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Jharkhand CM vows justice for exam protesters; says vested interests trying to disrupt democracy

NATION | PAGE

ISRAEL REJECTS TRUMP'S 15-POINT PLAN FOR GAZA, NETANYAHU SAYS

WORLD | PAGE



Preity Mukhundhan Proves Why She's A Style Star



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

08-09-2026
Total pilgrims - 87,558
Tonnes - 40,026
Hundi karaku - 43 CR
Laddu sale - 415 Lac
Annaspradams - 3,09 Lac
Waiting Components:
Outside line at Octopus Building
(Near Gogabam Dam Circle)
Approx. Darsan Time for Sarayadashanam
(with out SSD Tokens) - 20-24 H.

Indian Navy joins search for three fishermen missing after boat mishaps in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Indian Navy on Sunday joined the search operations for three fishermen who went missing following separate boat mishaps in Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts, officials said. INS Kalpeni sailed out from Kochi on Saturday night for the search operation, a defence spokesperson said in a statement. The vessel was anchored one nautical mile off Neendakara on Sunday morning, the statement said. "A specialised Indian Navy diving team is onboard the ship. Marine Enforcement Wing was contacted for localising the diving position further. A Marine Enforcement boat is maintaining its presence in the vicinity of the ship," the statement said. The search involving Indian Navy divers commenced around 10 am off INS Kalpeni, officials said.

6TH ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN JHARKHAND GOVT, STUDENTS PROTESTING EXAM IRREGULARITIES BEGINS

RANCHI: A fresh round of talks between the Jharkhand government and students protesting the alleged irregularities in recruitment exams began on Sunday. The sixth round of talks is being held at the state guest house in Ranchi as the protest entered its 16th day with six demonstrators on indefinite hunger strike. A five-member delegation from the Left-backed students' union AISA is also taking part in the talks. "We are hopeful of a positive outcome over our demands of cancelling the 14th Jharkhand PSC Civil Services Examination and reforms in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission and the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC)," a student leader said.

'TRICOLOUR IS OUR PRIDE': PM Modi calls for public participation in 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign

New Delhi (TSIT):

As the nation prepares to celebrate the 80th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged citizens to actively take part in the Centre's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, terming the Tricolour as 'pride' and 'source of motivation'. This year, the campaign has been organised under the theme of 'Vande Mataram'.

Taking to X, PM Modi reposted a Ministry of Culture post, saying "Our Tricolour is our pride and a constant source of inspiration to always give our best for the nation."

"Let us participate enthusiastically in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement and renew our collective resolve to contribute towards building a Viksit Bharat, he said while underlining this year's theme as that of the national song 'Vande Mataram'."

The Prime Minister mentioned: "Glad that this year's efforts are dedicated to Vande Mataram and that too at a time when we are marking its 150th anniversary." Meanwhile, the Ministry of Culture stated that for 150 years, the call of Vande



Mataram "has stirred the soul of a nation". In a post on X, the ministry said: "This Independence Day, let that same spirit move through every street and every home as India comes together for Har Ghar Tiranga through Tiranga Yatras, Tiranga Rallies, Tiranga Concerts, and mass singing of Vande Mataram."

"And this year, witness history unfold as 'Suryapath Tiranga' unites Indians across the globe in a first-of-its-kind celebration of the Tricolour," it added.

Appealing to people to be a part of the campaign, it asked citizens to hoist the Tricolour at their homes and upload their selfies on its official website - <http://harghartiranga.com>.

Earlier in the day, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched the 'Tiranga Yatra'

across various states. Party leaders said that the rally is meant to honour the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters to uphold the nation's Tricolour.

In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav took part in a 'Tiranga Yatra' in Bhopal. Speaking to reporters, he said: "With the call of 'Quit India', the world witnessed the longing for freedom within India... It is the duty of every patriotic citizen to remember the sacrifices made by all our revolutionaries, martyrs and freedom fighters, who made sacrifices."

In Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also participated in the Tiranga rally. "Our youth are a symbol of energy. Our youth have the strength to face every challenge for the country. This youth energy should get the right platform to move forward and prepare themselves to face the challenges of the country and society. They should also receive traditional education. With this vision, the Tiranga Yatra is being launched across the country by the Bharatiya Janata Party, the world's largest political organisation..." the CM said.

CM Revanth greets youth on Indian Youth Congress formation day

Hyderabad (TSIT):

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud have greeted youth on the Foundation Day of the Indian Youth Congress. "On the Foundation Day of the Indian Youth Congress, my heartfelt greetings to the youth of India. Our youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow—they are the force shaping India today," the Chief Minister said in his message.

"Let us unite to defend our Constitution, strengthen democracy, and fight for justice, equality and opportunity for all. Together, let us build a stronger, inclusive and progressive India," he added. TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud extended warm greetings to all the leaders and dedicated workers of the



Indian Youth Congress on Youth Congress Formation Day.

"The Youth Congress has played a vital role in nurturing young leadership, strengthening the organisation at the grass-roots, and inspiring generations of young people to contribute to public service and nation-building. Let us reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of the Indian National Congress and continue empowering the youth to lead with courage, responsibility and dedication. My best wishes to the entire Youth Congress family," the state Congress chief said.

Dharmendra Pradhan says some people tried to mislead Gen Z amid NEET row

Bhubaneswar (TSIT):

Former Union Minister and senior BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan has said that some people tried to mislead Gen Z during the protests over the NEET paper leak issue.



Speaking during a programme held at the Gangadhar Meher University in Sambalpur on Saturday, Pradhan said, "I believe that some people tried to mislead our Gen Z." The Sambalpur MP also said that as a minister, it was not a matter of prestige for him.

We are not having any negotiations with the US right now: Iran FM

Tehran (TSIT): Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Aragchi on Sunday stated that there are currently no ongoing negotiations with the United States.

The Foreign Minister's stance came while speaking to reporters at the Centre for Political and International Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran's semi-official Tasnim News Agency reported. "We currently have no negotiations with the United States.



Intermediaries are still making efforts to find ways to resume negotiations. From our perspective, there can be no resumption

of talks until the United States ends its violations of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and makes amends for the breaches it has committed," Aragchi said.

"Until the violations of the memorandum of understanding by the United States are ended and the United States does not make amends for what it has violated, in our opinion, there is no possibility of resuming negotiations," he noted, according to Tasnim.

He also said that they are in the final stage of negotiations with Oman about determining a new sea route in the Strait of Hormuz.

Experts are working on new routes which will replace the old routes. "Of course, this does not mean the opening of the Strait of Hormuz. This agreement may be reached, but the opening of the Strait of Hormuz is subject to a series of conditions," the Foreign Minister emphasised.

‘Quit Vote Chori’ movement needed against vote theft: CM Shivakumar

Bengaluru (TSIT):

Karnataka Chief Minister and Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday called for a statewide 'Quit Vote Chori' (Quit Vote Theft) movement, urging party workers to protect citizens' voting rights amid the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Addressing Congress workers at Bharat Jodo Bhavan, the KPCC office, during a programme marking Quit India Day, Shivakumar said the right to vote was fundamental to democracy and urged party workers and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to ensure that eligible voters were not left out of the electoral rolls.

He asked citizens to complete and submit enumeration forms and urged those who had recently turned 18 to register as voters through Form 6. "Without the right to vote,

▶ **‘Quit Vote Chori’ Movement: CM D.K. Shivakumar called for a statewide movement to protect voting rights, urging Congress workers and BLAs to ensure all eligible voters are included in electoral rolls.**

▶ **10,000 Youth Sanghas: Karnataka plans to establish 10,000 Bharat Jodo Yuva Shakti Sanghas, with registrations starting this month and ₹1,000 crore earmarked for youth-focused activities.**



you will have no voice," he said, stressing the need to safeguard every eligible citizen's voting rights. Recalling the Quit India Movement, Shivakumar said the slogan today should be "Dictatorial Mindset, Quit Power", while reiterating that the Congress would continue to fight for democracy, constitutional values and national unity.

"The Congress party will

never bow, bend or back down," he said, adding that the party's targets were the 2028 Karnataka Assembly elections and the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. He said the strength and history of the Congress were closely linked with the country's democratic journey. Shivakumar also announced plans to construct 100 Congress offices across Karnataka and said 100 senior

Congress leaders aged above 70 would be honoured for their long-standing service to the party.

10,000 BHARAT JODO YUVA SHAKTI SANGHAS
The Chief Minister said the government was moving ahead with plans to establish 10,000 Bharat Jodo Yuva Shakti Sanghas across gram panchayats and wards in Karnataka. Registration is

expected to begin this month, with youth aged 16 to 40 years eligible to join for a nominal fee of Rs.10.

He said the associations would promote sports, cultural activities, leadership and women's participation among youth. The government would allocate Rs.1,000 crore for the initiative, he added.

Shivakumar further said the government was working to fill 72,000 government vacancies, stressing that greater transparency in recruitment was necessary to create employment opportunities for young people. Highlighting the Congress government's welfare programmes, he cited monthly assistance of Rs.2,000 to 1.21 crore women, free electricity of up to 200 units to 1.61 crore households, distribution of 10 kg of rice to more than 4 crore people, and free bus travel for women across the state.

New criminal laws built on tech, timeline and trust: Amit Shah

Puducherry (TSIT):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the three new criminal laws introduced by the Narendra Modi government are founded on three key pillars – technology, timeline and trust – and are aimed at ensuring faster and more effective delivery of justice to citizens. Addressing a ceremony after presenting the President's Colour to the Puducherry Police at the Police Training School ground in Gorimedu, HM Shah said the new legal framework marked a significant shift from the colonial-era criminal justice system.

He said greater use of technology and clearly defined timelines for investigation and judicial procedures would help make the criminal justice system more efficient, transparent and citizen-centric.

Building public trust in the justice delivery mechanism was equally important, he added. The three laws – the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita,



Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam – replaced the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Indian Evidence Act respectively. Congratulating the Puducherry Police on receiving the President's Police Colour, HM Shah described the honour as one of the proudest moments in the history of any disciplined police force.

Despite having a strength of fewer than 5,000 personnel, the Puducherry Police carry the responsibility of maintaining law and order, ensuring internal security and protecting the Union Territory and its people, HM Shah said.

Jharkhand CM vows justice for exam protesters; says vested interests trying to disrupt democracy

RANCHI: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Sunday pledged to deliver justice with transparency to youths protesting alleged irregularities in recruitment exams while asserting that dialogue, not batons, can solve all problems at home.

Alleging that vested interests were working at full force to disrupt democracy in the state, he said the students' stir should not be politicised and warned those harbouring political ambitions against misguiding youths.

Jharkhand CM vows justice for exam protesters; says vested interests trying to disrupt democracy

Soren said the youths' concern was his concern and those involved in exam irregularities will face strict action.

"Unable to accept the state's self-reliance, vested interests are working at full force in Jharkhand to disrupt democracy here. Samvad and not 'lati-danda-bandook' (dialogue, not batons), can solve all problems. "Weapons are meant for enemies at the border. I promise the exam protesters that justice will be delivered with full transparency," the chief minister said, addressing Jharkhand Adivasi Mahotsav here.



Referring to the protest against NEET exam paper leak in Delhi's Jantar Mantar, the chief minister said, "All saw how youths were tortured, had to face pellet guns, baton charges, and were declared traitors." Apparently referring to the BJP, Soren accused rival political parties of trying to mislead Jharkhand's youth by spreading lies and misinformation, and added that intellectuals were also involved in this.

