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'Mediation is rooted in India's civilisation, Vedas and history': CJI Surya Kant

Jaipur, August 1 : Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Surya Kant said on Saturday that resolving disputes through mutual agreement and mediation is deeply embedded in India's civilisational ethos, with its roots tracing back to the Vedas, ancient history, and the philosophies of Kautilya and Mahatma Gandhi.

POLICE RELEASE NANCY GUTHRIE RANSOM NOTES IN LATEST BID TO FIND KIDNAPPERS

WORLD PAGE



KHUSHI KAPOOR TURNS EVERY LOOK INTO A POSTCARD

CINEMA PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

31-07-2026

Total pilgrims : 71,393
Tonsures : 27,846
Hundi kanakulu : 4.46 CR
Laddu sale : 433 Lac
Annaspradams : 2.58 Lac
Medical treatment : 3,285
Waiting Compartments : 31

Approva. Devan Time for Saravandhanam

(without USD) (Tonsure) 10-394

IRANIAN FM WARNS BRITAIN AGAINST COOPERATION WITH US STRIKES ON IRAN

Tehran, Aug 1 : Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi has warned Britain against any military cooperation with the United States in carrying out strikes on Iran. Araghchi made the remarks during a phone call with British Foreign Secretary Ed Milliband, stressing that any cooperation with "aggressors", including under the pretext of existing defence agreements, would be "unacceptable," according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Saturday. Araghchi criticised what he described as the British government's "unjustified and inappropriate" policies toward Iran, citing London's recent designation of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) as a national security threat and its "complicity" in two wars imposed by the United States and Israel against Iran in recent months. He called on Britain to reconsider its approach toward Tehran. He said that under international law and the Convention for the Definition of Aggression, allowing a country's territory and facilities to be used for illegal attacks against another state constitutes an act of aggression and gives the attacked country the right to self-defence.

INDIA'S GROSS GST COLLECTIONS SURGE 15.4 PC TO RS 2.11 LAKH CRORE IN JULY

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Continuing a robust trend, India's gross goods and services tax (GST) collections surged 15.4 per cent (year-on-year) to Rs 2.11 lakh crore in July — fastest in 14 months, the government data showed on Saturday. This is the second time this fiscal (FY27) that monthly collections have crossed the Rs 2 lakh crore mark, driven by strong domestic consumption and business activity. Meanwhile, gross domestic GST revenue went up 10.1 per cent to Rs 1.45 lakh crore in July — from Rs 1.31 lakh crore in July 2025. Notably, GST revenue from imports rose 28.8 per cent to Rs 66,511 crore, taking the total gross GST collections for the month to Rs 2.11 lakh crore. Also, total GST refunds increased 13.1 per cent (on-year) to Rs 29,968 crore last month. After adjusting for refunds, net GST revenue stood at Rs 1.81 lakh crore — a 15.8 per cent increase over July 2025.

Narendra Modi inaugurates Alluri Sitarama Raju airport

● Launches & Lays Foundation Stones for Development Projects Worth Rs.17,912 cr



Visakhapatnam (TSIT): Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, fulfilling the long-awaited aspiration of North Andhra.

He inspected passenger facilities, toured the termi-

nal, and witnessed the spectacular Thimsa tribal dance performed by over 13,500 women, who recently created a Guinness World Record. Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Union Minister Kinjarapu

Ram Mohan Naidu, and other dignitaries attended the historic event.

Addressing a public meeting, PM Modi launched and laid foundation stones for development projects worth Rs.17,912 crore, including the ASIP

Semiconductor Unit, Kurnool-IV Renewable Energy Transmission Project, 2,500 MW Solar Zone in Anantapur, 1,000 MW Solar Zone in Kurnool, and key expressway and bypass road projects.

He said the airport would serve as a launch

pad for North Andhra's youth and progress. Noting India's aviation growth from 74 to 166 airports, he highlighted the UDAN Scheme's role in making air travel accessible. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to Andhra's development through the Coastal Economic Corridor, Blue Economy, PM Gati Shakti, and futuristic projects like semiconductor manufacturing, AI infrastructure, and a proposed Google Data Centre in Visakhapatnam. He appreciated CM Naidu's industry-friendly efforts and expressed confidence that these projects would accelerate Swarna Andhra and Viksit Bharat visions.

Minister Uttam inspects Godavari projects, activates pumps for farmers



Hyderabad (TSIT) Bureau:

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy inspected the Sriramsagar (SRSP), Kaddam, and Sripada Yellampally projects on Saturday as they received the first significant Godavari inflows of the season. Accompanied by Ministers D. Sridhar Babu, G. Vivek Venkatswamy, legislators, and senior officials, he launched pumping operations to maximise water utilisation for farmers in

north Telangana. Five pumps at Yellampally were activated to lift Godavari water through the Flood Flow Canal towards the Mid Manair Reservoir.

The Minister directed officials to monitor water levels and pumping operations round the clock to ensure every drop is effectively utilised for irrigation and drinking needs. Clarifying reports, he stated that the water being pumped is natural Godavari flow, not from the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, and noted that Yellampally was

Rahul urges united opposition to Centre's delimitation plan

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Congress leader Rahul Gandhi urged all Tamil and national parties to oppose the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise, alleging it is a BJP conspiracy to reduce Tamil Nadu's political influence and warning that supporting it would betray the state's future

Chennai (TSIT):

Every single Tamil party and national party should defeat in Parliament the Centre's attempt to carry out delimitation, top



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said here on Saturday. Speaking to reporters at Mamallapuram near here, Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha alleged that anybody who supports delimitation betrays Tamil Nadu and the future of state, allowing RSS-BJP to attack the people. "No Tamil person should support delimita-

tion, every single Tamil person should oppose it," he said. He said the BJP is making an attempt to carry out delimitation. However, it is designed to disenfranchise, take away power from Tamil people, he alleged. Such a bid to take away power from Tamil people is a BJP 'conspiracy,' he further alleged.

Telangana's per capita income up by 10.23 pc: CM Revanth

Hyderabad, Aug 1 (TSIT) : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Saturday that Telangana's per capita income grew to Rs 4,18,931, an increase of 10.23 per cent in a single year. In a social media post, he revealed that Telangana's per capita income for this year (2025-26) is Rs 4,18,931, an increase from Rs 3,80,031 in the last year.

The Chief Minister said Telangana's per capita income grew by 10.23% in a single year, an increase of Rs 38,900.

He claimed that Telangana is achieving new heights since Congress came to power in December 2023. He called Telangana a top-performing state. According to him, this was made possible through hard work,



focus on economic growth, investments, job creation, balanced development across verticals, shift from ad hocism to policy-based governance, and lots of diligent work, constant reviews, attention to detail, and constant engagement with stakeholders.

"We have reversed a decade of failed governance, sense of gloom and have infused optimism and hope in every citizen and every aspect of governance," said the Chief Minister.

"Women, farmers and

youth are the biggest beneficiaries of our success. And the coming years will see greater success of my people and state," he added.

Meanwhile, Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnampallabharathi, met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at his residence to express gratitude regarding the Supreme Court's verdict upholding the previously granted environmental clearances for the Gouravelli, Palamuru-Rangareddy, and Seethamma Sagar projects. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnampallabharathi stated that this favourable verdict was the result of the Chief Minister's proactive efforts, including consultations with the Central government and appointing eminent legal counsel like Abhishek Singhvi to effectively argue the case in the Supreme Court, while keeping the interests of the people of Telangana at the forefront.

Indian Railways prematurely retires 5 Group 'A' officers in public interest

New Delhi, Aug 1 (TSIT) : Indian Railways on Saturday said it has recommended premature retirement of five Group 'A' officers in public interest on grounds of doubtful integrity, vigilance inputs, disciplinary history and other relevant service records. "The Review Committees have recommended premature retirement of two SAG officers of IRHS, one JAG officer of IRSE in Northern Railway, one officer of IRSEE in Northern Railway, and one JAG officer of IRTS in Western Railway," according to an official statement. It further stated that Indian Railways follows a policy of zero tolerance towards corruption, lack of integrity and inefficiency. "Integrity, discipline and accountability in public service remain non-negotiable."

CBI books Reliance Capital, Anil Ambani in EPFO loss case



New Delhi (TSIT) :

The CBI has registered an FIR against Reliance Capital Limited (RCL) and its former chairman Anil D Ambani for allegedly causing a loss of Rs 1,816.22 crore to the EPFO, officials said on Saturday.

Ambani, however, denied any wrongdoing, according to a statement issued by his spokesperson. The action follows a July 21 complaint from the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment alleging

commission of offences of cheating, criminal conspiracy and causing wrongful loss to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), the officials said.

"The present complaint is being lodged on behalf of EPFO through its authorised officer pursuant to the approval of the competent authority in relation to the substantial loss suffered by the EPFO arising out of its investment in the secured Non-Convertible Debentures issued by Reliance Capital Limited and the subsequently discovered fraudulent conduct connected with such investment," the complaint alleged.

NEET UG 2026 counselling to begin on Aug 4, session to start on Sep 8: NTA

New Delhi, Aug 1 : NEET UG 2026 counselling for the All India Quota (AIQ) will start from August 4, with the academic session beginning from September 8, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Saturday.

In a message on social media, the NTA said, "The counselling schedule for NEET UG 2026 has been released for All India Quota (AIQ) and State Quota counselling."

According to the schedule released by the NTA, the 1st Round of Counselling for All-India Quota/Deemed and Central Universities will be held from August 4 to August 17, with August 22 being the last date of join-



ing and August 23 as the verification date.

The 1st Round of State Quota Counselling will be held between August 13 and 22. The verification of joined candidates will be done on August 29, a day after the last date of joining, the NTA said. Similarly, the second round of counselling for All India Quota will

be held between August 24 and September 2. The Second Round of State Quota Counselling will be held between August 31 and September 8. After the third round and stray vacancy filling, the last date for joining for both All India Quota and State Counselling will be October 10, the NTA said.



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DMK leader Senthil Balaji slams TVK govt, alleges 'political vendetta' behind multiple cases

CHENNAI: Senior DMK leader V Senthil Balaji on Saturday (August 1) alleged that the TVK government in Tamil Nadu is focusing heavily on slapping cases against political opponents due to "political vendetta" rather than addressing public grievances and fundamental needs. Addressing reporters, the former minister said that he and others named in the cases would face the legal challenges in court and prove all allegations false.

