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Rahul ends over six-hour dharna after FIR in pellet injury case

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Canada says it will match US tariffs 'dollar for dollar' as trade talks break down

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CHIRANJEEVI'S 'KAAGA' TITLE GLIMPSE UNLEASHES MASS APPEAL

SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

21-08-2026
Total pilgrims: 78,057
Tonsures: 33,406
Hanul kamukha: 4,15 CR
Ladies solo: 4,62 Lac
Annaprasadam: 2,40 Lac
Ammi bhogal: 3,349
Present Situation on 22-08-2026:
Waiting Compartments...31

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) -12 H.

Short Takes

5 killed, several injured as bus plunges into crowd in Bihar

Patna (TSIT) At least five people were killed and several others were injured, including one critically, when a bus plunged into a crowd attending a cultural programme in Bihar's West Champaran district, police said on Saturday. The incident took place around 10.45 pm on Friday along the Lauriya Marg in Parau Tola under the jurisdiction of Lauriya police station. "While trying to avert a head-on collision with a truck, the bus ploughed through a crowd attending a cultural event on the roadside, killing five men and injuring several others," Narkatiyaganj Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Ajay Prakash Singh told.

iPhone EMI dispute ends in tragedy as family of three dies in Maharashtra

A family dispute over a mobile phone ended in tragedy in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on Friday, with a 48-year-old man, his wife and their teenage son dying after a sequence of fatal falls from a hilltop, police said. The deceased were identified as Murlidhar Chandgude (48), his wife Sangita and their 19-year-old son Kunal, residents of Zalta Phata in the city. According to police, the incident began around 10 am in the Tisgaon area, under the jurisdiction of Waluj MIDC police station, after Kunal, upset over an argument with his parents concerning his demand for a new mobile phone, went up the hill, reports.

30 children fall ill after mid-day meal in Indore school

Indore (TSIT): More than 30 children fell ill after consuming the mid-day meal at a government school in Sinhana village under Dharampur area of Sanwer in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district on Saturday, officials said. The students were served kadhi-chaawal under the mid-day meal scheme. Soon after consuming the food, several children complained of stomach pain, dizziness, headache, vomiting and fever. According to preliminary information, 19 children have been admitted to Aurobindo Hospital in Indore.

CM Revanth holds talks with Cambridge University Representatives



HYDERABAD (TSIT): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy held discussions with representatives and academics of Cambridge University in London on Saturday to explore collaborations aimed at strengthening Hyderabad as a global education and knowledge hub.

Leading the Telangana Rising delegation, the Chief Minister, along with IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu and senior officials, highlighted opportunities for international educational institutions to establish partnerships in Hyderabad.

Professor Jaideep Prabhu and

Professor Venkata Suresh Gandikota of Cambridge Judge Business School expressed interest in exploring collaboration with Telangana. Both sides agreed to work towards a framework for cooperation focusing on educational programmes, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and startup development.

The initiative is part of the Telangana government's efforts to partner with globally reputed universities and bring international-level education and research opportunities to Hyderabad.

Cross-FIRs after attack on CJP team amid Jaipur govt school visit

Jaipur (TSIT): Amid a row over an alleged attack on members of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) during a visit to a government school in Jaipur, the outfit and local villagers have lodged FIRs against each other, accusing one another of assault and creating a ruckus. The CJP team on Friday reached Rampura Kanwarapura village to inspect the condition of a government school when a confrontation broke out between its members and local residents, whom the CJP has accused of being "BJP goons".



CJP vs villagers: Rajasthan school shifted within 24 hours in Jaipur

Jaipur (TSIT): A day after a dispute between the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) and villagers of Rampura over an inspection of a government school in Jaipur escalated into allegations of assault, intimidation and a law-and-order breakdown, the government school was shifted to a building about 50 metres away, within 24 hours of Friday's clash.

After the confrontation, CJP founder and convenor Abhijeet Dipke had warned of an escalation stating that he would sit on a dharna in Jaipur if steps weren't taken within 48 hours to improve



the condition of the school. The Rampura government school was shifted to a house in the village on Saturday morning. More than 16 children were present at the new location along with two teachers.

Centre forms panel for 'permanent political solution' to Gorkha issue

Siliguri (WB) (TSIT)

The Centre on Saturday constituted a committee to draft an agreement and finalise modalities for a "permanent political solution" within the constitutional framework to the Gorkha identity issue in the Darjeeling hills and adjoining areas, officials said following a key tripartite meeting involving Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Gorkha leaders and the West Bengal government. The development comes amid the longstanding demand for greater political recogni-



tion, autonomy and protection of the distinct linguistic, cultural and ethnic identity of the region's predominantly Gorkha population. "All issues relating to the hill population of West Bengal were discussed in detail. Their demands pertaining to a distinct identity, a

permanent political solution and recognition under the Constitution of India were taken up. The Union Home Minister promised a permanent political solution soon under the umbrella of the Constitution," a statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said. ShoppingFor Authentic South Asian Apparel "To finalise modalities, it was decided to form a committee under Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh, former deputy national security advisor and current interlocutor.



New Delhi (TSIT): The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has authorised the development of nearly 1,800 km of LPG pipeline infrastructure involving an estimated investment of about Rs 7,000 crore across six states to boost India's energy infrastructure and LPG supply chain resilience.

The projects -- spanning Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Goa -- are aimed at strengthening the country's LPG transportation network and enhancing long-term energy security. India meets a sig-

nificant portion of its LPG demand through imports at coastal locations, necessitating transport of the fuel across the country. In addition, the newly approved pipelines are expected to improve the efficiency and reliability of LPG movement to inland markets.

The authorised pipeline projects include the 556-km Cherlapally (Telangana)-Nagpur (Maharashtra) pipeline, the 611-km Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh)-Sitarganj (Uttarakhand) pipeline and the 633-km Shikrapur (Maharashtra)-Goa and

North Andhra to be developed as Industrial Corridor

Anakapalli to emerge as a hub for industries and investments, says CM Naidu

Visakhapatnam. (TIST):

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said that North Andhra will be developed as an industrial corridor and Anakapalli district will be transformed into a leading industrial and knowledge economy hub in Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the Swarna Andhra-Swachha Andhra programme at Alamanda Koduru on Saturday, the Chief Minister said major investments were coming to Anakapalli in steel, data centres, pharmaceuticals and aluminium. A 10,000-acre industrial township would be developed and a skill centre established to provide industry-oriented training to local youth.

Naidu criticised the misinformation over data centres and said the projects would require around 3.5 TMC of water. He announced that Godavari water from Polavaram would be brought to Anakapalli through the Polavaram Left Canal in the first week of next month. NTR Reservoir works would be taken up at a cost of Rs.29 crore, he said. The Chief Minister stressed that development should go hand in hand with environmental



protection. He called upon people to make every village a zero-waste village under the "Mana Ooru-Mana Badhyata" initiative.

The State had disposed of 143 lakh metric tonnes of waste during the last two years, he said. Referring to recruitment examinations, Naidu alleged irregularities in the previous Group-I evaluation process and said those responsible would face legal

action. He also said the government was working to reduce economic inequalities, strengthen government schools and improve the incomes and living standards of the poor. Ministers Vangalapudi Anitha, P. Narayana and Kollu Ravindra, MPs C.M. Ramesh and Chintakayala Vijay, MLA Bandaru Satyanarayana Murthy and officials attended the programme.

Hubballi (Karnataka) pipeline.

Moreover, the projects have been authorised for development by GAIL (India) Ltd.

Upon completion, the PNGRB-authorised common-carrier LPG pipeline network in the country will expand from around 7,700 km to about 9,500 km, marking an increase of nearly 23.5 per cent.

The approvals build on the earlier authorisation of the Kandla-Gorakhpur LPG Pipeline, which at around 2,757 km is the country's longest LPG pipeline. According to PNGRB, pipeline transportation is glob-

ally regarded as the safest, most economical and environmentally sustainable mode of LPG transport. The new projects are expected to substantially reduce the movement of LPG tank trucks on roads, resulting in improved road safety, lower logistics costs, reduced traffic congestion and a significant decline in carbon emissions through a shift from road-based transportation to pipelines. The regulator also noted that it has been pursuing the objective of eliminating the primary movement of LPG by road to bottling plants.

Rahul ends over six-hour dharna after FIR in pellet injury case

New Delhi, Aug 22: Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi ended his over-six-hour dharna outside the Parliament Street police station in New Delhi on Friday after the Delhi Police registered an FIR on the complaint of a young protester who suffered pellet injuries during a July 20 demonstration.

Gandhi had staged the sit-in along with 19-year-old Sahil Lochab, demanding that police register an FIR over the injuries allegedly caused by pellet firing during the 'Sansad Chalo' protest organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar.

Lochab, a resident of Najafgarh, had alleged that he was hit by several metal pellets during the protest and suffered serious injuries to his right eye, resulting in loss of vision.

He had been seeking registration of an FIR for nearly a month. Gandhi arrived at the Parliament Street police station with Lochab and sought to meet senior police officials. After the meeting, he alleged that the police had refused to register the complaint.

"Sahil wants to file FIR for justice, but that is not being allowed," Gandhi said before sitting on the dharna.

Gandhi maintained that he would not leave the spot until an FIR was registered. Congress leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, also joined the protest. The extended sit-in drew a significant police presence, including deployment of the Rapid Action Force to maintain law and order. The Delhi Police eventually registered the FIR against unknown persons on Lochab's complaint.



complaint. The case was registered under Section 118 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), relating to voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means, and Section 25, concerning acts endangering life or personal safety.

The FIR came after more than six hours of Gandhi's protest. Reacting to the development, Gandhi described the registration of the case as the "first step towards justice".

"There are pellets in his body and he cannot even see as he has suffered injuries in his eye. This is injustice with this youngster. For almost a month, he has been calling for the registration of an FIR and moving from one police station to another," Gandhi said.

According to Lochab's complaint, he was injured during the July 20 protest at Jantar Mantar. The demonstration had been held over alleged irregularities in examinations, including the NEET paper leak and issues concerning recruitment examinations.

Lochab and his lawyers had reportedly submitted a written complaint to the Delhi Police on August 14 but alleged that they were not given an investigating-officer number or acknowledgement.