"The stir should not be politicised; I warn those harbouring political ambitions against misguiding youths," he cautioned.

The chief minister asserted his government's commitment to providing justice to the protesting youths and said, "Those guilty of irregularities will face strict action. We caught

theft, will deliver justice." "I urge youths not to seek political patronage (for their stir); justice is your right," he added.

The protests by agitation by the students protesting against alleged irregularities in recruitment exams entered its 16th day on Sunday with six demonstrators on indefinite hunger strike. A sixth round of talks between the government and the agitators is being held at the state guest house in Ranchi. Besides reforms in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) and Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC), the protesters are also seeking an independent probe into the alleged irregularities, either by the CBI or by a panel of retired high court judges from outside the state.

US Vice President Vance dials PM Modi, discusses ways to expand India-US partnership

NEW DELHI: US Vice President JD Vance dialled Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday to discuss expanding the India-US comprehensive global strategic ties in trade, defence and energy security amid rising tensions in West Asia.

The two leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in emerging technologies and critical minerals.

Jharkhand CM vows justice for exam protesters; says vested interests trying to disrupt democracy . Vance's call to the prime minister came days after Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan signed a mutual defence pact that was widely seen as a reflection of a new regional alignment amid the West Asia conflict.

During the conversation, PM Modi extended his congratulations to Vance and Second Lady Usha on the birth of their son.

"Received a phone call from US Vice President JD Vance. We discussed ways to further deepen India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership across key areas," Modi said on social media.

"Warmly congratulated him and the Second Lady



on the birth of their son and conveyed best wishes to the entire family," he said. An Indian readout said Modi and Vance reviewed progress in the India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership.

"They noted the sustained momentum in the high-level engagements and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation in trade, defence, critical and emerging technologies, energy security and critical minerals," it said.

"They also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest," it added.

The American side has not yet provided any details of the conversation. It is not immediately known whether the proposed trade deal between India and the US figured in the talks.

PM Modi and US President Donald Trump, during their meeting in France in June, instructed their officials to work towards a balanced, mutually beneficial and com-

mercially meaningful trade agreement at the earliest. The relations witnessed a major downturn after Washington imposed punitive tariffs on India last year and Trump made assertions regarding his role in de-escalating the India-Pakistan military clashes of May 2025 that drew sharp reaction from Indian officials.

Over the next few months, the US president repeatedly and publicly claimed that he had resolved the military conflict between the two neigh-

bours and saved millions of lives as it was heading toward a full-scale war. New Delhi stoutly maintained that the cessation of the hostilities was a result of talks between India and Pakistan and the US had nothing to do with it. Washington's new immigration policy and its decision to increase the H1B visa fee also contributed to the slide in India-US ties. However, both sides made efforts in the last few months to repair the ties and even moved forward to firm up the trade deal soon.

NIA arrests key accused in Kerala illegal explosives seizure case

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested another accused in connection with the seizure of a huge consignment of illegal explosives in Kerala's Malappuram, taking the total number of arrests in the case to ten, officials said on Sunday. The accused identified as Haris TA was arrested on Saturday from Manjeri in Malappuram district, they said. The accused, who is the main conspirator, was involved in the illegal procurement of the explosives seized in the case, a statement issued by the NIA said. The case relates to the seizure of 89,600 explosive sticks and 10,500 shock tubes (NONEL) from a lorry parked in the compound of Farha Hollow Bricks Company on the Chemmad-Thalappara Road in Malappuram on February 7, 2026.

PUDUCHERRY: Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colour to Puducherry Police on Sunday and praised the force for its commitment and dedication in ensuring the country's internal security. Referring to the government replacing the British-era criminal laws, including the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Shah said its replacement, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was enacted with the intention of ensuring justice to citizens.

Jharkhand CM vows justice for exam protesters; says vested interests trying to disrupt democracy

In his address after presenting the President's Colour to the Union Territory's police force, he said the new criminal laws are based on the "three pillars of

Amit Shah presents President's Colour to Puducherry Police



technology, timeline and trust." Underlining Centre's commitment for the UT's growth, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision over the last 12 years has been to strengthen it.

To make Puducherry strong, a number of many development

initiatives, including investments to the tune of Rs 39,000 crore in the last nine years and road expansion activities worth thousands of crores of rupees have been taken up, he said.

While the UT received about Rs 3,500 crore in Central fund

allocation between 1950 and 2014, the NDA government provided Rs 13,762 crore during the 2014-26 period to it, he added. Various government initiatives, including Lakhpati Didi, Ujjwala and PM Awas schemes, direct benefit transfer and construction of toilets have benefited seven lakh citizens in Puducherry, he said. "Puducherry police has received the Nishaan (President's Colour). In this golden hour, let me assure on PM Modi's behalf, the government is committed to the union territory's development," Shah underlined. Shah praised the UT police force for its dedication and commitment to maintain law and order in Puducherry, which is geographically spread across different states in south-Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh (Yanam) and Kerala (Mahe).

BESCOM Achieves Record Cleanliness Drive in Two Days

Bengaluru: Under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Clean Up Bengaluru Campaign, the BESCOM conducted a massive cleanliness drive on Saturday and Sunday on a war footing and BESCOM successfully completed the cleaning and maintenance of 2483 DTC Yards, 724 RMU Yards, 565 Spun Poles and 60 feeder fixing box rewiring and yard cleaning.

Following the directions of Minister for Energy and Tourism, K. J. George, to accelerate the month-long cleanliness drive across the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zone (BMAZ), a dedicated two-day intensive campaign was executed under the supervision of BESCOM Managing Director Dr. N. Shivashankar. Over 1,000 personnel actively participated in this initiative, achieving a record clean-up of power infrastructure across the city.

BESCOM prioritized removing defunct electrical equipment obstructing



pedestrian pathways, converting hazardous double-pole structure TCs to specially design TC structures on spun poles, and restoring the overall cleanliness of TCs and RMUs throughout the city.

Quote "Our government has given top priority to the Clean Up Bengaluru Campaign. Idle and ineffective electrical infrastructure on footpaths is being removed, and hazardous electrical infrastructures are being shifted to safer locations. Ensuring safe and accessible footpaths for the public remains our primary goal. I congratulate the BESCOM staff and workforce for achieving record-breaking progress through these two days special drives."

GITAM Scholar Awarded Ph.D. in Mathematics

Hyderabad: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, congratulated Dr. Dada Haritha on being awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Mathematics and Statistics for her research in Fixed Point Theory.

Dr. Haritha completed her doctoral research under the guidance of Dr. Krishna Kummari, Assistant Professor, School of Science, GITAM Hyderabad, and Dr. K. Ramakoteswara Rao, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Sciences, KL Deemed to be University, Hyderabad.

Her doctoral thesis, titled "A Study on Fixed Point Theory in Generalised Metric Spaces and its Applications," makes a significant contribution to the field of Fixed Point Theory, an important area of mathematics with applications in solving complex mathematical problems.

The research presents novel theoretical results that strengthen existing knowledge of generalized metric spaces and provide a foundation for further



research. The findings are expected to support future developments in mathematics, science and engineering.

Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor; D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director; Dr. M. Reza, Director, School of Science; and Dr. Jadav Gandesh, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, congratulated Dr. Haritha on her academic achievement and appreciated her contribution to mathematical research.

They wished her continued success in her future academic and research endeavours.



Governor visits Kashi Vishwanath

Hyderabad, Aug 9 (TSIT): Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, along with family members, visited the holy Sri Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi on Sunday, according to a press communique from Lok Bhavan. He performed special prayers at the temple and received the blessings of Lord Vishwanath. The Governor prayed to Vishwanath for peace, prosperity, abundance, and all-round development of the people of Telangana as well as the entire country. "The divine presence of Sri Kashi Vishwanath grants devotees spiritual peace and strength," he added.

Sri Muthumariamman Temple Aadi Festival Celebrated

Bengaluru: The Keshavanagar Scheduled Caste Welfare Association celebrated the Aadi festival at the Sri Muthumariamman Temple on First Cross, Keshavanagar, Magadi Road, Bengaluru. Devotees participated in the celebrations and offered prayers at the temple. The festival was organised with religious fervour and witnessed the participation of members of the local community.



Mamata faces protest, mud, slippers, 'chor' slogans during visit to family of deceased TMC worker

KOLKATA: Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee faced a hostile reception at Halisahar in North 24 Parganas district on Sunday when protesters surrounded her vehicle, shouted 'chor' (thief) and 'dakait rani' (queen of thieves) slogans, and allegedly hurled mud, slippers and stones at her car as she went to meet the family of a deceased TMC worker. Banerjee, who was visiting the family of a TMC worker who allegedly died in police custody, was forced to pass through a police cordon as the demonstration briefly turned the road into a charged political theatre, with the rival sides trading allegations of conspiracy, provocation and administrative failure. "My car has been attacked with stones, shoes and mud. This is nothing but a conspiracy. I had informed the police that I would be coming, but despite that, no security measures were taken," Banerjee told reporters after reaching the area.

The former chief minister alleged that large bricks were also thrown at her vehicle. "My head could have been smashed. I could have died here," she said, accusing the BJP-led state government of using "goons" to target her. Banerjee also trained her guns on Chief Minister and Home Minister Suwendu Adhikari, saying she had no particular anger against the police but alleging that the force was being used at the behest of the state government.

"The police are protecting the lumpens. Bengal has gone into the hands of lumpens," she said, adding that her party would pursue the matter legally.

MP Prabha Mallikarjuna Inspects Crop Damage in Katanayakanahalli



Davangere: Davangere MP Dr. Prabha Mallikarjuna on Sunday visited Katanayakanahalli village and inspected crop damage in the fields of several farmers. The MP personally examined the damaged crops and interacted with farmers to understand the extent of losses, agricultural expenditure and the financial difficulties caused by crop failure.

Farmers explained the expenses incurred in cultivating their crops, the losses suffered and the financial burden they were facing. Dr. Prabha Mallikarjuna listened to their grievances and assured them

that their concerns would be taken up with the concerned authorities. She directed officials to collect comprehensive details of the crop damage and properly assess the extent of losses. She also instructed them to take necessary steps to ensure that eligible farmers receive government relief and assistance. "Crop damage causes severe financial hardship to farmers who depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Our priority is to protect the welfare of farmers during difficult times, and we will coordinate with the concerned departments to ensure they receive the necessary assistance," she said.

