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I am proud to be a dimagi naxal, says **Chidambaram**

1st Test: Padikkal, Rahul, Jurel carry India to 460/9 despite Sri Lanka's spin fightback

Galle, Aug 16 : Left-handed batter Devdutt Padikkal struck a commanding career-best score of 167 as India reached 460/9 in 116 overs on a rain-hit day two of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Sunday. Heavy showers in the morning wiped out the first session and a half, thus restricting play to only 43 overs. India capitalised on the time available by adding 172 runs even as Sri Lanka's spinners made inroads with the second new ball.

TRISHA KRISHNAN'S DIY GLAM BEATS ANY STYLIST



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

IL-06-2026
Total pilgrims : 78,956
Tonsures : 31,014
Hundi karukalu : 4.46 CR
Laddu sale : 4.0 Lac
Anna prasadam : 2.80 Lac
Aswin hospital : 3,211
Waiting Compartments : Outside line at Silathoranam.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) : 18 - 20 H.

Short Takes

Not Opposition: Rijiju explains who 'dimagi Naxals' are

New Delhi: Even as PM Narendra Modi's "dimagi Naxal" comment has been a hot topic, facing criticism from the Opposition ever since he used it in his Independence Day speech at the Red Fort, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju jumped to his defence on Sunday, August 16. Insisting that the PM did not refer to Opposition leaders when he used the term, Rijiju took to X and shared a list, claiming those were the kind of people Modi was actually pointing at in his address.

Bengal CM denies BJP role in attack on CJP volunteer, father

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari denied any role of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers in the attack on a Cockroach Janta Party volunteer that led to his father's death. Adhikari on Sunday, August 16, dismissed the allegations made by the CJP volunteer Shaik Abdul Hafeez and said that those named in the first information report (FIR) were criminals and would face stringent action. He said he was also the State Home Minister and it is his state's duty to maintain law and order. "I am also the home minister.

Israeli strike kills senior Hezbollah commander

Jerusalem, Aug 16 : An Israeli airstrike killed a senior commander in Hezbollah's Badr regional division in southern Lebanon, the Israeli military said Sunday. Lebanese media reported that at least four people were killed in the attack. The Israeli military said in a statement that Abu Hassan Alaa was killed late on Saturday in the strike on Deir al-Zahrani. It described the attack as "a response" to an earlier Hezbollah drone strike targeting Israeli troops in southern Lebanon that wounded three soldiers. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said Israeli warplanes struck a two-story building, killing at least four people and wounding five.

People's govt empowers women farmers and youth: CM Revanth



Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU :

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday asserted that the People's Government has emerged as a role model in the empowerment of women, farmers and youth through a series of welfare and development initiatives. Addressing the 'Praja Palana Pragathi Bata' public meeting at Parkal, the Chief Minister said his government was working with a clear focus on farmers' welfare, women's economic empowerment and employment opportunities for

youth. Highlighting measures for farmers, Revanth Reddy said that despite problems associated with the Kaleshwaram project, the government had taken steps to fill reservoirs and ensure adequate water for cultivation, enabling farmers to achieve bumper harvests.

He said the government had procured paddy and paid Rs.90,000 crore to farmers in 32 months. Rythu Bharosa, farm loan waiver and other initiatives were being implemented with the objective of strengthening the farming community.

"More than Rs.1 lakh crore has been spent on farmers in the last two-and-a-half years," he said, while also pointing to the bonus being paid for fine-variety paddy.

Turning to employment, the Chief Minister appealed to youth to focus on preparing for competitive examinations instead of being influenced by political propaganda.

"Filling vacancies is our responsibility and preparing for examinations is yours," Revanth Reddy said, announcing that the government would identify vacancies and undertake recruit-

ment every six months.

He said recruitment to 72,000 government jobs had already been completed and notifications had also been issued for police recruitment. The government had provided age relaxation keeping the interests of unemployed youth in mind, he added.

Revanth Reddy launched a sharp attack on the previous BRS government and said he was prepared to disclose facts and figures on who benefited during K. Chandrashekar Rao's tenure.

He alleged that BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao had driven his sister out of the family home to avoid distribution of family assets and accused KCR of remaining at his farmhouse "like Dhritarashtra" instead of correcting his son. Contrasting his government's approach, the Chief Minister said women were being honoured through the distribution of Indiramma sarees and economically strengthened through zero-interest loans.

He said his government had entrusted school uniform stitching to women's self-help groups and was encouraging women to operate solar power plants and petrol bunks.

Shah attacks Congress over Vande Mataram row

Chittorgarh, Aug 16 :

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday came down heavily on Congress and demanded an apology for "disrespecting" the national song Vande Mataram during Independence Day celebrations at the party headquarters. He stated the country would not forgive the Congress party for "committing the sin" of "stopping" the national song midway.

Addressing a gathering in Rajasthan's Chittorgarh, HM Shah mentioned the Independence Day celebrations of the Congress party at their headquarters, where the senior party leaders were seen interacting even as 'Vande Mataram' was being played and criticised the party for "disrespecting" the national song.

The BJP has claimed that Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi was objecting to the full version of Vande Mataram being played and stated that Gandhi had gestured to stop the national song. The Home Minister said that after 80 years of Independence, the full version of Vande Mataram was played across all the events



on August 15.

Slamming the Congress, Amit Shah said, "Congress forgot Vande Mataram... Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's immortal creation -- those two words of the song, Vande Mataram, meaning 'I bow to thee, Mother India' -- while chanting these words, thousands and lakhs of freedom fighters went to the gallows, faced bullets and lathis, and spent years in prison. However, for its vote bank politics, Congress forgot the Vande Mataram."

"Look at their (Congress) shamefulfulness. While Vande Mataram was being played at Congress headquarters, their leader, Sonia ji, asked the Congress President to stop the song. We all saw it on TV. After 80 years, when Bankim Babu's immortal song is being accorded respect, Sonia ji is not finding it to her liking. Sonia ji, 140 crore people are watching you.

Vijay announces Rs 30 lakh aid to constable's family

Chennai (TSIT) : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Sunday announced financial assistance of Rs 30 lakh to the family of a police constable who died after collapsing while on duty during the Independence Day parade at Fort St George.

The deceased was identified as A. Dharmaraj, 56, a Grade-I Police Constable serving with the band unit of the Tamil Nadu Special Police Regimental Centre in Avadi. Dharmaraj was deployed for ceremonial duty at the Independence Day celebrations held at Fort St George and reportedly collapsed suddenly while participating in the parade, prompting police personnel and officials at the venue to rush to his assistance. He was immediately taken to



the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai for emergency medical care. Doctors attempted to stabilise his condition and continued treatment, but he failed to respond and subsequently died at the hospital.

The incident cast a pall of gloom over the Police department, particularly among officers and personnel associated with the Tamil Nadu Special Police and its regimental band unit. Dharmaraj had been assigned an important cere-

monial responsibility during one of the state's most prominent official events.

Expressing deep sorrow over the constable's death, Vijay said Dharmaraj's passing was an irreparable loss not only to his family but also to the Tamil Nadu Police. He acknowledged the constable's service to the department and his commitment to duty during the Independence Day programme.

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to Dharmaraj's family members, relatives, friends and police colleagues. He said the state government stood with the bereaved family during the difficult period. Vijay directed the authorities concerned to provide Rs 30 lakh as financial relief to the constable's family.

Iran army warns Trump over Hormuz threats

Iran (TSIT) : Iranian army commander Major General Amir Hatami on Sunday, August 16, denounced United States President Donald Trump for his comments regarding the Strait of Hormuz, according to state-run Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

"Joking about such remarks is a major mistake, because this is Iran, and it has defenders who will break your legs," said Hatami. He said that the US military had "effectively been driven out" and was no longer allowed to enter the Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz or the Sea of Oman. The commander stated that US bases would not be permitted to return to their original status, as "Iran will never allow" that. On Friday, August 14, Trump had threatened that the US would take over Hormuz as its territory, after they "finish defeating Iran, which is being very badly defeated." State broadcaster IRIB reported that Iran has repeatedly announced a bounty for any citizen who kills or captures an American soldier.



X to make government takedown requests more transparent

New Delhi (TSIT) : Elon Musk has announced that social media platform X will make government requests to remove or restrict content more visible to users, as part of a broader effort to increase transparency around content moderation, recommendation algorithms and official intervention in online speech.

In a post on social media platform X, Musk said that any censorship required by governments is now clearly visible, signalling the platform's intention to provide users with greater insight into actions taken at the request of government authorities.

"Any censorship required by governments is now clearly visible," Musk mentioned.

Under the proposed changes, X users will be able to see when governments seek the removal of posts or request restrictions on accounts. The platform also plans to disclose details about the agencies making such requests and, where available, the



legal grounds or justification cited for the action. The move is part of Musk's wider push to make the platform's moderation and content-distribution systems more transparent.

Since acquiring X, formerly known as Twitter, Musk has repeatedly argued that users should have greater visibility into how online content is moderated and ranked.

According to a report by Crypto Briefing, X has complied with between 83 per cent and 98.8 per cent of government takedown requests under Musk's ownership, depending on the reporting period.

Rahul lauds youth for opposing Modi regime

New Delhi (TSIT) :

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday, August 16, said the courage with which India's youngsters have stood firm against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "violent regime" is commendable, as he lauded the girls who faced "misbehavior, verbal abuse and violence" at the hands of "BJP goons."

Gandhi shared on social media a video of his interaction with students who had protested last month seeking then education minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over the issue of paper leaks and faced alleged police excesses on July 20.

Gandhi heard the students' experiences of police "brutality" and "harassment" that followed after they raised their voice. The interaction between Gandhi and the students took place earlier this month. In a post in Hindi along with the video, Gandhi said, "The courage and resil-



ience with which India's youngsters have stood firm against Modi's violent regime, demanding accountability, is commendable." They raised their voice with peace, love and humour, the Leader of Opposition of the Lok Sabha said.

"I am proud of every single young person—especially the girls who faced the BJP goons' misbehaviour, verbal abuse and violence, even being forced to apologise to the prime minister," Gandhi said. But now, their voices cannot be silenced, he asserted. On August 22, "Chhatron ki Goonj," an event where he interacts with students, is arriving in Pune, and this time it will be exclusively for girls, Gandhi said.

Special Intensive Revision
 25th June, 2026 onwards

Election Commission of India is conducting *Special Intensive Revision* of Electoral Rolls from 25th June, 2026 onwards to include eligible citizens, and to ensure no ineligible citizen is included in the Electoral Rolls

Chief Electoral Officer Telangana

Check your name in the Draft Electoral Rolls Published on 17.08.2026.

If you don't find your name in the electoral rolls Contact: Booth Level Officer (BLO)/AERO/ERO

Period of filing Claims & Objections: 17.08.2026 to 16.09.2026

Publication of Final Electoral Rolls: 19-10-2026

Use Form-6
If you are completing 18 yrs. of age by 1st October, 2026, and not registered as a voter in any Assembly constituency. Apply with latest Photo, Age proof etc., & submit declaration form (New Enrollment)

Use Form-7
In case of Objections such as Dead Voters / Duplicate Voters etc., (Deletions)

Use Form-8
If you want to correct your detail, Mobile Number Update, Change of address / Voter ID card (Corrections)

Website: <https://voters.eci.gov.in> / <https://ecinet.eci.gov.in> / <https://www.eci.gov.in>

For more details contact: Booth Level Officer (BLO)/ AERO/ERO

For further details call **1950** 10.30am - 5pm. Toll Free

Your Vote -Your Responsibility. Update your details in the *ELECTORAL ROLLS* - Contribute to a robust voter list.

Congress PAC Reviews SIR
Organisational Issues at Gandhi Bhavan



Hyderabad, TSIT: The Congress Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting was held at Gandhi Bhavan on Sunday in the presence of AICC Telangana in-charge General Secretary Meenakshi Natarajan, with discussions focusing on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and key organisational matters. Meeting reviewed measures to strengthen coordination among party leaders and cadres during the electoral roll

revision process and stressed the need to ensure that eligible voters are not left out. Leaders also discussed ways to assist citizens during the revision exercise. The PAC reviewed the party's organisational preparedness, grassroots-level coordination and other important political issues. Among those who attended the meeting were former Nampally Assembly contestant Feroz Khan, former Karwan Assembly contestant

Osman Al-Hajri, former Khairatabad Assembly contestant P. Vijaya Reddy, Telangana Youth Congress president Haridhar, Telangana Mahila Congress president Usha Sree and Seva Dal president Iftikhar. Khairatabad District Congress Committee president Motha Rohit Mudhiraj said the meeting focused on strengthening the party machinery and ensuring effective coordination at the grassroots level.

Saraswati Shishu
Mandir gets a
technological makeover

Bhadradri Kothagudem (TSIT): Saraswati Shishu Mandir in Bhadrachalam is being developed with modern technological facilities to provide quality education, technical skills and moral values to tribal students. The school is being developed under the supervision of its president and social worker Pakala Durga



Prasad, with support from donors and NRIs. Speaking at a press conference on Sunday, Durga Prasad said free education and accommodation were being provided to 150 students from Classes 6 to 10. Digital classrooms, computer labs and other modern facilities are being introduced to provide education on par with corporate schools. He said digital classrooms were developed at a cost of Rs 60 lakh, while computer labs and a cowshed were set up at a cost of about Rs 1 crore. Pure cow milk and curd are also being provided to students.

Azharuddin hails smart ration
cards as digital PDS milestone



Hyderabad: Minorities Welfare and Public Enterprises Minister Mohammed Azharuddin said the introduction of Smart Ration Cards is a major step towards making Telangana's Public Distribution System (PDS) more transparent, efficient and beneficiary-friendly. Speaking at a Smart Ration Card distribution

programme at Komaram Bheem Adivasi Bhavan in Banjara Hills on Sunday, Azharuddin said the digitised cards would make ration-related services easier to access and help overcome difficulties associated with the old ration book system. He said the government was committed to ensuring food security and delivering welfare benefits

to every eligible family without unnecessary delays. He appreciated Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy for strengthening the PDS and expanding ration card coverage. Azharuddin also highlighted welfare measures including free bus travel for women, supply of fine rice and free electricity for eligible households. On housing, he said the government was identifying land near beneficiaries' existing residences to minimise disruption to their livelihoods. He urged parents to prioritise their children's education and make use of government schools and residential educational institutions. He assured that genuine concerns of minorities and other eligible beneficiaries would receive positive consideration from the government.

