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I am proud to be a dimagi naxal, says Chidambaram

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

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

TRISHA KRISHNAN'S DIY GLAM BEATS ANY STYLIST



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

11-06-2026

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

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

Short Takes

Not Opposition: Rijiju explains who 'dimagi Naxals' are

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

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

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

Israeli strike kills senior Hezbollah commander

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

Rahul lauds youth for opposing Modi regime

New Delhi (TSIT):

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

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

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



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

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

Trump posts photo with North Korean leader Kim, says 'we get along great'

Washington, Aug 16 : US President Donald Trump has posted a photo of himself meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom in 2019 on social media, repeating his claim that he and Kim "get along great."

The posting came as the White House has repeatedly said that Trump remains open to dialogue with Kim "without any preconditions," although it remains uncertain whether Pyongyang will come forward for talks amid deepening economic, diplomatic and military cooperation with Moscow.

"Despite the unfriendly look on this particular picture, there are many where we're smiling, Kim Jong Un and I get along GREAT!" the president wrote on Truth Social on Saturday (local time).

Trump had three in-person



meetings with Kim during his first term: the first meeting in Singapore in June 2018, the second in Hanoi in February 2019 and then the Panmunjom meeting in June 2019.

The third meeting drew international attention as Trump briefly set foot on

North Korean soil after crossing the Military Demarcation Line with Kim -- the first time a sitting US president had done so, reports Yonhap news agency. In June, Trump also posted on Truth Social a photo of the leaders' first meeting in Singapore in 2018, reinforcing

"Despite the unfriendly look on this particular picture, there are many where we're smiling, Kim Jong Un and I get along GREAT!" the president wrote on Truth Social on Saturday (local time).

speculation that he might seek to rekindle his personal diplomacy with Kim.

In an analysis on Thursday, Victor Cha, Korea Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), said that Kim could seek renewed summitry with Trump, potentially after the US midterm elections this fall, if Pyongyang adopts a "revisionist" approach to help cement its status as a nuclear-armed state.

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



Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU :

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

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

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

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

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

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

ment every six months.

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

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

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

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

Shah attacks Congress over Vande Mataram row

Chittorgarh, Aug 16 :



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

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

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

on August 15. Slamming the Congress, Amit Shah said, "Congress forgot Vande Mataram... Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's immortal creation -- those two words of the song, Vande Mataram, meaning 'I bow to thee, Mother India' -- while chanting these words, thousands and lakhs of freedom fighters went to the gallows, faced bullets and lathis, and spent years in prison. However, for its vote bank politics, Congress forgot the Vande Mataram."

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

Vijay announces Rs 30 lakh aid to constable's family

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Iran army warns Trump over Hormuz threats

Iran (TSIT): Iranian army commander Major General Amir Hatami on Sunday, August 16, denounced United States President Donald Trump for his comments regarding the Strait

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



X to make government takedown requests more transparent

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

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

"Any censorship required by governments is now clearly visible," Musk mentioned. Under the proposed changes, X users will be able to see when governments seek the removal of posts or request restrictions on accounts. The platform also plans to disclose details about the agencies making such requests and, where available, the



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

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

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

I am proud to be a dimagi naxal, says Chidambaram

New Delhi, Aug 16 : A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi described "dimagi Naxalism" as a challenge that continued to look for opportunities to promote violence, unrest and disorder in the country, senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Sunday said that he was "proud" to be called a 'dimagi Naxal'.

Reacting to the Prime Minister's remarks, Chidambaram took to the social media platform X and posted, "I am proud to be a dimagi naxal!"

PM Modi, while addressing the nation from the historic ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day, said that India had



made significant progress in weakening armed Naxalism but cautioned that a more subtle form of the ideology, which he termed "dimagi Naxalism", continued to pose a challenge.

"We have succeeded in getting rid of armed Naxals in the jungles, but 'dimagi Naxals' (those with a Naxal mindset) are looking for opportunities to create vio-

lence, unrest... They want to drag society on the wrong path. These 'dimagi Naxals' have to be identified and isolated, and we must connect the youth with the mainstream," PM Modi said.

His remarks triggered a sharp political reaction from the Congress, which accused the Prime Minister of using increasingly provocative labels against his political opponents and said the comments reflected political desperation.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh also criticised PM Modi over his use of the term and drew a comparison with his earlier references to "urban Naxals".