ThePrint, citing the FIR, reported that the case was registered against an unnamed person in connection with the pellet injuries. The report also said Lochab had submitted hospital records describing injuries caused by small metallic pellets and indicating an extremely low chance of recovering vision in the affected eye.

The episode triggered a political confrontation between the Congress and the Delhi Police, with Gandhi questioning why an FIR had not been registered earlier. Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram criticised the delay, saying it had taken 30 days and a seven-hour protest by the Leader of the Opposition before the FIR was registered. He argued that FIRs should be registered promptly when complaints are made.

Sridhar Varma Assumes Charge as Chairman of SVBC



Tirupati, Saturday: B. Sridhar Varma formally assumed charge as the Chairman of the Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel (SVBC), administered by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), on Saturday.

The traditional charge-taking ceremony was held at the Chairman's Chamber in the SVBC office located at Alipiri, Tirupati. The event took place in the presence of the sons of former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao — Nandamuri Ramakrishna and Nandamuri Mohana Krishna — along with other family members, accompanied by Vedic chanting.

TTD Vedic scholars and priests from the Tatayyagunta Gangamma Temple, Tirupati, offered Vedic blessings and felicitated the new Chairman.

SVBC CEO and TTD Joint Executive Officer Dr. A. Sharath honoured him with a shawl and presented a bouquet, extending his congratulations.

Several public representatives and dignitaries attended the occasion in large numbers and conveyed their best wishes. Among them were Palamaner MLA N. Amarnath Reddy, Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu, Chadrugiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani, MLC Bhumireddy Ramgopal Reddy, Telangana RERA Chairman K.S. Srinivasaraju, SAAP Chairman A. Ravi Naidu, TUDA Chairman C. Divakar Reddy, Yadava Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav, along with other public representatives, prominent citizens, and local residents.

Citizens' Participation Key to Clean Andhra: MP, MLA

Chittoor : Every citizen in society must take responsibility for the dream of Swarna Andhra – Swachha Andhra envisioned by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to become a reality, said Chittoor Member of Parliament Daggumalla Prasad Rao and Puthalapattu MLA Muralimohan. The Swarna Andhra – Swachha Andhra programme was held at the MPDO office in Yadamarri mandal of Puthalapattu constituency. Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao and Puthalapattu MLA Muralimohan attended as chief guests.

Earlier, upon their arrival in Yadamarri, the MP and MLA were given a warm welcome by the Kootami (alliance) leaders and workers of Yadamarri mandal.

Speaking at the meeting held as part of the development of Puthalapattu constituency as well as Yadamarri mandal.

Later, they flagged off and inaugurated 25 e-autos purchased with 78.5 lakh from MP funds and handed them over to the panchayat representatives of Yadamarri mandal. The e-autos were distributed by Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao and Puthalapattu MLA Muralimohan. The programme was attended by Yadamarri mandal president Morarji Yadav, Single Window Chairman Chitra, former General Secretary Kodanda Yadav, District Party Official Representative Hemagiri, District Telugu Yuvaatha Official Representative Amaranatha Naidu, TDP District Secretary Dharani, TDP leaders Bajilingam and Vinayakam, government officials, Kootami leaders and workers.

achieving comprehensive development. They added that the programme is progressing successfully across the state. The main objectives of the programme, they said, are door-to-door garbage collection, scientific waste management, completely curbing the use of plastic to protect the environment, and creating awareness so that every citizen adopts cleanliness as a personal responsibility.

At the same time, they advised reducing mobile phone usage and paving the way for a bright future for children. The MP and MLA assured the people of Yadamarri mandal that they are committed to the



Indian Railways Runs First Double-Stack Long-Haul Container Train from JNPT



MUMBAI: Indian Railways achieved a major operational milestone by successfully operating its first double-stack long-haul container train from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) to CONCOR's GCT terminal at Varnama in Vadodara Division on August 21, 2026.

The train carried 360 TEUs of containers over approximately 422 km. The formation comprised two double-stack rakes, carrying 1,817 tonnes and 2,105 tonnes respectively.

The long-haul operation is expected to improve freight efficiency by reducing terminal congestion, transit time and the requirement for locomotives and container flat wagons. Carrying larger volumes in a single movement will also enable better utilisation of railway route capacity and facilitate faster evacuation of containers from ports.

The electrically hauled service also supports Indian Railways' focus on sustainable freight transportation by reducing dependence on diesel-powered road transport, road congestion, fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

Teja Sajja, Meenakshi Chaudhary Inaugurate Vaarahi Showroom



HYDERABAD (TSIT) : Actor Teja Sajja and actress Meenakshi Chaudhary inaugurated Vaarahi Silks 6.0 and Vaarahi Silver Jewellery 2.0 at Vanasthalipuram Cross Roads on Saturday. Led by Directors Manideep Yechuri and Dr. Spandana, Vaarahi has expanded its network with its sixth silks showroom, following stores at Jubilee Hills, Kukatpally, Patny, Nellore and Vijayawada. The new showroom offers Kanchipuram silks, Banarasi, bridal, wedding, festive and contemporary sarees. The showroom also features premium 92.5 purity silver jewellery and collections crafted with 24K gold plating, including traditional and contemporary designs. As part of the launch offers, customers can avail of a flat 15% discount on the entire silks collection, along with complimentary gold and silver coins on eligible purchases. Special discounts and offers on silver jewellery are also available. The launch offers are valid from August 22 to 31, 2026.



Padma Shri awardee Dr. Susheelamma participated as a chief guest in a program organized by the Athmashree Kannada Samskruthika Pratisthana at Bengaluru's Town Hall and honored Social Worker S.Kannan with the 'Nobel Kannadiga International Award'..

Boy Recovers from Severe Kidney Injury After Snakebite

Kurnool, August 22, 2026: An eight-year-old boy from Sanjamala village in Kurnool district, who developed severe acute kidney injury following a snakebite, has recovered after timely intensive care, haemodialysis and close monitoring at KIMS Cuddles, Kurnool.

The child, identified as Rithik, was bitten by a snake on his left leg while playing in the premises of his house. A tight tourniquet was applied around the affected limb for few hours, following which he was also given local traditional treatment. Over the next 24 hours, his urine output declined significantly and he developed swelling of the



body and rapid breathing. He was subsequently brought to KIMS Cuddles, Kurnool, where he was evaluated and admitted to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).

According to Dr. P. V. Ravi Kiran, Consultant Paediatric Intensivist, the child was found to have severe acute kidney injury, with serum creatinine at 7.5 mg/dL and blood urea at 170 mg/dL. His blood pressure was also significantly elevated. "Given the severity of the kidney injury and the marked reduction in urine output, the child required close monitoring and intensive management in the PICU. Haemodialysis was initiated

and continued for few days, along with appropriate management of his blood pressure and other supportive measures. With timely intervention, his urine output gradually improved and kidney function subsequently returned towards normal," said Dr. Ravi Kiran. The child responded well to treatment, with gradual improvement in urine production and renal function. After his condition stabilised, he was found to be clinically well and was discharged from the hospital. Dr. Ravi Kiran said that snakebite can cause serious systemic complications and may affect organs beyond the site of the bite. In children, reduced urine output

Apollo Hospitals Honours Hand Surgery Survivors

HYDERABAD: Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, marked World Hand Surgery Day by honouring survivors who regained movement and independence after severe hand and upper-limb injuries through advanced reconstructive and microsurgical procedures. The programme at Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills, brought together survivors, clinicians and healthcare professionals. DCP Traffic, Future City, Shri Shivam Upadhyaya, attended as chief guest and felicitated the survivors for their courage and resilience. Dr. Gopinath Bandari, Consultant Hand, Wrist & Microsurgeon, said timely intervention is critical in severe hand injuries and amputations, with the objective of restoring movement, sensation and function. Dr



Bandi Sahithya, Consultant Hand, Wrist & Microsurgeon, highlighted the precision and teamwork required for microsurgical replantation. Apollo Hospitals, Telugu States, CEO Mr. Tejesvi Rao Veerapalli said advanced technology, specialised expertise and multidisciplinary care can help restore independence, confidence and quality of life. The event highlighted the importance of rapid transportation and immediate referral to specialised centres following severe hand and limb injuries. Apollo Hospitals continues to focus on limb salvage, functional restoration and advanced microsurgical care.

Kanipakam Brahmotsavams Arrangements Reviewed



CHITTOOR: A review meeting on arrangements for the 2026 annual Brahmotsavams of Swayambhu Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Swamy Devasthanam at Kanipakam was held at the temple on Saturday.

The meeting was chaired by Puthalapattu MLA Dr. Kalikiri Muralimohan, District Collector Sumit Kumar, Superintendent of Police Tushar Dudi, Devasthanam Chairman

Mani Naidu and Executive Officer Penchala Kishore, along with officials from various departments. The MLA directed officials to ensure convenient darshan for devotees and install CCTV cameras covering all areas of the temple premises. He urged all departments to coordinate effectively for the smooth conduct of the festival.

Collector Sumit Kumar instructed officials to focus on sanitation, drinking

water, queue management and other essential facilities. SP Tushar Dudi said adequate security arrangements would be made to ensure the Brahmotsavams are conducted peacefully and successfully.

Officials from the Revenue, Police, Roads and Buildings, Medical and Health, Panchayat Raj, Electricity, Fire Services and other departments participated in the meeting.

BJP defends full Vande Mataram, hits out at Congress

New Delhi, Aug 22: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday passed a resolution strongly defending the honour, dignity and historical legacy of the national song Vande Mataram, while condemning the Congress Working Committee's (CWC) decision to continue restricting its rendition at party programmes to only the first two stanzas.

The resolution was passed at the first meeting of the BJP's new national office-bearers at the party headquarters. It reiterated the party's reverence for Bharat Mata and Vande Mataram, describing the song as an embodiment of India's freedom struggle and a symbol

of national consciousness. The development comes shortly after the CWC reaffirmed its 1937 resolution on the manner in which Vande Mataram should be sung at Congress programmes. The BJP strongly objected to the Congress decision, maintaining that the complete composition forms an important part of India's freedom struggle and national heritage.

In the resolution shared by BJP president Nitin Nabin, the party said, "The Bharatiya Janata Party strongly condemns and unequivocally opposes the decision of the Congress Working Committee on August 19, 2026, to reaffirm its 1937 resolution by limit-



ing the singing of 'Vande Mataram' to only its first two stanzas in Congress programs."The BJP said it

was committed to protecting the "honour, dignity, historical legacy and national character" of the complete Vande Mataram, comprising all six stanzas.