EDITORIAL

IT'S THE SMALL THINGS

I do not think about my rights every morning. I wake up, get ready for the office, complain about traffic, answer client emails, think about deadlines, plan week-ends and worry about making it at the gym. My official documents are usually used when I board a flight, book a hotel or file my taxes. They have never been used as documents of survival; they have been documents of convenience. Being born in a Hindu family, I have never wondered whether my name alone would make a landlord hesitate before renting me a home. I have never had to prove that I belong in the country of my birth. My struggles, like those of countless women, have revolved around safety, expectations and the quiet negotiations that accompany everyday life. I have parents who believed my education mattered, a family that respects my career, and the opportunity to build a life I want. I lead a normal life and in the society and country we are in, I have understood my quiet privileges. We often associate privilege with something extravagant. A luxury car, sprawling house, international trips. Perhaps the greatest privilege in India today is much simpler. It is not wealth or luxury. It is not having to think of the institution standing by us. It is the privilege of believing that institutions will continue to function without ever having to test them. To trust that the police will protect you before you need them. To trust that the courts will hear you before you enter one. To trust that expressing an opinion will remain an act of citizenship rather than an act of courage. Democracy, when it works well, disappears into the background of ordinary life. Like drinking water or electricity become known only when interrupted. We inherit rights the way we inherit old buildings. We admire and use them. We forget who laid the foundations. The eight-hour workday did not emerge because employers suddenly discovered compassion. Weekends were not gifts from industry. Restrictions on child labour, workplace safety and countless other protections that shape modern life were granted by decades of revolution and refusal to accept that exploitation was inevitable. History remembers legislation. It often forgets the movement. Every generation enjoys victories that were secured by people willing to become inconvenient. Today, we inherit the outcome so effortlessly that we mistake it for inevitability. India became a constitutional democracy because of generations of resistance and sacrifice. The constitution was an attempt to answer a difficult question: how could a nation of immense diversity remain one community? Its answer begins with the words we were first taught in our history & civics book: The Preamble! “WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens.” Those words demand more from us than elections do every five years. They ask us to recognise that citizenship precedes ideology, that constitutional values must outlast governments, and that the rights we defend for ourselves become meaningful only when we are willing to defend them for those with whom we disagree. I sometimes wonder when we stopped returning to those words. We remember campaign slogans more easily than constitutional promises. Our disagreements have become sharper than our shared commitments.

Saurabh Varshney

The very leader whom political opponents tried to dismiss for years by labeling him 'Pappu' is now holding sessions where young people sit and ask questions. There can hardly be a greater irony in politics than this. However, it would be premature to attribute this solely to a sudden surge in Rahul Gandhi's personal popularity. The real question is: what has changed to make Rahul Gandhi's conversations, Q&A sessions, and education-centric politics appealing to students, the youth, and a segment of Gen-Z? In reality, a generational shift in politics does not come merely from a change in the leaders' ages. Change occurs when the new generation transforms the language, issues, and style of dialogue in politics. India's Gen-Z represents precisely this kind of change. This is a generation that has grown up in an environment of the internet, social media, digital technology, and instant information. They seek direct answers rather than long speeches; they want facts over slogans and results over assurances. That is why today's youth are asking: Why is education expensive? Why are employment opportunities limited? Why do controversies repeatedly arise in competitive examinations? Why do recruitment processes drag on for years? Why must one wait months for results after taking an exam? And most importantly—why does the voice of the youth fail to reach the policy-making table? Over the past few years, Rahul Gandhi has attempted to bring about a significant shift in his political style. He no longer wishes to remain merely a leader who delivers speeches from a stage. Engaging in dialogue with colleges, universities, students, the youth, teachers, and various social groups has become an integral part of his politics. On numerous occasions, he is seen sitting among young people, listening to their questions, and providing answers. It is perhaps this 'politics of substance' that is attracting Gen Z to some extent. However, it is important to understand one thing here: assuming that the entire Gen Z has rallied behind Rahul Gandhi would be political hyperbole rather than political analysis. India's youth is not the exclusive property of any single political party; they might support the BJP, the Congress, or regional parties—or none of them at all. The youth of today can question a leader just as quickly as they might come to admire them. To understand Rahul Gandhi's politics, one must also look at the evolution of his public image. For a long time, his opponents tried to portray him as a leader who need not be taken seriously; political epithets like 'Pappu' were part of this very campaign. However, political images are not static. If a leader consistently changes their style, engages with the public, and raises new issues, their old image can gradually fade. Through 'yatras' (marches), dialogues with students, and direct interactions with the youth, Rahul Gandhi has attempted to project himself as a leader who asks questions. While elections will ultimately determine the success of this strategy, a shift in his political presentation is certainly visible. Today, it does not take hours for a leader's speech to reach millions. A video goes viral, sparking both support and opposition; memes are created, debates ensue, and a political message quickly permeates different parts of the country. There can be a vast difference between popularity on social media and electoral success. Therefore, it would be premature to assume that Rahul Gandhi's growing visibility among the youth will automatically translate into electoral support. While there is talk about Rahul Gandhi's 'class' or style, the biggest challenge facing Gen-Z is employment. A student spends years preparing for competitive exams, and their family invests money in their education. Young people dedicate the most crucial years of their lives to the hope of securing a job. Yet, they are often confronted with allegations of irregularities in the examination system, news of paper leaks, stalled results, or recruitment processes that drag on indefinitely. At such moments, the youth do not merely want to hear political speeches; they want answers. This is precisely where any political party faces its true test. Young people will ask: How long will the recruitment process take? How transparent will the examination system be? When will vacant posts be filled? What will education fees be? How many government jobs will be created? How will employment be generated in the private sector? How will skill development training translate into actual jobs? It is not just the ruling party that must answer these questions; the opposition, too, must provide an answer. This is because, while it is easy for the opposition to raise an issue, presenting a practical solution to it is far more difficult. The issue of the Constitution has become significant in Rahul Gandhi's politics. He has consistently raised topics such as the Constitution, democracy, social justice, and the independence of

institutions. For the younger generation, the Constitution is no longer merely a subject for competitive examinations; they view it in the context of their rights, freedom, equal opportunities, and their future. However, the Constitution is not the exclusive preserve of any single political party. Whether in power or in opposition, the responsibility to safeguard the Constitution rests with everyone. The Constitution's greatest strength lies not in speeches, but in the practice of its values. Therefore, the most effective 'class' on the Constitution for the youth is one where institutions are respected, there is space for dissent, and citizens who ask questions are not treated as enemies. By making the Constitution a central theme of political discourse, Rahul Gandhi is sending a message. His supporters view this as a defense of democratic values, while his detractors see it as a political strategy. The public will judge the truth of the matter. A defining characteristic of today's youth is their refusal to become permanent followers of anyone. They ask questions. They make comparisons. They watch videos. They seek out data. They listen to the opinions of different leaders on the same issue. And most importantly—they are not afraid to change their minds. This is why it is not easy for any leader to influence Gen-Z. If Rahul Gandhi's 'class' is attracting the youth today, those same young people might well ask him tomorrow: "How do you intend to implement what you have promised?" This represents a healthy form of democracy. In politics, a young person should not remain a permanent student of any single leader; rather, they should be a citizen who questions every leader. Engaging in

dialogue with the youth is a positive step. Sitting among students is commendable. Discussing education, employment, the Constitution, and social justice is also essential. However, the ultimate test of politics lies not in dialogue, but in results. If the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi wish to make the issues facing the youth central to their politics, they must move beyond mere speeches. They need to articulate clearly: how will employment be increased? What changes will be brought to the education system? How will transparency be ensured in competitive examinations? What will be the timeline for the recruitment process? How will entrepreneurial opportunities for the youth be expanded? How will new jobs be created in the era of technology and artificial intelligence? How will skill development be linked to actual employment? Only concrete answers to these questions can transform a 'class' into a political movement, because the public looks at a report card rather than applause. If the Congress truly wishes to advance Rahul Gandhi's youth-centric politics, it must move beyond the strategy of relying solely on him. Continuous dialogue with youth in colleges and universities, understanding the evolving needs of the job market, reaching out to young people in the startup and technology sectors, grasping the issues faced by rural and agrarian youth, and developing a new political language for the digital generation—all these will be essential. Therefore, the fundamental question is not whether Gen-Z liked Rahul Gandhi's 'class'; the core issue is far more significant: has Indian politics finally begun to understand that the youth are not merely a vote bank? The youth represent the future of the nation's economy. They will become scientists, teachers, farmers, entrepreneurs, soldiers, journalists, and the elected representatives of tomorrow. If their education is weak, employment insecure, faith in the examination system eroded, and the distribution of opportunities unequal, the impact will extend beyond the youth to affect the entire democracy. In this context, the significance of Rahul Gandhi's 'class' could transcend the leader himself—provided it transforms young people into questioning citizens rather than mere supporters of a leader. In a democracy, the ideal scenario is not for the youth to blindly accept what any single leader says; rather, it is for them to question every leader. Thus, Gen-Z need not become permanent students in any single leader's 'class'. Instead, they should attend the broader 'class' of democracy—where the teacher is the Constitution rather than a politician; the textbook consists of the nation's actual challenges rather than a party manifesto; and the examination takes place daily through the public's questions, rather than just once every five years. If Rahul Gandhi's politics is inspiring the youth to think in this direction, it is not merely a signal for Rahul Gandhi or the Congress; it could also mark a significant shift for Indian democracy. For the true strength of democracy emerges when the youth, before applauding, ask a question: "You have said a great deal; now tell us—what will you actually do?" It is precisely this question that marks the true test for any leader—and the real trial for democracy itself.

How Tribal Culture Is Reduced to a Spectacle at Government Events

New Delhi: During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Andhra Pradesh, the traditional Dhimsa dance of the tribal community was performed on a massive scale. More than 13,000 tribal women and schoolgirls took part in the performance, with speculation rife that it may even earn a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records. This large assembly of artists was not organised for an event focused on tribal issues, but rather for the inauguration of an international airport close to Visakhapatnam. Showcasing tribal art and culture at government events is not a recent phenomenon. However, this trend has seen significant growth in the past few years. Tribal folk dances have become an almost mandatory feature of election rallies, official ceremonies, visits by the prime minister and ministers, as well as major political events. The Gaur, Madar, and Rela dances of Chhattisgarh; the Jhumar and Paika of Jharkhand; the Dhimsa of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha; Santhal dances; traditional dances from the Northeast; and various tribal folk dances from Central India often serve as the opening performances for significant political events. However, a recurring question emerges: Is tribal culture being honoured within its social and historical context, or is it merely being exploited as an 'exotic' spectacle to entertain 'others'? The straightforward answer is that the presentation of tribal dances in front of government officials and ministers is directly associated with a colonial mentality. In the British colonial period, tribal commu-



nities were perceived as distinct from the 'mainstream'—regarded as primitive and mere 'curiosities.' Their attire and artistic expressions were displayed akin to an 'exhibition.' Even in contemporary times, the practice of having thousands of tribal individuals don uniform costumes to greet ministers and VIPs at major government events is merely an extension of that colonial mindset. This phenomenon is less about cultural representation and more about serving as entertainment for the ruling class. Part of the Culture The Dhimsa dance is integral to the community identity of tribal groups – specifically the Bhagata, Kondh, Valmiki, Porja, and others – who inhabit the Alluri Sitarama Raju and Parvathipuram Manyam districts of Andhra Pradesh as well as the neighbouring tribal regions, and the Malkangiri and Koraput districts of Odisha. This dance transcends mere entertainment; it serves as a profound cultural expression intricately linked to their history, agricultural practices, connection with

nature, community life, and social relationships. The melodies and rhythms of Dhimsa articulate a life philosophy that emphasises how the community and the natural world are two inseparable entities. Many people from Odisha and Andhra Pradesh criticised the Dhimsa dance performance at the prime minister's event. Retired IAS officer P.V. Ramesh objected to the move, arguing that it was inappropriate to transform a revered cultural tradition into a political spectacle. He alleged that diminishing this tradition to merely a ceremonial welcome for political leaders amounted to an insult to tribal culture. Tribal communities prefer to engage in their dances voluntarily and spontaneously within their villages and among their own people – inspired by love and respect for nature, society, and all facets of their lives. However, the dance has now been commercialised to such an extent that these events can easily be arranged for a modest sum of money. In 2023, I had the opportunity to visit the Araku

Valley, situated on the border between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. During my visit, I saw tribal women performing the Dhimsa dance, entertaining tourists in exchange for a mere pittance. Tourists danced along, taking photos and recording videos. However, the performance did not convey that this dance was not just an artistic expression for the performers, but a vital component of their cultural and communal lives. This phenomenon does not exclusively plague our country. Tribal culture is showcased in this manner globally. During a trip to the Philippines last year, I attended an exhibition called the 'Butterfly Eco Garden-Tribal Village' in Puerto Princesa, where tribal men, women, and children from Palawan were entertaining tourists while dressed in traditional tribal attire. The Tribal Museum located in Araku, Andhra Pradesh, offers another perspective on this phenomenon. It highlights the life, traditions, and culture of tribal communities, drawing visitors from within the country and abroad.

