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

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

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

TRISHA KRISHNAN'S DIY GLAM BEATS ANY STYLIST



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

11-06-2026

Total pilgrims : 78,956

Tonsures : 31,014

Hundi karukalu : 4.46 CR

Laddu sale : 40 Lac

Amaraprasadam : 2.80 Lac

Aashwin hospital : 3.21

Waiting Compartments : Outside

line at Silathoranam.

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

Short Takes

Not Opposition: Rijiju explains who 'dimagi Naxals' are

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

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

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

Israeli strike kills senior Hezbollah commander

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

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



Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU :

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

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

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

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

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

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

ment every six months.

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

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

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

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

Vijay announces Rs 30 lakh aid to constable's family

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Iran army warns Trump over Hormuz threats

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



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

X to make government takedown requests more transparent

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Rahul lauds youth for opposing Modi regime

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Trump had three in-person



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

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

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

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

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

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

I am proud to be a dimagi naxal, says Chidambaram

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



rupt activity.

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

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

there was some other reason behind it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Monsoon session of AP Legislature from Monday



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The Prime Minister also

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

GITAM faculty earns Ph.D. for secure IoMT research

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

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



cal data.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Coalition Government Following the Inspiration of Gauthu Latchanna: Ministers

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) The coalition government is carrying forward its administration inspired by the ideals and fighting spirit of Sardar Gauthu Latchanna, who dedicated his life to the rights and welfare of Backward Classes (BCs), farmers and workers, Ministers Savitha, Anagani Satya Prasad, Kollu Ravindra, Kollusu Parthasarathy and Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said. The State-level birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Gauthu Latchanna were held in a grand manner at T u m a l a p a l l i Kalakshetram in Vijayawada on Sunday under the aegis of the BC Corporation. The Ministers paid floral tributes to Latchanna and recalled his contributions to the freedom movement and his lifelong struggle for social justice. Minister Savitha said Latchanna's patriotism, public service and fighting spirit would continue to inspire future generations. She said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was working towards fulfilling Latchanna's vision of ensuring social, economic and political empower-



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

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

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

gle for social justice and the rights of marginalised communities remained a guiding force for the present generation. The Minister said the coalition government was working in accordance with Latchanna's vision of providing BCs with a rightful place in social, economic and political spheres. Cash Awards of Rs.25 Lakh Presented to 125 Students Cash awards totalling Rs.25 lakh were presented to 125 meritorious students from the Gouda community who excelled in Class 10 and Intermediate examinations. The awards were presented under the aegis of the Anagani Satya Prasad Charitable Trust. The Ministers congratulated the students and encouraged them to make the best use of the opportunities available to them and strive for higher achievements. MLAs Gadde Ramamohan Rao and Kumar Varma, RTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, BC Welfare Department officials, corporation chairpersons and directors, representatives of BC welfare organisations and a large number of members of the Gouda community attended the programme.

Alert People About Elephant Movement Near Chandragiri: Pawan Kalyan

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



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

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

Hayathnagar librarian receives national best librarian award

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



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

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

Kirtilals Unveils 'Sindooram' Bridal Jewellery Collection in Hyderabad



Hyderabad (TSIT) Kirtilals, a renowned natural diamond jewellery brand, has unveiled its exclusive bridal jewellery collection, 'Sindooram', at its Somajiguda store in Hyderabad. Inspired by the beauty of nature, the collection features exquisite motifs drawn from flowers, hibiscus blooms, peacocks and other natural elements, recreated through the craftsmanship of master artisans. The Sindooram collection brings together high-quality natural diamonds, precious metals and vibrant colour stones. Each piece reflects a distinctive interpretation of nature through intricate detailing, refined designs and exceptional craftsmanship. The collection combines the grandeur of traditional bridal jewellery with a contemporary aesthetic, making each piece suitable for the modern bride while retaining its timeless appeal. The collection has also received recognition at the Retail Jeweller India Awards 2026, where Kirtilals' bridal jewellery

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Tata Power Company Limited, one of India's leading integrated power companies and a major EV charging solutions provider, in collaboration with Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Limited (TPEM), has inaugurated a new TATA.ev co-branded MegaCharger Hub at Retreat Resto in Kadapa. Strategically located along the Bengaluru-Kadapa highway corridor, the new charging hub will provide convenient and reliable charging facilities for electric vehicle users travelling towards Tirupati, Anantapur, Bengaluru and other destinations across the Rayalaseema region.

Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited PUBLIC NOTICE

Customer Service Intimation Regarding Closed Branch Notice is hereby given that the **NARASARAOPETA RURAL Branch of Mahindra Home Finance**, formerly situated at Third Floor, D.No: 5-1-451, Arundelpet, old Palnadu bus stand, Narasaraopeta - 522601. has been closed and is no longer operational. Customers requiring any housing finance-related services or assistance may contact: **Toll-Free Number: 1800-233-5333** **Regional Office:** Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd, H.No. 54-1/2D, 4th Floor, Sri Surya Premier, Veterinary Colony, Gunadala, N.H.-5th Road, Vijayawada - 520008. Andhra Pradesh. **Email:** MRHFL.cc@mahindrahomefinance.com All existing loan accounts and customer service arrangements continue uninterrupted through the above channels. The closure of the branch does not affect the rights and obligations of customers/MRHFL under their respective loan agreements. **Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited**

		SRG HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED CIN: L65222RJ1909PLC015440 Reg. Ofc: 321, S M Lodha Complex, Near Shastrri Circle, Udaipur-313001(Rajasthan) Phone: 0294-2412609 E-mail: info@srghousing.com Website: www.srghousing.com	
SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE RULE 8(1) (For Immovable Property)			
Whereas, The Undersigned Being The Authorized Officer Of SRG Housing Finance Limited, 321, Sm Lodha Complex, Near Shastrri Circle, Udaipur – 313001 (rajasthan), Under The Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 And In Exercise Of Power Conferred Under Section 13(12) Read With Rule 3 Of Security Interest (enforcement) Rules, 2002, Issued Demand Notices On The Dates Mentioned Against Each Account Calling Upon The Respective Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/ Mortgagees/ Guarantors, To Repay The Amount Within 60 Days From The Date Of Receipt Of The Said Notices. The Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Mortgagees/Guarantors Having Failed To Repay The Amount, Notice Is Hereby Issued To The Borrowers/co-borrowers/mortgagees/guarantors And The Public In General, That The Undersigned Has Taken Symbolic Possession Of The Properties Described Herein Below In Exercise Of Powers Conferred On Him Under Section 13(4) Of The Said Act, Read With Rule 9 Of The Said Rules, On The Dates Mentioned Against Each Account. The Borrowers/co-borrowers/mortgagees/guarantors In Particular And Public In General Are Hereby Cautioned Not To Deal With The Properties And Any Dealing With The Properties Will Be Subject To The Charge Of SRGHousing Finance Limited, 321, Sm Lodha Complex, Near Shastrri Circle, Udaipur – 313001 (Rajasthan), For The Amounts Mentioned Below Plus Future Interest And Cost/charges Thereon Until The Realization. The Borrowers/co-borrowers/mortgagees/guarantors Attention Are Invited To The Provisions Of Sub-section (8) Of Section 13 Of The Said Act, In Respect Of Time Available To Redeem The Available Secured Assets.			
S. Loan Account Number (An)/ Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors	1) Date Of Demand Notice 2) Date Of Symbolic Possession 3) Claim Amount As Per Demand Notice	Description Of Immovable Property (Together With Buildings And Structures Constructed, To Be Constructed Thereon Along With Fixtures And Fittings Attached To The Earth And Anything Attached To The Earth.)	
1. HLR00000000023554 Mr. Gundepogu Raj Kumar S/o Mr. Gundepogu Raju (Borrower) Mrs. Gundepogu Ratnamma W/o Mr. Gundepogu Raju (Co-Borrower-1) Mr. Gundepogu Raju S/o Mr. Gundepogu Devadanam (Co-Borrower-2) Mr. Gundepogu Shyam S/o Mr. Gundepogu Raju (Guarantor)	1. Date Of Demand Notice- May 07, 2026 2. Date Of Symbolic Possession – August 12, 2026 3. Claim Amount As Per Demand Notice- ₹ 19,38,810/- In Words Rupees Nineteen Lakh Thirty-eight Thousand Eight Hundred And Ten Only As On May 07, 2026 Plus Future Interest, Incidental Expenses, Cost, Charges, Etc. W.e.f. May 08, 2026.	All That Piece And Parcel Of Land Owned By:- In The Name Mr. Gundepogu Raju S/o Mr. Gundepogu Devadanam Having H. No. – 15- 9J-23/2, Ward No.-15, SY. No.-802/2, Haji Nagar N Near Nmatth Box Industry, Gram-Nandikotkur, Tehsil-Nandikotkur, District-Nandyal (Andhra Pradesh) Having Land Area Of 656.00 Sq. Fts. Surrounded By:- East – House Of Jaibun Bee & Others, West – House Of Vanamula Pattirahim Saheb & Others, North – Rasta, South – Pakkiri Saheb & Others Houses	
PLACE:- Andhra Pradesh DATE:- 17-08-2026		SD/- Authorized Officer, SRG Housing Finance Limited	