Detailing the law enforcement action against him, he said, "Searches were con-



ducted at the room where I stayed and across various locations, leading to a case being registered", he said after visiting the city police station to sign the register as per the court order.

"We had filed an anticipatory bail petition in the Madras High Court regard-

ing this matter and following its dismissal, we consulted with senior advocates and legal experts to move the Supreme Court," he said.

Addressing his court-mandated police station sign-ins and the ongoing investigation, the MLA said, "I had sent a letter to the investigating officer at the police station requesting a temporary exemption for a few days from signing and a petition seeking a five-day exemption was also submitted to the Madras High Court". "Based on the directions of the Supreme Court, I have been

regularly appearing at the police station, signing as required, and answering all queries posed by the officials," he said, adding that the investigation is progressing smoothly.

Responding to questions regarding others named in the case, Senthil Balaji noted that out of the two individuals arrested, one was named in the initial FIR, while the other was not originally listed, yet proceedings were initiated. Pointing to the alleged procedural overlap between central and state investigative agencies, he said.



Honble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies issued appointment orders to computer managers in the Food and Consumer Protection Department....

DMK chief Stalin alleges CM Vijay stands 'isolated' in TN on Cauvery issue



CHENNAI (TSIT): DMK President MK Stalin on Saturday alleged that Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay stood "isolated" in Tamil Nadu over the Cauvery issue as he tried visiting Karnataka despite opposition to the proposed trip. The former chief minister also demanded to know if Vijay would convene or not an all-party meeting on the issue and asked Vijay to consult stakeholders within the state. In a statement, Stalin said leaders of parties and farmers' associations in Tamil Nadu warned that holding talks with Karnataka on the Mekedatu issue would yield no results and requested Vijay to not visit Karnataka.

The Dravidian party chief with sarcasm said that ignoring warnings, the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu sent emissaries to visit Karnataka perhaps thinking that he could bring the Cauvery river back with him.

Alleging that Karnataka viewed Tamil Nadu merely as a region to absorb surplus water from Cauvery river, the former chief minister said the state had learned from past experience that legal recourse was the only way to deal

with its neighbour which flatly refused to release water.

As soon as the Cauvery Water Management Authority ordered the release of water to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka closed its gate telling Vijay that he need not visit them now. Anticipating such situations beforehand, everyone in Tamil Nadu warned him. At least from now onwards, the chief minister must approach the Cauvery issue, the lifeline of Tamil Nadu and a high-stakes issue, by holding consultations.

"After telling our chief minister not to come, the CM of Karnataka (DK Shivakumar) convened an all-party meeting on August 2, demonstrating through his actions that they are all united," Stalin said and demanded to know from CM Vijay when he was going to convene an all-party meeting. "Can you do it or not," he asked.

"By trying to do a solo act, CM stands isolated," Stalin said. On July 31, 2026, DMK's official organ "Murasoli," in an editorial criticised Vijay alleging he intended to hold talks with Karnataka merely to claim that he had done something on the Cauvery issue.

Agriculture Minister Vinoth draws flak after taking budget copy to Tirumala Temple



CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister Vinoth drew criticism on Saturday (August 1) after taking a copy of the State's Agriculture Budget to the Tirumala temple in Tirupati for blessings ahead of the Assembly session scheduled to begin on August 5.

CPI(M) MP questioned Minister Vinoth on the Agriculture Budget copy taken to Tirumala.

Among those who criticised the minister was CPI(M) MP Su Venkatesan, who questioned the decision in a post on X. He said budget documents were "neither offerings to the

divine nor spiritual items" but political and constitutional documents that explain how taxpayers' money is proposed to be spent. Venkatesan further said that turning political documents into offerings based on individual religious beliefs was unconstitutional.

Armstrong murder: Chennai police hand over records to CBI

CHENNAI (TSIT): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has formally taken over the investigation into the murder of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Tamil Nadu president K Armstrong. The agency is expected to register a fresh case, if required, and plans to question the accused lodged in prison, according to a Daily Thanthi report.

Armstrong, the Tamil Nadu president of the Bahujan Samaj Party led by Mayawati, was a resident of Perambur in Chennai. He was hacked to death on July 5, 2024, while inspecting a construction project in Perambur. A



group of unidentified men attacked him with sharp weapons before fleeing the scene. He was rushed to a private hospital on Greams Road in Chennai with serious injuries but died on the way.

The Sembiyam police registered a case, following which a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted to probe

the murder. A total of 30 people were arrested in connection with the case, and police filed a charge sheet running over 7,800 pages. During the course of the investigation, two accused were killed in separate police encounters, while another died during medical treatment. Some of the accused were later granted bail.



Honble Chief Minister presented President's, Union Home Minister's and Chief Minister's medals and flagged off new patrol vehicles for the Coastal Security Group.....

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a case, following which a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted to probe the murder. A total of 30 people were arrested in connection with the case, and police filed a charge sheet running over 7,800 pages. During the course of the investigation, two accused were killed in separate police encounters, while another died during medical treatment. Some of the accused were later granted bail. Armstrong's wife, Porkodi, alleged that the Tamil Nadu police had not conducted a fair investigation. BSP national president Mayawati also visited Chennai and demanded that the case be transferred to the CBI. However, the then Tamil Nadu government did not accept the demand.

FSSAI suspends Switz Foods licence over hygiene violations

New Delhi, Aug 1: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Saturday suspended the food business licence of Switz Foods Private Limited after an inspection of its manufacturing facility revealed serious violations of food safety and hygiene norms.

The food regulator, in a post on social media platform X, directed the company to immediately halt all food business activities at the facility until the identified deficiencies are rectified and full compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, is restored. According to FSSAI, the inspection uncovered multiple non-



conformities that posed a significant risk to food safety. Food products were found to be manufactured, packed and stored under unhygienic conditions, increasing the risk of contamination.

The inspection also found poor cleaning and sanitation standards across the facility, including the crate-washing area, non-vegetarian food reception section and the washing area near the carrot-cutting machine.

FSSAI said several

equipment and food-contact surfaces, including machinery, crates, trays, trolleys, moulds and heated kettles, were inadequately cleaned and maintained. Inspectors also noticed water leaking from air-conditioning pipelines over the product storage area, while the crate-washing equipment was found to be non-functional.

The regulator further detected rust and corrosion on food-processing equipment and utensils, inadequate lighting and

ventilation, and improper storage of food materials, chemicals and employees' personal belongings.

It also reported significant pest infestation, including flies, mosquitoes and fruit flies, besides cobwebs, damp walls, peeling paint, broken floor tiles and oil residue across the premises.

The inspection revealed improper segregation between vegetarian and non-vegetarian food products, as well as between semi-finished and finished goods. Raw materials and intermediate products were found without date markings, while a ready-to-eat chicken sandwich lacked the mandatory labelling requirements.

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Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of BAJAJ Finance Limited (BFL), under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec.13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand ("Notice") calling upon the Borrowers/Co-borrowers mentioned here under to repay the amount mentioned in the notice U/s. 13(2) of the said Act within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors named below having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Mortgagors/Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken Physical possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Sec. 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealing with this property will be subject to the charge of the BAJAJ Finance Limited, for the amount mentioned herein below along with interest thereon at contracted rate. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.			
No.	Loan Account No./Name of the Borrower(s) /Mortgagor(s) /Guarantor(s)	Description of Property Schedule of Property	Date of Notice U/s.13(2) and U/s. 13(2) Notice Amount and Date of Possession
1	LAN: PU24PMB638595 1. Maha Marketing thr. Its Prop. Karuppa samy B, R/o. No 1B Block 3 Udayagiri Port Road Asan, Kinaru Thucalay Kanniyakumari, Tamilnadu 629175. Contact: 9487184997. Email id: mahamarketing@gmail.com. Also at, R/o. R.S. No(Old)- 338, R.S. No (New)- 461/4, 461/11A, 461/7A Veyanor A Village, Thiruvattar Taluk, Verklambdi SRO, Kanniya kumari District - 629166. 2. Anandaselvi K W/O Karuppassami, R/o. No 8 19A Paravakattu Vilai Mekkanam dappam, Post Kalkulam Kanniya kumari District, Kanyakumari Tamilnadu 629166. Contact: 9487184997. Email id: mahamarketing@gmail.com. 3. Karuppassamy B S/O Balumani, R/o. No 8 19A Paravakattu Vilai, Mekkanandappam Post Kalkulam, Kanniya kumari District Kanyakumari Tamilnadu 629166. Contact: 9487184997. Email id: mahamarketing@gmail.com. Kanyakumari Tamilnadu 629166. Contact: 9487184997. Email id: mahamarketing@gmail.com.	Schedule of property: All that piece and parcel of Kanyakumari District Marthandam Registration District Verklambdi Sub District Kalkulam Taluk is now bifurcated into Thiruvattar Taluk Veyanor Village is now bifurcated into Veyanor 'A' village Re. Sy. No. 461/4 in which having with an extent of 4 cents equal to 161.88 Sq.Mtr. of land existing building with fittings, deposits and all other appurtenances thereon both present and future corresponding to Old Survey No. 336 within the following boundaries Bounded on: East: Pathway; North: Property belongs to Pichai Nadar; West: Property belongs to Rajendran; South: Property belongs to Kamakesan and Cemetery. Kanyakumari District Marthandam Registration District Verklambdi Sub District Kalkulam Taluk is now bifurcated into Thiruvattar Taluk Veyanor Village is now bifurcated into Veyanor 'A' village Re.Sy.No. 461/11A in which having with an extent of 4 cents equal to 161.88 Sq.Mtrs. of land with fittings, deposits and all other appurtenances thereon both present and future corresponding to Old Survey No. 336 within the following boundaries Bounded on: East: Survey No. 336 within the following boundaries Bounded on: East: Property belongs to Thasamani; North: Property belongs to Thasamani; West: Property belongs to Murugan; South: Property belongs to Nelson	13.10.2025 Rs. 35,42,553/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three Only) 29.07.2026 at 12 PM to 4 PM
Date: 01.08.2026, Place: Tamil Nadu			For BAJAJ Finance Limited, Authorised Officer

EDITORIAL

Is the Left Over
in Bengal

Ours was a family of old-school communists. My father's elder brother spent between 11 and 12 years in jail, some five of them before 1947 as a Congress socialist/early communist, and the rest in independent India where he happened to be one of the principal organisers of the Kisan Sabha in West Bengal and, indeed, across the country. During the Tebhaga movement, he was a fugitive from the law for many months before being arrested and imprisoned for several years. The author Manik Bandyopadhyay is known to have modelled one of his best-known later stories on my uncle's run-ins with the police during 1948-49. He was a communist legislator for many years but never looked to receive anything from the party except his measly whole-timer's pay and continued to donate his legislator's allowance to the party till the end. And, of course, he turned down the freedom-fighter's pension, though it was not difficult to see that he could do with a little cash in his hand. It didn't help that as a child of a once-prosperous family of zamindars, he had had a relatively comfortable early life. But, as all of us could clearly see, he couldn't care less.