EDUCATION, FREEDOM AND THE SANGH PARIVAR

The gravest political mistake any authoritarian outfit or leader makes is to start a debate on education. Their entire efforts are usually designed to subvert education and to create an anti-intellect society. Their obsession with education is for destruction of true understanding, they distort history, hype up myths about a great past, inculcate chauvinism and sectarianism in students, resort to falsification and erasure of established facts and devalue rational thinking. Far-right Hungarian nationalist Viktor Orban, who lost power earlier this year, condemned educational institutions as “sites for liberal indoctrination”. The Gen-Z protest has now compelled Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat to enter the debate on education. That's like stepping on a landmine for RSS. Bhagwat looked desperate not to rub the younger generation up the wrong way and tried to align himself with their sentiment. Conceding that the education system needed reforms, he offered bizarre solutions, arguing that improvement depended on people's mercies and patronage. “Society should bear the financial burden”, he suggested, instead of asking the government to initiate structural changes and reach the desired budgetary allocation of 6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for education. He didn't utter a word on rising cost of education, autonomy of institutions, academic freedom and reckless ideological interventions. The RSS wants students to conform to a set pattern of ideas. The purpose of

education is to allow students to clear the cobwebs in the mind, step out of seclusion and orthodoxy, and freely wander in the uncharted realms of creativity and knowledge. The RSS doesn't want students to revolt against the existing order and be respectful to tradition and authority. Obedience for them is a greater virtue than reasoning and inquiry. Education shapes a student's outlook to life, creating an integrated thought on society, politics, philosophy and history. But RSS wants students to know what it has concocted. Shouldn't students correctly know who won the battle of Haldighati – Akbar or Rana Pratap? Shouldn't students know about the RSS's role in the freedom struggle? What will an RSS-trained professor teach about Jawaharlal Nehru, one of the greatest freedom fighters and the architect of modern India? Shouldn't students know what ideology led to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi? Shouldn't students know that Hindutva icon V.D. Savarkar propagated a toxic communal ideology and M.S. Golwalkar felt India could learn racist pride from Nazi Germany? Adolf Hitler used to tell Germans, “We must distrust intelligence and conscience and must place our trust in our instincts.” Bhagwat should clearly tell Indians whether they should place their trust in their instincts or history must be based on credible evidence and objective reality? To put an impressionable young mind into a groove is not education. The RSS succeeded in fooling one generation with its duplicity

and hypocrisy. But the Gen Z can't live with the dichotomy of constitutional principles and communal politics. Bhagwat should clearly tell students whether the principles of equality, liberty, fraternity and justice are to be honoured or not. If yes, how will political or cultural outfits violating the principle of equality be respected by anybody? How can the prime minister who behaves like the chief priest of Hinduism in a secular country be acceptable? An inquisitive mind is bound to ask: What's the worth of an ideology that leads to division, conflict and misery? These children will ask: What's criminal in falling in love with a Muslim or a Christian? If the Constitution allows freedom of choice in personal matters, what's this nonsense of love-jihad? If a citizen is free to eat whatever he wants and do any business, how can the sale of non-vegetarian food be banned during navratni and kanwar yatras? How can chief ministers and ministers take oath of the Constitution and run a divisive agenda? All these aspects of life are linked to education and it is unlikely that the Gen-Z will tolerate this fraud on the Constitution. Lies & double-speak When the RSS chief was saying the Gen-Z protest was not anti-constitutional and anti-national, toxic expressions of his colleagues and followers must have flooded his mind. It was his government that fired pellet guns and teargas shells on students. It was Atul Limaye, third in the RSS hierarchy, who hurled the anti-constitutional and anti-national slur on the young protesters.

Another RSS ideologue from Kerala, T.G. Mohandas said the type of girls who assembled at Jantar Mantar like being gang-raped. Kangana Ranaut, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP, called them “Generation Gutter”. Delhi BJP leader Ramesh Bidhuri said the majority of protesters were “aulaad” of puncture-wallah, alluding that they were Muslims. Farmers were also called terrorists and Pakistani agents when they were protesting against the Modi government. Any journalist or politician who questions the RSS-BJP is branded an anti-national and Soros-funded destabiliser. Bhagwat should introspect why such filth comes out of Sangh Parivar ecosystem in any crisis? Is it because of the intrinsic nature of sectarianism or they are trained to malign opponents and dissenters? Does Bhagwat think his soft-soaping the Gen-Z, calling them intelligent and honest, will impress anybody? The younger generation has demonstrated their deep insight and the ability to see through the pretenses. This generation, honest as acknowledged by Bhagwat, will demand honest responses. An honest response is dismissal of Union home minister Amit Shah and strict action against the police officers who crossed the line and allowed goons to assault students. An honest response is a public confession that India is being led in the wrong direction as so much time and energy get wasted on religiosity and artificially created social discord. Lies and double-speak can't override lived experience.

Sensex could eye 79,700, Nifty 25,200 on breakout: Analysts

Mumbai: The near-term technical outlook for Indian equities remains constructive, with analysts expecting the Sensex to target 79,300-79,700 and the Nifty to move towards 25,200 if key resistance levels are decisively breached. However, analysts said markets could see renewed profit booking if crucial support zones are broken. On the Sensex, the index maintained a positive technical structure and closed comfortably above the 78,000 mark. Analysts said the 78,800-79,000 zone will be the immediate resistance area to watch in the coming sessions. "On the downside, the 77,300-77,200 zone remains the immediate support area, followed by the 77,000 psychological level. Holding above these levels will be important to maintain the improving technical structure, while a decisive break below 77,000 could invite renewed selling pressure," an analyst stated. "Overall, the near-term technical outlook remains constructive, with sustained buying above the immediate



resistance zones required to confirm further upside," the analyst added. The Nifty also continued to hold its broader bullish structure despite heightened volatility and intermittent profit booking during the week. "From a technical perspective, the broader structure remains constructive as Nifty continues to trade above all the key weekly exponential moving averages, reinforcing the strength of the medium-to-long-term trend," an analyst said. "The overall chart structure continues to favour a positive bias, although the ongoing consolidation suggests that a decisive breakout is still

awaited. 24,900-25,000 is expected to act as the immediate resistance zone, while 24,100-24,200 remains the key support area," a market expert stated. Meanwhile, Indian markets ended the week with moderate gains despite elevated volatility, as investors assessed the implementation of the new Closing Auction Session (CAS) framework for F&O stocks, the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision and ongoing geopolitical uncertainties. For the week, the Sensex gained 0.52 per cent to close at 78,499.17, while the Nifty advanced 0.77 per cent to settle at 24,570.65.

Bajaj And Hero Flag Entry-Level Motorcycle Weakness As India's Two-Wheeler Boom Turns Uneven



India's two-wheeler industry is growing at its fastest pace in years, but the entry-level motorcycle segment that has traditionally driven volumes is showing clear signs of strain, according to first-quarter FY27 earnings commentary from Bajaj Auto and Hero MotoCorp. Bajaj Auto's joint managing director Rakesh Sharma was the most direct on the trend, telling analysts that the 100cc and 125cc segments were growing at "low-single digit numbers" even as the 150cc-250cc range expanded over 20%. He linked the divergence to income inequality within the customer base, saying "the upper half of the society are economically much, much stronger and the people down the pyramid have weakened," a dynamic he said was now visible in how different engine-

capacity segments were performing. Sharma said Bajaj was prepared to let its 100cc market share erode rather than compete purely on price. The segment's share of the overall motorcycle market has fallen from 55% to around 46% over the past five to seven years, he said, adding that Bajaj would "participate in it at our own terms" and was willing to accept share losses "when growth and profitability... start getting into a conflict situation." The company's strategic focus, he said, has shifted to the 125cc-plus range, where Bajaj plans to launch two new Pulsar models and roughly ten variant refreshes within six weeks, alongside two entirely new brand nameplates in the 125cc segment later in the fiscal year. Hero MotoCorp described a more mixed picture.

Beed Oil Scam Busted: FDA Raids 5 Units, Seizes Over 1 Lakh Kg Substandard Oil

The Maharashtra Food & Drugs Administration (MFDA) seized loose edible oil worth Rs 1.94 crore from multiple establishments in the Beed district on Aug.6 and Aug. 7, according to a press note from the organisation on Sunday. Shrikant Karkale, Joint Commissioner and Nitin Mohite, Assistant Commissioner supervised these operations which targeted establishments that allegedly engage in oil repacking and selling loose oil. The FDA, under the leadership of Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe, suspended the food licences of many famed Mumbai-based culinary fixtures such as Parsi Dairy Farm, K Rustom Ice Cream, Shalimar restaurant, Noor Mohammadi Hotel and Rehmania restaurant, and more recently, various notable sports clubs across the city. The food safety body advised citizens to avoid purchasing loose edible oil and to ensure that it is verified with FSSAI clearance along with a manufacturing and expiry data. "Citizens are advised to purchase edible oil only from licensed vendors and to verify the FSSAI license number, manufacturing and expiry date, and proper labeling on the package," the press not stated. List Of Seizures: Swagat Oil Industries Swagat Oil



Industries saw 66,653 Kg of edible oil valued at Rs. 1.05 crore seized from its premises by the FDA. Ot flagged "misleading packaging" of soybean oil noting that they were taken from single tank labelled 'Refined' and 'Ultra Refined'. They also allegedly found large-scale use of reused tins, unhygienic premises, no in-house lab, no Certificate of Analysis, no food grade certificates, no medical/pest control records and no technical personnel. The raid was led by FSOs Ghope, Mule, Ajay Gadhe, Thombare and Narwade, with its license being suspended with immediate effect and the unit being closed. The press note named the local brands Swagat Gold, Goodluck, Swastik Gold Ultra as being the ones under which the oil was sold. Charkha Oil Mill Charkha Oil Mill saw 45,995.7 kg of edible oil valued at Rs. 78.22 lakh

seized from its premises by the FDA. It flagged "misleading packaging" of palmolein oil, noting the use of reused tins and unhygienic conditions. Officials also found no in-house laboratory, Certificate of Analysis, food grade certificates or other required records. The raid was conducted by FSOs Khandare, Khade, Ganesh Dattu, Rohit Phandi, Bochare and Chibhade, with 11 enforcement samples drawn. Its licence was suspended with immediate effect and the unit was closed. The press note named the local brands Shubham, Anuj Drops and Shubham Ultra as those under which the oil was sold. Jai Hanuman Traders Jai Hanuman Traders in Vadwani saw 4,545.2 kg of edible oil valued at Rs. 7.25 lakh seized from its premises by the FDA. Officials found *reused tins, unhygienic

conditions, no in-house laboratory, Certificate of Analysis, food grade certificates, medical or pest control records**, as well as improper labelling of storage tanks. The raid was conducted by FSOs Ganesh Dattu, Siddhant Khandare, Khade and Bochare, with three enforcement samples drawn. Its licence was suspended with immediate effect and the unit was closed. The press note named Soham Refined Soybean Oil as the local brand under which the oil was sold. Janhavi Commercials Janhavi Commercials in Old Mondha, Majalgaon, saw 1,746 kg of loose refined soybean oil valued at Rs. 2.79 lakh seized from its premises by the FDA. Officials found unlabelled loose oil stored in an unsafe manner, no batch numbers or Certificate of Analysis, and unhygienic storage tanks. The raid resulted in two enforcement samples being drawn. Its licence was suspended with immediate effect and the unit was closed. Vinayak Oil Industries Vinayak Oil Industries in Old Mondha, Majalgaon, saw 248 kg of loose refined soybean oil valued at Rs. 39,680 seized from its premises by the FDA. Officials found unsafe storage of loose oil, the use of reused tins and an absence of required records.

