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NATIONAL | NEWS

Kejriwal challenges BJP to compare 1,000 govt schools of Gujarat, Punjab

WORLD | NEWS

China warns it will protect its interests after US widens sanctions against Iran

CINEMA | NEWS

TOXIC ADVANCE BOOKINGS POINT TO A HISTORIC START

SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

24-08-2026
Total pilgrims : 77,085
Tonnages : 33,766
Hundi kamahala : 4,651 CR
Ladies ratio : 3,584 Lac
Amaraprasadam : 1,595 Lac
Ammi bhogala : 3,950
Present Situation on 25-08-2026:
Waiting Compartments:-14

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens): 8 H.

Short Takes

ED seizes Rs 3.8 crore cash in fake GST invoice case

Lucknow, Aug 25: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized Rs 3.8 crore in unaccounted cash during searches at 11 premises in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in connection with an alleged GST fraud that caused a loss of Rs 27.02 crore to the government, an official said on Tuesday. The ED's Lucknow Zonal Office conducted the searches on Monday under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. Besides the cash, the agency seized incriminating documents and digital devices during the searches.

5 of family end life in Srisaillam rest house due to financial distress

Amaravati, Aug 25: In a tragic incident, five members of a family allegedly died by suicide at a rest house in the temple town of Srisaillam, Andhra Pradesh, police said on Tuesday. The deceased have been identified as Pallapu Sudhakar (50), his sisters Gogula Adilakshmi (36), Malleshwari (45), and Sridevi (33), along with Malleshwari's 15-year-old son, Manikantha. All five victims hailed from Battalipalli in Sri Sathya Sai district. According to the police, the family had arrived at Srisaillam in an auto-rickshaw on July 28 and checked into room number 11 at Vaddera Sataram, a lodge for devotees visiting the Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy temple, paying a daily rent of Rs 29.

JeM headquarters in Bahawalpur rebuilt after Operation

New Delhi (TSIT): The headquarters of UN-designated terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Pakistan's Bahawalpur, which was damaged in India's Operation Sindoor strikes last year, has reportedly been rebuilt, according to media reports citing intelligence inputs. The Markaz Subhanallah facility, which sustained extensive damage during the strikes, has reportedly been refurbished with new plaster, paint and polished marble, the reports said.

Stone-pelting, lathi-charge, water cannons mark students' protest over BPSC exams

Patna (TSIT): A protest by thousands of students demanding reforms in Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) examinations turned violent on Tuesday as clashes broke out between agitators and police personnel in Patna. The protestors pelted stones, while police used water cannons and resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the crowd.

The protesters, mostly aspirants preparing for the Teachers' Recruitment Examinations to be conducted by BPSC next month, had announced a 'Mukhyamantri Awas Gherao' programme to press for their demand that the written examination process should be conducted in a single stage instead of the existing preliminary and mains system.

A section of the protesters also demanded the cancellation of the Combined Competitive Examination conducted by the commission earlier this year, alleging irregularities in the examination process.

The protest march began from Gandhi Maidan and was joined by activists from Left organisations, including the Students' Federation of India



(SFI) and Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI). The procession was planned towards the Chief Minister's residence, with heavy security arrangements deployed along the nearly five-kilometre route.

Police officials said repeated appeals were made to protesters to maintain peace and assured that a delegation would be allowed to meet authorities to submit their demands. However, tensions escalated when protesters attempted to break barricades at J.P. Golambar and Dak Bungalow crossing, one of Patna's busiest junctions.

Police used water cannons to control the crowd, but

protesters continued their march. Videos circulated on social media showed clashes between police and demonstrators, including incidents of stone-pelting and lathi-charge. Several protesters were detained, while some people reportedly sustained injuries during the confrontation.

Patna Senior Superintendent of Police Kartikeya Sharma said the situation was brought under control and traffic movement was being restored. He said police would review CCTV footage to identify those involved in violence and take action against anti-social elements.

Cong calls Centre's caste Enumeration framework 'flawed', seeks fresh questionnaire

New Delhi (TSIT) The Congress on Tuesday mounted a fresh attack on the Centre over the proposed methodology for caste enumeration in the upcoming census, with Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh calling the exercise a "deception" and a "whitewash" rather than a genuine caste census.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters, Ramesh said the methodology proposed by the government



was fundamentally flawed and would fail to generate the accurate and comprehensive data

needed to formulate policies aimed at ensuring social justice.

Drawing attention to the census notification issued on August 14, Ramesh said it contained 40 questions, with only one question concerning caste, placed at number 10. He described the approach as "self-sabotage" and questioned how a serious nationwide caste census could be conducted through what the Congress considers an inadequately designed format.

"The government's current efforts towards a caste census

are just a whitewash," Ramesh said, demanding a credible, transparent and scientifically designed enumeration exercise.

The Congress leader also accused the Centre of failing to consult opposition parties and state governments on the structure and methodology of the census. He said the existing notification should be withdrawn and replaced with a comprehensive questionnaire prepared after consultations with political parties, experts, state governments and the public.

Goyal pitches India as trusted destination for data centres, cites USD 200 bn investment commitments

TOKYO (TSIT): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday pitched India as a compelling destination for data centres, saying the country can work with Japanese companies to develop the sector and has already received investment commitments of about USD 200 billion from large hyperscalers globally. During his meeting with Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Akazawa Ryosei, Goyal said the partnership could be summarised around four pillars - increasing trade, strengthening technology cooperation, boosting invest-



ments and promoting tourism. "Data centres are another area where India provides a very compelling case, a destination as a trusted partner. We can work

together to promote data centres in India. We already have a commitment of about USD 200 billion from large hyperscalers from across the world," he said.

GOVT TO SELL ONIONS IN DELHI AT RS 35/KG, MUCH LOWER THAN MKT RATE

NEW DELHI (TSIT): (Aug 25) The government will sell onions at Rs 35 per kg in the national capital, a deep discount of around 36 per cent from the prevailing average retail prices, as it looks to provide relief to the common man from high rates. The Centre is procuring onions from the key-producing state of Maharashtra, where it has maintained buffer stock to deal with any price rise. The first consignment of 800 tonnes will reach the national capital on Wednesday via 'Kanda Express' train.

Veligonda Waters to Propel Development: CM Naidu

Visakhapatnam (TSIT)

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the long-cherished dream of bringing Krishna waters to the drought-prone areas of Prakasam district would become a reality with the completion of Phase-I of the Veligonda Project. In a post on X, the Chief Minister said the project, for which he laid the foundation stone on March 5, 1996, would be inaugurated by him on August 31, marking the fulfilment of a commitment made three decades ago. He said 10.7 TMC of water would be released into the Nallamala Sagar on the occasion. Phase-I is expected to provide irrigation to 1.19 lakh acres, while Phase-II would cover another 3.283 lakh acres, besides supplying drinking water to lakhs of people. Describing Veligonda as a major turning point for drought-hit Markapur and surrounding areas, he said the project would bring water, prosperity and new opportunities to the region.

The Chief Minister said the government was also working to transform Rayalaseema and the erstwhile Prakasam district into a horticulture hub with investments of around Rs.1 lakh crore. National high-



ways and ports, including the Bengaluru-Amaravati highway and Ramayapatnam Port, would strengthen logistics, trade and industrial development in the region, he said.

He assured that tap water connections would be provided to every household to permanently address the fluoride problem affecting people in western Prakasam. Stating that the Veligonda project was the result of overcoming numerous challenges and obstacles, Chandrababu said the government's objective was to ensure water for every farmer's field, employment for every youth and security for every family.

H1N1 rise: Children, elderly people at most risk, doctors warn

NEW DELHI (TSIT): As H1N1 cases rise in the national capital, doctors and health experts have pointed out that children, elderly people, pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses are the most vulnerable to severe infection.

Delhi has recorded over 2,300 Influenza-A cases this year, including more than 1,777 H1N1 cases till Friday, with 114 H1N1 cases reported on Thursday alone, according to health department data.

Air India flight from Delhi suffers bird hit at Patna airport, all passengers safe Air India flight from

Delhi suffers bird hit at Patna airport, all passengers safe "The rise in H1N1 cases has brought preventive vaccination back into the conversation," said Dr Bharat Gopal, senior director, respiratory and sleep medicine, Medanta Mediclinic, Defence Colony and Medanta-The Medicity.

More people have been enquiring about seasonal influenza vaccination, particularly high-risk individuals and families with children or elderly members, he said. Dr Bibhu Anand, physician at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said, "The swine flu test is easily available in



almost all hospitals and diagnostic centres." Testing at private hospitals generally costs between Rs 1,500 and Rs 5,000, while a full respiratory BioFire panel can cost between Rs 9,000 and Rs 15,000.

In government hospitals, the cost is "almost negligible," he said. Dr Anand also said that multiplex PCR testing can be done only at restricted laboratories and the decision to test should be based on the patient's symp-

toms, clinical presentation and the treating physician's assessment. The increase in cases is being reflected in the number of patients seeking medical consultation at hospitals across Delhi-NCR. "The number of patients has increased by around five to six in the past week, translating into a 22-25 per cent rise," said Dr Aakashneel Bhattacharya, consultant, infectious disease, Paras Health, Gurugram.

At Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, around eight to 10 patients with flu-like symptoms are coming to the clinic daily, while two to three patients with more

serious flu illness are being admitted, said Dr Arvind Aggarwal, director, internal medicine, At Apollo Spectra Hospital, Dr Ali Sher, senior consultant, internal medicine, said the hospital has seen an increase in patients seeking consultation for flu-like symptoms in recent weeks, some with serious respiratory complaints.