It stressed that the entire composition should continue to be recognised as an integral part of India's national and freedom movement heritage. The resolution also reaffirmed what the BJP described as the established constitutional and legal position surrounding the National Song. It referred to the Constituent Assembly's declaration in 1950 and the legal protection accorded to Vande Mataram by Parliament in 2026, arguing that the National Song had thereby been placed on

a footing comparable to the national anthem, Jana Gana Mana.

The BJP said it would firmly oppose any attempt to subject Vande Mataram to what it termed "communal pressure, political appeasement or narrow vote-bank politics". Targeting the Congress, the resolution said the party's Working Committee could not place its own resolutions above India's constitutional institutions or laws enacted by Parliament. The BJP argued that the political understanding reached in 1937 could not be treated as being above the constitutional position established in 1950 or legislation enacted by Parliament in 2026.

Karnataka, Kerala Share Brotherly Bond: Shivakumar

Alappuzha, Kerala : "Karnataka and Kerala share brotherly bond. Both states will progress on the path of development with mutual cooperation," stated Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar.

Shivakumar was speaking at the 72nd edition of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race event held in Alappzha, Kerala, on Saturday.

"It gives me immense joy to participate in this historic event. Our great leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, gave priority to this sport and sent a great message. The strength of Congress is the strength of the nation; whenever Congress is in power, it feels as though all sections of society are in power. Today, all the youth of this state are enjoying this sports festival. Just as Mysuru Dasara is cel-



ebrated grandly in Karnataka, this event is celebrated here in Kerala," he said. "During the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul Gandhi also participated in this race alongside you. We share everything, including water, climate, and culture. Karnataka served as the platform for Smt. Indira

Gandhi and Smt. Sonia Gandhi to enter Parliament. Similarly, Kerala served as the platform for Rahul Gandhi and Smt. Priyanka Gandhi to enter Parliament," he added. "The government led by Satheesan will work for the welfare of the state and keep its promises.

DriveX Expands Retail Network to Key Growth Corridors in Bengaluru and Chennai



Bengaluru : DriveX Mobility, a pre-owned two-wheeler platform, announced the opening of three new stores in Rajarajeshwari Nagar (RR Nagar) and Nagarbhavi in Bengaluru, and Navalur in Chennai. The new outlets strengthen DriveX's retail footprint

across strategically important markets, bringing a more organised and reliable pre-owned two-wheeler buying experience closer to customers in these rapidly growing corridors. Located on Uttarahalli Main Road near JSS College, the RR Nagar outlet caters to custom-

ers across the rapidly developing neighbourhoods of South-West Bengaluru. The Nagarbhavi outlet, located near Bharat Petrol Pump in Vinayaka Layout, 2nd Stage, further strengthens DriveX's presence in West Bengaluru, providing customers across Nagarbhavi and surrounding neighbourhoods with access to a curated range of quality-assured pre-owned two-wheelers.

The Navalur store, situated on Thazhambur Road, extends DriveX's presence into Chennai's southern corridor, a rapidly developing region supported by continued residential and commercial growth.

Bengaluru: Congress workers staged a mock protest near Congress Bhavan against Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy who is Unable to tolerate the Congress-led state government providing pro-people and development-oriented governance, making continuous baseless allegations against the state government.

In the protest led by KPCC General Secretary and Mysore Electrical Industries Limited (MEI) Chairman S. Manohar, Congress workers raised questions about various corruption and irregularities during the BJP regime, including Bagar Hukum, RTGS bribery, Housing Board irregularities, 40% commission during Covid and bed blocking.

The protesters demanded a transparent answer on how much of the alleged corruption money during the BJP regime reached



the PM Cares Fund or the BJP central office.

The protesters alleged that the Congress government is implementing pro-people programs in the state and prioritizing development and social justice, while

making baseless allegations against the state government is a symbol of political jealousy.

H.D. Kumaraswamy, if you feel sick to your stomach after seeing the pro-people administration of the Congress government, the pro-

test was held with a sarcastic message that "use the 'medicines' like Jalsin, Ino, and Barnaul that Congress workers have symbolically brought to cool your stomach."

Congress leaders criticized that it is ironic that the Congress government is being criticized by those who are accused of corruption while joining hands politically. They said that the people of the state are watching the administration of the Congress government and people will give a befitting reply to the baseless allegations. Several Congress leaders, office bearers and activists, including Congress spokesperson Anand Kumar M.S., Bangalore Central Campaign Committee President Prakash, Puttaraju, Lakshminarayan, Naveen, Balesh, Pawan, participated in the protest.

Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road Launches Dedicated Spine Deformity Clinic for Comprehensive Care of Complex Spinal Conditions

Bengaluru : Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road has launched a dedicated Spine Deformity Clinic to provide comprehensive evaluation and personalised treatment for patients with complex spinal deformities. The clinic was launched today in the presence of nearly 100 guests, including doctors, senior leadership, staff, and patients. Led by Dr. Umesh Srikanta, Additional Director, Neurosurgery & Clinical Lead, Spine Surgery, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, the clinic brings together specialized expertise and advanced surgical capabilities to manage complex congenital, structural, or degenerative spinal conditions across pediatric and adult patients.

Spinal deformities can affect more than the alignment and appearance of the spine, with severe conditions potentially impacting posture, mobility, comfort, physical function and overall quality of life. Complex deformities, particularly in children and adolescents, often require detailed evaluation, careful surgical planning and specialised expertise to achieve optimal correction while protecting spinal cord and nerve function. A multidisciplinary approach enables timely assessment and an individualised treatment pathway based on the nature and severity of each deformity.

The Spine Deformity Clinic offers comprehensive services including complex spinal deformity correction, minimally invasive and endoscopic spine surgeries, and management of chronic spine-related pain, supported by



advanced surgical technology, 3D real-time imaging and continuous neuro-monitoring where required. The clinic is designed to provide patients with a coordinated pathways from diagnosis and surgical planning through treatment and recovery.

Reflecting the clinic's focus on complex spinal deformity care, two young patients who had successfully undergone corrective spine surgeries at Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, inaugurated the clinic. One of the patients, Ramya (Name changed), a 12-year-old girl, had presented with severe thoracic scoliosis, involving almost the entire spine and underwent corrective and fixation surgery with continuous spinal cord and nerve monitoring. The medical team performed corrective and fixation surgery allowing the team to plan and perform the correction with precision while continuously monitoring the spinal cord and nerve function. Following surgery, imaging showed significant correction of

the spinal curve. She was able to stand and walk within days, achieving a full recovery without any neurological complications.

In another complex case, 14-year-old, Kiran (Name changed) who had previously undergone spinal surgery as a child for a congenital abnormality developed recurrent and severe spinal curvature. Evaluation revealed a complex congenital deformity caused by an abnormally shaped vertebra and fused bones, affecting the alignment and mobility of his spine. The surgical team performed an advanced revision procedure to correct and stabilise the spine, using 3D real-time imaging and continuous nerve monitoring to enhance precision and safety.

Dr. Umesh Srikanta, Additional Director, Neurosurgery & Clinical Lead, Spine Surgery, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, said, "Complex spinal deformities, particularly in children and adolescents, require detailed

assessment, careful planning and specialised surgical expertise. These conditions can significantly affect posture, mobility, comfort and quality of life. The Spine Deformity Clinic brings together focused expertise and advanced technology to enable a structured and personalised approach to these challenging conditions. Seeing these two young patients regain mobility and confidence following complex surgeries makes the launch of this clinic particularly meaningful."

Mr. Gautham CB, Facility Director, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru said, "The launch of the Spine Deformity Clinic reinforces our commitment to providing specialized care for patients with complex spinal conditions. By bringing together focused expertise, advanced technology and coordinated care, we aim to provide patients and their families with a comprehensive pathway from evaluation and treatment to recovery."

MLA Ramesh Babu demands to stop e-auction process of 44 acres of land belonging to ITI

Bengaluru: MLA Ramesh Babu has demanded to cancel the e-auction process of 44.03 acres of land belonging to ITI Limited in K.R. Puram through the National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) at a reserve price of Rs 1,685.40 crore.

In this regard, he has written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, urging them to immediately stop the e-auction process as September 16, 2026 is the last date for submission of technical bids/EMD and to take further action only after a joint review by the Central and State governments.

They have demanded that the land allotted by the then Mysore Government / Karnataka Government for public purposes in 1948 be retained for public purposes.

Bharat Telephone Industries Limited (ITI Limited) was established in 1948 in Bangalore as a Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of India under the then Mysore State. This important Public Sector Undertaking was established with the public objective of creating local employment opportunities. The then Mysore Government (now Karnataka Government) had allotted about 400 acres of land to ITI for the purpose of establishing and running a Public Sector Undertaking for public interest purposes free of cost or at a concessional rate.

Over the past several decades, ITI has lost the right, possession and control of a considerable part of the land allotted, including encroachments, transfers and administrative lapses, due to various reasons.

As part of the central government's asset monetization program, the process of monetization of assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) through the National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) is currently underway. As part of this, ITI Limited is monetizing some of its remaining land in Krishnarajapuram (K.R. Puram) area of Bengaluru.

21 acres of land in the ITI area



has been sold to the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) department for a consideration of about Rs. 914.31 crore and the sale deed has been registered on 2 July 2026. Now, ITI Limited has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) through NLMC to conduct e-auction of 44.03 acres of land adjoining Old Madras Road and National Highway-75 in Krishnarajapuram village at a reserve price of Rs. 1,685.40 crore. The last date for submission of technical bids/EMD will be around 16th September 2026.

Some parts of the land currently being auctioned are in the name of the Karnataka State Government and some parts are classified as "Kharab" in the title deed. If such lands were not originally legally transferred to ITI Limited or the Central Government/NLMC, then the question of their disposal by ITI Limited or the Central Government/NLMC for private commercial purposes does not arise.

The land originally allotted for public purposes, to be monetized for the sole purpose of generating revenue to the Central Government or ITI Limited and transferred to private commercial bidders for real estate/commercial development, is against the original public purpose for which the land was

allotted. It is also against the public interest of the local community as well as the State of Karnataka.