ATCs to equip rural youth with modern
skills: Vivek Venkataswamy



Mahabubnagar, August 16: Telangana Minister for Labour, Employment, Training, Factories, Mines and Geology G. Vivek Venkataswamy said the State Government was establishing Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) to provide modern technical training and better employment opportunities to youth in rural and remote areas. Laying the foundation

stone for an ATC at Pallamadi village in Chinnachintakunta mandal, the Minister said 119 ATCs were being established across Telangana at an estimated cost of Rs.4,000 crore. The existing 65 ITIs would also be upgraded into ATCs. The centres will offer training in electrical work, welding, electric vehicle maintenance, robotics, CNC machine

operation, modern agriculture and agro-processing. Trainees will receive a monthly stipend of Rs.2,000, he said. Vivek Venkataswamy urged youth to acquire emerging technical skills and foreign languages such as German and Japanese to access better employment opportunities abroad. He said the government would facilitate overseas employment for skilled youth and aimed to help at least 100 local youth secure opportunities in Germany. Devarakadra MLA Madhusudan Reddy said the ATC, sanctioned at a cost of Rs.43.4 crore, would provide training in six skill areas and help local youth secure jobs in upcoming industries.

Revanth Reddy's Sangareddy visit
was a setback: Chinta Prabhakar

Sangareddy, August 16: BRS Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over his recent visit to the constituency, alleging that an official government programme was conducted like a Congress party meeting. Prabhakar said the Chief Minister's failure to inform the local MLA about the programme reflected arrogance and amounted to an insult to the people of Sangareddy. He alleged that the government had not brought any major new project or scheme to the constituency since coming to power and had cancelled development works sanctioned during the previous BRS government. He said the Chief Minister's visit brought no fresh assurances or financial allocations for Sangareddy and accused the government of diverting attention from its failures through political criticism. Prabhakar also condemned the alleged preventive detention of student and youth leaders ahead of the visit, calling it



a violation of democratic rights. He alleged that farmers were facing difficulties over land acquisition and urged the government to protect their interests and continue development works in Sangareddy, Sadasivpet and surrounding areas. The BRS MLA said people were closely observing the government's performance and would respond in the next elections. He urged Revanth Reddy to focus on development and resolving public issues instead of political attacks.

Vigilance key to preventing cyber
crimes: Narayanpet SP

Narayanpet, August 16: Narayanpet District Superintendent of Police Dr. Vineet, IPS, urged people to remain alert and vigilant to prevent cyber crimes, particularly investment fraud, fake stock market schemes and APK-based malware attacks. The SP warned citizens against downloading APK files received through WhatsApp, Telegram and other social media platforms, as they could allow cyber criminals to gain control of mobile phones. He also advised people to avoid unknown websites and suspicious investment offers promising high returns. Dr. Vineet said common cyber frauds include investment and loan scams, UPI fraud, APK-based malware, fake websites and stock

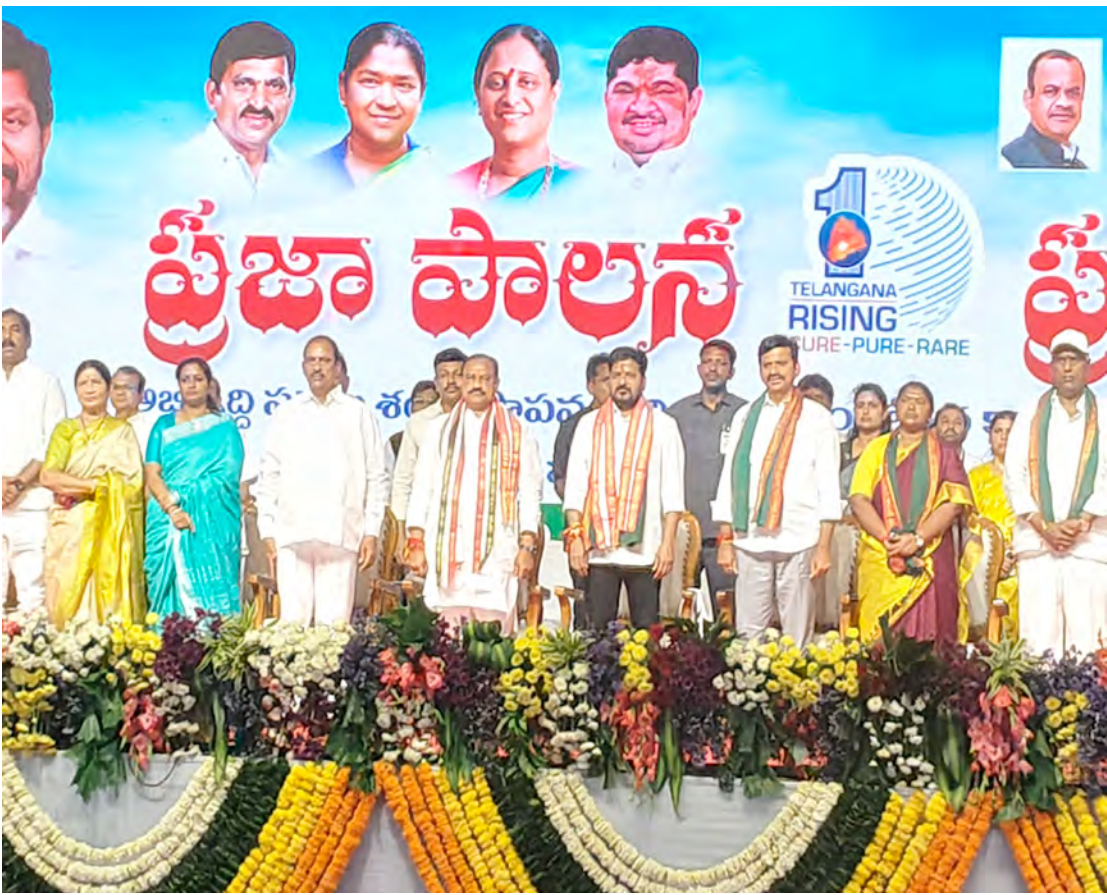


market fraud. He cautioned that fraudsters often display fake profits to lure victims and later prevent them from withdrawing their money. He urged anyone who becomes a victim of cyber fraud to immediately report the incident to the National Cyber Crime Helpline at 1930 or

through the official cyber crime reporting platform, stressing the importance of acting during the "golden hour" to improve chances of recovering the money. The SP directed police officials across the district to intensify public awareness programmes on cyber crime prevention.

Development Boons for Parkal on the
Path of Good Governance and Progress

Parkal, August 16 (TSIT): As part of the Praja Palana-Pragathi Bata programme, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy inaugurated and laid foundation stones for several development projects in Parkal Assembly constituency of Hanumakonda district. Addressing a public meeting on the occasion, the Chief Minister spoke on several key issues. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that the erstwhile Warangal region is the birthplace of several movements and that its people have a strong spirit of fighting for their rights. He assured that the government would extend all possible support for the development of Parkal constituency. The Chief Minister alleged that the previous government had burdened the state with huge debts and said that, despite paying interest on those loans, the present government was giving top priority to public welfare. Revanth Reddy stated that the Congress government was according the highest priority to farmers' welfare. He said that Rs.9,000 crore under the Rythu Bharosa scheme had been deposited into farmers' accounts within nine days. He recalled that the previous government had claimed that there would be no electricity if Congress came to power, but said that the present government was providing 24-hour power supply for agri-



culture and standing by farmers. He said the government had transformed the situation from the earlier perception that cultivating paddy would lead to losses into one where farmers could celebrate a good harvest. He also recalled that, apart from the Minimum Support Price for paddy, the government was providing an additional

Rs.500 bonus per quintal. The Chief Minister said the government was creating employment opportunities for women self-help group members and supporting initiatives such as the production of school uniforms for students. Criticising the previous BRS government, he said the Congress government was working in accordance with the aspirations of the people

of Telangana. Revoori Should Be Re-Elected with the Highest Majority in Parkal Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said he considers Parkal MLA Revoori Prakash Reddy as his brother. He said that the Congress had fielded Revoori Prakash Reddy as its candidate in the previous elections and played a key role in ensuring his victory.

Since then, efforts had been made to bring the necessary funds for the development of Parkal, he said. The Chief Minister announced that development works worth approximately Rs.400 crore had already been sanctioned or brought to Parkal constituency. He assured that his support for the development of Parkal would continue in the future as well. He appealed to the people to ensure the victory of Revoori Prakash Reddy with a huge majority in the upcoming elections. On the occasion, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also made strong remarks against former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and asserted that he would not hesitate to face any pressure when it came to working for the people. Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Panchayat Raj and Women & Child Welfare Minister Dhanasari Anasuya (Seethakka), SC/ST Welfare Minister Adluri Lakshman Kumar, Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavya, former combined district MLCs and MLAs, public representatives, Hanumakonda District Collector Dr. Chahat Bajpai, officials from the erstwhile Warangal district and officials from various departments participated in the programme.

Railways orders
action to ensure
safe drinking water



New Delhi: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, along with the CRB & CEO and senior officials, conducted a detailed review of drinking water quality following observations in the CAG report and ordered immediate corrective measures across the railway network. As part of the action plan, a new "Tank to Tap" water filtration and monitoring system will be installed at around 20,000 locations, including water coolers. Existing water tanks will also be replaced where required. The Railways has directed strict compliance with

regular water quality testing at source and outlet points, centralised monitoring and accountability, and scheduled cleaning and maintenance of storage tanks. The ministry said safe drinking water is a top priority and progress will be monitored directly at the Railway Board level. Water quality reports and progress updates will be published periodically to ensure transparency. The measures are part of a broader initiative to address observations raised by the CAG and improve the overall passenger experience

Coalition Government Following the Inspiration of Gauthu Latchanna: Ministers

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) The coalition government is carrying forward its administration inspired by the ideals and fighting spirit of Sardar Gauthu Latchanna, who dedicated his life to the rights and welfare of Backward Classes (BCs), farmers and workers, Ministers Savitha, Anagani Satya Prasad, Kollu Ravindra, Kollusu Parthasarathy and Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said. The State-level birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Gauthu Latchanna were held in a grand manner at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada on Sunday under the aegis of the BC Corporation. The Ministers paid floral tributes to Latchanna and recalled his contributions to the freedom movement and his lifelong struggle for social justice.

Minister Savitha said Latchanna's patriotism, public service and fighting spirit would continue to inspire future generations. She said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was working towards fulfilling Latchanna's vision of ensuring social, economic and political empower-



ment of BC communities. The government was giving priority to BC education by establishing BC residential schools across the State, she said. Minister Anagani Satya Prasad said Latchanna had undertaken several movements for the rights and welfare of BCs, farmers and workers. He said the coalition government was giving special importance to education and welfare programmes for BC communities.

Minister Kollu Ravindra said the government was according priority to BCs in all sectors, inspired by Latchanna's ideals. He said steps were being taken to strengthen the political representation of BCs in local bodies and a BC Protection Act would be brought in soon. He also said the government was extending support to BC youth through various welfare and development initiatives. Minister Kollusu Parthasarathy

called upon BC communities to remain united and cautioned against attempts to create divisions among them. He said the government's objective was not merely to provide welfare benefits but to ensure the comprehensive development and empowerment of BCs. Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu described Latchanna as a proud son of North Andhra and a champion of the weaker sections. He said Latchanna's lifelong strug-

gle for social justice and the rights of marginalised communities remained a guiding force for the present generation. The Minister said the coalition government was working in accordance with Latchanna's vision of providing BCs with a rightful place in social, economic and political spheres.

Cash Awards of Rs.25 Lakh Presented to 125 Students

Cash awards totalling Rs.25 lakh were presented to 125 meritorious students from the Gouda community who excelled in Class 10 and Intermediate examinations. The awards were presented under the aegis of the Anagani Satya Prasad Charitable Trust. The Ministers congratulated the students and encouraged them to make the best use of the opportunities available to them and strive for higher achievements. MLAs Gadde Ramamohan Rao and Kumar Varma, RTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, BC Welfare Department officials, corporation chairpersons and directors, representatives of BC welfare organisations and a large number of members of the Gouda community attended the programme.

Alert People About Elephant Movement Near Chandragiri: Pawan Kalyan



Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forests and Environment Pawan Kalyan has directed Forest Department officials to alert and reassure people in areas near Chandragiri following the movement of a herd of elephants near Erravaripalem in Tirupati district. He directed officials to continuously monitor the movement of the elephants and use drones to track their routes and provide timely information to people in nearby villages. He also called for increased night patrolling in villages bordering the forest areas. Pawan Kalyan held a teleconference with Forest Department officials after receiving reports that elephants from the Seshachalam forest area were moving in two groups and damaging crops in fields near the forest boundaries during the night. He directed the

Forest, Revenue and Police departments to work in coordination to prevent loss of life and property.

He instructed officials to create awareness among villagers not to venture into agricultural fields at night in vulnerable areas and to take all necessary precautionary measures. Alerts should be issued through public-address systems, mobile messages and local communication networks, he said. The deputy Chief minister also directed officials to deploy H.A.N.U.M.A.N. teams

wherever necessary and ensure that field-level staff remain alert round the clock. The situation should be reviewed regularly and preventive measures taken to ensure public safety. He appealed to people to remain vigilant and strictly follow the instructions issued by Forest Department officials. As elephants have been damaging crops, he assured that immediate compensation would be provided through the Forest Department once officials submit reports assessing the crop losses.

Hayathnagar librarian receives national best librarian award

Hayathnagar: Dr. Anandam Durgaprasad, Librarian at Government Degree College, Hayathnagar, has received the National Best Librarian Award-2026 for his contributions to modernising library services and promoting digital resources. He received the award at a programme organised by the Madras Library Association in Chennai in the presence of Education Minister Thiru Raja Mohan, Padma Shri awardee Kalyana Sundaram, University of Madras Vice-Chancellor Prof. Armstrong and Dravidian University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Doraswamy, among others. Dr. Durgaprasad has worked to make educational, employment and research resources more accessible through digital platforms. His "E-Library Telangana" blog provides information on education, jobs, competitive examinations and research. He



said the blog is accessed by readers in 146 countries and has recorded nearly 1.7 million views. The award recognises his efforts to integrate technology with library services and improve

access to information for students, job aspirants and researchers. Government Degree College Principal Dr. P. Suresh Babu and the college staff congratulated him on the achievement.