The latest figures show a sharp year-on-year rise in H1N1 infections. Delhi recorded 1,777 cases till August 20, against 229 during the corresponding period last year, representing an increase of more than six times, Dr Gopal said.

Commonly reported symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, headache, body ache, chills, fatigue, runny nose and nasal congestion. Some patients, particularly children, may also experience nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea. Doctors said most patients with uncomplicated influenza can be treated on an outpatient basis and do not require hospitalisation. Admission is generally considered when patients develop pneumonia, breathing difficulties, reduced oxygen saturation, persistent high fever or worsening of an existing medical condition.

EDITORIAL

Sajjan Kumar, Congress,
And How To Keep
Messing Up An 'Apology'

A courtroom in India once wrote something that should have changed the country forever. In December 2018, Justices S Muralidhar and Vinod Goel of the Delhi High Court upheld Sajjan Kumar's conviction for engineering the murder of Sikhs in the aftermath of the assassination of the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, in 1984. Paragraph 367.6 of that order reads like a warning flare shot into the future. The judges counted 2,733 Sikhs slaughtered in Delhi alone, nearly 3,350 across the country per official data, and named a pattern repeated from Mumbai in 1993 to Gujarat in 2002, Kandhamal in 2008, and Muzaffarnagar in 2013. Dominant political actors organised every mob in that list, the bench wrote, and law enforcement stepped aside every single time. India needed a law against genocide and crimes against humanity urgently, the judges said, or the killers of tomorrow would simply wait out the decades until memory grew tired. Eight years later, in August 2026, the man that judgment convicted died in prison. A sitting Congress MP, Deepender Hooda, stood at the fresh grave of that verdict and termed Sajjan Kumar's death an "irreparable loss", calling him a man whose bond with the people of Delhi was "an example". This was a tribute, delivered in full sentences, to a convicted killer of Sikhs. If that wasn't enough, the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee's official X handle mourned Sajjan Kumar as 'punya atma', or a "noble soul". The wall the High Court asked India to build against political forgiveness for mass murder was climbed over by members of the very party that produced the murderer. But the Congress has practised this particular climb for decades. Jagdish Tytler carried similar accusations of leading mobs through the city's neighbourhoods in 1984. He denies wrongdoing, but the accusations eventually produced a CBI chargesheet in 2023. Congress had named him a permanent invitee to its Delhi Pradesh committee in 2021 anyway, drawing the same charge from opponents that the party was rubbing salt into wounds it claimed to regret. In 2019, Sam Pitroda, a close aide of the Gandhi family, burned a phrase into the community's memory when he waved away the massacre with three words: "hua to hua" ("it happened, so what"). The political homage to Sajjan Kumar this year completes a set. Different Situations, 1 Continuous Gesture Charanjit Singh Channi, Congress's own former Punjab Chief Minister, named the gesture for what it was. In a video that spread through Sikh households like a struck match, he said Sajjan Kumar was "a killer of the Sikh community, a traitor", and that anyone calling him a role model should "mind their tongue". Outside Rahul Gandhi's New Delhi residence, families of the 1984 dead gathered behind police barricades and demanded the party find one voice instead of several. Congress MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla rushed to distance the party from Hooda, who later regretted his remarks on Sajjan Kumar that had triggered a political storm. The drill was the same. Pitroda, too, had apologised for his infamous "hua to hua" remarks seven years ago. Flashback to 2005, when Manmohan Singh, as Prime Minister, bowed his head in Parliament and confessed that 1984 was "a negation of the concept of nationhood".

The Real Reason Gurugram Is
Battered By Rain, Year After Year

Dikshu C Kukreja

Every monsoon, Gurugram is confronted with the same paradox. A city celebrated as one of India's most modern urban economies can be brought to a standstill by a few hours of intense rainfall. Roads become channels, underpasses become reservoirs, and traffic corridors become temporary floodplains. It is tempting to describe this as a drainage failure. But that explanation is incomplete. Gurugram's recurring flooding is fundamentally a failure to plan the city as a hydrological system. The geography of Gurugram has always demanded a particular relationship with water. The Aravallis form the higher ground along the southern and eastern edges of the urban region, while the terrain falls towards the north and northwest. Historical drainage patterns carried water through seasonal channels, depressions, ponds, and natural drains towards the Najafgarh system. Studies have identified an elevation difference of roughly 60 to 70 metres between the Aravalli foothills and the Najafgarh basin, creating a natural gradient for the movement of stormwater. The problem is that the contemporary city has progressively obscured this geography.

■ **WATER FOLLOWS TOPOGRAPHY, NOT MASTER PLANS**
A city may be divided into sectors, plots, and infrastructure zones, but rainwater does not recognise these boundaries. It follows slope, soil, permeability, and gravity. This is why the idea that Gurugram can solve flooding simply by adding larger drains is inadequate. A drainage network is the final component of a catchment system, not a substitute for one. When open land becomes



concrete, the hydrological equation changes. On natural ground, rainfall is divided between infiltration, evaporation, temporary storage, and surface runoff. On a heavily paved urban surface, a much larger proportion becomes immediate runoff. The greater the impervious area, the faster water reaches the drainage network, and the higher the peak discharge becomes. In engineering terms, the issue is not simply the total quantity of rainfall. It is the rate point at which rainfall is converted into runoff and the timing of that runoff reaching a drainage system. That distinction is crucial. A recent GIS and SWMM-based study of Gurugram examined eight high-runoff sub-catchments and found that a combination of green roofs, permeable pavements, and rainwater storage could reduce runoff volume by as much as 72.31% and peak discharge by

54.05%. These are not aesthetic interventions. They are hydrological infrastructure. We have confused water removal with water management. For decades, the dominant approach to urban stormwater has been straightforward: collect water as quickly as possible and move it somewhere else. That model is becoming increasingly inadequate. A resilient city follows a different hierarchy: The first four stages should happen as close as possible to where rainfall occurs. Only the residual water should enter the larger drainage network. This requires restoring the city's blue-green infrastructure: ponds, wetlands, natural depressions, open channels, recharge areas, planted corridors, and permeable landscapes. These should not be considered recreational or leftover spaces. They are components of the city's hydraulic

system. Research on Gurugram has demonstrated the potential of precisely this approach. One recent study proposed integrating retention ponds into the existing drainage network and found substantial reductions in simulated flood volumes under both regular and extreme rainfall scenarios. The lesson is important: the landscape itself can be infrastructure. The Next Masterplan The real opportunity for Gurugram lies not merely in constructing more drains but in changing how future development is evaluated. Every major development proposal should answer four basic questions: What is the catchment? How much additional impervious surface will the development create? How much additional runoff and peak discharge will it generate? Where will that water be retained, infiltrated, or safely conveyed? This requires mov-

ing towards catchment-level stormwater modelling, using high-resolution Digital Elevation Models, rainfall intensity data, soil characteristics, land-use and land-cover data, drainage capacity, and existing water bodies. GIS and hydrological models such as EPA-SWMM can then simulate how different development scenarios perform under varying rainfall intensities. This should become part of the development approval itself. A building should not be assessed only for its Floor Area Ratio, parking, access, and fire safety. In a flood-prone urban region, its hydrological footprint should matter as well. Roads Must Be Part Of The Solution Gurugram's roads present another opportunity. Instead of treating every road edge as a hard boundary between carriageway and drain, selected corridors can incorporate bioswales, rain gardens, per-

meable shoulders, depressed landscape areas and temporary detention zones. Parking areas can incorporate permeable surfaces wherever soil and groundwater conditions permit. The objective is not to eliminate conventional drains. It is to reduce the hydraulic load placed upon them. This is particularly important as rainfall patterns become more uncertain. A drainage system designed around historical rainfall statistics may perform adequately under an old climate regime but fail when rainfall arrives in shorter, more intense bursts. A Gurugram-specific study comparing increasing imperviousness with increasing rainfall intensity found that climate change could be the more severe threat to drainage-system performance, with the combination of urbanisation and more intense rainfall further worsening the risk.

THE BIG RESET IN HOW INDIA
BUILDS ITS DEFENCE IS HERE

Manish Kumar Jha

For decades, India's defence debate has been dominated by a familiar contradiction: ambitious military requirements but a slow acquisition system; a large scientific establishment but often inflexible project management; and a growing industrial base but insufficient access to cutting-edge technologies. That contradiction is now being confronted simultaneously at several levels. In a conversation with this author, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, who also holds charge as Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), outlined a timeline that is more significant than a list of individual weapons programmes. It is, in effect, a roadmap for changing how India buys, develops, finances, and ultimately owns military technology. The first building block is Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2026. The draft DAP 2026 is intended to make acquisition shorter, cleaner, and more responsive to the speed of technological change. The proposed framework reduces procurement categories from five to four, introduces technology-readiness-level-based categorisation, allows greater delegation, provides for two-stage trials, and seeks to monitor timelines from the RFI stage. It also raises indigenous content under the Buy Indian-IDDM category from 50% to 60%.



Buy (Global) now must have 30 % IC obligations. Further, DAP 2026 puts forth progressive indigenisation- Long Term Bulk Acquisition (LTBA), indigenous design capability, IP control-ownership. For example, Clause 26.1.1 demands the vendor to show/prove full design control, source code, In an era of drones, autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, electronic warfare, and rapidly evolving sensors, a five-year procurement cycle can mean buying yesterday's technology tomorrow. Singh's larger point is therefore important: the reform of acquisition must be about speed. But speed in procurement alone will not make India technologically sovereign. That is where the second reform becomes critical. From Procurement To R&D One of the least-discussed constraints on India's defence technology ambitions has been the financing architecture for R&D.