Doge overstated claims to have saved Americans \$110bn, watchdog finds



Some estimates made by Doge, the body charged with reducing US government spending, that it saved billions of dollars are "incorrect or lack supporting evidence", a watchdog has found. A report released on Thursday by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has given an extensive review of Doge's claims about its so-called "Wall of Receipts", which reported savings of \$110bn (£82bn) across contracts, grants and leases. "Several issues limit the transparency and reliability of these reported savings," the report stated. Asked for comment, a White House official said the administration told the GAO that all employees had to complete ethics training and follow financial disclosure requirements. Doge, the Department of Government Efficiency, was not an official government department. It launched at the start of President Trump's second term but closed last month. Its Wall of Receipts was a way of showing its purported savings in taxpayer money online. Elon Musk, the billionaire boss of Tesla and SpaceX who formerly led Doge but left in May 2025, initially promised to save as much as \$2tn a year by slashing federal jobs

and shuttering government programmes, among other cost-cutting measures. Even by Doge's own estimates, it fell short of that goal, as its website claims to have saved an estimated \$214bn. "While Doge provided some information about estimated savings, several issues limit the transparency and reliability of these reported savings," the GAO report stated. It said Doge had not been transparent regarding the methods it used to calculate savings, highlighting it "did not provide sufficient information to verify the method used to calculate 96% of Doge-reported sav-

ings". Among its specific findings was that 108 of the 264 leases identified by Doge for termination were already in the process of ending before the body was established. That accounts for about \$15.3m of the total \$53.5m in savings Doge claimed. "The Wall of Receipts does not include an explanation of how the savings from terminated leases were calculated," the GAO said. Claims were also made about savings that were not achieved, like \$1.7bn for ending a defence department contract for IT services. However, the contract was never terminated and thus no savings were

achieved, according to the congressional watchdog's report. "While the Wall of Receipts includes some information about the data and sources underlying reported savings, it does not sufficiently disclose limitations affecting data quality," it assessed. The GAO audit, which was carried out at the request of Democratic Senators Gary Peters and Richard Blumenthal, covered savings data reported from 20 January 2025 through 7 July 2026. "Everyone supports rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government, but Doge was a slapdash and deceptive effort that misled the American people while doing real damage to the government's ability to serve them," Senator Peters said in a statement on Thursday. Under Musk, Doge pushed for massive reductions in the federal workforce, as well as the shuttering of programmes and even agencies such as the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Some of Doge's moves were met with legal fights, or were reversed. When the group's cost-cutting resulted in bird flu officials at the US Department of Agriculture being fired, the Trump administration looked to re-hire them days later.

MOCA Orders Aircraft Accident Investigation Body To Look Into Air India Phuket-Delhi Incident



The Ministry of Civil Aviation of India (MOCA) ordered the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) to investigate the Air India Phuket-Delhi flight incident, sources told on Sunday. The development comes after flight AI 2379, operating from Phuket to Delhi, experienced a brief in-flight turbulence-related event during its cruise in the previous week, resulting in injuries to some passengers and crew members, though there were no serious injuries. The aircraft landed safely in Delhi and all passengers and crew have safely disembarked, the airline said, as per reports. The airline said the flight "experienced a brief in-flight turbulence-related event during cruise, resulting in a momentary change in altitude." A minimum of 17 people, including four cabin crew members, suffered injuries in the inci-

dent, according to Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu. He added that some of the crew members have suffered spinal and neck injuries. The DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) further suspended the two pilots involved with the incident regarding the turbulence-hit aircraft from Phuket to Delhi in the previous week. Both pilots underwent prescribed psychoactive substance screening tests as per sources, with further action to be taken once the results' outcome is known. Further action will be taken based on the outcome of the investigation and confirmatory test results. The screening test in respect of the Pilot-in-Commands (PIC) indicated a result requiring confirmatory testing with the samples being sent to the designated laboratory for confirmatory analysis.

MARUTI SUZUKI ANNUAL INTEGRATED REPORT 2025-26

The Next Million, New Momentum: Every Engine of Growth in Motion

New Delhi, 9 August 2026: Maruti Suzuki India Limited ("Maruti Suzuki") has released its Annual Integrated Report 2025-26, themed "The Next Million, New Momentum". The theme reflects the momentum created by multiple growth drivers operating simultaneously, accelerating the Company's journey into the next phase of growth. The report highlights how the revival of the small car segment, the strengthening of the Company's SUV portfolio, its multi-powertrain strategy, focus on capacity expansion and robust export performance have created fresh momentum for growth. The Company registered its highest ever annual sales of 24.22 lakh vehicles and record exports of 4.47 lakh vehicles in FY 2025-26. Having achieved the 2 million sales mark for the third consecutive year, the Company, supported by all the key growth drivers in

place, is optimistic about reaching its next million-vehicle milestone earlier than anticipated. Mr. R. C. Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Suzuki India Limited said, "I am happy to inform you that these GST reforms have given a new impetus not only to the automobile industry but to several sectors of the economy... We are in the process of making as accurate an estimate as possible of the likely growth of the car market in the next five years. Presently, we are estimating that the car industry would grow to 6.1 to 6.3 million units by FY 2030-31 and that the share of the small car market would grow significantly faster than its pace of growth in the last five years." On India's journey towards Net Zero, he added, "In India we need to use multiple technologies to achieve our goal of moving to net zero. We strongly believe that biogas can be

generated in large quantities from locally available resources. This form of energy would substitute for imported CNG and be clean and renewable with zero import content. In addition, there would be many valuable byproducts... Maruti Suzuki Board has approved that we start four biogas plants in the 1st phase, at a cost of Rs.561 crore, and once we have learnt more about the process and technology, we hope to invest substantial amounts of money in the production and distributions of biogas. It will provide zero emission fuel and reduce the pressure on CNG and on burning coal for generating electricity." Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited said, "Reflecting our confidence in the medium-term outlook, we accelerated our capacity expansion plans. During FY 2026-27, we added

500,000 units of manufacturing capacity. Customer expectations continue to evolve rapidly. The Company has plans to introduce 7 SUVs in the next 5 to 6 years to further strengthen SUV portfolio." He added, "As India progresses towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, the automobile industry has both a responsibility and an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to this journey. Through manufacturing, exports, technology development, employment generation, skill creation and sustainable mobility, Maruti Suzuki remains committed to supporting India's aspirations. The next million sales of vehicles represent far more than a volume milestone. They represent greater access to mobility, stronger manufacturing capabilities, wider adoption of cleaner technologies, deeper localization and broader value creation for society."

TELANGANA FARMERS SAVED \$560 EACH THROUGH AI FORECASTS: REPORT

Artificial intelligence-powered weather forecasts helped small farmers in Telangana save as much as USD 560 by altering their behaviour in response to specific risks, a World Bank report said. Citing a Telangana study and other examples, the World Bank urged developing countries to expedite the adoption of small, low-cost artificial intelligence tools to improve the lives of millions. The World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence, released on Tuesday, August 4, said among economic impacts, AI can help millions of small businesses and farmers become more productive. "In the Indian state of Telangana, for example, an AI weather forecasting system enabled smallholder farmers to alter their behaviour in response to specific risks, causing some to increase farm expenditures by as much as one-third and others to reap net savings of as much as USD 560 per farmer," the report said, citing a 2025



study conducted in Medak and Mahbubnagar districts of Telangana. It said among social impacts, predictive AI analytics and decision support for back-office administrative work in government can have large payoffs. AI helped farmers make better production and investment choices. The report highlighted that AI-generated weather forecasts helped farmers who relied little on information from the government and extension agents—make better production and investment choices. The report is the first comprehensive assessment of AI's implications for developing countries, revealing

how businesses and governments in these countries have begun to use AI. It finds that AI is already helping people, businesses, and governments solve problems, analyse information, improve forecasts, and deliver services at a larger scale. The report suggests that governments could use AI to improve tax collection, social programmes, disaster response, health care, and education. "Today's developing economies missed the first Industrial Revolution and spent the next two centuries paying the price. They cannot afford to miss this one," said Indermit Gill, Senior

Highlights

■ Artificial intelligence-powered weather forecasts helped small farmers in Telangana save as much as USD 560 by altering their behaviour in response to specific risks

Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank Group. The report said developing countries should leave it to the rich world to agonise over whether AI will one day doom humanity. The report recommends an emphasis on small AI applications diffused widely across the economy instead of big investments in large language models concentrated in a few firms. The World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence, said among economic impacts, AI can help millions of small businesses and farmers become more productive.

Hormuz talks positive, Oman says, as Iran warns deal would not open strait



Oman has said positive talks have been taking place with Iran over an agreement to secure a shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz, as Tehran warned that any deal would not see an immediate reopening of the vital waterway. Both sides suggested on Saturday that discussions were progressing, but a timeline on any deal being finalised remained unclear. Oman's foreign ministry warned against attacks on shipping that could hamper that. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said talks were in their final stages but the reopening of the strait remained "subject to other conditions". Tehran has effectively blockaded the waterway, through which around a fifth of the world's oil and natural gas usually flows, since the US and Israel began attacking it in February. Talks in recent days have focused on the possibility of a deal between Iran and Oman on a new route through the strait, which they would both have responsibility for and is hoped would lead to progress in resuming shipping traffic.

But Araghchi said a full reopening of the typically busy maritime route depended on other conditions being met, of which he provided a cursory appraisal. He said the conditions included Iran receiving compensation from the US for what Tehran described as violations of the deal both sides signed in June to cease fighting and advance talks to end the war. That deal - called a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) - quickly fell through, as did diplomatic talks, with tit-for-tat attacks resuming just days after it was signed. Separately, Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr, Iran's security chief, told the semi-official news agency Tasnim that the Strait of Hormuz would not reopen until the US "corrects" its behaviour. He said the US needed to meet six Iranian demands, including a halt to threats against Iran, removal of its naval blockade of Iranian ports and release of Iran's frozen assets. Another blockade, on Saudi Arabia's ports in the Red Sea, had been imposed by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis since 20 July.