Kirtilals Unveils 'Sindooram' Bridal Jewellery Collection in Hyderabad



Hyderabad (TSIT) Kirtilals, a renowned natural diamond jewellery brand, has unveiled its exclusive bridal jewellery collection, 'Sindooram', at its Somajiguda store in Hyderabad. Inspired by the beauty of nature, the collection features exquisite motifs drawn from flowers, hibiscus blooms, peacocks and other natural elements, recreated through the craftsmanship of master artisans. The Sindooram collection brings together high-quality natural diamonds, precious metals and vibrant colour stones. Each piece reflects a distinctive interpretation of nature through intricate detailing, refined designs and exceptional craftsmanship. The collection combines the grandeur of traditional bridal jewellery with a contemporary aesthetic, making each piece suitable for the modern bride while retaining its timeless appeal.

The collection has also received recognition at the Retail Jeweller India Awards 2026, where Kirtilals' bridal jewellery was honoured with the prestigious 'Best Bridal Jewellery of the Year' award. The award-winning piece from the Sindooram collection is currently on display at the Somajiguda store. Speaking on the occasion, Suraj Shantakumar, Director - Business Strategy, Kirtilals, said that a bride's wedding day is one of the most special occasions of her life and the jewellery she wears should be equally distinctive. He said Sindooram was created by bringing together nature-inspired designs, master craftsmanship and the brilliance of natural diamonds, colour stones and precious metals. He added that flowers, hibiscus and peacock motifs have been interpreted through contemporary bridal designs, with every creation intended to become a cherished part of a bride's story and a treasured heirloom for generations. Brides-to-be and jewellery connoisseurs can now experience the Sindooram collection, including its award-winning creation.

Bangalore-Based Agastya Gurukulam CEO Ms. Yamini Dalal Explores Setting Up a Campus in Hyderabad



Hyderabad, August 2026: Ms. Yamini Dalal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bengaluru-based Agastya Gurukulam, is currently visiting Hyderabad as part of the organisation's efforts to establish a campus in the city. During her visit, Ms. Dalal is meeting with prominent scholars, academicians and experts in Sanskrit, Sanatana Dharma, Civilisational Studies and Indian Knowledge Systems to explore partnerships and garner local support for the proposed initiative. Agastya Gurukulam is recognised as the only

institution in the world offering a comprehensive Sanskrit-medium curriculum for children. The institution believes that introducing children to the Sanskrit language at an early age can enhance their intellectual abilities and contribute to the development of neural pathways. According to the organisation, Sanskrit-medium education not only connects children with the roots of their civilisation but also equips them to become future leaders of India in an era of rapid technological advancement and

global intellectual transformation. The proposed Hyderabad campus is expected to be of significant value to the city's growing community of parents and educators who are seeking an Indian educational approach rooted in Dharma, Indian civilisation and traditional knowledge systems. Further details regarding the campus location, admissions, academic programmes, timelines and other aspects of the proposed initiative are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Emotional Farewell to Visakhapatnam Airport; 'This Day Will Remain a Black Day in History': Vishnu Kumar Raju

Visakhapatnam TSIT: As scheduled commercial flight operations from Visakhapatnam Airport are set to shift to the newly inaugurated Bhogapuram International Airport, Visakhapatnam North MLA and BJP Floor Leader P. Vishnu Kumar Raju bid an emotional farewell to the airport, describing the day as a "black day in history." Vishnu Kumar Raju travelled from Visakhapatnam Airport to Vijayawada on an Air India Express flight on Sunday to attend the Andhra Pradesh Assembly sessions sched-



uled to begin in Vijayawada. MLAs Kuna Ravi Kumar, Eswar Rao, Vijay Chandrudu and

Mamidi Govinda Rao, along with MLC Greeshma, also travelled to Vijayawada.

Speaking at the airport, Vishnu Kumar Raju said it was unfortunate that commercial flight services were being shifted from Visakhapatnam Airport, which has a history spanning several decades. He said he would raise the issue in the Assembly and work towards ensuring that domestic flight services continue from Visakhapatnam Airport. He also expressed concern over the employment of ground-level and housekeeping staff working at the airport. He said he would discuss the matter with Visakhapatnam MP Sri Bharat and make

efforts to ensure that the employees do not face any difficulties in terms of employment. The MLA reiterated that he would make every effort to ensure that domestic flight operations continue from Visakhapatnam Airport in the future. Local airport employees expressed their appreciation for his support. Recalling the memories and emotional bond associated with Visakhapatnam's airport and its scenic coastline, Vishnu Kumar Raju bid farewell before departing for Vijayawada to attend the Assembly sessions.

Tata Power, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Expand EV Charging Network in Andhra Pradesh



Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Tata Power Company Limited, one of India's leading integrated power companies and a major EV charging solutions provider, in collaboration with Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Limited (TPEM), has inaugurated a new TATA.ev co-branded MegaCharger Hub at Retreat Resto in Kadapa. Strategically located along the Bengaluru-Kadapa highway corridor, the new charging hub will provide convenient and reliable charging facilities for electric vehicle users travelling towards Tirupati, Anantapur, Bengaluru and other destinations across the Rayalaseema region. The hub has a combined installed capacity of 180 kW, comprising a 120 kW DC ultra-fast charger and a 60 kW DC fast charger. The facility also has a four-bay parking layout, enabling EV users to access charging services conveniently during their inter-city jour-

neys. With the growing adoption of electric vehicles across Andhra Pradesh and South India, the availability of reliable charging infrastructure along major highways and in regional towns has become increasingly important. Kadapa serves as a key connectivity point between Bengaluru, Tirupati, Anantapur and several destinations in the Rayalaseema region, making the new facility strategically significant for EV users. The new MegaCharger Hub also marks the expansion of EV infrastructure beyond metropolitan cities, making sustainable mobility more accessible to customers in regional areas. The facility is expected to improve convenience and confidence among EV users undertaking long-distance and inter-city travel. Tata Power currently operates more than 6,700 public and captive EV charging

points, over 2 lakh home chargers and more than 1,200 bus charging points across 690+ cities and towns in India. Its charging network covers highways, airports, tourist destinations, malls, residential communities and commercial zones. The company aims to scale its network to 7.5 lakh home chargers and 10,000 public charging points by 2030, supporting the development of a nationwide green mobility ecosystem. The co-branded TATA.ev MegaCharger Hub at Kadapa is part of the rapidly expanding TATA.ev MegaCharger network, which currently has more than 800 MegaCharging points operational across major corridors and cities in India. Many of these charging hubs can be accessed through the Tata Power EZ Charge App, offering EV users a convenient and seamless charging experience.

EDITORIAL

Are Our Bureaucrats
Only Busy Putting
'Lipstick on a Pig'?

Having pledged her troth to one of the species, my spouse has scant respect for bureaucrats in general, a measured judgement that is hard to refute. A few days back, she forwarded a piece from The Wire by a civil servant titled “Where does loyalty end and complicity begin? A civil servant’s question” with the dismissive comment: “Another apologia by the mercenary, criminal class!” I was intrigued that a serving civil servant had finally plucked up the courage to confront the administration and say it like it is. Given the vengeful nature of the dispensation, I can understand the author writing under a pseudonym. A series of interrogations and reference to Pol Pot and Nazi Germany promised a devastating expose’ of this malevolent regime, but disappointingly, the piece is little more than a cry of anguish at the impotence of civil servants. An abject exercise in self-flagellation, the only direct criticism levelled is a tame, euphemistic assessment of the tyrannical authority as “ethically ambiguous.” Seeking to assuage the guilt of being a pusillanimous collaborator, the author’s argument for playing ball is this ridiculous, self-serving excuse: “If you remain within the system, you can do some good – the choice is between imperfect compromise and complete irrelevance.” Doing good by being zealous yes-men of the regime? Clearly, pragmatism and self-preservation are the better part of valour! So allow a former bureaucrat who believes that his pension is not hush money from the government, to meditate on the rot in the system.

THE ‘STEEL FRAME’ – A PAPER TIGER?
Considering how easily the bureaucracy capitulates to the political executive, one has the sneaking suspicion that the term “steel frame” to reference bureaucrats has been coined in mocking jest. However etymologically, the term has distinguished antecedents; it’s provenance can be traced back to British prime minister David Lloyd George who, in 1922, used the term to describe the Indian Civil Service (ICS) and its critical role in shoring up the colonial structure. Post-Independence, Sardar Patel repurposed the term to apply to the administrative services in the newly created nation. In his interaction with the first batch of IAS officers in 1947, the great man was unequivocal that civil servants were duty bound to express their views with assiduity and without fear, just as it was the moral responsibility of the political executive to create an environment that provided the freedom for civil servants to express their views fearlessly. Sadly, the rectitude, public spiritedness and courage demanded of civil servants by Sardar Patel has been almost completely absent in independent India. The Indian bureaucrat is renowned for wrapping himself in rules, procedures and red tape, fixated on process rather than delivery, thereby causing frustrating delays and stalemates in decision-making and citizens’ welfare. A den of mediocrity, the bureaucracy is notorious for protecting the status quo and stifling innovation. The sweeping assessment by scholars and critics is that bureaucrats, with their elitist, self-serving ways are a fetid hangover from the colonial era.

The Significance of the Prime Minister's
Message on the 80th Independence Day

SAURABH VARSHNEY

Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day is not merely a constitutional tradition; it is also an opportunity to present India's current trajectory and future aspirations to the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day—marked on August 15, 2026—was significant in this very context. The most profound message of the speech was the vision of the India of 2047, the year the nation will celebrate the centenary of its independence. The Prime Minister clearly stated that the resolve to transform India into a 'Developed India' by 2047 is not solely the government's mandate but the collective responsibility of all 1.4 billion citizens. The 80th Independence Day represents a significant milestone in itself. Eighty years of independence have passed, and the next major milestone facing the nation is 2047. This implies that the coming 21 years will determine the direction of India's future. Viewed in this context, the Prime Minister's speech was not merely a recounting of achievements but also an indication of development priorities for the next two decades. Most notably, the Prime Minister's address accorded special importance to the power of the youth. This is only natural. The India of 2047 will be shaped by the hard work, talent, innovation, and leadership of today's youth. The student of today will become the scientist, engineer, entrepreneur, farmer, soldier, teacher, doctor, administrator, and public representative of tomorrow. Therefore, the vision for 2047 cannot be realized without placing the current young generation at its core. The Prime Minister announced large-scale skill

development initiatives for the youth in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). He spoke of equipping ten million (one crore) young people with AI skills within a single year. Additionally, proposals were made to launch a free online coaching network for competitive examinations and a nationwide campaign to identify sporting talent among children aged five to fifteen. The significance of these announcements extends beyond immediate employment or training. The world is changing rapidly; in the future, the nation that leads in technology, knowledge, and innovation will forge ahead. India possesses a vast youth population. If this youth force is provided with modern education, skills, research opportunities, and avenues for growth, this very demographic can become India's greatest strength. Self-reliance was also a central theme in the Prime Minister's speech. Emphasis was placed on transforming India not merely into a vast market but into a global hub for production, technology, and innovation. Strengthening capabilities in manufacturing, semiconductors, energy, defense, and technology is part of this broader vision. In today's world, self-reliance does not imply isolation; rather, it means India becoming sufficiently capable in critical sectors so that it need not depend on others during times of crisis. Building domestic capacity in strategic areas—ranging from defense equipment to semiconductors and energy—is essential for both national security and economic strength. The Prime Minister outlined a target of achieving 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy capacity by 2047 and announced plans for five new nuclear reactors within this decade. This signals

that the vision of a 'Developed India' is not limited to roads, railways, infrastructure, and digital services; a robust and reliable energy system is also a fundamental prerequisite. Similarly, the emphasis on defense prowess was a significant aspect of the address. For any developed nation, a strong security apparatus is as essential as economic strength. Border security, self-reliance in defense production, and modern military technology will serve as vital pillars of national power in the coming years. The Prime Minister's address highlighted 'defense strength' as a key factor in the journey toward a developed India. However, a developed India cannot be defined solely by economic prosperity. A nation can truly be called developed only when the benefits of progress reach the last person in society. Education, healthcare, social security, employment, women's empowerment, and the upliftment of the poor are also crucial benchmarks of development. The expansion of social security by the government has also been highlighted as a significant achievement of this decade. Another key aspect of the Prime Minister's address was the vision of giving development a broad foundation through the 'seven streams of strength' (*Shakti ki Sapt Dhara*). This signifies that India's development cannot rely on any single sector alone; progress must be driven equally across all areas—from agriculture to industry, science to education, energy to defense, and involving everyone from women to the youth. A crucial question arises here: what exactly will the 'Developed India' of 2047 look like? Merely becoming a major global economy will not suffice. A developed India will be one where citi-

zens have access to quality education, the youth find opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship, farmers prosper through modern technology, women are economically and socially empowered, the gap in amenities between rural and urban areas is bridged, and public trust in the justice system and governance is strengthened. Therefore, the message of the Prime Minister's speech should not be viewed as limited merely to government schemes; it also emphasized civic participation. The Prime Minister linked this journey of development to the collective responsibility of the government, industry, farmers, the youth, and various sections of society. This is the most significant aspect of the speech. Nations are not built by governments alone. While a government can provide policy direction, resources, and institutional frameworks, the true progress of a nation stems from the hard work of its citizens. If the youth make hard work their mantra, industry embraces innovation, farmers adopt modern technology, teachers cultivate a scientific temper in the new generation, and citizens remain conscious of their duties, then the goal for 2047 becomes more attainable. However, announcing any major goal requires acknowledging the challenges that lie on the path to achieving it. India faces challenges such as unemployment, the need for quality education, regional disparities, agrarian distress, environmental pressures, urbanization, unequal access to healthcare, and a skills gap. Merely setting a goal will not create a 'Developed India' (Viksit Bharat). Translating that goal into reality requires policy continuity, transparency, accountability, and effective implementation.