DRDO has traditionally operated many projects within a system designed around sanctioned milestones, expenditure procedures and predetermined project structures. That model can work for conventional engineering programmes. It becomes much harder when the technology itself is moving rapidly. A radar, propulsion system, AI architecture, autonomous platform or electronic-warfare system cannot always be developed according to a rigid linear timetable. Technology development is inherently iterative: test, fail, redesign, demonstrate, modify and test again. This is why the proposed Delegation of Financial Powers, or DFP-2026, could become as important for DRDO as DAP 2026 is for acquisition. The objective is to give laboratory directors and project directors greater financial flexibility so that promising technologies can move

faster from laboratory development to demonstration and user evaluation. India cannot aspire to lead in defence technology while treating R&D finance as a conventional expenditure-control exercise. DRDO is awaiting its new full-time leadership through the Prime Minister-led selection process. Its next phase cannot simply be about managing laboratories. It has to be about managing technological missions. P-75I: Last-Minute Recheck, Final Approval Project-75I is perhaps the clearest test of whether India has learnt the difference between buying a platform and acquiring a capability. The programme for six advanced conventional submarines has been in the pipeline for years. The Finance Ministry has cleared the proposal. P75I is in the final leg, awaiting final approval from the highest authority, where some key aspects must be rechecked.

FAITH, FLIGHT AND HONOUR:

THE SIKH FIGHTER PILOT WHO
FLEW FOR BRITISH IN WWII

Divyam Sharma

The White Cliffs of Dover mark the point where Great Britain comes closest to continental Europe. On a clear, sunny day, and if the deceiving British weather allows, one can see France across the English Channel. The White Cliffs not only offer a picturesque view of the countryside, but they also stand guard as the gateway to England. When Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 BC, his army was confronted by these very cliffs. Over 1,900 years later, the same white cliffs greeted the soldiers rescued from Dunkirk. Then, during an aerial battle in 1941, they saved an Indian Sikh Royal Air Force pilot-a man who would go on to become one of the most prominent figures in the history of both Great Britain's and India's air forces.

■ **2026 AND 1940: TWO GENERATIONS, ONE LEGACY**
In 2026, Arshdeep Singh Dang, a 28-year-old man who was born in Chandigarh and raised in London, joined the Royal Air Force as a fighter pilot. Flight Lieutenant Dang is the first Sikh pilot in the Royal Air Force since the Second World War. Photographed in uniform with a blue turban representing his faith and his flying badge pinned to his chest, Flight Lieutenant Dang serves as a testament to the enduring legacy and contributions of Sikhs to the military history of both India and the UK. In 1940, Mahinder



Singh Pujji, a Sikh hobby pilot at the Delhi Flying Club, joined the RAF and became the first Sikh pilot allowed to fly with his turban. The British accepted his request and designed a special cap that would fit under his oxygen mask and headphones, and his turban saved him at the White Cliffs of Dover when he crash-landed after being hit. Although modern fighter jets and flight helmets have evolved dramatically over more than eight decades-making it uncertain if Flight Lieutenant Dang will fly wearing his turban-the incredible story of Mahinder Singh Pujji remains truly worthy of recognition.

■ **FROM SIMLA TO LONDON**
Mahinder Singh Pujji was born in Simla on August 14, 1918, a day that would become iconic in the history of India and Pakistan 29 years later in 1947. Pujji

needed manpower. He applied to the RAF in 1939 after seeing an advertisement. Mahinder Singh Pujji submitted his application and was selected. He was among the 24 'A' level license-holding Indian pilots, collectively called the X-Squad, who travelled to Britain to join the Royal Air Force. The 24 pilots included Eric Wilmar Pinto, who retired as Air Vice Marshal in the Indian Air Force, HC Dewan, who held the rank of Air Marshal and served as the head of the Eastern Command during the 1971 war, and Man Mohan Singh, one of the first Indians to fly solo from Croydon, England to Karachi in the Agha Khan Contest in 1930 along with JRD Tata, Aspy Engineer - who later became the IAF chief, and Ram Nath Chawla, a friend of Man Mohan Singh. The officer died in Australia in 1942 after being hit by a Japanese attack. Mahinder Singh Pujji and 23 other pilots arrived in Britain during the peak of the Battle of Britain in 1940, when German bombers rained hell on London with V2 rockets and bombs. The trainees arrived at Liverpool station and then went to London. The first 24 received much attention in Britain, and there was "huge publicity" around it, Pujji said in an interview. The batch of 24 Indians was invited to Windsor Castle near London to have tea with the King and the Royal Family along with the Secretary of State. Pilot Officer Pujji was posted to No. 1 RAF Depot, Uxbridge,

Tamil Nadu MLAs make unusual demands in Assembly: 'One-day' doctor stint to LED screen for watching CM Vijay's reactions

CHENNAI: As the Tamil Nadu Assembly debates various demands for grants, MLAs have been raising issues concerning their constituencies and people. But some requests made during the ongoing session have been rather unusual from installing an LED screen so members can watch Chief Minister Vijay's reactions to providing water bottles instead of glasses and allowing an MLA-doctor to work at a government hospital once a month. Here is a look at some of the unusual demands raised in the Assembly.

LED screen to watch the CM

Madurai North MLA Kallanai Vijay Anban, who has been a prominent functionary in Vijay's fan club for several years and is said to be close to party general secretary N Anand, made an unusual



request in the Assembly. Speaking in the House, he said, "Our Chief Minister laughs heartily even when Opposition members crack jokes. But we cannot see his laughter from here. So, I request that an LED screen be installed so that we can see the Chief Minister's reactions."

Water bottles instead of glasses

DMDK leader Premalatha Vijayakanth had, during the previous

Assembly session, expressed concern over Assembly staff having to repeatedly bend down and walk over to members to serve water in glasses.

She had requested that water be served in glass bottles instead.

At the time, former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam had also joked that if bottles were kept on the tables, members might get angry and throw them, bringing the idea to an end.

Cauvery water management body upholds order for Karnataka to release 9,000 cusecs to TN

NEW DELHI: The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Tuesday upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) recommendation directing Karnataka to ensure a flow of 9,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days.

The decision was taken at the 56th meeting of the CWMA held in Delhi under the chairmanship of S K Haldar. Officials from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala participated in the meeting. Prashant M Wadnere, Secretary, Water Resources Department, Tamil Nadu, along with Thiru Subramanian, Chairman of the Cauvery Technical Cell, participated in the meeting.

The meeting was held following the Supreme Court's direction to the Tamil Nadu government

on Monday to raise before the CWMA its grievance over the release of its proportionate share of Cauvery water by Karnataka.

"According to the CWRC, 11.6 TMC of water has to be released over 15 days. We requested them to reduce it to 6,000 cusecs.

"Tamil Nadu argued for increasing the release to 28 TMC. After all discussions in the meeting, the CWMA reiterated the recommendation of the CWRC," Karnataka officer Gaurav Gupta said.

At its 141st meeting on Monday, the CWRC had directed Karnataka to release water from its reservoirs and ensure a flow of 9,000 cusecs at the Biligundulu border point. The flow has to be maintained continuously for 15 days, during which Tamil Nadu is expected to receive approximately 11.66 TMC of water.



Parandur Greenfield Airport Project protest committee representatives and farmers called on the Honble Chief Minister and expressed gratitude for withdrawing the proposed Airport Project...

TN Assembly Speaker backs demand to bar Minority Commission chief from TV debates

CHENNAI: The Assembly Speaker JCD Prabhakar supported DMK member S Austin's demand to bar the Minority Commission Chairman from participating in television debate shows.

During the debate on the demands for grants for the Industries Department in the Assembly on Tuesday (August 25), DMK member Austin said Minority Commission Chairman Felix Gerald was participating in television debates on political issues.

"The Chairman's post is a statutory post. As per the Minority Commission Act, a person holding the Chairman's post should not make abusive remarks against others. Therefore, the incumbent Chairman should be barred from participating in debate shows,"



Austin said. Replying to him, Minister for Law and Energy R Nirmalkumar said participating in television debates was a matter of personal choice.

He pointed out that during the DMK regime, Textbook Corporation Chairman I Leoni had continuously criticised

Opposition parties. Intervening in the issue, Speaker Prabhakar told the Minister that there was a difference between a statutory post and a board chairman's post. He said the government could consider the point raised by the DMK member and take a decision on the issue.

Enterprise TN plan to take five sectors to global markets

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu is set to launch an Enterprise TN Plan to promote products from five sectors: textiles, leather, fireworks, auto components and jewellery in international markets, according to the Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Minister S Keerthana.

The plan proposed under the department's 2026-27 Policy Note will seek to expand the global market for products made in Tamil Nadu by using MoUs with multinational companies and 14 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

The plan is building up of Tamil Nadu Export Promotion



Strategy 2021 launched by the erstwhile DMK government. While textiles, leather and auto components were already part of the 2021 export

strategy's priority sectors, fireworks and jewellery are new additions. At the same time, food processing, electronics and machinery, which

were among the six sectors identified in 2021, does not have a place in the five sectors named for Enterprise TN. The State ranks first or second nationally in eight major manufacturing categories, with a 33.64% share of India's wearing-apparel output and 25.18% share of leather and related products, ranking first in both. It ranks second in textiles, with a 19% share, and computer, electronic and optical products, with a 28.84% share. This is part of the State's wider push to increase its global economic footprint as it works towards its USD 1.5 trillion economy target by 2036.