Ex-Deputy Speaker of Bengal Assembly found dead at home office; suicide note recovered

Kolkata, Aug 16 : Former Deputy Speaker of the West Bengal Assembly and ex-Trinamool Congress MLA Asish Banerjee was found dead in a room at his Rampurhat residence that served as his party's office on Sunday. His body was found hanging in the office, said police, adding that a suicide note was recovered from the spot.

Banerjee was a former Trinamool Congress legislator from Rampurhat Assembly constituency in Birbhum district. In the one-page handwritten suicide note in Bengali, he wrote that he made a mistake by entering the area of politics and that never in his political career had he got involved in any cor-



rupt activity.

The development has created ripples in the political circles, with questions being raised on why he took such an extreme step.

Questions are being raised on whether he committed suicide due to political pressure or whether

there was some other reason behind it.

The police have started investigating the incident, and the body has been sent for post-mortem. The police are trying to verify whether the suicide note was actually written by him. A five-time

Trinamool Congress legislator from Rampurhat Assembly constituency, Ashish Banerjee, was also a member of the previous Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress cabinet in West Bengal, besides being a former deputy speaker of the Assembly.

"I have been involved in politics since my student days. I have never been involved in any corruption. I became the general secretary of the students' union at Burdwan University. I was not involved in any corruption there either. There have been political arguments. But in the past, those arguments had never taken the shape of hostility. Although I have not always been able to

accept all the injustices of the party, I have not been able to protest. I have never taken a single penny in exchange for any work in my entire life," the suicide note read.

The deceased leader had also claimed that his own party deprived him of all authority within Tarapith-Rampurhat Development Authority (TRDA) and alleged that many things were done to belittle him.

"I had no other responsibility in TRDA except attending the general body meeting. I was not in the tender committee. I did not have the cheque signing authority. I was not even involved in the passing of plans or the issue of a no-objection certificate for any project.

'A true patriot': Andhra Governor, CM pay tributes to Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Amaravati, Aug 16 : Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Sunday paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary.

The Governor said Vajpayee was a visionary statesman, an exceptional leader, and a true patriot whose wisdom, integrity, and compassionate leadership earned him the respect and admiration of the entire nation. His ideals of good governance, national unity, and inclusive development continue to inspire generations of people.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said in his message that former Prime Minister



Vajpayee was a symbol of patriotism, farsightedness, and inclusivity.

"A great soul who dedicated his entire life to the service of the nation with the ethos of "Nation First." The support he extended to the development of Andhra Pradesh will remain eternally etched in the hearts of the Telugu people. On the occasion of Vajpayee's death anniversary, I pay my profound respects to the great leader," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also paid tributes to Vajpayee. He said Vajpayee was a statesman whose vision was far ahead of his time and whose dream was always a strong, confident, self-reliant and resurgent Bharat.

"He believed that a Nation must have the courage to dream big, the conviction to

act boldly and the strength to stand tall in the world. His leadership laid the foundations for a stronger India, strengthening our national confidence, infrastructure, strategic capabilities and global standing. Today, as Bharat marches with greater confidence and emerges as a stronger and more self-reliant Nation, we can see the enduring power of that vision," said the Deputy Chief Minister.

"A poet whose words touched millions. A statesman whose leadership shaped history. A visionary whose dreams continue to inspire Bharat's journey. His life reminds us that great leaders do not merely shape their times. They shape the direction of generations to come," Pawan Kalyan added.

Monsoon session of AP Legislature from Monday



Amaravati, Aug 16 : The Monsoon Session of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature, beginning on Monday, is likely to discuss key issues including the impact of the El Nino phenomenon, farmers' issues, and the progress of Amaravati capital city works. Governor S. Abdul Nazeer has summoned both Houses of the state Legislature for the monsoon session.YSR Congress Party, the only opposition party, has already decided to continue its boycott of the Assembly as a mark of protest over denial of Leader of Opposition status to the party.

The party, however, will raise the issues of public interest in the Legislative Council. It has decided to raise the issue of alleged irregularities in Mega DSC-2025 for recruitment of teachers. Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patraudu on Sunday said all arrangements have been made for the session. Patraudu has said that if YSRCP members attend the session and raise public issues, he would take the responsibility of ensuring replies from the ministers concerned.He stated that it is the responsibility of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and other YSRCP MLAs to attend the session. He said they should come to the House and raise questions.