79 YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE,
IS INDIA RECOLONISING ITSELF?

The prime minister's speech from the ramparts of the iconic Red Fort built by the Mughals was shorter than his earlier speeches. It was possibly the case because the recent youth movement has undercut Bharatiya Janata Party's triumphalism just a month back. The PM addressed the youth but not the challenges that the youth movement pointed to. He started with the slogan of 'Viksit Bharat' and ended with it. But the youth movement points to the impossibility of achieving it given the crisis in their lives. Why was the Indian youth still protesting on the eve of the 80th year after it attained political freedom to pursue what is good for it? During this time, many other nations that started their journey along with us have achieved far more. It can be said that India has faced far more complexity, not only due to internal diversity but also due to the rapidly changing global context that it has had to navigate during a time of unprecedented technical change and strategic shifts. India at Independence emerged from colonial disruption, entrenched feudalism, lack of experience of running a democracy, widespread poverty and illiteracy, lack of technological capability and under development in every sense. It also encompassed massive diversity – regional, linguistic, religious and economic – which it had no experience of managing. Eighty years later, much has changed but the challenges are no less. The model Challenges persist because the ruling elite emerging



from colonial rule was under the sway of western modernity and wanted to copy it rather than try an indigenous modernity as Gandhi suggested. It adopted a trickle down model which marginalised large sections of the population who were poor, illiterate and suffered ill health, but silently accepted the model in good faith. Transplanting a model which the West had evolved over a few centuries was fraught with difficulties for India with its very different starting point. The initial conditions in India in 1947 were vastly different from what Europe's conditions were when it started its modernisation. It was in the midst of the industrial revolution, the feudal hold on society was weakening and it was not weighed down by debilitating colonisation. In fact, colonisation enabled Europe's development through access to additional markets, extraction of capital from colonies and it exported its surplus labour to the United States of America and the colonies. India suffered

from a 'disadvantage of a late start'. India's adoption of an inappropriate model of development led to new challenges. While education, health, infrastructure, urbanisation, etc. improved, the gains have been largely cornered by the ruling elite, legally and illegally. The vast majority has lagged behind resulting in increased inequality in social, political and economic terms. This has been facilitated by growing elite capture of policies and the increasing non-accountability to people. To achieve this, the institutions of democracy have been hollowed out through subversion of elections, legislature, judiciary, police, bureaucracy, media and institutions of higher learning. Democracy? While maintaining form, democracy has been increasingly subverted. For instance, elections are manipulated so that only the representatives of the vested interests win, thereby marginalising the marginalised. They enter the legislatures through the democratic route of polling the largest number of votes – but

only after that they work to favour those who financed their elections. And, election victory is increasingly dependent on who can spend more, and of late, what can they offer to people – bribing the electorate to get its vote. The ruling elite that emerged from the national movement understood the plight of the poor and that they are not to blame for their predicament. So, it was accepted that the nation would have to help them modernise via education, health, work, etc. and that the government should play this role. However, elite capture of policies led to failure. For instance, all children were to be in school by 1965. But even today there is child labour and school dropout. ASER report points to the inability of 25% of children in the age group of 14 to 18 to do 2nd standard reading, over half to solve math problems and about 50% to understand English. They cannot do a modern day job. Effectively, a huge part of India's youth faces this problem because of poor standards of education.

How Indian Communists Built a Mass
Movement and Why the State Feared It

In March 1929, communist organisers and trade unionists were arrested across India and charged in what became the Meerut Conspiracy Case. The colonial government was not simply prosecuting individuals. It was attempting to break the networks through which communists had begun organising workers across factories, cities and trade unions. Nearly a century later, the state continues to use laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to prosecute political activity as a threat to national security. The legal framework is different, but the underlying question remains familiar: what happens when the state begins to treat political organisation itself as a form of threat? The answer can be found in the archives. Inside the Ajoy Bhawan Archives in New Delhi and the P.C. Joshi Archives at Jawaharlal Nehru University are hundreds of photographs, conference resolutions, party journals, courtroom records and sketches documenting the history of the communist movement in colonial India. Read individually, they appear to record familiar moments: a conspiracy trial, a strike, a peasant meeting, a cultural performance. Read together, they tell a different story. Rather than recounting the rise of the Communist Party of India through its leaders or ideological debates, they reveal how a small revolutionary current built the organisations



that transformed it into a mass movement of workers and peasants. Between the first communist groups formed in 1920 and the peasant uprisings of the late 1940s, Indian communists confronted a recurring challenge: how could a movement survive repression while continuing to expand? Colonial prosecutions, party bans and censorship repeatedly disrupted the organisation, but they also forced it to develop new forms of political work. Trade unions, peasant associations, cultural organisations and underground networks were not separate chapters in this history. They were successive responses to the practical problems of organising under colonial rule. The photographs and documents that follow trace that process: how a revolutionary organisation was built, how workers and peasants were organised, how the

movement survived illegality, and how it reproduced itself across workplaces, villages and cultural institutions. Making a revolutionary organisation The Communist Party of India did not emerge through a single founding moment but through a gradual process shaped by international revolutionary networks, colonial repression, and the slow work of institutional consolidation. The photograph captures the scale of the Second Congress of the Communist International in Petrograd in 1920, where delegates from across the world gathered to debate the future of revolutionary politics. Before a communist party existed inside India, its earliest organisers had already entered a transnational political network linking anti-colonial struggles to an international socialist movement. It was here that M.N. Roy argued that colo-

nial revolutions could not simply follow the trajectory of European socialism but had to develop through their own historical conditions. For Indian communists, the significance of the Comintern extended beyond ideological debate. It provided organisational connections, strategic coordination and an international framework through which a revolutionary movement could begin to take shape before it possessed a formal organisational structure within India. Colonial repression unexpectedly accelerated the public visibility of the communist movement. The Kanpur Conspiracy Case of 1924 brought four leading organisers to trial on charges of conspiring to deprive the King Emperor of sovereignty over British India. In the photograph, they stand formally dressed, looking directly into the camera.

Ashoka seeks judicial probe into Chamarajanagar encounter

Bengaluru : Opposition Leader R. Ashoka has demanded a judicial inquiry into the encounter of three persons in Chamarajanagar, calling it a sensitive matter and questioning whether it was truly necessary.

Speaking at a press conference, he said forest officials in Chamarajanagar opened fire and killed three persons. This is the first such incident in the Forest Department in the last ten years. If someone commits a mistake, they should be warned or arrested. But in this incident, they were shot directly in the chest. The bodies were taken to Mysuru even before the police could prepare the mahazar. The department has not disclosed the previous offences, if any, committed by these three persons who have been labelled as hunters. Those who opened fire should have surrendered to the police and given statements. There is a vast difference between what the people are saying and what the department officials are saying. Departmental inquiry will not bring a solution to this. A judicial inquiry is needed for the truth to come out. Until then, the officials responsible should not remain on duty, he insisted.

What was the need to open fire on the three persons in this incident? Proper information has not been given about what meat was present there or how many weapons there were. The three deceased could not have suddenly become hunters and opened fire. No one has



said that they have a history of crimes. Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy should have convened a meeting and taken action in this regard. But he has shown no interest even here. He should have responded immediately and examined the matter. The minister should immediately go to the spot and place the truth before the people. He demanded that it be clarified whether this encounter is genuine or fake, and whether it was necessary.

NICE Irregularities

I support what Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has said about NICE. Even when it was inaugurated during the tenure of J.H. Patel, I had boycotted it. The NICE organisation has looted the people in the name of toll. Although the agreement mentioned concrete roads and flyovers, it was not adhered to. The agreement was to collect toll for 30 years, but that period has already been crossed. Now the Congress government has joined hands with NICE and is giving them shelter. As per the court order, the toll should be removed. This will reduce the burden on the

people of Bengaluru. Since the entire government has joined hands with NICE, it will not implement it. A House Committee has given a report on NICE, and the government needs to implement it. Of the 130 km stretch, only 6 km of NICE road has been constructed. Since there is an express highway, there is no need for another road. The acquired land should be returned to the farmers. All this should be investigated by the CBI and the culprits identified, he demanded.

The Congress government should have suspended the toll on the very day the court order came. In the revised agreement, NICE has taken loans on the land without making any investment of its own. Only a CBI inquiry will reveal the loot that has taken place, he said. Our struggle in the House against Minister B. Nagendra, who committed irregularities in the Valmiki Corporation, will continue. It has been proved that this irregularity has taken place, and we will question the government as to why he was made a minister again, he stated.



When the power couple arrives, all eyes follow! Kichcha Sudeep & Priya Sudeep make a stylish appearance at Nalapad's wedding.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP FOR SOCIETY



Bengaluru : The website of the Environmental Andolana Seva Foundation was officially launched with the aim of creating awareness about the environment and further strengthening the work of nature conservation.

Renowned robotics expert B.N. Kishore Kumar opined that the foundation has started its journey with the resolve to increase environmental awareness in the society, conserve natural resources and build a green and sustain-

able future for the next generation. Speaking on the web portal, Dame Munni Iron from California, United States said that our future will be preserved only if nature is preserved, let us all join hands in this important campaign of environmental conservation. The founder of the Environmental Andolana Seva Foundation C Prakash, N Manjunath Rao, Dhanuja.P, Agni, Mr. Kishore Kumar and others were present at the program.

Basavaraj Bommai Demands Court-Monitored SIT Probe into Hanur Shootout Case

Bengaluru: Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai has urged the government to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the supervision of the court to conduct a comprehensive probe into the killing incident involving Forest Department personnel in Hanur Taluk, Chamarajanagar district.

Speaking to the media in Bengaluru, he stated that local residents are staging intense protests regarding this incident. Locals and the Forest Department are in continuous contact in forest areas. However, occurrences of such killing incidents and acts of intimidation are matters of deep concern.

There is a close relation-

ship between the Forest Department and local residents. Local guards and lower-level forest officers have information about every individual. Under such circumstances, firing at three persons from a very close range raises serious suspicions, he alleged.

Reasons Given are False:

The justifications and reasons provided by department officials are unbelievable and far from the truth. If an investigation into this case is conducted by lower-level officials, the truth will not come out. Therefore, an impartial and independent investigative agency must conduct the probe. The families of the



deceased are protesting for justice, and the government must immediately intervene to deliver justice. He urged the government to bring out the true facts behind the incident and take strict action against the guilty.

Suspension of Concerned Officials:

The government must immediately suspend all forest officials and staff involved in the incident or

guilty of negligence. Just as the government constitutes SITs for various other cases, a court-monitored independent SIT probe should be instituted for this incident as well, he demanded. Allegation of Cold-Blooded Murder: If the truth behind the incident does not come out, it will be perceived as a 'cold-blooded murder'. Therefore, an impartial investigation alone can bring out the truth. The government must wake up immediately, ensure justice for the victims, and initiate strict legal action against the guilty officials, Basavaraj Bommai urged.

Demand for Comprehensive Probe into NICE Project

Responding to a query

regarding the NICE project, he said that there are several lapses in the NICE project, and the government must conduct a comprehensive probe and take an appropriate decision. "Except for providing some convenience to Bengaluru through the road constructed under the NICE project, there have been complaints from the beginning about excessive toll collection from the public," he said.

Multiple petitions regarding irregularities and lapses in the NICE project have been filed in the High Court and the Supreme Court. A significant recent observation by the High Court has increased the seriousness of this matter.

80th Independence Day Celebrations at Alliance University and Group Institutions



Bengaluru: India's 80th Independence Day was celebrated at Alliance University and Alliance Impact Campus with the message of patriotism, service, discipline, unity and responsible citizenship.

The program began with the hoisting of the national flag and the national anthem at the Central Campus of Alliance University. The parade of teams

from NCC, NSS, security and sports departments, cultural programs and special performances were the main attractions of the program.

The chief guest of the program was Muralikant Petkar, a Padma Shri and Arjuna Awardee, and India's first Paralympic gold medalist. Vice Chancellor Dr. Priestly Shaun Boas and Registrar General

Smt. Surekha Shetty were present. Addressing the students, Muralikant Petkar shared his inspiring journey from his military career to Paralympic achievements and urged them to face any challenge with determination, hard work and confidence. On the occasion, he handed over the replica of his first Paralympic gold medal to Alliance University.

The program featured various performances including commando drill, firefighting drill, martial arts, taekwondo and bike drill by NCC cadets. Prizes were distributed to the NCC cadets who performed.

At the Alliance Impact Campus, Sub-Inspector Smt. Manjula T.S. of Suryanagar Police Station hoisted the national flag as the chief guest. Registrar General Smt. Surekha Shetty participated as the guest of honour.

Mangaluru: Three senior citizens trapped in hotel lift rescued

Mangaluru, Aug 16: Three senior citizens staying at a hotel in Attavar were rescued after being trapped in a lift for nearly an hour on Saturday morning. Fire and emergency services personnel rushed to the spot and safely brought them out.



The elderly individuals, who were on a tour, were staying in a room at the hotel. The incident took place when the three were heading down to the ground floor to check out and leave. Although the lift reached the ground floor, its doors jammed and failed to open.

Despite repeated attempts, the hotel staff

were unable to pry the doors open. Having been stuck inside for approximately an hour, the trapped senior citizens were left in a state of panic.

Following a distress call to the Pandeshwar fire station, the personnel promptly arrived at the scene. They forcefully opened the jammed doors and safely rescued the stranded guests.



On celebration of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's faith in India's youth and his vision of a modern and progressive nation thousands of participants joined the Congress Seva Dal's 'Run for Rajiv' 5K Marathon. The marathon was flagged off by Karnataka PCC President B.K. Hariprasad, Congress Seva Dal Chief Organiser Srinivas B.V., NSUI President Vinod Jakhar & Karnataka Minister Rizwan Arshad.

Jain Manava Trust aids 300 visually impaired persons



Bengaluru: Sri Jain Manava Trust distributed food and essential-item kits to 300 visually impaired persons at Maheshwari Bhavan in Okalipuram, Rajajinagar.

Trustee Shanthilal Jain

said the Trust has been supporting visually impaired persons and other needy sections of society through its social service initiatives for the past nine years.

He said the assistance is aimed at meeting daily needs and promoting the dignity and well-being of visually impaired persons. The Trust will continue such welfare activities as part of its commitment to community service

Kidney care moves beyond dialysis as medicine opens new hope

New Delhi, Aug 16: Every day, kidney specialists encounter two common questions from patients — "Doctor, I never knew my kidneys were failing," and "Doctor, is my life over now that I need dialysis?" The answer to both, experts say, is no. Kidney disease remains one of the few conditions where the seriousness of the illness exists alongside remarkable advances in treatment. The disease can remain silent for years, but modern medicine has progressed to the point where even patients once considered unsuitable for transplantation can now have another chance at life.

Kidney care today is no longer limited to dialysis. Prevention, advanced treatment techniques and transplantation are increasingly helping patients regain independence and improve their quality of life.

The kidneys work continuously, filtering nearly 180 litres of blood every day. Yet most people become aware of their importance only when kidney function begins to decline. A significant proportion of patients who eventually require dialysis develop kidney failure because of diabe-



tes or high blood pressure, both of which can often be controlled with proper treatment and lifestyle changes.