A delicate balance of prevention and early intervention can prevent cardiovascular disease

New Delhi : Cardiovascular disease continues to be a major global health concern, with heart attacks and strokes ranking as leading causes of death worldwide. However, these conditions are not inevitable. Individuals can take proactive steps toward safeguarding their heart health with conscious lifestyle adjustments and medical interventions. Dr. Niranjana Hiremath, Senior Consultant Cardiac and Aortic Surgeon at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi, said, "Heart health is a delicate balance of prevention and early intervention. Small, consistent lifestyle changes can drastically reduce risk over time."

Checkout the 12 essential heart health tips by Dr. Hiremath:

Adopt a balanced diet: A healthy diet is fundamental to maintaining a healthy heart. Aim for a balanced intake of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. Avoid saturated fats, trans fats, and excessive sugars, which can contribute to obesity, high cholesterol, and other cardiovascular risks.

Exercise regularly: Regular physical activity is vital for a healthy heart. The American Heart Association recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise per week. Activities such as brisk walking, jogging, cycling, or swimming can boost cardiovascular fitness, strengthen the heart muscle, and improve circulation. Even light activities like gardening or taking the stairs can contribute to heart health by burning calories and reducing cholesterol levels. Manage stress effectively: Chronic stress has been shown to contribute to heart disease by raising blood pressure, causing unhealthy behaviours like overeating or smoking, and increasing inflammation in the body. Developing stress management techniques such as meditation, deep breathing exercises, or yoga can help to relax the mind and body. Engaging in hobbies or activities that bring joy, such as reading, painting, or spending time in nature, can also help mitigate stress levels.

Monitor your blood pressure: High blood pressure, or hypertension, is often called a "silent killer" because it may not present symptoms but



significantly increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Regularly monitoring blood pressure at home or with a healthcare professional can help identify any issues early on. If necessary, medications and lifestyle changes such as a low-sodium diet, regular exercise, and stress management can help maintain healthy blood pressure levels.

Get regular check-ups: Routine medical check-ups are essential for catching potential heart issues early. Regular cholesterol screenings, ECGs, and other tests can help monitor cardiovascular health and identify issues before they escalate. Early detection allows for timely intervention, reducing the risk of more severe complications.

Quit smoking: Smoking is a major risk factor for heart disease, damaging blood vessels, raising blood pressure, and contributing to atherosclerosis. Quitting smoking is one of the most effective steps one can take to improve heart health. Seek support from smoking cessation programs, counselling, or medication to aid in breaking the habit.

Limit alcohol consumption: Excessive alcohol consumption can raise blood pressure, increase triglyceride levels, and contribute to heart disease. The American Heart Association recommends a maxi-

mum of one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men. Opting for non-alcoholic beverages, moderating consumption, or seeking support from health professionals can help reduce alcohol-related cardiovascular risks.

Maintain a healthy weight: Obesity is a significant risk factor for cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Maintaining a healthy weight through a balanced diet and regular exercise can significantly reduce these risks. For sustainable weight management, avoid crash diets and seek guidance from healthcare professionals or nutritionists to develop a plan tailored to your needs.

Sleep well: Lack of sleep has been linked to various health issues, including heart disease. Aim for 7-8 hours of quality sleep per night. Developing a consistent sleep routine, avoiding electronic devices before bed, and creating a relaxing bedtime environment can help improve sleep quality.

Stay hydrated: Dehydration can thicken the blood, increasing the risk of blood clots and heart strain. Ensure adequate hydration throughout the day, especially in hot weather or during exercise. The recommended daily intake varies depending on individual needs, but generally,

adults should aim for 8-10 cups of water per day. Proper hydration helps maintain cardiovascular function and overall health.

Control cholesterol levels: High cholesterol contributes to plaque build-up in the arteries, increasing the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Regular cholesterol screenings can help monitor levels and catch any issues early. A diet rich in fiber and low in saturated fats, alongside regular exercise and medication, if necessary, can help maintain healthy cholesterol levels. Consult your healthcare professional for personalized advice on managing cholesterol.

Manage diabetes: Diabetes can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease by damaging blood vessels and nerves. Managing diabetes through diet, exercise, and medication can help reduce these risks. Regular monitoring of blood sugar levels and consulting a healthcare professional for comprehensive diabetes management is crucial for overall health. Taking proactive steps to care for your heart can drastically reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Niranjana Hiremath reiterates, "Preventive measures and lifestyle modifications play a crucial role in maintaining a healthy heart. It's important to take charge of your health before it takes charge of you."

Government Increases Prices of 8 Common Drugs Citing 'Public Interest'

New Delhi: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority of India (NPPA) increased the ceiling prices of eight drugs on October 14, Monday, citing 'extraordinary circumstances' and 'public interest'. The NPPA comes under the department of pharmaceuticals under the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. The NPPA was constituted in 1997 to regulate the ceiling prices of drugs. It has the power to fix drug costs under what is known as a 'Drug Price Control Order' (DPCO) issued by the government under the Essential Commodities Act. The NPPA fixes ceiling prices of 'scheduled drugs' - the ones which are covered under India's National List of Essential Medicines comprising currently 960 formulations of more than 350 drugs. A drug can have more than one formulation. These drugs cannot be sold at a cost more than what is sealed by the NPPA. The drugs, the prices of which were increased on October 14, comprise medication like Salbutamol (used for asthma), Streptomycin powder for injection (used in case of tuberculosis), lithium (for bipolar disorder), and Pilocarpine eye drops (for glaucoma), among others. Their prices have been increased by 50% of their current ceiling.

The full list of these drugs is below:

Made with Flourish

As routine practice, the NPPA increases the ceiling prices every financial year starting April 1, on the basis of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of the preceding year. For example, the NPPA allowed a price hike to the tune of 0.0051% for medicines to be sold from April 1, 2024, or thereafter, taking the WPI into account. But on October 14, the NPPA cited 'extraordinary' circumstances to effect the 50% hike. Section 19 of the DPCO gives power to the government to revise the ceiling cost, upwards or downwards, in addition to the annual routine practice. This can be done in extraordinary circumstances.

The Section 19 states:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in this order, the Government may, in case of extraordinary circumstances, if it considers necessary so to do in public interest, fix the ceiling price or retail price of any drug for such period, as it may deem fit and where the ceiling price or retail price of the drug is already fixed and notified, the Government may allow an increase or decrease in the ceiling price or the retail price, as the case may be, irrespective of annual wholesale price index for that year." [Emphasis added]

Govt's rationale

The NPPA has stated that it has increased the prices in the larger public interest. It



said that the drugmakers had approached it asking for revision in prices citing a few reasons like "increase in the cost of active pharmaceutical ingredients [ingredients needed to make a drug], cost of production, change in exchange rate, etc."

The NPPA claimed that these factors have led to "unviability in sustainable production" of drugs, and some of drugmakers, according to it, had even applied for "discontinuation of some of the formulations on account of their unviability." The NPPA did not give any further details on this.

Dr Gurinder S. Grewal, a member of the Association of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare (ADEH), and former president of the Punjab Medical Council, said the government's rationale misses various important details. "For which of these drugs, on an individual basis, has the cost of production gone and by how much?" Grewal asked.

"What are the contributing factors for the cost of production going up specific to each drug?" Grewal further pressed, saying the rationale given by the government, without specifying these details, appears vague and opaque. He added that these were "poor people's drugs", used against common diseases, and often taken for a long period of time for illnesses that are chronic. The government's own reports and surveys say that expenditure on medicines is the major driving factor of the escalating healthcare expenses.

Consistent expense, a drug on the decline
The latest National Health Accounts - a report released by the government last month - said out of the current healthcare expenditure, about one-third (30.84%) is incurred as 'pharmaceutical expenses'. This includes prescribed medicines, over-the-counter drugs, those provided during inpatient or outpatient care, or any other way by which one seeks health services.

In fact among the 17 healthcare functions listed in the report, which included expenses on hospital admission or OPD care, it was on medicines (prescribed and over-the-counter) that people were spending the second highest.

NMDC Launches Three-Month Campaign Ahead of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026

TSIT DESK

Hyderabad, 25 August 2026: NMDC Limited has commenced a Three-Month Campaign as a prelude to Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) 2026, in accordance with the guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). The campaign aims to promote awareness and reinforce the values of integrity, transparency, probity and good governance across the organization. As part of the campaign, the Vigilance Department of NMDC conducted a Two-Day Capacity Building Programme recently at NMDC Head Office, Hyderabad. The programme was organized to enhance awareness and build capacity among employees on key focus areas identified by the CVC. The session was graced by the presence of Shri Anurag Kapil, Director (Finance), NMDC and CVO, NMDC. In his address, Director



(Finance) emphasized the close linkage between Vigilance and Finance functions and stressed the importance of recording clear, specific and well-reasoned rationale and justification on official files to ensure transparency, accountability and sound decision-making. During the concluding session, Shri C. Neelakanta Reddy, CVO, while addressing the participants, highlighted the theme of Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) 2026 – “Probity for Prosperity” and emphasized the need to inculcate

the core values of transparency, ethics and accountability in all organizational processes. He urged the participants to actively contribute towards strengthening NMDC’s preparedness and to ensure its effective participation and representation in line with the CVC’s emphasis and guidance for VAW 2026. Shri C. Neelakanta Reddy, Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), NMDC highlighted the significance of the campaign and the importance of strengthening vigilance practices across the organization.