The sale of valuable public land in the heart of Bengaluru in bulk will permanently deprive the land/property of any opportunity to use it for public purposes, employment generation, industrial development or construction of public assets in the future. Especially when the ITI is reporting losses, it is against the public interest and against the policy of the Government to sell such valuable land without considering the long-term public asset and employment generation potential.

Therefore, considering all these factors and circumstances, the Hon'ble Central Government and the Government of Karnataka should immediately cancel or alternatively postpone the e-auction of 44.03 acres of land of ITI Limited at K.R. Puram, Bengaluru, at a reserve price of Rs. 1,685.40 crore. No auction/transfer/disposal process should proceed until the joint review of the Central Government and the Government of Karnataka is completed. It is urged that the land originally allotted for public purposes in 1948 should be kept under the control of the Central Government and/or the Government of Karnataka as far as possible.

EDITORIAL

Mecca Pact: India's Gulf Advantage Runs Deeper Than Any New Military Agreement

The much-publicised Mecca Joint Defence Agreement between Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan has understandably attracted attention in diplomatic and strategic circles. It is being presented by some as a significant new security alignment in the Middle East and even compared with a regional version of NATO. For India, however, there is little reason to overreact or alter the fundamentals of its foreign policy because of this arrangement. The agreement says that an armed attack against one will be regarded as an attack against all. But merely importing a principle associated with NATO does not, by itself, make this agreement strategically meaningful. The three countries do not share a common border, have different strategic calculations and more importantly, the agreement does not clearly define its purpose, its applicability or the circumstances in which the three countries would actually act together. Saudi Arabia and Pakistan already had a bilateral defence understanding, while Turkey has its own regional ambitions.

LARGER STRATEGIC PURPOSE

The more important question is why this alliance has been created now and whose larger strategic interests it serves. Pakistan appears to have pursued the agreement not merely for its own immediate survival but as part of a longer-term strategy to regain relevance in the Muslim world and secure economic and diplomatic support. For Pakistan's military establishment, it also provides an opportunity to project a narrative that the country's army has acquired a stronger regional role. The fact that US President Donald Trump has appreciated the arrangement is significant. It indicates that Washington sees value in bringing Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey into a framework that serves wider American strategic interests. In the longer term, such an arrangement could provide the US with another instrument through which Pakistan can become useful in future regional contingencies. So, the deeper strategic purpose may be less about creating an independent military alliance and more about creating a framework that can serve others interests in the Middle East, particularly in relation to Iran. By bringing three predominantly Muslim countries together and presenting the arrangement in the language of collective defence, the pact could contribute to the continuing fragmentation and consolidation of the Muslim world into competing camps. This is especially significant because Iran remains the major regional power that any future Middle East security architecture will have to balance. The pact should therefore not be seen simply as a Saudi-Turkey-Pakistan initiative. Its longer-term implications need to be viewed in the context of the interests of the US and other Western countries and their future engagement with the region. Pakistan's Ambition And Its Limitations Pakistan cannot afford to carry such a strategic burden for long. Its own economic condition remains fragile, while its army has to deal with enormous internal security challenges. A substantial proportion of Pakistan's population is Shia, while the country itself has historically struggled with sectarian and ethnic divisions.

PUNJAB'S BANDI SINGHS:

A CAUSE EVERY PARTY USES, NOBODY OWNS

Punjab saw another bandh this week. Roads blocked, slogans raised, the same old demand repeated once again: Release the Sikh prisoners, or Bandi Singhs. Markets stayed shut, buses stayed off the road, but the day passed off peacefully, with no untoward incident reported anywhere in the state. This has been going on for more than a decade now. Every few months, some party or the other picks up this issue, makes a big statement, holds a rally, writes a letter to Delhi. Then things go quiet again, until the next round. The truth is simple, even if nobody wants to say it out loud - every major party in Punjab has used this issue. Not one of them has actually closed the file when it had the power to do so.

When this campaign started in 2013, the list of Sikh prisoners being demanded free ran to 119 names. More than a decade of releases, deaths and legal action later, that number has come down to around 21. The list has shrunk mostly on its own, case by case, not because any single government sat down and resolved it.

■ THE AKALI DAL: A DECADE IN POWER, NO RESULT

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) ruled Punjab for 10 years, from 2007 to 2017, and was allied with the BJP at the Centre for most of that time. If any party had the means to push this through, it was the SAD. Though Punjab's former chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal wrote to several governments in 2014 seeking the release of 13 prisoners, formed a high-level committee in 2015, and Punjab also moved the Supreme Court. Waryam Singh's release was subsequently cleared. The issue only returned to SAD's



speeches after it lost badly in the 2022 election. When the SAD had the chair, the file gathered dust. When it lost the chair, the file reopened as a slogan.

■ THE BJP: A NOTIFICATION, HALF-DELIVERED

In 2019, the Centre government issued a formal notification, reportedly, for the release of eight Sikh prisoners, timed with Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th birth anniversary. Three of the eight were reportedly already out; three others were subsequently released, while Bhullar and Gurdeep Singh Khera remained unresolved. That is six years of a decision sitting half-done. The BJP points out, fairly, that most of these convictions happened under Congress rule but that does not explain why its own notification has still not been fully carried out. Congress: Loud in Opposition, Quiet in

Government The Indian National Congress ruled Punjab from 2017 to 2022 and did little concrete on this at the state level. Out of power now, leaders like Gurkirat Singh Kotli and Charanjit Singh Channi back the release at rallies. The twist: Kotli is Beant Singh's own grandson, while another Congress MP and Beant Singh grandson, Ravneet Singh Bittu, has publicly opposed releasing the men who killed his grandfather. Congress does not even speak with one voice inside its own family.

■ AAP: FROM SILENCE TO A SUDDEN PUSH

The AAP has governed Punjab since 2022 and stayed largely non-committal for three years. That changed this August, when Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann personally sought parole for Jagtar Singh Hawara from the Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria. With the 2027 elec-

tion approaching and the Panthic vote up for grabs, a government finding sudden urgency now is hard to read as anything but timing, even the BJP's own Punjab unit has called it out as such.

■ PANTHIC PARTIES: CONSISTENT, BUT NOT FREE OF POLITICS EITHER

The hardline Panthic groups that never held power have their own story. Simranjit Singh Mann's SAD (Amritsar) has raised this demand for decades and backed this week's bandh; Simranjit Singh Mann was detained during the Independence Day march. But a party that has never won power in Punjab can never be tested on whether it would actually deliver, forty years of demanding from the sidelines is not the same as holding the file.

Akali Dal (Punarb Surjit), the newest entrant, broke away only last year under Giani

Harpreet Singh, a former Akal Takht Jathedar now in full-time politics. Backing this bandh was one of his first moves as party chief, a fast way for a brand-new outfit to earn trust in a crowded field. The starkest case is that of Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De), around jailed MP Amritpal Singh. It has widened the definition itself, folding Amritpal's own 2023 arrest under the National Security Act in with 1980s-90s insurgency convictions but his NSA detention is legally different from the cases of prisoners serving sentences after conviction. Of the 21, Who Actually Moves Votes and Where Not all 21 names carry equal weight, and their pull is not spread evenly across Punjab either. Balwant Singh Rajoana carries the heaviest symbolic charge. Sentenced to death in 2007 for the Beant Singh killing, his hanging has never been carried out. He

belongs to Rajoana Kalan village in Ludhiana district, and the 2012 bandh over his proposed execution had an impact across Punjab, including Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Tarn Taran, Bathinda, Ropar and Patiala - not simply a Ludhiana-Moga-Muktsar phenomenon. For a headline Panthic audience, his name still carries the most weight, especially in this region. Jagtar Singh Hawara is the face of the present round, simply because he is the one Mann personally pursued this August. The movement's operational centre right now sits at the Qaumi Insaaf Morcha's permanent protest camp on the Chandigarh-Mohali border, which has become the physical headquarters of the whole campaign. Devinderpal Singh Bhullar is the case most known outside Punjab, since his conviction was for the 1993 Delhi bomb blast, giving it national reach for years. Delhi's Sentence Review Board considered his case in December 2025 and the rejection was formally communicated in February 2026. The clearest proof of how far this sympathy travels came from the 2024 Lok Sabha election, and it too has a geography. Amritpal Singh, contested from jail, won Khadoor Sahib - a Majha-belt seat around Tarn Taran and Amritsar - by nearly 1.97 lakh votes, the biggest margin in Punjab that year. Sarabjit Singh Khalsa won Faridkot, in the Malwa region, by about 70,000. Both victories demonstrated the continuing electoral space for Panthic, anti-establishment politics outside Punjab's traditional parties. But it would be wrong to attribute those victories solely to the Bandi Singhs issue.

DRONE WARFARE AND INDIA'S preparation for the future battlefield

— Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

The first flight of the indigenously developed Divyastra Mk3 is a positive step, as the Indian Army increasingly relies on UAS technology in warfare. Today's warfare is undergoing a fundamental shift: battles are no longer measured solely by the number of tanks, fighter jets, missiles, and troops. UAS are increasingly becoming the preferred tool for surveillance, targeting, precision strikes, and electronic warfare. Therefore, the successful flight of the indigenous Divyastra Mk3 jet in August 2026 is not only a technological breakthrough, but also a sign of India's efforts to adapt to a more networked, technology-driven, and independent battlefield. Drone warfare uses unmanned aerial systems to gather intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), locate targets, conduct precision strikes, electronic warfare, and provide communications support. Recent wars have demonstrated that the use of drones can revolutionize the way wars are fought and economic operations. Drones also have the potential to transform the nature and economics of military operations, as evidenced by recent wars. The Russia-Ukraine war demonstrated the threat posed by relatively inexpensive drones to expensive tanks, artillery, warships, and other conventional military equipment. When it comes to military superiority, it's no longer just about possessing expensive platforms, but about the ability to deploy large numbers of inexpen-