Last week, the Speaker questioned why salaries should be paid to YSRCP MLAs who decided not to attend Assembly sessions. He stated that legislators are elected to discuss public issues and raise the concerns of their constituencies in the Assembly. The Speaker said MLAs who failed to attend Assembly sessions should not be paid salaries. He suggested that the matter should be dis-

cussed in the Parliament and that appropriate legislation should be enacted.

The YSRCP has been boycotting the Assembly for nearly two years, demanding the Leader of Opposition (LoP) status.

YSRCP President and former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, on August 12, stated that there is no point in YSRCP members attending the Assembly session without LoP status.

He alleged that the coalition government led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is unwilling to give Leader of the Opposition status to the YSRCP to gag the voice of the Opposition. Addressing a meeting of party legislators, Jagan Mohan Reddy instructed the MLAs to be vigilant and raise issues of public interest and highlight the failures of the Naidu government in the Legislative Council.

"As we have strength in the Council, we should be the voice of the people and highlight the issues we have taken up, which include irregularities in DSC on which we had taken up 10 types of protests over the past 74 days, placing all evidence to establish our viewpoint," he said."We exposed leakage and outsourcing scandals, irregularities in sports quota, changes in Government Orders and demanded a CBI enquiry into the involvement of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, who is the son of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu," he said.

The YSRCP chief told the party legislators that they have to raise the issues of fees reimbursement and 'Vasathi Deevana' as students are badly affected due to the pending bills for 13 quarters accumulating to over Rs 9,100 crore and Rs 3,300 crore respectively.

Special, as always: PM Modi shares heartwarming daily routine with 'friends'

New Delhi, Aug 16 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday shared glimpses of his daily morning routine on social media, posting heartwarming moments of his interactions with peacocks and miniature cattle breeds at his official residence.

The Prime Minister shared videos and moments from the morning of Independence Day, August 15, when the animals and birds, he said, appeared to realise that he would be leaving early to attend the celebrations at the Red Fort. They came early to meet him before he left for the national event.

In the video shared by PM Modi, he can be seen feeding grains to peacocks during his morning walk and exercise routine. He was also seen feeding and gently petting native and miniature cow breeds kept at his official residence at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg.

Sharing the video on Instagram, PM Modi said, "Feeding my friends every morning is a daily routine.



Yesterday morning, they somehow realised I'm leaving early so they came to meet me as I was leaving for the Red Fort. Special, as always!"

The peacocks have regularly been seen accompanying the Prime Minister during his early morning walks and exercise sessions in the lawns of his residence.

The Prime Minister also

keeps rare, indigenous and miniature cattle breeds at his official residence.

These interactions have previously attracted considerable attention from the public and have often gone viral across social media platforms.

Among the breeds highlighted in connection with PM Modi's interactions is the miniature cattle native to the Chittoor district of

Andhra Pradesh. The breed is recognised as one of the world's smallest humped cattle breeds, with the animals standing at only around 70 to 90 cm in height. The latest video once again offered a glimpse into the Prime Minister's personal morning routine, showing his regular interaction with the animals and birds at his residence.

Prithviraj Chavan claims Gopinath Munde considered joining Cong; Pankaja Munde hits back

Mumbai, Aug 16 : A political controversy erupted after senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan asserted that late BJP leader Gopinath Munde had once explored the possibility of joining Congress, a claim that was strongly rejected by Munde's daughter and Maharashtra Minister Pankaja Munde.

Chavan said he was aware of the developments surrounding the alleged move during his tenure as Chief Minister and claimed that several rounds of discussions had taken place between Gopinath Munde and veteran Congress leader Ahmed Patel.

According to Chavan, Gopinath Munde had sought a position in the Union Cabinet as a condition for joining Congress. He further claimed that the matter was discussed with then



Congress President Sonia Gandhi, who had given her in-principle approval to the proposal.

However, Chavan said the proposal could not move ahead because the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was not in favour of inducting an Opposition MP into the government by bringing him into the ruling party.

Chavan claimed that Manmohan Singh was opposed to the idea of "poaching" an Opposition leader and making him a Union Minister, and that his objection ultimately prevented the plan from progressing.

GITAM faculty earns Ph.D. for secure IoMT research

Hyderabad: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, has congratulated Dr. Shaikh Jhani Bhasha on being awarded a Ph.D. in Electronics and Communication Engineering for his research on secure and energy-efficient communication for the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT).

His research, conducted under the guidance of Dr. Sunita Panda, Associate Professor, Department of EEECE, focused on developing secure and energy-efficient methods for collecting and transmitting medi-



cal data.