His younger brother, my father, was a brilliant student, besides being exceptionally gifted in a half-dozen other things than academics, and so potentially had some attractive career options but chose to be a teacher because teaching was his passion. He was a leader of the state's teachers' movement, guided and led every progressive social and cultural initiative including sports' tournaments, classical music concerts, book and literary fairs, and youth festivals in the town and the district he lived in, went to jail as a leader of the 1966 'food movement' that rocked West Bengal, and was an outstanding teacher and a talented writer by all accounts. He didn't join the party very early but was always a communist, and was even persuaded to be the party's candidate in the assembly elections one time when the party was in bad shape – and lost. Like his elder brother, the possibility – indeed, the inevitability – of radical social change was an article of faith with him. The implosion of 'really-existing socialism' was to him a crippling blow, but he managed to hold on to his faith nevertheless. Lucky for him, though, that he didn't outlive the Soviet Union by very much. Why am I going over these details from the lives of two men who never managed to write their names into history books? Am I not aware that this is not good form, for they are family? Am I doing this because I believe the trajectories of these two brothers' lives were exceptional in many ways? To suggest that they deserved better than the oblivion that has swept over their names and their lives? No, I am not, believe me. I am not, because though such men happened to have what looked like singular abilities, they were shaped by the time and place they lived in. I can't, of course, claim to have known their growing-up or formative years first-hand, but I have known the West Bengal of the late 1950s through the 1970s well enough that I can say that men of my uncle's (or father's) description did not stand outside of or above their own time. They were not like everyone around them, of course, but not an insignificant number in the communities around them shared in their values, if not also their aspirations. So, in a very real sense, they were not outliers. Maybe the spirit of their time, the zeitgeist, happened to be present in them in a somewhat more distilled form than in some others, but they were verily men of their generation.

DEMOGRAPHY AWAITS DIVIDEND:
BRIC BY BRICK, INDIA BUILT
GROWTH BUT NOT JOBS

On 30 November 2001, Jim O'Neill at Goldman Sachs published twelve pages titled Building Better Global Economic BRICS and handed the decade its acronym. Brazil, Russia, India and China, it argued, together represented an emerging economic bloc. Each member brought an endowment. China had manufacturing and trade, Brazil agriculture and minerals, Russia energy and resources. India had people - the case set out in the October 2003 sequel by Dominic Wilson and Roopa Purushothaman. The song set to the very same melody was sung by India. The Tenth Five-Year Plan invoked the vision of doubling per capita income within ten years and "creating 100 million employment opportunities", even as it conceded growth slipped below 6 per cent in the late 1990s. Twenty-five years on this November, the acronym has outlived the argument that produced it. What began as four economies in a research note is now an eleven-member grouping - a noun in search of a verb. As India hosts the 18th BRICS Summit in September, two questions stalk it. Whether the bloc has earned its billing is a question for the next column. This one examines if India harvest the demographic dividend that got it into the acronym in the first place? Two sets of forecasts - one written in London, one documented in Yojana Bhavan - rested on the same young population. India was adding around 10 million people to the workforce. Effectively India had to create jobs for the 41 million registered at employment exchanges and waiting and the newcomers. There were two challenges - the economy needed to grow at



and above 8% and it needed to create over 10 million jobs. The gap between hope and reality was already vast. The worriers were drowned out by the euphoria of the BRICS forecast. The record of what followed is unusually well documented. Four expert maps were circulating: McKinsey put 75 million jobs on the table in September 2001; the Planning Commission's Task Force on Employment Opportunities proposed 100 million in July 2001 and its Special Group repeated the figure in May 2002; the AIMA report chaired by N.K. Singh offered 72 million in April 2003, on the explicit argument that demographic opportunity could create them. Then the Plans. The Tenth targeted 50 million work opportunities in five years, the Eleventh 58 million with educated unemployment below 5 per cent, the Twelfth 50 million non-farm jobs. The score spells the magnitude of arrears. The 12th Five-Year Plan esti-

mated that 56 million non-farm jobs were created across the entire decade from 2000-01 to 2009-10, of which manufacturing contributed 6.6 million. Ten years delivered roughly what a single Plan had promised in five. The spectre of inadequate job creation is a permanent invitee to India's political economy. The evidence of absent jobs is really in news headlines - the multitude of applicants for government jobs. In 2003 the railways advertised for 20000 posts - 74 lakh persons - 336 persons per job. In 2024 15.35 lakh candidates competed for 452 vacancies for RPF Sub-Inspectors, a ratio of nearly 3,400 applicants per post. In 2024, in all, 71 lakh candidates applied for 92,116 jobs in the railways. In 2025 more than 25 lakh candidates applied for 53,000 peon posts in Rajasthan - nearly 90 % of the candidates held degrees including those with MSc, B'Tech, even PhDs. The pain is manifest across 25 years in opinion polls for

Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Unemployment and price rise - the proxy for unaffordability - has figured at or near the top of every credible survey as voter concerns. In 2024 the Lokniti-CSDS pre-poll survey 27 % found unemployment as the single most important issue followed by price rise at 23% - 62% said jobs had become harder to get. By 2015 the Planning Commission was dissolved leaving India with no plans and sketchy data. The gap between promise and performance persists. The saga of job creation has migrated from marker to marker - the number of taxpayers, number of EPF members, number of pension accounts. It is not that jobs weren't created, but they were clearly not enough. State governments hosted investment summits - verily item songs of the political economy serenading economic growth. Neither the states nor the union government have made any attempt to harness data - triangulate

the value of investments, GSDP growth and volume of jobs created. The announcements are spectacular. Memoranda worth over ₹30 lakh crore - roughly twice the state's own output - were signed at Madhya Pradesh's Global Investors Summit in February 2025. Davos has been a hot spot for Maharashtra, which signed memoranda worth ₹15.7 lakh crore in 2025 and ₹14.5 lakh crore on the opening day in 2026. Data on the conversion of memoranda into investment and jobs is sketchy. Young Indians wait like Beckett's tramps, for someone who does not come. In February 2019, when the Periodic Labour Force Survey showed unemployment at a four-decade high, the mandarins at NITI Aayog published a two-part rebuttal that ripped into the survey. It then conjured an alternative reality of 30 lakh jobs created, using arithmetic of its own - conflating vehicle sales with job creation, on the reasoning that vehicles would need

drivers. The struggle to harness the productive capacity of youth is visible in the list of job schemes at the national and state level. Seventy-three years after Bimal Roy sent Shambhu Mahato from his two bighas to the city to pull a rickshaw, India hosts the world's largest rural employment scheme - MGNREGS now known as G-Ram G. The rural employment programme which offers 125 days of guaranteed work at a notified daily wage of Rs 327 and has an allocation of ₹95,692 crore for 2026-27 has over 10 crore active workers on its rolls. And generations after Mahato farms are yet the largest employer. The PLFS for 2025 shows 43% of India's workforce is dependent on agriculture - this is 35 years after the 1991 reforms, a decade after Make in India, a decade after the promise to shift folks from farms to factories and lift manufacturing's share to 25% from 14%. Six years on, the launch of 14 production linked incentive schemes funded by allocations of over Rs 1.91 lakh crore attracted Rs 2.4 lakh crore in investments and 14 lakh jobs. In 2024 the government introduced a new 'employment linked incentive scheme' called the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme, with a target of one crore jobs in five years. As of March 2026, nearly a year and half after its launch, 16,060 interns joined their internship in two rounds. The history of underperformance is recorded by the government itself. In October 2025 NITI Aayog, in a study of services employment, stated that over 40 million jobs were added in six years. The services sector, once the hope of job seekers and regimes alike, generates more than half of national output and under a third of the jobs.

Absent From Parliament Amid Uproar Over Police Action, Modi 'Forgives' Protesters For Using Expletives

New Delhi: In his first explicit acknowledgement of the youth agitation that culminated in Delhi's biggest protest in years and precipitated the first resignation from his cabinet under public pressure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday (July 31) expressed "shock" at female protesters using expletives and said he wished to forgive such "misled children". He did not mention the use of force, including pellet guns, by Union government-controlled personnel to quell the protest march towards parliament on July 20 - an issue over which parliament has been logjammed for over ten days - or the cases against protesters that various police forces are in the process of withdrawing. Releasing his fifth self-recorded mobile video in the wake of the July 20 protest, Modi in another late-night message opened with a greeting to "friends" and acknowledged the Cockroach Janta Party's 36-day sit-in at Delhi's Jantar Mantar Road for the first time, saying "the country and the world have seen" what happened there. Modi then got to his point: "Some mischievous children have used expletives," he said, adding that "such words have been used that are not befitting of any civilised society". Some protesters used abusive language towards his late mother in addition to himself, he continued. The prime minister said he was shocked that female protesters used expletives. "Today I want to say that mistakes do happen in one's childhood. And in childhood one also has an opportunity to mend their



ways. After all, this is what childhood is. That is why, while I can understand the anger that is in society, it is a 'cultural shock' that our daughters can speak such language." But he has decided to forgive such "misled" protesters for using expletives. "It is time to embrace these children and show them the way. These are misled children, and it is our job to show them the way. Punishing them, making them run hither and thither in the courts, torturing them in society - we cannot change the situation like this. I want to forgive them." Such youths must learn from their "mistakes", the prime minister repeatedly said in his close to three-minute-long video. "Come, children. Let us move ahead together for the country. Let us learn something new. Let us learn from our mistakes too and go forth with our dreams ... I live for you, I wear myself out for your bright future." Modi's focus on some protesters' use of expletives comes as the Noida police has lodged an FIR against a girl following a complaint that she used 'abusive and objectionable' language against the PM,