sive, flexible, and intelligent systems. The benefits of using drones are vast, and one of the most significant is that they save human lives in dangerous operations. ISR drones can be used to reconnaissance enemy territory, keeping pilots and soldiers safe from danger. They can provide commanders with real-time information about enemy locations, troop numbers, and battlefield conditions. This leads to a better understanding of the situation and allows for quicker, more informed decisions. This is a highly valuable strategic capability for a country like India, where borders are complex, mountainous terrain exists, and operational conditions vary. Loiter munitions are revolutionizing warfare by eliminating the need for a sensor-to-shooter approach. Using conventional weapons, it can take considerable time to locate a target, transmit information about it, select the appropriate weapon, and launch an attack. Loiter munitions can search for, identify, and engage a target in a much shorter timeframe. This is particularly useful for time-sensitive targets and for mobile enemy troops. Thus, the Divyastra Mk3 is a significant development in building India's indigenous precision-strike capability and reducing the time from target detection to attack. Drones are also impacting the economics of war. Low-cost unmanned platforms can damage or destroy assets costing many times more. This poses a serious challenge to conventional armies. Commercially available technologies were rapidly put to military use during

the Russia-Ukraine war, as evidenced by the use of first-person view (FPV) drones. However, small drones carrying cameras and explosives can target vulnerable points in tanks and other armored vehicles at a much lower cost than precision-guided weapons. Therefore, the ability to adapt civilian technology to military needs and rapidly develop new ideas will become even more important in the future context of warfare. The second major change is drone swarms. Large numbers of coordinated drones can overload or "overwhelm" conventional air defense systems. Conventional air defense missiles are very effective at shooting down a single aircraft or missile, but it is not economically viable to shoot down a hundred or more cheap drones with expensive missiles. Defenders will face significant cost challenges in the event of a large-scale drone attack. This means that the battlefield of the future may become a struggle between drone fleets and multi-layered anti-drone (CD) capabilities capable of detecting, pursuing, and neutralizing multiple threats simultaneously. The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) is expected to accelerate this transformation. AI has the potential to improve navigation, object recognition, and target identification, as well as coordinate between multiple unmanned systems. This increased independence can help drones operate in the event of communications failures due to electronic warfare. However, AI-powered autonomy also raises significant ethical,

legal, and accountability questions. Responsibility for the consequences of an autonomous system's misdirection of targets is sometimes unclear. Therefore, military effectiveness must be evaluated within the context of meaningful human control, the rules of war must be transparent, and standards of accountability must be clear. India has begun taking significant steps toward developing drone warfare capabilities. The Divyastra Mk3 enhances indigenous precision strike capabilities and is a result of the growing focus on indigenous unmanned systems. This is particularly important for indigenous propulsion, as reliance on imported engines and key components could lead to strategic vulnerabilities in times of conflict. Therefore, the development of jet engines by DG Propulsion is crucial to reducing dependence on foreign technologies and achieving technological self-reliance. The reorganization of the Indian Army also indicates that the military is beginning to understand the importance of drones in future warfare. The Ashwini drone platoon and Divyastra battery are steps aimed at better integrating unmanned systems into battle formations. Indigenous precision-guided weapons like DRDO's ULPGM-V3 could further enhance the combat capabilities of UAV platforms. Meanwhile, the development of indigenously developed strike drones is contributing to the expansion of unmanned capabilities. Progress made so far indicates that India is moving towards the planned use of drones on the battlefield.

When Algo Decides What You See, Journalism Must Show What Matters

There has never been a time when audiences had more information. There has perhaps never been a time when it was harder to know what matters. That paradox is journalism's defining challenge today. The digital world once rewarded going looking for information. Now information looks for us. Instagram, Facebook, X, YouTube and Google Discover have grown remarkably good at predicting what makes us stop, click, watch, scroll. Feeds are not collections of content anymore. They are hyper-optimised, personalised silos. Two people can open the same app at the same moment and see entirely different realities. The algorithm asks one question. What will this person engage with next? Journalism must ask another. What matters to the country at large? Reuters Institute's Digital News Report 2026 marks the tipping point. Social and video networks have overtaken news websites and apps as the primary source of news. For many, news now begins in a feed. That feed is not shaped by an editor's judgment of what matters to the public. It is shaped by a machine's prediction of what will hold an individual's attention. That changes not just what we show audiences. It changes how we present it. For decades, editorial selection was journalism's core function. Finite airtime forced choices. This belongs on prime time. This needs investigation. This does not deserve attention. The internet promised to erase those constraints. Infinite space, nothing left out. But abundance created its own prob-

lem. When everything can be published, who decides what matters? AI is about to make that abundance extreme. Harvard's Nieman Lab 2026 predictions put it starkly. The real threat is not shrinking attention spans. It is attention spread thin across a surplus of AI-generated media. When content is infinite, attention becomes the scarce resource. That changes journalism's value. Newsrooms once worried about producing enough content for the internet. The next decade is about the opposite. Helping audiences navigate a world that produces more content than anyone can consume. The internet does not need another million pieces of content. It needs better filters for reality. This is why journalism matters more as algorithms grow stronger. Algorithms predict relevance. Journalism must establish significance. An algorithm can learn that outrage beats nuance, that controversy outperforms complexity. That does not make controversy more important. It simply makes it more engaging. That is the line between attention optimisation and editorial judgment. Audiences feel the strain. Reuters Institute research shows growing fatigue with the volume and negativity of news, even as television, digital video, social platforms and connected TV blur into one screen. TV news must reinvent itself. The screen is now wherever the audience is. The competition is no longer other news networks. It is everything fighting for a screen: creators, influencers, memes, short-form video, and now AI content. Journalism must be compelling without

turning sensational. Sharp without turning shallow. Simple without turning simplistic. Above all, it must be respectful of audiences' attention. Here lies the opportunity. News networks have long answered declining attention with more. More stories, more alerts, more coverage. But the answer to an internet drowning in information cannot be more information. It has to be signal. The new screen does not imitate the infinite scroll. It is its antidote. Here is what happened. Here is why it matters. Here is what you need to understand. And in an age of AI-generated abundance, here is what we have already filtered out, so you do not have to. That last function is the new value proposition. In a world where algorithms are built to hold attention, telling audiences what does not deserve theirs now matters as much as telling them what does. This is also why AI makes original journalism more valuable, not less. AI can summarise, rewrite, translate, generate, personalise. It cannot answer journalism's central question. What is worth knowing? That takes judgment. Reporting from the ground. An understanding of history and context. The instinct to spot when a small development is actually a big story. The courage to resist the pull of the immediate and the viral. It also takes trust. When we retired the 24x7 suffix, we made a wager. The consumers no longer defines their experience by device. They define it by provenance, by who they trust to tell them what matters. That trust travels with across a television bulletin, a podcast, an app, a

reel. It is one identity, the same promise on every screen. And it matters more, not less, as distribution fragments. The harder the question "who do I trust to tell me what actually matters," the more valuable a coherent, trusted brand becomes. This also demands a different relationship with audiences, not just a different filter. INMA's emerging 'Audience 3.0' argues publishers must stop renting distribution from algorithms and build direct relationships instead, through products and communities. That is not just a business strategy. It is an editorial one. The answer is not to abandon platforms. That is where audiences are. The answer is to be excellent there, while giving audiences reasons to seek us out directly. The anxiety of the information age has flipped. We once worried people lacked information. Now they have too much. Trusted filters matter more than gatekeepers ever did. Journalism does not need to shout louder than the internet. It needs to make it quieter: clutter replaced by clarity, outrage by understanding. The question "what will I watch next" replaced by "what should I know." Algorithms are extraordinarily good at deciding what we want. Journalism must be extraordinarily good at deciding what we ought to know. That is the edge worth building: better use of the attention audiences give us. This is what new brand statement is built to answer. Not a slogan, but a discipline. A promise that when the algorithm decides what audiences see, will decide what they need to know. When it really matters.



SWORD ATTACK AT SWEDISH SCHOOL



One person has been killed in a sword attack at a high school in central Sweden, authorities have said. Police were called to the Brinell School in Fagersta shortly after 14:00 local time (13:00 BST) on Friday, where officers arrested an 18-year-old man. In an update on Friday, police said officers fired at the suspect before arresting and detaining him. He has not been named. Two teenage boys were seriously injured in the attack. Another person had minor injuries. Eight other schools in the area were placed under lockdown measures - which have now been lifted - while a state of high alert was declared in the Västmanland region following the attack. Sweden's public broadcaster reported that the suspect was wearing a helmet. Local media also said he was a former student. Police said officers were now working to establish possible motives, adding that there was currently no danger to the public. In a post on X, Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson described the attack as a "serious incident," and said "we do not

know what lies behind the act, but we know that police are working very intensively". Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf said he received the news "with dismay and sadness". In a statement, he said: "My thoughts are with those directly affected, as well as their families and loved ones." Students at Brinell School had only just returned to the classroom following the summer break, with the new term beginning either on Monday or Wednesday this week, depending on the academic year. The school has just under 500 students on its roster, according to SVT, and is located 170km (105 miles) north-west of the capital, Stockholm. Sweden has experienced a number of attacks on educational institutions in recent years. The country experienced its worst-ever mass shooting in 2025, where 11 people, including the gunman, died at an adult education centre in Örebro. This led to the government tightening the country's gun laws after it was found that the suspect legally owned four rifles, three of which were found in the school where attack took place.



■ Israel re-establishes closed West Bank settlement, defying growing international protests

Canada says it will match US tariffs 'dollar for dollar' as trade talks break down

A fresh wave of US tariffs on a wide array of Canadian goods came into effect on Saturday after a last-minute breakdown in trade talks. Announcing the suspension of negotiations shortly before the Friday night deadline, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said he would impose reciprocal tariffs on US goods "dollar for dollar". Carney said "last-minute changes in the US proposed terms were unfair, uneconomic, and called into question the reliability of any deal". Trade negotiators had been engaged in intense talks since July, after President Donald Trump threatened to impose a 50% levy on nearly \$20bn (C\$28bn; £14bn) of Canadian imports by 19 August. Trump had temporarily paused those tariffs earlier in the week, saying the



two sides were close to signing a trade deal that was "very good" for both countries. But minutes before the deadline for a deal, Carney said that while "important progress" had been made in the talks it was "not enough to meet our objectives for Canadians". "As a result, this evening, I have decided to suspend trade negotiations with the US and have directed negotiators to return to Ottawa," he said.

