary. Speaking to reporters, Tewari said people were identified on the basis of their religion and killed in front of their families in the April 22, 2025, Pahalgalam terror attack. “In the Pahalgalam

terror attack, people were identified on the basis of religion and killed in front of their families. In response, India had attacked terrorist bases in Pakistan, and its main objective was to destroy the network of terrorism and terrorist organisations there,” he said. Tewari said the only way to deal with Pakistan-sponsored terrorism was through a strong response, while legal proceedings would take their own course. “After Pakistan admitted that its people were involved in the 26/11 terrorist attack, the action that had started in that country did not reach any conclusion. So, to expect that Pakistan will send a terrorist to India, or that it will take legal action against him, is simply an imaginary proposition,” he added.

The non-bailable warrant against Hafiz Saeed was issued after the NIA named him as the mastermind of the Pahalgalam attack in a supplementary chargesheet filed this month. The special court, while dealing with an application under Section 75 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), noted that NIA Inspector Arun Sharma had sought the issuance of a non-bailable warrant against absconding accused Hafiz Muhammad Saeed and his various aliases in case RC No. 02/2025/NIA/JMU, in which a supplementary chargesheet had been filed. Twenty-six people were killed in the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgalam on April 22, 2025. The NIA filed its first chargesheet in the case in December 2025.

Jitendra Singh says J&K witnessing peace, development under Modi

Srinagar, Aug 23: Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) Jitendra Singh on Sunday said Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed the restoration of normalcy, peace and development since Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office.

Speaking to reporters after a BJP workers’ meeting in Srinagar, Singh said the gathering of BJP office-bearers from across Jammu and Kashmir was held in the Valley after a considerable gap.

He said such organisational meetings were a longstanding tradition of the BJP and were regularly held at different locations. “Over the past 12 years—since Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office—the atmosphere here has transformed,” Singh said, adding that conditions were returning to normal and development work was progressing rapidly.



He said the mindset of ordinary citizens, particularly the youth, was also changing as they had witnessed the difficult period the region had gone through. According to Singh, young people in Kashmir are increasingly aspirational and determined to take advantage of emerging opportunities. He cited lavender farming and the ‘Purple Revolution’ as examples of new economic opportunities in the region and also referred to the construction of new dams.

Singh said Jammu and Kashmir would play an important role in Prime Minister Modi’s vision of a ‘Viksit Bharat’ by 2047.

Singh also highlighted India’s space achievements, recalling that Chandrayaan-3 landed near the Moon’s South Pole on August 23, three years ago. He said India’s achievement demonstrated that the country had never lacked human resources or talent, but needed enabling support and leadership to realise its potential. “Although other nations had initiated their space journeys and programmes long before us, we became the first country in the world to reach the South Pole,”

Singh said. He noted that the space sector had been opened to private participation under the Modi government and said the rapid expansion of India’s space economy had helped position the country among the world’s leading space nations.

The meeting was attended by senior BJP leaders, including Jammu and Kashmir unit president Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, former Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh and BJP MP Gulam Ali Khatana. Sunil Sharma said BJP workers from across Jammu and Kashmir participated in the meeting, where the party’s strategy for the upcoming Assembly session in the Union Territory was discussed. Khatana described the BJP as the world’s largest cadre-based party and said organisational meetings were a routine exercise.

Pregnant defence ministry officer found dead; husband, in-laws face case



New Delhi, Aug 23: A 30-year-old pregnant Assistant Section Officer working with the Ministry of Defence was found dead at her rented accommodation in southwest Delhi’s Dwarka, following which police registered a case against her husband and in-laws based on a complaint by her parents alleging harassment.

Nazia Khanam was allegedly found hanging from a ceiling fan at a flat in Bharthal village during the early hours of August 21. She had married Mohammad Azam Ali Khan on April 11 and was around three months pregnant, according to the complaint.

A PCR call regarding the incident was received at the Sector 23 police station at around 4:21 am on August 21. Police reached the spot and took the body into custody before informing the Sub-Divisional Magistrate. The body was later shifted to the mortuary at DDU Hospital. Police said Khanam’s family initially appeared before the Executive Magistrate on August 21 and submitted written statements without raising allegations against her matrimonial family. However, on August 22, her parents submitted another statement and complaint alleging harassment by her husband and in-laws.

Make the School the Nation’s First Priority



RAMESH PAKA

CJP’s school campaign can transcend politics and become a nationwide movement for educational accountability

There are moments when a political initiative acquires significance far beyond party politics. The Cockroach Janta Party’s (CJP) campaign to highlight the condition of government schools and encourage citizens to participate in social audits has the potential to become one such movement.

Whether one agrees with the CJP politically is secondary. The larger question confronting the country is simple: Can a nation afford to neglect the classrooms where its future is being shaped?

For decades, education has been described as the foundation of development. Governments speak of a knowledge economy, artificial intelligence, innovation and demographic dividends. Yet many government schools continue to struggle with basic requirements such as safe classrooms, functional toilets, drinking water, electricity, adequate teachers, libraries, laboratories and playgrounds.

This contradiction must end. A school is not merely a building. It is often the first public institution a child encounters outside the home. It is where children learn not only reading and mathematics, but also equality, discipline, hygiene, citizenship and the confidence to imagine a better future.

Consequently, inadequate school infrastructure is not simply an

administrative deficiency. It represents a failure to fulfil society’s promise to its children.

Infrastructure is education

There is a tendency to treat school infrastructure and educational quality as separate issues. They are inseparable.

A child cannot learn effectively in an unsafe or unbearably hot classroom. Girls may struggle to attend regularly when toilets are unusable or lack privacy. Children cannot concentrate without safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Students with disabilities cannot experience genuine equality when classrooms and toilets remain inaccessible.

Libraries, laboratories, playgrounds and digital facilities should likewise not be considered luxuries. They are essential components of a modern learning environment.

This is why every government school should have a minimum infrastructure guarantee covering safe classrooms, functional toilets, drinking water, handwashing facilities, electricity, ventilation, furniture, libraries, laboratories, digital access, sports facilities, menstrual hygiene, first aid, disability access and fire and disaster safety.

Equally important is maintenance. Building a toilet without ensuring water supply achieves little. Installing computers without reliable electricity does not create digital education. Constructing buildings without maintenance merely creates tomorrow’s ruins.

Put every school’s performance before the public

India already possesses extensive school-level information through UDISE+. The next logical step should be to convert such information into an easily understandable School Development and Accountability Scorecard for every government school.

Parents and citizens should be able to see how many students attend a school, how many teachers



are sanctioned and actually working, the condition of classrooms and toilets, availability of drinking water and electricity, disability access, library and digital facilities, expenditure, maintenance requirements and key learning indicators.

The scorecard should be available online and displayed prominently at the school itself.

A village should not have to wait for a political leader or journalist to discover that its school lacks drinking water. A minister should not need a viral video to learn that children are studying in an unsafe building.

The administrative system should identify deficiencies before they become scandals.

Social audit can strengthen accountability

This is where the CJP campaign offers an important idea. School monitoring need not remain exclusively in the hands of government officials.

Parents, teachers, alumni, panchayats, municipalities, civil society organisations and citizens can all participate constructively.

But social audits must not become political fault-finding exercises.

Every audit should answer three straightforward questions:

What does the school have? What does it need? Who is responsible for providing it?

Every identified deficiency should then be linked to a responsible authority, estimated expenditure and deadline for rectification. That is how public concern can be converted into administrative action.

Education is an investment, not a leftover expenditure

Governments understandably spend heavily on highways, industries, defence, technology and physical infrastructure. But education produces the people who design, operate and improve all of them.

A road connects places; education connects generations.

India should therefore pursue the long-standing objective of substantially increasing public investment in education, with 6% of GDP as a serious long-term national aspiration, accompanied by transparent allocation and measurable outcomes.

More spending alone, however, cannot guarantee better education. The formula must be:

More investment + better allocation + transparent expenditure + measurable outcomes + public accountability.

Teachers remain the most important infrastructure

The debate over modern schools must also avoid becoming obsessed with buildings and technology.

A smart classroom without a capable and motivated teacher is simply a smart room.

Teacher vacancies must be filled. Teacher-student ratios must remain reasonable. Headmasters require leadership support, teachers need continuous professional development, and unnecessary non-academic duties should be minimised.

Artificial intelligence and digital technology will increasingly enter classrooms, but technology should strengthen teachers rather than attempt to replace them.

The future economy will demand scientific thinking, creativity, communication, problem-solving, digital and AI literacy, emotional intelligence and ethical judgement.

Government schools must ensure that these opportunities are available to poor children just as they are to affluent children.

Make education a political competition

Perhaps the healthiest outcome of the CJP initiative would be if every political party began competing over the quality of public education.

Political debate frequently asks who constructed more roads, attracted more investment or created more infrastructure. It should equally ask:

Who created the best government schools?

The ultimate standard should be straightforward: a good government school must be good enough for every child, irrespective of the income or social position of the child’s parents.

India’s educational ambition must therefore move beyond “every child in school” towards “every child

learning in a good school.”

Enrolment is not education. Attendance alone is not achievement. A building alone does not make a school, and a certificate does not necessarily represent learning.

Judge the campaign by what changes

The CJP campaign should ultimately be judged not by the number of schools visited, political speeches delivered or videos circulated, but by what happens afterwards.

Was the broken toilet repaired? Did drinking water become available? Was the teacher vacancy filled? Was an unsafe classroom repaired? Did the library begin functioning? Did attendance improve? Most importantly, did children learn better?

If those answers increasingly become “yes”, the initiative will have achieved something greater than political visibility. It will have demonstrated that citizens can actively protect and improve public institutions.

We often call highways the arteries of development, ports gateways to the world and digital networks the nervous system of the modern economy. But none can succeed without the most important infrastructure of all—the human mind.

And the institution entrusted with developing that mind is the school.

If we want a stronger economy, educate better. If we want equality, equalise educational opportunity. If we want innovation, protect curiosity. If we want democracy to endure, teach children how to think.

A nation does not simply inherit its future. It builds that future—one classroom, one teacher and one child at a time.

Before building a richer nation, therefore, we must build better schools.

— Ramesh Paka
General Secretary
Telangana Tahsildars’

TN govt revises Dearness Relief norms for TAPS interim payout

UNDER THE EARLIER ORDER, THE INTERIM MONTHLY PAYOUT AND MONTHLY FAMILY PAYOUT FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES COVERED UNDER THE CONTRIBUTORY PENSION SCHEME WERE FIXED AT 30% OF THE MONTHLY BASIC PAY LAST DRAWN OR RS 10,000, WHICH- EVER WAS HIGHER, ALONG WITH 60% DEARNESS RELIEF. THE LATEST ORDER ADDRESSES EMPLOYEES WHOSE LAST PAY WAS DRAWN UNDER EITHER THE SEVENTH OR SIXTH PAY COMMISSION SCALES.

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has revised the Dearness Relief (DR) norms applicable to the interim monthly payout and family payout sanctioned under the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) for eligible government servants who retire or die in service on or after January 1, 2026.

Under the earlier order, the interim monthly payout and monthly family payout for eligible employees covered under the Contributory Pension Scheme were fixed at 30% of the monthly basic pay last drawn or Rs 10,000,



whichever was higher, along with 60% Dearness Relief. The latest order addresses employees whose last pay was drawn under either the Seventh or Sixth Pay Commission scales.