RAJNATH CLEARS DRDO MISSILE TECH TRANSFER TO PRIVATE FIRMS

AGENCY

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the transfer of DRDO-developed technologies of all conventional missile systems to Indian industries for production within the country. “This Transfer of Technology (ToT) marks an important milestone in promoting greater participation of the Indian industries in the defence ecosystem by enabling them to undertake indigenous production, as per applicable qualifications, certifications and regulatory requirements,” said a press note by the PIB on Tuesday, August 25. The provision is aimed at facilitating the transition of missile systems from the development stage to industrial-scale production. It reflects DRDO’s efforts to harness the capabilities of Indian industry in developing and manufacturing



advanced defence technologies. The initiative is also expected to boost domestic manufacturing capacity, strengthen the defence industrial ecosystem, and create opportunities for MSMEs and other technology partners to participate in the supply chain. It would enhance the operational capability of Indian

industry and reduce our dependence on imports while supporting our own defence manufacturing sector. This would allow the DRDO to work with Indian industry to facilitate the transfer and absorption of advanced defence technologies and strengthen the indigenous defence capabilities.

According to the Hindustan Times, “The Defence Ministry will soon float a request for proposal (RFP) inviting private-sector firms and conglomerates, including ICOMM, Adani, Bharat Forge, the Tata Group, and the Mahindra Group, to manufacture the 180-200 km-range Astra Mark 2 missile.”

■ DEMAND FOR INDIGENOUS MISSILE SYSTEMS ON RISE

The decision comes in the wake of a rise in demand for indigenous missile systems from both the Indian armed forces and foreign nations such as Indonesia, which has shown interest in acquiring the DRDO’s Astra missile, media reports said. The policy shift is also aimed at expanding production capacity and supporting defence exports. Until now, while India permitted private participation in aircraft, drones, and artillery, missile production had remained under state-run defence organisations. This Transfer of Technology marks an important milestone in enabling Indian industries in the defence ecosystem, as per applicable qualifications, certifications, and regulatory requirements,” said the PIB on August 25.

boltt Makes Its Smartphone Debut with Ace 5G and Evo

TSIT DESK

25 August 2026: boltt, the homegrown smartphone brand from the house of Fire-Boltt, today announced the launch of its first smartphones, the Ace 5G and Evo, marking its entry into the smartphone segment. Designed for modern Indian consumers, the smartphones bring together capable performance, AI-powered experiences, immersive displays and long-lasting battery life, with a focus on the features that matter most in daily life. The Ace 5G and Evo feature a large 6.79-inch display with a 120Hz refresh rate, offering smooth scrolling, responsive interactions and an immersive viewing experience across entertainment, browsing and content consumption. With up to 600 nits’ brightness, the displays are built to deliver clear and comfortable viewing across different conditions. Google Gemini-powered AI experiences are integrated across both devices, with features including Circle to Search and Google Lens that allow users to search on-screen content, identify objects, translate text and discover information without interrupting what they are doing. AI Night Mode further enhances low-light photography through intel-

ligent image processing. Running on Android 16, the smartphones offer a clean, no-bloatware experience, bringing Google’s AI ecosystem together with a streamlined interface. An 8MP AI selfie camera with Real Tone is designed to deliver natural-looking selfies across diverse skin tones, complemented by AI-powered imaging capabilities. A 6000mAh battery powers both devices, supporting extended usage across streaming, gaming, social media, music and navigation. At 7.95mm slim, the smartphones combine a contemporary profile with everyday comfort and usability. Commenting on the smartphone debut, Arnab Kishore, Founder & CEO, boltt said “We are taking a consumer first approach to smartphones, with a clear focus on making technology more relevant, accessible and meaningful to everyday consumers. Our entry into the category is rooted in a simple belief: consumers should have access to the experiences they value without having to compromise on what matters to them. Ace 5G and Evo mark the beginning of our smartphone journey, and we look forward to bringing this approach to a much wider set of consumers across India.”

INDIA HOLDS FIRM: Domestic Momentum Builds as AI Trade Unwinds and Global Markets Diverge Amid Hormuz Tensions

TSIT DESK

Mumbai, 25th August 2026: PL Asset Management, the asset management arm of PL Capital Group, has released its PMS Monthly Newsletter for July 2026, reporting that India’s domestic fundamentals — earnings, credit growth and institutional flows — held firm through the month even as a reignited Iran-linked conflict kept oil prices elevated and tested risk appetite across global markets. July was shaped by a fraying Iran ceasefire and renewed disruption in the Strait of Hormuz. A May memorandum that had briefly restored tanker traffic collapsed during the month; renewed attacks on vessels and a resumed US blockade pushed transit volumes back toward war-time lows, keeping Brent crude in a wide \$80-\$120 band it has held since the March strikes. US core inflation, however, came in subdued — July core CPI rose just 0.2% month-on-month and 2.5% year-on-year, matching the slowest annual pace since March 2021 — leading markets to pare bets on near-term Fed action ahead of Fed Chair Kevin Warsh’s remarks at the Jackson Hole symposium. Global equity markets diverged sharply in response.



The Hang Seng rose 13.13% in July while the KOSPI fell 22.19%, the Nasdaq 100 declined 6.61% and the Nikkei 225 dropped 8.14% — a broad unwind of the AI- and semiconductor-led trade that had powered several Asian markets earlier in the year. The Nifty 50 gained 2.17% over the same month, closing July at 24,383.60 with the rupee at 95.42 to the dollar, as India’s domestic fundamentals held their ground against a volatile external backdrop.

■ DOMESTIC BUYING STREAK EXTENDS AS FOREIGN FLOWS BEGIN TO TURN

Domestic institutional investors — mutual funds, insurers and pension funds — extended their net buying

over four years, even as aggregate foreign ownership declined — consistent with a rotation and broadening of exposure rather than a wholesale retreat, with foreign ownership as a share of the market sitting near a multi-year low.

streak to 37 consecutive months in July, the longest such run in data going back to 2007, continuing to absorb foreign selling through the month. Foreign investors showed the clearest signs yet of returning: financial-services shares drew renewed FII buying that reversed more than \$12 billion of prior outflows, alongside a record inflow into index-eligible government securities, with banking stocks recording their strongest fortnightly inflow in over a year. India also reclaimed its rank as the world’s fifth-largest stock market. Beneath the headline numbers, the ownership picture looks healthier still: the number of stocks with foreign holding above 1% has broadened from roughly 900 to 1,300

■ EARNINGS ACCELERATION CONFIRMS THE GROWTH STORY

Corporate earnings accelerated sharply in the first quarter of FY27. Median EPS growth across the listed universe jumped to 24% year-on-year, up from just 6% in the prior quarter, with sales, operating profit and PAT growth all moving higher together rather than a single metric driving the number. Industrial production also hit its fastest pace in nearly two years, with capital-goods output and electrical equipment as the standout categories — pointing to an investment-led recovery rather than a consumption-only story. Three independent data series are running well ahead of their trailing five-year averages at once — a broader signal than any single print. Industrial output (IIP) grew 7.3% in June, against a trailing five-year average of approximately 5.5%.

Dhaksha Unmanned Systems inaugurates new manufacturing facility in Kancheepuram, strengthens indigenous drone capabilities



TSIT DESK

National, August 2026: Dhaksha Unmanned Systems Private Limited, a subsidiary of Coromandel International Limited, today inaugurated its new manufacturing facility at Aymicheri region in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu. The facility was inaugurated by Mr. Arun Alagappan, Executive Chairman, Coromandel International Limited, marking an important step in strengthening India’s indigenous drone manufacturing capabilities in agriculture, defence and enterprise. The facility will support the development and execution of larger and complex programmes across its key UAV verticals, while enabling greater indigenisation of critical technologies and strengthening its ability to

serve evolving customer requirements. During the event, Dhaksha announced the launch of two new agricultural drone models, the DH Agrigator E10 Prime and DH Agrigator E10 Eco. Developed with indigenous components, the E10 Prime aligns with the Nammo Drone Didi programme and supports India’s growing domestic drone ecosystem, while the E10 Eco offers an affordable solution designed to expand access to drone-based farming services for small and marginal farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Beyond agriculture, the facility will also support Dhaksha’s growing defence portfolio, including surveillance and logistics applications. A dedicated production line for defence applications will strengthen the company’s execution capabilities.

AI+ SMARTPHONE ANNOUNCES NOVA 2 POWER THROUGH PROJECT OPEN REVIEW 2.0, UNVEILING A BOLD NEW DESIGN AND POWERFUL PERFORMANCE

TSIT DESK

New Delhi - Gurugram, August 2026: AI+ Smartphone announced Nova 2 Power, the newest addition to its Nova 2 Series, through Project Open Review 2.0, revealing the device’s design, colourways and chipset ahead of its market debut. The programme invites reviewers, creators, journalists, technology enthusiasts and ethical hackers to independently put Nova 2 Power to the test before it reaches consumers. Building on the first edition of Project Open Review, which drew more than 700 registrations, Open Review 2.0 expands participation to include ethical hackers for the first time, reflecting AI+’s commitment to building Trust through Transparency before the product reaches the end consumer. With Nova 2 Power, AI+ Smartphone is introducing a smartphone built around two defining ideas - “Design that inspires and Power that outlasts.” The design story comes to life through two



striking dual Colour Fusion finishes: Golden Blue Fusion, which brings together muted gold and deep navy blue in a fluid gradient that shifts from understated warmth to a deeper, bolder tone; and Blue Fusion, which transitions from cool ocean blue to vivid sunset orange for a younger, more expressive visual identity. Rather than treating colour as a surface-level addition, the design language brings contrasting tones together in a dual flowing finish, giving Nova 2 Power a distinctive and recognisable identity. The approach is designed for consumers who

increasingly see their smartphone not just as a technology device, but as an extension of their personal style. Under the hood, Nova 2 Power runs on the MediaTek Dimensity 7100, built on a 6nm process designed to deliver a balance of sustained performance and power efficiency. Madhav Sheth, CEO, AI+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, said, “Nova 2 Power represents the next evolution of the Nova Series bringing together performance and a design identity that is distinctly its own. The Dimensity 7100 gives it the

performance foundation, while our new Colour Fusion finishes allow the device to stand out beyond specifications. But we also believe a product should earn confidence before it asks consumers for it. With Project Open Review 2.0, we are putting the Nova 2 Power to test before it reaches the end consumer” Under Project Open Review 2.0, participants will get early, independent access to evaluate Nova 2 Power across all the specs and overall user experience. The process is entirely unscripted, with no expectation of a favourable verdict.