■ Residents warned to brace for the worst as Canada wildfire rages out of control

ISRAEL REJECTS TRUMP'S 15-POINT PLAN FOR GAZA, NETANYAHU SAYS

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected US President Donald Trump's 15-point plan for Gaza, stating that no military pull-out will happen until Hamas is "genuinely" disarmed. Trump's Board of Peace said last month it had reached an agreement for the "complete disarmament" of Hamas and other armed groups in Gaza. But Hamas said handing over its heavy weapons was contingent on Israel ending "all forms of aggression" and withdrawing its forces from Gaza. Israel has continued to carry out strikes on Gaza since agreeing to an initial ceasefire in the territory last October. "Israel rejects the 15-point document," Netanyahu



said at a cabinet meeting on Sunday. The Israeli military "will not carry out any withdrawal until Hamas is genuinely disarmed and will continue to thwart threats against our forces and our citizens", he added. Trump last month announced "a monumental step toward lasting peace and security" after Hamas said it had accepted a disar-

mament plan for Gaza. But Netanyahu said that Hamas had to disarm before Israel withdrew its forces from Gaza, adding it couldn't be some "fictitious disarmament". He said he was now in discussion with US officials about how to go forward. "They have ideas; some of them are acceptable to us and some are not, and we

know how to stand our ground on these matters," he said. Just months before Israeli elections, the Israeli prime minister is unlikely to want to make concessions. He has faced calls from his far-right allies to hold a new cabinet vote and end the Gaza plan, including National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir who dismissed the draft as "not acceptable". It signals another blow for Trump's Gaza peace plan which was announced in September last year. The plan included the creation of the Board of Peace to oversee the agreement's implementation, as well as the disarmament of Hamas, withdrawal of Israeli troops and reconstruction of Gaza.

Rotting food from vast LA warehouse fire creates weeks-long unbearable stench



On any typical day, Alexis Sicairos and his girlfriend have a line of patrons waiting to order a banana buzz latte or a cloud matcha at their Los Angeles coffee stand. But now, the street corner where they sit is largely empty. The reason is clear the second you walk into the neighbourhood: it stinks. On 17 June, a fire destroyed a large cold-storage warehouse in the area, leaving behind some 85 million lb (39 million kg) of rotting food, including beef, pork, poultry and seafood. Nearly two months later, residents of Boyle Heights say the clean-up has taken a lot longer than expected and they've grown frustrated with the pungent odour hovering over the area. "It smells really bad, like really bad... to the point that you want to throw up," says Mesha, a 37-year-old security guard stationed outside a marijuana dispensary. She likens the smell to that of a dead body. Lineage, the company that operated the warehouse, said that as of Monday about 80% of the food waste had been removed. But city officials said this week that the company's response had "fallen short" and that they have issued public health and safety violation notices. "It's been tough," Sicairos, 30, says. After shutting down his coffee stand for two weeks because of the fire, Brew Sting has reopened - but the demand hasn't been the same. He says flies have been swarming relentlessly over the past weeks, since the food that was stored in the warehouse began rotting. The warehouse work-

ers that would previously line up to buy coffee haven't been showing up over the past two months. "Due to the fire, obviously most of them aren't here," Sicairos says. "So we lost those customers, but we also lost customers that don't want to be around the smell, the smoke, the flies. It's understandable. But we have to keep paying our bills, so we're still here." One cannot walk through the area, which is mostly a warehouse district surrounded by homes, without swatting away countless flies, both big and small, including black, blue and green ones. As Sicairos packs up his coffee stand for the day, flies are landing on his tables and his body. He acknowledges that patrons don't want to see flies when they're purchasing food or drinks to consume. A city-commissioned inspection report found that waste and high temperatures at the warehouse could speed up the breeding of flies capable of infecting wounds in both people and animals, a local NBC affiliate reported. The report from a pest control company said it could put people and animals with open wounds at risk of contracting disease. People in the community have also reported seeing large rats, and they say traps placed along sidewalks aren't big enough to hold them. Many residents blame the city for what they deem an inadequate response to the fire and a lack of transparency and resources. "I understand why residents are frustrated," Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass told the BBC in a statement.

Israel accused of weaponising archaeology at ancient West Bank sites

Up in the hills above the Roman columns of the ancient site of Sebastia, in the occupied West Bank, are olive fields that have been cultivated for generations by Palestinian families. One of the landowners, Abu Mudif, says he has received notification that his land is part of a tranche of about 450 acres that the Israeli authorities are taking possession of in order, they say, to protect and develop the site for a major new national park. Typically, Palestinian landowners receive little or no payment for such land expropriation. And even when it is offered, most refuse it as they see accepting it as giving recognition and legitimacy to the loss of what they see as their patrimony. It's a vital income for Abu Mudif to lose of course, but it goes deeper than that for him. "If I wanted to describe it, the closest description I can give is that it is like having your soul ripped away. I cannot imagine myself without my land." Nahed Sakha owns a local restaurant that



is under threat of demolition. He says the Israeli plan seems to be to cut Palestinian residents off from the archaeological site, which dates back thousands of years and has significant remains from the ancient Jewish past, as well as many other eras including the Romans, the Crusaders and the Ottomans. "Restoration work has now begun along with excavations," he says. "Landowners were told that no-one would be allowed to use or plough their land." The concerns of the village that surrounds Sebastia have been echoed by the United Nations culture and education agency,

Unesco, which has now declared it not just a World Heritage Site but also added it to the List of World Heritage in Danger. Unesco says that the main threat facing the site concerns what it calls the "planned expropriation and creation of the 'Samaria' (Shomron) national park, which could divide the property". Standing on a path between the entrance car park in Sebastia on one side - where the Roman-era forum once stood - and the columns of the basilica on the other, the village mayor, Mohammed Azem, looks down to his right at some rubbish left in the ruins. He

says locals are now worried about reaching down to clean the area as it might cause problems with Israeli security forces and settlers. The path on which he stands divides the site between Area B of the West Bank - which is under Palestinian civil and Israeli security control - and Area C, which is under full Israeli civil and security control. Last week, Israel allocated roughly 113 million shekels (£27.8m) to expanding its control over archaeological sites in the West Bank. Some projects involve sites in areas administered by the Palestinian Authority. In the remains of the Roman theatre, Israeli activist Alon Arad - who heads Emek Shaveh, an Israeli group that aims to ensure that the ancient heritage of the region belongs to all communities - says that the Israeli authorities have bypassed consultation with the local administration and residents of Sebastia. "The thing is that Israel is not the owner of this place. This is a Palestinian heritage site.

Suspected crime boss Daniel Kinahan returning to Ireland in high-security operation



The Irish government jet carrying suspected crime boss Daniel Kinahan has departed Dubai for Dublin. The 49-year-old was arrested in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in April and is being extradited to the Republic of Ireland to face a charge of directing a criminal organisation. Kinahan will be immediately charged upon his arrival in Dublin and then brought by gardai (Irish police) to appear before the non-jury, three judge Special Criminal Court on Sunday evening. A large-scale security operation is in place. Ahead of the extradition the Irish Prison Service bought a bulletproof

and bombproof van which can be used to escort prisoners who are considered high-risk. According to flight tracking data, the plane carrying Kinahan departed Dubai at 13:19 local time and is expected to land in Dublin before 19:00 local time on Sunday. Irish authorities are expected to prosecute him for his involvement in leading an organised crime group. The National Crime Agency (NCA) has previously said that the Kinahan cartel has been responsible for importing tonnes of drugs and firearms around the world and has also been linked to more than a dozen gangland murders. Kinahan is not only wanted by the authorities in Ireland - the US Treasury Department once described the Kinahan cartel as one of the most dangerous in the world. The US government imposed sanctions on Kinahan in April 2022 after he and other members of his family were identified as leaders of the Kinahan organised crime cartel.



Ancient Roman shipwreck discovered off Sicily coast

Nigeria's mass wedding - and how telling lovers from fraudsters is proving tricky

Celebrations have turned the northern Nigerian city of Kano into a riot of colour and excitement over the last week as 1,500 couples married at a mass wedding. For days the city's streets have been buzzing with bridal parties and their families preparing outfits and attending other organised events. On Friday, brides in red hijabs with grooms in matching red hats and white robes went to the palace of the Emir, the city's traditional Muslim leader, for the main ceremony where they officially became husband and wife. The nuptials culminated on Saturday with a wedding breakfast hosted by Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, who offered his blessing to the newlyweds. The Kano state government sponsored this initiative, spending



1.5bn naira (\$1m; £815,000) to support those tying the knot - providing the bride's dowry and furniture for the couple's first home. The scheme targets low-income individuals who cannot afford the significant financial costs associated with marriage. The annual event was initiated in 2012 by the then-governor when 100 couples - primarily widows and divorcees - wed at the palace. The mass weddings have continued under

subsequent governors, with numbers expanding each year as demand has grown and included those in polygamous Muslim marriages. Such is the popularity of the scheme that 5,000 couples applied this year. The event is always overseen by the Hisbah - the city's Islamic police force - and one of their main tasks is to vet the couples wanting to wed. Kano has a majority Muslim population and Sharia operates in

the state alongside the secular legal system. Muijahid Aminudeen, deputy commander-general of the Hisbah, admits it is not an easy task. "Whenever we find out that there's something dubious or fishy about a couple, we disqualify them," he tells the BBC. He says some couples will go to great lengths to convince the authorities that they are a genuine love match when their eye is more on the benefits on offer. The state government has spent approximately 1m naira (\$735; £544) on each participating couple. According to the Hisbah, the support package a couple receives includes essential household items needed to establish a new home: beds, mattresses, bedsheets, pillows, furniture and food supplies.

"HUNGRY FOR MORE":

Ashmita Chaliha's Big Claim After Korea Masters Triumph

Ashmita Chaliha's breakthrough moment on the BWF World Tour left her struggling to put the achievement into words as the 26-year-old Indian overcame China's fourth-seeded Han Qian Xi 14-21, 21-14, 21-14 in 53 minutes to win the Korea Masters women's singles title on Sunday. "I feel really great; it's unbelievable. I'm still trying to digest it," Ashmita said in a video by Olympics.com after completing a comeback victory that earned her a maiden BWF World Tour crown and moved her closer to a place among the world's top 40. The Indian, ranked No. 50 before the tournament, had to negotiate challenging conditions as she recovered from a slow start in the final. Ashmita initially led 9-5 but was unable to maintain her advantage and surrendered the opening game 14-21. The conditions, however, played a significant



role in how the match unfolded, and Ashmita found her rhythm once she switched sides. "First set was a little bit tricky because of the drift conditions, so I wasn't able to manage it. But then the second set, the other side is more comfortable, and it's a little bit less drift. So I was able to control it. In the third set, when I changed again after 11 points, I was on the good side...so I'm glad that I could pull off." That adjustment proved decisive. Ashmita steadily took control of the

second game before carrying the momentum into the decider, where she kept Han under pressure to close out the biggest title of her career. The triumph also made Ashmita the first Indian to win the Korea Masters, adding another milestone to a season in which she has made significant progress after returning from a three-month injury layoff in May. Her run in Asan was particularly notable given the quality of opposition she overcame.