Regular physical activity, a balanced diet, reduced salt intake and good control of diabetes and blood pressure remain fundamental to kidney health. Avoiding unnecessary painkillers and undergoing routine health checks can also help prevent or detect kidney disease early.

A simple urine examination and a blood creatinine test can identify kidney problems years

before symptoms become apparent. No dialysis machine, however advanced, can replace the benefits of healthy kidneys protected through good lifestyle habits.

Dialysis as a bridge to life

For many patients, the word dialysis still evokes images of hospital beds, dependence and an uncertain future. However, modern dialysis has changed considerably and is increasingly focused not merely on survival but on helping patients maintain an active life. Many people undergoing dialysis continue to work,

travel, attend family functions and pursue their careers. Advances in treatment have helped transform dialysis from simply a life-saving intervention into a form of long-term supportive care that can allow patients to remain productive and independent.

Hemodiafiltration offers improved toxin removal

One of the significant developments in kidney care over the past decade has been hemodiafiltration, or HDF. Unlike conventional dialysis, HDF combines two purification techniques and can remove certain toxins more effectively. For appropriately selected patients, improved toxin clearance can potentially translate into less post-treatment fatigue, better blood pressure management, cardiovascular benefits, fewer complications and improved quality of life.

Peritoneal dialysis brings treatment home

Dialysis does not necessarily require patients to travel to a centre several times a week. Peritoneal dialysis uses the body's own abdominal membrane as a filtering surface and can be

performed at home.

Many patients undergo the treatment overnight while sleeping, allowing them to continue with work, education and family responsibilities during the day. The approach can be particularly useful for children, elderly patients, working professionals and those living far from dialysis centres.

For such patients, dialysis no longer necessarily means spending their lives within hospital walls.

Transplantation can restore independence

If dialysis is a bridge, kidney transplantation is often the preferred long-term destination for eligible patients. A successful transplant can provide greater independence, longer survival and an improved quality of life, while reducing the restrictions associated with dialysis.

One of the biggest changes in transplantation has been the expansion of options for patients who were previously told that a transplant was not possible. Blood group incompatibility no longer ends the discussion

Anbumani wants official caste lists in census to avoid confusion, writes to MPs

Proposing a solution, the PMK leader suggested integrating the existing Central and State caste lists directly into the digital census application’s software.

CHENNAI: PMK president and Rajya Sabha member Anbumani Ramadoss on Sunday urged MPs across all political parties to prevail upon the union government to revise the data collection method for the upcoming caste census.

He emphasised that enumerators should select castes from pre-loaded official lists rather than leaving text fields blank for open responses.

In a letter in English, Tamil and Hindi written to all Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members, the former Union minister highlighted alleged flaws in the reported methodology planned by the Registrar General of India (RGI) for the second phase of individual data collection starting this September.

Stating that reports indicate that the RGI plans to



leave the caste response column blank and record whatever name citizens provide, Ramadoss warned that this open-ended method would cause massive administrative confusion.

"Because people fre-

quently cite sub-castes rather than officially recognised caste categories, recording raw inputs would falsely inflate the number of castes and render the collected data unusable for social justice policies", he claimed.

Proposing a solution, the PMK leader suggested integrating the existing Central and State caste lists directly into the digital census application's software. "Enumerators could then select the appropriate caste from the dropdown list during household visits," he added.

He pointed out that this drop-down model was successfully used during state-level surveys in Bihar (2023) and Telangana (2024), yielding highly accurate and reliable demographic data. Calling on MPs to act swiftly before the enumeration begins on September 1, he stated that "failing to fix the data entry methodology now would permanently derail the accuracy of India's social justice calculations".

Heavy rains forecast for northern districts of TN from Monday

CHENNAI: As the feeble trough along and off the Tamil Nadu coast persists, IMD has forecast heavy rains over the northern districts of the state from Monday.The latest weather report from the Regional Meteorological Centre here on Saturday said that heavy rains are likely to occur at isolated places in Ch e n g a l p a t t u , Kanchipuram, Villupuram, and Tiruvannamalai districts from August 17 to August 19. On August 19, apart from the northern districts, Nilgiris will also receive heavy rain, the report further added.The weather agency also said that lightning with gusty winds reaching 40-50 km per hour is likely to occur over a few places in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal area. Fishermen were advised not to venture into the sea as squally weather with wind speeds of 40-50 km per hour is likely to prevail in some parts of the southwest Bay of Bengal.

Tamil Nadu seeks GI tags for 5 products including Kumbakonam degree coffee, Palamedu palkova

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has applied for Geographical Indication (GI) tags for five food and beverage products, including Kumbakonam degree coffee, as part of efforts to promote the State's unique agricultural and food products in domestic and international markets, said a Daily Thanthi report.

The applications were submitted by the Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Agri Export Promotion Corporation (TNAPEX) through the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology to the Geographical Indications Registry.Share love for nation by hoisting Tricolour, appeals TN BJP Nainar Nagenthran

Five traditional products on GI list

The five products for which GI tags have been



sought are Kodaikanal Panrimalai coffee from Dindigul district, Karamanikuppam karuvadu (dried fish) from Cuddalore, Kumbakonam degree coffee from Thanjavur, Nilgiri ghee and Palamedu palkova (milk sweet) from Madurai.

A GI tag is granted to products that have a distinct quality, reputation or other characteristic linked to a specific geographical area, region, city or locality.TNAPEX works to attract investments in food processing and agricultural exports and promote the export of agricul-

tural produce and value-added products. It also facilitates GI registration for traditional products unique to Tamil Nadu.

The State has already applied for GI tags for several other traditional products, including Chettinad kaimurukku and seedai, Ramanathapuram palm jaggery, Kovilpatti seeval and Ramanathapuram pattarai karuvadu.

A senior official from the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department said products with GI recognition generally gain greater visibility and demand in international markets, which could boost exports. The official added that obtaining GI tags for unique traditional products could help expand their export potential and improve the livelihoods of local communities involved in producing them.

Madurai: 52-year-old allegedly killed after police assault, RDO launches probe

MADURAI: The RDO has launched an inquiry into the alleged assault of a man by police personnel at the Chinthamani police station, said Madurai City Police Commissioner S Rajendran on Sunday (August 16).

Ayyammal had alleged that her husband Paramasivam (52) was assaulted by police personnel at the station on July 19 after they were taken in connection with a complaint filed by their neighbour.She claimed that Paramasivam sustained a head injury in

the alleged police assault and that the police subsequently threatened the family.The Commissioner said action would be taken based on the inquiry report.

He said Valakrishnan of Mel Anuppanadi had initially lodged a complaint against his neighbour, Paramasivam, following a dispute over parking of an a u t o r i c k s h a w . Paramasivam also lodged a complaint against Valakrishnan, following which the police registered an FIR and conducted an investigation.

Udhayanidhi slams TVK govt over growing trend of arresting political rivals

CHENNAI: Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin on Sunday (August 16) slammed the TVK government over the growing trend of arrests targeting political rivals, "peaceful" protesters, and youth activists. Addressing a meeting of DMK's legal wing, he also termed the administration's actions "fascist" and accused authorities of detaining individuals over speech and social media posts.

Share love for nation by hoisting Tricolour, appeals TN BJP Nainar Nagenthran



"If you speak, there is an arrest. If you post on social media, there is an arrest. This government is functioning like a fascist regime because of its deep

sense of insecurity. It is as if they wake up every morning with a schedule and a timetable of whom to arrest next," Udhayanidhi alleged. On his recent

arrest, he said, "When the police arrived at my doorstep at 8 am, I was reading the newspaper. I thought they were arresting me for calling out this incompetent government, but they had no real answers. Our legal team moved with lightning speed at the Madras High Court to ensure justice was served."

The former Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister was arrested on August 4 for his alleged "d o u b l e - m e a n i n g" remark alluding to popular actor Trisha and insulting her modesty.

TVK Minister N Anand urges public to join Rs 500-crore water body restoration drive

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government will launch a massive water body restoration programme across the State from Monday (August 17), ahead of the Northeast Monsoon expected to begin in October, according to a Maalaimalar report.

The initiative, aimed at strengthening rural water resources and preventing flood damage, will cover 10,185 inlet canals and 809 water bodies, including lakes, ponds and ooranis. The works are being undertaken under the 'Viksit Bharat' rural employment

guarantee and livelihood scheme, following directions from Chief Minister Vijay. With an allocation of Rs 500 crore, the programme will focus on removing accumulated silt and debris from water bodies and restoring inlet channels to ensure the smooth flow of rainwater.Call for public participation in Tamil Nadu water body restorationThe government has urged Ministers, MLAs, local body representatives, villagers, volunteers and the general public to actively participate in the restoration drive.

NFHS-6: Nearly half of Goa's adults overweight as Diabetes rates rise

Margao: Nearly half of Goa's adult population is overweight or obese, while diabetes and hypertension have emerged as major health concerns, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) 2023-24. The findings point to a growing burden of lifestyle-related diseases in the coastal State, even as Goa continues to perform strongly on several maternal and child health indicators.

The survey, released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, found that 43.6 per cent of men and 45.1 per cent of women in Goa have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 kg/m² or above, placing them in the overweight or obese category. The figures are considerably higher than the national averages of 27.3 per cent among men and 30.7 per cent among women.

The latest data also show a significant increase compared with the previous NFHS-5 survey conducted in 2019-21. At that time, 32.6 per cent of men and 36.1 per cent of women in Goa were classified as overweight or obese. The increase highlights the growing prevalence of obesity and the associated risks of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and other non-communicable illnesses.

Diabetes-related indicators have also emerged as a serious concern. The survey found that 32.1 per cent of men and 27.5 per cent of women in Goa either had elevated blood sugar levels or were taking medication to control diabetes. These proportions are substantially higher than the national averages of 20.9 per cent among men and 17.8 per cent among women.

Goa recorded the highest prevalence of elevated blood sugar among men in the country, narrowly ahead of Kerala. Compared with the previous survey, the proportion of men with high blood sugar increased by around eight percentage points, while



the corresponding figure for women rose by nearly seven percentage points. The trend underlines the need for greater focus on prevention, early diagnosis, regular screening and lifestyle modification.Hypertension was another major health concern highlighted by the survey. Around 27.5 per cent of men and 26.2 per cent of women in Goa either had elevated blood pressure or were taking medication for the condition. Both figures were higher than the respective national averages, indicating a substantial burden of high blood pressure among the State's adult population.

The survey also recorded a high prevalence of caesarean deliveries in Goa. As many as 46.2 per cent of births in the State took place through C-section procedures, compared with the national average of 27.2 per cent. The proportion was particularly high in private healthcare facilities, where 69.7 per cent of deliveries were reported to be through caesare-

an section.

Despite the concerns over lifestyle diseases and rising C-section rates, Goa continued to perform well on several maternal and child health indicators. Institutional deliveries remained exceptionally high at 99.6 per cent. The survey also found that 92.1 per cent of mothers underwent antenatal check-ups during the first trimester of pregnancy, indicating strong access to maternal healthcare services.

Child immunisation coverage also showed improvement. Full vaccination coverage among children aged between 12 and 23 months increased to 93.8 per cent. At the same time, child nutrition indicators recorded encouraging progress. The proportion of children under five years who were stunted declined substantially, from 25.8 per cent in NFHS-5 to 19.4 per cent in NFHS-6.

The findings also point to significant demographic changes in Goa. People aged 60 years and

above now account for 17.2 per cent of the State's population, compared with 14.2 per cent in the previous survey. The growing share of senior citizens reflects Goa's ageing population and is likely to increase demand for geriatric care, chronic disease management and other age-related health services.

On social indicators, the survey reported an increase in the proportion of ever-married women who reported experiencing spousal violence. The figure rose to 11.3 per cent from 8.3 per cent recorded in the previous survey, highlighting the need for continued efforts to strengthen awareness, support services and protection mechanisms for women.

At the same time, alcohol consumption among men declined considerably. The proportion of men reporting alcohol use fell from 36.8 per cent in the previous survey to 22.4 per cent, indicating a notable change in consumption patterns.

Goa's total fertility rate was recorded at 1.6 children per woman, remaining below the replacement level of 2.1. The figure reflects the State's changing demographic profile, marked by lower fertility and a steadily ageing population.

Overall, the NFHS-6 findings present a mixed picture of Goa's health and social development. While the State has achieved high levels of institutional deliveries, antenatal care and child immunisation, the rapid rise in overweight and obesity, diabetes and hypertension poses a growing public health challenge. The findings underline the importance of preventive healthcare, healthier lifestyles, regular screening and stronger management of non-communicable diseases alongside continued investment in maternal, child and elderly healthcare.

Teen's stroke leads doctors to rare heart tumour hidden for years



Kolkata, : What initially appeared to be a routine stroke case in an 18-year-old boy turned into a rare medical discovery after doctors in Kolkata found a large tumour in his heart that had silently triggered the neurological emergency. The teenager, identified as Rehan (name changed), was rushed to hospital after suddenly developing weakness on the right side of his body and difficulty speaking. Initial brain scans revealed a blockage in the left middle cerebral artery, indicating an acute stroke.

However, further investigations led doctors to an unexpected source of the problem — a nearly 6 cm tumour lodged in the left atrium of the heart near the mitral valve.

Doctors diagnosed the growth as a left atrial myxoma, a rare non-cancerous heart tumour. Medical experts said small fragments from the tumour had broken off and travelled through the bloodstream before blocking blood flow to the brain, causing the stroke.

A team led by Dr Atanu Saha, Senior Consultant in Cardiac Surgery at Narayana RN Tagore Hospital, Mukundapur, performed a complex five-hour surgery to remove the tumour.

According to Dr Saha, the tumour's location made the procedure particularly challenging, as any fragmentation during surgery could have caused additional blockages else-

where in the body.

Following surgery, the teenager underwent neuro-rehabilitation and gradually regained his speech and movement before being discharged from hospital nearly two weeks later.

Doctors noted that cardiac myxomas account for nearly half of all primary benign heart tumours but remain extremely rare, with most cases occurring in people aged between 40 and 60 years. Cases involving adolescents are considered highly unusual.

Medical experts said the absence of warning signs made diagnosis especially difficult in this case. The teenager had no history of heart disease and displayed none of the typical symptoms associated with cardiac conditions before suffering the stroke.

Hospital officials highlighted the importance of advanced imaging and multidisciplinary care in identifying the hidden cause and ensuring timely treatment.

Doctors also said the case underlines the growing need to thoroughly investigate stroke symptoms in younger patients, as uncommon conditions such as heart tumours can sometimes be the underlying cause. The teenager has since returned home and is continuing his recovery. According to his family, he is now preparing for his board examinations and hopes to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor.