Kotak BizLabs Season 3 Expands National Footprint, Will Support 100+ Startups

TSIT DESK

25 August 2026: IIM Calcutta Innovation Park joins Kotak’s flagship CSR initiative as an incubator partner, extending its reach across eastern and north-eastern India Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. (“KMBL”/ “Kotak”) today announced Season 3 of the Kotak BizLabs Accelerator Programme, its flagship CSR initiative for early-revenue-stage startups. Season 3 will run from August 2026 to October 2027 and support 100+ startups across India through mentorship, ecosystem access and catalytic funding. Season 3 brings together five incubation partners: IIM Calcutta Innovation Park, CII Initiatives (IIMA Ventures), IIMBI/NSRCEL at IIM Bangalore, T-Hub and FITT at IIT Delhi. Since its inception, the Kotak BizLabs Accelerator Programme has received 4,500+ applications from startups across India, accelerated 125+ high-



potential ventures, and awarded grants to 100+ startups, enabling founders to scale innovative and impact-driven solutions. “Season 3 takes high-calibre support to regions where entrepreneurs with

promising ideas often lack access to structured ecosystem support. Our partnership with IIM Calcutta Innovation Park extends our reach across eastern and north-eastern India and connects Kotak BizLabs with a wider net-

work of regional startup hubs. Our goal is to give every participating startup access to the mentorship, networks and funding support it needs to take its next step,” said Himanshu Nivsarkar, Head - CSR & ESG, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. Season 3 will focus on sectors like Agritech, Climate tech, Fintech, Sustainability, Healthtech, Edtech, Clean energy, Waste management and Sustainable manufacturing and have a special focus on deep-tech. Across the five incubation hubs, participating startups will receive access to mentorship, industry connections and growth support, with the respective incubators managing cohort selection and acceleration. The Kotak BizLabs Accelerator Programme is a CSR initiative of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited. Applications for Season 3 are now open to DPIIT-recognised startups. Eligible startups can apply through the Kotak BizLabs Season 3 application page.

BRITISH MAN CHARGED IN SINGAPORE TWO YEARS AFTER ALLEGED THEFT AT AIRPORT



AGENCY

Singapore has charged a British man for theft more than two years after he allegedly stole a denim jacket from a store at the airport shopping mall. The police were alerted to the theft in the evening of 14 August 2024 when a retail assistant at Singapore's Changi Airport realised a blue denim jacket was missing from a display mannequin. Surveillance footage showed a man removing the jacket, worth about S\$350 (\$275; £202), from the mannequin and leaving the store without making payment. By the time the authorities established his identity, the man had departed Singapore. The 26-year-old was arrested on 15 August this year while in transit at the airport and was charged on

Tuesday. "The police take a serious stance of shop theft and will deal firmly with offenders in accordance with the law. "Offenders should not assume that they can evade detection simply by leaving Singapore after committing an offence," the Singapore Police Force said in a statement on Monday. In its statement the police also recounted a separate arrest of a 50-year-old Polish woman who had stolen two bottles of perfume from retail stores inside one of the airport's terminals on 11 June this year. She was arrested in the transit area shortly before she was scheduled to depart Singapore. The woman was charged with two counts of theft on Tuesday. Those convicted of theft in Singapore face up to seven years in jail.



■ US removes Syria from list of state sponsors of terrorism

China warns it will protect its interests after US widens sanctions against Iran

AGENCY

China has vowed to protect its interests after the US announced plans to widen economic sanctions against Iran and its trading partners, which include Beijing. Foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said China was firmly opposed to what it called "illegal unilateral sanctions" and would take "all necessary measures" to safeguard its rights. This came after US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced the new measures on Monday, warning any nation financially partnering with Iran would be isolated. China is the biggest buyer of Iranian oil, although the trade has declined under the US blockade of Iran's ports. Lin said: "Cooperation between China and Iran has always been con-



ducted within the framework of international law and should not be interfered with or disrupted." Bessent described the plans for sanctions as "the single greatest financial offensive ever" against Iran, warning banks and businesses would share in Iran's isolation if they refused to cut ties with the country. He declined to focus on specific nations, but said US President Donald Trump

would be phoning world leaders "with specific requests to cease their interactions with the regime". However, responding to a question about Chinese banks, Bessent said he wanted to make clear "no one was above the reach of US sanctions". The announcement comes ahead of planned talks between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping next month. Washington is likely

to be wary of potential retaliation from Beijing, which processes the majority of the world's rare earths and other critical minerals, crucial in the manufacture of many high-tech products. Beijing has already tightened export controls on rare earths as part of previous trade negotiations with the US. China's response followed Iranian Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh saying Tehran was "fully prepared" for the wider sanctions, which he said would lead to "another defeat" for the US. "The government is and was ready and has a two-year plan to manage these events," he told state television. "We also have our own tools and know how to play the game," he said, adding Tehran had been "waiting for these plans for a long time".

US firefighters say major blaze near Reno about a quarter contained



AGENCY

Texas: US fire crews have reported progress in their efforts to tackle a large wildfire menacing the city of Reno, Nevada - saying the blaze is about a quarter contained. The Hawk Fire, which began on Saturday, had spread over 15,000 acres by Monday, firefighters said. Evacuation orders remain in place for 23,000 people, though other residents have now been allowed to return to their homes. Tens of thousands of other residents have been told to be ready to leave at any moment. Officials are concerned that gusts of wind could drive the flames towards more homes. Unfavourable weather conditions are forecast for the next two days, meaning the fire could continue to burn during that timeframe. No deaths have been reported, though seven people have been injured. The fire, which was first reported on Saturday morning, spread in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains near Reno due to those same windy and unpredictable weather conditions. The immediate "go now" evacuation zone and wider "get set" area - where people are being warned to prepare to evacuate - do not extend to the centre of Reno, but they do affect large urban areas and part of a highway. Large air tankers and helicopters have been flying over the affected area dropping water and fire retardants. In their update on

Monday afternoon, fire officials said the blaze had been at least 27% contained. Chief Richard Edwards, of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, said those injured were four civilians and three firefighters, who suffered minor burns. Edwards added that 32 homes had been destroyed and six damaged, and that those numbers were expected to increase. Shelters have been set up in the area to take in displaced residents. While firefighters have made progress, more than two-thirds of the fire's perimeter remains uncontained. The fire is thought to have been caused by humans. Edwards added on Monday that investigators did not yet know if the blaze was set intentionally. Scientists say that human-induced climate change makes the warm, dry conditions more likely that assist the rapid spread of wildfires. Reno's average temperature has gone up by over 4C since the 1970s, faster than any other big US city, according to Climate Central. Nevada's Governor Joe Lombardo earlier declared a state of emergency in surrounding Washoe County, and ordered the National Guard to join firefighting and law enforcement efforts. "This is an active and rapidly evolving situation and I urge everyone in the affected areas to remain vigilant and follow the direction of local officials," he said on Saturday.

LOCKERBIE BOMBING TRIAL POSTPONED DAYS BEFORE IT WAS DUE TO START

AGENCY

Libya: The trial of a Libyan man over the Lockerbie bombing has been postponed for a third time, after new evidence on the 37-year-old case came to light three days ago. Jury selection was due to get under way in Washington DC on Wednesday but the BBC understands a new start date has been set for January next year. Lawyers acting for Abu Agila Mas'ud Kheir Al-Marimi said "newly discovered evidence" previously unknown to the defence and prosecutors from the US government emerged on Friday 21 August. Al-Marimi has denied building the bomb that destroyed Pan Am Flight 103 on 21 December 1988, killing 270 people. His lawyers told the court: "Constitutional and ethical obligations require the defence to investigate this development." They said they met Al-Marimi on Sunday and he agreed that they should ask for the postponement. The trial judge,



Dabney Friedrich, has agreed that the start date should be set aside, underlining the potential importance of the new evidence. She would have been extremely reluctant to allow an 11th hour postponement after months of preparation and marathon pre-trial legal battles. For the relatives of those who died and Al-Marimi himself, this latest delay means a verdict might not come until next spring. It is yet another stunning development in a saga that has witnessed countless twists and turns over nearly four decades. Pan Am 103

was flying from Heathrow to New York when the bomb exploded in its forward hold, breaking the plane apart at 31,000 feet. All 259 passengers and crew on board were killed. Another 11 people died in Lockerbie when the wreckage fell on their homes. Of the victims, 190 were American and 43 from the UK. Nearly four decades later, the bombing remains the worst terror attack and mass murder in British history. Al-Marimi has been in US custody since 2022 and was originally due to stand trial in May 2025. That date was set aside following a

joint request from the prosecution and defence, who cited the complexity of the case and Al-Marimi's ill health. The trial was pencilled in for April this year but was called off again, after the defence asked for more time to prepare. The Lockerbie bombing has been the subject of a joint Scottish-US investigation since December 1988. Prosecutors from the Crown Office and detectives from Police Scotland were due to travel to Washington to attend the case, and Scottish witnesses were expected to be among the first to give evidence at the trial. Laura Buchan, head of the Lockerbie investigation team at the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service said: "I recognise that this adjournment will be disappointing for the families and for those who have followed this case over many years. "As the matter remains before the court, it would not be appropriate to comment on the reasons for the adjournment.