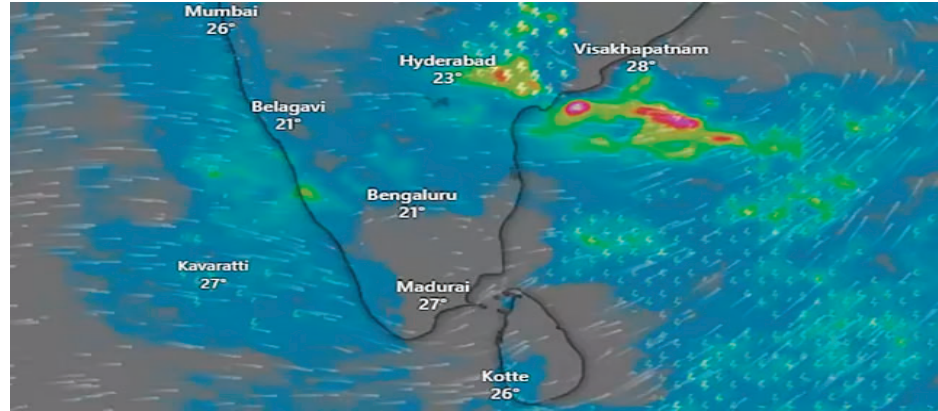
The government noted that the rate of Dearness Allowance for employees continuing to draw, or who last drew, pay under the Sixth Pay Commission was 262% with effect from

January 1, 2026. Accordingly, where 30% of the last drawn basic pay under the Sixth Pay Commission is below Rs 10,000 and the employee's pay has not been refixed or

claimed under the Seventh Pay Commission, the interim payout will be stepped up to the minimum of Rs 10,000 during the interim period.

Where 30% of the last drawn Sixth Pay Commission basic pay is Rs 10,000 or above and the pay has not been refixed or claimed under the Seventh Pay Commission, DR will be sanctioned at 262% from the eligible date. The government also reiterated that DR will be calculated only at 60% of the monthly basic pay last drawn under the Seventh Pay Commission.

Low-pressure area forms in Bay of Bengal; check Tamil Nadu weather update



CHENNAI: A new low-pressure area has formed over the northwest Bay of Bengal, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, but it is not expected to have any impact on Tamil Nadu, said a Daily Thanthi report.

Rain likely in several Tamil Nadu districts

Earlier, the Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai had said that a weak trough was prevailing in the lower levels of the atmosphere along the Tamil Nadu coast. Due to this system, moder-

ate rain accompanied by thunderstorms and strong winds of 40-50 kmph is likely at one or two places in the Western Ghats districts, Chennai, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Ranipet, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Kallakurichi and Cuddalore on August 23. Puducherry may also receive similar weather.

Light rain accompanied by thunderstorms is likely at one or two places in other parts of Tamil Nadu and Karaikal.

Sea to remain rough along east coast

The newly formed low-pressure area over the northwest Bay of Bengal is expected to cause rough sea conditions along the coasts of West Bengal, Odisha and north coastal Andhra Pradesh until Sunday. Fishermen have been advised against venturing into the sea along these coastal areas. However, the IMD has clarified that the new low-pressure area is not expected to cause any impact on Tamil Nadu.

Table Thirupugazh report on preventing flooding in Chennai: Anbumani Ramadoss

CHENNAI: PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss on Saturday urged the TVK government to immediately make public the Thirupugazh Committee report on measures to prevent flooding in Chennai, questioning the government's reported claim that it was unaware of the report. In a statement, Anbumani said the committee's final report, submitted on March 14, 2023, had remained undisclosed for 41 months despite being prepared using public funds. He said the report contained 161 recommendations aimed at protecting Chennai from floods. The committee, headed by former IAS officer Thirupugazh, was constituted by the then DMK government following the severe flooding in Chennai in 2021. He submitted an interim report in May 2022 and the final report in March 2023 after conduct-



ing field studies and analysing data for 17 months.

Anbumani said the then DMK government had claimed that 101 of the 161 recommendations were being implemented, but the details of those recommendations had never been made public. He criticised minister Sengottaiyan for stating in the Assembly that the DMK government should have released the report, shifting the blame.

Physical inactivity: The silent driver of lifestyle diseases

The burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is rising worldwide, with conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, obesity and certain cancers becoming major causes of illness and death. Unlike infectious diseases, NCDs are generally not transmitted from one person to another. They are strongly linked to unhealthy lifestyles, including tobacco use, unhealthy diets, harmful alcohol consumption and physical inactivity. Among these risk factors, physical inactivity remains one of the most overlooked. It is, however, a modifiable risk factor and an important area for preventing or delaying NCDs.

Modern life and reduced physical activity

Technology has made everyday life more convenient, but it has also reduced the amount of physical activity people under-

take. Many people now spend hours sitting at desks, using computers or scrolling on smartphones, while machines replace physical tasks and motorised transport replaces walking. Physical inactivity should not simply be viewed as an individual's lifestyle choice. Its consequences extend to families, workplaces, communities and healthcare systems.

The human body is designed for movement

The human body is designed to move. Regular physical activity strengthens the heart, muscles and bones, improves blood circulation, helps maintain a healthy body weight and supports mental well-being. These benefits are lost when people remain inactive for prolonged periods. A sedentary lifestyle can contribute to weight gain and increased blood pressure, blood sugar and

unhealthy cholesterol levels, all of which are associated with NCDs such as diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers.

Physical inactivity and obesity

The link between physical inactivity and obesity is well established. People today often consume more calories while expending less energy. Sedentary work and education, combined with long periods spent watching television or using smartphones, can contribute to weight gain over time. Obesity, in turn, increases the risk of several NCDs, making regular physical activity an important component of maintaining a healthy weight and preventing disease.

Protecting heart health

Heart disease is closely associated with physical inactivity. Regular movement helps the heart function efficiently and can reduce several cardiovascular risk factors. Inactivity increases the risk of hypertension, abnormal cholesterol levels and cardiovascular disease. Simple activities such as walking, cycling, climbing stairs and participating in recreational sports, when performed regularly, can make a meaningful difference to heart health.

Physical activity and diabetes

Physical activity helps the body use glucose more efficiently by improving insulin sensitivity. In contrast,

physical inactivity, particularly when combined with obesity and an unhealthy diet, contributes to the long-term development of type 2 diabetes. The increasing incidence of diabetes and its complications — including kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, retinopathy and nerve damage — places an additional burden on already overstretched healthcare systems, particularly in developing countries.

Children and adolescents at risk

Physical inactivity is increasingly becoming a concern among children and adolescents. Young people spend substantial amounts of time sitting in classrooms, using computers, watching television and playing video games. At the same time, opportunities for outdoor activities and physical education in schools and colleges may be limited. Since habits formed during childhood often continue into adulthood, promoting physical activity early in life is crucial. This responsibility does not rest solely with individuals. Families, schools, communities and governments all have important roles to play in encouraging active lifestyles among people of all ages.

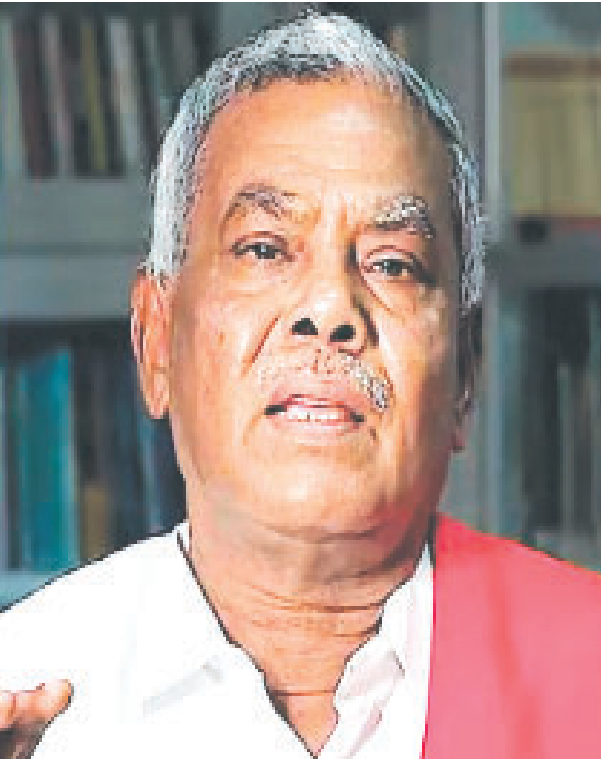
Making workplaces more active

The workplace is another important area for intervention. Many occupations require employees to remain seated for much of the working day, and even people who exercise occasionally may spend prolonged periods being sedentary at work. Employers can encourage movement by providing opportunities for intermittent breaks, standing workstations and active commuting. Workplace physical activity programmes can benefit both employees and organisations by improving health and well-being and ultimately contributing to productivity.

CPM condemns attack on leaders in Kallakurichi

CHENNAI: The CPM on Sunday condemned the alleged murderous attack on its Kallakurichi district secretary T M Jeyashankar, former district secretary T Elumalai, district committee member T S Mohan and their car driver near Ulundurpet on August 21.

In a statement, CPM state secretary P Shanmugam said a group of eight men allegedly intercepted their car near Kiliyur after the leaders had completed preparations for a protest, abused them, damaged the party flag and car windows, and assaulted them. The attack was allegedly linked to the CPM's protests against a former Vadhamambakkam panchayat president over alleged diversion of funds meant for constructing 22



houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The former panchayat president's two sons were among the alleged attackers, Shanmugam said. Though a complaint was lodged at Kallamarudur police station, police had so far arrested only one person, he said. Shanmugam urged police to immediately arrest all the accused and invoke stringent provisions of law.

Notice

This is in continuation of our earlier communication dated June 24, 2026 wherein we informed about the relocation of our office situated at Svaranmughi Plaza, S. F. No. 8/5, Block No. 7, Ward-C, Omkar Main Road, Near Bus Stand, Salem - 636009, Tamilnadu. Due to the certain restrictions, relocation of the said office has got extended beyond the mentioned time and we thus intimate you about the extended time for relocation of the office. We, therefore, wish to inform our esteemed customers, intermediaries and public at large that our branch situated at Svaranmughi Plaza, S. F. No. 8/5, Block No. 7, Ward-C, Omkar Main Road, Near Bus Stand, Salem - 636009, Tamilnadu shall be relocated to 3rd Floor, Anugraha Building, T06, 168, Sardha College, Main Road, Salem - 636016, Tamilnadu within 2 to 3 months. You are requested to take note of the same and visit our website www.icicilombard.com for the nearest office or download IL take care app to avail services available for your policy including renewals and claim related assistance.

For ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd.

All the concerned are requested to take note of the same.

ICICI Lombard

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Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited
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Website: www.motilalosal.com, Email: hqquery@motilalosal.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION CUM SALE

E-Auction Sale Notice of 30 Days for Sale of Immovable Asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors in particular, that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (Earlier Known as Aspire Home Finance Corporation limited) will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", by way of "online e-auction" for recovery of dues and further interest, charges and costs etc. as detailed below in terms of the provisions of SARFAESI Act read with Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) through website motilalosal.com as per the details given below.