EDITORIAL

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

Having pledged her troth to one of the species, my spouse has scant respect for bureaucrats in general, a measured judgement that is hard to refute. A few days back, she forwarded a piece from *The Wire* by a civil servant titled "Where does loyalty end and complicity begin? A civil servant's question" with the dismissive comment: "Another apologia by the mercenary, criminal class!"

I was intrigued that a serving civil servant had finally plucked up the courage to confront the administration and say it like it is. Given the vengeful nature of the dispensation, I can understand the author writing under a pseudonym. A series of interrogations and reference to Pol Pot and Nazi Germany promised a devastating expose' of this malevolent regime, but disappointingly, the piece is little more than a cry of anguish at the impotence of civil servants. An article exercise in self-flagellation, the only direct criticism levelled is a tame, euphemistic assessment of the tyrannical authority as "ethically ambiguous." Seeking to assuage the guilt of being a pusillanimous collaborator, the author's argument for playing ball is this ridiculous, self-serving excuse: "If you remain within the system, you can do some good – the choice is between imperfect compromise and complete irrelevance." Doing good by being zealous yes-men of the regime? Clearly, pragmatism and self-preservation are the better part of valour!

So allow a former bureaucrat who believes that his pension is not hush money from the government, to meditate on the rot in the system.

THE 'STEEL FRAME' – A PAPER TIGER?

Considering how easily the bureaucracy capitulates to the political executive, one has the sneaking suspicion that the term “steel frame” to reference bureaucrats has been coined in mocking jest. However etymologically, the term has distinguished antecedents; its provenance can be traced back to British prime minister David Lloyd George who, in 1922, used the term to describe the Indian Civil Service (ICS) and its critical role in shoring up the colonial structure. Post-Independence, Sardar Patel repurposed the term to apply to the administrative services in the newly created nation.

In his interaction with the first batch of IAS officers in 1947, the great man was unequivocal that civil servants were duty bound to express their views with assiduity and without fear, just as it was the moral responsibility of the political executive to create an environment that provided the freedom for civil servants to express their views fearlessly. Sadly, the rectitude, public spiritedness and courage demanded of civil servants by Sardar Patel has been almost completely absent in independent India. The Indian bureaucrat is renowned for wrapping himself in rules, procedures and red tape, fixated on process rather than delivery, thereby causing frustrating delays and stalemates in decision-making and citizens’ welfare. A den of mediocrity, the bureaucracy is notorious for protecting the status quo and stifling innovation. The sweeping assessment by scholars and critics is that bureaucrats, with their elitist, self-serving ways are a fetid hangover from the colonial era.