Dr. Jhani Bhasha developed an energy-aware routing protocol for Wireless Body Area

Networks to improve network lifetime and communication reliability. His research also proposed enhanced authentication and cryptographic techniques to protect healthcare data, ensuring privacy and secure data exchange.

GITAM Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. D. S. Rao, Resident Director D.V.V.S.R. Varma and Head of EEECE Prof. Prasantha R. Mudimela congratulated Dr. Jhani Bhasha and wished him success in his future research.

NMDC targets 60 MT production in FY27, 100 MT by 2030

Hyderabad, August 15: NMDC CMD Amitava Mukherjee said the company has set a target of producing 60 million tonnes of iron ore in FY27 and 100 million tonnes by 2030, following a record performance in FY26. Addressing employees and their families at the NMDC Corporate Office on Independence Day, Mukherjee said NMDC produced a record 53.15 million tonnes of iron ore and sold 50.23 million tonnes in FY26, becoming the first Indian mining company to cross 50 million tonnes of annual production.



In Q1 FY27, NMDC produced 15.12 million tonnes, registering 26 per cent growth over the same period last year. Turnover stood at Rs.

6,795 crore. Mukherjee said the company is expanding beyond iron ore into coal, steel and strategic minerals. NMDC has operationalised the Tokisud North Coal Mine in Jharkhand, while the Nagarnar Steel Plant has crossed seven million tonnes of cumulative hot metal production. He also highlighted NMDC's social initiatives, including support for the higher education of 783 young women under Balika Shiksha Yojana and MBBS admissions expected for 22 students under Chhoo Lo Aasmaan.

Ashoka seeks judicial probe into Chamarajanagar encounter

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP FOR SOCIETY



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

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

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

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

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

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

There is a close relation-

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

Reasons Given are False:

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



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

Suspension of Concerned Officials:

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

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

Demand for Comprehensive Probe into NICE Project

Responding to a query

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

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

80th Independence Day Celebrations at Alliance University and Group Institutions



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mangaluru: Three senior citizens trapped in hotel lift rescued

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

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

Despite repeated attempts, the hotel staff



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

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



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

Jain Manava Trust aids 300 visually impaired persons



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

Trustee Shanthilal Jain

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

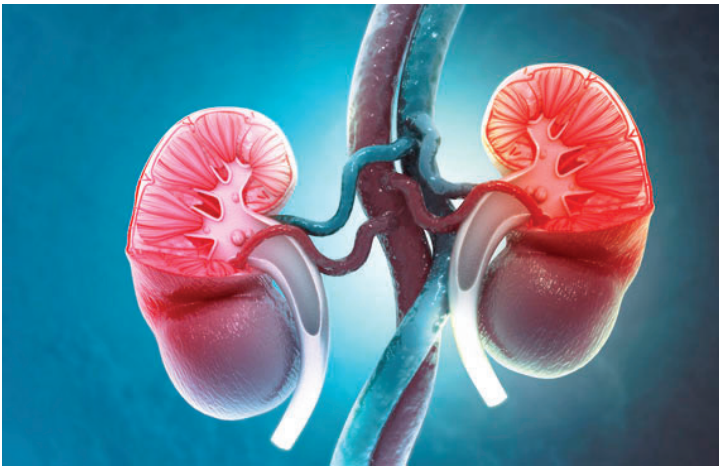
He said the assistance is aimed at meeting daily needs and promoting the dignity and well-being of visually impaired persons. The Trust will continue such welfare activities as part of its commitment to community service

Kidney care moves beyond dialysis as medicine opens new hope

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Dialysis as a bridge to life

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

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

Hemodiafiltration offers improved toxin removal

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

Peritoneal dialysis brings treatment home

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

performed at home.