Date and time of E-Auction Date: 15-09-2026 11:00 Pm to 02:00 Pm (with unlimited extensions of 15 minute each)			
Last date of EMD Deposit:14-09-2026			
Sr. No	Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) / Loan Account	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property
1	LAN: LXMAD000217-180054810 Branch: Madurai Borrower: Sathish Chandran Co-Borrower: Kumaresan Chandran	09-01-2026 For Rs: 879156/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand One Hundred & Fifty Six Only)	Old S No 197/2 New S No 349/24&349/25 , Idayapatti, N Mampatti Village, Sivagangai, Dist Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
2	LAN: LXLSAL00417-180055036 Branch: Salem Borrower: Kannan E E Co-Borrower: Erusagounder C	20-07-2021 For Rs: 735045/- (Rupees Seven Lac Thirty Five Thousand Fourty Five Only)	Survey No - 212/11, 12, Door No - 52/1108, Patta No - 1482, Periandyirup, Arurpatti, Tharamangalam, Salem, Tamil Nadu - 636502
3	LAN: LXVEL00417-180064913 Branch: Vellore Borrower: Sekar Ayyanar Co-Borrower: Selvakumar Sekar	20-12-2021 For Rs: 865041/- (Rupees Eight Lac Eighty Five Thousand Forty One Only)	In Old Survey No -42 / 1, New Survey No: 104 /15, Koliakudi Village, Near By Gowkkudi Bus Stop & Perumal Temple, Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu - 606808
4	LAN: LXVEL00417-180061532 Branch: Vellore Borrower: Ravichandran D Co-Borrower: Sangeetha R	18-06-2024 For Rs: 1021372/- (Rupees Ten Lac Twenty One Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Two Only)	S No 682/46 Panchur Village Natrampalli Taluk Vellore District 0 0 635854 Tirupattur Vellore Tamil Nadu
5	LAN: LXVEL00217-180067613 Branch: Vellore Borrower: Gokulraj Murugan Co-Borrower: Murugan Vedi	10-12-2020 For Rs: 837060/- (Rupees Eight Lac Thirty Seven Thousand Sixty Only)	In S.F.No. - 237/4, Elavampadi, Village Thirupattur Tk. Near By Pachai Temple, Vellore, Tamil Nadu - 635602
6	LAN: LXTRI00217-180053392 Branch: Trichy Borrower: Sakkaravarthi Sivaperumal Co-Borrower: Nalini Sakkaravarthi	27-01-2026 For Rs: 287547/- (Rupees Two Lac Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Forty Seven Only)	Savalakkaran Revenue Village,Arasur Village In Comprised With S.No 40/13 And Having Its Extend Of Acre 0.08 Cents In Equaling To 3488 Sq Feet , Mannargudi Taluk, Tamil Nadu
7	LAN: LKXKAN00217-180062081 Branch: Kanchipuram Borrower: Prakash Gananaselvam Co-Borrower: Gananaselvam Muniratham	14-09-2021 For Rs: 681973/- (Rupees Six Lac Eighty One Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Three Only)	Plot No - 135, Survey No - 305/5, Thiruvalluvar Nagar, Panapakkam Village, Vellore, Tamil Nadu - 600054
8	LAN: LXTRI00217-180069081 Branch: Trichy Borrower: K Ramesh Karuppaiah Co-Borrower: Pichaiyammal Karuppaia	10-09-2025 For Rs: 417630/- (Rupees Four Lac Seventeen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Only)	S.F.No. 220/11A, Area Ad Measuring 3230 Sqft., Pidarampatti Kunmathur Village & Panchayat Illuppur Talukm Pudukkottai District 400066 Mumbai Trichy Tamil Nadu
9	LAN: LXMOTHRILR721-220959153 Branch: Tiruvallur Borrower: Gowthami Anbarasu Co-Borrower: Anbarasu Kumar	09-02-2023 For Rs: 798824/- (Rupees Seven Lac Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Four Only)	14Door No/14, Nethaji Street, Survey No:1274/18, Gandini Nagar, Thakkolam Village, Arakkonam Taluk, Thakkolam Bus Stop, Vellore, Tamil Nadu 631151
10	LAN: LXMOSALEM5523-240718206 Branch: Salem Borrower: Rajkumar Nallathambi Co-Borrower: Latha Rajkumar	06-02-2025 For Rs: 1446847/- (Rupees Fourteen Lac Forty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Seven Only)	S.No.43/3 8Th Ward (Old) 9Th Ward(New) Pazhanthi Colony Choramangalam Village Mettur Taluk Jalagandapuram Sro Salem West Salem 0 0 Near Water Tank 636501 Salem Tamil Nadu
11	LAN: LXMOAVADI5223-240706233 Branch: Salem Borrower: Avaraj Lakshmi Borrower: Joseph M Co-Borrower: Aswini M	12-12-2024 For Rs: 2253398/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lac Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Eight Only)	Plot No.7 (Eastern Part) Thiruvaimurugan Nagar Sy.No.88/1 Veggampattu Village 0 0 Bus Stand 602023 Tiruvallur Tamil Nadu
12	LAN: LXMOSALEM5424-250765411 Branch: Salem Borrower: Rajkumar Nallathambi Co-Borrower: Latha Rajkumar	11-03-2026 For Rs: 716021/- (Rupees Seven Lac Sixteen Thousand Twenty One Only)	Old Survey No:333/1 New Survey No: 333/1R Thumbal Village Pethanickenpalayam Taluk Salem Tamil Nadu
13	LAN: LXMAD00417-180068947 Branch: Madurai Borrower: Kumaran Kasimayan Co-Borrower: Ramesh Kasimayan	23-Jun-21 For Rs: 707408/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Seven Thousand Four Hundred & Eight Only)	Patta No - 1398, S. F.No. - 231/8, Thimmanatham Village, Usilampatti, Madurai, Tamilnadu - 625514
14	LAN: LXMAD00217-180068633 Branch: Madurai Borrower: Sudhanukumar Dharmar Co-Borrower: Susila Dharmar	20-Jul-21 For Rs: 639462/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred & Sixty Two Only)	Old Natham S No - 126/4 Part, New S No - 321/19, Patta No - 42, Kachathanallur Village And Group, Ilayankudi, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu - 623707
15	LAN: LKXKAN00117-180068514 Branch: Kanchipuram Borrower: Murugan Varadharaji Co-Borrower: Varadharaji Purusothaman	10-Sep-25 For Rs: 674590/- (Rupees Six Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Five Hundred & Ninety Only)	Old S No 217 & New S No 217/7 Door No.320,Patta No. 283 , S No. 217/7, Area Ad Measuring 120 Sq.Mtr., Mariyamman Koil Street Melinagarambudu Village Cheyyar Thiruvannamalai 604503 Vandavasi Tamil Nadu

1. The Auction is conducted as per the further Terms and Conditions of the Bid document and as per the procedure set out therein. Bidders may visit to the Web Portal : credauction.com of our e-Auction Service Provider, **M/s. CREDRESOLUTION INDIA PVT LTD** for bidding information & support, the details of the secured asset put up for e-Auction and the Bid Form which will be submitted online. The interested buyers may go through the auction terms & conditions and process on the same portal and may contact to **Rajasekaran K 7045501738 & Senthilkumar A N 9789244810**, details available in the above mentioned Web Portal and may contact their Centralised Help Desk: + 91 9137100020, E-mail ID: balram@credresolv.com, Sd/-, Authorised Officer, Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (Earlier Known as Aspire Home Finance Corporation limited)

Place : Tamil Nadu/ Date : 24.08.2026

EDITORIAL

WHERE IS MY PLACE IN THE CENSUS, INDIA?

It was an afternoon call. Father had called to announce his decision not to include me as a member of his family in the ongoing Census 2026. I could not grasp his meaning. His response to my query took me aback. He blatantly told me that he wanted to exclude me from his family in the Census. The words “his family” started vibrating in my ears. After my divorce in 2019, I had changed my address for all practical and official purposes to my parents’ residence.

Now when he told me to separate from “his family”, I was made to feel like a person with no home, no family, no roots – nothing. It’s not like I have never been made to feel this way before. But the ruthless declaration of reality struck me hard and revealed the frailty of my position. The Census form has so many columns regarding one’s “house”. The online self-enumeration form starts with the “Family” column, followed by numerous questions about the structure of the house one lives in. But reading the form, which asks for name of the head of the family, made me wonder: Why should just one person be the “head” of the family? In a patriarchal society, obviously, an older male would become the default choice in every family. This idea of a head for a family is the very opposite of the fundamental idea of democracy and equality.

Even in the column for declaring the sex of family members, there are only three options – male, female or transgender. This column leaves behind the entire spectrum of the LGBTQ+ community. To return to home – it is always a fleeting concept for a woman. Very few women in India have their own homes. We women begin our journey from our “father’s home”, then shift or rather we are shifted in most of the cases to our husband’s home, and we end our mortal journey in our son’s home. Are any of these homes really “home” for women? The answer is a big No. Home, for women, is not always a cosy, warm shelter of love and affection. More often, it is a cold chamber where we barter our fears and worries and agree to our subjugation in exchange for some kind of assurance of food and shelter. We cannot shout out loud, we cannot cry, we cannot make love as we want to. For me, home is an endless search for a place of security that I never found in my life. I must acknowledge I have never found home in the structure called a house. If any woman takes a path different from the rule of linearity set by society for women – from father’s house to husband’s house to son’s house – she falls into the pit of nowherehood. She is nowhere in the imagination of her family, state or country. So this census also leaves me nowhere. I have no place to add my family. Don’t we then need to redefine the idea of family? Who is our family? I was only two years old when my parents left me with my maternal aunt. It was never a decision recorded on paper. It was an unwritten arrangement. I remained suspended between two families, my parents’ family and my aunt’s. An unadopted child living on charity. To escape from this limbo, I chose a man. But choice exists without existing for women, so my choice was called an “elopement” and my marriage “unscriptural”. The 21-year-old woman I was did not know that making a “choice” would make her life more difficult. After almost a decade of domestic violence, my husband left me for another woman when I was nine months pregnant and twenty days away from my date of delivery.