invoking BNS sections pertaining to insults meant to provoke a breach of the peace, statements conducive to public mischief and defamation. The Delhi police too has reportedly registered cases against posts targeting the prime minister. However, there have also been instances of social media users doxxing and issuing rape threats to some female protesters who had gone to Jantar Mantar, including on the pretext that they 'abused' Modi or 'insulted' the Army, The Hindu's Suruchi Kumari reported early on Friday. That aspect did not figure in Modi's address - nor did police personnel's use of force against largely peaceful protesters who attempted to march to parliament on the 20th to demand then-Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. The Rapid Action Force is documented to have fired pellets at demonstrators using pump-action shotguns, a method that activists decry for being highly indiscriminate and which severely damaged the right eye of a 19-year-old man that day. Both Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah - to

whose ministry the Delhi police and the Rapid Action Force (via the Central Reserve Police Force) report - have been absent from the ongoing monsoon session of parliament even as opposition MPs in both Houses have disrupted proceedings demanding the latter's presence. Hours before Modi released his video late on Friday, Cockroach Janta Party chief Abhijeet Dipke had addressed the use of expletives by alleged social media operatives of the BJP's 'IT cell' against dissidents. "When will cases be lodged against them? But it isn't just about the BJP's IT cell. Everyone remembers what words their MP, Ramesh Bidhuri, had used against a fellow member of parliament," said Dipke, referring to the former South Delhi MP's use of Islamophobic slurs to refer to the Bahujan Samaj Party's Danish Ali within the Lok Sabha. Modi had not responded to that incident. Friday's video was also the fourth one Modi posted late at night, coming out on his X account at 11:06 pm. Three of his four other self-recorded videos were released at a similar time. His first video came on July 23, three days after the march to parliament demanding Pradhan's resignation in light of the two NEET-UG paper leaks over the last three years among other things. Pradhan tendered his resignation the next day, and after the government agreed to drop cases against protesters in addition to compensating the families of NEET aspirants who died by suicide after the May 2026 leak, the Cockroach Janta Party called off its stir.

The Hindutva Project of Tracking Women Protesters Down and 'Teaching Them a Lesson'

New Delhi: The protest called for by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar against the NEET paper leak was eventually called off following assurances from the Union government and the resignation of education minister Dharmendra Pradhan. By then it had received countrywide support from the young. Just days after the protest ended, a campaign to target the young women (and in some cases, young men) who participated in it began. Using expletives uttered during the protest as a pretext, their photos and videos are now being circulated on social media, with calls to uncover their names and addresses so they can be "taught a lesson." In some instances, legal notices are being issued. Furthermore, an FIR has now been registered in Noida against a girl - despite the government agreeing to CJP's demand that no legal action be taken against the demonstrators. When The Wire Hindi spoke to CJP spokesperson Ratna Singh regarding the online harassment of mostly woman and girl protesters, she stated, "We were assured that there would be no harassment of any kind. I am in constant touch with the concerned officials. I have also forwarded copies of the FIR related to the Noida incident to them." Singh mentioned that she, too, has been facing intense online harassment. 'Find her' During the protest, agitated students raised various slogans and made statements, some of which included expletives. There are now calls for action to identify them through videos on the protests. Most of the handles making these demands fer-



vently endorse the ruling BJP and propagate Hindutva ideology. One particular X handle, 'The Jaipur Dialogues', posted a photo of a young woman with the caption: "Find her; she has disrespected Prime Minister Modi." In a separate post - without tagging the Delhi Police - the same account stated: "Delhi Police, please find her and send her to jail to teach her a lesson." In the comments section of that post, a user posted a screenshot purportedly displaying the social media handle of the young woman seen in the video. 'Mr. Sinha', another Hindutva X handle participating in this campaign, shared images of two young women and appealed to the public to identify them. The post urged people to find out where they live, which housing society they reside in, and where they study or work, so that their neighbours, colleagues, and classmates could be informed about their alleged "mentality." Rahul Shivshankar, a TV anchor with the CNN-News18 group known for frequently defending the government, supported a Delhi Police

notice - which sought the full name, address, contact details, and email ID of the accused individuals - and stated: "Foul language cannot be considered freedom of expression." Many other Hindutva handles have joined this campaign; some are announcing rewards for uncovering names and addresses, while others are openly talking about teaching the individuals a violent lesson. The female protesters accused of using "objectionable language" against the Prime Minister are facing severe harassment on social media. They are being subjected to death and rape threats, and their private information is being made public. The prime minister's late night video claiming shock at what especially female protesters were saying has added fuel to the fire. Based on a complaint filed against a girl whose photos and videos had gone viral, a Zero FIR has been registered at the Expressway Police Station in Noida under Sections 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 353(1)

(statements creating public nuisance), and 356(1) (defamation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Subsequently, the case has been transferred to the Sansad Marg Police Station in New Delhi for further investigation. It has been alleged that the girl - identified as 25 years old initially - made objectionable remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the protest at Jantar Mantar on July 23. A complaint regarding this matter was filed on Wednesday. The complainant asserted that the remarks insulted the dignity of the Prime Minister's office and could potentially incite social unrest and disturb public order. The complainant, Smriti Singh Chandel, identified herself as a Supreme Court advocate. Her social media profile indicates that she serves as the national legal head of the Hindutva group 'Akhand Bharat Hindu Sena'. In response to this FIR, Cockroach Janata Party spokesperson Saurav Das said that while her remarks may be wrong, such legal action should not be taken against her.

TELANGANA LOGS HIGHEST 1-MONTH COMMERCIAL TAX COLLECTION IN JULY

Hyderabad: Telangana has recorded its highest-ever single-month commercial tax collections this July at Rs 7,865 crore, said the Commercial Taxes Department on Saturday, August 1. This reflects sustained economic momentum, enhanced tax compliance, and the continued effectiveness of its enforcement and facilitation measures, said the department in a press note. The total revenue is the cumulative amount of GST, VAT, and professional tax. The revenue shows a growth of 19 per cent over the Rs 6,624 crore collected in July 2025. The revenue collections in July increased by Rs 1,241 crore over those of July 2025. July's revenue surpasses the previous record of the highest single-month numbers of Rs 7,598 crore collected in April 2026. In July 2026, GST revenue alone was Rs 4,452 crore, reflecting signifi-



cant growth compared to Rs 3,638 crore in July 2025. The growth is the second-highest among the states after Haryana. The all-India growth rate in GST collections from all states in July 2026 is 10 per cent. According to the department, this July it conducted a special drive to identify and weed out taxpayers involved in generating and passing on fraudulent input tax credit (ITC) without actual supply of goods and services. This led to statutory

action, including suspension of registration against 165 taxpayers, restricting them from passing on an estimated Rs 300 crore of fraudulent ITC. The department also noted that 4,61,276 people filed their returns and paid taxes in July 2026. The total revenue is the cumulative amount of GST, VAT, and professional tax. The revenue shows a growth of 19 per cent over the Rs 6,624 crore collected in July 2025.

ICICI Pru iProtect Smart Plus: A smart way to secure short-term financial obligations with a 10-year life cover, at lower premium



August 01, 2026: ICICI Prudential iProtect Smart now comes with a 10 year life cover option. The plan is designed for customers with defined financial obligations such as home loan, children's education goals and business loans. Thus, enabling customers to choose high life cover at low premiums during the phase of life when their financial responsibilities are highest. The plan also includes complimentary health and wellness services worth up to ₹67,100/-, instant claims payout of ₹3 lakh and 100% payout on diagnosis of terminal illness. Mr. Manikandan Rajamani, Chief Of Distribution, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance said, "Customer expecta-

tions from financial protection continue to evolve alongside their life goals. At ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, our focus is to help customers protect what matters most at different life stages of their financial journey. ICICI Pru iProtect Smart Plus reflects this customer-first approach by expanding our protection portfolio with a 10-year policy term that combines affordability with features designed to deliver meaningful financial security. With an industry leading claim settlement ratio of 99.3% and with an average claim settlement turnaround time of 1 day in Q1-FY2027, we are always there for customer and their family's when they need us the most. During Q1-FY2027, the Company settled ₹ 1,306 crore of death claims and paid ₹ 3,360 crore as maturity & survival benefits reflecting ICICI Prudential Life's continued focus on delivering timely financial protection and peace of mind to their policyholders. Furthermore, in FY2026, the Company settled ₹ 5,149 crore of death claims and paid ₹ 15,363 crore as maturity and survival benefits."

Infistar Renewables Pvt Ltd, India, partners with Finland's Arciplug Oy to Bring First-in-India Modular Plug Flow Compressed Biogas Technology

Ahmedabad, 1st August 2026: Infistar Renewables Pvt Ltd, has entered into an exclusive joint venture with Finland-based Arciplug Oy to introduce make-in-India MODULAR PLUG FLOW compressed biogas plants, marking a significant step towards advancing the country's renewable energy ambitions through next-generation CBG solutions. The joint venture, Arcistar Bioenergy Pvt Ltd, will deliver turnkey make-in-India Modular Plug-Flow CBG plants (<3 TPD), capable of converting agricultural residues, municipal solid waste and other organic waste into clean energy. This modular technology, which has already been successfully deployed across Europe & Asia, is now also being introduced in India for the first time through this partnership. As India accelerates its transition towards cleaner energy while reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels, this technology offers a practical and sustainable solution to the country's major challenges, including energy security, climate change, waste management and water conservation.



The modular CBG plants (<3TPD) can be commissioned for rapid biogas production within just 4-5 months, as against 12-18 months typically required for conventional plants. Furthermore, unlike conventional wet digestion systems, these dry anaerobic reactors require minimal water during the digestion process, consume around 30 per cent less feedstock and significantly less electricity, thereby notably reducing the total operating cost and enhancing the commercial viability. Designed as an open, modular system, these plants can process more than 100

different types of feedstocks, including napier grass, municipal solid waste, paddy straw, press mud, cotton residue, fruit and vegetable waste, poultry waste, fish waste, etc. Making it suitable for a wide range of agricultural, industrial and municipal applications. Commenting on this joint venture, Mr. Suhrid V Sarabhai, Chairman & Managing Director, Infistar Group, said, "India's transition towards a cleaner and more self-reliant energy future requires solutions that are sustainable, commercially viable and affordable to the masses. Through our part-

nership with Arciplug, we are bringing a globally proven solution to India that addresses multiple national priorities simultaneously, including energy security, climate action, waste management and rural development. By manufacturing nearly all components in India, we hope to contribute to our Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047, while making advanced biogas technology more accessible and affordable to the MSMEs." Mr. Jari Valtanen, Vice President, Arciplug Oy, said, "India is one of the world's most promising markets for sustainable bioenergy, and we are delighted to partner with Infistar Renewables to introduce our MODULAR PLUG FLOW technology. Having been successfully deployed across several countries and diverse operating conditions, we believe this technology will help industries, municipalities and farmers convert waste into clean energy more efficiently and support India's sustainability goals."