BRETT LEE SNUBS SACHIN TENDULKAR AS CRICKET'S GOAT



Sachin Tendulkar is the best batter to have ever played the game, and there are very few who doubt that. Even for Australia's pace bowling legend Brett Lee, that remains the case. However, when it comes to picking the greatest cricketer of all time (GOAT), Lee has another name in mind. For him, while there is no denying Tendulkar's prowess with the bat, it is Jacques Kallis, the South African icon, who is the ultimate GOAT in the sport. Speaking on the Beer Biceps podcast, Lee doffed his hat to Tendulkar,

admitting that there has not been a better batter to play the sport. Yet, when evaluating all-round skills, it is Kallis who tops the charts for him. "I've always said that I think that the best batsman to ever play the game is Sachin Tendulkar. But the best cricketer is Jacques Kallis. He's got the best numbers in the world. If you look at his stats, the stats don't lie. He's incredible." Lee and Kallis were rivals on the international circuit, but they became teammates for a brief period in the Indian Premier League.

From Olympic Bronze With PV Sindhu To Back-To-Back Super 300s, Park Tae-Sang's Next Act Takes Shape

Two Super 300 titles. Two different players. Two consecutive weeks. For Park Tae-Sang, it is not just a fortnight of good results. It offers a glimpse of his work that he has been putting in Indian badminton, building players who, he hopes, can become the next generation of Indian stars. Last Sunday, 17-year-old Tanvi Sharma won the Taipei Open. Seven days later, 26-year-old Ashmita Chaliha made a stunning comeback from a career-threatening knee injury to win the Korea Masters. "It's been an amazing two weeks. Last week, Tanvi was also amazing. She is only 17 and won her first BWF-level title. Today, I was even happier because it was Ashmita's first final and she won the title. As a coach, I'm really happy," Park told PTI from Asan, Korea. Park spent four years with PV Sindhu in Hyderabad, a stint that culminated in the Tokyo Olympics bronze medal. After that association ended, he was approached by the Badminton Association of



India about working with younger players. "When I started working with Sindhu, she was already a world champion and had a group of good senior players around her. This time, I thought to myself, 'Okay, let's start from the beginning. I will build these players myself, with my own hands.' The idea was to create a new generation of Indian players." Bigger goal is Olympic qualifying race for 2028 LA Games Three years in National Centre of Excellence, Guwahati and the results are beginning to

show. However, Park sees the two titles as stepping stones to bigger achievements. "I think winning two BWF 300-level titles in the last two weeks is a good achievement, but they are only 300-level tournaments. The players are now looking towards the 500, 750 and 1000-level tournaments," he said. "Our bigger goal is the same for both Tanvi and Ashmita. From May 1 next year, the Olympic qualifying race for the 2028 Los Angeles Games will begin, so next year is going to be very important.

INDIA'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP JOURNEY: FROM GLORY IN 1975 TO YEARS OF NEAR MISSES

India's men's hockey team has had a roller-coaster journey in the World Cup, from winning the inaugural bronze in 1971 to lifting the title in 1975 and then enduring a long wait for another podium finish. The eight-time Olympic champions' only World Cup triumph came in Kuala Lumpur in 1975, when Ajit Pal Singh's side defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 in the final. Pakistan remain the most successful team in the tournament with four titles, while the Netherlands, Australia and Germany have won it three times each. Belgium are the other champions. Here is a look at India's World Cup journey through the 2023 edition: 1971 Barcelona The World Cup was conceived after India and Pakistan jointly proposed a hockey tournament on the lines of football's World Cup at the FIH Council meeting in 1969. Pakistan were initially awarded the hosting rights, but political tensions between the two countries forced the inaugural edi-



tion to be shifted to Barcelona. India topped Pool A after beating France, Argentina, Kenya and West Germany, but lost 1-2 to Pakistan in the semi-finals. Pakistan went on to beat Spain in the final to become the inaugural champions, while India defeated Kenya 2-1 to take the bronze medal. 1973 Amsterdam India reached the final of the second World Cup in Amsterdam but

missed out on the title after a dramatic finish against hosts the Netherlands. The Indian team finished second in Pool A behind West Germany before beating Pakistan in the semi-finals, with B P Govinda scoring the decisive goal. The final ended 2-2 after extra time before the Netherlands prevailed in the penalty shootout to claim their maiden World Cup title. 1975 Kuala Lumpur

March 15, 1975 remains the defining date in Indian hockey's World Cup history. Led by Ajit Pal Singh, India defeated Pakistan 2-1 in the final to win their only World Cup title so far. Pakistan took the lead, but Surjit Singh equalised in the 44th minute before Ashok Kumar scored the winner in the 51st minute. Seven time Olympic champion India had topped their pool before defeating Malaysia in the semi-finals. 1978 Buenos Aires India's title defence ended in disappointment as the defending champions failed to qualify for the semi-finals and finished sixth. India won three of their six pool matches but suffered two defeats, including a heavy 0-7 loss to West Germany. Pakistan regained the title by defeating the Netherlands 3-2 in the final, while Australia finished third. 1982 Mumbai India hosted the World Cup for the first time in Mumbai but could not make it to the final four, finishing fifth.

FANS CRASH WRONG WEDDING THINKING IT'S RONALDO'S



Chaos erupted on the Portuguese island of Madeira on Saturday as a bride and groom were mobbed by thousands of fans, who mistook them for football icon Cristiano Ronaldo and his partner, Georgina Rodriguez. The huge crowd had gathered around the Funchal Cathedral amid speculation that Ronaldo and Georgina were set to tie the knot.

Sarfaraz Khan Likely To Replace Injured Sai Sudharsan For Sri Lanka Tests

India batter Sarfaraz Khan is likely to replace injured Sai Sudharsan in the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka, according to BCCI sources. Sudharsan is understood to have sustained an injury, which could rule him out of the forthcoming series. According to the source, Sarfaraz is likely to be brought into the squad as his replacement. The final decision on the squad is expected to be taken by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). "Sarfaraz Khan is likely to replace injured Sai Sudharsan in the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka," a BCCI source told ANI. Sudharsan has been undergoing rehabilitation at the Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru and has also participated in batting and fielding drills. However, the batter was unlikely to



regain full fitness in time for the opening Test against Sri Lanka, scheduled to begin in Galle on August 15. Sudharsan also did not take the flight when the Indian team departed for Sri Lanka and thus missed the ongoing three-day warm-up match against Sri Lanka Cricket XI in Colombo, which began on Friday (August 8). Meanwhile, Indian skipper Shubman Gill also sustained an injury to his right ring fin-

ger during a practice session ahead of the first Sri Lanka Test. BCCI posted on X, "Update: Captain Shubman Gill sustained an impact injury to his right ring finger during India's practice on Thursday. As a precautionary measure, he will not take the field on Day 1 of the warm-up game against SLC XI. The BCCI Medical Team is monitoring his progress. KL Rahul will lead the team in Gill's absence."

"DON'T USE THE WORD 'BLAME'":

VVS Laxman Counters Criticism Of Team India's Growing Injury Crisis

The Head of Cricket at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Centre of Excellence (COE), VVS Laxman, attended a press conference along with the board secretary, Devajit Saikia, amid the team's growing injury concern. The likes of Jasprit Bumrah and B Sri Sudharsan are the latest to join a growing injury list, and both are set to miss the upcoming 2-match Test series against Sri Lanka. As critics put the 'blame' on the way CoE is functioning, with some arguing that unfit players are being released to the national team. However, Laxman has rejected suggestions of an accountability breakdown within Indian cricket's medical and selection framework. Addressing queries regarding the clearance processes for



key stars such as Bumrah and Sudharsan, both of whom were initially picked for the Sri Lanka series, Laxman emphasised that player rehabilitation remains strictly objective, data-driven, and player-centric. In response to sharp scrutiny over whether the COE cleared players prematurely or if selection panels picked individuals with-

out complete fitness guarantees, Laxman pushed back firmly against point-scoring. "I think we don't like to use the word 'blame', because when you are using 'blame', then you are finding someone as a scapegoat. I don't think... so maybe I don't know what you all feel, and you start blaming because of this and because of that. But there is a brilliant coordination between the COE, between the team management of both the teams, and the SSM (Sports Science and Medicine) staff of both the teams, and the selection committee."

Top-Ranked Aryna Sabalenka, Jessica Pegula Stunned In Toronto Fourth Round



World number one Aryna Sabalenka and Jessica Pegula were both upset in fourth-round matches on Saturday at the Toronto Masters. Four-time Grand Slam winner Sabalenka suffered a blow to her preparations for a tilt at a third consecutive US Open title, beaten 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-4 by Russian 16th seed Ekaterina Alexandrova. "I wasn't trying to think about the score or anything like beating number one," said Alexandrova after ousting the Belarusian in 2hr 29min. "I was just trying to do my best. I just tried to play every single point as if it was the last one because with her, you don't get a lot of chances during the match." Alexandrova said. "I had a lot today, but I couldn't realize some of them. I'm super

happy that I could win because after the second set, I thought (winning) was already past me." Alexandrova moves on to a quarter-final against Ukraine's Elina Svitolina, who dispatched American Amanda Anisimova 6-2, 6-4 in 78 minutes. Russian 15th seed Shnaider upset world number three Pegula 6-3, 6-3 to book a last-eight date with Poland's Iga Swiatek. The 22-year-old left-hander took only 73 minutes to defeat Pegula. "This week I've been very comfortable on both defending and just firing some winners," Shnaider said. "It was working well. I was choosing a bigger target today but sometimes ripping the ball." Sabalenka dropped the first set on a tiebreak as her Russian opponent won five of the last six points.

Rodrigo de Paul's Beautiful Tribute For Lionel Messi After Scoring For Inter Miami

Rodrigo De Paul, Lionel Messi's teammate for both Argentina and Inter Miami, scored for the Major League Soccer side on Saturday. De Paul picked up the ball outside the penalty area in the 31st minute and unleashed a long-range strike. Monterrey goalkeeper Luis Cardenas was left helpless despite a diving attempt to keep the ball out. After scoring, De Paul removed his shirt to reveal a Messi No. 10 shirt underneath. The gesture appeared to be a tribute to Messi and his

family following the death of the Argentina star's father, Jorge Messi. Jorge Messi had reportedly been admitted to a hospital in Rosario, where he passed away. During the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America, Messi was noticeably distressed by off-field matters. De Paul, who is said to be one of Messi's closest friends, stood by the Argentina captain during the World Cup and made sure he wasn't forgotten at the club level too. Jorge is survived by his

wife and four children: Lionel, older brothers Rodrigo and Matias, and younger sister Maria Sol. When Messi's emotional distress made headlines during the World Cup, media reports prompted his family to release a statement confirming that "Jorge is experiencing a health issue," without specifying the nature of his condition. "A person's health and the peace of mind of their loved ones should not be the subject of speculation or irresponsible media interest," the statement

read, expressing "discomfort at the lack of sensitivity, respect and scruples with which some people have treated a strictly private family matter." Jorge Messi was a chemical technician and steelworker. He played football as a midfielder, reaching the youth ranks of Newell's Old Boys before having to leave the sport to complete mandatory military service in Argentina. He played a pivotal role in his third son's career, acting as his agent and managing his business affairs. He accompanied a

y o u n g Messi to Barcelona in the early 2000s for the trial that secured his place at La Masia, the club's youth academy. Lionel Messi made his senior professional debut in 2005, going on to win eight Ballon d'Or awards and lead Argentina to the 2022 World Cup title. Lionel Messi's Inter Miami teammate Rodrigo de Paul paid a beautiful tribute to the Argentina icon, who recently lost his father.