India’s unemployment problem, in spite of the official claim of us being the fastest growing large economy, needs explanation. Some argue this is due to the services sector becoming the dominant sector in India (56% of GDP) while industry has stagnated and/or declined. But this is simplistic since it does not take into account some key complexities of the Indian economy. Structural changes The organised sector of the economy, employing 6% of the workforce, is growing rapidly but generates little additional employment due to rapid automation and mechanisation. The rest of the economy, the unorganised sector, is providing the bulk of employment but getting progressively marginalised. So, that component of the economy which generates little additional work is growing while the rest, which employs the vast majority, is declining. Next, the sectoral composition of the economy is changing. The services sector’s share in GDP at 56% has been rising. It became the dominant sector in India in the early 1980s. Its growth has been at the expense of agriculture, whose share in GDP has declined. Industry’s share has largely been stagnant since the 1980s. It is argued that industry has far more backward and forward linkages than services and so its stagnant share in the economy is not good for employment generation. India has not followed the traditional development path, where the dominance of agriculture in GDP gives way to industry. At Independence, agriculture dominated with a contribution of 52% of GDP, while the share of services was at around 29%, which in turn was larger than the share of industry at 19%. The colonisers did not promote industry in India in order to enable British industry to capture Indian markets. Industrialisation During colonial rule, the Indian econ-



omy deindustrialised between 1860 and 1890. Some industry came up in the inter-war years. But this was too little compared to what a country of India’s size needed. Plus, most Indian businessmen were traders and not industrialists. Further, education was hardly promoted during colonial rule, so that literacy was 16% in 1950 and there was little by way of research and development (R&D). The Purushottamdas Thakurdas Committee consisting of prominent Indian businessmen like J.R.D. Tata and G.D. Birla proposed the Bombay Plan in 1944, giving a blueprint for industrialisation post Independence, wherein the public sector would play a prominent role in providing much-needed infrastructure. After Independence, trade, transport, drinking water, education, health, etc. were prioritised and urbanisation accelerated, fuelling the growth of the services sector. Industrialisation was based on big industries, big dams, etc. – the temples of modern India. Reservation was provided to small industries but investment was preempted

by the big sector. This led to the growing concentration of production. The same happened in agriculture from the mid-1960s, as production became concentrated in regions driving the Green Revolution. As production gets concentrated, demand for finance, transportation, storage, trade, etc. grows rapidly as produce is sought to be sold in the rest of the country. These are all services. For example, wheat and paddy goes from Punjab and Haryana to the rest of the country. Cars produced in Tamil Nadu sell all over the country. Coal has to be hauled to the big thermal power plants, etc. As technology changes, more and more R&D is required and in turn more higher education is needed. Nowadays, many white goods like cars have substantial amounts of embedded software and electronics (30% in a standard car and 50% in an EV). Royalties also rise. All this increases the services component of final industrial products. Two kinds of services Services can be divided between consumptive and productive services. The



services mentioned above, which are required to get goods and services to consumers or producers, are productive services. Further, specialisation has resulted in the growth of the services sector. Earlier businesses used to have their own security, advertising, transportation, trading, etc. Hence these were counted under industry. Over time, these services are increasingly provided by specialised services companies. Hence what was earlier counted under industry is now counted under services. Consumptive services like tourism, entertainment, eating out in restaurants, etc. have grown rapidly. So have education, health, public services, etc. People migrate in search of opportunities and the poor migrate to find higher-paying work in urban areas. In effect, growth in both productive and consumptive services has led to the rising share of services in GDP. Black economy’s impact The growing disparity in India, with the well-off doing much better than the rest, has fuelled the growth of consumptive services. The black economy, concentrated

in the hands of at most 3% of the population, has further added to the income of this well-off class and to demand for consumptive services. Public expenditure on health and education have risen but private expenditure has soared with high fees, tuition and other out of pocket expenditures, adding to the growth of the services sector. The illegalities committed in these sectors, like fake degrees, question paper leakages, unnecessary medical tests, caesareans, etc. generate black incomes and boost the services sector. Black incomes are generated by under-invoicing revenue and over-invoicing costs, especially overheads. This also fuels the growth of the services sector. Further, black incomes are siphoned out via trade, which is a service. So, the black economy independently also boosts services. Consequently, the black economy’s growth increases the share of services in the total economy (the black and white economies). The black economy further marginalises the agriculture sector. Since agricultural incomes are not taxed, this

sector does not generate black incomes. Whether these incomes are declared or not, they are not black incomes. No doubt incomes are misclassified as agriculture incomes to escape taxes. But these are black incomes generated in non-agriculture and need to be counted in the sector where they are generated. So, including black incomes, the share of the services sector in the Indian economy is not 56% but upward of 70%, like in the advanced economies. The share of the services sector in the US economy is 79% and its employment share is 80%. So, India, at about 3% of the per capita income of the US, has an economic structure similar to that of the advanced economies. The black economy also leads to the degradation of the environment and speculation in real estate. The former leads to a rising burden of ill health due to the pollution of air, water and rivers, and the destruction of hills and forests. This increases health costs in society over and above the costs incurred by patients due to malpractices in the health sector, like tests that are not needed, needless caesareans for child delivery and spurious medicines. Cleanup of the damaged environment adds to the demand for services. Speculation in real estate boosts investment in this sector and it has grown rapidly in India. Both the black economy and the surplus generated in the economy boost real estate. All this boosts the services sector. Does the existence of the black economy mean that India’s GDP is higher than what is officially announced (the white economy)? The black economy produces a lot of ‘social bads’ that ought not to be counted in GDP. And it adds to social waste that should also not be counted. It causes policy failure by making policies ineffective and causing expenditures not to lead to outcomes.

Scorching cities, burning future

-Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

The intense heatwaves plaguing Indian cities are no longer merely a meteorological phenomenon but an issue of climate justice. Heatwaves are often considered transient climate events, but their unequal impacts are deeply intertwined with inequalities in housing, income, employment, access to water and electricity, and the ability to escape the intense heat. The wealthy can take refuge in air-conditioned buildings, while millions of urban poor must endure the intense heat of the day to get to work, school, and home. The recent heatwave in Delhi, with surface temperatures in the beautiful city reaching over 54 degrees Celsius, reflects this unequal reality. Unlike other parts of the world, climate change is impacting urban design and development, causing Indian cities to become hotter. Global warming is increasing the frequency, duration, and intensity of extreme heatwaves. However, at the local level, urbanization can further exacerbate temperatures through the urban heat island (UHI) effect. During the day, concrete, asphalt, and other built surfaces absorb heat from the sun and release it slowly, leading to warmer neighborhoods after nightfall. Unplanned and rapid urban growth has replaced natural cooling zones with heat-trapping infrastructure. The lack of vegetation further worsens the situation. Trees and green spaces regulate temperatures and provide shade through transpiration. They are one of the most effective natural barriers to heat, but

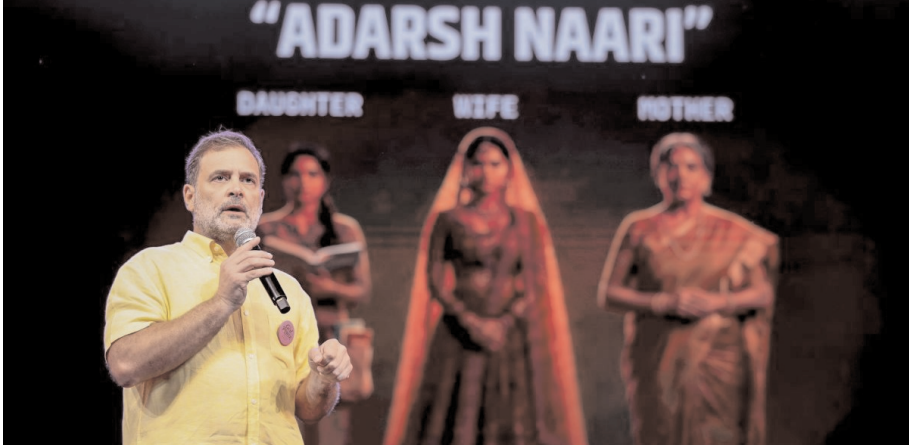
they are gradually disappearing, especially in high-rise buildings and poorer areas. Dense building populations can also restrict airflow, causing hot air to accumulate between buildings. The injustice of urban heat affects people unequally, and their ability to adapt is also unequal. Poor people often live in informal settlements or poorly constructed homes with poor ventilation, limited insulation, and tin roofs. During the hottest hours of the day, these homes can be much hotter than the outside temperature. Experiencing heat in crowded rooms, where electricity is erratic and there is no ability to use air conditioners or fans for long periods of time, is particularly dangerous. For many families, home becomes their only refuge. Another aspect of insecurity is occupation. Many workers in the informal sector, such as street vendors, construction workers, sanitation workers, delivery personnel, traffic police, domestic workers, etc., cannot avoid working during the hottest hours of the day. Unlike formal employees, many of these workers are paid based on attendance, productivity, and/or sales. Taking leave for health reasons can result in lost income. Heat also leads to reduced productivity, reduced customer footfall, wastage of perishable goods, and physical fatigue. As a result, this heat can lead to a vicious cycle of reduced income and increased expenses for water, electricity, and healthcare. Its health effects are also not uniform. Symptoms of prolonged high temperatures include dehydration, headaches, dizzi-

ness, weakness, and insomnia. The elderly, the already frail, and young children are more vulnerable. However, poor people living in urban areas are less likely to have access to quality medical care, clean water, and cooling. Poor sleep at night can also have long-term effects, as it can lead to deterioration in physical and mental health, especially in hot climates where homes lack adequate cooling, are crowded, and cannot be closed at night. Heat-related vulnerability is not just a matter of the highest temperature recorded at a weather station; it can also include the duration of heat exposure and the availability of resources to mitigate the effects of heat. Indian cities need to move beyond typical heatwave strategies and adopt a heatwave-resilient and socially inclusive approach to urban planning. While this is an important first step, disaster management plans must incorporate the results of neighborhood-level risk mapping, rather than simply city-wide average values. Ward-level maps should highlight informal settlements, areas with low tree density, heat-storage surfaces, and locations where outdoor workers or populations have limited access to water and health services. The risk assessment approach by the National Disaster Management Authority provides a valuable foundation, but its implementation must be closely integrated with the urban planning process. The construction of affordable housing projects should be the foundation of urban heat-resistance. Reflective roofs, cool roofs, improved

building insulation, shaded windows, improved building ventilation, and the use of energy-efficient building materials are all passive cooling options that can regulate internal temperatures and reduce air conditioning energy consumption. For example, under the right conditions, cool roofs can reduce internal temperatures by approximately 2-5 degrees Celsius. Therefore, governments should prioritize installing them in slums, underprivileged areas, and public institutions such as schools, hospitals, Anganwadi centers, and other public institutions. Green and blue infrastructure should also be viewed as integral city services, not just additional amenities. Increasing tree density, greening streets, protecting parks, and restoring lakes and water bodies can cool the local climate, improve air quality, and enhance public health. But these measures must be fairly distributed. If affluent areas are given parks where they are not needed, it would be unfair to give concrete and asphalt to low-income areas. Cities should also provide accessible cooling centers, ventilated public spaces, and drinking water points in vulnerable areas. Special attention should be paid to bus stops, markets, labor centers, and construction areas. Such facilities should be available during heatwave warnings and made readily available, free of charge. Early warning systems should also be disseminated in local languages ??and through the informal sector and marginalized communities.