SEBI BARS PUNIT GOENKA, SUBHASH CHANDRA FROM MARKETS FOR 1 YEAR

Mumbai: Market regulator SEBI has barred Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) and two of its top executives, Punit Goenka and Subhash Chandra, from the securities market after finding that ZEEL's Hyderabad land was mortgaged against loans availed by Essel Group entities without necessary corporate approvals. In a final order issued by SEBI's quasi-judicial authority, ZEEL was restrained from accessing the securities market for two months, while Goenka and Chandra were barred for 12 months. Penalty imposed The regulator also imposed a total penalty of Rs 1.48 crore on these three entities—Rs 30 lakh on ZEEL, Rs 58 lakh on Goenka, and Rs 60 lakh on Chandra. Holding that the LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) Regulations, 2003, were violated, SEBI directed them to



pay the penalties within 45 days. SEBI traced the case's inception to ZEEL's FY2018-19 statutory audit, which flagged missing title deeds for certain immovable properties. The regulator's probe found that four Essel Group companies had borrowed Rs 726 crore from Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. (IHFL) in December 2016, with Essel Home Pvt. Ltd. as co-borrower, and

that the borrowing entities were ultimately controlled by the accused and their family members through multiple corporate layers. The regulator noted that after the borrowers failed to maintain the security cover, IHFL issued notices in November 2018 seeking additional collateral. SEBI order said that on December 27, 2018, a Declaration and Acknowledgement on

behalf of ZEEL was executed, and the original title deed of the company's Hyderabad land was deposited with IHFL to create a first-ranking mortgage over the property as additional security for the loans. Though ZEEL argued that it had obtained all necessary corporate approvals for the mortgage, the investigation did not find any prior approval from the company's audit committee, Board of Directors or shareholders. The regulator also noted that ZEEL later informed it that the company's management and board were unaware of the mortgage and had never authorised the transaction. As per ZEEL's financial statements for FY19 and FY20, the mortgage amounted to a related-party transaction requiring approvals and disclosures under the applicable regulations. In a final order issued by SEBI's quasi-judicial authority, ZEEL was restrained from accessing the securities market for two months, while Goenka and Chandra were barred for 12 months.

Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles kicks-off 2026 festive season with new Yezdi range, plans massive dealer expansion from Kerala to rest of India

Kochi, 2026: Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles unveils Yezdi's 2026 range just in time for India's festivities. Named as the 'Untamed Trinity', three purpose-built motorcycles - Yellow Falcon Adventure, Green Mamba Roadster and Grey Panther Scrambler - continue Yezdi's evolution, where every new expression answers a genuine rider need. The trio begins its national rollout from Kerala as India enters its festive season starting with Onam. Leading the range is the Yellow Falcon Adventure, introducing cross-spoke wheels that combine the strength of traditional spoke wheels with the convenience of tubeless tyres, one of the most requested upgrades from riders. It also introduces a unique grey and yellow colourway with signature decals. The new wheel option will be available across the Yezdi Adventure range. Powered by the 334-cc liquid-cooled Alpha2 engine producing 29.6 PS power and 29.9 Nm torque, it continues with traction control and



ABS modes (Road, Rain and Off-road). The Green Mamba Roadster receives a distinctive matte green finish complemented by a quilted Arabica-brown seat and signature copper decals. It retains the Roadster's 334-cc liquid-cooled Alpha2 engine, six-speed gearbox, assist-and-slipper clutch, and modular seating. The Grey Panther Scrambler wears a sophisticated metallic grey finish with ribbed Arabica-brown seats and matching tank pads

and is powered by the 334-cc liquid-cooled KATAR engine, delivering a perfect 30-30-30 balance of 30 PS power, 30 Nm torque and 30 km/l efficiency while retaining its agility and everyday usability. Boman Rustom Irani, Co-Founder, Classic Legends, said: "Yezdi has always been a brand built as much by its riders as by us. Riders have passed Yezdis down generations, restored them, and built communities around them. The 2026 line-up brings

that spirit to life with three purpose-built motorcycles." The 'Untamed Trinity' builds on the momentum of a landmark year for Yezdi's modern line-up. Built around the new-generation Alpha2 and KATAR engines, rider-focused features, refined ergonomics, and standout designs, Yezdi's range has helped the company grow faster than the category. With Onam ushering in India's festive season, Kerala sets the stage for the national rollout of the 2026 Yezdi range. It is also one of India's largest markets for mid-cc motorcycles, where Yezdi has long been part of culture, touring traditions, personal stories, and even cinema. Anupam Thareja, Co-Founder, Classic Legends, said: "As Onam marks the start of India's festive season, there could be no better place or time to reaffirm our commitment to Kerala and its riders. Kerala has always been close to my heart as a rider, and it has made Yezdi its own from its past glory to the new launch."

PUBLIC WAKE TO BE HELD FOR MUSICIAN GLEN HANSARD



A public wake will be held for Glen Hansard in Dublin on Monday 3 August followed by his funeral the following day. The 56-year-old, who shot to prominence when he was cast in 1991 musical comedy film *The Commitments*, was the long-time frontman of acclaimed rock band *The Frames*. The singer-songwriter died in a crash in the early hours of Wednesday, hours after taking part in a tradition music session at *The Wren's Nest* pub in County Dublin. A public wake will be held for Hansard in the Baroque Chapel at IMMA, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, between 11:00 and 16:00 local time. Hansard will lie in repose for those wishing to pay their respects. His funeral will take place the following day at St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin city centre at 13:30. While the funeral will also be open to the public, access inside the cathedral will be limited, given the numbers expected. Music at the funeral will be provided by Hansard's friends and family. Tributes had been paid across world of music from

the likes of Ed Sheeran and Bruce Springsteen, who said he was "heartbroken". Former US president Barack Obama, Bruce Springsteen, US actor Rachel Zegler, Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, and pop star Billie Eilish were also among the high-profile names who have paid tribute to Hansard. A memorial busk was held in Dublin on Thursday evening. Who was Glen Hansard? Hansard was an Oscar-winning Irish musician who had a storied career in music across more than three decades, including winning the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 2008 with Marketa Irglova, which featured in the low-budget musical romance film *Once*. He and Irglova released three albums as *The Swell Season*, while Hansard also encountered success as a solo artist with 2016 album *Didn't He Ramble* being nominated for a Grammy in 2016. Hansard, the father of a three-year-old boy, has also been hailed by charities for his work in raising money for the homeless.



Spain attacks 'selfish' response of some EU countries to Ceuta migrant crossings

Trump administration drops Reflecting Pool vandalism charge and admits 'botched' repairs

US prosecutors have dropped charges against a former Olympian who had been accused of vandalising the Reflecting Pool in Washington DC, writing in court documents that the damage is now believed to be "the result of flawed installation by the contractor". President Donald Trump had previously blamed the damage on "sick, deranged" vandals. But a document filed by prosecutors in Washington DC on Friday says new information "strongly suggests that a rushed and botched installation" job overseen by the US Department of Interior led to the damage. David Hearn, a champion canoeist, had been facing a 10-year prison sentence if found guilty after his arrest last month. In a statement,



Hearn's lawyers accused the Trump administration of abuse of power, and said it "owes Mr Hearn an apology". Hearn previously told the BBC that he "didn't destroy, rip, tear, peel, or remove any part" of the paint in the pool. Asked by the BBC on Friday if he is planning legal action over the government mistakes that led to the charges and false public accusations, he declined to comment. The

document filed by US Attorney for Washington DC Jeanine Pirro blames contractors for rushing the paint installation process as part of Trump's efforts to beautify the city ahead of the country's 250th independence anniversary on 4 July. Hearn was arrested after he said he reached down to touch the pool after a bike ride in the area. He was not the only one. At least three others were

charged with vandalism, court records show. Five more received citations from police, an administration official told CBS News, the BBC's US partner. They include one person who Trump claimed had used a blade to "put a 250 foot long gash into the beautiful facade". It's unclear if all of the charges now have been dropped. In the court filing on Friday, the Trump administration said new information from the Department of Interior (DOI) indicated "that damage to the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in June 2026 was the result of flawed installation by the contractor" and "the rush to complete the project prior to events associated with the America 250 celebration in the weeks surrounding Independence Day 2026".

POLICE RELEASE NANCY GUTHRIE RANSOM NOTES IN LATEST BID TO FIND KIDNAPPERS



Police in Arizona have released two ransom notes in the hope the public can help identify whoever abducted the mother of US news presenter Savannah Guthrie. The first note, which is treated as apparently credible, demanded millions of dollars in Bitcoin. The other claimed Nancy Guthrie died shortly after she was abducted from her home near Tucson six months ago. The Pima County Sheriff's Office say they cannot verify her death, and the investigation remains active. "We are desperate," Guthrie said on Saturday, pleading for information. Officials released the two notes on Friday, asking the public for help identifying the writer, whose "distinct linguistic characteristics may be recognisable". Investigators believe that Nancy Guthrie, who was aged 84 when she was last seen on 31 January, was taken against her will from her home, but they have not shared a possible motive or arrested a suspect. The notes were addressed to Savannah Guthrie and the Guthrie family, and sent to a local TV station in Tucson, Arizona, in the days after Nancy Guthrie disappeared, according to the sheriff. "A friend, family member, coworker, classmate, or acquaintance may recognise these patterns of expression and possess information that could help identify the

individual responsible," the sheriff's office said in a statement. The first note, which was received on 2 February, began: "Hello Savannah, we have your mother Nancy. She is safe but scared. She will be held for ransom and once payment is received she will be released unharmed. We will be holding her for a maximum of 7 days. You will need to send bitcoin in the amount of \$4 million USD before 5PM on Thursday the 5th. If payment is not received, the ransom will be increased to 6 million USD which will need to be paid by 5PM on Monday the 9th. Once payment is received to the bitcoin address below she will be released within 12 hours of deposit to a safe drop off location back in Tucson. If payment is not recieved [sic] by the last deadline on Monday the 9th at 5PM, she will be killed. "Your mother is aware of this and her life is in your hands. It is in the best interest of everyone to have this completed as soon as possible. "You will not be able to contact me from here on out, there will be no negotiation. Do not play games, law enforcement will not be able to help you," the note continued. After what appears to be a redacted sentence, it ends: "She had a white smart watch on the floor of the foot of her bed and the white flood light in backyard was destroyed."