Rocking Star Yash’s Toxic Trailer Out! Unveils a Magnum Opus of Action, Redemption, Destruction & Entanglements

The much-awaited trailer of Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is finally here, offering a first glimpse into a sprawling world where chaos meets chaos, loyalties are tested and every character carries a story of their own. Headlined by Rocking Star Yash, the trailer presents Toxic as a larger-than-life magnum opus combining high-octane action and scale with an emotionally charged narrative rooted in love, hunger for power, betrayal and redemption. From striking visuals and explosive action to layered characters

and intense relationships, the trailer promises a gangster saga that is as emotionally driven as it is spectacular. At the heart of Toxic lies the complex relationship between Raya and his son, Ticket, adding an emotional core to the larger-than-life gangster world. The trailer also introduces a web of relationships and rivalries, with glimpses into the character arc of Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth and Huma Qureshi. The ensemble makes a strong impression, with each actor bringing dis-

tinct shades and intensity to their characters. Award-winning filmmaker Geetu Mohandas brings her distinctive storytelling and visual sensibility to Toxic, creating an immersive and unpredictable world. The trailer sets up a Yash vs Yash face-off, with Yash portraying both Raya and Ticket — a father and son on opposite sides of an explosive conflict. Beyond this central battle, the trailer showcases the film’s ambitious world-building through high-octane action, thrilling sequences,

striking production design and atmospheric visuals. The cinematography further enhances its dark, textured and visually arresting world, while Geetu brings together action, emotion and intricate character dynamics into an



Kiara Advani Stuns In Sculpted White Corset Gown

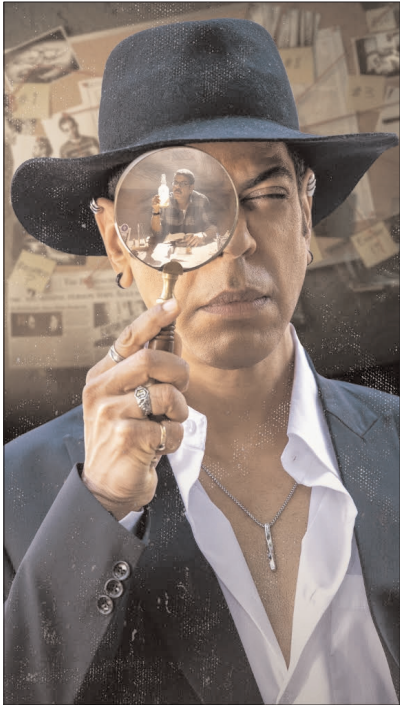


Kiara Advani is having a big day today as the trailer of her much-awaited film Toxic finally dropped, and the actress celebrated the moment in true style. Within minutes of the trailer’s release, Kiara shared a fresh set of pictures on social media, and fans could not stop gushing over her look. The trailer, which released to a wave of excitement, is packed with energy, high-octane action, and intense drama, giving audiences a proper glimpse of the chal-

lenges the lead pair takes on through the film. Kiara plays Nadia in the movie, and the trailer has already got everyone talking about her role opposite Yash. For her celebratory pictures, Kiara chose a stunning white off-shoulder gown with a structured corset-style bodice and a flowing thigh-slit skirt, keeping her look elegant yet bold. Toxic, directed by Geetu Mohandas, also stars Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria and Rukmini Vasanth.

Versatile Actor Murali Sharma’s Birthday Poster Released from Sudigali Sudheer’s "Sudheer’s Joker"

Murali Sharma to Entertain as Detective Jeevan in Sudheer’s Joker

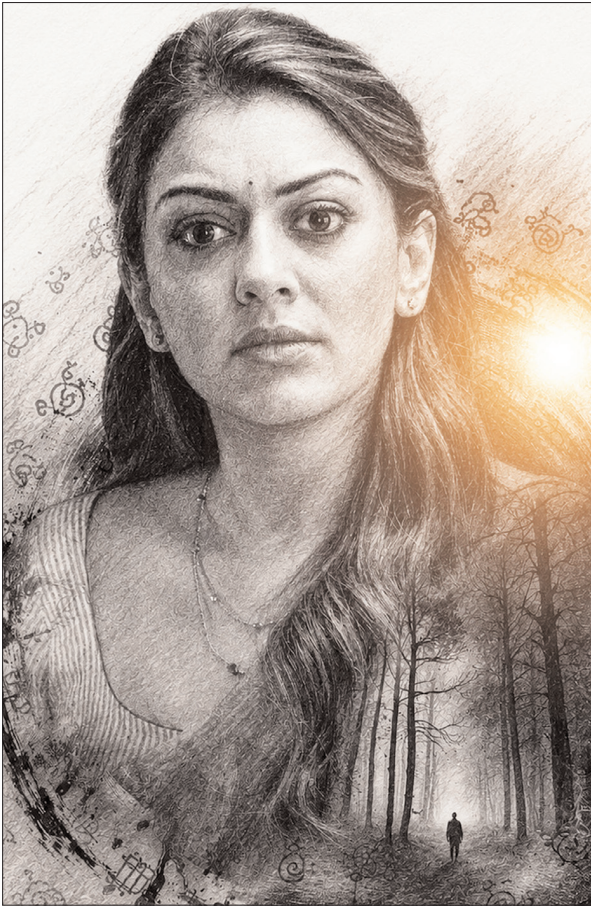


A special birthday poster from Sudheer’s Joker, starring Sudigali Sudheer, has been released today, wishing versatile actor Murali Sharma on his birthday. The film marks the Telugu debut of Bigg Boss fame Ayesha as the female lead. Abhirami, Murali Sharma, Ajay Ghosh, Ramesh Indira, Vishnu Oi and Muralidhar Goud are also playing key roles in the film. Following their well-received film Paradha, producers Srinivasulu P.V., Vijay Donkada and Sridhar Makkava are producing the movie under the Anand Media banner, with P.S. Sunil Puppala directing it.

Murali Sharma will be seen as Detective Jeevan in Sudheer’s Joker. Known for portraying a wide variety of characters across several successful Pan-India films, Murali Sharma is expected to add another memorable role to his repertoire with this character. Going by the birthday poster, his distinctive body language and natural acting style appear to be a perfect fit for the role of Detective Jeevan. The film follows a royal family-born protagonist who turns to robberies, while Detective Jeevan uses his intelligence and experience to decode the criminal cases surrounding him. How he investigates the cases and attempts to uncover the truth forms an intriguing part of the narrative. The character is expected to bring an interesting investigative dimension to the film With strong content and distinctive characters.

special birthday poster from Sudheer’s Joker, starring Sudigali Sudheer, has been released today, wishing versatile actor Murali Sharma on his birthday.

HANSIKA MOTWANI’S MYSTERIOUS FIRST LOOK FROM ‘KAPAALI’ UNVEILED



Hansika Motwani’s Mysterious First Look From Rohith Nara, Raam Ganni, Kalyana Chakravarthy Manthina, Bhanu Kiran Pratapa, Vijay Krishna Lingamaneni Presents, Sapta Aswa Media Works’ Kapaali Unveiled. The makers of Rohith Nara’s upcoming psychological horror thriller Kapaalihave unveiled a striking first-look poster featuring Hansika Motwani on the occasion of her birthday. Directed by Raam Ganni, the film is set against a police backdrop while delving into a dark and mysteri-

ous world of psychological horror. Presented by Vijay Krishna Lingamaneni, Kapaali is produced by Kalyana Chakravarthy Manthina and Bhanu Kiran Pratapa under the Sapta Aswa Media Works banner. The poster presents Hansika in a black-and-white, hand-sketched aesthetic, with an intense and deeply serious expression. Her long, flowing hair frames her face, while her sharp gaze and composed demeanour create an air of mystery. Dressed in a simple outfit and accessorised with a delicate chain, she appears enigmatic.

TARA SUTARIA DAZZLES IN LEOPARD PRINT AT TOXIC

Tara Sutaria left everyone amazed with her stunning look at the Toxic trailer launch event held in Bengaluru. The actress, who plays Rebecca in the film, arrived at the star-studded event alongside her co-stars Yash, Kiara Advani, Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi and Rukmini Vasanth, and instantly became one of the most talked-about attendees of the evening. Tara opted for a bold leopard-print gown by designer Amrit Arora, featuring a wide off-shoulder neckline and long fitted sleeves that added an elegant contrast to her glamorous avatar. She rounded off her look with statement gold jewellery, striking makeup and voluminous curls, exuding old-Hollywood charm at the grand launch event.



Preity Mukhundhan Proves Why She’s A Style Star

Preity Mukhundhan is currently riding high on love from her fans, and she recently gave her three million followers something to cheer about with a fresh set of stunning pictures. The actress took to social media to share the new shots, and it did not take long for the pictures to go viral among her admirers. In the photos, Preity looked absolutely radiant in a shimmering silver embellished saree paired with a matching backless blouse, letting her sequinned drape do all the talking. She kept her styling minimal yet elegant, with soft waves and statement jhumka earrings completing the glamorous look.



DC FAME WAMIQA GABBI: THE NEW GLAM QUEEN TO WATCH



Wamiqa Gabbi graces the cover page of Face Magazine in an absolutely stunning fashion statement. Adorned in a vibrant red saree, she effortlessly captures attention and radiates an aura of timeless beauty. The inclusion of stylish Google accessories adds a modern and trendy twist to her overall look. There was a time when female characters in Indian cinema were largely limited to being the hero’s love interest, adding glamour, shaking their booty in songs, or ultimately becoming his wife.



Sara Tendulkar Shines In Ivory Corset Saree Look

Sara Tendulkar gave the traditional saree a bold, modern twist in her latest photoshoot for Vogue India. The star kid was seen draped in a pastel green Banarasi saree with delicate floral embroidery, paired to the second spot in the Global e-Cricket Premier League Season 3 after a strong win over defending champions Chennai Falcons, keeping her team firmly in the playoff race. The fashion-forward look featured an off-white pure satin silk and organza silk corset blouse, designed with a structured, strapless silhouette and a sweetheart neckline. Its sculpted fit added a modern,

even seen biting into a cake, adding a fun and candid touch to the otherwise fairytale-like aesthetic of the shoot. Meanwhile, Sara has also been making headlines on another front. Her franchise, Mumbai Grizzlies, climbed to the second spot in the Global e-Cricket Premier League Season 3 after a strong win over defending champions Chennai Falcons, keeping her team firmly in the playoff race. The fashion-forward look featured an off-white pure satin silk and organza silk corset blouse, designed with a structured, strapless silhouette and a sweetheart neckline. Its sculpted fit added a modern,

sophisticated edge to the otherwise traditional Indian ensemble. Sara paired the contemporary blouse with a Vanda pastel green Katan silk Banarasi handloom saree by Tili. The delicate pastel shade brought a soft, ethereal quality to the look, while the traditional Banarasi weave and floral motifs added richness and texture. The contrast between the sharply structured corset and the fluid saree drape gave the ensemble a distinctly editorial aesthetic. Rather than relying on heavy embellishment, the look allowed the craftsmanship of the silk saree and the clean lines of the corset to take centre stage.