Why Rahul Gandhi Calling Out Patriarchy By its Name Matters

For a hundred years, the Congress built the scaffolding of women’s equality in India. It wrote the laws. It opened the vote. It reserved the seats in the village and the town. It put fifteen women in the room where the Constitution was drafted. Yet through all of it, the party rarely named the thing it was fighting. It spoke of upliftment. It spoke of welfare. It spoke of the status of women. It did not, as a rule, clearly utter the word patriarchy. On a college ground in Pune this week, the leader of the opposition Rahul Gandhi finally did. Rahul Gandhi told young women to smash patriarchy. He didn’t urge for upliftment. He didn’t champion women protection. He went way beyond! He exhorted young women of India to break the cage. “You belong to no one but yourself. Be loud. Be proud. Fight for your space”, he said. He called out the unsaid code that governs them socially. He quoted the Manusmriti line that binds a woman to father, then husband, then son, and called it a mindset built to crush her. He named the men in public life, whose ideology and philosophy aspire to keep that mindset alive. This is significant because it is rare for the sitting head of a national party to use the word patriarchy so bluntly as a political line, rather than the softer language of women’s welfare that most mainstream leaders prefer. The distinction in phraseology is the story! India has had reformers who challenged patriarchy in clear words. But it has lacked national party leaders who



did so from a public stage, as a live political demand, and not as a footnote in a policy paper. A tradition of clear words, but from outside power The clearest challenges to patriarchy in the last hundred and fifty years came from the social reformers, not the party leaders. Jyotirao Phule wrote in the nineteenth century that men and women are equally qualified to enjoy human rights in equal measure, and opened India’s first school for girls in 1848. Tarabai Shinde, in 1882, wrote what is often called the first modern Indian feminist text, and put the blame for women’s oppression on scripture itself. Periyar wanted women to control their own bodies, their fertility and their labour, and said openly that he wished to sabotage patriarchy. Ambedkar measured the progress of a community by the progress its women had achieved, and staked his career on the Hindu Code Bill. Much before them Guru Nanak spoke of women equality and placed them in equal order in shared core

institutions of Sikhism. These were radical voices. But they spoke as reformers, rationalists and constitutionalists. They were not, in their lifetimes, the top leaders of national political parties. None put the word patriarchy at the centre of a mass rally. That is the line Rahul Gandhi has now crossed. The Congress did the work, but softened the word The Congress’s record on women is long and substantial, and it deserves to be stated plainly. In 1925 Sarojini Naidu became the first Indian woman to preside over the Congress. In 1931 the Karachi Resolution promised equality before the law regardless of sex, and adult suffrage, two decades before the Constitution delivered it. Fifteen women sat in the Constituent Assembly and wrote equality into Articles 14, 15 and 16. India gave every adult woman the vote at once, from the first general election, while older democracies had done it in slow stages. Then came the law. In the 1950s Nehru and Ambedkar pushed the Hindu

Code Bill through fierce orthodox resistance, splitting it into four Acts. For the first time women had a codified right to divorce, to maintenance, and to inherit property. In 1961 dowry was made a crime. In 1992 and 1993 the 73rd and 74th Amendments reserved a third of all seats in panchayats and municipalities for women, and created the largest cohort of elected women anywhere on earth, over 1.4 million today. The UPA years added rights-based law, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with its mandated share for women, the Domestic Violence Act, the workplace harassment law, and the criminal law reform of 2013. Yes, Congress party opened the door with law. It reserved the seats. It wrote equality into the founding text of the Constitution of India. What it rarely did was stand on a stage and name patriarchy as the adversary. The language was always the gentler one. The status of women. The empowerment of women. The welfare of women.

'UNSAFE AND RISKY':
Urban Company Sues Kent RO
Over NATIVE Purifier Ads

Urban Company has taken Kent RO Systems to the Delhi High Court over an advertising dispute involving its NATIVE range of water purifiers, according to an exchange filing. The home services company filed a defamation and product disparagement suit on Aug. 11, alleging that Kent's advertisements and social media campaigns made false and misleading claims about its products. The dispute centres on Urban Company's claim that its NATIVE M0, M1, M2, M1 Pro and M2 Pro water purifiers offer a two-year filter life and a two-year no-servicing feature. Urban Company alleged that Kent described these features as a "marketing gimmick" and portrayed the purifiers as "unsafe" and "risky" for consumers. The matter was heard by the Delhi High Court on Aug. 12. During the hearing, Kent stated



that it would remove the advertisements and related social media content that were the subject of the lawsuit. Kent also stated that it would not run any other advertisements or promotional content making the same or similar claims regarding water purifiers offering a two-year filter life or two-year no-servicing feature that would disparage Urban Company. Kent has been asked to remove the disputed advertise-

ments and social media content within 15 days of Aug. 12. The court passed its order on the same day, though it was published on the Delhi High Court's website on Aug. 22. Other cases between the two companies remain pending, including a patent infringement suit filed by Kent, Urban Company's counterclaim against Kent's patent and a separate tortious interference suit filed by Urban Company.

'Build A Global Aura':
PM Modi Urges Space Startups To
Make India A Magnet For Top Talent

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged India's private space companies to build an ecosystem that attracts talent, investment and businesses from across the world. Speaking to CEOs and founders of 20 space startups ahead of National Space Day on Aug. 23, Modi said India should become a destination where people come to build careers in the space sector. He said the country needs to create an "aura" strong enough to draw global talent towards Indian startups and space agencies. PM Modi said India's cost advantage, skilled workforce and willingness to take risks could help the country establish itself quickly in the global space industry. He also highlighted policy stability as an important factor for startups operating in a capital inten-



sive sector. According to PM Modi, entrepreneurs need confidence that government policies will remain consistent as they take risks and invest in new technologies. The interaction also highlighted the rapid expansion of India's private space

industry. Startup founders told Modi that investor confidence has strengthened after successful private rocket launches and that Indian companies are securing growing interest from international customers. Skyroot Aerospace, India's

first space tech unicorn, was among the companies represented at the meeting. Founders said the industry is targeting a sharp increase in launch capacity. They aim to reach one launch every month by mid 2027, with a longer term ambition

of moving towards weekly launches and eventually multiple launches a day. The 20 startups at the interaction included Skyroot Aerospace, Agnikul Cosmos, Pixxel, Dhruva Space, GalaxEye, PierSight, Bellatrix Aerospace, Digantara and SatSure, among others. Modi also called for wider use of space technology beyond traditional applications. He urged startups to explore opportunities in agriculture, livestock, dairy and environmental monitoring, linking space innovation more closely with everyday economic activity. The Prime Minister's remarks come as India seeks to strengthen private participation in space and position the sector as a source of technology, investment and high skilled jobs.

SEBI Nod For NSE IPO
Awaits SBI-SBICAPS Split



The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) observations on the proposed National Stock Exchange IPO are awaiting completion of a share allocation process between State Bank of India (SBI) and SBI Capital Markets Ltd (SBICAPS), a highly placed source said. The development follows a change in the selling shareholder structure for the NSE IPO. SBICAPS has joined SBI as a selling shareholder, with the two entities now splitting the shares that were earlier proposed to be sold by SBI. Under the revised structure, SBI will sell up to 15.97 million NSE shares, while SBICAPS will sell up to 8.78 million shares. The overall size of the offer remains unchanged. The share transfer process between the two SBI group entities may take some time, following which the revised shareholding structure will be reflected

in NSE's draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). NSE has already updated its DRHP through an addendum to reflect the revised allocation. A highly placed source said the change needs to be completed and incorporated into the DRHP before the IPO application can be processed further by SEBI. The NSE IPO comprises an offer for sale by existing shareholders, with no fresh issue of shares by the exchange. SBICAPS' inclusion is also significant given its role as one of the lead merchant bankers to the NSE IPO. The firm is now both part of the SBI group entities involved in the revised share allocation and among the bankers advising on the IPO. The proposed restructuring does not change the overall issue size but requires the necessary documentation and DRHP updates before SEBI can proceed with its observations.

Bajaj Finserv Flexi Cap Fund Marks 3 Years,
Delivers 18.21% CAGR Since Inception

Mumbai/ Pune, August 2026: Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund today marked the third anniversary of its flagship fund, the Bajaj Finserv Flexi Cap Fund, an open-ended equity scheme investing across large cap, mid cap and small cap stocks using a unique Megatrends strategy. Since its launch on 14 August 2023, the fund's Direct Plan-Growth option has delivered a CAGR of 18.21% compared to 12.74% delivered by its benchmark, the BSE 500 TRI—an outperformance of 5.47 percentage points as on 13th August 2026. The Regular Plan-Growth option has delivered a CAGR of 16.59% over the same period. Across the full market cycle from 14 August 2023 to 13 August 2026, the Direct Plan-Growth delivered an absolute return of 65.2%, compared to 43.3% for the BSE 500 TRI. The Regular Plan-Growth option delivered 58.5% over the same period. As of 13th August 2026, an investment of ₹10,000 in the Direct Plan at inception would have grown to ₹16,513, compared to ₹14,325 in the BSE 500 TRI and ₹13,003 in the Nifty 50 TRI, the scheme's additional benchmark. An equivalent investment in the Regular Plan-Growth option would have grown to ₹15,843.



Consistent performance across market cycles
The fund has delivered a favourable risk-adjusted performance profile, with a Sharpe ratio of 0.82, compared with 0.50 for the BSE 500 TRI, reflecting a favourable risk-return profile relative to the benchmark. It also recorded a lower standard deviation of 13.24 versus 14.22 for the benchmark, along with a Jensen's alpha of 4.48% since inception. Together, these metrics highlight the fund's disciplined approach to managing risk while generating returns.

Growing investor confidence
The fund's assets under management stood at ₹8,149.81 crore as of 31 July 2026, spread across 3,22,231 investor folios. Its Direct Plan-Growth NAV was 16.52 while the Regular Plan-Growth NAV was 15.85 as of 13th August 2026.

A megatrends approach to long-term investing
The Bajaj Finserv Flexi Cap Fund follows a unique Megatrends investment strategy designed to identify businesses positioned to benefit from long-duration structural shifts.

Its proprietary T.R.E.N.D.S. framework evaluates opportunities across six areas:

Technology
Regulatory developments
Economic change
Nature and sustainability
Demographic shifts
Social change
The strategy combines top-down identification of structural trends with bottom-up company research and valuation discipline. It also draws on the AMC's InQuBe investment philosophy, which integrates informational, quantitative and behavioural insights into portfolio decisions. With high active share of 70%, the fund maintains a differenti-

ated, conviction-led portfolio. True to its label, the Bajaj Finserv Flexi Cap Fund has made meaningful allocation shifts across market cycles, including an underweight position in IT and a focus on consumer durables, pharma, auto components and diversified metals. This conviction-led approach has helped the fund outperform its benchmark across market cycles, while aim to limit losses and recovering faster during most corrections. Over the past three years, the fund has invested in themes including healthcare, contract research and manufacturing services, energy transition, electrification, and precision engineering linked to India's defence and manufacturing growth. It continues to assess emerging opportunities in artificial intelligence and data centres, domestic manufacturing, commodities, electric vehicles and battery storage.

Commerce Secy Rajesh
Agrawal To Embark Three-
Nation South America Visit
From August 24



India is stepping up its trade engagement with South America, with Chile, Brazil and Argentina emerging as key markets in New Delhi's strategy to diversify exports and deepen economic partnerships, government sources told NDTV Profit. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal is scheduled to visit the region from Aug. 24 to 28, during which he will chair joint trade committees with Brazil and Argentina and travel to Chile to advance negotiations on a proposed free trade agreement. Government sources told NDTV Profit that the India-Chile trade pact is at an advanced stage, with only a few outstanding issues requiring resolution. Both sides are keen to upgrade their existing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) into

a broader Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Chile is seeking deeper access to the Indian market, while India is pushing for stronger engagement on critical minerals. India and Chile implemented their PTA in 2006 and are now seeking to widen it into a comprehensive economic partnership covering areas such as digital services, investment, MSMEs and critical minerals. Four rounds of negotiations have been held, with the latest taking place in December 2025. Talks were subsequently paused following a change of government in Chile, but the new administration is keen to revive the agreement, sources told NDTV Profit. With Brazil and Argentina, India is expected to discuss expanding its preferential trade deal arrangement with the MERCOSUR bloc. Government sources said that both sides are keen to engage MERCOSUR countries on an expanded PTA, while the terms of reference for launching negotiations are still being discussed. MERCOSUR bloc comprises Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia. The longstanding India-Brazil sugar dispute at the World Trade Organization (WTO) is also likely to come up during bilateral discussions.