Nine killed in strikes on Kyiv, as Ukraine sinks Russian container ship

At least nine people have been killed and dozens injured in Russian ballistic missile strikes on Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said. Moscow has escalated deadly ballistic missile attacks on Kyiv recently, prompting Zelensky to say that missile interceptors are urgently needed. The strikes come two days after a suspected Russian cruise missile landed in Poland during a widespread attack on Ukraine that killed at least eight people, including six members of one family. Separately, Ukrainian drones sank a Russian-owned container ship in the Black Sea on Saturday. Moscow said all 17 crew were rescued. Kyiv's Mayor Vitali Klitschko said the capital had come under a ballistic missile attack on Saturday, with AFP reporting more than 10 explosions. Fires broke out across the city and power cuts were reported in some areas. Klitschko said a residential building in Shevchenkivskiy was partially destroyed, trapping people inside. The emer-



gency services said at least seven people were killed in a strike in the Darnytskyi district. Another 14 were injured, including two children, it reported. In Solomyanskyi district, two people died and eight were injured, including two children, as a five-storey residential building was partially destroyed, officials said. A missile landed near the Lithuanian embassy, breaking windows and scattering debris in the compound, Lithuania's foreign ministry said. Zelensky said in a post on X that the sanctioned 100,000-tonne capacity container ship *Yanina* had been "sent to the bottom". Moscow

confirmed the attack in a statement from state-owned nuclear operator Rosatom, which owns the ship. Rosatom said it had been transporting civilian goods including frozen food and construction materials, adding that the attack took place 130 miles (209km) from Novorossiysk. "Such an attack cannot be interpreted as anything other than piracy and robbery," Rosatom's CEO Alexey Likhachev said, adding that all 17 crew members were in a "satisfactory" condition. Ukraine has targeted Russian-flagged ships in the Black Sea since Russia's full-scale invasion of the country in 2022. The

attack on Kyiv comes after Zelensky met President Donald Trump in Washington DC earlier this week to urge the US to grant Ukraine a licence to produce Patriot interceptor missiles. Asked about the missiles during a cabinet meeting at the Camp David retreat on Friday, Trump said the US had not agreed to Ukraine building Patriot missiles but that talks were ongoing. He said the US had to be "very careful about letting somebody build them". Emphasising concerns about sharing advanced US weaponry, Trump called it "a big step". Trump's latest comments regarding Patriot missiles come weeks after he offered to give Ukraine the right to produce them. As Russia has stepped up its air attacks, Ukraine has run low on supplies of Patriots, which remain the only weapon in its arsenal capable of downing ballistic missiles. "I don't think this would ever happen, but, you know, those people that you give that technology, they can someday turn on you," Trump said.

MINISTER CALLS FOR AIR PASSENGER DUTY EXEMPTION



Stormont's economy minister says the UK government should reconsider a decision to apply air passenger duty (APD) to flights between Londonderry and Dublin. The service is being funded by the Dublin government who said it will launch as soon as is "operationally feasible". Minister Caoimhe Archibald said she is "deeply disappointed" that the UK government has not made the Derry to Dublin service exempt from APD. The UK government said it only removes APD on government-funded routes that "start and end in the UK".

"We remain open to conversations with the Irish government on this matter," a UK government spokesperson added. An Irish government spokesperson said APD is "a matter for the UK government". "It is anticipated that a Request for Tenders will be published shortly, with a view to a contract being awarded this year and services commencing as soon as operationally feasible by the successful carrier," the spokesperson added. The Derry to Dublin route is being funded under a Public Service Obligation (PSO), where a government support flights which would not otherwise be commercially viable. Currently, the London government provides financial backing for the Derry to London PSO route, a service where APD is not added. What is Air Passenger Duty? Air Passenger Duty is a tax on flights which depart from the UK, paid by aircraft operators.



Israeli West Bank settler tells attacks on Palestinians are justified as revenge

RACE TO RESCUE REMAINING CLIMBERS AFTER DEADLY AVALANCHE IN PAKISTAN

Rescue teams in Pakistan are carrying out a second day of search for climbers caught in an avalanche on the world's 12th-highest summit. Among the seven still missing from the 10-person expedition on Broad Peak, on the border with China, is renowned Nepal-born climber Nirmal Purja. The operation has expanded with local Pakistani climbers volunteering, together with others from Nepal who have halted their expeditions on nearby K2. Bad weather has been hampering the search. Pakistani officials say the bodies of three climbers have been recovered. They have been named as American Mallory Geis, Nadhira Ahmed Abdullah Al Harthy from Oman and Pur Bahadur Gurung from Nepal. On Friday, the Alpine Club of



Pakistan said several climbers had been spotted by drones but their condition was unknown. The club's secretary general, Ayaz Shigri, told the BBC rescuers were concerned about the risk of further avalanches. Military helicopters are on standby to fly to assist, weather permitting. The search and rescue operation for the team began

after reports of an avalanche on Thursday on the 8,047-metre (26,400ft) peak in the Karakoram range. The multinational climbing group was being led by Purja. He is known for climbing all 14 of the world's 8,000m-plus mountains in just over six months in 2019. Purja joined the British Army in 2003 and the Special Boat Service - the

special forces unit of the Royal Navy - in 2009. In 2012, he reached the summit of the 6,119m Lobuche East mountain in Nepal - his first peak. In June, Mallory Geis posted on social media that she was ready for "her first big kid climbing expedition in Pakistan". Pur Bahadur Gurung - also known as Yukta - was certified by the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations and close to completing the 14-peaks challenge. Also among the group is Kili Pemba Sherpa Kili, who has so far scaled Everest 15 times. In 2021, he was a member of a historic K2 winter expedition, along with several Nepali climbers including Purja. Broad Peak is regarded as one of the more challenging mountains for climbers.

"IT IS A CONCERN": Major Warning Issued Over India's Batting Unit Ahead Of Test Series vs Sri Lanka

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Deep Dasgupta has expressed strong concerns over the side's batting on turning pitches in the upcoming two-game Test series against Sri Lanka, adding that navigating spin-friendly conditions will be the 'biggest challenge' for the side rather than its bowling department. India's batters have struggled heavily against spinners in their defeats to New Zealand and South Africa at home. Facing the Sri Lankan spinners on turning pitches in Galle and Colombo will further test their batting skills from August 15-29 as they aim to rise in the World Test Championship (WTC) table. "If there are bowling-friendly pitches, then automatically there are good bowlers. Saransh has also come, who is a good off-spinner and a person who has been playing first-class cricket for a long time. He can also bat well. In fact, in a Test match,



he may not need it that much, and hopefully not. "But you have those options in the absence of Washington. Saransh has also got the option of off-spin. You have left-arm spinners and Kuldeep too. I am not as much concerned about bowling as I am about batting. If we talk about batting, if we look at the South Africa and New Zealand series. "We have seen a new batting order in South Africa. If we look at it from there, I will not say it is fear, but it is a concern. How will

they be able to play in those conditions? Because there will be spinning conditions. There will be turning conditions because their strength is spin bowling. In those conditions, how does India play? How do Indian batters handle it? That is going to be the biggest challenge, according to me," said Dasgupta on his YouTube channel on Saturday. Highlighting the difficult away assignments this year as per the current WTC cycle, Dasgupta warned against taking any opposition lightly.

Soman Rana Lost A Leg Due To Mine Blast In Kashmir, Today He Won Historic CWG Gold

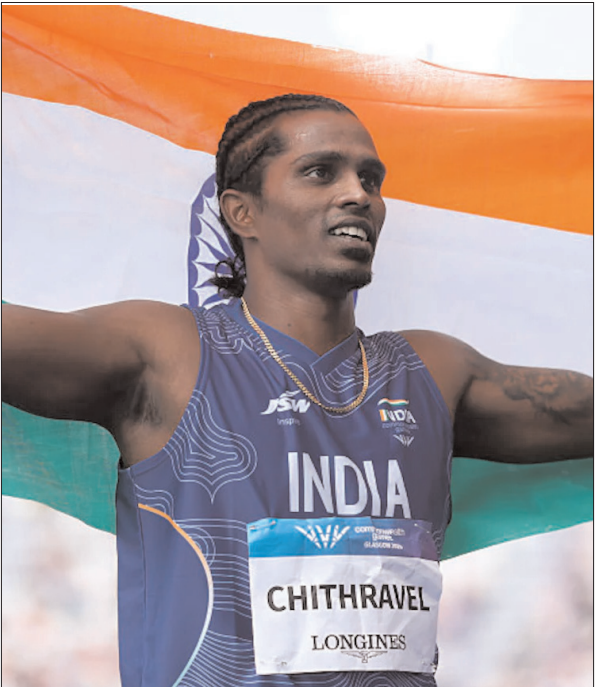


India pulled off a historic double in the men's shot put F57 final at the CWG 2026, winning gold and silver to take the nation's medal tally in Glasgow to 30. Soman Rana won gold with a 13.40m attempt, while Shubham Juyal registered a throw of 13.28m, with both efforts being season-best throws for the duo. The shot put F57 is a discipline requiring seated, strapped-in athletes to generate power entirely through the upper body and torso. Glasgow 2026 marked the debut of the men's F57 shot put event at the CWG. Who is Soman Rana? Havildar Soman Rana is an

Indian Army para athlete born on 16 January 1983. He hails from Gaya, Bihar. Soman Rana comes from a humble family background and belongs to a family of farmers living in Bihar. His father, Bahadur Rana, is a farmer, and his mother, Maya Devi Rana, is a housewife. In 2001, he joined the Army in the Gorkha Rifles as a sepoy. As he was a keen sportsman, he soon became a part of the unit boxing team. On 1 December 2006, while posted with 2/8 Gorkha Rifles and serving on the Line of Control in J&K, he sustained injuries in a mine blast.