French tourist dies in Death Valley after car gets stuck in mud



AGENCY

France: A French tourist has died in California's Death Valley after becoming stranded on the side of the road during 46.6C (116F) heat. Police found 68-year-old Pierre Michel Formosa recently following a brief search, with the National Park service saying he died while trying to seek help in the blistering heat when his car got stuck in mud. "This is a heartbreaking reminder of how quickly conditions here can turn dangerous," Death Valley National Park Superintendent Mike Reynolds said in a statement. Soaring temperatures across the United States have caused millions of people to sweat through record heat-

waves, leading to dozens of heat-related deaths. Formosa was driving through Death Valley with his French travelling companion last Monday when their vehicle became stuck in mud on West Side Road. The pair sought help by walking across the salt flats, before severe heat prevented the 68-year-old from continuing after 1.3 miles, according to the Death Valley National Park. The travelling companion managed to hail down a nearby driver, before rangers and police found Formosa later that afternoon where he was pronounced dead. "Death Valley is an extraordinary place, but its heat, distances, and remoteness can be dangerous, regardless of experience.



Tornado tears through French village, leaving dozens hurt and homes ravaged

US-CANADA TRADE WAR ESCALATES AS TRUMP THREATENS TARIFF HIKE ON VEHICLES

AGENCY

Washington: President Donald Trump has threatened to hike US tariffs on automobiles originating in Canada, as the trade war between the two neighbours continues to heat up. Trump said on Monday that he will increase tariffs on Canadian cars and trucks, as well as auto parts, from 25% to 50% as of 1 January. It comes after US-Canada trade talks collapsed late last week, with each side accusing the other of making unreasonable last-minute demands. Late on Monday, Canada officials announced a news conference on Tuesday where they would outline how the country would respond to the trade war and work to "protect and support Canadian workers



and businesses during these challenging times". The news conference at 11:00 ET (16:00 BST) will include government leaders in business, finance and economic development. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Mark Carney called Trump's latest levy threat unsurprising and accused the president of

wanting to destroy Canada's auto industry. He added that Canada is ready to resume talks only if the US comes with the "right attitude". The war of words followed several US and Canadian officials saying that talks were suspended with no set date to resume. Canada walked away from

trade negotiations late on Friday night, moments before a US-imposed deadline that would add a 50% levy on nearly \$20bn (£28bn; £14bn) of Canadian imports. The collapse in talks marked a significant change in tone from earlier in the week, when both sides appeared optimistic that a new US-Canada trade deal could be reached. Canadian officials have said the US introduced last-minute demands that were "unacceptable", including a clause limiting which countries Canada could sign trade deals with. US officials, meanwhile, said it was Canada that introduced last-minute changes. "They wanted more," US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said in an interview with CNBC on Monday.

'Objects Might Fly Around In Dressing Room':

Harsha Bhogle's Massive Verdict On SL's Fury Over Umpire's Call



AGENCY

Mumbai: Sri Lanka ended Day 2 of their ongoing second Test against India on the worst-possible note, losing two wickets in just three overs before Stumps. The most agonising moment came on the final ball before play ended, as nightwatchman Prabhath Jayasuriya was given out LBW off Manav Suthar's bowling. It was a close call by Pakistani umpire Ahsan Raza, as replays later showed that the ball was marginally clipping the off-stump.

Jayasuriya was left livid after his dismissal, and was seen throwing his gloves in anger after walking into the dressing room. The Sri Lankan batters also seemed upset that umpires Raza and Sharfuddoula Saikat had decided to keep the game going till 6 PM local time, despite diminishing light at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo. The match was resumed at 5:35 PM local time after a second rain delay, but only three overs of play were possible. Ahead of the third over, the umpires

had checked the conditions with a light meter, and declared that it was okay for another over of play to take place. Speaking on the topic, reputed commentator Harsha Bhogle implied that he understood Jayasuriya and Sri Lanka's frustration, but that the decision of the umpires must be respected. "Can understand the frustration of the Sri Lankan batters but these are two high quality international panel umpires and we have to go with their judgement. I suspect there might be a few objects flying around in that dressing room this evening."



2nd Test: Rain Forces Early Stumps

India Great PR Sreejesh Asks 'Uncomfortable Question' After Hockey World Cup 2026 Exit: "Stop Hiding"

AGENCY

Mumbai: Legendary goalkeeper and two-time Olympic bronze medallist PR Sreejesh on Monday voiced his frustration over India's underwhelming showing at the FIH World Cup, saying there must be "accountability" and that the global event cannot be treated as a "dress rehearsal." The Indian men's team lost 3-5 to Argentina in Amstelveen on Monday, extinguishing their wafer-thin hopes of reaching the semifinals. The women's team, meanwhile, succumbed to the pressure of a must-win game and were knocked out of semifinal contention after being held to a goalless draw by Australia on Saturday. A member of India's bronze medal-winning teams at the 2020 Tokyo and 2024 Paris Olympics, Sreejesh said some-



one needs to ask the "difficult" and "uncomfortable" questions over the lacklustre performances. "...Here's the uncomfortable question: Are we building a team to PLAY good hockey, or a team capable of WINNING against the best

in the world?" Sreejesh, India's most successful hockey goalkeeper, wrote on 'X'. "Stop hiding behind 'learning', 'good hockey' and future tournaments. The World Cup is not a rehearsal. It is the World Cup. So who is going to ask the diffi-

cult questions? Who is going to demand accountability? And most importantly...Does anyone actually care?" he asked. The Indian men's team entered the World Cup on the back of an unimpressive Pro League campaign, finishing eighth

among nine teams. However, there were renewed hopes of a better showing after the coaches and players offered positive feedback on their preparations. He said the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya next month, where India are expected to challenge for a medal, should not be an excuse for taking the World Cup lightly. "Don't worry...the World Cup doesn't matter. The Asian Games are coming. Win a medal there, and then we can start dreaming about LA 2028 (Olympics). Apparently, that's enough to cover everything that went wrong at the World Cup," wrote Sreejesh. He also took a dig at women's chief coach Sjoerd Marjine for reportedly leaving the World Cup camp while it was in full swing, saying the players still fought hard and exceeded expectations.

'INDIA HAVE FALLEN BEHIND': RAHUL DRAVID'S BIG WTC REALITY CHECK

AGENCY

Mumbai: Eight Tests remain for India in their race to enter the World Test Championship final. In those matches, the Shubman Gill-led side needs around six wins. It's not a good position to be in, but India still have a chance. Former head coach Rahul Dravid says India have slightly "fallen behind" in the race to qualify for the World Test Championship final and, even though the performance in Sri Lanka right now is encouraging, it will not be easy for the team to get past New Zealand during an upcoming series. Currently placed fifth in the points table, two-time finalists India are locked in an uphill battle to win the majority of their remaining matches in the



World Test Championship 2025-2027 and move up. With the top two teams slated to play in the final next year, India, who are ranked fifth behind Bangladesh, will play two away Tests in New Zealand before taking on Australia in a five-Test series at home from January 2027. India will also play five ODIs and as many T20Is against the Kiwis. "I'm hoping they do.

It'll be a great run if India can qualify for the WTC final from here," Dravid, a team owner in the European T20 Premier League (ETPL), told JioStar when asked if India would be able to make the summit clash from here. "They've fallen behind a little bit, but the kind of quality that the Indian team has, you're not going to write them off at any stage.

VUELTA STAGE THREE ABANDONED AFTER HAIL IN PYRENEES

The third stage of the Vuelta a Espana was abandoned on Monday because of severe weather and hailstorms in the French Pyrenees. A severe hailstorm hit as the riders scaled the Col de Mont-Louis with 15km (9.32 miles) remaining of the 174km ride from Gruissan to Font-Romeu. Overall race leader and favourite Tadej Pogacar was seen indicating to the main group to pull off the course and soon afterwards drenched riders took shelter in a nearby hotel. Shortly afterwards organisers announced the stage would not resume and there would be no winner or podium ceremony.



Ahmedabad To Host Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships

AGENCY

Ahmedabad : As one of the world's premier destinations for cue sports, India will host the second Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships from October 7-10 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad. The four-day event will see cueists from nearly 46 countries compete across five disciplines – billiards, snooker, heyball, 10-ball pool and blackball – in both categories (men and women), stated a release from Billiards and Snooker Federation of India on Tuesday. The championships will feature 16 players in each category in four disciplines, while billiards, which has been included in the programme this year, will be an eight-player draw in each section. The championships will be held under



the aegis of the World Confederation of Billiards Sports (WCBS) and the Billiards and Snooker Federation of India (BSFI), and organised by Apex Sports. "Ahmedabad is becoming an increasingly important city on the international sporting map, and hosting the Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships here is a significant opportunity for our sport and for India," said Ishaun Singh,

president of the World Pool Association (WPA). "With the city now preparing to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, this event gives us an opportunity to build a strong connection with the sporting community and audiences here. India has an extraordinary history in cue sports, and from everything we have seen through our recent events," the world body chief added.