FOOD SAFETY VIOLATIONS:
FSSAI TAKES ENFORCEMENT ACTION
AGAINST DELHI, DAMAN FIRMS

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has suspended the licence of Marche Retail Private Limited in New Delhi for 30 days and issued a prohibition order against SDP Industries Private Limited in Daman following separate food safety and product compliance violations. FSSAI directed Marche Retail to halt all food business activities until the identified deficiencies are rectified and compliance is verified by the authorities. Why FSSAI Suspended Marche Retail's Licence In Delhi Inspections at the retailer found shortcomings in sanitation, personal hygiene, food-handler training, operational controls and establishment design. The establishment earned a compliance score of just 37%, placing it firmly in the regulator's "Non-Compliance" category. Authorities also found deficiencies in mandatory record-keeping, including the absence of required medical records for food handlers. Inadequate segre-



gation of vegetarian and non-vegetarian products and deficiencies in temperature controls were also identified. The audit revealed an unauthorised commercial kitchen functioning on-site without a valid FSSAI licence. What Did Lab Tests Reveal About SDP Industries' Ghee Products? Laboratory analysis detected beta-sitosterol, a plant sterol not expected to be present in genuine ghee, along with an irregular fatty-acid composition. According to FSSAI, the findings indicated the possible presence of foreign or

vegetable fats in the products. SDP Industries challenged the initial laboratory findings, following which samples were sent to a Referral Food Laboratory for re-analysis. The subsequent testing also confirmed the products' non-compliance. FSSAI said repeated violations across multiple samples, different periods and product variants strengthened the basis for regulatory action against the Daman manufacturer. The regulator's prohibition order against SDP Industries, based in Ringanwada, Daman, covers

Highlights
■ Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today unveiled the Galaxy Tab A11, a tablet that brings together immersive entertainment

all ghee variants manufactured, stored or sold by the company. SDP Industries has been directed to immediately stop the sale of all its ghee products until further orders. Products sold under brands including Shraddha, Shree Saras and Gokul were found to be non-compliant with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and associated regulations. FSSAI found hygiene, documentation and operational lapses at Marche Retail in Delhi, while lab tests flagged non-compliance in ghee products made by SDP Industries.

INDIA-JAPAN BUSINESS PUSH:
Piyush Goyal Leads 200+ Indian Business
Leaders To Japan On Aug 24

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead India's largest-ever business delegation to Japan, with more than 200 industry representatives set to travel to the country for a four-day visit beginning Aug. 24, government sources told NDTV Profit. The delegation will visit Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka from Aug. 24 to Aug. 27 as India and Japan look to deepen bilateral trade and investment ties under their Special Strategic and Global Partnership. "The visit reflects the scale of ambition both nations bring to their special strategic and global partnership, and comes at a time India and Japan are looking to significantly deepen trade and investment ties," it said. In Tokyo, Goyal is scheduled to meet senior leaders of major Japanese conglomerates and industrial houses. He will also participate in a roundtable with Keidanren, or the Japan Business Federation, which represents more than 1,500



leading Japanese companies. Dedicated sessions on semiconductors and artificial intelligence, startups and engagement with foreign institutional investors are also planned. Goyal will hold bilateral talks with Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Akazawa Ryosei and meet senior members of the Japanese government and Parliament. He is also scheduled to interact with the Indian community in Japan. The visit is expected to provide fresh

momentum to India-Japan trade and investment ties while opening new avenues of cooperation in high-technology manufacturing and next-generation industries. The 200-plus-member delegation includes business leaders from sectors such as manufacturing, automotive, technology, and pharmaceuticals. Among the notable names are Vikram Chopra, Co-Founder of Cars24; Rahul Bharti, Executive Director at Maruti Suzuki; Upasana Taku, Founder of MobiKwik;

and Aayush Agarwal, CEO of Snabbt. The visit also comes ahead of a significant milestone in bilateral ties. 2027 will mark 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Japan, as well as 50 years of the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, will visit Japan from 24 to 27 August 2026, travelling to Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka, leading India's largest-ever business delegation to Japan, comprising more than 200 business representatives and spanning sectors ranging from manufacturing, semiconductors, clean energy and steel to automotive, financial services, healthcare and start-ups. The visit reflects the scale of ambition both nations bring to their Special Strategic and Global Partnership, and comes at a time when India and Japan are looking to significantly deepen trade and investment ties.

Zelensky should be asked what he knew about government corruption, sacked minister tells



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky should be asked questions about corruption in his government, his sacked defence minister Mykhailo Fedorov has told the BBC. Fedorov, a popular minister who modernised the military and pioneered drone warfare, was fired last month after reportedly falling out with the head of Ukraine's armed forces. He told the BBC a money laundering investigation announced last week meant Zelensky should be asked about his awareness of potential corruption in his inner circle. But he said he had not himself seen the president engage in any corrupt activity. "In all the time that I worked with him, not a single time have I received from him any task or assignment that would go against law or my sense of integrity", Fedorov said. The former minister also repeated his appeal for elections to be held in Ukraine, days after releasing a video where he called for a wartime vote. "Democracy should not be the hostage of Putin", he said - but stopped

short of declaring his own political ambitions. There were angry protests over Fedorov's sacking but his support dwindled and demonstrations ended on Wednesday, after his replacement was confirmed. His call for a vote has been widely rejected. Asked whether he missed his old job, the 35-year-old replied "No", citing the relentless stress of managing Ukraine's war with Russia while transforming its defence ministry. Ukraine has been under martial law since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, meaning elections are suspended. Zelensky's five-year presidential term ended in May 2024. But Fedorov said it was his "moral right" to start the conversation about elections. "We should not be afraid of discussing it. That's what democracy is all about. If I cannot share my ideas and be open about them with my own society, then what are we fighting for?" If elections were never held, he said, "then we are no longer a democracy".



■ sraeli strike near Damascus violation of international law

Trump says Canada wants 'benefits' of being US state after trade talks collapse

US President Donald Trump has said Canada wants "the benefits of being a State, without being one" after trade talks between the two countries collapsed late on Friday. In his first comments since negotiations broke down, triggering new 50% US tariffs on a range of Canadian goods, Trump also said American farmers had been charged "massive amounts of Tariffs" for years. It comes after Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney called the fresh tariffs a "miscalculation" designed to "hurt and divide us". Carney confirmed he would match Trump's tariffs "dollar-for-dollar" from 8 September, including levies on steel, dairy, appliances and electronics. The US and Canada are now in a trade "war", he said. "They asked too much and they offered too



little," Carney said on Saturday. "You're at war when you get attacked. We got attacked," he added. Trump's latest comments echo his repeated references to making Canada the "51st state" of America since returning to office, sparking frustration among its leaders and residents. The collapse of the trade talks upended a deeply integrated trading relationship, with no clear

path to resolution. "We cannot accept what they've offered, and we will not give what they've asked," Carney said. Both countries were optimistic of a deal earlier in the week, but talks fell apart after both sides accused the other of making last-minute changes. The new 50% US tariffs will apply to a range of Canadian goods, in addition to existing US tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminium, automobiles and lumber. They are limited in scope, covering about \$20bn (£15bn; C\$28bn) of Canadian imports, or about 5% in total, including wine, dairy, cement, clothing and hockey equipment. The prime minister said Canada was retaliating "reluctantly" to protect its interests. Details of the counter-measures will be released in the coming days, he said. Leaders of other federal parties in Canada, including the Conservative opposition, voiced support for the prime minister, as have the leaders of some Canadian provinces. Tariffs - a tax placed on imports from other countries - have been a key component of Trump's trade policy, with the US president arguing they will boost American manufacturing and create jobs at home.

GIRL, 17, KILLED IN SWEDISH SWORD ATTACK, POLICE SAY



A 17-year-old girl was killed in the deadly sword attack at a high school in central Sweden on Friday, police have confirmed. Two boys aged 12 and 17 were also seriously injured in the attack at Brinell School in Fagersta, according to local authorities, while another person sustained minor injuries. An 18-year-old man was arrested but has not been identified. Police said they were treating the case as murder and attempted murder. Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and opposition leader Magdalena Andersson visited the school, where flower tributes have been laid to honour the victims, on Saturday morning. Students at the school had only just returned to the classroom following the summer break when the deadly attack unfolded on Friday afternoon. The police later confirmed they fired shots after being called to the scene but did not say whether the alleged attacker was hit before he was detained. Sweden's public broadcaster reported that the suspect was wearing a helmet. Local media also said he was a former student. The region went into a state of emergency on Friday, but it had ended by Saturday. The school has just under 500 students on its roster, according to SVT,

and is located 170km (105 miles) north-west of the capital, Stockholm. Investigators have carried out two house searches in connection with the suspect, police said. On Friday, Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson described the attack as a "serious incident," and said "we do not know what lies behind the act, but we know that police are working very intensively", in a post on X. Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf said he received the news "with dismay and sadness". An unnamed police source told the Reuters news agency that investigators are looking into whether the suspect had ties to online communities that promote school violence. Police are examining a TikTok account, taken down hours after the attack, that posted an image of a sword 20 minutes before it began and had previously featured videos referencing past school attacks in Sweden and Norwegian mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik. "The investigators are looking into various online communities which might have egged on the suspect to carry out the attack," the Reuters source said. Prosecutors have ordered the person held on suspicion of murder and multiple counts of attempted murder.

DR CONGO AND M23 REBELS AGREE ROADMAP FOR PEACE TALKS

The Democratic Republic of Congo government and the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group have agreed a roadmap for peace talks. In a joint statement after five days of talks in Switzerland, they said they had pledged to "pursue negotiations towards comprehensive peace and conflict resolution" and set up a mechanism to monitor the ceasefire. The roadmap sets out a timeline for talks under a US-brokered peace framework which they signed in 2025 - only for fighting to then continue in eastern DR Congo, which has been engulfed in conflict for decades. But disagreements remain over issues including sanctions against M23, the release of detainees and the timing of political reforms. The latest negotiations were attended by M23, the government of DR Congo, Qatar, the US, the Republic of Togo, the African Union Commission and host Switzerland. "The parties agreed to establish a mechanism tasked with reviewing progress and addressing



challenges in implementation of obligations and commitments under the Doha Framework Agreement," the statement added, referring to the 2025 deal. They developed "sequenced steps and timelines" while also committing to "flexibility and creativity", the statement said. They also agreed to implement a mechanism to monitor ceasefire violations. Its secretariat has been established and the first verification mission is due to take place on Monday in Minembwe, an area of South Kivu affected by fighting. Fighting has continued in

North and South Kivu despite repeated ceasefire commitments, with the government and M23 accusing each other of violations. The conflict is closely linked to tensions between DR Congo and neighbouring Rwanda. Rwanda says DR Congo has failed to dismantle the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), an armed group that Kigali considers a security threat. DR Congo denies supporting the FDLR and accuses Rwanda of backing M23 with troops and weapons. In January 2025 the conflict got worse when

the M23 seized parts of eastern DR Congo, including Goma and two airports. Thousands of people have been killed and hundreds of thousands of civilians have been forced from their homes during the decades of fighting. Eastern DR Congo is rich in coltan and other resources vital to the global electronics industries. Rwanda has always denied supporting the M23, despite overwhelming evidence. It has always said its military presence in the region is defensive - and only there to counter threats posed by other armed groups.