India's Oil Import Bill May Rise \$5-10 Billion If Russian Crude Supply Falls 50%: Economist Santosh Mehrotra

India's annual oil import bill could rise by \$5-10 billion if the country cuts its purchases of Russian crude by 50%, economist and former UN advisor Santosh Mehrotra, warning that the move could also fuel inflation and put pressure on the rupee and current account deficit. Santosh Mehrotra said India's dependence on Russian crude, along with the discounts offered by Moscow, has helped keep the country's oil import costs in check. "In today's date, we have to keep in mind that our dependence on Russia is about 50 per cent for the oil supply," Mehrotra said in an interview with ANI. He said replacing a significant portion of discounted Russian crude with supplies from other sources could substantially increase India's import bill. "If we have to reduce our purchases from Russia by 50 per cent, then it will have an impact on the oil import bill of 5-10 billion



dollars for the entire year," he said. Mehrotra estimated that such a reduction could increase inflation by around 0.3 percentage point. The economist also flagged risks to the rupee and India's current account deficit as the country could be forced to pay more for crude from alternative suppliers. India's CAD has remained around 0.6-0.7% of GDP in recent years, he said, providing support to the economy. A disruption to Russian oil supplies in global markets could have a wider impact by pushing crude prices higher,

Mehrotra said, with potential consequences for fuel prices and inflation in both India and the US. On India's trade negotiations with the US, Mehrotra urged New Delhi to negotiate cautiously and use its leverage rather than rush into an agreement. He pointed to a proposed US measure that could impose tariffs of up to 100% on major buyers of Russian energy, including India, but stressed that the measure has not yet taken effect and could provide room for exemptions. "It has not been implemented yet.

US Fed Minutes, FPI Inflows, Crude Oil Prices, US-Iran Conflict To Drive Sensex, Nifty

The week ahead promises intense action on D-Street packed with domestic events, primary market buzz, corporate action, and some major global cues, which will keep investors busy as Indian markets navigates with caution amid new geopolitical tensions. The last leg of April-June quarter results declared the previous week will drive stock-specific action, while the US Federal Reserve policy minutes and macroeconomic data will be analysed for sector-specific trade movement. New announcements on US tariff rates and progress on India-US trade deal negotiations are likely to influence movement in the domestic market this week. The US-Iran geopolitical conflict and Middle East developments will continue to impact the movement of global crude oil prices. Trading activity of foreign investors would also influence the overall market



trend. "Looking ahead, investors will closely track crude, geopolitical developments, US retail sales, FOMC minutes and Chinese economic data for further cues on global growth and the US Fed's policy outlook," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd. Domestically, better-than-

expected corporate earnings, stability in rupee, moderation in the 10-year bond yield and improvement in FII participation provided support to the macro environment despite external headwinds," said Nair. Markets on Home Turf Domestic equity benchmarks retreated last week after two consecutive weekly gains, as

lingering uncertainty in the Middle East and elevated crude oil prices tempered risk appetite for stocks in the world's third-largest crude importer. The Nifty 50 benchmark fell 0.8% last week to 24,366 and the BSE Sensex lost 0.6% to 78,009.25. On Friday, they ended little changed. "Investor attention in the

coming week is likely to remain firmly focused on developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and the broader US-Iran standoff. Investor focus will also turn to the release of the minutes from the US Federal Reserve's July policy meeting on August 19," said Ponmudi R, CEO - Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm. US Fed Policy Minutes A key trigger for domestic equities will be the release of the minutes of the US Federal Open Market Committee's July 28-29 meeting on August 19. The minutes are likely to provide greater clarity on the debate within the US central bank after policymakers voted 9-3 to keep the federal funds rate unchanged at 3.50%-3.75%. US-Iran Conflict, Crude Oil Prices Geopolitical developments surrounding the US-Iran conflict will remain another major focus for markets.

Trends, India's largest fashion destination now opens in guntakal



Guntakal, 2026: India's largest and fastest growing apparel and accessories specialty chain of Reliance Retail, TRENDS, announced the launch of its new Store in Guntakal town of Anantapur district in the state of Andhra Pradesh Trends is truly democratizing fashion in India, by strengthening its reach & connect with consumers in India – right from

Metros, mini metros, to Tier 1, 2 towns and beyond & is India's favorite fashion shopping destination. The Trends store at Guntakal, Railway Station Road, VV Nagar boasts of modern looks and ambience featuring an exciting range of good quality and fashion merchandise that is relevant to the consumers of the region and at prices that are affordable and seen as high value for money.

WHY TECH BOSSES KEEP SHARING THEIR MANIFESTOS ABOUT AI

This past week, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg published a 6,500 word open letter entitled "The Future is for Everyone". To some, it's an expression of hope in AI's promise. To others, it's little more than a verbose public relations exercise. Zuckerberg's manifesto is the latest example of a tech boss opining on why AI is the next big thing. His vision echoes what AI leaders have expressed in various forms: the product they are building is among the "most important technologies in history." Marc Andreessen, co-founder of early web titan Netscape, perhaps started this trend in 2023 with a 5,000-word essay he called "The Techno-Optimist Manifesto", which argued innovation was the way to solve life's problems. "So they're writing manifestos now?," I remember thinking to myself. Andreessen's writing began with him recounting lies he claimed people were spreading, and called for readers to push back against this. "We believe growth is progress – leading to vitality, expansion of life, increasing knowledge, higher well being," he wrote. Zuckerberg's recent essay doesn't name names - but the Meta boss mimics Andreessen by questioning those who have warned about the negatives of future



tech. "It is surprising that the discourse from many developing AI is so filled with doom," he writes. As the International Monetary Fund (IMF) warns AI could affect nearly 40% of jobs and worsen global financial inequality, Zuckerberg says he believes there will be an abundance of jobs in the future. "I do not understand why anyone who believes that AI will eliminate most jobs and much of humanity's relevance would rush to build that future." Never mind that Zuckerberg's Meta has cut 10% of its global workforce - about 8,000 jobs - as the company reorganizes to focus on AI. Zuckerberg's manifesto is the latest to land in our social media feeds in an effort to put a positive spin on AI. In 2024, ChatGPT-maker OpenAI boss Sam Altman released a manifesto called "The Intelligence Age", a sweeping expression of

optimism about the tech's potential. Human progress was poised to accelerate in dramatic fashion, he promised. "We need to act wisely but with conviction," he said. That same year, in a manifesto titled "Machines of Loving Grace", Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei touted the potential of AI to transform everything from healthcare to politics. He framed it as an attempt to share the potential upsides of AI - and he didn't want to be seen as a doomer. Zuckerberg is no stranger to the long-winded essay format. During US President Donald Trump's first administration, he even wrote about thorny topics such as the spread of misinformation on his platforms. He later put pen to paper to explain the company's ill-fated pivot to the metaverse in 2021. But the stakes are higher in the AI era, argues economics blogger Noah

Smith, and the commentary from executives reflects that. "I think they all feel like it's such an important moment that it's incumbent upon them to do whatever they can to shape the direction that this technology is going," Smith said. Zuckerberg's new manifesto announced plans to share its artificial intelligence tools more openly, meaning that the design or code behind the tech will be made public, allowing anyone to view, use and change it. Decisions about whether these tools should be open source carry significant weight given their potential to do harm. In recent weeks, several highly powerful AI models hacked into websites, or as some put it, "went rogue". These were the most powerful models, not the ones being made open source - but as the technology develops, it has raised a serious question for Smith. "Should we open-source something that has the ability to kill humanity?" he asked. "If you don't take that seriously, you're just a fool." It's why he thinks these manifestos are important, even if some online poke fun at them. And they're gaining additional interest at a time when the open source market is dominated by Chinese AI models like Qwen, DeepSeek and GLM.

SVIS Scores Triple Success, Qualifies Three Teams for CBSE National Volleyball Championship



Thirupati, August 2026: Sri Vidyanikethan International School (SVIS), Thirupati, founded by Dr. M. Mohan Babu, renowned actor, educationist, and Founder-Chairman of the Sri Vidyanikethan Educational Trust, has achieved a remarkable milestone by qualifying three volleyball teams for the CBSE National Volleyball Championship. Following their championship-winning performances at the Andhra Pradesh-Telangana Zone (CBSE Cluster VII), the U-17 Boys, U-19 Boys, and U-19 Girls teams will now represent the Andhra Pradesh-Telangana Cluster at the national championship. The CBSE Cluster VII Volleyball Championship was held across two venues, with the U-17 Boys and U-19 Boys competitions hosted in Gadwal,

while the U-19 Girls competition took place in Anantapur. The tournament brought together leading CBSE schools from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with teams competing for a place at the national championship. Guided by Dr. Suman, Director of Physical Education, and Head Coach Mr. Ajit, the three SVIS volleyball teams displayed exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the tournament, earning qualification for the prestigious CBSE National Championships. The SVIS Boys Volleyball Teams will compete in the CBSE National Boys Volleyball Championship, to be held in October at Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. The SVIS Girls Volleyball Team has qualified for the CBSE National Girls Volleyball Championship.

2,000 Jawa, Yezdi and BSA riders unite to celebrate India's 80th Independence Day



August 16, 2026: Marking India's 80th Independence, Jawa, Yezdi and BSA riders participated in rides across the country under the Nomads banner. The initiative celebrated the spirit of freedom that lies at the heart of motorcycling. The Independence Day ride brought together over 2,000 riders through 150 dealerships, representing diverse backgrounds,

age groups and riding styles. This initiative reflected the spirit of camaraderie and shared passion that continues to connect riders across the Jawa, Yezdi and BSA Komuniti. Nomads serve as a shared identity for Jawa, Yezdi and BSA riders, transcending brands, regions and generations. Built by riders and shaped by shared experiences, it



embodies the inclusiveness and joy of riding with one's tribe. Recently, Classic Legends partnered with the Indian Armed Forces for the Shaurya Vijay Yatra, paying tribute to the courage, service and sacrifice of the Indian soldiers. The Independence Day ride echoed that same spirit of national pride, offering riders an opportunity to celebrate the free-

dom that define both the nation and motorcycling. Anupam Thareja, Co-founder, Classic Legends, said, "At the heart of motorcycling lies the freedom to choose your own road and the joy of sharing that journey with others. Independence Day is a reminder of the values that make freedom possible and the sacrifices that continue to protect it.

Tukaram Mundhe's FDA Sends Notices To SRK, Ajay Devgn, Tiger Shroff Over Vimal Elaichi Ad

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA), headed by Tukaram Mundhe, has issued show-cause notices to Bollywood actors Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn, and Tiger Shroff for their appearance in the controversial 'Vimal Elaichi' advertising campaign. The regulatory body alleges that the commercials act as surrogate advertising for Vimal Pan Masala, a gutkha and tobacco product that is strictly prohibited for manufacture, storage, and sale in the state of Maharashtra. According to the FDA, the presentation, product name, and market context of elaichi (cardamom) ads create a direct association with the banned pan masala brand. The regulatory body has invoked the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act of 2006, which penalizes misleading food advertisements and those who act as a "party to the publication" of such promotions. The actors have been warned to submit a written explanation within 15 days detailing why legal action should not be initiated against them. The actors have been asked to officially



explain their participation in the campaign and clarify how their endorsement does not constitute the indirect promotion of a prohibited substance. The notices were delivered to Shah Rukh Khan's Bandra residence (Mannat), Ajay Devgn's Juhu home, and Tiger Shroff's production house. Mundhe, who currently serves as the Commissioner of Maharashtra FDA, is leading a massive crackdown against

food and drug adulteration in the state. "Upon examination of the said advertisement, it prima facie appears that the advertisement promotes the VIMAL brand, which is mainly associated with Pan Masala, a product prohibited for manufacture, storage, transportation, distribution and sale in the State of Maharashtra," Mundhe said in a nine-page notice, which was accessed by NDTV. He said the expression, 'VIMAL

Elaichi', in the advertisement has been used in a way which "appears to create an association with the VIMAL Pan Masala brand". Mundhe also demanded full copies of their endorsement agreements, campaign briefs, payment arrangements, and proof of due diligence. Under the cited consumer protection laws, misleading endorsements can attract penalties ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 lakh, and the endorsers can be banned from endorsing any products for up to three years. The three actors are now required to submit their responses to the FDA regarding their involvement, according to FDA's latest notice. "If the use of the 'VIMAL' brand under the name of Elaichi or a similar product is intended to maintain, reinforce or enhance the brand identity and consumer attraction associated with Pan Masala/tobacco related products, such communication may not merely constitute an advertisement for an independent product, but may amount to indirect or surrogate promotion of a prohibited/restricted product," said Mundhe in the notice.

MOROCCO DETAINS
DOZENS OF MIGRANTS
TRYING TO CROSS INTO
CEUTA, REPORTS SAY



Moroccan authorities have intercepted dozens of migrants seeking to cross into the Spanish North African exclave of Ceuta, reports say. More than 100 people were blocked trying to make their way to the border on the outskirts of the town of Fnideq, according to Moroccan security sources cited by Spanish media and news agency Reuters. It comes a fortnight after roughly 78,000 migrants arrived in the exclave by sea in a matter of hours - 100 of whom died, according to the city's mayor, who also said the vast majority of arrivals had returned to Morocco. Security had been stepped up in the area after the influx and amid suggestions on social media of a second mass crossing attempt this weekend. The security sources said 111 people had been detained in or around Fnideq - known in Spanish as Castillejos - about 3km (1.8 miles) from the border, the majority of whom were from sub-Saharan Africa. Moroccan police - including some in riot gear - reportedly used tear gas to disperse groups of migrants gathered on nearby hills. Earlier this week, Morocco's govern-

ment said it was monitoring "the circulation of social media posts and messages of unknown origin" calling for a mass crossing on Saturday, and warned that it would prosecute organisers and participants. Security at the break-water entrance was "10 times stronger than the previous day", Spanish newspaper El Pais reported. Morocco had dispatched army officers, navy speedboats and drones to the border on Saturday, it said. Meanwhile, Madrid deployed more than 1,500 security officers to patrol the area. Spain has also installed a metal fence and a floating barrier following last month's influx. The crisis had calmed since breaking out in late July, but it has sparked tensions between EU nations that share open borders as well as criticism of the Spanish government. Italy suspended the Schengen arrangement of free movement with Spain and introduced border checks on arrivals from Spain. Italy was backed by Finland and Denmark, while the Czech Republic called for Spain's membership to be temporarily suspended.