Gold For Para Shot Putter Soman Rana; Triple Jumpers Praveen Chitravel, Selva Prabhu Clinch Silver, Bronze

Indian para shot putter Soman Rana clinched gold, while triple jumpers Praveen Chitravel and Selva Prabhu Thirumaran bagged silver and bronze respectively as the country enjoyed a productive day at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow on Saturday. Competing in the men's F57 event, Rana, an Asian Para Games silver medallist in 2022, hurled the globe for a season's best 13.40m to stand on top of the podium. Compatriot Shubham Juyal (season's best 13.28m) pocketed the silver, while Cameron's Cedric Azamdzi (12.57m) took home the bronze. Earlier, Chitravel set the tone for the day with an excellent effort in the men's triple jump. Asian Games bronze medallist Chitravel bettered the effort in Glasgow with a silver, which he fetched covering a distance of 16.58m. Compatriot Selva Prabhu was just behind at 16.52m for a bronze -- his



first medal of note in international competitions. Jamaica's Jordan Scott won the gold medal in the event with a 16.72m jump. Earlier, India's Ramesh Shanmugam ended up seventh, clocking a time of 3:23.59 in the men's T54 1500m final in

the para athletics segment. Disappointment continued in the women's 10000m race walk event as well after Priyanka Goswami ended up at seventh despite clocking a season's best 45:53.93. The other Indian in the fray, Ravina was disqualified.

Royal Enfield Challengers' Cup Debuts In Leh, Bringing India's Best Emerging Ice Hockey Talent Together

The inaugural Royal Enfield Challengers' Cup is set to get underway tomorrow at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan (NDS) Stadium in Leh, bringing together some of the finest emerging Ice Hockey talent from Ladakh and Spiti alongside the Indian Army Ice Hockey Team and the Central Ice Hockey Team of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). The six-day tournament will feature five teams competing in a round-robin format, with the top two teams advancing to the final on August 6. Organised under the Royal Enfield Social Mission, the tournament marks the beginning of another exciting chapter in Royal Enfield's long-term commitment to strengthening Ice Hockey across the Himalayas by creating meaningful competitive opportunities for emerging athletes. Designed as a new competitive platform, the Challengers' Cup will feature the Leh Kings, Kargil Warriors, and Spiti Titans, alongside the Indian Army Ice Hockey Team and the Central Ice Hockey Team ITBP. The Leh and Kargil teams comprise the



upcoming athletes from their respective regions competing in the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League, while the Spiti Titans are made up of the top talent from the Spiti Cup. These teams, all part of the Royal Enfield Social Mission developmental leagues, now get a chance to compete against two of the strongest institutional teams in the country. This opportunity provides these young athletes with invaluable exposure to high-quality competition

while accelerating their development and strengthening the sport's roots in the Himalayas. The tournament will begin with Kargil Warriors taking on the Central Ice Hockey Team, ITBP at 6:00 PM on August 1, followed by Leh Kings facing the Indian Army Ice Hockey Team at 8:00 PM. To complement the competitive action, the three regional teams will also undergo dedicated training sessions from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM each

day between August 1 and August 4, ensuring continued skill development throughout the tournament. Among the regional teams, Leh Kings will be led by Karma Rigyal Stein, alongside former Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League MVP Mushtaq Ahmad Giri. Kargil Warriors boast last season's leading scorer Waseem Bilal and Sajjad Hussain, while Spiti Titans will be spearheaded by Tanzin Dorje, one of the standout performers from Spiti Cup Season 3. Hosted at Leh's recently upgraded all-season artificial ice rink, the tournament also highlights how improved sporting infrastructure is enabling Ice Hockey to be played and developed beyond the traditional winter season, creating new opportunities for players, communities and the sport itself. Building on the success of the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League, which attracted over 34,000 community members last season, the Challengers' Cup further strengthens the competitive pathway for emerging athletes across the Himalayas.

"INSPIRED BY INDIA'S MARY KOM": Pakistan's First Female Commonwealth Games Medallist Stuns Internet

India's MC Mary Kom has inspired generations of homegrown boxers, but the six-time world champion's influence has travelled well beyond the country's borders, reaching Pakistan's first female Commonwealth Games medallist, Fatima Zahra. The 22-year-old signed off with a historic bronze medal in the women's 60kg event here, becoming the first Pakistani woman boxer to stand on a Commonwealth Games podium. Growing up in Sargodha in Pakistan's Punjab province, Fatima had few female boxing role models to look up to in her own country. She instead found one across the border in Mary Kom. "I am inspired by India's Mary Kom," Fatima told PTI after



securing her bronze medal. For Fatima, it was not just Mary Kom's achievements but the story behind them that resonated. Born into a poor farming family in rural Manipur, Mary Kom overcame financial hardship, social resistance and limited resources to become one of the greatest boxers of all time. She secretly pursued boxing in her early years, balancing

training with work in the fields before going on to win six world championship titles, an Olympic bronze medal, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games golds, and five Asian Championships. The 2014 Bollywood biopic based on Mary Kom's life left a lasting impression on a then 10-year-old Fatima. "I used to watch the film made on her life.

Jude Bellingham-Ravi Shastri Crossover Breaks The Internet During The Hundred



Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham was in attendance at Edgbaston for Saturday's double-header between Birmingham Phoenix and Welsh Fire in The Hundred. The Birmingham Phoenix co-owner interacted with fans before watching the women's team beat Welsh Fire in a nail-biting encounter. Bellingham was accompanied in the stands by his father, Mark, and mother, Denise, a day after the England midfielder also attended his boyhood club

Birmingham City's friendly against Barcelona at St Andrew's. He received a rousing reception from none other than Ravi Shastri and was joined by the two captains, Donovan Ferreira (Birmingham Phoenix) and Phil Salt (Welsh Fire). Bellingham, who grew up in Stourbridge, played junior cricket for Hagley Cricket Club as a teenager and is a life-long cricket fan. Earlier this year, Bellingham purchased a 1.2 per cent stake, valued at

around 1 million pound, in the franchise, which is co-owned by Warwickshire County Cricket Club and Knighthead Capital, the American investment fund. Knighthead had bought a 49 per cent stake in the franchise last year, which has now come down to 48.4 per cent following the English footballer's entry into the board. Bellingham bought a 0.6 per cent stake from both Warwickshire and Knighthead, who also own the Birmingham City Football Club, where Bellingham rose through the ranks. Bellingham is currently enjoying a break after helping England finish third at the FIFA World Cup 2026. He registered 7 goals and 1 assist in 8 appearances. The 23-year-old is expected to join his Real Madrid teammates soon for pre-season training ahead of the start of the new La Liga campaign.

RAJAT PATIDAR TO LEAD CENTRAL ZONE IN DULEEP TROPHY, RINKU SINGH NAMED VICE-CAPTAIN



India batter Rajat Patidar will lead Central Zone in the Duleep Trophy, starting later this month at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. India middle-order batter Rinku Singh will be the deputy to Patidar, the two-time IPL winning skipper with Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Off-spinner Saransh Jain has also been named in the squad but he is certain to miss at least the initial part of the domestic season opener since he is a part of the India Test squad to tour Sri Lanka. Jain is tipped to make his Test debut at Galle since off-spin all-rounder Washington Sundar was

ruled out of the first match. The first Test starts on August 15 at the Galle International Stadium, and the second Test will begin in Colombo from August 23. The Duleep Trophy will run at the BCCI CoE from August 23 to September 10. Central Zone squad for Duleep Trophy: Rajat Patidar (captain), Rinku Singh (vice-captain), Aryan Juyal (wicketkeeper), Saransh Jain, Aman Mokhadde, Kunal Chandel, Zeeshan Ansari, Aryan Pandey, Arshad Khan, Ayush Pandey, Yash Rathod, Harsh Dubey, Kunal Singh Rathod (wk), Yash Thakur and Nachiket Bhute.

Ryu leads Open in pursuit of third straight major



South Korea's Haeran Ryu birdied the 18th to bounce back from a poor start and end the second round as leader of the AIG Women's Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes. The 25-year-old, aiming to become only the fifth woman in history to claim three majors in a calendar year, is one shot clear of Japan's Shiko Kuwaki. Earlier this month, Ryu claimed her second major in the space of two weeks at the Evian Championship, and her remarkable major form has continued at the Open. Despite being three over for the day through five holes, she sank five birdies to shoot two under par and build on her opening-round score of 66. "The last hole is so important as it is always good for tomorrow, I

always want to make a good score on the last hole," Ryu told BBC Sport. "I've had two birdies on it, which is a good thing. "I just stayed patient after that [the tough start] and I made some birdies to finish under par. I am so happy now." Kuwaki, who finished Thursday two shots behind leader Jeeno Thitikul, carded a one-under-par round to take advantage of Thitikul's dropped shots. Following a spectacular seven-under-par 64, Thailand's Thitikul shot a two-over-par 73. American Yealimi Noh joins world number two Thitikul on five under par after shooting 70. England's Lottie Woad is in a strong position to compete for a first major title despite a disappointing end to her second round.

The 22-year-old, who arrived as one of the favourites, ended the day on two under par. Woad's bogey-free opening round of 69 was followed up by a score of 71, which included three birdies on the front nine. However, two dropped shots on the back nine - one on 17 - leaves her five shots back. England's Charley Hull went round in even par to remain on two under par, while world number one Nelly Korda shot 68 to recover from an opening-round two-over-par 73. Three-time major champion Lydia Ko is also well placed to make a move from one under par, as is England's Mimi Rhodes, who recovered from two early bogeys to sink three birdies. Who are the best active players never to have won

a major in the women's game? For many, Hull and Thitikul would be the first names that come to mind. Hull has finished runner-up in five majors, with her most recent near-miss coming in June's US Open. Her solid opening round at the Open left her two under par and in a strong position to challenge for a maiden major title. A tricky back nine on her second round ended in style, as a birdie from the bunker on the 17th was followed by a par at the last. It was not a round that ever truly caught fire, despite featuring three birdies, but it keeps Hull firmly in contention. "I am really looking forward to it [the weekend], it's going to be loads of fun," Hull said. "I feel like now my nerves have settled down.