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

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

Transplantation can restore independence

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

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

EDITORIAL

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

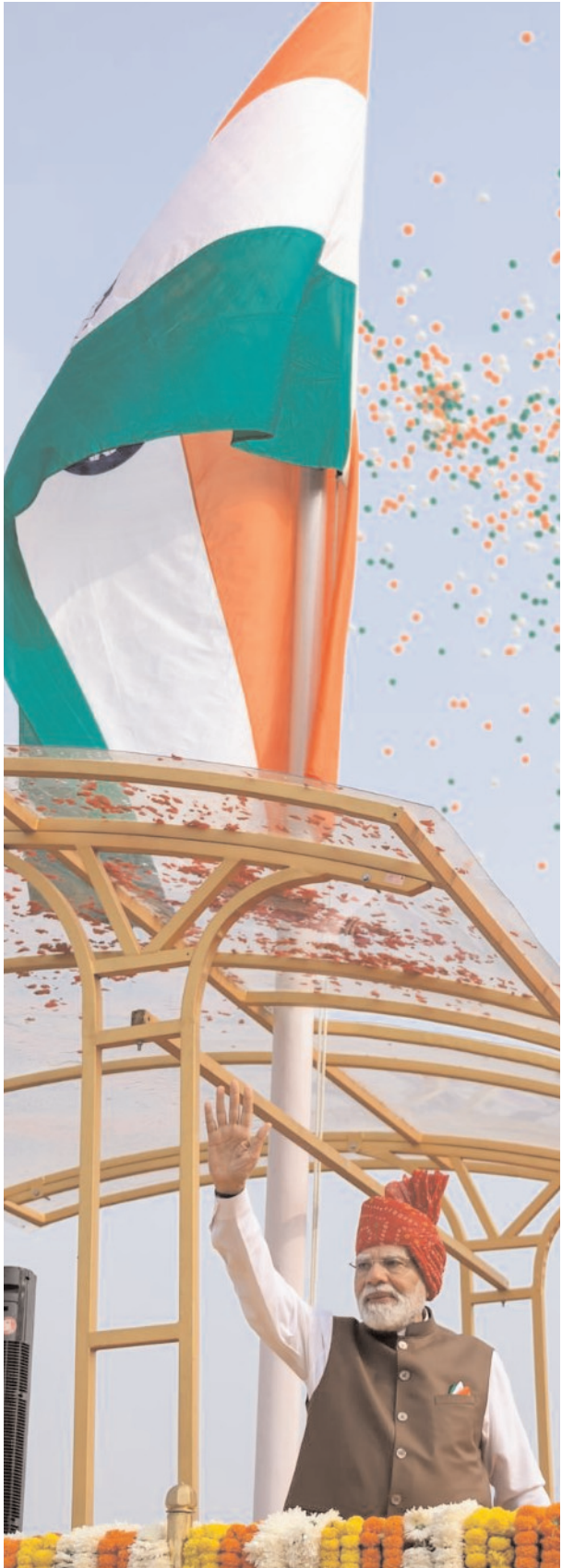
Having pledged her troth to one of the species, my spouse has scant respect for bureaucrats in general, a measured judgement that is hard to refute. A few days back, she forwarded a piece from The Wire by a civil servant titled “Where does loyalty end and complicity begin? A civil servant’s question”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

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

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

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

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



79 YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE,
IS INDIA RECOLONISING ITSELF?

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Week Ahead On D-Street: US Fed Minutes, FPI Inflows, Crude Oil Prices, US-Iran Conflict To Drive Sensex, Nifty

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

WHY TECH BOSSES KEEP SHARING THEIR MANIFESTOS ABOUT AI

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



Thousands displaced by deadly Indonesia earthquake as rescue efforts continue

HURRICANE LALA LASHES HAWAII WITH STRONG WINDS AND TORRENTIAL RAIN

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



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

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

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

Europe's tallest Virgin Mary statue unveiled in rural Poland



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

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

TWELVE KILLED AS POLISH BUS VEERS OFF HUNGARIAN MOTORWAY



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

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



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

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

QATAR DENIES CAPTURING THREE IRANIAN PILOTS AFTER DOWNING FIGHTER JETS



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

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



Five killed as Russia launches fresh aerial attacks across Ukraine

Liechtenstein changes succession rule to allow women to ascend the throne

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

Bangladesh Break Huge Record After Historic First Win In Australia

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



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

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

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

"BIGGEST UPSET, EMBARRASSING":

AUSTRALIA GREATS TEAR INTO PAT CUMMINS' SIDE AFTER BANGLADESH LOSS

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Makhachev beats Machado Garry to break UFC win record

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



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

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



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

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

IRELAND'S O'CONNOR SECURES HEPTATHLON EUROPEAN GOLD



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

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

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

NOVAK DJOKOVIC FEELS THE HEAT IN CINCINNATI OPENING DEFEAT

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



TRISHA KRISHNAN’S DIY GLAM BEATS ANY STYLIST



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

Kareena’s Pic Steals Saif’s Birthday Spotlight