"Last-minute changes in the US proposed terms were unfair, uneconomic, and called into question the reliability of any deal." After Carney's announcement US trade representative Jamieson Greer said in a statement: "Tonight, Canada declined to finalise the trade deal under the terms agreed earlier this week. "Despite the US offer to Canada to receive the best treatment of any

major exporter to our market, new demands and walk backs of other commitments by Canada have upended the careful balance reached in the past days." The breakdown in talks marks a significant shift in tone from earlier in the week, when both US and Canadian officials sounded optimistic that a trade deal beneficial for both countries was within reach. Negotiators were reportedly discussing a deal that would reduce US tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminium from 50% to 25%, and on Canadian autos from 25% to 15%. In exchange, Carney had asked Canadian provinces to restore US alcohol to store shelves. The breakdown of the talks puts the US-Canada relationship in uncharted territory, and will be a major test for Carney's premiership.

CARNEY FACES CRUCIAL TEST AFTER WALKING AWAY FROM TRUMP'S DEAL



The United States and Canada have entered into uncharted territory. The longtime allies and economic partners, who have enjoyed free trade for decades, are now in an escalating trade war with no clear off ramp. And for Prime Minister Mark Carney, the late night decision to suspend talks with President Donald Trump and to retaliate instead of agreeing to a deal that seemed in reach, will be a significant political test. He is one of the first world leaders to walk away from the negotiating table with the White House - and the outcome will be closely watched. Both sides have have blamed last-minute changes for torpedoing the tentative deal. Carney's decision will also challenge the appetite among Canadians to accept some economic pain as Ottawa pushes for more US concessions. After rejecting Trump's high pressure tactics, and in choosing to hit back against the latest duties, Carney will need to convince Canadians that the economic pain is worth the cost of standing up to the Trump administration in search of a better agreement in the long run. There is no doubt this will cause pain on both sides of the border, with business facing more pressure from US duties and Canadian counter-tariffs. Canada sends about 70% of its exports to the US, and the country is the top trading partner for a number of US states, with Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio among the most exposed.

Carney came to power with a call for "elbows up" - an ice-hockey term for an aggressive approach - vowing to fight for Canada in the face of a Trump administration keen to exert economic pressure for its America First agenda. Many Canadians have told pollsters that they are willing to fight. A recent survey by Abacus Data suggested that around 36% of Canadians would support retaliating to US tariffs, while a Leger poll indicated that 56% of Canadians want the federal government to take a hard line and make no more concessions. Canadians frustrated with the US tariffs have already chosen to avoid travelling there. The boycott has meant a loss of about C\$3.3bn (\$2.35bn; £1.75bn) in travel revenue for the US last year. A decision by most provinces to remove US alcohol from store shelves has hammered that sector. Based on US government trade data, US wine exports to Canada fell 78% year over year, a \$357m loss in export value. The US distillers association reported similar numbers - saying provincial bans have caused exports of American spirits to drop by more than 70%. The ban quickly became a point of frustration for the Trump administration. Canada's prime minister will also need to convince the provinces who have been less affected by the US trade dispute so far that walking away is a risk worth taking. He will be meeting them on Saturday to brief them on the current state of affairs.

Rescuers dig through Ukraine mall wreckage as Zelensky condemns 'despicable' Russian strike

Rescuers in Ukraine are continuing their search for survivors in the wreckage of a big shopping centre hit by Russia on Friday. Sixteen people were killed and 130 injured when two drones hit the busy centre in Kryvyi Rih in quick succession in what is known as a double-tap strike. Four people are still missing. The search and rescue operation could last for another two days. President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the "cynical and despicable" attack in which the second drone targeted emergency workers. The sides exchanged more fire overnight, with Ukrainian attacks said to have killed at least four people in Russia, including two children, and three people reported dead by Kyiv as a result of Russian strikes. The death toll from Friday's attack reached 16 after another body was retrieved from the rubble overnight, said Dnipropetrovsk regional head Oleksandr Hanzha. "We're doing everything possible to speed up... the search and rescue operation," he told Ukrainian TV on Saturday



morning. He added that the work could continue for another two days because of the sheer scale of devastation and constant threats of more Russian attacks. Rescue teams from seven other Ukrainian regions were urgently deployed on Friday evening to help search for survivors. The huge fire covering an area of some 79,000 sq m has been extinguished. In an update later on Saturday, Hanzha said that 52 injured people, including 14 children, were still in city hospitals. Dozens of people had already undergone surgery, said Kryvyi Rih's military chief Oleksandr Vilkul. A

day of mourning is being observed across the Dnipropetrovsk region. Dramatic footage verified by the BBC showed the second drone hitting the already burning shopping centre in Zelensky's hometown. Russia's military has not commented. Vilkul said the drones had been flying at "extremely low altitudes" and described the attackers as "animals". Officials have not commented on why Ukraine's air defence units - which the military says are 90% successful at intercepting drones - failed to stop Friday's attacks on the shopping centre. Ukraine's intercept

tion rate of ballistic missiles, however, is much lower - at about 40%, the defence ministry reported in June. Kyiv has repeatedly said it is running low on US-made Patriot missiles - the most effective weapon against the ballistics. The attack in Kryvyi Rih came a day after 17 people were killed and more than 40 injured in a major Russian missile and drone attack on Ukraine's capital Kyiv. Zelensky said there had been "missile and drone strikes throughout the evening and night" across Ukraine, with residential buildings and civilian infrastructure damaged. He said one person was killed and another injured after ballistic missile strikes damaged railway infrastructure in the capital Kyiv, while three people were injured by a "brutal" drone strike on a city minibus in the southern city of Zaporizhzhia. Two people were killed in a separate Russian attack in the Kyiv region, Ukraine's state emergencies service DSNS said. Meanwhile, Russia's defence ministry said it downed a total of 457 Ukrainian drones overnight.

Father leaves 7-year-old son alone on Mount Fuji to continue hike



A father has been reprimanded by police after leaving his son on Japan's highest mountain for several hours with just a soft drink and snack. The seven-year-old was spotted sitting on a bench on Mount Fuji in foggy and rainy conditions, at a point situated at over 2,000m (6,500ft). His father, 48, reportedly told him to "wait here" after the boy complained he was tired - and continued the climb with his elder son. Staff at a mountain hut found the child near the sixth station of a hiking route towards the summit and alerted police. His father was tracked down between the route's seventh and eighth stations - said to be a three-

hour hike away. The boy was found on his own at 07:30 local time on Thursday (22:30 GMT). Officers castigated his father when he returned from the higher station and reunited with his son, who is said to have been "tired and fussy" after eight hours of waiting. "Even if it means having to give up on climbing the mountain together, leaving a child behind is unacceptable," one told him, according to Japan Today. He is said to have apologised for the "rash" decision. The family was reported to have been on the Fujinomiya route, which starts from the fifth station on the mountain, a spot which is accessible by public transport.



Fourteen killed in strike on Myanmar monastery

Lindsay Clancy suffering 'command hallucination' when she killed children, court hears

Lindsay Clancy, the Massachusetts mum who has been charged with murdering her three children, was suffering from a "command hallucination" at the time, a forensic psychiatrist has told the jury in her trial. The defence, which rested its case on Friday, does not dispute that Clancy carried out the killings but say she has pleaded not guilty to murder charges because she was experiencing postpartum psychosis. Forensic psychiatrist Phillip Resnick, the defence's final witness, testified about the effects of postpartum psychosis. Prosecutors, meanwhile, alleged she made a calculated decision to intentionally kill her children - Cora, five, Dawson, three, and Callan, who was eight months. "My



opinion is that Ms Clancy was, due to her mental disease, unable to conform her conduct to the requirements of the law on the day that she took the lives of her children," Resnick told jurors. "It was a matter where she was just following the command rather than being able to make any decision to do it or not." The forensic psychiatrist said that in his opin-

ion on the day Clancy killed her children she experienced "not only a command hallucination" but also "a delusion of influence". Resnick evaluated Clancy after the killings and reviewed her medical records. Clancy lacked control and was likely unable to tell the difference between right and wrong on that January 2023 day, he told

the jury on Friday. "In her mind, she believed that she would be doing her children a favour by having them go to heaven with her rather than remain on earth without her doing the mothering," Resnick testified. The case is expected to go to the jury early next week following nearly a month of witness testimony. Earlier this week, Clancy's mother and former mother-in-law testified about how Clancy's mental health deteriorated after the birth of her youngest son. "She was begging for help," Clancy's former mother-in-law, Susan Clancy, said of a woman she described as a "very nurturing, very loving" mother. Clancy has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder.

Mitchell Starc's Adorable Interview With Wife Alyssa Healy After Demolishing Bangladesh Leaves Fans In Splits

After a humiliating defeat in the first Test, Australia bounced back emphatically on Day 1 of the second Test as Bangladesh were bundled out for just 64 in their first innings in Mackay. The chief architect of Australia's dominance was pacer Mitchell Starc, who wasted no time in making an impact and completed his five-wicket haul within the first seven overs. After lunch, he struck again to finish with impressive figures of 6/12. During the lunch break, Starc had another reason to celebrate. His wife and former Australia captain Alyssa Healy interviewed him on the field, leading to a heart-warming and hilarious exchange. The video of their adorable interaction quickly went viral on social media, leaving fans thoroughly entertained. "Yeah, who would have thought they'd stitch this one up? I paid for dinner last night. Does that



mean it's now your turn?" Healy asked. "You're paid the bigger bucks than I am," Starc replied. Healy then asked about Australia's decision to bowl first. "You said it before, you've played here more than the rest of us, but, yeah, I mean, we clearly weren't at our best last week," Starc said. "To get first use of that wicket, a lot of the Queenslanders here have said it's a lot like the Gabba. So, yeah, to make first use of that in the first session, you can't be too unhappy. Six in the first ses-

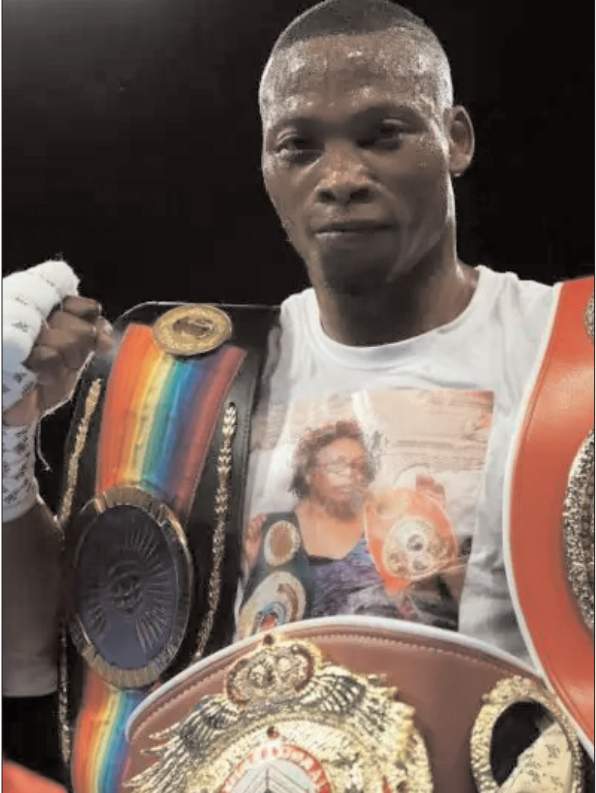
sion, can't beat that. Obviously a little bit of anger. It's worked well so far, hopefully we can keep it up," he added. Meanwhile, Starc etched his name in the history books as the Australia pacer became the leading wicket-taker in World Test Championship (WTC) history, producing a sensational spell against Bangladesh. The veteran pacer's stunning spell saw him overtake Australia teammate Pat Cummins to become the highest wicket-taker in WTC history.