5 Players Excluded From India's Asian Games Squad Not Part Of AITA's Recommendation: SAI Source



AGENCY

Mumbai: The five tennis players excluded from the country's Asian Games squad did not feature in the long list sent to the IOA by the All India Tennis Association (AITA), a Sports Authority of India (SAI) source said on Tuesday, justifying the omission on the basis of their lower-than-prescribed international rankings. Manas Dhamne (men's singles), Vaishnavi Adkar (women's singles), Sahaja Yamalapalli (women's singles), Vaidehee Chaudhari (women's doubles) and Prarthana Thombare (women's doubles) were not included in the seven-member Indian squad as they did not meet the criteria of being inside the top-8 of continental standings. "Their names were not received by Sports Ministry in the final list shared by the IOA (Indian Olympic Association). In fact their names were not there in the long list sent by the All India Tennis Association (AITA) to the

IOA," the source told PTI. Their exclusion, the source said, is justified as their recent performances too did not reflect medal probability or potential for effective participation in the showcase. The Ministry's selection mandate required individual athletes to be among top six in Asia for singles events and be ranked within the top eight in Asia for doubles over a 12-month evaluation window. This criteria was unveiled by the Sports Ministry in September last year. Their omission was heavily criticised by two-time Asian Games gold-medallist Rohan Bopanna, who said "a committee that never stood where they stood has decided their fate on paper, before a ball is struck." Sahaja (world rank 344) is the current India number one in women's singles and Vaishnavi (world rank 388) is national number two. Prarthna is a former Asian Games bronze-medallist (2014), Vaidehee is a two-time national champion and the 18-year-old Manas is a Challenger level finalist.

MERCEDES' UPGRADES & FERRARI TEAM ORDERS

AGENCY

Italy: Lando Norris beat championship leader Kimi Antonelli to claim his second win in a row with victory at the Dutch Grand Prix. Reigning world champion Norris moved up to fourth in the drivers' standings, 83 points adrift of Mercedes' Antonelli. Four-time world champion Max Verstappen suffered heartbreak at his final home race when he crashed out heavily in the opening stages. F1 correspondent Andrew Benson answers your questions after round 12 of the campaign in

Zandvoort. Is it fair to say the dominance of Mercedes is over? They haven't won a race since Spa-Francorchamps, and even then that victory wasn't consecutive. Are they focusing more now on scoring points than they are winning races? There has been a very obvious shift in competitiveness at the front as the Formula 1 season has progressed. Mercedes won the first six races of the season, but have won only two of the subsequent six. Mercedes took 10 consecutive poles in the first 10 races, but have been beaten by McLaren's Lando

Norris at the past two grands prix. And the fastest Mercedes was lower than second for the first time in Hungary, where Red Bull's Max Verstappen also lined up ahead of Kimi Antonelli. Over the season as a whole so far, the Mercedes is the fastest car in qualifying by an average of 0.316 seconds over Ferrari, with McLaren a further 0.041secs adrift. But what happens when you split that into the first six races and the next six? Until the Canadian Grand Prix in late May, Mercedes were 0.453secs a lap faster than the next fastest team, which was





TOXIC ADVANCE BOOKINGS POINT TO A HISTORIC START

Rocking Star Yash's Toxic is creating huge buzz at the ticket counters even before its theatrical release. The film is witnessing a remarkable surge in advance bookings, with ticket sales picking up swiftly across the country. Directed by Geetu Mohandas and backed by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, Toxic is heading into its release with advance bookings pointing to a historic start. The film has already generated more than 60 Cr in advance sales across India. Trade analysts believe that, going by the current pace, the movie could reach the triple-digit mark on its opening day alone at the Indian box office. The response in the Telugu

states has been equally impressive. Although bookings opened only today, Toxic has already recorded 10 Cr+ in advance sales, with Hyderabad alone contributing more than 5 Cr. The scale of the ticket sales can be gauged from the fact that the film has sold around 2.5 million tickets through BookMyShow and District so far. With the numbers continuing to climb, Toxic is emerging as a serious contender for one of the biggest opening days in Indian cinema. Rocking Star Yash is making his highly anticipated return to the big screen nearly five years after the blockbuster success of the KGF franchise. The pan-India phenomenon created massive expectations for his next outing, Toxic.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film features Yash in dual roles as a father and son. The songs and trailer have offered a glimpse into the film's unique world while showcasing its grand scale and lavish production values. Produced jointly by Monster Mind Creations and KVN Productions, Toxic is set to hit the screens worldwide tomorrow amid enormous buzz and sky-high expectations. The unprecedented hype is now reflecting in phenomenal advance bookings. Toxic has broken Kantara Chapter 1 record in ticket sales and stands second only next to KGF 2 (2.9 M+), among Kannada films. The movie sold 1.5 M+ tickets together on BookMyShow and District.

The Film Is All Set for a Grand Theatrical Release Soon



Proving that cinema does not belong only to cities but also lives in every village, debut director Azhar has created the locally made film "Kotha Cinema" with local talent. Remarkably, the film introduces around 100 new talents to the Telugu film

industry. Starring Suresh and Rakesh in the lead roles, the film has Azhar handling the story, screenplay, direction, dialogues, and editing. Mohammed Wasim Akram, Sagi Sudheer Rao, and Yadandla Satish Yadav are producing the film. "Kotha

Cinema" is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon. On Monday evening, the film's "Why in Hyderabad, Why Not in Our Place" event was held grandly in Hyderabad, with several prominent directors and producers attending as guests.

THE CHASE BEGINS! AKSHAY KUMAR AND SAIF ALI KHAN FACE OFF IN THE DARK AND GRIPPING HAIWAAN TRAILER



Ever since the intriguing teaser of Haiwaan dropped, audiences have been keenly waiting to see more of the dark and unpredictable world of the film. The wait is finally over as the trailer arrives, offering a thrilling glimpse into the face off between superstar Akshay Kumar aka the Haiwaan and Saif Ali Khan aka the Hero. Director Priyadarshan uses an intriguing background score to further heighten the suspense, setting the stage for a taut theatrical thriller. Akshay Kumar steps into one of his darkest avatars yet, going

head to head with Saif Ali Khan, who takes on the challenging role of a blind man. Adding further intrigue to the chase are Boman Irani as a judge and Saiyami Kher as a cop, alongside Shriya Pilgaonkar and Sharib Hashmi in pivotal roles. The trailer leaves you with one question, when they finally come face to face who will emerge victorious? Haiwaan is produced under KVN Productions and Thespian Films by Venkat K. Narayana and Shailaja Desai Fenn. The film releases worldwide in Cinemas on 11th September 2026.

Kiku Chiranjeevi is set for a grand theatrical release on August 28th



Chiranjeevi," starring Kiku Yanamala and Kashish Khan in the lead roles, features Eswari Rao, Tanikella Bharani, Srikanth Bharat, Viva Raghava and others in key roles. The film is produced by Deepti Nadiminti under the Kiku Entertainments banner

and directed by Shubha Sai Venkat. "Chiranjeevi" is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on the 28th of this month. The film's pre-release press meet was held grandly in Hyderabad. Several members of the film's team attended the event and spoke about the movie.

KIARA ADVANT'S BRONZE CORSET LOOK IS FIRE



Kajol says she chooses peace over attention-seeking arguments



Actress Kajol on Monday shared a witty yet pointed message, saying she prefers choosing peace over engaging in arguments with people who seek attention more than logic. Taking to Instagram, the Dilwale actress shared pictures of herself and wrote, "I don't argue with people who need attention more than logic. #namaste #ichoosepeace #humorousbone." With her characteristic sense of humour, Kajol appeared to suggest that not every argument deserves a response. In the photographs, the actress looked elegant in a stylish off-shoulder black dress. She completed her look with subtle makeup featuring

highlighter, kohl-rimmed eyes, bronzer and nude lipstick. Kajol posed with confidence and grace, drawing praise from her sister Tanishaa Mukerji, who commented, "Nysa ki mummy! Looking stunning!" Earlier, Kajol had shared photographs from another photoshoot in a stylish outfit and reflected on the importance of recognising the positive aspects of life. The Baazigar actress had written, "I recently read something that really struck me 'The amount of good things in your life depends on your ability to notice them' .. and now I can't unsee it !."Meanwhile, Kajol, who turned 52 earlier this week, penned a heartfelt note thanking

everyone who wished her on her birthday.Calling herself "lucky", the actress expressed gratitude for having a "delightfully crazy group of people" by her side. "Not going to sit here and write a whole emotional essay, but I really couldn't let the day end without saying thank you. To every single person who took two minutes out of their day to send a message, make a video, or just drop some love, thank you," she wrote. Kajol added, "So lucky to have such a loyal & delightfully crazy group of people in my corner. Sending you all the tightest hugs imaginable...now go eat a piece of cake on my behalf! Love you guys!"

'DAAYRA' NEW POSTER OUT: Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran set the stage for the trailer on 31st August

The makers of Daayra just unveiled a power-packed poster featuring Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran, giving audiences a closer look at the world of the much-awaited crime thriller. With the trailer set to arrive on 31st August, the poster leaves behind a trail of questions about what connects the two characters, while revealing just enough to spark curiosity around the story. Featuring Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran standing back-to-back, surrounded by layers of police tape and an obscured

face in the background, the striking composition immediately creates intrigue. It hints at two distinct perspectives and leaving audiences to wonder what connects them and what lies beyond the line. The poster creates a clear divide between what is visible and what remains hidden. The answers remain under wraps, leaving audiences with more questions as the trailer approaches. The film marks the first collaboration between Jungle Pictures and Pen Studios, while reuniting Meghna Gulzar with Jungle Pictures for the third time after Talvar and Raazi.