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

SAURABH VARSHNEY

Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day is not merely a constitutional tradition; it is also an opportunity to present India's current trajectory and future aspirations to the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day—marked on August 15, 2026—was significant in this very context. The most profound message of the speech was the vision of the India of 2047, the year the nation will celebrate the centenary of its independence. The Prime Minister clearly stated that the resolve to transform India into a 'Developed India' by 2047 is not solely the government's mandate but the collective responsibility of all 1.4 billion citizens.

The 80th Independence Day represents a significant milestone in itself. Eighty years of independence have passed, and the next major milestone facing the nation is 2047. This implies that the coming 21 years will determine the direction of India's future. Viewed in this context, the Prime Minister's speech was not merely a recounting of achievements but also an indication of development priorities for the next two decades.

Most notably, the Prime Minister's address accorded special importance to the power of the youth. This is only natural. The India of 2047 will be shaped by the hard work, talent, innovation, and leadership of today's youth. The student of today will become the scientist, engineer, entrepreneur, farmer, soldier, teacher, doctor, administrator, and public representative of tomorrow. Therefore, the vision for 2047 cannot be realized without placing the current young generation at its core. The Prime Minister announced large-scale skill

development initiatives for the youth in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). He spoke of equipping ten million (one crore) young people with AI skills within a single year. Additionally, proposals were made to launch a free online coaching network for competitive examinations and a nationwide campaign to identify sporting talent among children aged five to fifteen. The significance of these announcements extends beyond immediate employment or training. The world is changing rapidly; in the future, the nation that leads in technology, knowledge, and innovation will forge ahead. India possesses a vast youth population. If this youth force is provided with modern education, skills, research opportunities, and avenues for growth, this very demographic can become India's greatest strength.

Self-reliance was also a central theme in the Prime Minister's speech. Emphasis was placed on transforming India not merely into a vast market but into a global hub for production, technology, and innovation. Strengthening capabilities in manufacturing, semiconductors, energy, defense, and technology is part of this broader vision. In today's world, self-reliance does not imply isolation; rather, it means India becoming sufficiently capable in critical sectors so that it need not depend on others during times of crisis. Building domestic capacity in strategic areas—ranging from defense equipment to semiconductors and energy—is essential for both national security and economic strength.

The Prime Minister outlined a target of achieving 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy capacity by 2047 and announced plans for five new nuclear reactors within this decade. This signals

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

zens have access to quality education, the youth find opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship, farmers prosper through modern technology, women are economically and socially empowered, the gap in amenities between rural and urban areas is bridged, and public trust in the justice system and governance is strengthened.

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



79 YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE, IS INDIA RECOLONISING ITSELF?

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

WHY TECH BOSSES KEEP SHARING THEIR MANIFESTOS ABOUT AI

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



Thousands displaced by deadly Indonesia earthquake as rescue efforts continue

HURRICANE LALA LASHES HAWAII WITH STRONG WINDS AND TORRENTIAL RAIN

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



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

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

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

Europe's tallest Virgin Mary statue unveiled in rural Poland



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

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

TWELVE KILLED AS POLISH BUS VEERS OFF HUNGARIAN MOTORWAY



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

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



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

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

QATAR DENIES CAPTURING THREE IRANIAN PILOTS AFTER DOWNING FIGHTER JETS



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

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



Five killed as Russia launches fresh aerial attacks across Ukraine

Liechtenstein changes succession rule to allow women to ascend the throne

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Bangladesh Break Huge Record After Historic First Win In Australia

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



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

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

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

"BIGGEST UPSET, EMBARRASSING":

AUSTRALIA GREATS TEAR INTO PAT CUMMINS' SIDE AFTER BANGLADESH LOSS

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Makhachev beats Machado Garry to break UFC win record

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



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

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



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

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

IRELAND'S O'CONNOR SECURES HEPTATHLON EUROPEAN GOLD



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

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

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

NOVAK DJOKOVIC FEELS THE HEAT IN CINCINNATI OPENING DEFEAT

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



TRISHA KRISHNAN’S DIY GLAM BEATS ANY STYLIST



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

Kareena’s Pic Steals Saif’s Birthday Spotlight