TWO-TIME WORLD CHAMPION TETE SHOT DEAD OUTSIDE HOME

Two-time world champion Zolani Tete has been shot dead outside his home in South Africa. The 38-year-old was killed in what has been described as an ambush in Mdantsane, Eastern Cape on Friday. Officials said Tete was in his car waiting for the gate to his house to open when two armed suspects in balaclavas emerged from a vehicle and fired "multiple shots" at him and a 27-year-old female passenger, who remains in hospital. South Africa's minister of sport, arts and culture, Gayton McKenzie, said: "South Africa has lost one of the finest fighters it has ever produced." The two suspects fled the scene and a major investigation has been launched, McKenzie added. Tete held the WBO bantamweight title from 2017 to 2019, as well as the IBF super-flyweight title in 2014. Tete beat Liverpool's Paul Butler in 2015 in one of the eight times he

fought in the United Kingdom. He also holds a Guinness World Record for the fastest knockout in a title fight, ending his match with Siboniso Gonya inside 11 seconds in 2017. Tete last fought in July 2022, beating Briton Jason Cunningham by knockout. In London, but it was later ruled a no-contest after he failed a drugs test. He tested positive for anabolic steroid stanozolol and was given a four-year ban by the UK Anti-Doping Agency. His ban ended on 29 July, 2026 and after his death, manager Mla Tengimfene confirmed he had been training for a comeback fight. Tete had 29 wins in 34 fights, with four losses and one no-contest. Japanese fighter Naoya Inoue said Tete was a "wonderful boxer". "I hope the world is peaceful. And please, rest in peace," he said. John Riel Casimero, who took the WBO bantamweight belt from Tete

in November 2019, said he was "shocked" and "heartbroken" over his death. "We shared the canvas and pushed each other to be our absolute best inside the squared ring. A true warrior and champion. Rest in peace, champ. Prayers with your family and loved ones," he said. Tete's manager Mlandeli Tengimfene confirmed the fighter had been preparing for a return to the ring on 29 November. "Zolani is gone at a time we thought he was going to resuscitate his career," he told the South African Broadcasting Corporation. "The news is devastating, I must say." Sanctioning body the WBO said it mourned the passing of its former champion. "We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, loved ones and the entire South African boxing community during this incredibly difficult time," a social media post said. "Rest in peace, champion."



Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand Lose Semi-Final, Clinch Maiden BWF World Championships Bronze

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand's extraordinary run ended with a fighting three-game loss to world No. 1 and defending champions Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning in the women's doubles semi-finals at the BWF World Championships in New Delhi on Saturday, as the Indian pair signed off with a maiden bronze medal. The unseeded Indians produced a sensational start to pocket the opening game but could not sustain the pressure against the mighty Chinese pair, going down 21-18, 13-21, 8-21 in an hour and 11 minutes. India last won a BWF World Championships medal in women's doubles in 2011, when Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa claimed bronze in London. The Indian pair didn't have a favourable head-to-head record against



the Chinese, having lost six times with just one to show in seven meetings so far. However, Treesa and Gayatri raced to a 7-2 lead to put the Chinese pair under early pressure. Liu and Tan quickly fought their way back with a

series of sharp rallies. Six straight points from the Chinese pair turned the match around as they moved ahead. The Chinese made effective use of angled returns, forcing the Indians into errors, with several shots

finding the net. A nine-point run took Liu and Tan to an 11-7 lead at the interval. The rallies were generally short, averaging around 15 shots, but the Indians began to regain their rhythm after the resumption. Treesa ended the

Chinese run with a well-executed point. Another attack at the front court forced the Chinese long, before a 31-shot rally brought the Indians level at 12-12. A fabulous exchange followed, ending with a cross-court winner from Treesa as India moved ahead. The Indians' attack was becoming sharper. Gayatri, however, was punished for a short lift as the Chinese regained the advantage at 15-13. Treesa then produced a superb return of serve to leave the Chinese pair stretched, cutting the deficit to 14-16. A fired-up Treesa followed it with a jump smash and another aggressive play at the front court as India drew level again. The Chinese responded with relentless attacking play and moved to 18-16, but the Indians won a video referral to make it 17-18.

Brazil Unfazed By 'Boycott' Calls, Determined To Play Against India: Sources

Seeing the Brazil national football team and their star players line up against the Blue Tigers on home soil is undoubtedly a dream come true for thousands of passionate football fans across India. Opportunities to face five-time World Cup winners do not come around often for Indian football. However, a section of the domestic football spectrum, led by former national team captain Bhaichung Bhutia, is calling for a 'boycott' of the fixture, arguing that the considerable funds allocated for the high-profile exhibition match would be better invested in long-term grassroots and sporting infrastructure projects. When NDTV contacted sources close to the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), they confirmed that the governing body remains entirely unconcerned by the



growing chatter in India and is not altering its plans for the October friendly. A delegation from the CBF inspected the playing surface at Kolkata's Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan on Thursday. While subsequent reports suggested that the grass density on the pitch was low and required immediate work to prevent potential injury risks to players, sources clarified to NDTV that the feedback was merely a routine precautionary

measure that had been blown out of proportion. The condition of the field, sources confirmed, will have no impact whatsoever on the schedule of the match. The Brazilian federation also denied being affected by the calls for a boycott, suggesting that such reactions appear to be driven by local politics. Addressing India's decision to pull out of the inaugural FIFA-ASEAN Cup in order to accommodate the marquee friendly against Brazil.

George Russell Roars To Sprint Pole At Dutch GP, Championship Leader Kimi Antonelli P5

Mercedes driver George Russell clinched pole position for Saturday's sprint race at the Dutch Grand Prix, setting the fastest qualifying lap time ahead of current world champion Lando Norris. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc will be third on the grid ahead of Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren. Back for the first race after the traditional month-long summer break, Russell set a time of one minute and 11.567 seconds, 0.041 seconds faster than Leclerc, ahead of what looks like being a knife-edge battle all weekend between the top teams. "The lap felt really good, to be honest. It all came together nicely," said Russell.



Updated WTC Points Table: Pakistan Hit Rock Bottom After Crushing Loss Against England

Pakistan slumped to an innings and 103-run loss against England in the first Test match at Headingley on Friday. It was a crushing loss for the Salman Agha-led side and as a result, they found themselves at the bottom of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) 2025-27 standings. Pakistan have lost 5 out of their 7 matches till now and with a PCT of 19.05, they fell behind West Indies in the points table. England, on the other hand, are seventh with a PCT of 29.76. Australia remained top of the WTC table after winning seven of their nine Tests followed by South Africa and New Zealand. India, who recently defeated Sri Lanka in the first Test match, are fifth in the table with a PCT of 53.33. Coming to the match, England launched their



post-Bazball era with an innings and 103-run thrashing of Pakistan in the first Test at Headingley on Friday. Pakistan, who had been 51-2 in their second innings, lost four wickets for 25 runs on the way to being dismissed for just 135. England pacemen Josh Tongue and

Ollie Robinson, who took all 10 wickets between them in Pakistan's meagre first innings 171, once again did plenty of damage after a quick Jofra Archer removed both openers.

Usain Bolt Among Registered Players To Play For Manchester-Based Football Side

Legendary athlete and multi-time Olympic and World champion Usain Bolt could be stepping onto a football field, as he was listed as one of the registered players for Wythenshawe Vets FC, an over-35s team based in Manchester, England. Bolt was seen among the registered players on the Football Association's website on Friday. The club has attracted several high-profile players who have sought to pursue the sport after their professional retirement in recent years, including former England striker Emile Heskey, ex-Manchester

United captain Antonio Valencia, and Premier League champions Joleon Lescott and Danny Drinkwater, all of whom are set to play for the veterans' side this season, as per Olympics.com. While the team is yet to confirm Bolt as a player for this season, the move seems possible for the 40-year-old athlete and 100m world record holder, who turned his attention to professional football after retiring from athletics following the 2017 World Athletics Championships. Having scored two goals during a friendly for

Australian A-League side Central Coast Mariners in 2018, Bolt went on to sign a deal with the club before leaving eight weeks later and retiring from football in early 2019. Former sprint star Usain Bolt appears set to turn out for a Sunday league team in Manchester. The eight-time Olympic champion, who still holds the world records for the 100 metres and 200m, appears on the squad list for Wythenshawe FC Veterans over-35s on the Football Association Full-Time website. The team play in the Cheshire Veterans League

and feature a squad full of former top-level professionals. Managed by former Manchester City and Republic of Ireland midfielder Stephen Ireland, the line-up includes Danny Drinkwater, Antonio Valencia, Joleon Lescott, Emile Heskey, Marc Albrighton and Papiss Cisse. Bolt, 40, is a huge football fan and, after retiring following the World Championships in 2017, he attempted a professional career in the sport, briefly playing for Australian side Central Coast Mariners.