Thousands displaced by deadly Indonesia earthquake as rescue efforts continue

HURRICANE LALA LASHES HAWAII WITH
STRONG WINDS AND TORRENTIAL RAIN

Strong winds and torrential rain are lashing Hawaii after category one Hurricane Lala skirted Big Island on Saturday. Hawaii Governor Josh Green said Lala got "closest to [Big Island's] South Point area", where a person died in weather-related car accident. Lala gained hurricane strength on Saturday after generating 80mph (130km/h) wind speeds, which have since peaked at 91mph. It could dump up to 25in (63cm) of rain and produce a 3ft storm surge. Tens of thousands have been left without power and officials have warned people to prepare for "life-threatening" conditions, including floods and mudslides. The storm is forecast to continue moving westward just south of Hawaii into Sunday morning.



A hurricane warning is in effect for Big Island, while Hawaii's seven other major islands - Maui, Molokai, Kahoolawe, Oahu, Lanai, Kauai and Niihau - are under tropical storm warnings. The National Hurricane Center said that, as of 17:00 on Saturday local time (03:00 GMT on Sunday), Lala's eye wall was "brushing the southern portion of the Big Island". "Damaging

winds and heavy rain will persist across the Big Island throughout tonight and spread westwards across the smaller islands on Sunday," it said. The hurricane did not make landfall, however, instead coming within 30 miles (48km) of South Point. Green said many roads in Big Island had been affected, with 30 sites having already been visited by crews, and warned residents to brace

for an "an incredible amount of water". "Please be very safe... you do not want to be out on the roads," he said in a video update posted across his social media platforms. Videos posted by Hawaii's Department of Transportation show roads flooded with fast-moving water and blocked with fallen trees. According to the governor, 190 flights have been postponed. At Ellison Onizuka Kona International - Big Island's largest airport - 40% of flights were grounded, according to tracker Flightaware. Some 80% of flights were called off at its other main airport, Hilo International. The most dire forecasts from the National Weather Service (NWS) have been issued for areas within Big Island's south-east.

Europe's tallest Virgin
Mary statue unveiled
in rural Poland



A statue of the Virgin Mary believed to be Europe's tallest has been formally unveiled in a small Polish village. The 55.6-metre (182ft) concrete figure is roughly two double-decker buses longer than Rio de Janeiro's smaller - if more prominently placed - Christ the Redeemer monument, though it still pales in comparison to a 98m Virgin Mary erected in the Philippines. The ecclesiastical sculpture in rural Konotopie was consecrated by a local bishop in a ceremony on Saturday, a day chosen to coincide with the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Its inauguration comes at a time when the influence of the Catholic church on public life in Poland has declined. The icon's remote location - in a field miles from any of Poland's population centres - is largely due to it being commissioned by a millionaire couple who live locally. Two helicopters circled to drop rose petals over the Virgin Mary, which stands in a large crown with

open arms, during Saturday's ceremony. Bishop Krzysztof Wetkowski, who consecrated the statue, told those congregated that "many contemporary people look only to the earth, focused on themselves", whereas the figure beckoned "to raise our gaze upwards to God and heaven", according to Polish news agency PAP. While Poland remains an overwhelmingly Catholic country, many younger Poles in urban areas have increasingly turned away from the church and its traditions. Among the attendees on Saturday was Lech Walesa, who led the movement to end communism in Poland and would go on to become the country's first democratically elected president. Walesa famously wore a Virgin Mary pin badge while campaigning and credited his Catholic faith as playing a major role in his fight against communism. "I started with the Virgin Mary and I end with the Virgin Mary," the 82-year-old told the Associated Press.

TWELVE KILLED AS POLISH BUS
VEERS OFF HUNGARIAN MOTORWAY



Twelve people were killed and dozens more injured when a bus carrying Polish pilgrims veered off a Hungarian motorway and into a ditch. Police said the bus overturned after coming off the M3 motorway, which connects Hungary's capital Budapest with the north-eastern city of Nyiregyháza, at around 01:00 local time on Sunday (23:00 GMT on Saturday). Officers believe the driver fell asleep at the wheel. He

has been taken into custody. Thirty-five out of the 57 passengers and two drivers onboard have been rescued by firefighters so far, state media reports. Emergency services had been attempting to lift the rear axle of the 24-tonne bus to remove the people trapped underneath before cranes arrived to lift the whole vehicle, according to Hungarian news agency MTI. Hungary's ambulance service said it had treated one person with



life-threatening injuries, nine people with serious injuries and a further 37 people with minor injuries. The country's Prime Minister Péter Magyar offered his "sincere condolences" to the families of the victims and wished those injured a speedy recovery. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk echoed his sentiments, adding he had decided to send a "special" Polish aircraft with foreign ministry officials and medical services.

"We are together in this difficult moment," he added. The bus had been returning from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and had been carrying pilgrims from Poland's southernmost region of Podkarpacie, according to Polish news agency PAP. Poland's Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said his Hungarian counterpart had told him police had already begun questioning the bus driver.

QATAR DENIES CAPTURING
THREE IRANIAN PILOTS AFTER
DOWNING FIGHTER JETS



Iran has called for the release of three pilots it said were captured by Qatar after two of its fighter jets were hit by air defences during a military operation at the start of the US-Iran war. In a letter to the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Iran's Brig Gen Mohammad Bagherzadeh claimed the pilots - Javad Salehi, Abdul Majid Dashtian and Imran Behroshian - had been held captive for six months. He said the body of a fourth pilot, Majid Kazemi, had been returned after he was killed in the same operation on 2 March 2026 - the

third day of the war. Qatar "categorically denied" Iran's claims and said it was "surprised by these misleading statements". Bagherzadeh said the three pilots had been captured by Qatar after they were ejected from their jets during a combat mission targeting a Qatari military base. In the letter to ICRC chief Mirjana Spoljaric, published by Iranian media, he accused Qatar of violating "the inalienable rights of these prisoners, contrary to all international laws and regulations". The letter also claimed the three pilots had not been allowed to meet or contact their families.



Five killed as Russia launches fresh aerial attacks across Ukraine

Liechtenstein changes succession rule
to allow women to ascend the throne

Liechtenstein has announced that it has changed royal succession rules to allow women to ascend the throne. The declaration was made on the national day of the central European country, which has a population of just 44,000. Liechtenstein's current ruler, Prince Hans-Adam II, has been the head of their royal family since 1989. The rule change will not affect his heir, Hereditary Prince Alois, who was his first-born. Alois has carried out most official royal duties for the last two decades. "The order of succession is being changed from male primogeniture to absolute primogeniture," the House of Liechtenstein said in a statement. "This means that in future the first-born child,



regardless of sex, will become heir to the throne and later princess or prince of Liechtenstein." The change will not affect Liechtenstein's succession line for now - it will only apply to descendants of the four children of Hereditary Prince Alois and his wife, Hereditary Princess

Sophie. In a statement, Alois said: "With this change in the law, we want to ensure that both the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Princely House are led by the person who has been best prepared for this responsibility." Liechtenstein is a tiny, doubly-landlocked country

tucked away between Switzerland and Austria, whose ruler enjoys sweeping political powers, unlike many of his counterparts in Europe. In 2011, Britain changed its succession laws to allow first-born daughters of a monarch to inherit the throne.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz Bowls An Unplayable Delivery To Australia Star, Video Goes Viral

Bangladesh spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz's delivery to dismiss Australia's Beau Webster during the first Test is going viral on social media. The right-arm off-spinner bowled an almost unplayable delivery that squared the batter up. The ball was pitched on a length before sliding on. Webster completely failed to read it and went on the back foot to defend, playing inside the line. By the time he realised what the delivery was doing, it was too late. He failed to get his bat in line with the ball, which clipped the top of off stump. Bangladesh completed a stunning nine-wicket victory over Australia in the first Test on Sunday, securing their first win on Australian soil and only their second victory over the top-ranked Australia. After making a vital half-century in Bangladesh's first innings, Mehidy Hasan Miraz took five wickets in Australia's sec-



ond innings to restrict the hosts to a lead of just 56 runs, before Australia was bowled out for 284 midway through the afternoon session at Darwin's Marrara Oval. Cameron Green scored his third Test century, and his first in Australia, making a composed 104 from 201 balls to lead Australia's resistance and give Bangladesh a modest target. Bangladesh suffered some early nerves when Josh Hazlewood (1-5) dismissed first-innings centurion Tanzid Hasan for a duck, but Shadman Islam (25 not out) and Mominul Haque (30 not out) held

their composure to chase down the target in 14.2 overs sparking wild celebrations within the contingent of Bangladesh fans seated behind the team's dugout on the boundary. It was a thoroughly deserved result for Bangladesh, which had outplayed Australia for much of the Test after home captain Pat Cummins won the toss and elected to bat. Australia managed just 198 in its first innings, with Steve Smith top-scoring with 71, before Bangladesh capitalized as the pitch flattened to post 426 and take a commanding 228-run lead.

Bangladesh Break Huge Record After Historic First Win In Australia

Bangladesh's men's cricket team created history on Sunday as it beat Australia in the first Test in Darwin, registering its first win in the format in Australian conditions. Bangladesh had previously played two Tests in Australia, losing both. However, the win in Darwin was a historic result for the Tigers, who are now the quickest Asian side to win a Test on Australian soil. Pakistan had to wait seven matches for their first win in Australia, while India secured theirs after 12 Tests. Among the other Asian Test-playing nations, Sri Lanka remain the only side yet to beat Australia in their own backyard, despite playing 15 Tests there. After bowling Australia out for 284 and needing 57 to win, the visitors cruised past the total when Mominul Haque slashed Beau Webster to the backward point boundary. Unfancied Bangladesh dominated a full-strength Australia throughout and the margin of victory will send shock waves through the cricketing world. When Australia resumed Sunday on 161-4, their hopes lay with Alex Carey and



Green. Carey lived dangerously in the opening 30 minutes, twice edging seamer Hasan Mahmud through the vacant slips cordon for boundaries. But on 30 off-spinner Mehidy produced a beautiful ball, pitching in line then turning sharply to take Carey's outside edge to wicketkeeper Litton Das. He struck again soon after, bowling Webster for five to leave Australia 193-6 and in deep trouble. A famous victory edged closer when Cummins pushed forward to a Mehidy delivery and got an

inside edge to short leg, where Shadman Islam took a sharp chance. Bangladesh etched their name in the history books as they secured a first-ever win over Australia Down Under in Test cricket. The foundation of this historic win was laid in the first innings when Bangladesh bowled out Australia for just 198 runs in Darwin, thanks to Hasan Mahmud's six-wicket haul. Steve Smith's valiant knock of 71 runs off 109 balls lacked support, and Australia were bamboozled in their

own backyard. Tanzid Hasan Tamim stepped up for Bangladesh with the bat, scoring a 101-run knock in only his second career Test to take the Bangla Tigers to a score of 426 in the first innings. Mominul Haque (49), Najmul Hossain Shanto (84), and Mehidy Hasan Miraz (65) provided pivotal contributions with the bat as Bangladesh took a 228-run first-innings lead. Australia tried to produce a better show with the bat in the second innings, but once again, only one man could put up a fight. Cameron Green scored 104 off 201 balls to take the team to a total of 284. Needing a target of just 57 runs to win on Day 4, Bangladesh had little to worry about. Although the tourists lost opening batter Tanzid Hasan Tamim in the second over for a golden duck, there was little Australia could do to prevent a defeat. Bangladesh will hope to continue this momentum and secure their first-ever Test series win over Australia. In the three bilateral series that the two teams have featured in, the Kangaroos have won two and drawn one.

"BIGGEST UPSET, EMBARRASSING":

AUSTRALIA GREATS TEAR INTO PAT CUMMINS' SIDE AFTER BANGLADESH LOSS

Australian cricket greats Ricky Ponting, Mark Waugh, and Matthew Hayden couldn't believe what their eyes were telling their minds in Darwin as Bangladesh handed the hosts a nine-wicket defeat in the first Test. Australia captain Pat Cummins refused to blame the team's preparations and labelled the Bangla Tigers the side that was better in all three departments of the game. Reflecting on the result, Ponting said that the performance by the tourists made it an "embarrassing" defeat for the hosts, while Waugh called the result the "biggest upset" in the team's cricketing history. Australia were undone by Bangladesh in every single aspect of the game. The tourists bowled their hearts out to take an over-200-run first-innings lead. In the second innings, the target of 57 runs was never going to be a challenge for an in-form Bangladesh side. Mark Waugh, one of the greats of



Australian cricket, said he couldn't remember a more bitter defeat in the country's history. "This could possibly be the biggest upset I can remember in Australia," he said. "The West Indies beat Australia at the Gabba three or four years ago - that was an upset. But this one, given their best two bowlers, Nahid Rana and

Shoriful Islam, are not playing, the rankings, and the Australian team being back at full strength, it's a big one." While Cummins said that he was open to making changes to the playing XI for the second Test, Ponting had also commented on the matter shortly before the match concluded. While Ponting called the

result a "very embarrassing defeat", he had earlier suggested that Australia could benefit from bringing fresh faces into the opening and No. 3 slots. "Look, I'm the last one who wants to make changes. As a captain or as a player, I wanted to keep the group together," the former Australia captain said. "It has to get to a bad point before I start saying you ought to leave somebody out. But there has been enough evidence for me coming here to suggest that they weren't going to lose anything, or much at all, by starting that regeneration - by maybe bringing in another opener, by maybe bringing in someone at No. 3. And I think if they lose here, then that has to happen," Ponting said on Channel 7. Discussing potential changes to the team, Hayden shared his inputs, calling for Travis Head to be demoted to the No. 5 spot. "Opening is) not (Head's) best position.

HOW IMPORTANT IS COMMUNITY SHIELD TO A TEAM'S SEASON?

The Community Shield takes place between two teams who will be hoping to battle it out for the Premier League this season. English champions Arsenal take on runners-up and FA Cup winners Manchester City at Cardiff's Principality Stadium on Sunday. But do the stats suggest winning the curtain-raiser in the Welsh capital would indicate a successful season ahead? And what of the goalscorers? Considering the current Premier League champions play in the game every season it is surprisingly rare for the Community Shield winners to go on to win the league. Since the Premier League started in 1992-93, only eight of the 34 winners of the Charity or Community Shield have done so. Five of those happened in a six-year spell from 2005 until 2010. Manchester



City, in 2019, were the last team to do so - and before that it was Alex Ferguson's Manchester United in 2011. Only one of the past 15 winners of the Community Shield have gone on to become champions that season. Since 1992 the teams who lose the Community Shield have won more league titles that season - 10 in total, including Manchester City for three years in a row

between 2021 and 2023. Last year Crystal Palace beat Liverpool and ended up finishing 15th, although they did go on to win the Conference League. The Reds also had a disappointing domestic campaign, finishing fifth. Some 47% of the time (16/34) the upcoming season's Premier League winners had not been involved in the Community Shield - like Arsenal in 2025-26.