The hotel booking mix-up that could free mushroom murderer



Last July, hundreds descended on Australia's Gippsland region from around the country for the most exciting event on the annual table tennis calendar. But as elite players vied for medals at the national championships, one of the biggest criminal cases in the nation's history - that of mushroom murderer Erin Patterson - was unfolding just a few kilometres away. This tournament inadvertently became part of a perfect storm which the triple killer's lawyers are now arguing "fatally undermined" the fairness of her trial. The jury which condemned Patterson to prison were supposed to be isolated - sheltered from the frenzy surrounding the case while they deliberated. But accom-

modation shortages in the region, exacerbated by the table tennis competition, meant they shared a hotel with members of the prosecution, a key police witness, and journalists. Now Patterson's legal team is trying to overturn her convictions on appeal. "The only proper remedy is... the order for a re-trial," Patterson's barrister Richard Edney said. When Patterson served her estranged husband's relatives a poisonous mushroom-laced lunch in 2023, killing three and gravely injuring another, she thrust the sleepy Gippsland region into the global spotlight. The community of Korumburra, where the victims were beloved figures, became shrouded in grief. Leongatha, where Patterson lived, was gripped by shock. And Morwell, host of the lengthy trial, was overwhelmed by journalists, lawyers and spectators - as were towns nearby. You couldn't walk down the main street without spotting some of the courtroom's stars, or grab a coffee without overhearing chatter about the case.



Dozens of co-ordinated arson attacks hit southern Thailand

CREW HONoured AFTER 14 FISHERMEN RESCUED FROM STRICKEN BOAT

After almost 30 years of rescuing people up and down Ireland's coastline from helicopters, Jim O'Neill thought he'd seen almost everything. That was until the call came in just before last Christmas. The French fishing vessel Fastnet, and its 14-strong crew, was stranded on rocks in County Kerry, having suffered engine failure while leaving Dingle Harbour. Near gale-force winds and strong Atlantic waves had run it aground and were threatening to capsize or break it apart, leaving the crew at the mercy of the ocean. Enter O'Neill and the crew of Irish Coastguard Rescue Helicopter 115, who were part of a huge emergency response to get the 14 men to safety. O'Neill, originally from Strabane, County



Tyrone, described it as the most challenging rescue he had ever faced, one which could have resulted in a major maritime tragedy. "We couldn't be certain going into it how it was going to turn out because, by the nature of it, we knew it was going to be very high risk," he said. "Success was not by any means guaranteed or certain." Now O'Neill

has been hailed as a hero, having been presented with an award to mark his actions that day at a ceremony held at the House of Commons. The Billy Deacon Memorial award was given to him for an incredibly demanding rescue which was "completed with a calm professionalism, despite considerable personal risk". The award

committee also praised the other crew members of Rescue 115 - Capt Robert Goodbody; co-pilot Paraic Slattery; and winch operator Eamon O'Brein. When Rescue 115 arrived on the scene, O'Neill found the Fastnet's crew in serious danger. "It was getting seriously smashed by the waves on one side and smashing off the rocks on the other, and there was a risk the vessel was starting to break up. "There was a lot of pollution on the day because it was leaking diesel into the sea and we knew we ere going into a very difficult set of circumstances." Several emergency services were part of the rescue effort - an RNLI lifeboat, Irish Coastguard land units, the Irish Navy and local fishing vessels.

Updated WTC Table After Australia Beat Bangladesh And How It Affects India

Australia avenged last week's loss in Darwin with an innings-and-51-run thrashing of Bangladesh in the second and final Test in Mackay on Sunday. Mitchell Starc claimed six wickets in the second innings and 10 in the match as Bangladesh, who were bowled out for 64 in their first innings, were skittled for 95 on Day 2. The result marked the second-shortest Test ever played in Australia and the fourth-shortest overall. The win also handed Australia a major boost in their pursuit of a place in the World Test Championship final after last week's setback. Australia consolidated their lead at the top of the World Test Championship standings with a PCT of 80, while Bangladesh remained fourth. However, their PCT took a hit, dropping from 66.6 to 55.5. India, who have a PCT of 53.3, will overtake Bangladesh if they beat Sri Lanka in the ongoing second Test at the Sinhalese Sports



Club in Colombo. Apart from the second Test in Colombo, which starts on August 23, India have seven Tests remaining in the ongoing WTC cycle. Having already lost four of their 10 Tests so far, every remaining game is virtually a knockout for the Shubman Gill-led side. After the series against Sri Lanka, India will travel to New Zealand for a two-Test series in November later this year. To conclude the current WTC cycle, India will host Australia for a five-Test series next year before the Indian Premier League (IPL) window. India

must win every remaining Test to have a realistic chance of reaching the WTC final, especially after Bangladesh's historic victory over Australia in Darwin. If India win seven of their remaining eight Tests, they will finish with a PCT of 68.52. Meanwhile, six wins and two losses would see their PCT drop to 62.96. These scenarios are only possible if India are not docked any penalty points. Therefore, the Shubman Gill-led side have very little margin for error for the remainder of their WTC campaign.



RISHABH PANT TO BAT AGAINST AFTER INJURY IN 2ND SRI LANKA TEST? INDIA COACH PROVIDES MAJOR UPDATE

Indian cricket team batting coach Sitanshu Kotak provided a huge update on Rishabh Pant after the wicket-keeper batter left the field retired hurt on Day 1 of the second Test match against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Sunday. Pant was hit on his left arm by a delivery from Sri Lanka pacer Lahiru

Kumara during the final session of play. He looked in discomfort and despite receiving treatment from the team physio, he was forced to leave the field. Following the end of play, Kotak revealed that Pant will be ready to bat on Day 2 if required. "Rishabh Pant will be fine to bat tomorrow," Kotak told reporters. The incident occurred in the final session when on the very first ball of the 58th over Kumara was introduced back into the attack. Operating from round the wicket, he banged one in short that angled into the body. Pant, attempting to step across to the off side and pull behind square, was through his shot early and took a blow on his left wrist. The ball dribbled down the leg side towards wicketkeeper Niroshan

Dickwella, with Pant immediately down in severe discomfort having taken the hit on the wrist bone, just below his left forearm. Play was halted for a considerable duration as the Indian team physio Kamlesh Jain rushed to the field with an ice pack to prevent swelling. After an extended assessment and treatment, brief taping was applied to Pant's wrist before it was swiftly removed. But following a discussion with the match umpires and the pain not reducing, Pant was forced to walk off the field after having scored three off 15 balls. Senior left-arm spin bowler all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja came out to bat at number six in place of the injured Pant, and joined half-centurion Devdutt Padikkal in the middle.

Lopez beats Romero but then snubs Catterall fight

American Teofimo Lopez became a three-weight world champion by taking Rolando Romero's WBA 'Super' welterweight world title at the T-Mobile Arena on Saturday in Las Vegas. Lopez, who has previously held world titles at lightweight and light-welterweight, secured a majority decision but declined to call out Briton Jack Catterall as his first defence. The 29-year-old instead wants to fight the winner of the upcoming WBC title fight between holder Ryan Garcia and English challenger Conor Benn, or pursue another unification bout with Australia's IBF champion Liam Paro. "September 12th, right?" he said, referring to Garcia's fight with Benn, which is scheduled to take place in the same Las Vegas ring. "So, you got Ryan Garcia versus Conor Benn. That's the next one. We'll see what happens



there. If Conor wins, it's a great fight to take across the pond [the Atlantic ocean]. I think I'd rather wait for Devin [Hane, WBO champion] at the end. "So, it'll either be Liam Paro next or the winner out of Ryan Garcia and Conor Benn." Chorley fighter Catterall holds the WBA

'Regular' belt, which makes him next in line to fight Lopez unless the WBA decides to overlook him in favour of a unification bout. Catterall was quick to respond, posting on X, external "Congratulations Teofimo Lopez but I will be taking that belt 100%. Let's Gooo." Lopez

responded well in his first fight since losing his WBO light-welterweight crown to Shakur Stevenson at the end of January, which was only the second loss of his career. He largely controlled his comeback bout against long-time friend and sparring partner 'Rolly' Romero at the T-

Mobile Arena, although the Brooklyn-born boxer did suffer a significant cut above his right eye in the fifth round and was further rocked by a right hand before the bell. Rather than hammering home his advantage, defending champion Romero went back into his shell and Lopez kept him well at bay with his jab to take the 23rd victory of his career. Two of the three judges gave him the win - 116-112, 115-113 - with the third controversially calling it a 114-114 draw. Lopez had hinted before the fight that he would be taking time out for the upcoming birth of his child, but quickly signalled his plans after securing victory. He improved his record to 23 wins in 25 fights but is still searching for his first stoppage win since 2022. Romero, 30, slumped to his third loss in 20 fights and was unhappy with the scorecards.

Devdutt Padikkal Century Powers India To 300/5 At Stumps On Day 1 Of 2nd Test vs Sri Lanka

Devdutt Padikkal conjured an extraordinary 117, powering India above Rishabh Pant's hand injury and untimely fall of wickets around him to a reasonable 300 for five on the opening day of second and final Test against spirited Sri Lanka in Colombo on Sunday. Dhruv Jurel (7) and debutant Saransh Jain (4) were batting at close after a taxing day of Test cricket. Padikkal's 168-ball innings, his second hundred in as many Tests, was not laced with the customary elegance barring on a couple of occasions when he brought out those full-blooded pulls and drives. He was dropped on 0 and 1 but remained solid after those reprieves. But the innings was still stunning because of the circumstances in which it was executed. Yashasvi Jaiswal (45) and skipper Shubman Gill (50), with whom he con-



structed a stabilising 120-run stand for the third wicket, were dismissed after raising visions of bigger knocks. Pant copped a blow on his forearm from pacer Lahiru Kumara and had to retire hurt on 3, leaving Padikkal to do the heavy lifting. Then there were the constantly examining Sri Lankan bowlers and the scorching heat and humidity of Colombo for him to tide over. It was not that the Karnataka man had oodles of experience on his back to

fall back upon to counter such tough situations. Padikkal was playing just the fourth Test of his nascent career but the circumstances forced him to play the lead firefighter's role. This century was vastly different from the one he scored at Galle, where the pitch was not remotely challenging in the first two days. But the SSC deck offered enough bounce and bite, especially for pacers, asking constant questions about his technique and patience.

Four-Time IPL Champion Announces Retirement, Rinku Singh Says "Everything Has Been Great In Bhaiya's Career"

Visibly emotional and fighting back tears, veteran Indian leg-spinner Karn Sharma announced his retirement from all formats of competitive cricket. The 38-year-old made the announcement following the Kanpur Superstars' 9-wicket defeat to the Meerut Mavericks in the UP T20 League Season 4, confirming that the reverse fixture against Meerut on Tuesday, August 25, will be his final professional game, according to a press release. Sharma reflected on the UP T20 League and the sudden finality of his long journey, saying, "It [the UP T20 League] is actually a very good initiative.



MOURINHO URGES VINICIUS JR TO CONTROL EMOTIONS

Real Madrid boss Jose Mourinho says Vinicius Jr needs "great emotional control" after claiming the winger is being bullied on the pitch. The 63-year-old's comments come after the Brazilian picked up an avoidable yellow card in a 2-1 La Liga opening win over Espanyol for an argument with midfielder Cala in the first half. Vinicius Jr has been the target of regular abuse during his eight years at Real Madrid, including the night Mourinho was in the Benfica dugout when Gianluca Prestianni was accused of racially abusing the Brazilian - a claim the Argentine denied. "I run the risk of you going back months and pulling out my words when I was an opponent of Vini Jr," said Mourinho. "Now Vini Jr is mine. Vini Jr is not a saint,



but what they do to him is too much." Mourinho claims his star winger is being targeted by players to seek a reaction "from the first minute" and is "repeated" by all teams the Brazilian comes up against. "It's frustrating for him. He needs to have great emotional control," he said. After receiving the yellow card in Mourinho's first competitive match of his second Real Madrid spell,

the Portuguese told Vinicius Jr to consider how his actions on the pitch can ignite reactions in the stands. "I spoke to him at half-time, and I even told him in detail: 'If you score a goal, be careful how you celebrate it so I can keep you on the field.' It's tough," he said. "We're in a social era of anti-bullying. With Vini Jr, we're still in the bullying era, whether it's from opponents or the crowd.