"Building Momentum": Neeraj Chopra After Season-Best 88.05 Metre Throw At Lausanne Diamond League



Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra said he is "building momentum" to get back to his "best" after finishing second at the Lausanne Diamond League with a season-best throw of 88.05 metres. Taking to social media platform X, Neeraj wrote, "88.05. Building momentum to get back to my best again." Chopra finished second at the Lausanne Diamond League with a season-best throw of 88.05m, missing out on the top spot by just nine cen-

timetres. Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage continued his impressive 2026 campaign, winning the event with an 88.14m effort. The result extended Chopra's wait for a victory, with his last win coming at the Neeraj Chopra Classic in Bengaluru in July 2025. However, his return to the 88m range will be a major positive, particularly after a difficult start to the season. Before Lausanne, Chopra had competed in just two events in 2026.

CHIRANJEEVI’S ‘KAAKA’ TITLE GLIMPSE UNLEASHES MASS APPEAL

Megastar Chiranjeevi’s much-awaited collaboration with director Bobby Kolli has finally offered a glimpse into its world, and the title glimpse of #Mega158 / #ChiruBobby2 has arrived as a powerful showcase of style, action and raw mass appeal. The film, produced by Venkat K Narayana under the KVN Productions banner, has been generating considerable anticipation ever since its announcement, and the most stylish title glimpse that is all guns blazing has now taken those expectations several notches higher.

The glimpse opens with Chiranjeevi entering the aqua industry as K Satyam, Supervisor, greeting everyone and assuring the Chennai team on phone call that the load will arrive on time. He denies Sunil’s leave request, saying their target is the festival. When Getup Srinu tells him about the scooter keys given by daughter, Chiranjeevi asks him to throw them. The keys accidentally fall into the water, but a dog brings a remote, which he uses to retrieve them with a magnet. Interestingly, guns emerge along with the keys. Chiranjeevi is then revealed as a middle-aged man wearing glasses, followed by the title reveal Kaaka. A flashback then introduces a young, stylish Chiranjeevi in a powerful gun-firing sequence.

The title Kaaka sounds powerful, while the title glimpse immediately grabs



attention with striking visuals and a distinctive setting. Bobby Kolli has yet again demonstrated his understanding of how to present Chiranjeevi in a way that connects strongly with fans and the masses. The contrasting presentation of the two versions, combined with the powerful visuals, music and action, makes the glimpse highly engaging. Chiranjeevi once

again proves why his screen presence remains one of the biggest strengths of Telugu cinema. Bobby presents the Megastar in two distinct looks, with the middle-class avatar bringing a grounded charm and the younger version radiating attitude and energy. The gun-firing sequence, supported by his body language and effortless swag, creates a terrific mass moment,

with the final shot leaving a particularly strong impact. Cinematographer Vijay Karthik Kannan enhances the glimpse with his dynamic visual language. In the initial portions, the camera almost travels alongside Chiranjeevi’s character, creating an immersive feel, before shifting into high-energy frames and mass elevations as the glimpse progresses. S Thaman’s background score further amplifies the intensity, while the remix of the iconic “Gang Gang” from Gang Leader adds an extra layer of nostalgia and swagger. If the title glimpse is any indication, Kaaka has already set the expectations high for what promises to be a grand and entertaining Chiranjeevi starrer. Anaswara Rajan is part of the cast in a pivotal role, while the film boasts a strong technical team comprising production designer Avinash Kolla, editor Antony L Ruben and writers Kona Venkat, K Chakravarthy Reddy, Hari Mohana Krishna and Vineeth Potluri, with dialogues by Bhanu-Nandu. The title glimpse has therefore achieved its primary purpose. It has introduced the film’s world, while giving audiences a clear taste of its scale, mood and protagonist. More importantly, it suggests that Bobby Kolli is attempting to give Chiranjeevi a characterisation that wasn’t seen before. The film is scheduled for a grand worldwide release during the Sankranti season on January 13, 2027.

Romanchakam” to Be a Complete Entertainer to Watch with Friends and Family, Says Producer Pranay Reddy Vanga at Press Meet

The Film is Set for a Worldwide Grand Theatrical Release on September 3 Presented by blockbuster director Sandeep Reddy Vanga and produced under the Bhadrakali Pictures banner, “Romanchakam” stars Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar in the lead roles. The film is produced by Pranay Reddy Vanga and directed by debutant filmmaker Venugopal Reddy. Promising to be an interesting and youthful entertainer blending love, humour and suspense, “Romanchakam” is gearing



up for a worldwide grand theatrical release on September 3. Suniel Narang of Asian Cinemas is releasing the film across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. The film’s press meet was held in Hyderabad today.

KRITHI SHETTY TURNS HEADS IN DESIGNER OUTFIT



Krithi Shetty is currently having a major style moment, and her latest look proves she is not holding back on the designer front. The actress, who is part of the upcoming Anil Ravipudi directorial, was spotted in a chic Louis Vuitton ensemble, a powder blue corset top paired with the brand’s iconic grey monogram mini skirt. She completed the look with white LV sneakers and carried a mini Louis Vuitton trunk-style bag on her shoulder, leaving

no doubt about her love for the French luxury label. Krithi kept her hair loose in soft waves and opted for minimal, dewy makeup, letting the outfit do all the talking. The Louis Vuitton shopping bags visible in the frame hint that this may just be a fresh haul, and fans are already loving her fun, playful mirror-selfie energy. With her upcoming project generating buzz, Krithi seems to be having as much fun off-screen as she gears up for what’s next on it.

Rakul Preet Nails Every Single Look On the Cover



Rakul Preet Singh has proved once again why she is called the Queen of Style, gracing the cover of HT City Showstoppers’ August 2026 edition in a jaw-dropping ivory lace gown with an oversized bow-shaped cape sleeve, paired with statement drop earrings and a sleek bun. While several new-gen and popular heroines have struggled to crack big magazine covers, Rakul continues to own this space effortlessly, proving her fashion game is a league of its own. The photoshoot also saw her serve multiple looks, a sage green fringe

and sequin gown with puffed sleeves and a thigh-high slit, a fiery red one-shoulder gown with floral embroidery and a bold thigh slit, a silver-blue crystal-embellished halter gown, and a chic all-black winter look with emerald green stockings and a cream handbag. Each outfit showed off a different side of her style range, from glamorous and bold to classy and edgy. Rakul is set to appear in Nitesh Tiwari’s ambitious two-part epic Ramayana, where she takes on the complex mythological role of Surpanakha.

VISHWAMBHARA OST: THUNDEROUS SPIRITUAL CHANTS!

While the brand-new Vishwambhara poster establishes the visual mood, the newly released OST gives that world a voice of its own. The makers chose Megastar Chiranjeevi’s birthday to present the thunderous musical score composed by Gowra Hari. The track is built around scale and atmosphere. Deep, resonant chants create an unmistakable spiritual presence, while pounding drums and sweeping brass arrangements steadily increase the intensity. What begins as a restrained and brooding composition eventually erupts into a peak, making the music feel tailor-made for a pivotal spiritual moment. Gowra Hari, who has earned recognition through projects including Hanu-Man and Mirai, brings a distinctly cinematic approach to the OST. The composition reinforces the sense of mythology, mystery and power associated with the film. That same mood dominates the birthday poster. Chiranjeevi is presented in an uncompromising avatar, with a beard, fierce expression and sharply focused eyes.



“Husharu Pittalu Has Once Again Proved That Content Is King”: Producer Venkat Yadav at the Thanks Meet



Husharu Pittalu’ is a youthful entertainer starring Anshu and Vasavi Ganeshan in the lead roles. Presented by Padma Amma and BVG Studios, the film is produced by Venkat Yadav under the Rudra Kranthi Pictures banner and directed by Bikshu. The film was released by prominent production houses Asian Suresh Films.

Released on August 15, the movie opened to an unexpected response and received excellent word-of-mouth, resulting in houseful collections and emerging as a blockbuster success. The film collected a gross of ₹5.27 crore in its first week and successfully entered its second week. A thanks meet was organized by the team to celebrate the success.

AP GREEN Chairman & MLC Nagababu Celebrates Megastar Chiranjeevi’s Birthday with Green Initiative in Kokapet



On the occasion of Megastar Chiranjeevi’s birthday on August 22, actor, producer, Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council (MLC), and Chairman of the AP GREEN Executive Committee, Konidela Nagendra Babu, marked the celebration with an eco-conscious initiative by planting saplings in an open area at Kokapet, Hyderabad. Among the plants introduced was

a Kadamba Vruksham (Kadambavasin tree), sourced directly from the renowned nurseries of Kadiyam. Highlighting the ecological benefits of the species, Nagababu noted that the 1.5 to 2-year-old sapling features lush green foliage, provides cooling shade capable of reducing ambient heat by 10 to 15 degrees, and bears distinctive spherical blooms. Sharing his thoughts on celebrating milestones through nature, Nagababu stated: “Planting trees on the occasion of Annayya’s birthday felt truly happy and meaningful. Instead of celebrating with something temporary, planting a tree is a beautiful way to create something that grows, gives life, and benefits everyone for years to come. I believe everyone should plant a tree on the occasion of their loved ones’ birthdays. It’s a small gesture today that leaves a lasting gift for tomorrow. Happy Birthday, Annayya! May your legacy continue to grow and inspire, just like these trees. Nagababu further highlighted that this gesture is part of an ongoing family initiative. He has personally planted over 120 trees dedicated to his family members including Pawan Kalyan, Ram Charan, Varun Tej, Sai Dharam Tej, Vaishnav Tej, and Niharika. Underscoring his commitment to environmental preservation, he urged citizens and fans to adopt the practice of planting a tree on the birthdays of loved ones to create a greener, lasting future.

NISHANTH DOTI, SUMAIRA STUDIOS' EMOTIONAL DRAMA SAHAA (LIFE OF SANJU) THEATRICAL RELEASE ON SEPTEMBER 4



Sahaa (Life of Sanju), the emotional drama, directed by Nishanth Doti, is in full

swing with its promotional campaign. Starring Shiva Kumar Kasaram and Swetha Lakshman in

the lead roles, the film promises to take audiences through a heartfelt journey of love, relationships, memories and the emotional challenges of life. Produced by Teja Velpucharla under the Sumaira Studios banner, Sahaa has already generated interest with its earlier musical and promotional material.

Sahaa has now locked September 4 as its worldwide theatrical release date. The release-date poster strengthens the film’s romantic mood. Set against the backdrop of a public transport journey, Shiva Kumar Kasaram and Swetha Lakshman are seen sharing a warm and effortless moment, reflecting the film’s youthful love journey. The visual presentation hints at a story rooted in simple relationships and genuine emotions.