Makhachev beats Machado Garry to break UFC win record

Islam Makhachev cemented his status as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world with a commanding victory over Ian Machado Garry to defend his welterweight title at UFC 330 in Philadelphia. Russian Makhachev dominated large portions of the fight in Pennsylvania to win by unanimous decision for a historic 17th successive UFC win, breaking Anderson Silva's 13-year record. The victory at the Xfinity Mobile Arena ended Machado Garry's quest to become the first Irish champion in the UFC since Conor McGregor. Makhachev, who is a former lightweight world champion, extended his glittering record to 29 wins and one defeat.



Pat Cummins On Shock Defeat To Bangladesh After Bold "Half A Million Pounds" Statement

Australia captain Pat Cummins isn't someone who hides behind excuses. As Australia suffered a humiliating 9-wicket defeat against Bangladesh in the first Test in Darwin on Sunday, he gave the touring side its due credit, while admitting that it was on the opening day of the contest that Australia lost the plot. It was in March this year that Cummins highlighted the sacrifice his teammates were making to prepare well for the Australia series by giving lucrative The Hundred contracts a miss. "Some of our guys are saying no to half a million pounds for 20 days' work to go and play those two Test matches against Bangladesh," Pat Cummins had said a few months ago. As Australia went on to be hammered by touring Bangladesh, the team's preparations were bound to



be questioned. But Cummins said that he had absolutely no complaints with the preparations. "Probably that day one. You know, I thought our preparation was, you know, pretty much spot on. I thought it was excellent. So, yeah, no excuses. They played really well. You know, I thought the day one wicket was doing a little bit early, but obviously got to try and find a way to bat a little bit longer than we did, and then, yeah, just couldn't

penetrate with the ball. But, yeah, I thought they played really well," he said. When asked if change in personnel could be seen in the second Test, he didn't rule out making major changes, but asked for calm on the topic.

IRELAND'S O'CONNOR SECURES HEPTATHLON EUROPEAN GOLD



Kate O'Connor said her late grandmother "would have been jumping for joy" as the Ireland athlete won gold in the heptathlon at the European Championships in Birmingham. The Newry-born 25-year-old entered the final event, the 800m, with a

national record - with Oosterwegel taking silver on 6,713 and Netherlands' Sofie Dokter claiming bronze on

6,664. This success builds on the gold O'Connor won at the Commonwealth Games for Northern Ireland in July and silver at last year's World Championships. "A couple of years ago, I probably wouldn't have thought this would happen to me," O'Connor told RTE Sport. "It's been a long two years. I know there's been medals [won], but there is an increase in pressure with every competition, so each has been different to try and navigate that and this competition has been no different. It's been difficult from start to finish and I didn't have it easy for a second.

51 - point lead on nearest challenger Emma Oosterwegel of the Netherlands. O'Connor needed to finish within 3.4 seconds of Oosterwegel to seal overall victory and did just that, with the Dutchwoman winning the race in 2:10.87 as O'Connor - in third behind Sveva Gerevini of Italy - clocked 2:11.74. It meant that O'Connor came top with 6,751 points - a

NOVAK DJOKOVIC FEELS THE HEAT IN CINCINNATI OPENING DEFEAT

Novak Djokovic suffered in the second set from punishing heat and humidity on Saturday but made a match of it before falling 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 to Argentine Thiago Tirante in what could be the Serb's last appearance at the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters. The second-round battle lasting for more than two and a half hours was the first match for the 39-year-old with 24 Grand Slam singles titles since he lost to Jannik Sinner in the Wimbledon semi-finals more than a month ago. Djokovic, who claimed the last of his three Cincinnati titles in 2023, claimed the opening set with little fuss. He won a brutal 18-minute third game of the second, saving four break points

over nine deuces but bending over in distress between points and even dropping to his hands and knees after one particularly grueling exchange. Djokovic took a medical timeout after that game, with the physio and then a doctor coming on court to assist with assessments and ice towels. After Tirante took the second set both players cooled off in the locker room. Slightly revived, Djokovic set the pace again in the deciding set. But it all went wrong in the ninth game, when Djokovic saved three break points before getting it wrong on a drop shot to bring up a fourth break chance that his opponent converted. Tirante clinched the biggest win of his

career in the next game as Djokovic again failed to land a drop shot on match point. The Serb, who must now try to regroup before the US Open starts on August 30, admitted he might have played his last match in Cincy. "It looks like I won't be back, unfortunately to play here," he said, confirming that the sweltering weather got the better of him. "It was a combination of the heat and humidity, all those things," he said. "Everything involved makes it worse." Seventh seed Flavio Cobolli, runner-up at the French Open, defeated Miomir Kecmanovic 6-1, 4-6, 6-3. Martin Landaluce beat Matteo Arnaldi 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 to reach a third-round clash against Tirante. -

'Focused' Eala advances - In the WTA draw, Philippines sensation Alexandra Eala advanced to the third round 6-1, 3-0 as injured Elena-Gabriela Ruse quit their match during a weather delay. The Romanian had received treatment on her right ankle just before play was halted by a thunderstorm.



Salman Khan talks about his new film 7 Dogs, praises Arab cinema

Salman Khan said he really enjoyed working on “7 Dogs”, an international action spectacle featuring talent from India, Egypt, Europe, Hollywood and the Middle East, as the movie gave him a chance to be part of a collaboration spanning different cultures and film industries. Salman features in the movie, which will release in Hindi and English across Indian cinemas on August 21, along with Sanjay Dutt as well as Egyptian superstars Ahmed Ezz and Karim Abdel Aziz, and international actors Monica Bellucci and Giancarlo Esposito. A big-scale action entertainer, “7 Dogs” is directed by Adil El Arbi and Bilal Fallah, the filmmaking duo behind “Bad Boys for Life” and “Bad Boys: Ride or Die”. It has been conceived and co-written by Turki Alalshikh. “7 Dogs” is a big-screen film in every sense. The scale, the action, the world they’ve created, it’s all very grand. Turki and the team have backed it on a huge scale, and Adil and Bilal have brought

their experience of making international action films into it,” Salman said in a statement. “What I also found exciting was seeing the ambition and energy of Arab cinema today, and how it is opening itself up to a global audience without losing its own identity. I really enjoyed being part of a project that brings together different cultures and film industries,” he added. The 60-year-old actor said he believed the film would appeal to Indian audiences because of its theatrical scale and entertainment value. “It’s fresh, it’s entertaining and it’s the kind of film you want to experience in a theatre. It has a truly international feel, and I’m happy to have been a part of it,” he said. “7 Dogs” is produced by Sela Studios with the support of the General Entertainment Authority (GEA) and Riyadh Season. The ensemble also features Tara Emad, Nasser Al-Qasabi and Max Huang. The film’s action and stunt sequences have been developed with the involvement of 87Eleven,

the action and stunt company associated with the “John Wick” franchise. Veteran stunt designer Stephen Dunlevy, whose credits include “Mad Max: Fury Road” and “John Wick”, leads the film’s action and stunt design. Besides “7 Dogs”, Salman is currently awaiting the release of Apoorva Lakshia’s “Maatrubhumi: May War Rest in Peace”, earlier titled “Battle of Galwan”, inspired by the 2020 Galwan Valley clash. He recently started shooting Vamshi Paidipally’s untitled action film, which also stars Nayanthara and is scheduled for an Eid 2027 release.



TRISHA KRISHNAN’S DIY GLAM BEATS ANY STYLIST



Trisha Krishnan was among the special guests at Tamil Nadu CM and actor Vijay’s Independence Day event, where she turned heads in a rich saffron saree. Trisha seated in saffron, Vijay’s father in white, and his mother in green came together to unknowingly form the tri-colour in the frame. The actress later revealed that the saree held a personal touch, and that she had done her own makeup for the occasion, keeping the overall look soft, natural, and rooted in tradition. The saree featured a classic

drape with a subtle sheen, paired with a matching blouse and statement gold jewellery, including earrings and bangles that added warmth to the saffron palette. Her hair was styled sleek and neat, letting the saree and jewellery take centre stage. In an unplanned yet striking moment, The pictures and video from the event quickly went viral, with fans and industry friends showering praise on her graceful look. Actress-politician Khushbu Sundar also joined in, calling Trisha beautiful inside and out.

Telangana Former Minister Srinivas Goud and Former Legislative Council Chairman Swamy Goud Grandly Launch the Song from “Sardar Sarvai Papanna”



Movie set for a grand theatrical release on the 21st of this month through Dr. Pratani Ramakrishna Goud’s RK Films “Sardar Sarvai Papanna” is an animation movie based on the life story of the historic warrior Sardar Sarvai Papanna, who earned the reputation

of being a Bahujan Chakravarthi. The film has been written, directed and produced by Venkatesh Goud Lingampalli. The movie is presented by V.G. Movie Makers, with Deepak Nyathi overseeing the production. The animation movie is ready for a grand

theatrical release on the 21st of this month through Dr. Pratani Ramakrishna Goud’s RK Films. Today, the song from “Sardar Sarvai Papanna” was launched by former minister Srinivas Goud and former Legislative Council Chairman Swamy Goud.

“The Real Heroes of ‘Vishwanath & Sons’ Are the Audiences”: Trivikram Sriniva

Tamil star Suriya’s latest outing, ‘Vishwanath & Sons’, directed by talented filmmaker Venky Atluri, has opened to an overwhelming response from audiences across the country. Mamitha Baiju plays the female lead, while Radhika Sarathkumar and Raveena Tandon appear in pivotal roles. Presented by Srikara Studios and produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, the film features music by G. V. Prakash Kumar. Released worldwide on August 14, 2026, ‘Vishwanath & Sons’ has



emerged as a heartwarming family entertainer, winning appreciation for its natural humour, sensitive emotions, strong writing and impressive performances. The film is receiving a tremendous response from audiences and is registering strong collections at the box office. Celebrating the film’s suc-

cess, the team organised a grand success press meet at ITC Kohenur, Hyderabad, where the cast and crew expressed their happiness and thanked audiences for their overwhelming support. Renowned filmmaker and ‘Maatala Mantrikudu’ Trivikram Srinivas attended the event as the chief guest.



MYSTERIOUS CRIME THRILLER THE RED BAG RELEASING ON AUGUST 21, THROUGH PVR INOX PICTURES

Memory Makers, headed by producer Harikrishna Somisetty is set to bring a distinctive suspense thriller, The Red Bag, to audiences. Written and directed by Ravi Kumar Seerapu, the film features an ensemble cast comprising Kabir Singh, Prasad Behara, Raadhya, Monika, Sneha Singh, Akanksha, Eshan Shankar, Avinash Badal, Bhargavi, and Raasi. The film has already created interest with its intriguing promotional content, especially its teaser, which received a positive response. Now, the makers have announced an important update on its theatrical

release. The Red Bag will hit the screens worldwide on August 21st. PVR INOX Pictures has joined hands for the film’s release. The release date poster further raises curiosity, presenting the movie as a stylish and suspenseful thriller where nothing may be what it seems. Featuring three-armed women, a mysterious red bag, an urban backdrop and hints of high-stakes action, the poster adds to the mystery surrounding the film. The makers are keeping the story under wraps, promising an intriguing theatrical experience that keeps audiences guessing until the big screen reveals.

2K LOVERS (SOUL OF LOVE) LAUNCHED WITH A GRAND POOJA CEREMONY

Rajesh Naidu directs, Biechu Naik produces the MB Production House’s debut venture 2K Lovers (Soul of Love), Production No. 1 under the MB Production House banner, directed by Rajesh Naidu and produced by Biechu Naik, Story, Written by Rasool Bhaay, was officially launched on Sunday with a grand pooja ceremony in the presence of the divine. The film, made as a heart-touching Telangana-set love story, features Mohith Pedada and Shruti Shankar as the lead pair. Sai Kumar, Tanikella Bharani, Praneeth Reddy, Sapthagiri, Racha Ravi, Motta Rajendran, Ramya Ponduri, Surya, Shivannarayana, Aamani, and others will be seen in key roles. Rasool Bhai has provided the story for the movie. ‘Melody



Brahma’ Mani Sharma, Tanikella Bharani, and V. N. Aditya attended the launch ceremony as chief

guests. V. N. Aditya, known for the classic Manasantha Nuvve, sounded the clap for the auspicious first shot,

while Mani Sharma directed the first shot ceremonially. Tanikella Bharani handed over the script.

‘Dharani I Love You’ Enters Final Stages of Posts-Production

Shooting for the upcoming film ‘Dharani I Love You’, produced by Rajasekhar Maddikunta under the banner of HSP Creations, has been successfully completed. The film is directed by Sai Krishna K.V., who has previously worked as an associate director with acclaimed filmmakers such as S.S. Rajamouli, Paruchuri Murali and Devi Prasad and made his directorial debut with Anaganaga Oka Oollo. The film was shot across several picturesque locations, including Bommarasipet, Yellagooda, Uddemmarri, Lalgadi, Malakpet, Shamirpet, Toopran and Venkatratnapuram. The makers have now shifted their focus to post-production, which is progressing at a brisk pace. According to the director and producer,



Dharani I Love You is being crafted as an engaging family entertainer with an interesting storyline and elements that will appeal to family audiences. The film blends love, family relationships and emotions while

aiming to entertain audiences across different sections. Adding a special musical touch to the film, popular music director and singer R.P. Patnaik has lent his voice to a sentimental song in the movie.

Ameer Log Will Connect With Everyone Through Its Emotions, Irrespective of Language or Dialect: Heroes MC Hari, Manoj and Sashidhar



Produced by Madhavi Reddy Soma under the banner of Awwal Number Productions, Ameer Log is directed by Ramana Reddy Soma. Manohar Reddy Manchuri is the co-producer. MC Hari, Manoj and Sasidhar play

the lead roles, while Vedha Jalandhar, Ravan Nittoor, Vishwender Reddy and Saiyogi appear in key roles. Rana Daggubati’s Spirit Media is set to release the film grandly in Telugu on August 21.

Kareena’s Pic Steals Saif’s Birthday Spotlight