JESSICA PEGULA DETHRONES IGA SWIATEK TO REACH CINCINNATI OPEN FINAL



Jessica Pegula rallied from a break down in the final set to topple defending champion Iga Swiatek 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 on Saturday and reach the final of the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters. World number three Pegula needed nearly three hours to dethrone Swiatek as the duo rode a rollercoaster of breaks and re-breaks before the 31-year-old American took a 5-4 lead in the final set after Swiatek saved three break points but double-faulted on a fourth. Pegula quickly closed it out, firing a service winner on match point to reach Sunday's championship match in the US Open tune-up. "Crazy match today," Pegula said. "A lot of back and forth, a lot of breaks," Pegula said, "Really windy, kind of odd conditions. I felt like we were playing well and then not playing well. "It was

really tough to kind of get a gauge on the match. "I was just really happy with the way I was able to kind of handle just a lot that was going on today. I did a good job of no matter what was happening." Pegula will face either unseeded Czech Sara Bejlek or fourth-ranked Coco Gauff in Sunday's final. Bejlek, 20, went into their Saturday night semi-final seeking another big upset, having knocked off world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the fourth round. France's Arthur Fils charged into the men's final, dispatching French Open runner-up Flavio Cobolli 6-3, 6-4 in a match delayed for 45 minutes by rain and lightning. Swiatek and Pegula then waited out another rain delay before their match, which was also briefly interrupted two games in.

LANDO NORRIS ON POLE FOR DUTCH GRAND PRIX AS GEORGE RUSSELL CRUISES TO SPRINT WIN

Lando Norris found unexpected pace to beat his rivals and the weather to take pole position for the Dutch Grand Prix on Saturday after George Russell took a sprint race win on Formula 1's return from its mid-season break. As rain started to fall on the Zandvoort track, McLaren's Norris made the most of his final run to reclaim pole by 0.102 of a second from Russell, whose Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli, the standings leader, was third. "A little surprised, honestly, but a decent lap," said Norris, who had been critical of his car in the earlier sprint race and credited

McLaren with making the right changes. "We had to try something because what we had before wasn't going to be enough," he said, adding that the changes were small but "enough to give me some confidence." Norris won the last race in Hungary on July 26 but was defeated after the sprint, saying McLaren wasn't competitive at all in the slower corners. Russell is rebuilding his title challenge after losing ground to Antonelli last month and said it was "a real joy" to drive in qualifying. The plan now is to "get in my groove again and try to fight with them tomorrow," he added.

Lewis Hamilton lost ground to Antonelli in the standings in the sprint race. His difficult day continued as he qualified fifth. The sprint race was a display of domination from Russell, who started from pole position, quickly built a gap to Norris in second and managed the pace from there, taking his first win since the Austrian Grand Prix in June. "Obviously, a great start to the weekend," he said. Charles Leclerc snatched second place from Norris with a daring move down the inside of the first corner with six laps to go but couldn't get close enough to challenge Russell for the lead.



'TOXIC' WILL BE A PATH-BREAKING MOVIE. IT WILL BE MIND-BLOWING: ROCKING STAR YASH

YASH HAILS TEAM OF 'TOXIC: A FAIRY TALE FOR GROWN-UPS' AT THE GRAND PRE-RELEASE EVENT IN HYDERABAD

Rocking Star Yash's most awaited movie 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups'. Directed by Geethu Mohandas, this film stars Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth, and Huma Qureshi in key roles. KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations jointly produced it. The film, which was shot simultaneously in English and Kannada, will be released in dubbed versions in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam. It is coming to audiences worldwide on August 26, 2026. On this occasion, the makers organized a grand pre-release event in Hyderabad. At the pre-release event, rocking star Yash said: Hello everyone. I didn't even come here to thank you after 'KGF'. I was busy with work. On this occasion, I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the Telugu audiences. You have proven that if you work with honesty and determination, the audience will support anyone. Cinema has no boundaries.



Producer Dil Raju, Music Director Ravi Basrur, Tara Sutaria, Rocking Star Yash, Kiara Advani and Director Geethu Mohandas at the pre-release event of 'Toxic' in Hyderabad.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM YASH'S SPEECH

- You have shown that there is humanity, love, and honesty beyond language and borders. Similarly, in Karnataka, we Telugu people also love cinema very much.
- Our Indian cinema should stand on the world stage. Together, we should make Indian cinema stand in a special place in global cinema.
- You are all young people.
- If you have a strong determination in your mind and try, you will definitely achieve the success you want. First believe in yourself.

“ Work with confidence in yourself. Don't pay attention to the words of others. Success will definitely come. The movie 'Toxic' gives a great cinematic experience. The best technicians and artists from India have worked on this movie. They have put in a lot of effort to give the best experience to the audience. I request all of you to come together for Indian cinema. I want to make films that make us proud of our Indian cinema. Ravi Basrur, who gave wonderful music to 'KGF', has also created magic for this movie. Aharnishalu worked for this movie. We got acquainted with Dil Raju garu during 'KGF 2'. He is a very passionate producer. He really has a very good heart. It is a great pleasure to release this movie with him. We are definitely going to give a good experience to the audience. ”

TOXIC: A FAIRY TALE FOR GROWN-UPS

- Directed by: Geethu Mohandas
- Cast: Yash, Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth, Huma Qureshi
- Producers: KVN Productions, Monster Mind Creations
- Release Date: August 26, 2026 (Worldwide)
- Languages: Kannada, English (dubbed in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam)

Special poster of Dolly Dhananjay as Arjun from Supreme Hero Sai Durga Tej's huge pan India film 'Sambarala Etigattu' released

Mega Supreme Hero Sai Durga Tej's most awaited pan-India film Sambarala Etigattu (SYG) has been successfully completed. Directed by debutant director Rohit KP and produced by K. Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy under the prestigious Primeshow Entertainment banner, this highly ambitious action drama is currently rapidly completing its post-production phase. The film has already raised huge expectations with the overwhelming response to the 'Asura Aagamana' glimpses and other promotional content. Talented actor Dolly Dhananjay plays a key role in this film. On the occasion

of Dhananjay's birthday, the film team released a special poster introducing him in the role of Arjun and wished him. Dhananjay's look as 'Arjun' is arousing interest. The poster suggests that his character, seen in a serious look, is going to make a crucial impact in the story. The character of 'Arjun' is going to leave a lasting impression on the audience on screen. This film, produced on a grand scale, was shot in multiple locations, with huge sets, and huge action scenes. Sai Durga Tej will be seen in a powerful role in this film. Director Rohit KP has made this film an ambitious action drama, combining strong emotional elements with

stunning visuals and thrilling scenes. The fact that a top Bollywood actor is playing a key role in the film further enhances its pan-India appeal. Aishwarya Lakshmi, Jagapathi Babu, Sai Kumar, Srikanth and Ananya Nagalla will also be part of the cast and will be seen in prominent roles. A prominent technical team is working on this film. Vetrivel Palaniswami is handling the cinematography, while B. Ajaneesh Loknath is composing the music. Editor Naveen Vijay Krishna, production designer Gandhi Nadikudikar, fight masters Peter Heins, Ram Laxman, Chetan, Prithvi, this film is going to be a visual wonder.



FILM TITLED ZOMBIE REDDY2 NXT LVL, TITLE GLIMPSE PROMISES AMBITIOUS EXPERIENCE

Superhero Teja Sajja, who delivered two sensational blockbusters with HanuMan and Mirai, returns as the lead in the second instalment of the Zombie franchise, announced officially on the occasion of the actor's birthday. Director Prasanth Varma, who introduced the zombie genre to Telugu cinema with Zombie Reddy, now takes on the role of creator for the sequel, with Suparn S Varma at the helm as director. Suparn, known for his impactful blockbusters in ott space with Haq, Rana Naidu, The Family Man2 and writing contributions to several acclaimed films and web series. Showcasing his versatility, Suparn has carved a reputation for crafting intense narratives that balance scale, emotion and edge. The new-age zombie entertainer is being mounted on a massive scale by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad under the People Media Factory banner. This marks the second collaboration between Teja Sajja and PMF, after the Pan India blockbuster Mirai. Real Star Upendra plays a prominent role, while Bollywood actress Shanaya Kapoor makes her Telugu debut with the movie.

The makers unveiled the title today with a striking glimpse that immediately promises a more ambitious zombie experience. The video opens with a statement clarifying that no artificial intelligence was used in its making. Presented in reverse order, the glimpse begins with a zombie falling from a fly-over onto a truck. A caption reads, "Zombies are back," before the sequence reveals that the zombie had fallen from a car driven by the protagonist and is being



attacked by undead creatures. The action then shifts to Charminar, where the protagonist stands atop a car with a bat in hand, taking on hordes of zombies. "This time, next level," he declares, before the title Zombie Reddy2 NXT LVL is revealed. The title logo itself gets a creative video-game-inspired treatment, designed like a joystick with a zombie hand, perfectly complementing the film's chaotic and youthful tone. Going by the glimpse, the new franchise promises to take the zombie universe several notches higher in scale, action and visual spectacle. Superhero Teja Sajja sports the familiar young-man avatar, complete with spectacles, but the setting and scale suggest a far more intense outing this time. The film is expected to be bigger, badder, bloodier and packed with high-energy action.

The project also boasts an impressive technical crew. Gowra Hari, who previously collaborated with Teja Sajja on HanuMan and Mirai, scores the music. His fusion of a popular Telangana folk tune with contemporary rock elements and zombie-themed sounds gives the glimpse a distinctive, high-energy flavour, with the background score further amplifying the impact. Abhinandan Ramanujam handles the cinematography, while Banglam is the production designer and Vijay Velukutty takes care of the editing. Hussain Dalal, Abbas Dalal, Prasanth Varma and Suparn S Varma have penned the screenplay, with Subbu K writing the dialogues. Zombie Reddy2 NXT LVL-Dead Or Alive is scheduled to release in 2027 in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi, Nepali and Japanese.

TRIPTII DIMRI'S BOLD BLACK LOOK STEALS SHOW



KIARA ADVANI CHANNELS DARK GLAMOUR BEFORE RELEASE

Kiara Advani's performance in Toxic is already generating massive buzz, with co-star Yash himself praising her turn in the film, saying India will fall in love with her all over again and that fans will see a completely different side of her on screen. The actress recently stepped out in a striking black velvet saree featuring a sheer lace blouse with intricate embroidery, a bold cutout, and a statement emerald choker, making for a sultry yet elegant look ahead of the film's release. Kiara kept her hair sleek and pulled back, letting the dramatic drape and jewelry take center stage. The sheer sleeves and structured pallu gave the outfit a modern edge while staying rooted in traditional elegance, proving once again why she remains one of Bollywood's most watched style icons. Meanwhile, the excitement around Toxic continues to build at the box office. The film's advance bookings have already crossed '18 crore



within 48 hours, reportedly outpacing early numbers of Jawan, Dhurandhar 2, and Animal. With Toxic set to release worldwide on August

26, all eyes are now on whether Kiara and the film can convert this pre-release buzz into a massive opening weekend.