'LENIN' SET FOR GRAND DIGITAL PREMIERE ON TELUGU ZEE5 FROM AUGUST 7

Following a sensational theatrical run and emerging as the biggest blockbuster of Akhil Akkineni's career, **LENIN** is now gearing up for its much-awaited digital premiere. The action-packed rural entertainer will begin streaming exclusively on Telugu ZEE5 from August 7, giving audiences across the world another opportunity to experience one of Telugu cinema's biggest successes of the year from the comfort of their homes. Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, **LENIN** features Akhil Akkineni in a career-

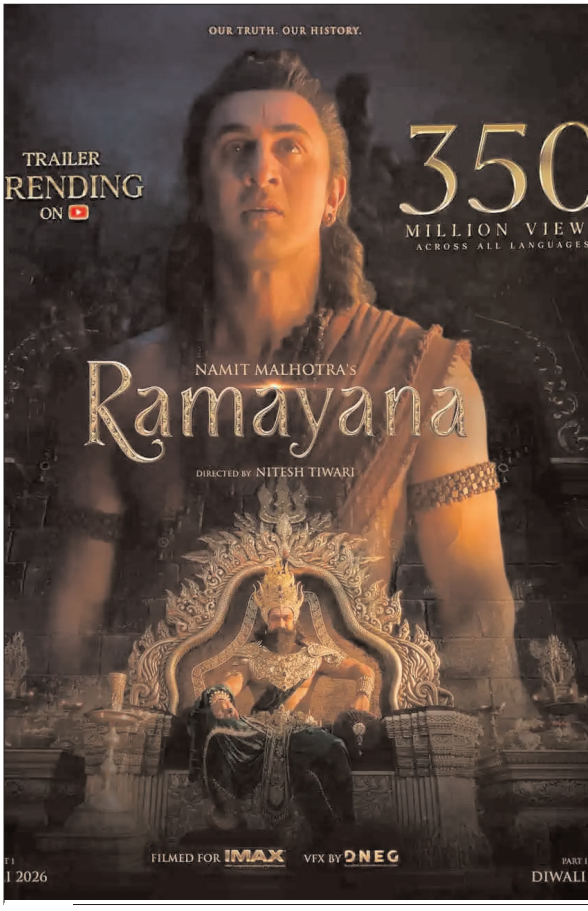
defining role alongside Bhagyashri Borse. The film also stars Sivaji, Sunil, Easwari Rao, Brahmaji, Getup Srinu, Ramki, Pramod Panju and several acclaimed actors in pivotal roles. Produced by Nagarjuna Akkineni and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under the banners of Manam Enterprises and Sithara Entertainments, the film boasts music by Thaman S., cinematography by Leon Britto and editing by Navin Nooli. Set in the heartland of rural Andhra Pradesh, **LENIN** tells the story of a fearless young man whose person-

al journey soon evolves into a larger battle against injustice. What begins as an emotional love story gradually unfolds into an intense conflict rooted in family bonds, power struggles and the unwavering determination to protect one's people. Blending action, emotion, romance, humour and strong commercial moments, the film delivers a complete cinematic experience that appeals to audiences across age groups. The film struck an instant chord with moviegoers upon its theatrical release. Akhil Akkineni's commanding

screen presence, Murali Kishor Abburu's rooted storytelling, Thaman S.'s powerful background score and the film's emotionally charged narrative received widespread appreciation. Packed with memorable elevations, gripping action episodes and heartfelt emotional moments, **LENIN** went on to become Akhil's highest-grossing film, firmly establishing itself as one of the standout Telugu blockbusters of the With an ever-growing library of blockbuster movies, acclaimed originals and beloved Telugu entertainment.



RAMAYANA TRAILER CLOCKS RECORD BREAKING VIEWS



Ranbir Kapoor's epic **Ramayana Part 1**, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, and produced jointly by Prime Focus Studios, DNEG, and Monster Mind Creations, is getting ready for its theatrical release during Diwali, this year. The film's trailer was unveiled a couple of days ago and shattered expectations by amassing 350 million+ views across its official digital platforms within just 48 hours, reflecting the unprecedented anticipation surrounding the epic. Ranbir Kapoor's composed and majestic portrayal of Lord Shri Ram has won unanimous praise, while Yash has made a powerful impact as the formidable Raavana. Sai Pallavi has

impressed audiences with her graceful embodiment of Sita, whereas Rakul Preet Singh's striking appearance as Surpanakha has generated immense curiosity about her role. Audiences across domestic and overseas have responded with overwhelming enthusiasm. The trailer has sparked massive conversations on social media, with viewers applauding its breathtaking visuals, larger-than-life storytelling, international-standard VFX, and emotionally charged background score. The phenomenal response to the trailer suggests that **Ramayana** is on course to script a historic box office run when it releases in theatres this Diwali.

KHUSHI KAPOOR TURNS EVERY LOOK INTO A POSTCARD



Khushi Kapoor, who's currently gearing up for the shoot of her upcoming film **Mom 2**, decided to take a well-deserved break in Italy before diving back into work. From the cobbled streets of Florence to the coastal charm of the Italian Riviera, she made the most of her getaway. Every stop on her trip came with a stunning outfit change, a red tweed co-

ord in Florence, a colourful printed kaftan mini by the harbour, a chic backless black dress for an evening out, and playful poolside and balcony looks featuring bikini tops, denim shorts, and a preppy navy tennis dress. With scenic Italian backdrops and an effortlessly stylish wardrobe, Khushi's vacation diaries are giving major travel-and-fashion inspiration before she gets back to shooting for **Mom 2**.

Ram Charan Unveils Hilariously Thrilling Trailer Of,Korean Kanakaraju



The promotional campaign for **Korean Kanakaraju** is picking up tremendous momentum ahead of its theatrical release. Starring Mega Prince Varun Tej in a never-before-seen avatar, the Merlapaka Gandhi

directorial promises a unique blend of supernatural thrills and rib-tickling comedy. Backed by UV Creations in association with First Frame Entertainment, the film has already generated strong buzz with its title glimpse, teaser, and two chartbuster songs. Taking the excitement several notches higher, Mega Power Star Ram Charan has now unveiled the film's theatrical trailer. The trailer opens on an intriguing note as Satya, his father, and Ritika Naik perform a Kshudra Puja to summon the mysterious Korean Kanakaraju. The narrative then shifts to a carefree youngster from Penukonda, who falls in love with a girl working at the Kia manufacturing plant. Just when life seems perfect, an unexpected twist changes everything. Possessed by the spirit of a dreaded Korean underworld don, the protagonist undergoes a startling transformation, setting the stage for a wildly entertaining ride.

Grand "Chennai Love Story" Rs. 50 Crore Blockbuster Celebrations Event



Starring Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya in the lead roles, **Chennai Love Story** has emerged as a major box office success, grossing over Rs. 50 crore with overwhelming

ing appreciation from audiences across all sections. The film has won widespread acclaim as a heart-touching emotional love story and has once again reaffirmed the strength of romantic

dramas in Telugu cinema. To celebrate this remarkable achievement, the makers hosted a grand Rs. 50 Crore Blockbuster Celebrations event in Hyderabad.

"Crazy Kalyanam" Teaser Launch By Director Nandini Reddy



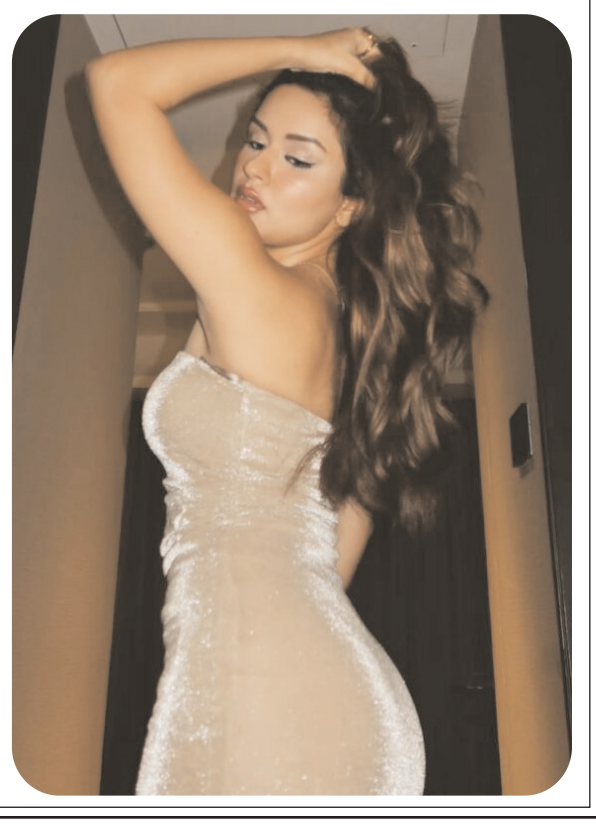
Crazy Kalyanam", starring VK Naresh, Anupama Parameswaran, Tarun Bhascker, and Raj Weds Rambai fame Akhil Uddemari in the lead

roles, is being produced by passionate producer Boosam Jagan Mohan Reddy under the Yaaro Cinemas banner as Production No. 2. The film is directed by

Badrappa Gajula. The teaser of the film was unveiled today by successful director Nandini Reddy in the presence of the cast and crew.

AVNEET KAUR SIZZLES IN SHIMMERING GOLD DRESS

Avneet Kaur is a name most people in Bollywood know without ever really being able to pin down her filmography. Starting out as a child actor on Indian television, she's since worked in Hindi films and web projects like Tiku Weds Sheru, Luv Ki Arrange Marriage, and the India-Vietnam collaboration Love in Vietnam, but none of them have gone on to become major box-office hits. Yet her popularity has barely taken a hit, she commands over 30 million followers on Instagram, and her latest pictures prove exactly why.



SARDAR 2 TEASER UNVEILED: SPY THRILLER PROMISES BIGGER ACTION, INTENSE THRILLS

Karthi's much-awaited spy action thriller **Sardar 2** is getting ready for its worldwide theatrical release on September 10, with Annapurna Studios bringing the movie for the Telugu audiences. Directed by PS Mithran and produced by S Lakshman Kumar under Prince Pictures, the movie features Karthi in dual roles as a father and son, and SJ Suryah playing the antagonist. The makers have now unveiled the film's gripping teaser, offering a glimpse into an espionage spectacle mounted on a much grander scale than its blockbuster predecessor. The sequel expands the world of **Sardar** with globe-

spanning action, intense conflict, and a gripping battle where the distinction between hero and villain is anything but straightforward. The teaser introduces an intriguing premise involving a father-son duo of spies locked in a dangerous confrontation with an adversary who firmly believes he is fighting for the right cause. Karthi delivers a spectacular performance, seamlessly shifting between the experienced, highly intelligent senior spy and the stylish, fearless younger agent. Both characters carry distinct personalities, adding depth to the action-packed narrative.

